

The Pied Flyer

North East Norfolk Bird Club



August 2026 – Issue 134

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

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Through a Lens



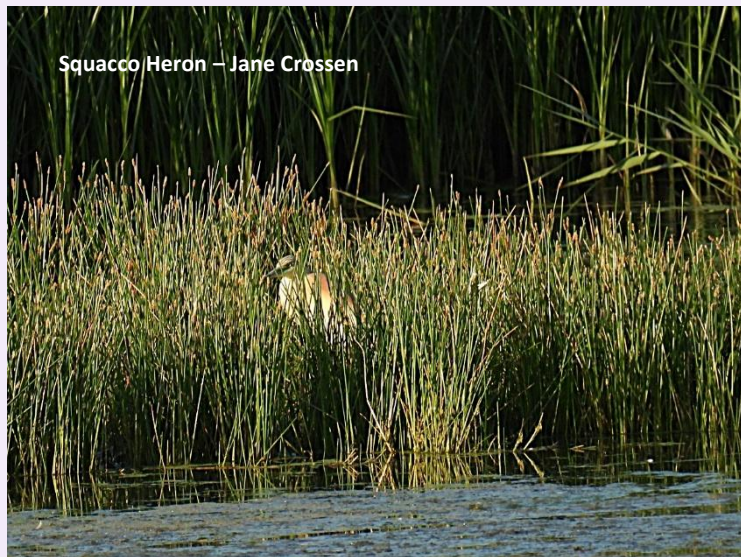
President's Piece

A tentative welcome to the long-legged birds



By Francis Farrow

At the beginning of July a **Squacco Heron** was spotted at Kelling, tantalizingly close but not within the NENBC area. This heron species is considered an exceptionally rare bird for the UK with around 2 to 5 sightings annually. Changing conditions around the Mediterranean, such as habitat loss and drought may well push more birds further north. Will Squacco Herons join the list of wetland birds that have started breeding in Britain in recent years?



Squacco Heron – Jane Crossen

The first of the herons to establish itself as a UK breeding bird was the **Little Egret** and since nesting in Dorset in 1996 the UK population has risen to over 2,200 pairs, which effectively doubles in size during the winter, as they take advantage of our increasingly milder weather. The first documented Norfolk breeding was five pairs at Holkham National Nature Reserve in 2002.



Little Egret – Richard Farrow

Believe it or not the **Cattle Egret** has been breeding in the UK since 2008 when two pairs nested in Somerset. They have slowly expanded their

population in southern Britain and can be seen regularly in Norfolk. During this last spring it was reported that Cattle Egrets at Cley were seen on the backs of the cows – reminding the observer of a scene from the Serengeti! The egrets successfully bred at Holkham in 2020 with four pairs nesting.



Cattle Egret – Mark Clements

Its larger cousin, the **Great White Egret**, first nested in the Somerset levels in 2012 and now there is an estimated 50 breeding pairs in the UK. Again Holkham in 2017 became the first Norfolk breeding site. Like the Little Egret the population also increases in the winter to over 4500 individuals.



Great White Egret – Hilary Stevens

Our next wetland bird, unlike the Egrets, is a former breeding bird that has been absent from nesting in the UK since the 17th century. It is the **Spoonbill**, which made a tentative breeding return in the Ribble Estuary, Lancashire in 1999. It was, however, a decade later that breeding became established when in 2010 the first regular colony was formed at Holkham. It was reported by Andy Broomfield (Senior

Warden at Holkham National Nature Reserve) at an NENBC talk last April that some 90 pairs were present at Holkham this year.

Spoonbill – Russell Page



Could we expect more **Purple Herons** in the future? To date there has only been one recorded breeding attempt, which occurred in Kent in 2010. The Purple Heron still remains a scarce visitor to the UK with only 20 to 25 migrants recorded annually.

Purple Heron [India] – Trevor Williams



The final heron to be considered is the **Black-crowned Night Heron** which bred in [Somerset](#) in 2017. Although not routinely breeding in the UK there has been a marked increase in records across East Anglia and the southern counties wetlands. One was recorded in NENBC area in June 2025.

Black-crowned Night Heron [USA] – Carol Thornton



Although not a heron, the **Glossy Ibis**, is a wetland bird that is increasingly seen and multiple birds now remain through the winter, especially in East Anglia. A pair did breed successfully in Cambridgeshire in 2022.

Glossy Ibis – Trevor Williams



In '*Birds of Norfolk*' by MJ Seago (1967) generally the above species are described with vagrant status except the Great White Egret, which isn't even listed, and the Spoonbill was classed as a passage migrant.

So what are the real drivers for these wetland birds to head north to the UK? As already mentioned climate change is a big factor. As temperatures have warmed and winters have become milder the ranges of these birds have shifted accordingly. Since many southern continental wetlands now experience hotter, drier summers which in turn can severely impact on water levels and hence food sources birds are often forced to seek new areas. This year has seen places in southern Europe experience consistent levels of temperatures over 40°C. Here the UK with extensive coastal lagoons and wetland reserves can offer ideal habitats, although with 30°C temperatures and no rain some UK regions are close to an official drought (July 2026). Another factor driving the birds to new areas is population booms, which are due to additional wetland protection and conservation initiatives in southern Europe.

It is therefore with mixed emotions that we welcome these exotic additions to our avifauna – a success in that wetland conservation in the UK has provided ideal habitat conditions and also a worry and a warning that the world and specifically ecosystems are vulnerable to the rapid pace of environmental change.

However, who would have thought that as a young birder 50 years ago I could be seeing such birds in Norfolk?



By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our August newsletter!

Hope you are all keeping safe and well during what is turning out to be quite a challenging summer for many and especially for our wildlife and their habitats. Excessive heat and hosepipe bans are likely to be the new norm we need to adapt to and the wildfires in the UK, Europe and Canada, to name just a few, are heartbreakingly devastating. As I write, parts of RSPB Minsmere and the National Trust's Dunwich Heath in Suffolk are ablaze and RSPB Scotland's Loch Garten reserve at Abernethy has been badly burned. The long-term impact on the wildlife increasingly calling these areas home for all or part of the year is unfathomable as some habitats may take 20 years to recover. In our garden, our veg patch has been a bit hit-and-miss despite the shading I put up but the wildflower lawn we have been developing for a good number of years now has done very well, the volume of plants covering it seemingly thriving and shading the ground beneath from the hot sun and it has been alive with insects. Another success has been the 5 hedgehogs that wander about our garden each night, taking advantage of the food and clean water put down each evening and entertaining us on our wildlife cams. Never had that many before! Another webcam success has been watching the constant birdlife visits to a new [60 litre water trough](#) put in the shade with some surplus pond plants. We have lots of water sources in the garden but none of them have attracted birds in the way this one has.

Back to club business. There's a bit of a lull in activities during our summer downtime but we hope to squeeze in a couple of Pop-Up events in the coming weeks, like this seawatching one pictured which was at [Cromer on 30th July](#). They are quite fun, informative and a chance for a chat with others and you can read more about those two person-less scopes on [page 12](#).

Missing the regular activities? Well, we have the dates and brief details of our scheduled events through to the end of the year in this edition ([page 13](#)) so get those dates in your diaries and look forward to catching up with you at some of them. The first event of the new season will be a walk at Cley on the 6th September with John Swallow. We are always open to suggestions of other things we can do so if you have any fab ideas, please do get in touch.

Looking back, as well as our July walk reports, this month we are showcasing the second of our UEA Environmental Consultancy projects, with Sofia's report on AI in birding with a twist from 'over the pond' ([page 30](#)) and Val tells us about her search for a Willow Tit ([page 24](#)). It has all been a bit stressful over at the Cromer Peregrine Project Watchpoint of late ([page 35](#)) but there was happier, albeit unexpected, excitement for a few members on the finding of a Shore Lark at Weybourne ([page 22](#)). We are still beavering away behind the scenes on our 2025 Bird Report which we aim to have published in time for the September evening meeting. 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 any images across.

The 'Through a Lens' topic for the front cover of birds seen last month was '**birds and water**' and predictably we had quite a variety. From the left and top across: **Grey Heron** [Mark Clements], **Blue Tit** [Philip Cartlidge], **Grey Wagtail** [David Griffiths], **Little Grebe** [Steven Lines], **Mute Swan** [Doug Cullern]. For August our theme will be '**Gulls**' so get clicking at the coast or inland – let's see if we can get a full set!

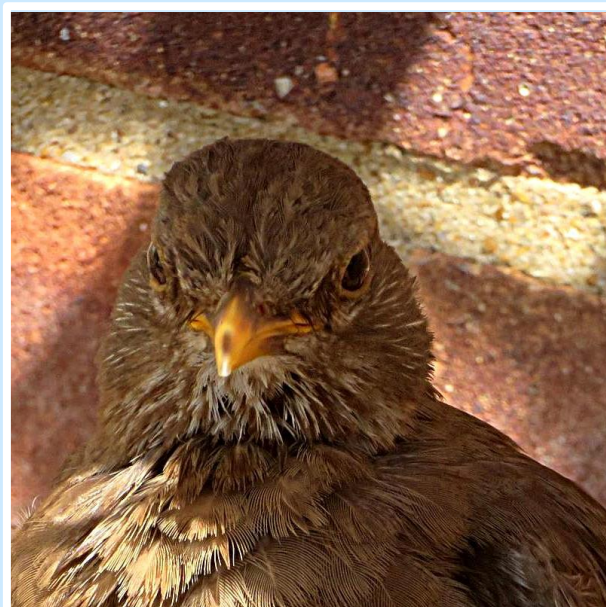
Right is my **favourite member photo** from July, selected from the ones that didn't make it on to our monthly NENBC Bird Highlights section of the more unusual species ... an intense and slightly grumpy-looking Blackbird from Philip Cartlidge.

Welcome to our new members

We look forward to seeing you soon!

* Mike & Jacqueline Kent * Zoe Watts *
* Arthur Bennett * David & Ailsa Nurse

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!

≈ 6,282 individual records covering 145 bird species were added in July

July 2026 | The stand out record for the month was the unprecedented report of a Shore Lark at Weybourne Camp from 14th to 16th. Other Highlights this month were a **Honey-buzzard** over Selbrigg Pond, **Manx Shearwater** off Sheringham and **Curlew Sandpiper** from Cromer. See fuller details below.

Brent Goose | A single west at Weybourne on 31st was the only record of the month.

Shelduck | Single figure counts at Weybourne on 8 dates with 14 east there in a single flock on 17th and 10 east at Sheringham on 31st. The only other records were of 3 birds west at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 25th and 2 high east there on 30th.

Eider | Five west at Sheringham on 14th. All other records were from Weybourne with 19 west on 10th, 1 west on 11th, a single on sea on 25th and 7 west on 30th.

Goosander | Three juveniles on the sea at Weybourne on 16th and 6 west at Cromer Pier on 23rd.

Grey Partridge | A single on Weybourne Camp on 15th and 2 on Weybourne Cliffs on 24th.

Quail | There were 5 records this month, including a Third Party Report on 8th of an adult with 4 chicks (described by the observer as ‘bumblebee sized!’) on a field edge in Mundesley. The other records were of a singing bird heard from a lucky member’s garden in Weybourne on 6th, another singing near Northrepps aerodrome on 11th, a few calls from a bird at Selbrigg Pond on 14th and another at West Beckham on 7th.

Nightjar | Records in July were throughout the month and from the usual sites at Kelling and Weybourne Heaths with maximums of 6 birds reported at the former on 12th and 15th and 2 at the latter on 14th. One member was able to hear distant churring from their Weybourne garden on 4 dates at the beginning of the month.

Cuckoo | Just one Third Party Report from Matlaske on 6th.

Little Grebe | Reported from Mannington Hall Park (up to 2, including a juvenile), Baconsthorpe (up to 5, 3 juvenile) and Wolterton Park (up to 2, including a juvenile). *Photo 1 courtesy of Doug Cullern*

Great Crested Grebe | A single at Wolterton Park on 19th and up to 5 birds at their stronghold of Blickling Park, including up to 3 juveniles. *Photo 2 courtesy of Doug Cullern*

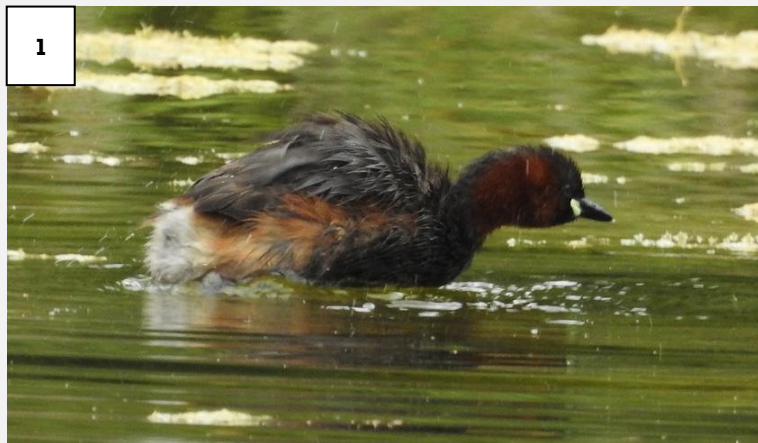
Avocet | A single west at Weybourne on 19th.

Whimbrel | All records were of birds moving past our coastal sites of Weybourne, Sheringham, Beeston Common, Cromer Lighthouse and Mundesley, and were generally of singles, with up to 4 reported individually during seawatch sessions.

Bar-tailed Godwit | Records of 1-5 birds throughout the month from Weybourne, all heading west and a single west at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs during a pop-up seawatch on 30th. On 27th, 18 birds were reported west from Cromer Pier.

Knot | The maximum count was 12 west at Weybourne on 28th, with other records from Cromer Lighthouse East Cliffs (max 4 on 19th) and Sheringham (just one, also on 19th).

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2



Curlew Sandpiper | Seven west in a tight flock at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs, mostly summer plumage / moult.

Kittiwake | Records throughout the month at the coast of mostly 1-6 birds. High counts were 20 at Weybourne on 17th (17 east and 3 offshore in a feeding melee) and 21 east at Sheringham on 19th.

Little Gull | One record of a single at Sheringham on 18th.

Mediterranean Gull | Nearly 70 records throughout the month at the coast with over 20% of them of double-figure counts up to a max of 32 at Weybourne on 11th. In the second half of the month several reports included juveniles. The only inland record was of 2 at Holt on 24th. *Photo 3 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Caspian Gull | From the 17th onwards there were 16 reports of this species at the Cromer sites covering 4 juveniles and a second calendar year bird in various combinations. Birds were observed on the beach, around the pier and occasionally on the sea. The only other record was a juvenile in the sea at Weybourne on 28th. *Photo 4 (right bird) courtesy of Mark Clements*

Yellow-legged Gull | Two juveniles reported from 26th to 30th on Cromer beach and around the pier. *Photo 4 (left bird) courtesy of Mark Clements*

Sandwich Tern | Over 90 records along the coast from Weybourne to Walcott throughout the month. A good number were of triple-figure counts with 678 at Weybourne on 2nd (195 east, 483 west) and 642 west there on 27th. Only one report mentioned juveniles, 2 of 325 at Weybourne on 6th. *Photo 5 courtesy of Steven Lines*

Little Tern | One near the lifeboat station on Sheringham on 1st and 2 west at Cromer Pier on 24th. The 18 other records were from the Weybourne sites, mostly of single figure counts, but with 34 on 1st, 32 on 2nd, 13 on 4th and 18th on 5th.

Arctic Tern | An adult and a juvenile feeding offshore at Sheringham on 14th and a single in a feeding melee east of the beach at Weybourne Camp on 15th.

Great Skua | A single east at Weybourne on 31st.

Arctic Skua | Records from the middle of the month of 1-4 birds from Weybourne, Sheringham and Cromer. The 3 birds reported from Cromer on 19th and 22nd were all dark phase and the single east at Weybourne on 31st was pale phase. All other records were not specific.

Guillemot | A smattering of records during the month from Weybourne, Sheringham and Cromer during seawatches, generally of 1-3 birds, with 10 east at Sheringham on 13th.

Razorbill | Singles at Weybourne on 2nd and 3rd and 2 on the sea there on 21st. Two at Sheringham on 13th and a single west at Cromer on 30th. *Photo 6 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Puffin | A single reported east at Sheringham on both 13th and 14th.

Red-throated Diver | A single east at Weybourne on 16th was the only record.

Fulmar | Records of predominantly singles throughout the month from Weybourne, West Runton and Cromer.

Manx Shearwater | Records from Sheringham on 3 dates with 7 on 13th (1 west, 6 east), 3 east on 18th and a single on 19th.

Spoonbill | One west over Weybourne Camp on 22nd and another on 27th.

Cattle Egret | At Weybourne, 3 west with 6 Little Egret on 5th and 14 east offshore there on 29th.

Great White Egret | A single circling close to the lake at Felbrigg Park on 6th and 4 east over Weybourne village on 7th.

Honey-buzzard | A single circled low over Selbrigg Pond on 31st, then slowly drifted off south over the trees. *Photo 7 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Goshawk | A single record of one bird at Swanton Novers on 28th.

Marsh Harrier | Fifteen of the 16 records were of singles, the exception being 2 juveniles over High Kelling on 23rd. Reports were from Weybourne area, Felbrigg Park, Sheringham Park, Thornage and Sheringham and included reports of male, female and juveniles and some with wing tags (see below – [Highlights | Rings, Tags & Flags](#)).

Kingfisher | All records were of a single from Selbrigg Pond on 29th, 30th and 31st.

Bee-eater | Two calling over Seaview carpark at West Runton on 5th before heading west.

Hobby | Over 30 records on 20 dates from 13 sites throughout the month, virtually all of singles. Two were reported around Deadman's Wood, Weybourne Cliffs on 16th 21st and 31st but no reports of breeding there this year and no mention of juveniles elsewhere either.

Peregrine | Records of the Cromer Church birds (2 adults and up to 3 of the juveniles) for most of the month around the town and along the coast learning how to hunt. For more info on this year's juveniles, see Peregrine Corner from [page 35](#). There were 3 reports away from Cromer – singles at West Runton on 9th, Weybourne Camp on 15th and Weybourne on 26th. *Photo 8 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Raven | Two west over Kelling Heath calling loudly on 21st. *Photo 9 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Marsh Tit | A juvenile in a Gresham garden on 1st and 3rd, a single at Beeston Common on 2nd and 1-2 at Selbrigg Pond on 30th and 31st.

Woodlark | [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.

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Shore Lark | An amazing July record of a single Shore Lark on Weybourne Camp from 14th to 16th seen by 11 lucky members, in part thanks to our WhatsApp Alerts group and website posts on location. This species is not usually a summer visitor to this area and all our previous records are from October to April. For full information, see [Shore Lark at Weybourne Camp from page 22](#). *Photo 10 courtesy of Ollie Allison*

Willow Warbler | One fortunate member had a Willow Warbler in and around their Holt garden this month, reported on 4 dates. Elsewhere. Singles at Felmingham on 4th, Thornage on 29th and Selbrigg Pond on 30th.

Garden Warbler | Singles at Kelling Heath, Weybourne and Felbrigg Park on a handful of dates this month.

Lesser Whitethroat | A juvenile at Weybourne on 9th and a single at Weybourne Cliffs on 29th.

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 | Two at Beeston Common on 4th, at least 3 at High Kelling on 20th and an adult with juvenile there on 23rd, singles at Sheringham Park on 22nd and Selbrigg Pond on 23rd and 27th and finally 2 at Holt Country Park & Lowes on 30th.

Mistle Thrush | Single figure counts at Weybourne, Swanton Novers, Field Dalling & Saxlingham, Weybourne Heath, Kelling Heath, Wolterton Park and Bodham. Felbrigg Park was the only place with reasonably sized flocks reported with 15 there on 11th, 36 on 20th and 40 on 31st. *Photo 11 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Spotted Flycatcher | A single at Swanton Novers was reported on 16th to 18th. *Photo 12 courtesy of David Griffiths*

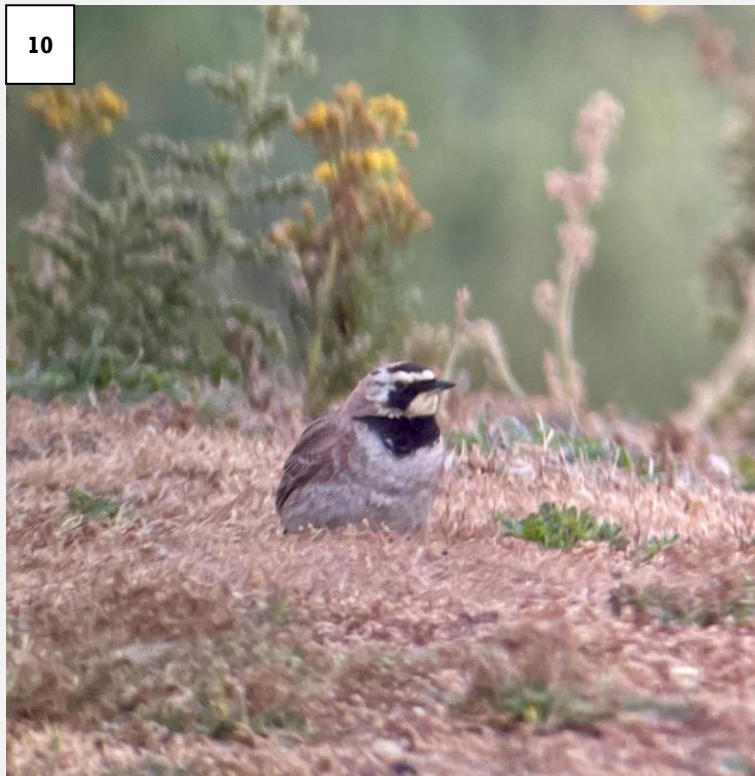
Wheatear | A single at Weybourne Camp on 31st, the first of the autumn there.

Yellow Wagtail | Singles at West Runton on 5th and Weybourne on 26th and 30th, with 2 there on 29th.

Grey Wagtail | There were 2 adults and 2 juveniles around the house at Mannington Hall Park on 5th. Elsewhere, all singles, at Beeston Regis (juvenile), Baconsthorpe (juvenile), Letheringsett & Ford and Selbrigg Pond.

Yellowhammer | Over 50 records from 16 locations, mostly of 1-2 birds. Higher figures were 11 at Field Dalling & Saxlingham on 14th and up to 6 around Gresham in the last week of the month. A juvenile was also ringed at West Beckham on 22nd.

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August: What to look forward to



While many of our familiar birds are hiding away undergoing their post-breeding moult, August sees the start of the autumn movement with the possibility of an interesting visitor. If the wind swings to the east, then we may see the first of the commoner, but still exciting, classic 'drift migrants' with **Pied Flycatchers**, **Redstarts** and **Whinchat** likely plus even **Wryneck** or **Red-backed Shrike** possible. August can also bring special birds, such as the **Lesser Grey Shrike** at the end of the month in Cromer in 2015 and the **Greenish Warbler** found at Sidestrand in 2020. **Icterine Warbler** is a scarce visitor to north east Norfolk with only five records in total (though two of those were in August), but always worth looking out for.

What about getting your hand in with one of our Pop Up Sea-watching events this month leading through the autumn to our Coordinated Seawatch Event on 3rd October?, **Skuas**, **divers** and **auks** are just some of the possible rewards on offer and sea-watching can be exceptional, with strong north west winds possibly giving sightings of **Long-tailed Skua**, **Balearic Shearwater** and **Black Guillemot**. In 2019 a **Sooty Tern** passed first Weybourne and then Sheringham, a fly-through **Caspian Tern** was reported in both 2022 and 2023, and a **White-winged Black Tern** in August 2022 and another probable earlier this summer. In 2024 at this time there was even a **Brown Booby**! If you are a regular seawatcher and you haven't yet joined our Seawatching WhatsApp Group then please consider doing so – just drop us an email.

August is also an excellent month for wader passage as failed breeders head south, joined by post-breeding males in those species that leave the female to complete all the chick-rearing. **Black-tailed** and **Bar-tailed Godwits** should be noticeable, and it can often be a good month to see **Whimbrel** or **Ruff** and **Common** and **Green Sandpiper** can usually be seen with some ease – well, if we had any flooded or wet areas to scan that is!

Observations from last month

Member Extra!

Member Highs, Lows and Ponderings

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



Mute Swan | On pond at Thornage Mill. The water level was so low that its feet were touching the bottom as it tried to paddle. | Val Stubbs | Thornage | 24th

Red-legged Partridge | A rather unusual visitor to our urban garden! | Kala Nobbs | At Home | 24th

Red-legged Partridge | 2 juvs ran across Station Rd - even more effective than my Speedwatch hi-viz jacket at slowing the traffic! | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 29th

Swift | 17x In the air over our house whilst we enjoyed a G and T in the sunshine! | David Griffiths | Holt | 17th

Swift | x12 Still here! Screaming loudly. | Kala Nobbs | Sheringham | 22nd

Swift | A group of 25 came over from the north, very high initially, before coming down to meet and greet our local 15 birds, there was some very vocal socialising before the larger group peeled off and spiralled upwards to the south, a lovely few minutes watching these engaging and social birds | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 28th

Feral Pigeon | Racing pigeon on roof of no 41 | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 28th

Moorhen | 7x A month on from hatching we still have 5 out of 6 chicks. Best survival rate for a few years, fingers crossed! | Alan Stevens | Gresham | 16th

Black-headed Gull | Vast flock of gulls circling over NE Holt for over an hour, mainly Black-headed, possibly many more than 150 but impossible to count. Presumed eating flying ants. Other species Herring, Lesser Black-backed, Mediterranean and Common gulls; Red Kite, Common Buzzard (3), Sparrowhawk and Hobby; Swift (4). | Peter & Sue Morrison | Holt | 24th

Common Tern | 44x 17 west. 25 east. 2 dive bombing a Great black-backed gull, sat on the sea, which was attempting to grab the terns. The gull eventually flew off. It would appear the adult terns were protecting a juvenile sitting on the sea. | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 5th

Arctic Skua | 4x Flew to the gulls / terns in the feeding melee, ninety percent of the gulls / terns promptly flew onto the beach, leaving the skuas to continue west. Once the skuas were out of sight the gulls and terns resumed feeding on the sea. | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 22nd

Manx Shearwater | Attracted to feeding melee well offshore, which included 3 Bottle-nosed Dolphin | Ian Prentice | Sheringham | 19th

Sparrowhawk | Brief dogfight with Hobby over Deadman’s. | Tony Pope | Weybourne Cliffs | 15th

Red Kite | Mobbed by 2 Hobbies. The Kite seemed to be drawn to combining, which was being done in the field by Dead Man’s. | Tony Pope | Weybourne Cliffs | 31st

Tawny Owl | Can’t really say it was calling, sounded more like being in pain! Quite a racket! | David Griffiths | Holt | 31st

Peregrine | 5x The whole family circling high over the tower, after several sightings of pairs to the south. | Colin Blaxill | Cromer | 3rd

House Martin | 4x Two juveniles in nest being attended by parents, speed of feeding faster than formula 1 pit tyre changes. | Doug & Jenny Cullern | Holt | 8th

Wren | On my balcony (a first) and then singing from high up on a roof - very unusual to see one that high and showing well, also unusual! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham | 7th

Blackbird | Clearly unimpressed discovering that those tempting open skylights led into our sun room! | Kala Nobbs | At Home | 2nd

House Sparrow | 20x BREEDING at least 8 nests in Greenways with multiple broods | Peter & Sue Morrison | Holt | 23rd

Greenfinch | I have just picked up the third dead greenfinch this summer, all in my garden, plumage was good, but fat levels zero, the sort of fat score you would see on a migrant bird, nothing visible under the skin, looks like they have starved, has anyone else found any? | Brian Shaw | Weybourne | 30th

Highlights | Rings, Tags & Flags



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

EU Colour Ring website.

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

Black-headed Gull MC | Sheringham [10th] including German ringed (AF613) – see left

Caspian Gull TW | Cromer Pier [27th] juvenile - one confirmed out of several contenders, including a yellow colour-ringed bird (considered by some to be LBBG)

Great Black-backed Gull MC | Cromer Pier [24th] including Norwegian ringed bird – see left

Herring Gull TW | Cromer Pier [27th] Belgian bird with blue colour ring

Lesser Black-backed Gull MC | Cromer Pier [26th] Including this German ringed bird

Marsh Harrier DG | Weybourne [17th] Wing tagged juvenile over the field SE of the beach. Did not come close enough to determine the coding

Marsh Harrier AC | Felbrigg Park [29th] Immature (probably female) with two red wing-tags circled high over land below dam, then moved north. Sighting reported to West Norfolk Ringing Group.

Marsh Harrier PB | Weybourne [28th] west offshore. red wing tags
Yellowhammer JS | West Beckham [22nd] Trapped and ringed a wholly juvenile so likely a "locally fledged" bird. Birding during FT ringing visit at WBOA

Möwenprogramm			
Ich danke Ihnen herzlichst für die Mitteilung eines Fundes / von Funden eines von uns beringten Vogels. Die Angaben über die Beringung und die bisher erfolgten Sichtungen finden Sie nachfolgend. Sollten Sie Fehler darin finden, teilen Sie es mir bitte mit. Wichtig: um alle Funde zu sehen, muss man Scrollen!			
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=====			
Lachmöwe	Larus ridibundus	0	
Ring-Nr.:	Helgoland 5419770	Farbring:	AF613
Beringungsdaten:	23.10.2015 Hamburg / Binnenalster	53° 33' N 10° 0' E	
	diesjährig	Gruppengröße:	
bisherige Wiederfunde			
Datum	Beobachtungsort	Koordinaten (in Grad u. Min.)	Finder
21.12.2016	Hamburg / Binnenalster	53 33 N 10 0 E	Farbring abgelesen Piro, S.
03.04.2020	LETTLAND - Salaspils	56 52 N 24 20 E	Farbring abgelesen Boiko, D.
13.04.2020	LETTLAND - Salaspils	56 52 N 24 20 E	Farbring abgelesen Boiko, D.
10.09.2020	GB - North-Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 15 E	Farbring abgelesen Grove, T.
25.01.2022	GB - North-Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 15 E	Farbring abgelesen Davis, J.
05.01.2023	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Morrison, P.
13.02.2023	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Lamsdell, C.
08.09.2023	GB - North-Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 15 E	Farbring abgelesen Grove, T.
27.09.2023	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Baggott, C.
28.08.2024	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Grove, T.
29.08.2024	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Grove, T.
26.09.2025	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Bacon, S.
10.07.2026	GB - Norfolk, West Runton	52 56 N 1 14 E	Farbring abgelesen Clements, M.

Status	Date	Observer	Type	Condition	Region	Actions
ⓘ	July 22, 2026	Clem	observation	alive and healthy	Cromer, Norfolk (GB)	📷 ⓘ info
✓	Sept. 27, 2025	Bart Put	observation	alive and healthy	Oostende, strand 3 Gapers (BE)	📷 ⓘ info
✓	Sept. 23, 2025	Nathalie Colpaert	observation	alive and healthy	Oostende, Windmolenwerf (BE)	ⓘ info
✓	Sept. 23, 2025	W. Boeykens	observation	alive and healthy	Oostende, Voorhaven (BE)	ⓘ info
✓	Sept. 23, 2025	Patrick Vandenbroucke	observation	alive and healthy	Oostende, Windmolenwerf (BE)	📷 ⓘ info
✓	Sept. 12, 2025	INBO	capture	alive and healthy	Oostende, Visserskaai (BE)	ⓘ info

MC Mark Clements | TW Trevor Williams | DG David Griffiths | AC Andy Clarke | PB Phil Borley | JS John Swallow



Bird Ventures of Holt

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



Bird Ventures | The Wildlife Shop

9B Chapel Yard, Albert Street

Holt NR25 6HG

Telephone 01263 710203

salesbirdventures@aol.com

Monday 10:15am-5:00pm

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

NENBC WhatsApp groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

2nd Hand Book Stock

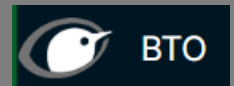
We could do with some more book donations for our birds and other nature book stall at our indoor events. We have rather a lot of Field Guides for most of the world it would seem so we don't necessarily need more of those, but we could do with a wider range of reading material from home and away. If 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!

Request for volunteer surveyors



We have received an enquiry as to whether any club member might be interested on taking on either of two BTO Breeding Bird Survey transects which are currently vacant. Both are to the west of our area but one does include freshwater, a habitat rare in the NENBC area. The two transects are:

TF7840, between Brancaster and Docking. The first transect is the Ringstead Road, the second Dalegate Lane. TF9243, Wells-next-the-Sea with the transects including the North Point pools.

Both have been mapped but are not surveyed at the moment. The survey requires 2 visits in spring. There is a lot of information about the BBS on the [BTO website](http://bto.org) - bto.org. They also provide free training. If anyone is interested in taking either of these on, please contact Andy (ac1967@cantab.net), who will put you in touch with the relevant organiser.

A change to our subscription rate for next year

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

A big thank you to NENBC Member Lizzie Wallis

... for the donation to the club of two good but surplus-to-requirements scopes and tripods. It was a really kind gesture and we will be putting them to good use. We are planning to use them to support our seawatching activities so that anyone coming along to one of our Pop-Up Seawatches or our Annual Coordinated Seawatch in October who doesn't have their own scope has the chance to use one. Don't forget we have a Seawatching Badge which is achievable by anyone, beginners included, with a bit of dedication over the season, so do come along and join us – but don't forget to wrap up warm regardless of the weather forecast! The equipment will also be available for members to use at other club activities too.



Interested in joining the WeBS counting team at Cley?

Cley/Salthouse Marshes Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) team are looking for a reserve counter to help with monthly WeBS counts. Volunteers need to be happy to work alone and able to identify waterbirds by sight. Waterbirds include geese, ducks, waders, grebes, herons, gulls, terns. WeBS counters at Cley/Salthouse are also asked to record a few other species, such as raptors, finches, buntings, pipits - so all round bird ID skills are needed. New reserve counters are called upon if the regular team are unavailable. The team are a friendly bunch of people from all parts of the birdwatching community. If you are interested, the regular counters provide a 'dummy run' walkover of the sector(s) with you, as part of the introduction to the team and the sites. If of interest please email | cleybcrecords@gmail.com.



You are invited to a lecture course

Wednesdays at 10.30am | Enrolment from 10am at the first lecture | The eight-week course fee is £28 or £4 per session for Cromer Society members, or £5 per session for visitors. | No lecture on October 28th
www.cromersociety.co.uk

NENBC Member David Harper presents Wildlife Conservation In Norfolk

Introduction to ecology and wildlife conservation.
Geological background and land use history.
Habitats, communities and species of the coast.
Broads, Brecklands, farmed land.
Ancient woodlands and Veteran trees.
The current state of nature in Norfolk.
OCTOBER 7TH - DECEMBER 2ND
SUFFIELD PARK BOWLS CLUB
STATION ROAD CROMER NR27 0DY

Overview

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

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

General Walks Information

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

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

DOGS: We regret no dogs except assistance dogs.

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

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

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

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

During this month we will be getting our website populated with the detail of our offer for the 2026/27 season – **and you can download a pdf schedule from there** - but we are always open for new suggestions so do get on touch with any! In the meantime, here are some basic details of events through to the end of the year and beyond for your diaries



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



Sunday 6th September | 9:30am to 1:00pm

An Autumn Walk at Cley Marshes with John Swallow

Cley Marshes needs little introduction as its historic reputation and fame are well known throughout the birdwatching community. The wetland haven of reedbeds, grazing marshes, pools, scrapes and coastal shingle attract a wide range of breeding, wintering and passage bird species, with nearby woodland and scrub adding to the mosaic of habitats. Autumn can be an exciting time and our walk will check the latest sightings news before deciding on a route.



Wednesday 16th September | Felbrigg Walks

9.00am to 11.00am with Trevor Williams (standard) and 9.30am to 11.00am leader TBC (slow)

Come and join us for one of our monthly strolls around the National Trust Estate.



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

“Wader Conservation Challenges” with *Ryan Burrell, Director of the Curlew Recovery Partnership*

Ryan will explore the conservation challenges facing breeding waders, drawing on his research and practical experience as a wader research ecologist and conservationist. The talk will examine the interacting roles of habitat change and predation in driving poor breeding success, and consider what the evidence tells us about effective conservation action. Combining current research with examples from conservation projects across the UK and Europe, it will highlight both the complexity and urgency of recovering these iconic birds.



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

Annual Coordinated Seawatch

Sheringham Tank with *Phil Borley*

Cromer North Lodge Park with *Trevor Williams*

Mundesley Seafront Shelter with *Julian Thomas*

Happisburgh Village Car Park with *Andy Clarke*

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

Our annual event is both a social and informative event and a great way to get started seawatching as a beginner and also to pass on your knowledge as a regular to those new to the activity. We set ourselves up at a number of sites with good views out to sea, each team with an experienced seawatcher as lead, to record the number and species of all the birds we see along the club coastline and beyond (and the direction they are flying) for each 10-minute period throughout a 3-hour time frame. Come and join us!



Saturday 17th October | 9:00am to 1:00pm

Winterton Walk with *Janice Darch*



Wednesday 21st October | Felbrigg Walks

9.00am to 11.00am with Trevor Williams (standard) and 9.30am to 11.00am with Nick Kimber (slow)

Come and join us for one of our monthly strolls around the National Trust Estate.



Thursday 29th October | Evening Talk | 7.30pm to 9.30pm | GVH and via Zoom

“The Danube Delta” with *Club Members Val & Mick Walker*

“We visited the Danube Delta in the summer before the war in Ukraine started. The border between Romania and Ukraine is just to the North, which makes it hard to visit at present so perhaps not so many people will be aware of the range of birds and wildlife in the area. Being summer there were large tern colonies, pelicans, bee-eaters and rollers amongst many others, all of which we photographed from boats or hides. We would like to share our pictures and experiences with you all.”



Wednesday 18th November | Felbrigg Walks

9.00am to 11.00am with Trevor Williams (standard) and 9.30am to 11.00am with Nick Kimber (slow)

Come and join us for one of our monthly strolls around the National Trust Estate.



Sunday 22nd November | 1:00pm to 5:00pm (times tbc)

Hickling Broad and Stubb Mill Walk with *Trevor Williams and Andy Clarke*



Thursday 26th November | Member Night! | 7.30pm to 9.30pm | GVH and via Zoom

Our popular annual evening where 4 of our talented members take to the floor with 4 mini talks

“Fieldwork to finished painting” with Mark Boyd

You may have seen him wielding a blunt pencil in a local hide, but what happens to his drawings or field paintings next? In this talk, Mark will run through some of the thinking that accompanies his pencil - in the hope that it may also encourage you to have a go - before going on to show how it relates to some of his finished work, which varies from heavily abstracted paintings via brush drawings and original prints to ceramics. He is gearing up for his first one-man show “Birds out of line” in the Cley NWT Visitor Centre from 2nd -15th December.

“An introduction to birding on Arran” with Trevor Williams

Trevor will share his recent discovery of the wonderful and varied birdlife of this beautiful yet accessible Scottish island. Often described as Scotland in miniature, the island habitats provide sanctuary for some fascinating species - where all three regular diver species occur, eagles and Hen Harrier are reasonably common, where sea-birds are plentiful and can be enjoyed on the short 'pelagic' ferry crossing, where the occasional rarity turns up - most recently Surf Scoter and Black-headed Bunting, and mythical Dotterel and Ptarmigan can be looked for in breathtaking and remote mountain landscapes. With good birding intel yet plenty of opportunity to find your own, Arran is an ideal birding holiday destination.

“Researching in the fjords - what could possibly go wrong?” with Tim Turner

A summary of an 18 day research trip to Porsanger fjord, Northern Norway during May this year. A team of eight wader enthusiasts monitored Knot in the Fjord system as the Knot transited the area enroute to the breeding grounds in Greenland and Ellesmere Island, Canada. All part of a twenty five year project sponsored by Norway's Natural Environment body. What we did, what we saw and raw results from this trip and trends from the study. Accompanied by lots of photos and a few anecdotes.

“A few Islands off Australia” with David Harper

Australia may be the largest island in the world, but its mainland is surrounded by hundreds of smaller ones. While visiting family & friends last winter, conveniently living in Perth, Adelaide & Brisbane, Maureen and I travelled to six of them. This talk quickly hops between them, showing their unique wildlife.



Thursday 10th December | 7.30pm to 10.00pm

AGM & Christmas Social | GVH

A date for your diary! Come and join us for our AGM followed by our full xmas buffet, birdie quiz and a chance to chat and socialise.



December - date to be confirmed

Strumpshaw Fen Walk with Stella Baylis and Drew Lynes

Note: Numbers limited to 20 so advance booking required, priority to those who booked for original date of Jan 2026.



Wednesday 16th December | Felbrigg Walks

9.00am to 11.00am with Trevor Williams (standard) and 9.30am to 11.00am with Nick Kimber (slow)

Come and join us for one of our monthly strolls around the National Trust Estate.



WALKS WEEK | daily walks for small groups to different locations with varied leaders

Spring 2027

In recent years we have run an autumn Walks Week. For the 2026/27 season we are currently looking to run this week-long event next spring. We are hoping we can have a **green corridor** theme this time to link in with Felbeck Trust's conservation initiative through the Upper Bure and Glaven Conservation Triangle and make these walks inclusive of all flora and fauna. If you have any suggestions of some off-road walks we could include, please give us a shout.

Last Month's Double Mid-Week Walk

Felbrigg Park | Wednesday 15th July



Newbies, butterflies and a 'whole' owl! | by Dave Billham

It was a very brown Felbrigg that greeted the fourteen club members gathering for the July walk; no sign of green at all after an exceptionally dry period. The cloudy sky overhead held no promise of rain either. We had two new people with us; David, a potential new member, and Zoe, who will be starting a zoology degree in September, and wanted to get a head start by learning about birding – she will go far! The grounds had only re-opened on this day following a two day closure after a tragic accident, involving an elderly gent and the park's cattle, so Trevor's brief included an enhanced warning about this. Otherwise, with July traditionally being a quiet month bird-wise, we just hoped we would see something! As is now the norm, Nick was leading a gentler walk starting at 9.30, and we would all finish together back at the café.

The list started reasonably well in the car park; **Woodpigeon**, **Carrion Crow**, **Jackdaw**, **Magpie** and a few **Rook**, with **Goldfinch** and **Greenfinch** in the surrounding trees. Overhead we had a lone **Swallow**, a couple of **Black-headed Gull** and a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. We started by walking towards the Weaver's Way; crossing the bone-dry field we found more butterflies than birds, namely *Gatekeeper*, *Meadow Brown* and *Painted Lady*. A **Stock Dove** whizzing by overhead was added to the list, and a group of **Swallow** were flying low over the field in

search of something to eat. A raptor in the far distance initially appeared to be a Buzzard, but further examination showed that its wings looked to be too slim. It soon dropped out of sight, so we will never know. It was replaced by a pair of **Red Kite**, also very distant.

Approaching the small copse of trees near the bridleway we saw four mobile **Skylark**, then a **Common Buzzard** – definitely this species this time! A juvenile **Great Black-backed Gull** flew overhead, with a flock of six **Linnet** following soon after, then a single **Feral Pigeon**. *Large White* was added to the butterfly tally, and **Chaffinch** to the bird list after an individual called from the copse itself. Turning right onto the bridleway, we found a *Red Admiral*, but it was very quiet in respect of birds. A newly-minted *Small Copper* butterfly held our attention for a while, and it even obligingly posed for photographs.



We had now reached the gate above the water meadows, on the other side of which was a flock of

cows with calves. We decided to go through the gate but head across the rough ground to their left so as not to unduly disturb them; anyone who did not wish to do so could take a shorter route down to the lake, which Alan decided to do. Here there were about a dozen **Stock Dove** feeding amongst the vegetation; new to the list was a single **Kestrel** which flew from a small tree and out across the meadows. A **Cormorant** was circling the lake, and a mixed flock of **Sand Martin** and **Swift** were feeding overhead, our first sighting of Sand Martin this year. Closer scanning of the flock revealed at least one **House Martin** in with them. Three **Mallard** also flew up from the area of the beck. We met up with Alan again who hadn't picked up anything extra along the main route. There was much excitement amongst the tail-enders who were counting the beautiful *caterpillars of the Cinnabar Moth* on the Ragwort.



A brief burst of **Dunnock** song, and the 'ticking' of a **Wren** were added next, followed by our second sighting of **Little Owl** this year; it was sat in an Ash tree and gave us much better views than last month's 'half-an-owl' version! We spent a little time here to ensure everyone got a look, and Val set up her scope for those who wanted an even closer view.



Arriving at the lake we found **Moorhen**, and a female **Tufted Duck** on the water and the landed **Cormorant**. There was no sign of any of the Mute Swan however.

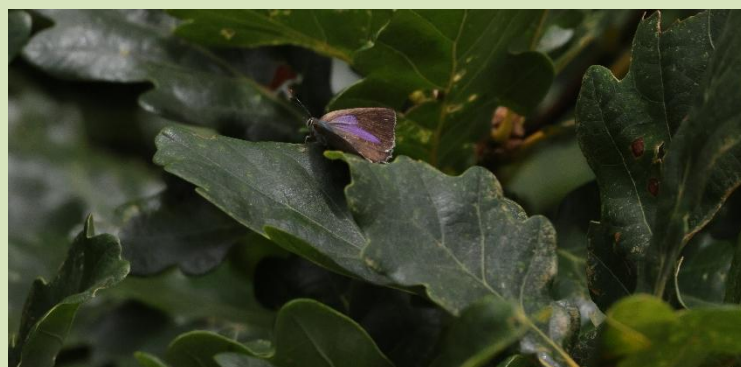


A **Herring Gull** flew over as we entered the wooded path along the lake's edge. Along here we noted the calls of **Nuthatch**, **Blue Tit**, **Jay**, **Robin** and **Chiffchaff**, joined by **Whitethroat** at the path's end.

We met Alan at the bridge over the beck, where the muted calls of a **Reed Warbler** and a **Reed Bunting** were heard. We had our first sighting this year of **Little Egret**, as two flew overhead (and which later were spotted on the lake margins), and we finally managed to add **Blackbird**, which we surprisingly had not seen or heard so far.



The walk back to the house did not reveal any further bird species, but we did find two new butterflies; firstly a Ringlet, then in an Oak by the gate to the courtyard, a pair of *Purple Hairstreak*, which, like the Small Copper earlier, posed for photographs!



Counting up our list, we had managed to find a total of **40 bird species**; a very good result for July. After a run-down of forthcoming events from Carol, we were joined by Nick; he had spent more time in the woods, and therefore had seen seven species that we had not, namely **Treecreeper**, **Collared Dove**, **Goldcrest**, **Great Tit**, **Coal Tit**, **Blackcap** and **Pied Wagtail**, so a grand total of **47 species** for both groups!

There is no walk in August as the club takes a summer break, but we would love to see you in September – migration will be well underway, so who knows what could turn up.

Photos from Carol & Ken Thornton

A house loop for a change | by Nick Kimber

Following the very hot weather, a small group of us met up on a thankfully cooler and overcast day for our monthly short and slow walk at Felbrigg. As I came up the drive past the parched fields, very few birds were in evidence, apart from a few **Carrion Crow**, so I was not expecting too much from our walk. However, we did manage **24 bird species**, including 7 not seen by the first group!

In the car park, **Greenfinch**, **Goldfinch** and **Swallows** were in evidence, as well as the usual **Jackdaws**. For a change, we set off along the drive towards the Lion's Mouth car park and had our first sight of a

Red Kite way in the distance over the shelter belt. Julia's sharp eyes then spotted a **Buzzard** on a dead tree, which after flying, was inundated by the incessant calls of a juvenile, which we located later further along the drive, in trees above the pool. We could only add **Magpie** and **Wren** to our list, plus a clearer view of a Red Kite flying over, so we decided to drop down onto the path that runs along the top of the water meadow. Ann decided to rest up near the entrance to the wood behind the house and await our return. We could not locate any new species along the

water meadow path, other than a **Stock Dove** in the dead trees, more Goldfinch and a single **Linnet** sitting out on the gorse. At this point Ann messaged to say that she had found a mixed flock of small birds, so we abandoned the water meadow and climbed back to the wood behind the house, where we did indeed locate not only Ann, but picked up **Treecreeper**, **Nuthatch**, **Goldcrest**, **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit** and **Coal Tit**. A few **Black-headed Gulls** and a single **Herring Gull**, plus a calling **Collared Dove** completed our list until Tessa spied a **Pied Wagtail** on the buildings as we arrived back for a well-deserved coffee.

Library pics from Steven & Barbara Lines (Magpie, Wren), Richard Farrow (Linnet), John Wheeler (Pied Wagtail)





By Stella Baylis

A warm Saturday in July at the seaside town of Sea Palling will surely bring in the crowds! Assembling at the car park for the start of our walk, the early morning swimmers were just leaving, the families were arriving and a holiday vibe was in the air. **Swifts** and **Swallows** overhead and a **Whitethroat** singing its scratchy song added to the atmosphere.

Walking northwards along the small road 'The Marrams' landward of the dunes and winding past chalets, there were gardens and scrub to look through – adding **House Sparrow**, **Linnet**, **Greenfinch**, **Chiffchaff**, **Blackcap** and **Sedge Warbler**. We paused at a metal gate and scanned the hawthorns for the famous and much-reported Black-winged Kite but alas 'only' a distant **Red Kite** was seen - more on that later (spoiler alert!), along with a **Pied Wagtail** family in the paddock.

The sand and calm turquoise sea came into view as we walked over the dunes on a boardwalk to the access steps down to the beach. Amid excitement, we had our first sounds and sight of **Little Terns** feeding close inshore, carrying small shimmering silver fish back to the colony. It was to be the first of many of these iconic summer visitors we encountered. Little Terns preferentially forage fairly close to their breeding colonies, except when feeding conditions are poor, so it is relatively easy to see birds inside our club area at nearby Happisburgh that travel from this colony.

The tide was high so we kept as close to the sea as possible as we walked along the beach towards the increasingly chatty colony, scanning ahead, wary of nesting **Ringed Plovers**. Sure enough, a family of the plovers was spotted, with one very mobile fledgling. We paused to watch the anxious parents follow their offspring into the comparative safety of the nearby fenced area.



Mick Davies, RSPB senior beach warden met us as we walked carefully around a spit to the Little Tern colony. Many hundreds of adult birds were ahead loafing on the beach. They all suddenly took flight and alarm called as Mick approached, the problem wasn't Mick but a **Kestrel** – we had witnessed a 'dread' event, spectacular and noisy but unwelcome! A male Kestrel came over the dunes, quick as a flash took a chick and headed off inland. Sadly, this is not an unusual event as the Kestrels are nesting somewhere nearby and feeding their own young. Mick explained that diversionary feeding can be effective in managing some predation events, but only if the predator nest site and route to and from the colony is known, otherwise the effort goes into feeding local corvids.

Crucially, the colony is monitored day and night by staff and an 80 strong team of volunteers. They spend time talking to beach-goers (usually about dogs) and conduct non-lethal predator management including removal by hand of hedgehogs that are close to the fence or who have burrowed underneath and into the colony – typically the small ones. They are relocated to gardens some way inland, with the agreement of local householders. In this hot dry year, hedgehogs

are struggling to find worms, which may exacerbate the attraction of Little Tern chicks. Add in high tide events washing out around 20% of nests (although re-laying has occurred), the stats can look sobering.

At the time of our visit, the team had logged 720 eggs laid in 307 nests (originally 347 before high tides) and expecting somewhere between 300-400 fledged young. The best intrinsic 'protection' this colony has is its size. The sheer numbers of eggs and young means that a fair number will survive to migrate and hopefully reach adulthood and enter the population to breed themselves. For Little Tern colonies, size is important!

Happily, we managed to see several healthy well-camouflaged chicks of different ages, with adults coming and going with fish. Some of the chicks were hard to spot, sheltering under tubes and hiding away within pallets. These structures are deliberately placed in the colony and have been shown to reduce predation to an extent, although they are not used by the adults for nesting.

After thanking Mick for his time and efforts, we left him to his protection duties and headed back inland, taking the minor road from North Gap. Walking by more coastal scrub, we heard a **Lesser Whitethroat** singing and managed a brief glimpse as it moved through. Passing more chalets, the view opened up across arable fields and we paused to see if we could hear Quail. This was not to be although one member of the group did think they heard a brief call, not to be repeated though unfortunately.

The walk had one more surprise in store! We were aware of recent sightings of **Black-winged Kite** in the area although the day before there had been a negative report. After locating the much reported 'double metal gates' to look over and with directions from other birders present, we finally saw the famous kite perched in a dead hawthorn bush, thanks to Mick for carrying a scope. A tick for some, albeit a distant and heat hazy one.

All that remained was a quick walk back to the car park before tickets ran out and the opportunity for refreshments and fish and chips which some of the group took full advantage of. It had been a stunning summer's morning on the beach! *Lovely photos overleaf from Jo King*





Main image from Moss Taylor and inset Alan Stevens

Alan Stevens: July 14th, having a few spare moments and passing through Weybourne a quick stop to look at what, if anything, was happening at sea seemed like a good idea but with the likely answer of ‘nothing much’.

A quick scan drew the expected blank so a walk along the Camp seemed a good alternative. Cresting the first rise off the beach the level cleared area held the usual suspects, a few Black-headed Gulls, Jackdaws, a Pied Wagtail and several Linnets charging about. A wander along for a few metres and I was drawn to a bird which, with the limited view then, triggered initial Skylark or Pipit thoughts. A closer look through the bins showed a back that perhaps looked a little different and then it turned and the bird showed itself as a Shore Lark. Now, it's July, it can't be, can it? Sliding my specs up onto my head and adjusting the bins a necessary second take confirmed it was and that perhaps re-enforces the advice to always try and have a look and everything you can because you never know. Finding a scarce bird at the right time of the year is a bit of a thrill but to find one so far out is well...a Shore Lark in July!

A quick posting on the NENBC WhatsApp group soon resulted in some company at short notice with Ollie A having abandoned breakfast, David G zooming in from Cley, Phil B from Felbrigg and Moss arriving by car

across the Camp. For Ollie, David and myself it was an NENBC tick. As the bird continued to show well attempts were made to establish it as a sub-species, to no avail, but we were happy with what we had.

After an hour or so the Muckleburgh tank experienced rumbled by (three times) but this lark seemed unperturbed and continued patrolling an area only a few metres square until it finally worked its way over the 'ridge' and out of site. Attempts to re-locate it from the access road failed but Andy C found it again later in the day giving others the chance to see it. It was last seen on the 16th July but keep looking, it was only a second look that found it for me!

No one is more surprised than me to see from Moss's notes that I may now be a very small footnote in North Norfolk, if not UK birding with a July Shore Lark. Thanks also to Chairman John for his interesting observations added to his record on the website.

John Swallow: Great find Alan and thanks Andy for checking later in the day. I was struck by the vinaceous colour to the flanks, reminding me of the Staines Reservoir bird 17th Feb 2018 (of NE Canada race). However, looking at the pictures this bird lacked a lot of other features, ie diffuse vertical streaking on the breast, rufous pink lesser coverts etc. This bird was not in juvenile plumage, this species undergoes a complete post-juvenile moult (like most passerines before they commence migration) so adults and young are inseparable once this has taken place. The tertials appeared worn to me when looking through my scope, not visible on my pics but visible on the one pic posted by Alan, and given this early date suggestive of an adult. The bird had prominent horns, so likely male although even this too can be difficult to establish with certainty.



Moss Taylor: The scientific name of the Shore Lark is *Eremophila alpestris*, the generic name coming from Greek meaning 'desert loving' and the specific name from Latin meaning 'of the high mountains'.

The first British record was of a bird shot on the beach at Sheringham in March 1830, and the second record was also from the same locality, while only the second to be ringed in Britain was trapped at Cley in 1959.

Shore Larks that visit Norfolk breed in the high tundra regions of Fennoscandia, part of the population moving south-west in autumn to winter along the coastal saltmarshes and beaches of north Norfolk, often in the company of Snow Buntings. A dramatic decline in the Fennoscandian population since the early 1950s has been mirrored by a marked reduction in the number of Shore Larks wintering in the British Isles since the 1980s. However, an exceptional influx in mid-October 1998 resulted in over 200 being recorded in the NENBC recording area.

The first birds of the autumn are generally seen in late September or the first half of October, and since the formation of the NENBC in 2015, the number of Shore Larks recorded each year has varied from zero to 18 with double-figure counts only in 2017 (18) and 2018 (14), and an annual average of four over the last 12 years. However, the discovery by Alan Stevens of one at the east end of Weybourne Camp on July 14th represents the first Norfolk record in this month and possibly the first in the British Isles in July, since the summering birds in the Highlands of Scotland in the 1970s. Although it could be extremely elusive at times, it gave much pleasure to a large number of birders during its three-day stay. From photographs its head pattern indicated that it was a male of the *flava* race and presumably it was either an early or failed breeder from the Fennoscandian population.



By Val Stubbs

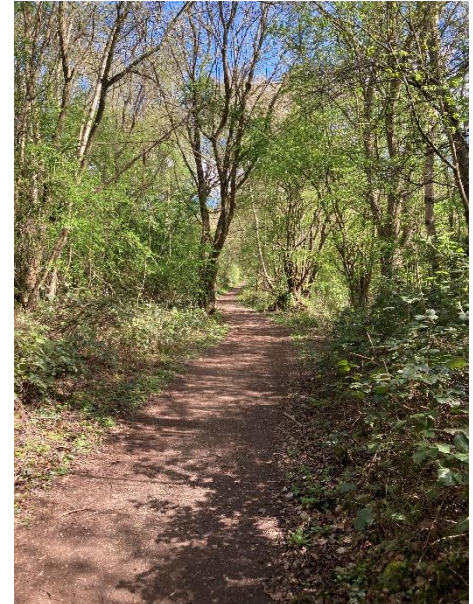
April 11th – Potteric Carr: in search of the Willow Tit

After a long journey from Cambridge to Yorkshire, the SatNav instructed us to turn down the very aptly named Mallard Lane, which led us to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Potteric Carr reserve. Wow! What a haven of wonderful watery wildness!

In the car park, we were greeted by the twittering of a charm of **Goldfinches**. A couple of male **Blackbirds** were hopping about in the grass in front of the visitor centre, in search of a tasty morsel. A **Robin** perched on the fence rails and observed me as I passed. In the café, whilst consuming enormous breakfast baps, we observed the pond. Although at first sight devoid of life, gradually various birds emerged – two **Greylag Geese**, several male **Mallards**, a male **Pochard**, a **Little Grebe** and three **Coots**. A **Grey Heron** flapped its way over. On the terrace a **Dunnock** hopped around gathering up crumbs.

The weather had turned from the forecast cool temperatures and overcast skies with showers to warm bright sunshine – which under normal circumstances would have been most welcome. But on this occasion it was somewhat inconvenient as we had our dogs with us, and had thought they could stay in a nice cool shady car. Time for plan B, which involved Nick volunteering (honestly!) to stay behind with the dogs, so that I could pursue my ambition of finding a Willow Tit. So I set off for a tour around the reserve. In a meadow area, I could hear **Greenfinches** and **Chaffinches** singing, while Peacock and Orange Tip butterflies fluttered about I tramped along the metalled track that runs along the Mother Drain, admiring the profusion of flowers – starburst dandelions, hooded White Dead-nettle, purple Ground Ivy. To my delight, two **Bullfinches** flew across ahead of me. The Mother Drain seemed to go on forever and I began to doubt my map-reading skills – I usually rely on Nick for making sure I don't get lost! Fortunately, there were a couple of local birders who were able to point me in the right direction, but also told me that they hadn't seen any Willow Tits, which did not augur well. Finally I rounded a corner and was rewarded with the sight of a glorious patch of Cowslips and signs for the Blue Path. The woodland - mostly Alder, willows, Silver Birch and Elder - resounded with the sound of the song of **Chiffchaff**, **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit** and **Blackcaps**. A chattering **Wren** whirled out of the brambles and onto a pile of brash and just sat there allowing me a lovely view. A flock of **Long-tailed Tits** flitted through the trees and I caught a glimpse of a small bird with a black cap – could it be the sought-after Willow Tit? I allowed myself to believe for a second, but soon registered that the jizz was wrong – my bird with a black cap was, of course a male Blackcap. Among the other bird song, I picked out a new voice - like a Chaffinch, but not quite, and then the penny dropped: **Willow Warbler**. And right on cue, one landed on a branch just above my head and gave me a burst of his song.

I reached the Piper Marsh hide, from where I could see two male and one female Pochard, three Coot, a **Canada Goose**, several Mallards, and a male and female **Gadwall**. At the next hide – West Scrape – a **Mute Swan** sat on a huge mound of reeds – now that's what I call a nest – with her partner swimming majestically nearby. A Greylag was perched on a smaller



version, with its mate watching over her. A swarm of **Sand Martins** were swooping and swirling over the lake. And of course, a Coot. From the Roger Mitchell Hide there was a view of a **Cormorant** on its nest in a tree. A line of nine **Herring Gulls** was strung out along a low island. On the water, Greylags and Canada Geese joined the obligatory Coot. I turned along a reed-lined dyke, and almost as if on cue, a **Cetti's Warbler's** song burst out from within the reeds. Turning back into woodland, I spotted my first Speckled Wood butterfly of the year and a resplendent male Brimstone. With time now against me, I yomped along as fast as I could, and narrowly avoided stepping on a small Grass Snake which was stretched motionless in the shade across the path – I haven't seen one for more than 10 years, so this was a real treat. I dipped briefly into Saint Catherine's Hide to get my breath back. Two **Black-headed Gulls** were swimming on the lake, along with a handful of Coots (of course) and two Little Grebes. A number of Mallards and Greylags were sleeping on the banks with their heads tucked under their wings. As I was about to leave, two **Great Crested Grebes** (or as my 'voice recognition' software put it – great crusty grapes) sailed across the water. A couple of **Tufted Ducks** popped up from below the surface. Another bit of speedwalking brought me to Hawthorn Bank hide, where a Black-headed Gull was sitting on its nest. A small island hosted a number of male **Shovelers**. Back to the Mother Drain path, I raced along, pausing only briefly to look (unsuccessfully) for the **Moorhen** that I heard calling. I finally returned to the car park nearly 2 ½ hours after I had set off.

So did I get my Willow Tit? Did I 'eck as like! But I had a fabulous time and saw some wonderful birds and interesting behaviour. I'll definitely be back – and next time I'll be there for the whole day, and with Nick beside me to share the joy!

We then set off on the rest of our journey to Scarborough. En route I added several species to the day's list: two **Starlings** on the Boothferry Rd roundabout, masses of **Rooks** in a rookery near Welham Bridge, and a large flock of **Woodpigeons** in Langtoft. I was also interested to see a handful of Mallards wandering about in an arable field close to the road, whilst on the approach to Scarborough there was a gathering of many Greylags on a grassy slope. Once settled into our hotel, with a lovely view over the bay, we went exploring through the South Bay Gardens and along the prom. As befits a seaside resort, the town has a population of **Feral Pigeons**, which were flying over the rooftops. In the gardens Robins, Chaffinches and Wrens were singing and a pair of male Blackbirds were fighting viciously. As dusk approached I was intrigued to see 24 **Carrion Crows** on the beach. Don't they know that they are supposed to be solitary birds? It has since been suggested to me that they may have been on migration and were using the beach to rest.

April 12th – Scarborough: Kittiwakes and Rubies

After a hearty breakfast we meandered our way down through the South Bay Gardens once more. There were plenty of Chiffchaffs, tits and Wrens singing as we passed, and a number of Woodpigeons eating the buds of fruit trees. With the sun shining as we wandered along the prom, we decided to stop for coffee and a doughnut. There were plenty of 'chip hawks' on the lookout for a titbit. Among the Herring Gulls swooping over, I noticed some more delicate gulls, and after a few minutes realised they had wings that looked like they had been dipped in black ink: **Kittiwakes**. I enjoyed watching them and noticed that many were nesting on the ledges of the buildings, including the Grand Hotel. A couple of **House Sparrows**



looked rather out of place perched on the lobster pots by the harbour. A **Great Black backed Gull** flew down to join the Herring Gulls in the sheltered waters of the harbour, while the Kittiwakes preferred the choppiest more open water of the bay.

The rest of the day was spent celebrating our Ruby wedding anniversary by eating copious amounts of delicious food and much reminiscing about the years we have spent together and the fun we have had along the way.

April 13th – Bempton and Flamborough Head for a Seabird Fest

It was back to some serious birding, with a trip to RSPB Bempton Cliffs. On arrival I enquired whether they still had **Tree Sparrows** “Oh yes” said the lady and pointed at a tree just in front of us, where one was perched as if glued there for the benefit of visitors. There were masses of the little beauties, with a wide range of nest box designs to tempt even the most fussy of them. A **Pied Wagtail** strutted about on the roof of the visitor centre. En route to the cliffs we gained views of Chaffinch, Blackbird, a pair of Dunnock and **Linnet**s. A **Skylark** was singing as it ascended on fluttering wings. On the top of the hedge were a Blue Tit and three Woodpigeons. I was just thinking that I hadn’t seen a **Jackdaw** when we rounded a corner and 40 flew up from the grassland.

Reaching the cliffs we were dazzled by masses of sparkling white **Gannets** sailing through the sky along the cliff edges. On the sea, rafts of **Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and Kittiwakes were bobbing up and down on the gentle waves. It was time to get the telescope out and have a proper look. After a few minutes of enjoying watching them, I spotted a couple of smaller, chunkier birds, with bright orange feet, and as they turned their heads, it became obvious that they were **Puffins**! Over the course of the day we got our eye in and could pick them out as they flew in to their burrows in the cliffs. Among the whirl of gulls circling, the stiff wingbeats of **Fulmars** stood out. All along the cliff faces Guillemots, Razorbills, Fulmars and Kittiwakes were nesting cheek by jowl, and the calling of seabirds was constant. Several Feral Pigeons, looking very much like proper Rock Doves, flew past. A **Shag** flew low over the water, and later in the afternoon, Nick had a great view of one flapping its wings and preening at the base of the cliffs. A Grey Seal popped its head out of the water. We spent several hours enjoying the spectacle of this mass of marine life, but finally it was time to head back to the café for our daily scone-fix. As we walked back, a **Meadow Pipit** squeaked and dithered over our heads. We passed a small pond where a pair of **Moorhens** were tending a single chick. Three **Swallows** swooped over the grassland on the hunt for insects and a Goldfinch watched us from the top of a willow.

We drove a few miles down the coast to Flamborough Head – where I had seen my first Puffin at the age of eight. Two female **Pheasants** were wandering about among the scrub, by the car park. By the cliffs we heard the unmistakable “peep peep” of an **Oystercatcher** and looking up spied two of the sea-pies flying over. In a small cove, 90 Grey Seals were hauled up on the beach with a further dozen or so popping their heads out of the sea from time to time. Out at sea, there were long strings of auks streaming North, in groups of hundreds. A steady flow of groups of 10 or more Gannets were also heading North. As we walked back to the car, we were surprised to see a Mallard sail over our heads – it just didn’t feel like the right habitat somehow! Meadow Pipits were twittering at the top of bushes, and Skylarks were singing overhead and three Magpies flew across,



chattering away. A flock of Goldfinches and Linnets twittered as they swept from bush to bush.

April 14th – Farndale: Vale & Moor

We decided to have a quieter day, so headed inland towards Farndale, to see the wild native daffodils. En route, as we drove through Thornton-le-Dale, three **House Martins** swooped among the houses, four Swallows were perched on the wires and a **Buzzard** circled. As we drove across the moors I had my fingers and toes crossed that we might spot a grouse. Two miles from Low Moor, Nick suddenly pulled off the road and announced this was “an auspicious spot”, so out we hopped. I crossed the road and immediately noticed a sign which announced that the area was important for breeding Curlew and Lapwing, and lo and behold, we heard a **Curlew** calling and one soared around, bubbling, and landed in a nearby field where we were able to watch it. We ambled up a track through the heather, when we were treated to the ‘cronk cronk’ of a **Raven**, which flapped its way over the moor with a stick in its beak. As we crested the brow of the hill, I spotted a splendid male **Red Grouse** picking its way through the heathland – it was the only one we saw, but what a spanking bird! In the clearings between the heather, Skylarks were hopping about, and on a slightly taller bush, a male **Stonechat** perched, bobbing its tail. Two **Red-legged Partridges** trotted up the track away from us. We returned to the car, but peered over the wall to see if we could spot the Curlew again, and there it was. I also noticed something sticking up out of the long grass and then up popped the head of a **Lapwing**. Having got my eye in, I picked out a further four in the same field, and then we were treated to a display flight with much pirouetting and ‘peewit-ing’. What a splendid spell of birdwatching delight.

We reached Farndale at midday. The car park was alive with Blackbirds, and a pair of pretty **Collared Doves** were cooing on a roof. We made our way along the daffodil walk which followed the meanders of the River Dove. The walk was delightful, with swathes of delicate Wild Daffodils festooning the banks and masses of other wild flowers – Dog Violets, Primroses, Wood Anemones, and the constant tinkling of the stream and a chorus of bird song. In the top of a tree, a **Song Thrush** was singing and after a while we were able to pick it out among the young leaves. Other singers included Robins, Blackcaps, Chaffinches and a Chiffchaff hopping about in the canopy and advertising its presence constantly. A boggy area boasting a glorious display of Kingcups yielded a **Muscovy Duck** sitting on a tussock. In the willows, we heard the “pitchou” of a **Marsh Tit** and the repetitive song of a **Coal Tit**.

We were getting quite hungry by this point so were chuffed to round the next corner and find ourselves at the Daffy Caffy (great name!). We sat ourselves down in the garden and were entertained by loads of Chaffinches feasting on the feeders and joined occasionally by a Blackbird or two, though these were not as successful at extracting the food. A pair of Blue Tits were in and out of a crevice in the wall of the building where they evidently had a nest. While we consumed our pasties, a **Red Kite** soared overhead and we heard an Oystercatcher calling. As we prepared for the return leg, two Black-headed Gulls flew down the valley. Our walk back produced a **Mistle Thrush** singing its melancholy tune in a tall tree and three Goldfinches twittering nearby. A group of Long-tailed Tits were contact calling. On our way back to Scarborough, we drove through Hutton-le-Hole, where we spied a **Kestrel** sitting in a tree.

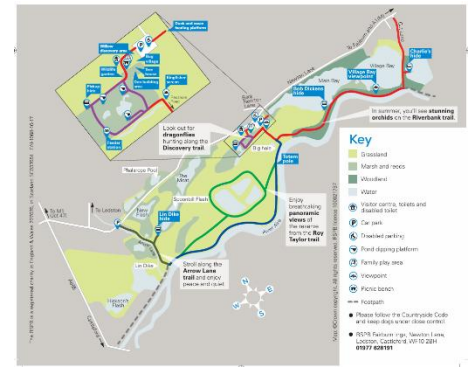


April 15th – Fairburn Ings: still in search of the Willow Tit

On the day of our departure, we decided to make a detour to RSPB Fairburn Ings to have another go at finding a Willow Tit. We were greeted by a chorus of song – Blackcap, Blackbird, Great Tit, Wren, Goldfinch and Chiffchaff. We had a brief wander around the area near the visitor centre and added a yaffling **Green Woodpecker** and a warbler fest from Willow Warbler and **Whitethroat**. After fortifying ourselves with a snack, we set off along the Discovery Trail. At the Pickup Hide the ubiquitous Coots were joined by a Moorhen. A **Little Egret** flew across and landed in a field. We then headed along the Roy Taylor trail. As we made our way through the wet woodland – predominantly willows with a few Alder and Rowan, we were serenaded by Robins, Goldfinches and Chaffinches. The ground rose and we found ourselves looking down on the former coal workings which now form a mosaic of lakes, scrape, wooded groves and grassland. Coots abounded on the water bodies. A pair of Canada Geese sailed snootily across the water. One of the lakes housed masses of Pochard – all males, so presumably the females were already on nests, or perhaps they hadn't yet migrated? A number of Tufted Ducks were also visible. In the background a **Reed Warbler** was singing in the reeds (surprise surprise!) and in the distance we could hear a **Bittern** booming – fabulous. A Buzzard was circling overhead.

We sat on a bench overlooking the Flash which initially looked rather unpromising, populated largely by Canada Geese, Mallard, Coot, and Mute Swans, but persistence paid off when I spotted a **Spoonbill** at the edge. Further investigation produced a pair of **Shelduck** and a pair of Shovelers, along with a group of **Gadwalls**. A Grey Heron flew past and landed in the marshes. In the trees at the north end of the Flash, there were lots of Cormorants on nests, and among them we were able to pick out five Little Egrets. We followed the loop round and in one of the lakes heard the song of a Little Grebe. As we returned to the visitor centre Long-tailed Tits churred among the willows, but no sign of the longed-for Willow Tit. The volunteers at the visitor centre suggested we try the Lin Dyke trail as Willow Tit had been seen there earlier in the month. We drove to the rather unprepossessing Lin Dyke car park and found our way into the reserve. There was little bird life in evidence, just a Song Thrush singing, a Great Tit in a willow tree, a male Chaffinch, and several Dunnocks on the ground. In the marshes some very handsome Highland cattle were grazing, lifting their heads to gaze at us curiously, before resuming their munching. A local birder was looking out at the scrape and I asked if *they* had seen any Willow Tits but they replied that they hadn't seen one for a number of weeks, though the car park was as good a spot as any for Willow Tits – so there was still hope. We peered through the viewing screen, where a couple of Coots and three Little Egrets were wandering about. The only other bird visible was a **Teal** – strangely I had commented only a few minutes earlier that I hadn't seen one at all during our Yorkshire trip.

We clocked up **77 species** over the course of the five-day trip, but no Willow Tits, alas, not even in the car park. So that's the end of the Willow Tit hunt. For now, at least!





By Moss Taylor

As Robina kept reminding me “This is not a birding holiday”, however, we did manage one morning on a river trip, but more of that later.

The idea of taking a short spring holiday in Turkey was most appealing, especially as it meant that we could fly from Norwich Airport to Dalaman in south-west Turkey. As it turned out the hotel was far from ideal, as it was perched on a steep hillside and walking from our room to the restaurant, beach etc involved many slopes and steps, although this was aided by a regular shuttle service and golf-style buggies. On the plus side the weather was superb (as it was in England) with clear blue skies and temperatures in the high twenties, the food was delicious and the all the hotel staff were very friendly and most helpful.

Each morning we were woken by the calls of several pairs of feral **Helmeted Guineafowls** that wandered around the hotel grounds, while ‘gangs’ of the Middle Eastern race of the **Jay** [2] (*atricapillus*) accompanied us wherever we went. Both **Common Swifts** and **Alpine Swifts** were present daily overhead and a single **Pallid Swift** was seen one morning, while **Yellow-legged Gulls** patrolled the beach and sea. The pines around the hotel’s lodges were the home of several species of tits, but best of all was a pair of **Kruper’s Nuthatches** that fed daily in the trees by our balcony. Unfortunately they fed by hanging upside-down below the pine cones and so rarely showed their characteristic rufous breast patch, although their presence was given away by their distinctive trilling and toy trumpet-like call, reminiscent of a Trumpeter Finch. I took several late afternoon walks in the scrubby countryside behind the hotel, where I was rewarded with a **Masked Shrike** in an olive grove, giving a very good impression of an Olivaceous Warbler in song, except for the fact that it continued without a break for over half-a-minute.

A *Birdwatchers’ Guide to Turkey* suggested that a visit to the river and lakes at Dalyan, just over an hour’s drive away from the hotel would be worthwhile and so it turned out to be. Here we managed to hire the services of a local boatman who took us out for a two-hour cruise, stopping whenever we pointed out an interesting bird, or the **Stripe-necked Terrapin** [5] that he proudly spotted.

One of the first species we saw was a **Squacco Heron** [4] flying low over the water, one of six we encountered, and we were also delighted to record a total of six **Purple Herons** in flight over the lake. Reeds fringed much of the water and an obliging male **Little Bittern** [1] posed at the top of the one of the stands. **Great Reed Warblers** were very common in the reed beds, and as well as the song being much louder than the occasional **Reed Warbler**’s it was also much briefer. **Cetti’s Warblers** burst into song from the clumps of bushes in the reeds, and we were also lucky enough to see a **Gull-billed Tern** and a **Black Tern**, in its resplendent summer plumage, hawking over the water. Finally a pair of **Spur-winged Plovers** [3] was almost certainly nesting on an area of short grassland adjacent to the lake, while **White Storks** were nesting on top of many of the electricity pylons that we passed on the drive back to the hotel.



We were delighted to be back working with the University of East Anglia's Environmental Science department again this year. This is where, along with other organisations, we pitch real-life environmental consultancy projects to a group of 3rd year students in the capacity of 'client' and we get selected by 'consultant' students in line with their areas of interest. Working on the briefs provided by us, they research and document our topic, feedback via Zoom or in-person, and at the end of the process give us a presentation and produce an individual consultancy report. This time we worked with four students. Following on from part one last month, below is part of the brief for the second of these along with a summary extracted from the full report by student consultant Sofia Gruson and we'll have the remaining two 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.

Now, as we had two student consultants working to this brief, we were happy to rejig the requirements at our initial meeting in conjunction with Sofia who, incidentally, hails from the USA. This meant we were able to get two distinct projects on the same theme.

Project Re-Direction Agreed

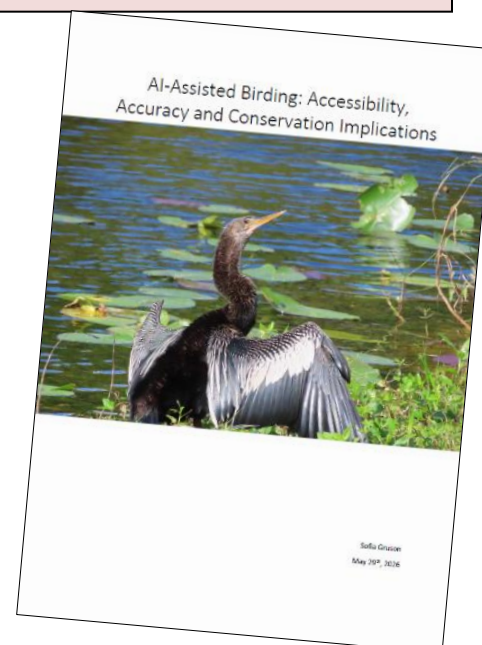
"Following discussions with the client, it was agreed that the project would focus on birding communities in North America rather than solely the UK. This was recommended because birdwatching participation is especially high in the United States, creating a larger user base for AI birding tools and more relevant user experience data. It was also agreed that examining North American perspectives would be valuable because one of the most widely used bird identification tools, Merlin Bird ID, originated in the United States. This makes an American-focused case study particularly useful for understanding adoption, trust, and reliability." *Sofia*

"AI-Assisted Birding: Accessibility, Accuracy and Conservation Implications" by Sofia Gruson

Disclaimer: This material is based upon work supported by **Sofia Gruson** 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

Birding, or the act of bird watching and identifying, is a recreational activity for people around the world. In 2018, the American-based Cornell Lab of Ornithology created the Merlin Bird ID app, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify bird species with their photos and sounds. The number of birders in America is vast, with around 37% of adults who bird watch (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2024). This report evaluates both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI-assisted birding, analysing the AI technologies that increasingly influence birding communities and how American birders respond to these developments.



Research Approach

I approached this research through several different lenses, beginning with Merlin Bird ID and its connection to eBird. I wanted to understand what Merlin Bird ID was designed to provide for birdwatchers, while also exploring how people within the birding community felt about using the app. I also used GIS mapping data linked to Merlin Bird ID and eBird to explore patterns of AI-assisted birding activity across the United States. Public discussions broaching AI-assisted birding through online articles, app reviews, educational resources, and American birding content creators on YouTube, helped identify recurring themes surrounding accessibility, identification accuracy, conservation implications, and wider public attitudes. Alongside the secondary research, I created and distributed an online questionnaire aimed at American birders. The questionnaire explored participants' birding experience levels, their use of AI-assisted tools, and their opinions on both the positive and negative impacts of Artificial Intelligence within birdwatching and conservation

Key Findings

Merlin is designed to act as a “birding coach” for users of all experience levels, allowing individuals to identify birds through photographs, sound recordings, location data, and behavioural descriptions. The application connects directly with eBird, a large-scale citizen science database that stores bird observations submitted by users across the world. Through this connection, Merlin can provide birders with information such as birds likely to appear in a local area, seasonal migration patterns, bird songs, and recent sightings. Its interface is intentionally simple and easy to navigate, making birdwatching more approachable for beginners who may previously have found identification difficult. Features such as “Bird of the Day”, regional bird suggestions, and live sound identification create a more interactive experience for users. GIS mapping tools linked to eBird also improve accessibility by visually displaying bird observations and migration activity, providing users with real-time insight into bird distribution and migration trends.

The technologies operate using a combination of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and community science data. eBird has collected bird observation data over a long period of time through public participation, creating one of the largest birding databases currently available. This data allows Merlin to continuously improve its identification system. As users continue identifying birds through sound recordings, visual sightings, and personal verification, the database grows further, allowing the software to adapt and improve over time.

Research surrounding identification accuracy showed largely positive results. AI identification systems typically achieve accuracy rates of approximately 85% when identifying common and visually recognizable species. Similarly, AI-supported binoculars demonstrate high levels of reliability in optimal conditions. However, research and public reviews suggest that reliability decreases when subjects are partially obstructed, positioned at long distances, or viewed in poor lighting conditions.

Another key finding was the wider conservation potential linked to AI-assisted birding. As more birdwatchers contribute sightings, scientists can access increasingly large datasets capable of identifying environmental shifts, unusual migration patterns, or declining species populations. This demonstrates how AI-assisted birding extends beyond recreational use and may also contribute to biodiversity monitoring and conservation research.

Despite limited responses to my online questionnaire, there were several recurring themes, particularly surrounding accessibility, convenience, and concerns about overreliance on automated identification systems. Participants who supported AI-assisted birding tools frequently described applications as useful for beginners, especially when attempting to identify bird calls or unfamiliar species. Several responses also suggested that AI tools make birdwatching feel more approachable and interactive, encouraging greater public participation in outdoor activities and citizen science. At the same time, concerns surrounding reliability and dependence on AI were repeatedly discussed. Some participants suggested that excessive reliance on automated identification tools could reduce the development of traditional birding skills, particularly field observation and auditory identification. Concerns were also raised regarding incorrect identifications entering larger citizen science databases such as eBird, particularly if users accept AI suggestions without verification. While participants generally understand AI as a useful support tool, many responses suggested that birdwatchers still valued personal observation and field experience over complete technological dependence.

Public discussions (eg: Reddit forums, YouTube content, and birding podcasts) demonstrated mixed opinions regarding the environmental impact of AI technologies, particularly surrounding energy and water consumption linked to digital infrastructure. Some users argued that applications present lower environmental impacts



compared to larger cloud-based AI systems due to their offline functionality, while others questioned the long-term sustainability of increasing AI integration within recreational activities. Overall, the discussion reinforced a common theme: while AI-assisted birding technologies improve accessibility and convenience, many birders remain cautious about allowing AI to replace direct engagement with wildlife and traditional birding knowledge.

Conclusions

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly changing the way individuals engage with birdwatching, particularly through applications such as Merlin Bird ID, eBird mapping systems, and AI-assisted binoculars. The research demonstrated that these technologies have increased accessibility within birding by simplifying species identification, encouraging beginner participation, and supporting citizen science contributions. As AI systems continue developing, their role within biodiversity monitoring and conservation research is also likely to expand.

At the same time, the findings showed that public attitudes towards AI-assisted birding remain mixed. While many birders understand the convenience and educational value of these tools, concerns surrounding identification accuracy, environmental sustainability, and dependence on automated systems continue to shape discussion within birding communities. The research suggests that many users still value traditional birdwatching skills and direct interaction with nature alongside technological support.

Overall, AI-assisted birding technologies appear most effective when used to complement human observation rather than replace it. The continued growth of citizen science databases, combined with increasing public interest in accessible birdwatching tools, indicates that Artificial Intelligence will likely remain an important part of the future of birding and conservation.

Recommendations

From my research, I believe that AI-assisted birding technologies should be viewed as support tools that improve accessibility and public participation rather than replacements for traditional birdwatching knowledge and field experience. Bird clubs and conservation groups should continue encouraging the use of applications such as Merlin Bird ID and eBird, particularly for beginner birders and educational outreach activities. These technologies have clear potential to increase engagement with birdwatching, citizen science, and outdoor recreation.

While the UK birding community operates on a smaller geographic scale than the US, similar opportunities exist surrounding citizen science, migration monitoring, and beginner accessibility through AI-assisted tools. Applications such as Merlin Bird ID and eBird may help UK birding groups engage new audiences, encourage participation in local conservation efforts, and support the collection of observational data across important migratory regions along the British coastline.

Users should also be encouraged to develop traditional bird identification skills alongside AI-assisted tools. Training resources focused on bird calls, behavioural observation, and manual species identification would help reduce overreliance on automated systems and improve the accuracy of citizen science data submitted to databases such as eBird. AI outputs should be treated as guidance rather than fully verified observations.

Finally, further research should examine the long-term environmental impacts of AI-assisted birding technologies, particularly regarding digital infrastructure, energy use, and water consumption linked to machine learning systems. While applications such as Merlin Bird ID currently appear less environmentally intensive than large-scale AI chatbots, increasing reliance on connected AI technologies may create additional sustainability concerns in the future.

Overall, the most effective future for AI within birdwatching is likely one where technology supports public engagement and conservation efforts while still maintaining the importance of human observation and ecological expertise.

Share your observations.
eBird tracks your birding achievements and archives your photos & sounds - all for free.

Find more birds.
Explore nearby species and the best places to go birding, anywhere in the world.

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Report and explore birds from the field with the free eBird app for iOS and Android

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Free online course with step-by-step videos and helpful tips.

Discover more at **eBird.org**

Photo by Ben Lucking / Macaulay Library

Who's singing?

Merlin Bird ID can tell you

Best suggestions

- Dartford Warbler**
Curruca undata
- Common Chiffchaff**
Phylloscopus collybita
- European Stonechat**
Saxicola rubicola

Download for free!

By Val Stubbs

Having failed to haul myself out of bed early enough to sea-watch at all during June, I was determined to join the pop-up sea-watch on **July 19th 2026**. When I reached the shelter at North Lodge Park in Cromer at 6am, Trevor, Carol and Ken were already ensconced. I plonked myself on a spare seat and was promptly informed that if I sat there, I would have to be Trevor's wingman for waders. Hmm, this didn't augur well. The morning started off with a lovely view of an adult **Gannet**, and it was followed by many more as the hours passed, mostly adults, with a few second- and third-year birds and a couple of this year's juveniles. A handful of **Sandwich Terns** passed through. Migration of **Oystercatchers** seemed to be underway, with a number of single birds heading purposefully west along the shore. I then spotted three waders flying low over the sea, quite close in. However, I could neither identify them nor describe where they were to the others, as they were so low that I couldn't pick out any boats or wind turbines to give people a landmark (or indeed seamark!) to help them to work out where I was looking. All I could do was say that they were dark birds with a vague lighter mark on the wing. So we had to let those ones go. We were soon distracted by a flock of 12 **Common Scoter** flying west, close enough to be able to identify nine males and three females. Over the next couple of hours they were followed by other groups, ranging in size from two to 19. Suddenly a bird of prey whizzed east over the shore in front of the shelter – one of the local **Peregrines** from Cromer Church. Three **Cormorants** flew in from the east and landed on the sea in front of us. Trevor spotted an **Arctic Skua**, but I caught only a fleeting glimpse. A minute or two later I cried "there's another one", only to be told that it was a Gannet, as it had a white head. Oops! Back to Birding for Beginners for me! But then it flew back into my scope and it just didn't feel like a Gannet, so I kept watching and became more and more convinced that my initial identification had been correct. I finally plucked up the courage to say so. And this time it was agreed that I was right – it was a pale morph Arctic Skua, which put on a super display for us, and was joined by a dark morph one for contrast. This was the best view I've ever had of an Arctic Skua, and was the absolute highlight of the morning, and not just because I got a fulsome apology! In a lull in the action, Trevor asked whether I had a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on my Blue list, which I didn't think I had. "Well, there are two down there on the beach" he said, and indeed there were two juveniles on the beach, with a couple of young Herring Gulls for comparison. Trevor pointed out that the LBBs were darker and squatter than the **Herring Gulls**. A group of five small waders skimmed the waves and Trevor was able to identify them as **Dunlin**, and I was able to confirm that the waders I had seen earlier were definitely not Dunlin! Then I spotted another wader, larger than the Dunlin – the same as my first three, and I was able to describe it and its location better, enabling Carol to get onto it too. Still neither of us could identify it, but after some discussion and poring over my bird book, we finally settled on **Knot**. A **Fulmar** glided past. A flock of eight ducks headed west, not Common Scoter this time, but **Teal**. Further out, a white gull soared along – an adult **Mediterranean Gull**, this being one of the few birds that were heading east that morning. And then the two hours were up. It was definitely worth the effort of the early start: I'd had a great time and seen five new Blue Badge species, including several new waders – not a completely useless wingman then!

July 30th 2026, another pop-up sea-watch, what would the morning bring? Well, we had hardly sat down when I spotted an **Oystercatcher** flying low over the sea, although when I announced this Trevor said "That's a **Curlew**" Oh no! How could I get that so wrong? And then it turned out we were looking at different birds! But I would rather have seen the Curlew, as it would have been a new bird for my Blue Badge. The morning's team was made up of the usual suspects, plus Dave – new



to sea-watching – and we were later joined by Stella. With six sets of eyes, we were well set to pick up whatever came our way. Trevor quickly spotted a Whimbrel, but this also eluded me. Was this going to be the pattern of the morning? Then we picked up a couple of waders, of different sizes, the first larger and with a curved bill, the second with a straight bill. After some discussion of the attributes of the two birds and comparisons with the Curlew and Whimbrel that Trevor had seen earlier, we finally settled, on **Whimbrel** and **Bar-tailed Godwit** (or Barwit in sea-watching parlance). Another two waders to add to my Sea-watching Badge list. Trevor spotted a **Grey Heron** flying slowly low over the sea, and after much coaching I managed to pick it up. The poor thing looked really exhausted, and as though it might ditch into the sea at any moment, its plight worsened by the **Herring Gulls** that were mobbing it. But this is a good news story, as the same bird was spotted 24 minutes later at Weybourne, still heading west. Another couple of waders proved to be a second Whimbrel and a Curlew. The wader-fest was topped off when six smaller waders flew in front of the shelter. Unable to identify them immediately, I squeaked “birds, in the sky, six” – very helpful! Some pertinent questioning from my fellow sea-watchers enabled me to get the others onto them, and after watching them carefully we were able to identify them as **Redshank**. Result!

It wasn’t just waders that were on the move, with a handful of duck flocks, all of which I identified as **Common Scoter**, but it turned out that several of the groups were Teal, identifiable by the white on the wing (if you could see it, which I couldn’t), and their tendency to change height as they fly, while Common Scoters fly in a much more purposeful way, usually very close to the surface of the sea. A number of **Black-headed Gulls** were heading west, always on the same line – clearly migration in progress. Today the **Gannets** – a good mix of ages – were nearly all heading east, as were most of the **Sandwich Terns**, though there were a few busy fishing straight out. A few **Cormorants** were seen out at sea, while a single **Great Black-backed Gull** flew east, with a second on the groyne basket in front of the shelter. I had the opportunity to show off my sea-watching prowess when I spotted a good-sized bird which I confidently pronounced to be a Curlew, and then as it turned towards me I had to revise my identification to **Fulmar** - gosh how wrong can you be!



By the end of the two-hour stint I had racked up another five species for my badge, and now stand on 800 points.

Library photos: Gannet (Mark Clements); Sandwich Tern (Francis Farrow); Oystercatcher (Richard Farrow); Arctic Skua (David Griffiths) Dunlin (Moss Taylor); Curlew (Steve Lines); Redshank (Trevor Williams)

My Species List	Points	My sightings						
		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Arctic Skua	15						3	
Bar-tailed Godwit	15							1
Black-headed Gull	10	1			4	1		7
Brent Goose	10	4						
Common Gull	15		1					
Common Scoter	10	9	32	59		7	50	37
Cormorant	10	1	2		1	3	4	4
Curlew	15							2
Dunlin	15						5	
Eider	15		1					
Fulmar	15	5	2	2	1	1	1	3
Gadwall	15		1					
Gannet	10	95	3		3	1	31	26
Great Black-backed Gull	10	3	15		1			2
Great Crested Grebe	15	2						
Grey Heron	15							1
Greylag	15		1			5		
Guillemot	15	1	3					
Herring Gull	10	10	15	85	50	15	2	20
Kittiwake	15			2	1			
Knot	15						4	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	15						2	
Little Egret	15					1		
Little Tern	15					9		
Mediterranean Gull	15	1		1			1	
Oystercatcher	10				3	1	5	2
Red-throated Diver	15	84	37	3	1			
Redshank	15							6
Sandwich Tern	10			2	20	18	8	21
Shelduck	15	2	1					
Spoonbill	15					1		
Teal	10						8	16
Tufted Duck	15					1		
Whimbrel	15							3

My Current Points Tally	
Duration Points	240
Event Bonus Points	100
First Time Species Points	460
TOTAL	800

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

Coming to the end of the Cromer Peregrine Project watchpoint duties at Cromer church and it's been a bit of traumatic month. As I reported last month, the fledging of all three birds was quite taxing – for the watchpoint volunteers as much as the birds!

We have been very lucky with the fledgings in previous years (17 birds ringed and away since 2019). Up until last year all the first fledged flights of the birds involved a brief fly around the church tower with a rocky landing back on the roof and the feeling that they were thinking: “that’s that out of the way think I might wait a bit longer before attempting anything else. Now, where’s dinner?”. Very sensible approach! We didn’t appreciate it! Last year, of course, VDP ended up in a Herring Gull’s nest which culminated in the arrival of three fire engines and two police cars and a juvenile looking out thinking: “seems to be something big going on in Cromer today and it’s too early for the carnival” and him flying out (eventually) and making it back (eventually) to the top of the church.

I reported last month on this year’s fledgings. Quite troublesome, but all three made it back to the top of the church (eventually) and for the first few weeks looked to be doing really well. They followed exactly the same pattern as previous years. Sticking to the top and the ledges and brief flights to dislodge the adults to go get some food. Sadly, we’ve had some issues since.

At the time of writing (30th July) VRN hasn’t been seen for around 3 weeks. The fact he hasn’t returned to the church tower is not good. That is way too soon for him to be out there on his own. No way would he have been capable of fending for himself. In previous years the earliest they have left and not returned is round about 7th August (last year) – and that was much earlier than usual. “Usual” is September – even into October and one year the juvenile was still around the church at the beginning of November. That was really interesting because he had been the solo juvenile and he didn’t do any of the flying around that two or more juveniles do, wherein they bump into each other and practise flying upside down, clashing their talons etc. That lack of ‘play-fighting’ (which it isn’t of course – and we have to tell people occasionally that they really are NOT playing!) really seemed to make a difference to his progress.

VLN is also having difficulties. His left eye appears to be damaged in some way (see photo). It’s closed and it is definitely hampering this vital stage of his juvenile progress. He had been doing really well – catching prey and arguing with his sister over who should have the pigeon. And then we noticed the damage to his left eye.



Image showing VLN’s poorly left eye



VLN and VSN arguing over a pigeon just a few days before the problem with his eye was noted

He doesn’t fly much and he certainly is making no attempt now to catch prey. He is still begging for food – sometimes for hours. It’s very unpleasant watching him as he hardly moves from one spot all day. Obviously, there is nothing we can do but wait and hope that it’s an infection or injury that will clear up. His right eye is fine. We’ve seen him flying briefly but sometimes he misses his landing. He often has a full crop as the adults

are still bringing him food but the problem is – how long will they continue to do that? Will be interesting to monitor. There are (largely anecdotal) reports of Peregrines who only have the use of one eye surviving. IF that is the case my thoughts are that it would be an adult who is already highly-skilled and an experienced hunter. VLN has zero experience. Peregrine falcons need precise binocular vision from their two foveae per eye to track fast-moving prey and plunging at speeds up to 180ph requires flawless visual calculation to strike targets without crashing.

On the plus side, VSN (the super large juvenile - she is bigger than her mother and that's saying something!) is doing very well. She's been seen catching a pigeon and bringing it back, plucking it and eating it and also following and harassing the adult male who was carrying a Swift. They disappeared at speed so don't know the outcome but they were extremely low and she was practically on his back! The fact that she is doing so well just underlines and highlights how poorly VLN is doing. As I say, nothing we can do at this stage.



Brilliant image taken by Mark Clements of VSN actually catching a pigeon over the sea (as opposed to a food pass from an adult) and bringing it back to the church where I happened to see it land and pluck and eat it! I didn't know he had seen the actual catch until later. So that's really good that he witnessed the catch and bringing it back and I witnessed the plucking and eating of the prey – verifying that she is capable of the whole process of hunting. My photo shows her just after she'd finished – doesn't she look good!

Both adults looking really good at the moment – below is the adult male



To end with an amusing incident reported by two of the volunteers. One of the juveniles was very low down on the nave at one point and they saw a pigeon approaching it. They couldn't believe their eyes! He started to do the classic bobbing and weaving mating dance!!! Apparently the juvenile looked quite bemused and ignored him – luckily for the smitten pigeon. I think he's the one with the eye problem!

Not a match made in heaven – which is where the pigeon may have ended up!

I'll do a final chapter in the 2026 book of the Cromer Church Peregrines next month when hopefully the news will be good, for at least one of the juveniles.



Check This Out!

A few bits and bobs in the news recently ...



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

-  [Birdsong data from Merlin ID app to help global biodiversity project | Birds | The Guardian | 04-Jul](#)
-  [Secrets of birdsongs' 'spectacular diversity' revealed - BBC News | 24-Jul](#)
-  [Why Suffolk's seagulls are acting like lager louts this summer - BBC News | 10-Jul](#)
-  [Bird-flu impact could leave major gannet colonies depleted until 2041 - BirdGuides | 23-Jul](#)
-  [Birders' Code of Conduct - BirdGuides | 11-Jul](#)
-  [BTO bans AI designs from Bird Atlas logo competition - @RareBirdAlertUK | 09-Jul](#)
-  [Spring songbirds may help pollinate UK trees - @RareBirdAlertUK | 09-Jul](#)
-  [Is Dotterel about to become the first UK bird lost to climate change? - @RareBirdAlertUK | 10-Jul](#)
-  [More White-tailed Eagles confirmed poisoned in Dorset - @RareBirdAlertUK | 24-Jul](#)
-  [Why these birds meet again in Africa: Flycatcher study reveals how genes and environment guide 13,000km migrations - Phys.org | 25-Jun](#)
-  [New Study Eavesdrops on the Secret Lives of Birds - Cornell Lab of Ornithology | May-26](#)
-  [Seeing in the dark: Using thermal imaging to directly observe nocturnal migration - Ornithology | Oxford Academic | Mar-26](#)
-  [Health risk fears for storks in Europe over 'junk food' from landfill - Birds | The Guardian | 08-Jul](#)
-  [Birdsong can ease stress in just 10 minutes - Earth.com | 22-Jul](#)
-  [How birds save energy by flying in a V formation - Earth.com | 22-Jul](#)
-  [More than half of Earth's migratory bird species are declining and here's how we can still save them - The Conversation | 23-Jul](#)
-  [The Rise of iOrnithology — a new method in the ornithologist's toolbox - British Ornithologists' Union | 13-Jul](#)
-  [Why budding birders are flocking to Shazam-like apps to identify avians - BBC News | 27-Jul](#)
-  [Bill Oddie Dies - @RareBirdAlert | 27-Jul](#)

NENBC Young Birder Bursary 2026

Applications invited!



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

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

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



This month a new RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology report has been published which looks at the impacts on UK birds and the actions we can take to protect them.

RSPB Senior Policy Officer, Bethany Chamberlain, has said:

“Climate change is already affecting the UK and has the potential to cause unprecedented impacts to birds and nature more widely. However, we know the solutions. When we help look after nature, nature can help to build our resilience to climate change. We need coordinated and urgent action from governments that gives nature a central role to help us adapt.”

BTO’s Director of Science, James Pearce-Higgins, has said:

“This report highlights how important it is to understand the impacts of climate change on nature. This is only possible with long-term monitoring. Our citizen science schemes, supported through a partnership of BTO, RSPB and JNCC, enable us to do this at scale and provide a great opportunity for birdwatchers to contribute to this evidence.”

The full report can be accessed and downloaded from the RSPB website via the link on [this page](#).

Below is the Executive Summary taken from their report along with some graphics.

Mordue SM, Pearce-Higgins JW, Gregory-Manning S, Bradfer-Lawrence T (2026) Climate change and the UK's birds: impacts, risks, and conservation responses. RSPB and BTO. RSPB Research Report 84. ISBN 978-1-905601-81-3

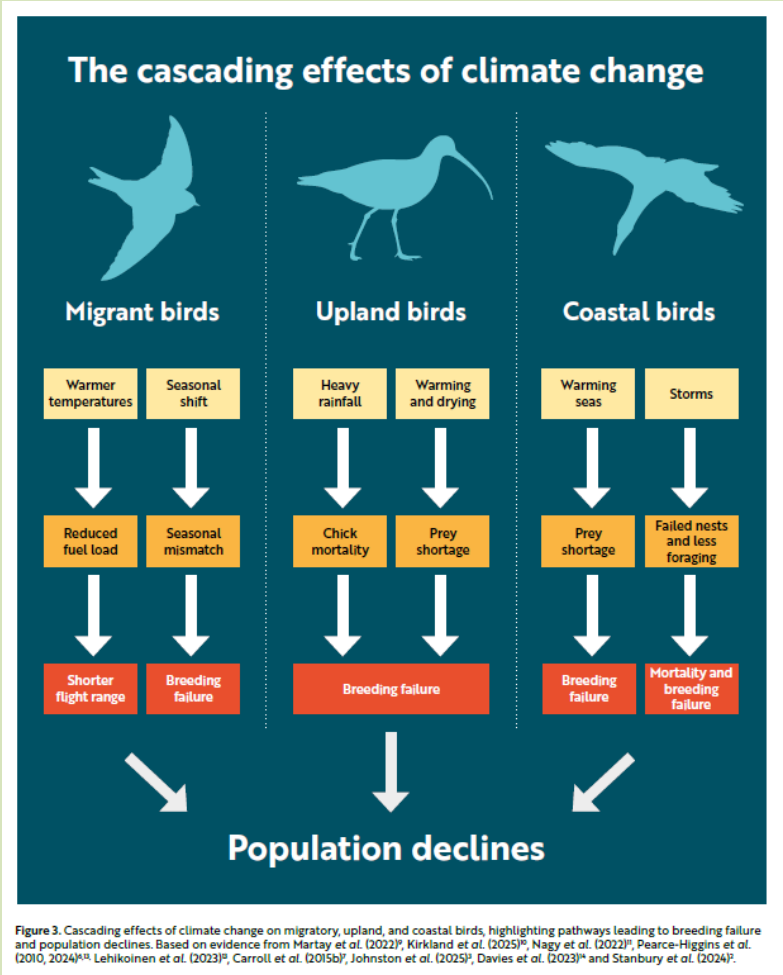
Key Findings

Climate change is already reshaping UK bird populations.

Higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events are driving shifts in the ranges, abundances, and phenology of many species.

Upland birds and seabirds are among the most vulnerable to climate change.

The climatic drivers of decline differ among groups. Upland birds like Dotterels and Golden Plovers face challenges from changing soil moisture and habitat conditions, while seabirds such as Puffins, Fulmars, and Arctic Terns, are affected by warming seas, reduced prey availability, and increased storm exposure. Predictive modelling suggests that under high-emission scenarios that drive climate change, some seabird populations could decline by over 70% by 2050 without interventions. Non-climatic factors, such as continuing habitat loss and human disturbance, will compound these declines. Projected climate change effects on seabird abundance make conservation action essential to mitigate impacts by securing safe breeding and feeding areas, restoring food supplies, and reducing adult mortality. These goals can be achieved through investment in seabird action plans.



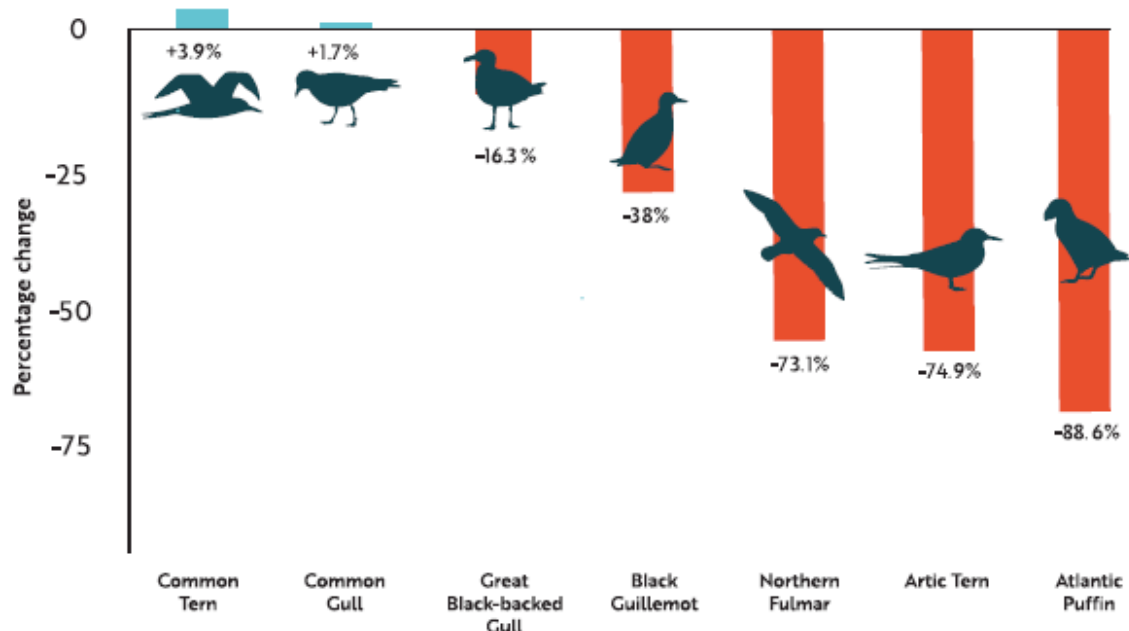


Figure 4. Projected change in seabird abundances under climate change makes conservation action essential to mitigate impacts. Without mitigation efforts, populations of many seabird species are projected to decline in abundance by 2050 under RCP 8.5 (2°C warming)¹.

Rare species are especially at risk.

The rarest bird species have small populations, small ranges, or their range limits in the UK, making them particularly at risk from climatic change. These species are a critical priority for conservation.

Some rare species with southern distributions may benefit under warming conditions.

Assuming suitable habitat exists, these species could experience improved climatic conditions that allow population increases and greater resilience to extreme events, contrasting with the heightened vulnerability of other rare species with fragmented ranges.

Generalist and southern bird species are expanding their ranges.

Climate change makes it easier for generalist species to supplant specialist species, leading to homogenisation of bird communities. At the same time, warm-adapted bird species are benefiting from milder winters and improved breeding conditions, with species such as the Cetti's Warbler and Little Egret increasing in both range and abundance across the UK.

Wintering waterbird distributions are shifting north and east.

This is contributing to UK declines in species like the Bewick's Swan and Goldeneye. For Bewick's Swans, these trends reflect wider declines, linked to climate-driven changes in conditions throughout the flyway.

Phenological mismatches may threaten migratory species by disrupting the synchrony of breeding with peak insect food availability.

This affects species such as the Pied Flycatcher. However, strong evidence for widespread population impacts is limited for most species, with overwinter survival rates likely playing a more significant role.

Protected areas are under pressure.

Designated sites on land and at sea remain essential for nature conservation and they will become increasingly important in a changing climate, acting as cold-weather refuges, 'landing sites' for colonising species, and places where conservation action can be prioritised. Protected areas can reduce the rate of loss for cold-associated species and support higher species richness and abundance than surrounding landscapes. However, because many designations were based on historical distributions, they may not align with future climatic suitability, underscoring the need for more dynamic, climate-resilient and expanded protected area networks.

Critical monitoring and evidence gaps remain.

Despite strong data for many species, robust evidence on the role of climate change in recent population declines is lacking for over half of UK breeding bird species. There is also limited information for marine and wintering bird populations. Moreover, there are fundamental gaps in evidence to inform the design of management to mitigate climate impacts.

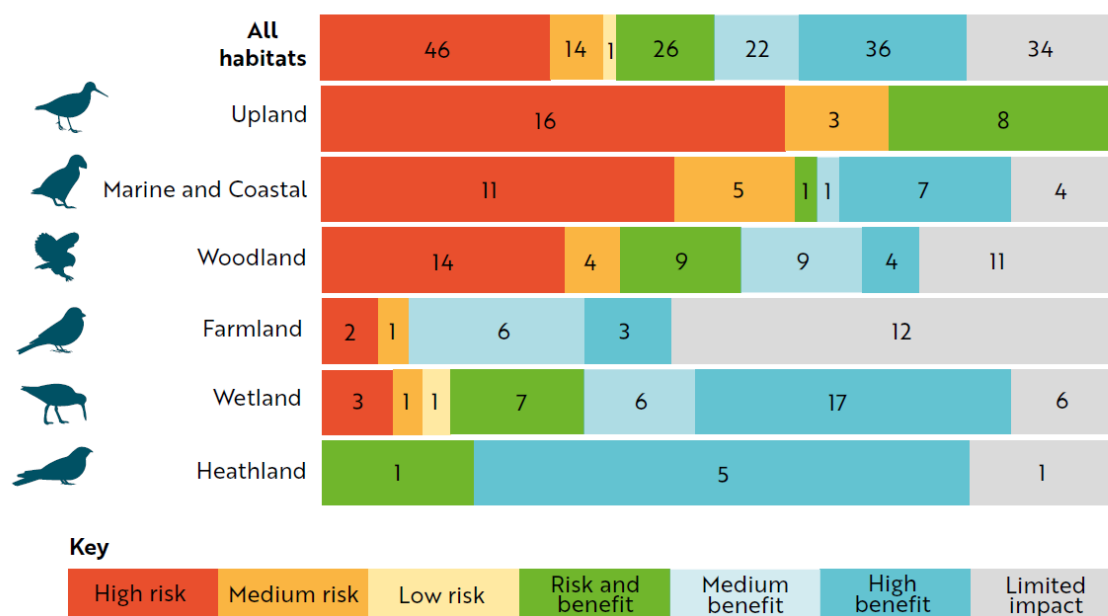


Figure 5. Projected Climate Vulnerability by risk category for 179 UK bird species (top) and separated by habitat below. Does not include species affiliated with urban habitats, non-native species, non-breeding visitors, and species where we have insufficient data to determine impacts. Derived from data in Pearce-Higgins *et al.* (2021).

Policy implications

To safeguard UK birds in the face of climate change, the following actions are urgently required:

Adapt protected areas and land management to shifting species distributions.

This includes strengthening and improving the management of current protected areas; expanding the network to account for climate refugia, thus improving habitat connectivity; and increasing deployment of nature-based solutions, such as wetland and peatland restoration, native woodland creation, and managed retreat in coastal areas.

Build landscape-scale resilience.

Collaborative conservation strategies that restore ecological functions and services across entire regions and water catchments will be more robust to future climatic change.

Prioritise high-risk species and ecosystems for targeted conservation.

These include: upland ecosystems (encompassing peatlands, montane grasslands and moorlands), ancient woodlands (including core areas of western temperate rainforests and Caledonian pinewoods), globally important seabird colonies, and climate-sensitive wetlands. Evidence shows that well-designed adaptation actions, such as drain blocking to restore peatlands or water management on lowland wet grasslands, can significantly increase resilience to climate change. However, these actions are not currently deployed at sufficient scales to maximise their potential.

Integrate climate adaptation and nature-based solutions into biodiversity, climate mitigation and land-use policy.

Climate-informed nature conservation and adaptation must be embedded across agri-environment schemes, planning systems, and sectoral strategies (including agriculture, energy, forestry and infrastructure). At the same time, climate adaptation and mitigation policy should make nature-based solutions mainstream, to deliver on net zero targets and build ecosystem resilience to the increasing impacts of climate change. Working with nature offers wide-ranging, cost-effective benefits for nature, climate and society.

Strengthen long-term monitoring and citizen science.

Schemes such as the BTO/JNCC/RSPB's Breeding Bird Survey, Wetland Bird Survey and Seabird Monitoring Programme remain critical for detecting changes accurately and guiding adaptive management responses and policy. The BTO's ringing and nest recording schemes allow breeding success and survival rates to be measured, and changes in the timing of breeding to be tracked. Demographic monitoring also provides an early warning of impacts, particularly for long-lived vulnerable species, such as seabirds, as well as enabling changes in the timing of breeding to be tracked. Expanding existing monitoring is essential, especially of our rarest flagship bird species – for which the Scarce Breeding Bird Survey plays a vital role – and in under-represented habitats, such as the marine environment. This report synthesises the latest scientific evidence to inform effective, forward-looking conservation policy and practice. The climate crisis demands urgent, systemic responses and the future of UK bird populations will depend on our ability to adapt now.



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!

“Tends to fly high and away if disturbed, with loud, rich, fluty, yodelling ‘tluee-wee-wee’.”

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

“Flight-call a clear, ringing whistle, ‘tlueet-wit-wit’, first note with rising inflection, the next two higher-pitched. Alarm call a clipping ‘tlip-tlip-tlip...’. Song (in display-flight) more complex than Wood Sandpiper’s, a rapid, rhythmical phrase, ‘tluui-tüi tluui-tüi tluui-tüi tluui-tüi...’.”

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

“When disturbed it frequently makes a distinctive ‘tweer, weet, weet’ call in flight – the last two notes being higher-pitched.”

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

Wordsearch

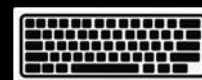


This month, we have 30 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in August 2025 for which we have just 1 or 2 records – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled as there were certainly quite a few exciting birds this time last year! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. [Solution is at the end of this newsletter.](#)

Avocet
Coot
Cory's Shearwater
Cuckoo
Firecrest
Great Shearwater
Greylag Goose
Little Gull
Mandarin Duck
Pomarine Skua
Puffin
Quail
Red-necked Grebe
Spotted Redshank
Stone-curlew
Balearic Shearwater
Barn Owl
Canada Goose
Common Sandpiper
Corn Bunting
Egyptian Goose
Goosander
Honey-buzzard
Little Ringed Plover
Marsh Tit
Mistle Thrush
Ruff
Shoveler
Siskin
Spoonbill

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





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 July 2026

By Val Stubbs

Phil Borley's lead remains unassailable, with over 143,000 points. Tony Pope has consolidated his second place on 64,000 points, ahead of Mark Clements, who has exceeded 58,000 points. Philip Cartlidge holds onto fourth place, having breached the 50,000-point barrier, followed by Val Stubbs. David Griffiths has edged ahead of Doug & Jenny Cullern into sixth place.

A total of 122 members have logged birds so far this year. Of these, 55 birders have already scored over 1,000 points, with 49 of these on 2,000 points or more, 40 on over 3,000 points, 25 exceeding 5,000 points, and 12 who have passed 10,000 points.

Two of our recent Birding for Beginners graduates have continued to log regularly and are moving up the table Kala Nobbs & Mike McConnell, who are ranked 37th, and Henrietta Robinson who has now reached 42nd place.

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	143,420
2	Tony Pope	64,010
3	Mark Clements	58,210
4	Philip Cartlidge	50,820
5	Valerie Stubbs	45,930
6	David Griffiths	31,350
7	Doug & Jenny Cullern	28,830
8	Stuart Jones	14,520
9	Ken Thornton	11,850
10	Stephanie Witham	11,620
11	Ann Gladwin	11,160
12	Trevor Williams	10,920
13	Carol Thornton	9,710
14	John Swallow	8,560
15	David Barrass	8,390

16	Russell Page	7,870
17	Andrew Clarke	7,820
18	Steven & Barbara Lines	7,210
18	Stella Baylis	7,070
20	Thomas Wright	7,000
21	Julia & David Ivison	6,840
22	Colin Blaxill	6,240
23	Peter & Sue Morrison	6,160
24	Alan Stevens	6,090
25	Gary Bunting	5,250
26	Stuart Buck	4,820
27	Andrew Gorton	4,820
28	Mick Rebane	4,420
29	Bob Farndon	4,380
30	Philip Hall	4,380



**2026
Club
Stats**

**439 individual members
across 293 households**

**63,543
bird records logged**

**220
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!



Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Seen on a local beach the Little Tern, with its yellow bill is the UK's smallest tern. In flight they are fast and agile, hovering briefly before diving for food. The juveniles are difficult to see on sandy beaches with their cryptic plumage. Fortunate enough to see 20+.



bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social

Who doesn't love a Meadow Pipit? Another undervalued bird - just because it's common, doesn't mean it ain't beautiful! Have had lovely views recently of a pair feeding young - and right next to the coastal footpath between Sheringham and Weybourne. @nenbc.bsky.social



08:01 · 11 Jul 2026 · Everybody can reply



Steve Stansfield
@bardseyobswarden.bsky.social

A steady start to our week @OwlwoodCottage.

This super Squacco Heron on Kelling Water meadow was a great end to yesterday. Also 3 Great White Egrets there.

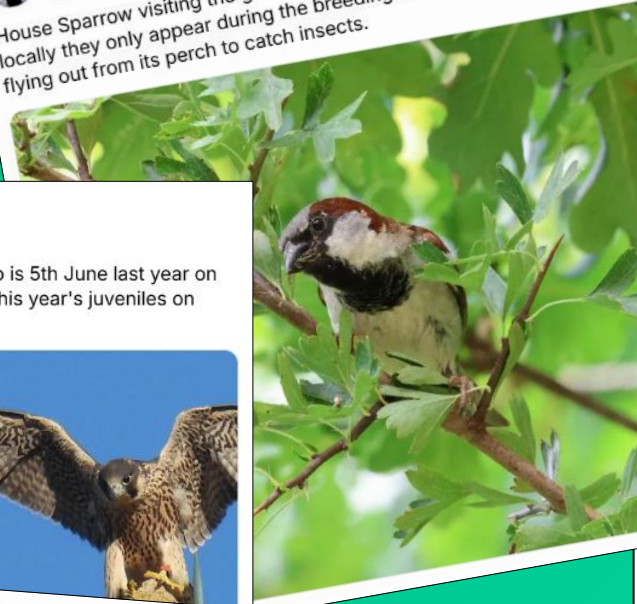


19 · 7 Jul 2026 · Everybody can reply



Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

House Sparrow visiting the garden, although there is a small colony locally they only appear during the breeding season. Watched this one flying out from its perch to catch insects.



bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social

Cromer church juvenile Peregrines: first photo is 5th June last year on day this juv fledged. Second photo is one of this year's juveniles on fledging day - 8th June. @nenbc.bsky.social



16:57 · 23 Jul 2026 · Everybody can reply



Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Kestrel drifting in a clear blue sky, makes a change from the misty grey gloom that has been around for over a week now. Wander through the woods and found a buzzard feather. Peregrine from visit to Cromer earlier in the week.



Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Installed a new tub pond in garden at the weekend as the bird drinking bowls were drying out too fast in hot weather. Filled it from a water butt, added a few plants and waited but not for long. The birds love it - this is from the wildlife camera today.



Star Badges

No new achievers this month.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Eco-Badges

No new eco-achievers this month.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Sea-watching Badge

CONGRATULATIONS John Hurst, gaining your Blue Badge in July!

We currently have **9** 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!?



A bit of a change this month with a look at some paintings rather than poetry.

According to Wikipedia, “**James Browning Wyeth** (born July 6, 1946) is an American realist painter, son of Andrew Wyeth, and grandson of N.C. Wyeth. He was raised in Chadds Ford Township, Pennsylvania, and is artistic heir to the Brandywine School tradition — painters who worked in the rural Brandywine River area of Delaware and Pennsylvania, portraying its people, animals, and landscape.”

The **Seven Deadly Sins** (c. 2005–2008) is a series of his paintings that depict the traditional vices. The publicity for an exhibition of this work at the Farnsworth Art Museum said: “Wyeth’s take on the subject, however, is characteristically his own – the sins are acted out by seagulls, birds the artist has observed for decades along the coast of Maine and from his studios on Monhegan and Matinicus islands. As he noted in an interview for the exhibition, ‘gulls are nasty birds, filled with their own jealousies and rivalries....’”





The bird voice variously described was that of a **Green Sandpiper**. 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 Green Sandpiper** page and their **BTO ID Video: Separating Wood and Green Sandpipers**.

Photos from Mark Clements (above), Trevor Williams (right and bottom) and Andrew Crossley (below).



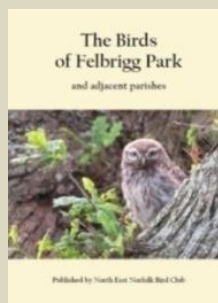
This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**
BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN
AUGUST 2025

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

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