

October 2026 – Issue 136 **The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter**

BlueSky: @nenbc.bsky.social **Website:** www.nenbc.co.uk **Email Secretary / Editor:** nenbc@aol.co.uk

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Through a Lens

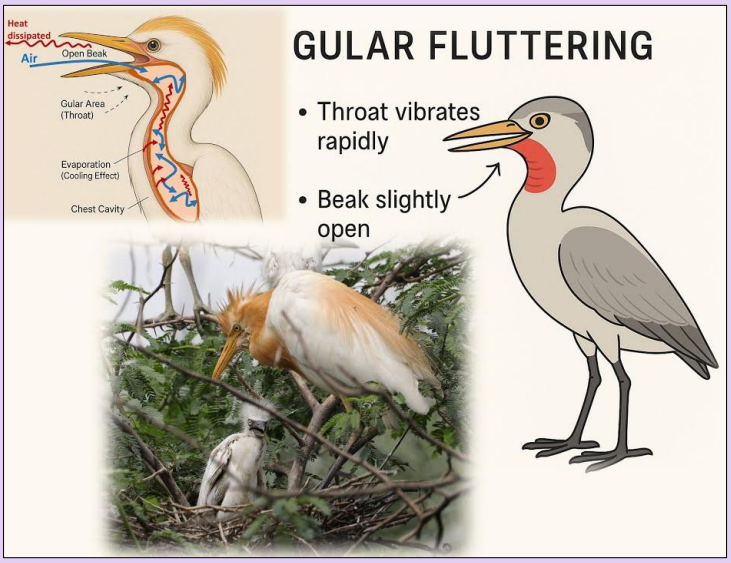


President's Piece

By Francis Farrow

This note follows on from John's 'Chair's Corner' article in last month's Pied Flyer where he raised the exceptional hot summer the UK experienced and particularly the lack of rain. The above average temperatures and below average rainfall typical of the summer months is continuing into the autumn so far. The consequences are not fully assessed for the UK's flora and fauna but locally ponds are still dry and river levels are low. Many trees and shrubs have dropped leaves early and have fruited early through drought stress. This may well impact on winter migrant birds such as thrushes and finches. The stress put on trees could also impact on their health as their ability to resist disease is weakened. Wildfires throughout the UK have devastated habitats and recovery may take several years.

Some birds have definitely had a tough time, especially the larger species. As birds do not process sweat glands like mammals there have been many cases this year of birds suffering from severe dehydration. Panting and **gular fluttering** are the main actions birds can take to cool down. The gular region is an area of throat skin that can use muscles to vibrate rapidly. The bird opens its beak slightly and rapidly vibrates the moist membranes within the gular region, which causes water to evaporate and cool the bird's blood. It has been found that birds will start gular fluttering when temperatures reach between 35 and 40°C. The fluttering rates do vary between species and how hot the bird is. Rates have been measured from 200 up to over 700 times/minute. *[Image from brainbound blog]*



Birds will obviously bath to cool down if there is a water source available, however, if not they can increase the blood flow to unfeathered extremities, such as their legs, feet and bills. They can also compress their feathers tight against their bodies to reduce the insulation produced by trapped air and let heat escape. Finally by holding their wings open the birds can increase the airflow across the bare skin that is present under the wings. Seeking shade and not flying at the hottest time of day is also a good strategy.







On the other hand some Groups have done well, such as the butterflies. This year has seen 31 species recorded on Beeston Common and 40 species throughout Norfolk, an all told modern record. Apart from the regular species there were two recordings of **Large Tortoiseshell** (April and July) on the Common and towards the end of August there were 3 or 4 **Clouded Yellows** present. Norfolk also had an unprecedented number of the rare Continental vagrant, the Queen of Spain Fritillary. Many of the food plants used by caterpillars of some butterflies were well scorched by July and some second brood adults were reduced in size, indicating a shortage of food during the larval stage. The shortage of food also goes for the birds as many of the caterpillars will remain scarce or will have died prior to eggs hatching. Studies have shown that a single Blue Tit chick eats around 100 caterpillars per day. That is a staggering 20,000 caterpillars over a standard three week fledging period for a single nest!

Could the drought conditions of 2026 impact on the numbers of butterflies/moths and subsequently available caterpillars for next season's young birds? It is too early to give any accurate forecast for the 2027 summer, however, with current trends and what is known as the **El Niño effect** there could well be further intense heatwaves and unless we have an exceptional wet winter drought conditions may well persist.



On a more hopeful note the little rain we had at the beginning of September was enough to induce a flush of wildflowers on the marshes at Beeston Common. Good amounts of **Grass of Parnassus**, Eyebright, Devil's-bit Scabious and Marsh Lousewort were noted. It was also enough rain to 'kick-start' the sun-dried grasses into re-shooting and turning the meadow areas from brown to green. *Photos from Francis except the Blackbird (Philip Cartlidge) as there were no Blue Tits with caterpillars on our gallery!*

A Note from the Editor

By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our October newsletter!

The big news this month is that our **NENBC Bird Report for 2025** is back from the printers (yay!) and those of you who signed up for the membership option that included a copy will be receiving a book through your letterboxes in the next week or two. Some of you may also a receive a **10th Anniversary Badge** along with your report. This is a badge that we give to members who have been with us for a decade to thank them for their support. John presented a couple of these to those in attendance at our first talk of the season at the end of last month – thank you very much **Kirsty & Tim Turner** and **Alan & Hilary Stevens** pictured right! More info about the Bird Report for 2025 on page 23. If that wets the appetite for those of you that didn't advance order, we have spare copies for sale, along with back copies from previous years, just give me a shout.

Welcome to our new members
We look forward to seeing you soon!
* Ros Green * Candy Whittome *
If you have any queries, just drop us an email





We kicked off this month with our Annual Coordinated Seawatch on 3rd. The weather wasn't the best for seawatching but quite good for lollygagging about by the sea not getting cold or wet - see pic on the right from Cromer. Thanks everyone who took part and hope you all had as nice a time as we did at Cromer. We'll be writing that up for next month's newsletter. Other upcoming events to look out for this month are the October evening talk on 29th from club members Val & Mick Walker on birding in The Danube Delta (page 13), our weekend walk on 17th at Winterton (page 13) and the 3rd Wednesday Felbrigg Park Double Walk and Amble on 21st (page 13).



The **'Through a Lens'** topic for our front cover of birds seen last month was **'migrants'** and we have Swallow [David Griffiths], Wheatear [Doug Cullern], Pied Flycatcher [Jane Crossen] and Whinchat [Trevor Williams]. For October our theme will be **'thrushes'** so get clicking!









Right is a selection of **my favourite member photos** from September, this time all of seabirds – Red-throated Diver and Eider from David Griffiths and Cormorant and Sandwich Tern from Steven Lines. Thanks all!

NENBC Bird Highlights – September 2026

By Carol Thornton

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

≈ 6,750 individual records covering 179 bird species were added in September

September 2026 Highlights | Seawatching was quite rewarding this month for the dedicated few, with reports of both **Sooty Shearwater** and **Manx Shearwater** being the highlights. Also of interest were **Pomarine Skua** and **Long-tailed Skua**, **Black Tern** and **Arctic Tern**, ducks and sawbills including **Mandarin**, **Pintail** and **Red-breasted Merganser**, and auk species including **Black Guillemot**, **Puffin** and **Little Auk**. Several speed records were logged to add to our growing database such as **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Avocet**. The **Pink-footed Geese** returned early in the month and flyovers from **Glossy Ibis**, **Spoonbill** and a remarkable **Bittern** were all great highlights. Raptors included **Osprey**, **Honey-buzzard, Merlin** and **Short-eared Owl**. A smattering of records of **Tree Sparrow**, **Pied Flycatcher, Marsh Tit** and **Spotted Flycatcher** plus single records of **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Bearded Tit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Water Pipit**, **Hawfinch**, **Redpoll**, **Snow Bunting** and **Corn Bunting** were all noteworthy. See fuller details below.

Pink-footed Goose | These iconic birds were first reported back this season on 9th with 50 high east at Weybourne and were followed by a further 64 records through the rest of the month both inland and coastal. High counts were at Weybourne with over 300 on 15th and 27th. *Photo 1 courtesy of Francis Farrow*.

1



Mandarin Duck | Two drakes west at Weybourne on 22nd.

Pintail | Records on 5 dates, predominantly Weybourne (up to 7 on 11th, 1 on 23rd and 25th and 4 on 30th) but also Sheringham (up to 2 on 29th) and one observed from Muckleburgh Hill.

Goosander | Singles, all west, Muckleburgh Hill 6th, Weybourne 20th and 21st plus 2 Cromer Pier 22nd.

Red-breasted Merganser | Both records from 24th, with one west Cromer Pier and Sheringham.

Grey Partridge | Three Field Dalling & Saxlingham on 1st, 4 Bodham on 8th, 2 Aldborough on 14th and 4 West Runton on 15th.

Red-necked Grebe | Two east together West Runton on 21st.

Avocet | On 5th, 2 west Cromer East Cliffs were speed-checked shortly thereafter at Weybourne.

2



Whimbrel | Fourteen records between 1st and 6th and then 11th, 15th, 18th and 29th, with reports from Weybourne, Muckleburgh Hill, Sheringham and Cromer with mostly birds flying west. High count was 7 west Sheringham on 4th.

Bar-tailed Godwit | Twenty-seven records throughout the month from coastal location between Weybourne and Cromer. Most were single figures, but high counts were up to 17 Weybourne on 11th (which had been speed checked from Cromer) and 13 and 12 respectively on 17th. *Photo 2 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Curlew Sandpiper | One west Weybourne on 5th.

Purple Sandpiper | Up to 2 birds at the beginning of the month on the groynes at Sheringham, including one with an injured leg on 2nd and 3rd. No further reports until 29th and 30th with singles also there. *Photo 3 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Little Stint | One east at Weybourne on 5th and one west there with Dunlin on 17th.

Wood Sandpiper | One overhead calling at Weybourne on 1st.

Spotted Redshank | One east at Weybourne on 6th and one probable west there with Redshank on 11th.

Greenshank | One west Weybourne on 11th and again on 14th.

Little Gull | Records of predominantly 1-4 birds on 11 dates with high counts 20 east at West Runton on 13th, 16 adults and juveniles east Sheringham on 23rd and 12 east in a single extended flock on 28th also Sheringham. *Photo 4 courtesy of Francis Farrow*

3



4



5



6



Caspian Gull | Reports of up to 5 birds and several ringed individuals mostly at Cromer throughout the month with a couple of additional records from Sheringham. *Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Yellow-legged Gull | Singles at Cromer on 2nd, 3rd and 6th. Interestingly, a bird that was colour-ringed as a juvenile Caspian Gull and reported at Cromer on 29th and Sheringham on 30th, is now considered by UK experts to be Yellow-legged Gull. *Photo 6 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Arctic Tern | A juvenile at Sheringham on 4th was the only record.

Black Tern | All records were from Weybourne with singles on 5th, 11th and 27th and 5 east there on 23rd. *Photo 7 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Pomarine Skua | One east at Sheringham on 13th and one probable there on 20th.

Long-tailed Skua | One east with Arctic Skua on 9th seen from Cromer and Sheringham and a juvenile east at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 18th before turning back west.

7



Little Auk | One on the sea drifting east past Weybourne Cliffs and beach on 14th.

Black Guillemot | One west at Weybourne on 2nd and another winter-plumaged single, west close inshore, on 30th also there.

Puffin | One west Weybourne on 1st, a 'scruffy juvenile' west at Sheringham on 20th and one east Weybourne on 23rd.

Great Northern Diver | Singles seen variously from Sheringham, Weybourne and Cromer on 16th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th,29th and 30th with 5 east at Weybourne on 26th.

Sooty Shearwater | A single west past Cromer Pier and Sheringham on 9th, West Runton on 20th and Cromer Pier on 24th. Two west (together) West Runton on 16th, east Weybourne on 17th, and Sheringham on 24th. High count 4 west, all distant, West Runton on 21st.

Manx Shearwater | Nineteen records of mostly 1-2 birds on 9 dates throughout the month from four coastal areas. Higher counts were 4 west at West Runton on 20th and 9 west Weybourne on the same date.

Glossy Ibis | One flew from Kelling Water Meadows into the club area, over Muckleburgh Hill and Weybourne Camp, before heading west on 13th and 4 over Muckleburgh Hill on 15th before heading for the Kelling Quags.

Spoonbill | Two reports of up to 5 birds over Weybourne on 11th.

Bittern | On the last day of the month, a Bittern flew in to Weybourne Hope reed bed. *Photo 8 courtesy of David Griffiths*



Cattle Egret | A report of 2 west with a Little Egret on 6th and one low west at Weybourne on 23rd.

Great White Egret | Predominantly singles with reports on 12th from Weybourne and Cromer Pier, 13th from Wolterton Park, 14th Weybourne, 15th Sheringham and 26th Weybourne Cliffs. On the 27th there were 4 south-west over West Runton and 2 east over the sea at Weybourne. High count was on 23rd with11 west offshore at Weybourne (8 and 3). *Photo 9 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Osprey | A single was at Melton Constable on 17th, perched in a tree by Melton Park lake.

Honey-buzzard | One west high at Weybourne on 10th.

Short-eared Owl | A single was heading south-west at Sheringham on 19th being mobbed by gulls and one came in off the sea, seen from Muckleburgh Hill, on 30th.



Kingfisher | Plenty of records of singles on 15 dates this month from Selbrigg Pond, Felbrigg Park lake, Bodham, Blickling Park, Mannington Hall Park and Hunworth.

Merlin | A single west at sea from Weybourne on 30th.

Raven | Singles mobile on several dates this month – Felbrigg Park (1st), Weybourne (11th, 21st, 24th), Aylmerton (11th), Gresham (25th) – with two high-flyers at Selbrigg Pond on 21st.

Marsh Tit | From 11th, a single was a regular visitor to a Gresham garden, and, by month end, a regular at a Beeston Common garden too. Other one-off records of this less reported species were from Selbrigg Pond, Kelling Heath and Mossymere Wood. *Photo 10 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

Bearded Tit | Two birds 'whizzing east' from the Weybourne Hope reed bed on 19th.

Grasshopper Warbler | A first winter bird at Field Dalling & Saxlingham on 24th. *Photo 11 courtesy of Paul Laurie*

Firecrest | Six reports of 1-2 birds, including as part of roving tit flocks on 12th at Selbrigg Pond, 13th at High Kelling and 28th at Beeston Common. A first year male was trapped and ringed at West Beckam on 21st by the Felbeck Trust ringing group. *Photo 12 courtesy of John Swallow*

Ring Ouzel | One at West Runton on 29th, two Muckleburgh Hill on 30th and one east of the church in Felbrigg Park also on 30th. *Photo 13 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Spotted Flycatcher | Singles reported at Southrepps Common on 1st, Warren Wood, Cromer East Cliffs on 2nd, Beeston Common on 8th and a 'pristine adult' at Paston on 25th. *Photo 14 courtesy of Francis Farrow*

Pied Flycatcher | Singles at Beeston Common on 1st and 2nd, plus Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs also 2nd. Two at Sheringham Cemetery on 2nd were being harassed by 3 Robin. *Photo 15 courtesy of Jane Crossen*

Tree Sparrow | Records of a single with House Sparrow on and around feeders at West Runton Beach Café on 18th and 20th. One report suggested a possible juvenile type. *Photo 16 courtesy of David Griffiths*

11



12



13



14



15



16



Yellow Wagtail | One west at an undisclosed site on 6th.

Water Pipit | One west Muckleburgh Hill on 30th.

Rock Pipit | Singles reported at Weybourne beach on 27th, Sheringham 27th and 29th (predominantly on beach and groynes), Paston cliffs on 29th and in off the sea at Cromer Pier on 30th. Also the 30th, four were west at Muckleburgh Hill and two on rocks by the Tank at Sheringham. *Photo 17 courtesy of Jane Crossen*

17



Hawfinch | A passing bird was calling in Sheringham on 2nd and its chip calls recorded.

Redpoll | A single Lesser Redpoll west at Aylmerton on 24th.

Snow Bunting | A single east at West Runton on 27th.

Corn Bunting | A single reported in off the sea at Weybourne on 29th.

October: What to look forward to .....

Wildfowl begin arriving from the north during October in ever increasing numbers including species such as **Velvet Scoter** and **Long-tailed Duck** and seawatching is often rewarding. Look out for **Black-throated Diver**, **Red-necked and Slavonian Grebe**, **Roseate Tern**, **Black Guillemot and Puffin** or a passing **Sabine's Gull** and check the beaches for **Caspian Gull** and **Yellow-legged Gull** which are often ringed. Raptors are often encountered as they follow the passerines across the North Sea with **Hen Harrier**, **Merlin** and **Short-eared Owl** the most obvious. Clifftop fields may hold **Richard's Pipit** or **Twite**, and a north-east wind will increase the opportunities of finding **Yellow-browed Warbler** and **Pallas's Warbler** or even a **Great Grey Shrike** if you are really lucky! Reports this week of increasing westward irruption of **Nutcracker** in eastern and northern Europe so you never know! **Winter thrushes** should be arriving soon with Blackbird numbers increasing (hopefully, as numerous cries of 'where are the Blackbirds?' heard in the past couple of weeks from members!), together with **Redwing and Fieldfare**. Check out Blackbird flocks for **Ring Ouzel** and look out for **Snow Bunting and Lapland Bunting** near the coast. **Geese** numbers should continue to build and once the Pink-footed Goose flock has settled into the fields, it is always worth scanning through them to see if there are other species such as Bean Goose hidden amongst them.

Want to make sure you don't miss out? Sign up to our WhatsApp Alerts Group for timely posting of interesting species – drop Carol your mobile number on nenbc@aol.co.uk.

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!

Pink-footed Goose | x50 Large skein at least 50. First seen this autumn. Not sure their calls count as singing though! | Kala Nobbs | At Home | 18th

Pink-footed Goose | x75 In 2 groups. The first I've managed to see for myself over here this season. As usual when I see them I was hanging out the washing! | Stephanie Witham | North Walsham | 26th

Pink-footed Goose | 100x About 70 followed by about another 30 flying North-west over the village. My first of the winter | Stephen Green & Clare Wilson | Erpingham | 26th

Mute Swan | x3 2024 juvenile with the damaged wing who has never flown lifted off the water by a couple of feet and flew across the lake | Carol Thornton | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 12th

Egyptian Goose | x7 2 adults, 4 goslings on bank of Baconsthorpe Castle mere, and another gosling on lookout duty on the wall | Val Stubbs | Baconsthorpe | 12th

Gadwall | x1 The first I have seen on the lake this autumn. | Andrew Crossley | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 3rd

Teal | x7 The first teal I have seen on the lake this autumn. | Andrew Crossley | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 28th

Tufted Duck | x1 The first I have seen on the lake this autumn. | Andrew Crossley | 24th

Red-legged Partridge | x3 Flew off from the undergrowth with alarm calls making us jump! | Stephanie Witham | Mannington Hall Park | 25th

Feral Pigeon | x41 Record count of Feral Pigeon, birding during FT ringing visit at WBOA | John Swallow | West Beckham | 21st

Oystercatcher | x2 On golf course looking for food while annoying the golfers | Steven & Barbara Lines | Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course | 7th

Cormorant | x6 I've NEVER seen one this white-fronted before! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham | 27th



Grey Heron | Attempted to land by daughter's garden pond but saw me in the garden and flew up on to neighbours chimney where it sat for around 15 mins before flying off | Francis Farrow | Sheringham | 16th

Grey Heron | This Heron has been hanging around the garden for a few days staring at vole holes and chasing insects. | Alan Stevens | Gresham | 22nd

Tawny Owl | x2 The third morning in a row with two apparent juveniles taking up an hour or so residence and trying to call, badly, like a Tawny Owl. Must admit I had to nudge them away so as to get back to sleep. No doubt back tomorrow | David Griffths | Holt | 7th

Tawny Owl | x2 Those ever so wonderful, melodic and tuneful (not) juveniles back again. Lovely to hear? Thankfully off quickly this morning! | David Griffiths | Holt | 12th

Tawny Owl | roadside tree, dropped onto verge after prey, remained on ground in mantled position as I drove past. | Phil Borley | Holt | 14th

Kingfisher | Flew from east side of groyne below the Crown, did a couple of circuits and then landed on granite rocks under the sea wall to the west, then lost and not re located. | Richard & Di Farrow | Sheringham | 7th

Kestrel | Feeding on a pigeon!!! A big pigeon! Very strange I thought it must be a Peregrine at first! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 24th

Hobby | Presumed juvenile over Beechwood Avenue making the weird squeaky children's bicycle horn sound! (Only way I can describe it!). | Andrew Kershaw | Aylmerton | 2nd

Peregrine | Both adults and VLN visible. Juvenile's injured left eye looks OK but sometimes it doesn't look so good. Still not been seen hunting for himself although he was seen leaving the church with the adult male on 13th so hopefully he's learning! | Jane Crossen | Cromer | 14th

Marsh Tit | After an absence of over a year, finally a single individual on my feeders - hoping they are back for the winter at least! | Dave Billham | Beeston Common | 26th

Blue Tit | x76 Flew one by one out of Ash tree and across track by Strawberry Patch - I couldn't believe they just kept coming! | Val Stubbs | Baconsthorpe | 12th

Blue Tit | Flying around the front room! Released | Stuart Jones | At Home | 21st

Skylark | x4 Overhead flight calls; light passage. | Andy Clarke | Beeston Regis | 26th

Swallow | x250 Estimated number, maybe more. 50 or so over field nr Selbrigg Pond, gathering in trees and swooping low; another 200+, some flying high and others very low over field beyond coppice, 35 perched on harvested stalks - quite a spectacle | Val Stubbs | Selbrigg Pond | 12th

Chiffchaff | One normal call, one 'sweeoo' variant call (different birds) | Andy Clarke | Beeston Regis | 26th

Grasshopper Warbler | 1st winter, not much of a photo but you can see the pale pink legs. | Paul Laurie | Field Dalling & Saxlingham | 24th

Nuthatch | Double alarm/flight call over garden (very loud!), 0536, so just after dawn | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 2nd

Starling | x250 Several flocks west, first movement of the Autumn | Ian Prentice | West Runton | 27th

Blackbird | Becoming more evident again after moult, now taking berries | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 22nd

Redwing | x97 I fear no one is going to believe me!! That was over three hours. Largest group was 22. When I came home they were still coming in off - over my flat this time! Sadly no photos as they just kept going south! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 30th

Spotted Flycatcher | Pristine adult feeding from the elms by the turning circle and in the open from brambles. Lovely close views and the first encounter with this species at this location. | John Hurst | Paston | 25th

Robin | 20x Approximate count; many along cliff tops, sometimes 3-4 together. Clearly an arrival of migrants overnight. | Andy Clarke | Beeston Regis | 26th

Robin | 9x Very dark 'continental' type new arrivals distributed across the area. | John Hurst | Paston | 29th

Linnet | 200x Est. of biggest flock that I've seen for a while. | Tony Pope | Weybourne Cliffs | 23rd

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]

21/09/2026	Firecrest	1	West Beckham	a 1st year male, trapped and ringed, 2nd record!, birding during FT ringing visit at WBOA
03/09/2026	Turnstone	19	Sheringham	inc JAJ looking good
04/09/2026	Turnstone	14	Sheringham	including red flagged JAJ
13/09/2026	Turnstone	31	Sheringham	Mainly rocks in front of the Crown at high tide. Two on beach west prom area. JAJ was at the Crown and there was a silver-ringed bird on the west prom beach. Sadly I couldn't quite make out his ring number. No flag, just metal ring.
05/09/2026	Great Black-backed Gull	1	Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs	colour-ringed juv on beach at end of 2 hour sea-watch
09/09/2026	Great Black-backed Gull	16	Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs	15, mostly juv, in tight group west, one Norwegian 2cy bird on the beach - during 3 hour pop-up event in North Lodge Park
16/09/2026	Great Black-backed Gull	16	Cromer Pier	including 2 Norwegian ringed birds (J83EE & J19KA)
29/09/2026	Great Black-backed Gull	1	Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs	Norwegian colour-ringed juvenile on East Beach
03/09/2026	Herring Gull	67	Cromer Pier	including Belgium ringed bird not seen here since 7th Aug
02/09/2026	Caspian Gull	6	Cromer Pier	including Polish ringed bird
03/09/2026	Caspian Gull	5	Cromer Pier	including new Dutch ringed bird (0:S) the 6th Dutch bird so far & Polish ringed bird
05/09/2026	Caspian Gull	1	Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs	colour-ringed juv on beach at end of 2 hour sea-watch
07/09/2026	Caspian Gull	4	Cromer Pier	Including Polish ringed bird
14/09/2026	Caspian Gull	1	Cromer	With thanks to MC for info re the ringing of this bird. I at least managed to ID that it was a Caspian so I was pretty impressed with myself!!
16/09/2026	Caspian Gull	1	Cromer Pier	Dutch ringed O:S
16/09/2026	Caspian Gull	5	Cromer Pier	O:S only ringed bird
22/09/2026	Caspian Gull	1	Cromer Pier	O:S on the beach
29/09/2026	Yellow-legged Gull	1	Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs	colour-ringed as juvenile Caspian but now considered by UK experts to be YLG (thanks to AH for info)
30/09/2026	Yellow-legged Gull	1	Sheringham	As per Trevor's post re this bird at Cromer, ringed as a Caspian but expert opinion is that it is a YLG?
21/09/2026	Reed Bunting	1	West Beckham	a 1st year male, trapped and ringed, first ringing record, birding during FT ringing visit at WBOA

Highlights | 'NocMig' Sound Recordings



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

21/09/2026	Pink-footed Goose	1	Beeston Common	Nocturnal recording 19:48 Number unknown
22/09/2026	Moorhen	1	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0525 (two triplet calls)
29/09/2026	Coot	1	Beeston Common	Nocturnal recording - Two calls (0202)
21/09/2026	Oystercatcher	1	Beeston Common	Nocturnal recording 22:06 5 calls
22/09/2026	Lapwing		Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 2147, 2235 (so 21 Sep), 0035, 0520 - clearly on the move
02/09/2026	Golden Plover	1	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight call over garden (0511); single call
29/09/2026	Curlew	1	Beeston Common	Nocturnal recording - single call (0055)
22/09/2026	Knot		Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0448; probably a small flock as continuous calling.
21/09/2026	Barn Owl	1	Beeston Common	Nocturnal recording 23:09
22/09/2026	Skylark		Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0532, 0537, 0542 so probably small movement underway.

Club Notices

Anyone got a spare scope ?

Many members who attended our talk last year about Aride in the Seychelles will remember what an interesting evening Rob Lucking gave us talking about his conservation work there. Rob explained that the project treads a fine wire financially and has contacted us with both a plea and some good news of the Sooty Tern population on the island.

> "I'm on the lookout for a telescope and tripod for Aride. The team currently doesn't have one and a scope would be really useful in a number of areas - e.g. identifying boats illegally fishing within the protected area limits and monitoring species such as Roseate Terns that are susceptible to disturbance. I was wondering whether it would be possible to put out a request in the next NENBC newsletter just in case a member has an old scope and/or tripod knocking around needing a new home? It would be hugely appreciated. It's been a good season on Aride. We had over 70,000 pairs of sooty terns this year which is the highest number since 2011 and around 10x the number we had last year. Not sure why the population has spiked but one theory is that in 2022 there were huge numbers of sardines around and this could have boosted productivity in that year. As sooty terns only start breeding when they're at least 4 years old, this year is the first year that the 2022 cohort could have nested"
>
> | *Rob Lucking | Chair, Island Conservation Society UK* |

So, if anyone has an old scope/tripod in a cupboard and not seeing the light of day perhaps you could give Rob and his team a thought please? Contact Carol on nenbc@aol.co.uk and we'll put you in touch. Cheers.

Bird Ventures of Holt

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

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

NENBC WhatsApp groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Contributions

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

2nd Hand Book Stock

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

A change to our subscription rate for next year ….

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

Speaker Suggestions

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

What's On?

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



Overview

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

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

General Walks Information

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

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

DOGS: We regret no dogs except assistance dogs.

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

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

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

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

General Talks Info

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

In the coming weeks we have another **Felbrigg Park Double** offering a walk or a shorter and slower amble depending on your preference, a **Winterton Walk**, **October Big Day** and look out for our **Pop-Up Events**. Our **October Evening Talk** is about **"The Danube Delta"** with club members Val & Mick Walker. Look forward to seeing you at these events soon.

Felbrigg Park Monthly Walks

21st October
18th November
16th December

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday 29th October | Evening Talk |

7.30pm to 9.30pm | GVH and via Zoom

"The Danube Delta" *with 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. For anyone who does not know us, we are both birdwatchers and photographers, who belong to the U3A birdwatching group, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the RSPB as well as NENBC. As keen photographers our talks include many photographs of the birds and their behaviour rather than lots of technical information and graphs."

Winterton Dunes and Somerton Estate

***** advance booking required nenbc@aol.co.uk *****

Saturday 17th October | 9.00 am 1.00 pm

Walk Leader: Janice Darch

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

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

DISTANCE: approx 5 miles

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

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

Pop-ups are coming your way – with your help!



By Stella Baylis **What are 'pop-ups'?!** They are walks or static events arranged at short notice, designed to take advantage of favourable weather conditions for all types of birdwatching and encourage less visited sites to be explored. Generally, no prior booking is required. The club has successfully been using pop-ups for seawatching this year, along with a summer evening Nightjar walk. Future possibilities include looking through geese for scarcer species, twitching a rarity (if one stays around for a few days!), gull watching, skywatching for raptors and a dawn chorus next spring. Pop-ups can also be a great way to visit a new site with some buddies or share your own local patch with others and boost your site list.
We are on the lookout for a leader or two. Don't be put off by the admin, we can help with that using our WhatsApp communications chat. 'Leaders' of pop-ups do not have to be experienced at leading or expert birdwatchers, so why not give it a go? If you are going for a birdy walk anyway and fancy some company, you can easily turn it in to a pop-up or if you are thinking of going out looking for migrating raptors and would like to benefit from more than one set of eyes, please get in touch at nenbc@aol.co.uk.

October Big Day 2026, celebrated this year on 10th October

It is a global event for birdwatching and participants are encouraged to bird from anywhere in the world, contributing to a single day of bird sightings. The event runs from midnight to midnight in every local time zone, allowing anyone to participate regardless of their location. Joining this event helps set records for bird species observed globally, making it a significant opportunity for bird enthusiasts. NENBC is one of over 200 teams already signed up to participate. We will be adding all club website records logged by any of our members over that weekend and making a donation to bird conservation worldwide. Please make an extra effort to get out birding and log anything you see – all records help! Thank you!

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.

THE CROMER SOCIETY
ESTABLISHED 1946

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

Last Month's Evening Talk *with Ros Green*
"Shelduck migration in relation to offshore wind farms"



By Alan Stevens

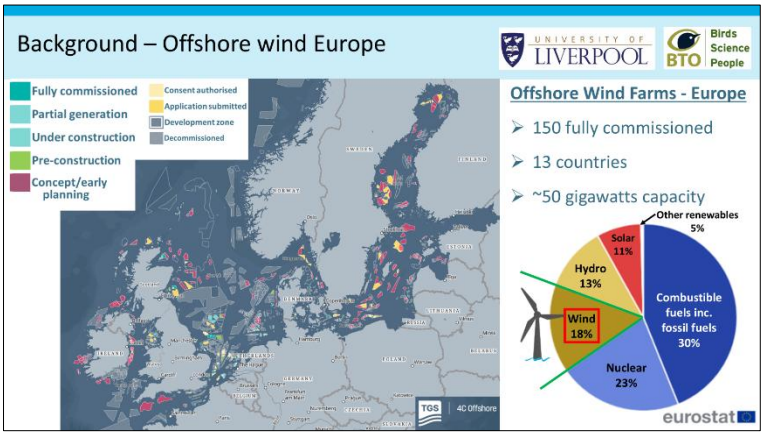


For the opening talk of our new season of evening meetings, we were lucky to have Ros Green join us. Lucky, because she first agreed to come along about two years ago but unfortunately could make it then, and she was going to travel from Wales! Also, as she was a short notice stand-in for her colleague Ryan Burrell who had to attend his viva at the end of his PhD instead of coming to our meeting. He had his priorities right as Ros told us he passed and will be with us in January to give his talk on Wader Conservation.

Ros gave us a single species scientific talk with an insight into her own PhD work on Shelduck, their migration and their interaction with windfarms, and which industry funds her research. Now, there was a lot of really interesting science in her talk, so this report is an overview of its content for those who were unable to attend or join us on Zoom. Her research, and that of her colleagues is available at www.shelducks.co.uk for those who would like to read further detail.

Ros started with a little of her personal background. Growing up on a farm she was surrounded by the countryside but 'couldn't tell a Blue Tit from a Blackbird' until she was about 18. However, the gift of a 'Collins Bird Guide' got her going as did 'SpringWatch', the BTO Garden Bird Watch, some cheap 'bins, and then volunteering as a lambing assistant at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, where she went out with the wardens there and decided that ornithology was for her. While we as a club scratch our heads how to attract younger members, hearing about others' 'routes in' is always interesting. University beckoned and work experience from Skomer to New Zealand followed and she is now a full-time Senior Research Biologist with the BTO.

Her talk started with an overview of the offshore windfarm industry the scale of which is surprising with around 150 'farms' up and running involving 13 different countries from The Gulf of Bothnia to the west of Ireland. A map showed these, those under construction and those planned, and a pie chart the percentage of power from each of the present resources, as we head for fossil free generation. The UK's aim is for wind generation to power all homes by 2030, just 4 years away, so development has to go a pace. With the existing oil and gas structures things are looking cluttered in the seas around us for migrating birds.



Shelduck were chosen as the study species as they are mostly coastal with a north-west Europe distribution, although they can be found inland year-round. Migration occurs between June and September with a majority taking a cross-sea route to north-west Europe. There they moult and over-winter.

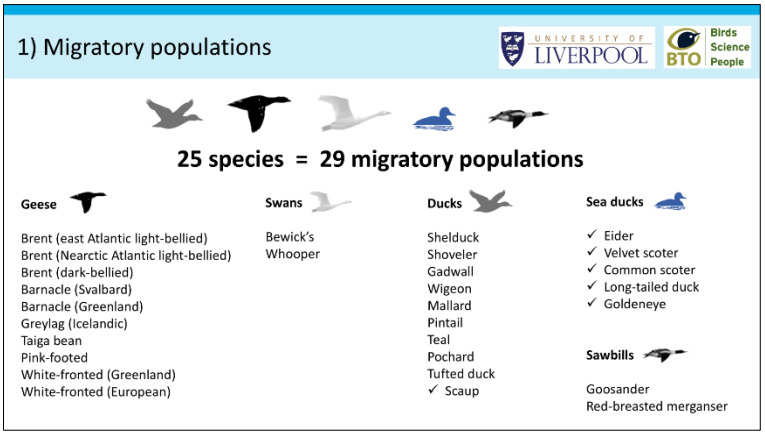
Wind farm developers must assess the impact of their work on protected species. As Shelduck are protected on coastal sites during the non-breeding season, how they are affected must be studied. In 2018 it was concluded that insufficient data was available to understand Shelduck interaction with wind turbines and their risk of collision. The BTO were appointed to gather this data and suggested that GPS tagging could achieve this in a relatively short time frame.

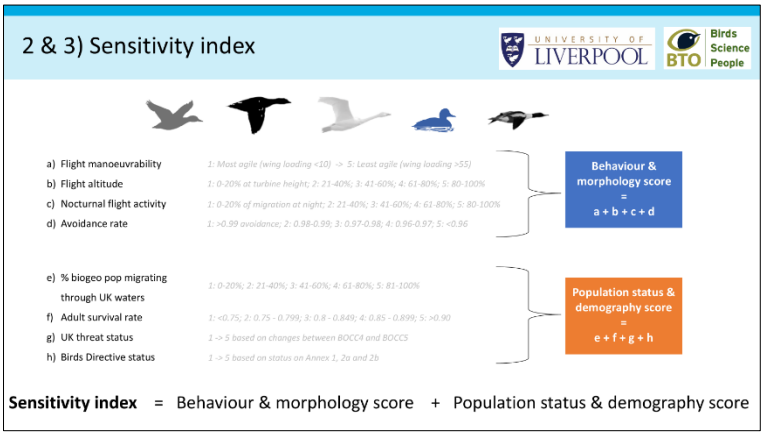
Initial tagging was undertaken in 2019 with four birds on the Suffolk coast all of which migrated to the Wadden Sea in the Netherlands and all flew through areas where windfarms were planned and the detailed findings of height, speed etc proved further work could be undertaken to assess which Anatidae (duck, swan. sea duck and sawbills) interacted with windfarms during migration around the coast of the UK and 25 species were chosen.

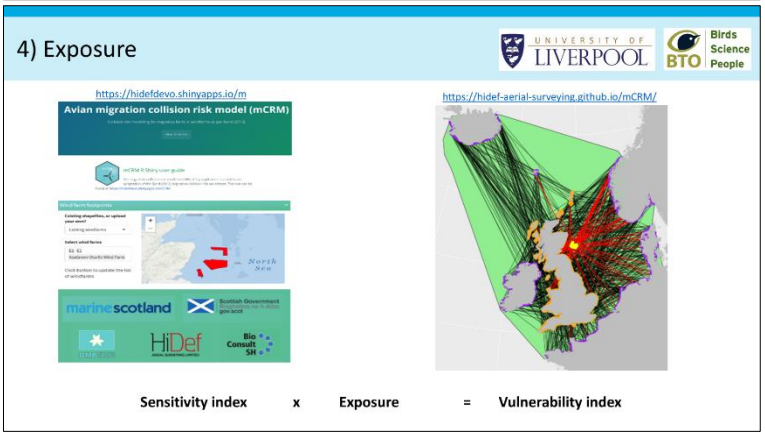
Ros then delved into the aims and objectives of her research firstly with a look at the vulnerability of Anatidae, in a nutshell, which species are most at risk from windfarms? This work took our speaker two years as surprisingly very little is known about the migration of these species. Twenty-five species that migrate to and from the UK were selected. Manoeuvrability, altitude and nocturnal flight were among a wider range of criteria studied to arrive at a sensitivity index and a vulnerability table which showed that sawbills, sea ducks and swans are more at risk than geese and ducks with Shelduck sitting around the middle of the results. Interestingly the method developed by Ros and her team can now be used to assess the vulnerability of any migrating species, with the Dutch government adopting it to study all migrant bird species and their interaction with wind farms.

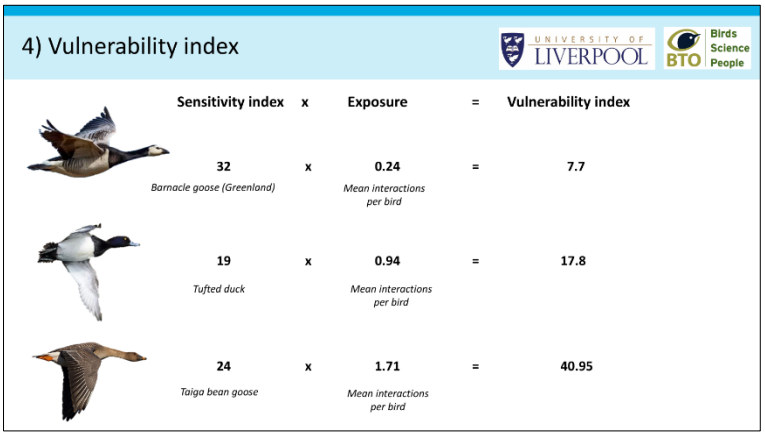
Moving on to the second part of her study Ros turned to connectivity between moulting and non-breeding sites, stable isotope analysis of moulted feathers including samples from non-breeding birds. Yes, that does sound quite complicated. it comes down to analysing a birds feathers to investigate connections between, in this instance Shelduck, moult sites and non-breeding sites in the UK. Carbon and nitrogen content are measured from



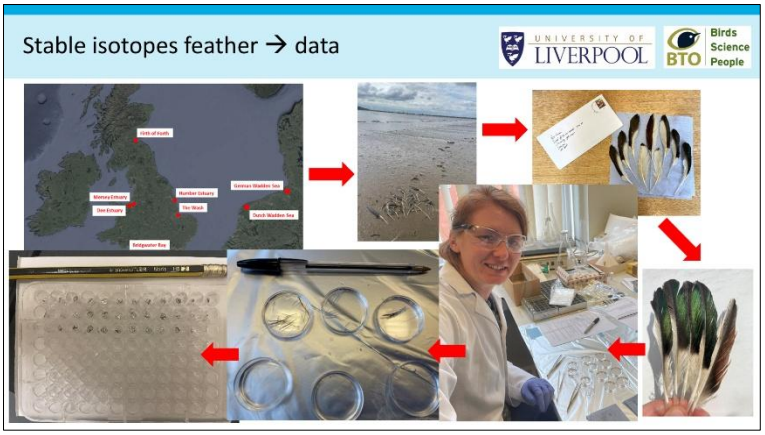








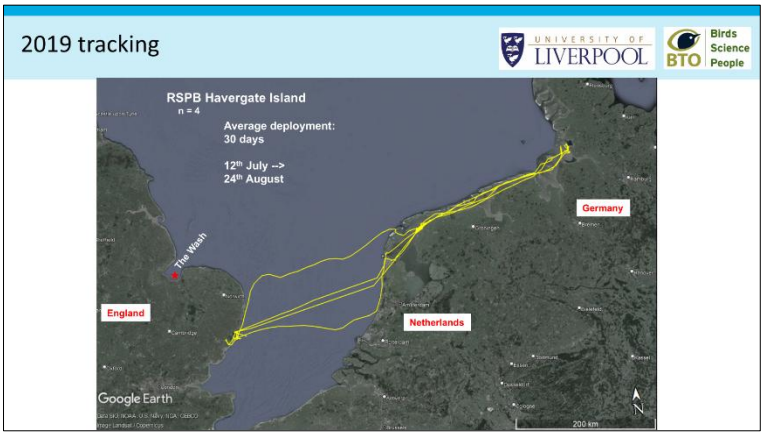
moult sites and non-breeding areas and from that sea crossings can be plotted to indicate any interaction with windfarms. Ros explained the science underlying this (e.g. weighing 0.5mg of a feather and heating it to 1000°C!) with some helpful charts and painted a picture of the field and laboratory work undertaken and the results obtained. Overall Shelduck from each non-breeding site moulted at differing sites meaning that that birds from non-breeding populations could interact with wind farms. There were however difficulties in the research as problems arose with the collection of feathers which could not be undertaken to the level required to take things forward.

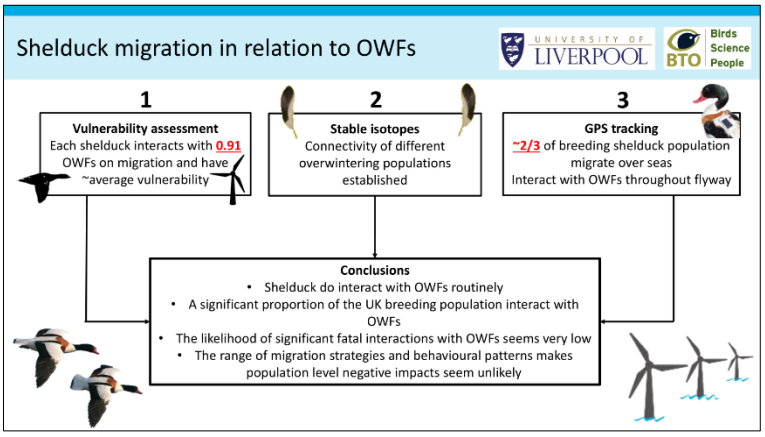


After the break in the evening for refreshments and catch ups we returned for the third part of Ros's presentation and GPS tags, a subject we now regularly encounter in our talks.



Starting 2019, 57 Shelduck from five UK sites have been fitted with tags. The hardest part of getting this underway was catching the ducks! This must be done coming up to migration when they tend not to roost together and was carried out by canon netting after which metal and colour rings were fitted together with a 15gm GPS-GSM tag. The tags stay attached for about two months with the data fed back over a mobile network. The first four birds were rung at RPSB Halvergate Marshes in July. They all migrated to the Wadden Sea, two stayed in the Dutch Wadden Sea and two flew on to the German Wadden Sea. One of these birds flew back to Dutch, back to German and then back to Dutch to moult and added around 1,000km to its journey but for what reason? It is amazing the extra detailed data the tags provide; average flight time across the North Sea 3.5hrs, average speed 55.6kph, flight heights, all which provided information about the likelihood of collision with turbines. Over time as more tags were employed data showed birds taking very different routes across the sea and Ros concluded this deserves a investigation into the birds evolutionary history. With several illustrative slides Ros packed in so much detail, her findings about the birds, the sites they visit and their migration. A pertinent finding from Ros's research was Shelduck fly at a level at which they are at risk from turbine blades but have been tracked taking evasive action by circumventing or flying over them.





Our speaker rounded off with a look at the existing and planned development of windfarms in western Europe, what she has learnt about the interaction of Shelduck and others with them and what must be done to protect them.

A really knowledgeable talk which prompted a good number of probing questions and some conversation at the close about a bird we are all familiar with and now know something more about. This is but a light overview of what Ros gave us - if you would like to know more, then dip into **www.shelducks.co.uk**.

Last Month's Double Mid-Week Walk

Felbrigg Park | Wednesday 15th April



An Unexpected Meeting | By Dave Bilham

Following the club's traditional August break from activities, the monthly Felbrigg walk resumed in September. With Trevor unavailable, I had been asked to lead the walk, and after a last minute uncertainty as to whether Carol would be there, fortunately she was, and able to carry out the task of ensuring no-one got left behind – and the usual hundred other things as well! The chosen day was quite windy and grey, but with sunny intervals, so at least we would stay dry. Nick would be leading the gentler walk, setting off thirty minutes after ourselves, following which we would all meet up at the café.

Eighteen members turned up for the walk, and we were joined for a short while by one of our younger members Arthur, a Felbrigg employee, who has joined the club at our Big Sit event back in May! With the possibility of migrants being present, I decided that we should try to cover as many different habitats as possible, to maximise our chances of finding something. Thoughts of doing one of the usual routes 'the other way round' (because it looks different going the other way round) were dismissed due to my fear that my timing would be out; after all, we can't be late for the café!

The listing started in the car park, where we found the almost inevitable corvid trio of **Rook**, **Carrion Crow** and **Jackdaw**, joined by the equally expected **Woodpigeon**. As well as these species, we saw **Great Tit**, **Blue Tit** and **Jay**, and heard a **Nuthatch** calling, but best of all was a small flock of thirty plus, over-flying **Pink-footed Goose**, visible between the trees off to one side of us. These were the first autumn sighting of these returning geese for a number of our group.

We set off towards the church, in order to check out the farmland adjoining the park. Distant **Kestrel** and **Magpie** were added to the list, along with three **Herring Gull** overhead. At the churchyard we could hear a singing **Robin**, and one of the trees was full of tits; unfortunately they were very mobile and very high up, so we were unable to see if there was a hoped-for Coal Tit amongst them. More visible was a lone **Chiffchaff** in the bushes, whilst a pair of **Feral Pigeon** were on the church tower. Leaving the churchyard, we joined the bridleway bordering the fields, where we saw a **Pheasant** off in the distance. A hedgerow contained a large flock of finch, which turned out to be **Linnet**. Also lurking in the hedge was a **Wren**, busily scolding something, and alongside the hedge were **Red-legged Partridge**.



Further along the bridleway we spotted a **Red Kite** in the distance, and a thrush (spotted by one of the tail-enders perched atop a tall tree, ID unclear and called so we could all get eyes on it) turned out to be a **Mistle Thrush**, soon joined by a second as it flew down to feed in the adjacent field. Here we could get better views of them. Next up was a **Common Buzzard**, being mobbed by the Kestrel we had

seen earlier. A flock of three birds flying well off in the distance we initially thought were Cormorant, but as they got a little closer we could see that they were geese; probably Greylag, though we could not be 100% certain. However, three **Stock Dove** flying overhead were definitely that particular species!

We were entertained for a while by a somewhat larger flock. The farmers were moving a flock of sheep and some may say they were doing a better job of herding than Carol was managing at the back but I couldn't possibly comment!



Arriving at the fence overlooking the lake, a **Grey Heron** was seen down on the water meadows, and a **Chaffinch** in a nearby patch of scrub. At the lake we found three **Mute Swan**, a number of **Mallard**, one **Moorhen** and five **Cormorant**, whilst another six Mistle Thrush flew over us. A **Greenfinch** was also noted here.

On the dam wall we met the other group (which, strangely, has never happened before) and Carol's other half, Ken (which has happened before).





A single **Swallow** flew across the lake, the only hirundine we saw all morning. Separating ourselves from the other group so they could complete their walk, we followed the wooded path along the lake's edge, where the only new species we picked up was **Goldfinch**.

Leaving the lakeside path, we started walking towards the wooden bridge which takes you over the beck and water meadow. Much to all our surprise, there was a single **Tawny Owl** call close to the front of the group and a second call near to the back of the group. Both halves thought the 'other' call was probably one of the separated group but after careful questioning it turned out there were 2 calling birds! Although these birds are ever-present at Felbrigg, due to their strictly nocturnal habits they only very rarely feature on our list. Also giving a single call here was a **Cetti's Warbler**; this was getting good! Calling more frequently were **Blackbird** and **Dunnock**; the Blackbird was most welcome as it was the only one we came across all morning. A very distant deer on the water meadow caused some discussion amongst the tail-enders but on later scrutiny of photo, we can confirm a Roe Deer.



On the way back to the house we found no further species, which gave us a total of **36 for the two hours**. Catching up with Nick at the café, and comparing lists, revealed that they had also seen **Long-tailed Tit**, so the combined total for the morning was **37 species**. Not our greatest result, but given the conditions and the general 'quietness' anyway, not too shabby. Disappointingly we were beaten into the café by Nick's group, again. How does he do it? We were sure he gets back slightly ahead of time on purpose but were 'scandalised' to discover a runner is sent ahead 10 mins early with the order. Why didn't we think of that?!

The next walk will be on the third Wednesday in October; why not come along and join the fun?



The 2024 juvenile Mute Swan surprisingly getting a bit of lift – it remained on the lake when its siblings left as it was unable to fly.

Cormorants and Parasols | by Nick Kimber







As our small group met in the car park, Stephanie located the first of several **Nuthatch** heard calling on our walk, and Tessa & Ann heard a **Greenfinch**. Other than the usual park **Jackdaws** and **Rooks** and the odd **Woodpigeon** not much else was around. The auspices for the walk were not that good, despite the fair autumnal weather. As we set off along the drive to take the short walk down to the top of the lake, a **Blackbird** was located and a **Kestrel** was seen circling high, being seen off by two Jackdaws. Back over the Great Wood we could also see a **Red Kite** in the distance. Tessa spotted a **Cormorant** flying from the lake and three **Buzzard** were seen being mobbed by Rooks and Jackdaws over the shelter belt behind the meadow. An impressive array of Parasol mushroom, freshly open and not yet desecrated stood behind the gorse bushes; always a pleasure to see. As we approached the bridge at the end of the lake a never-ending flock of **Long-tailed Tits** flew across our path; just when you think you've seen the last, a few more stragglers fly across. A number of **Blue Tits** and **Great Tits** joined them and looking back we located a **Pheasant** across from the meadow. By this time we were getting a little desperate for some more sightings. Hoping for more on the lake, we were only able to find **Mallard**, a few **Moorhen**, three **Mute Swam** and six more **Cormorant**, including a very white fronted specimen roosting in the usual tree (photo from Doug Cullern). Crossing with the larger earlier group on the dam wall, we all spent several minutes comparing sightings. Not that we are competitive. The highlight of the earlier group being a large group of Mistle Thrush. We were unable to locate these, but did find a large flock of **Goldfinch** feeding below the dam. As we returned along the top of the lake (noting the National Trust have obligingly cleared the trees to keep the view open), a pair of **Jays** were jostling between the Oaks affording us close views of this harbinger of autumn. As we headed back for coffee, Tessa volunteering to go on ahead to place our order, we were unable to add to our list of species. Not even a Pied Wagtail! Still, it was a pleasant day, and despite the low tally of **23 species**, we all thoroughly enjoyed our walk.

Last Month's Weekend Walk

Cley | Sunday 6th September



By John Swallow

photos courtesy of Stella Baylis

We began to gather outside the doorway of Cley NWT visitor centre from around 09:10, a nearby Chiffy (**Chiffchaff)** singing, for the walk due to begin at 09:30. I had noticed on Cley WhatsApp that a couple of Cattle Egret had been seen on Keepers Marsh. So on arriving at the doorway I raised my bins, scanned to the west and immediately locked onto a **Cattle Egret** feeding with the Aberdeen Angus. I set up my 'scope and so as everyone arrived they had good views and I was able to point out the salient ID features, such as, "it's with the eponymous cattle". Then, just before our walk was about to start, I scanned north over the reserve and saw three black birds heading east, surely Cormorants, but no this is where I have been going wrong for so long they were **Glossy Ibis** heading over North Scrape then past East Bank. Not everyone was able to get onto the birds, a pity but well you never know....

By now everyone had arrived and signed on, a total of 14, and I was glad that Stella could also make the walk. It was useful to have two of us with scopes and able to chat through what we were seeing. I recommended David North's excellent Life Changing book for those wanting to get to know Cley marshes better after the walk. It was overcast with rain forecast and the Met Office weather radar was showing that rain was likely to arrive within 30-40 mins. So after a short discussion we headed first to Bishops Hide before a gentle walk up East Bank. We safely navigated the coast road by the official path (Risk Assessment tick), then heard a **Cetti's Warbler**, probably a juvenile given the weak song attempt.

Arriving at Bishop's, where the light for observing is better than the Central Hides in the morning, we were treated to the usual Pat's pool September spectacle. There were many **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Lapwing**, **Ruff**

and **Avocet**. Ruff is one of the many “awkward waders” so we spent some time sharing ‘scope views getting to know them better, a male with a white head and nearby smaller female. We then did the same with the wildfowl, picking out **Wigeon**, **Gadwall** and **Shoveler** amongst the more numerous **Teal**. Many still in eclipse plumage it was a bit more of a challenge relying more on size and shape than bold plumage features. There was just one juvenile **Shelduck** present, the adults away moulting at Waddenzee, Holland.



Now in blue sky and sun shine we walked the Skirts footpath to East Bank. We looked right and saw numerous **Red-legged Partridge** to the south of the coast road, it’s that time of year again when many are released. The East Bank is always a nice walk giving great view across the reed beds and wet grazing meadows to east and west. Don’s pool is often a great place to look out for Little Grebe and sure enough there was one, a young **Little Grebe** bird in moult showing remnants of the “humbug” pattern of a juvenile. A nice flock of a dozen **Curlew** were seen and heard next to Popes Pool, a couple of **Turnstone** then a nice juvenile **Little Ringed Plover** posed so we could enjoy more ‘scope views but a nearby **Common Sandpiper** decided to fly off shortly after it was located, well you can’t win ‘em all but we were able to compare again **Mallard**, Gadwall and Teal. Then we had a fun few minutes watching kites, both avian and man-made, the latter drifting northwards over the North Sea.

Then, out of the blue we had a fly past by two Glossy Ibis, not far over our heads as they turned towards and appeared to land near the Iron Road pools. What good fortune, we all had great views this time!

Continuing we crossed the New Cut, the divide between fresh and saline water and discussed the recent Environment Agency realignment to allow water to be drained from the area when the next Flood event occurs (the last Dec 2013), to overlook Brackish and Arnold’s Marsh. We could see c40 **Dunlin** and c30 **Redshank** silhouetted in the distance but alas no Little Stint or Pec Sandpiper (both reported yesterday). However, as Stella and I scanned we both picked up the hoped for **‘Spot Shank**. Being naturally cautious, rubbish on ID or a bit of both, I had to check it wasn’t a Greenshank first, then we enjoyed more ‘scope views. Given they were back lit we compared the body structure and bills of both Shank species, a useful exercise.

We ended the walk on the shingle ridge. It was a low but rising tide, the wind from the south and hardly a wave on the sea. Not ideal sea watch conditions but Stella picked up 8 **Knot** flying west and we heard passing **Sandwich Terns**. We chatted happily all the way back but there was one final treat, as the pre-ordered **Hobby** came into view over Bishops and over our heads catching insects all the while being mobbed by a flock of alarming **Swallows**. We arrived back at the VC at 13:00, I overhead “I learnt loads” which was a nice way to finish.

Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Mute Swan, Shelduck, Gadwall, Wigeon, Teal, Red-legged Partridge, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Oystercatcher, Avocet, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Turnstone, Ruff, Dunlin, Sandwich Tern, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Grey Heron, Marsh Harrier, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Kestrel, Hobby, Jackdaw, Rook, Blue Tit, Swallow, Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Wren, Starling, Robin, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail (yarrellii), Meadow Pipit

Library photo: Curlew (Mark Clements)



NENBC Bird Report 2025



At last! It has been a while coming this year so thank you for your patience. Our 2025 Bird Report is back from the printers and if your copy hasn't yet arrived via post or been hand-delivered by one of our team of dedicated volunteers (thank you!), then rest assured it soon will be! If you didn't sign up for membership that included the previous year's bird report and you'd like a copy, please get in touch as we have some for sale, alongside spares from previous years. In fact, you could get the complete 11-year set if you really wanted but we are running low for some years so get your order in quick! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's book by uploading their records, observations and photos from last year to our website, for agreeing to write species accounts or articles, supplying artwork for us to showcase or by attending our events and making the club what it is. Here's a flavour of the content of the **NENBC Bird Report 2025** . .. .



A Spectacular Sparrowhawk



By Daniel Masters

The 10th August is my dad's birthday, for years I've shared the same longing passion to go on an adventure with The Canoe Man on the broads. He's a wildlife canoe man that does tours to see things where boats cannot access. Well last year was the year I was determined to do it and it was booked, my dad's big 60th birthday present from me and my brother, all that was in our way was 2 canoes and my camera. We arrived at the site and this particular tour was from Buxton to Coltishall and back, a beautiful quiet stretch of river that meanders around gently through endless cattle fields. The wildlife did not disappoint, we saw water voles scurry across, Grey Wagtails and swooping Swallows. It was paradise as we cruised in our canoes. Getting really close to a Kingfisher as me and my dad paddled out of the woodland area was particularly memorable.

However, the highlight was an unexpected visitor that caused me to almost jump out of the boat (literally, minus getting wet of course). In the corner of my eyes I spotted a medium sized bird perched in a Willow tree up ahead, as we paddled closer I quickly realised It wasn't a Pigeon (as it often is) it was a male Sparrowhawk. So as one does, I shouted stop and pointed the bird to my dad in which instead of helping the poor man paddle backwards I was too busy gawping through my binoculars and getting the camera ready. We reversed the boat, dad has great views when he spotted it and to our surprise he was totally unbothered by our presence. After snapping some shots and enjoying living in the moment, which for me is more important than looking at it through a screen, we created a lasting memory for his birthday. The rest of the group caught and before we knew it, 8 canoes were at a stand still, desperately trying to paddle backwards to keep our canoes steady in one place to enjoy the bird. The tour guide said hes never seen anything like this happen as they are usually a fleeting view and disappear. So for the whole group to be just under 10 meters from this perched Hawk was truly something to behold.

Not only did I manage to snap these shots but I created a lasting memory of an experience me and dad have always wanted to do and for him to have seen that on his birthday was very special.





Thanks Daniel! Anyone else got any special encounters they'd like to share? Do get in touch.

NENBC Alerts: WhatsApp Group Update

Quarterly Summary – July to September 2026

By Tony Forster

After a very good spring it would have been easy to predict a quieter 3 months but as previous years have proved, autumn migration has a habit of making a fool of anyone trying to predict what might turn up.

Membership has increased again and now stands at 84 while **34 species were reported on the group** during the quarter. Eleven new species were added to the group list which, following a bit of housekeeping, now stands at **144**. The housekeeping involved removing 4 duplicate records/name variations which had crept onto the list over the years, proving that counting birds is sometimes easier than counting a bird list...

Weather wise July was exceptional, hot, extremely dry and sunny with East Anglia receiving just 2 mm of rain during the month. August continued warm and sunnier than average, although rain finally remembered where Norfolk was later in the month, while September has been more changeable with a mixture of warm spells, rain and some cooler days.

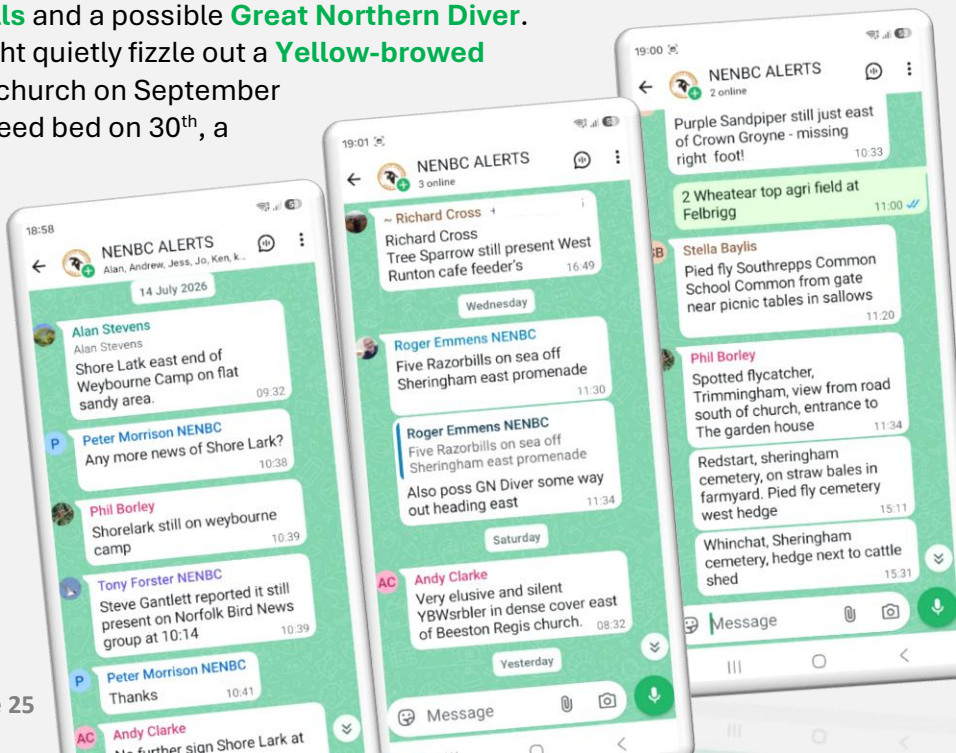
"Having just caught up with the times, I recently swapped my pay-as-you-go phone for one where the internet worked when I was out. I was quite excited to spot a Hobby at Felbrigg Park lake at the end of July and posted it on this WhatsApp group. I was quite startled to find Phil Borley and Mark Clements appear at the other end of the lake 30 seconds later and pick the bird up. I knew that Alerts were to give real-time sightings but I had no idea they worked that quickly! 🤣"
Carol Thornton

July was particularly quiet bird wise but did produce a **Shore Lark** at Weybourne Camp from the 14th to 16th, an unusual summer record and one that at least had the decency to hang around. Things started picking up towards the end of the month with **Hobby** at Felbrigg and **Caspian Gull** at Sheringham.

August was a completely different story and produced the bulk of the quarter's records. **Honey Buzzard** passed over West Beckham, a possible **Citrine Wagtail** was reported at Weybourne and a **Hooded Crow** turned up at Aylmerton while **Common and Green Sandpipers** added some wader interest. The last week of August finally felt like autumn migration had properly arrived with **Pied Flycatchers**, **Redstarts**, **Whinchats**, **Wheatears** and **Willow Warblers** appearing at Sheringham Cemetery, Beeston Bump, Trimingham, Southrepps and West Runton. At least 11 **Pied Flycatchers** were potentially involved along with 6 **Whinchats** and 5 **Redstarts**, giving anyone prepared to put some time in a reasonable chance of finding something. A **Red-backed Shrike** at West Runton on August 25th was one of the highlights and luckily stayed around long enough for people to catch up with it. West Runton then came up trumps again at the end of the month with a **Wryneck** around Water Lane and the playground which, unlike many Wrynecks, occasionally remembered its job was to be seen rather than hide in the first available bush. Three **Glossy Ibis** flying east over Muckleburgh Hill on August 31st were another excellent record while Sheringham produced **Purple Sandpiper**, **Turnstones** and Caspian Gull. The Purple Sandpiper missing its right foot made identifying repeat sightings considerably easier than usual, although a later bird at Tank Groyne means there could have been 2 involved.

September was quieter but still produced an **Osprey** at Melton Hall Park Lake, **Tree Sparrow** at West Runton and some interest off Sheringham with 5 **Razorbills** and a possible **Great Northern Diver**. Just when it looked as though the quarter might quietly fizzle out a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was reported east of Beeston Regis church on September 26th, and then a **Bittern** at Weybourne Hope reed bed on 30th, a very nice way to finish the period.

All in all another productive quarter and with **84 members** there are now plenty of eyes and ears scattered around the club area. October can produce almost anything and with migration still in full swing there is plenty of time to add another bird or two before the year is out. As usual you have to be looking in the right direction at the right time, preferably with your phone handy, so here's hoping the next 3 months give us something worth chasing...



Another curious call

By Andy Clarke

October is always a good month for migrants (often the best), so on the first day of the month I decided on an early morning walk along the coast from Beeston Bump to West Runton, hoping for some newly grounded migrants or maybe visible migration. As usual I was running my recorder in case of interesting calls that I might need to check. There proved to be few migrants around, with the highlights being some newly arrived Chiffchaffs, a continuation of the previous day's arrival of Redwings and Song Thrushes, and a fly-over Brambling. Birds were on the move, though with a clear sky most were passing high overhead with their only indication being flight calls. The exception were Skylarks, which were moving east, often low and always vocal.

When I got home late morning I made a coffee and sat down to work through the recording. My usual approach nowadays is to use the AI software 'Chirpity', which is free to download. This is fast, taking less than a minute to scan a two-hour recording, but also always throws up some ludicrous or dubious suggestions. These can be removed by setting the acceptance threshold high, but I tend to leave them in for entertainment value. The scan showed little that I had not picked up in the field, with plenty of finch calls and the usual local Robins, Dunnocks and tits. There were however two recordings of interest.



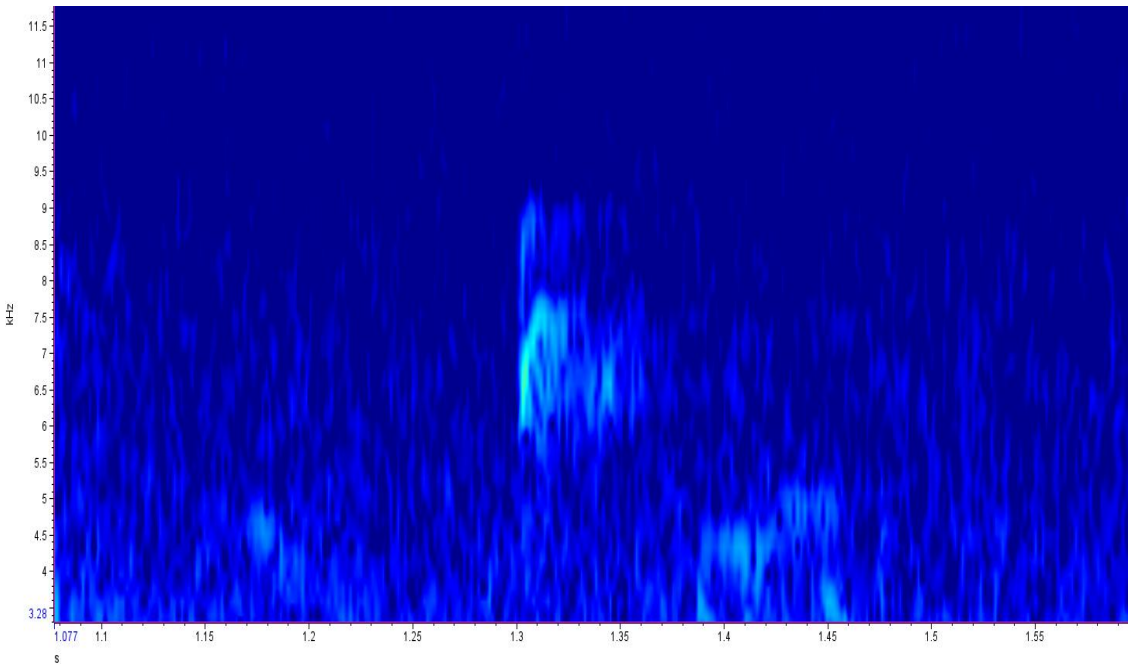
The first were two calls at around 0844 which Chirpity suggested were **Hawfinch**. This is a common misidentification in AI, as their 'tick' calls are similar to many other species, especially Robins, though they also have an additional (and diagnostic) flight call. However I decided to check the calls more carefully, and this time they did look good for Hawfinch, but as the confidence score was just below my threshold (90%) I put them to one side. Later I found that Mark Clements had seen a Hawfinch moving west at Cromer, not long before the time of my recording. So I decided to post the record on the NENBC website, noting that I had only recorded it but the timing match with Mark's sighting was convincing. [*Library photo of Hawfinch courtesy of Mark Clements*]



The real challenge was a second single call, in the midst of a series of classic 'tick' calls, probably all Robins, but this one obviously different and which Chirpity identified as a **Little Bunting**. This is a rare bird, but Norfolk in October is among the most reliable locations and times for one to be found, soit required more work. I excised the call and ran it through BirdNet (the AI system developed by Cornell University, and closely similar to the Merlin App many club members have on their smartphones – including me). This gave a clear identification of Little Bunting with a high confidence score (0.92 or 92%). This score is not a measure of how certain the identification is, it is a measure of how closely the recording matches the library of recordings on which the AI has been trained. That said, this was a high score, so I was beginning to feel excited, especially as one had been found on Shetland that day. Also BirdNet offered no opinion on any of the 'tick' calls recorded before and

after the putative Little Bunting, so the mystery bird was clearly something different. So far, so good. [*Library photo of Little Bunting courtesy of Moss Taylor*]

The next step was to check the literature, and my first go-to source here is Stanislas Wroza's excellent book (Identifying migratory birds by sound in Britain and Europe). This suggested that the key features for Little Bunting were the frequency range (about 6 to 8.5 kHz), the shape (an upwards sweep) and little 'hooks' at the start and end. My call had all of these – except the initial 'hook'. The next step was the excellent library of nocturnal flight calls available from Beijing, where Terry Townsend is running a major project on migration in China (see: https://wildbeijing.org/beijing-nocturnal-flight-call-library). Little Bunting is a common nocturnal migrant over Beijing, and the key features noted for its identification are the upward sweep and the initial 'hook' (though it is noted that the latter can be absent in low-quality recordings). So I sent the recording to an expert, familiar with the calls of many eastern birds, and his verdict was that it was interesting but 'not quite right' for Little Bunting.



The mystery recording, viewed in Raven software. The key features are the frequency range (6 – 8 kHz), the upward sweep after the initial vertical shape and the downward 'hook' at the end. These are all features of Little Bunting flight call. However there is no initial 'hook', the upward sweep is not smooth, and there is a clear faint harmonic extending to 9.5 kHz, all of which are not typical.

So what have I learned from this? Firstly it was yet another warning sign that AI identifications, even those that seem strong and confident, may not be accurate, and it is essential to check any AI identifications carefully. Taking all the evidence together, I suspect this was probably a Little Bunting passing overhead, but I cannot rule out the possibility that it was just an odd Robin contact call, so sadly its stays in the 'near miss' box. Alongside many others...



Library photo of Little Bunting courtesy of Tom Hill

An Unexpected Delight in an Urban Business Park

By Val Stubbs





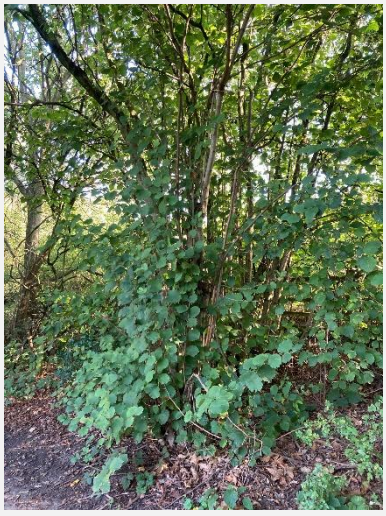
Towards the end of September, we had to travel to Crewe for a family funeral, and treated ourselves to a night in a Travelodge!

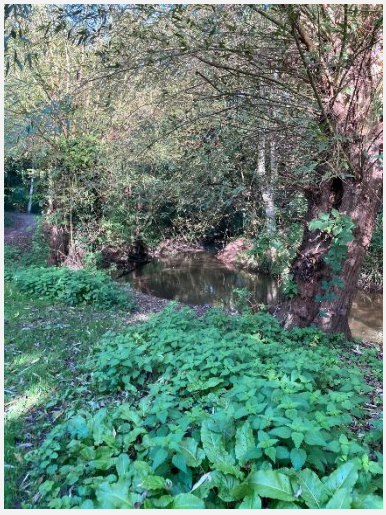
In the morning we decided to walk the dogs in the little patch of trees behind the hotel. To our surprise, this turned out to be a long winding path following the course of a stream. It had been designated as a nature reserve and had clearly been well cared for. As well as the stream, where half a dozen **Mallards** were swimming along and a **Moorhen** picked its way across a fallen log, there were several ponds of varied depths with a range of different vegetation. A **Robin** perched in an Alder by one of the ponds. The path was lined with all sorts of trees and shrubs, including willows, Hawthorn, Field Maple, Sycamore, coppiced Hazel and Elder. The trunks of many of the more mature trees were cloaked in Ivy.

Despite the constant rumbling of the traffic, there was a steady soundtrack of bird calls: a **Song Thrush** scolding, a bit of half-hearted 'chiff-chaffing", the churring of **Long-tailed Tits** flitting through the canopy, the ticking of a **Wren** in the undergrowth, a **Nuthatch** contact-calling, the 'kik-ing of a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, the chirruping of **House Sparrows**, the whistle of a skulking **Blackcap**, and the cackling of Magpies. As we ended our walk, we were treated to the sight of a diminutive **Treecreeper** dashing up the side of a tree.

All very unlooked for, and as we walked past the office buildings adjoining this oasis, and saw all the workers fixed on their screens with their headphones on, I hoped that at least some of them took advantage of this little idyll during their lunch breaks.













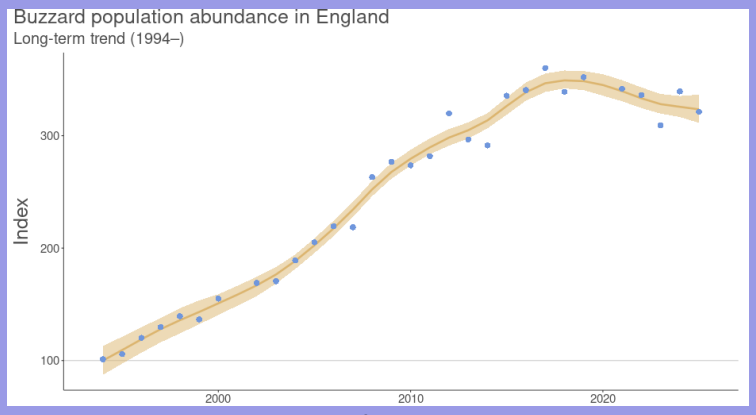
The Upcoming BTO Bird Atlas

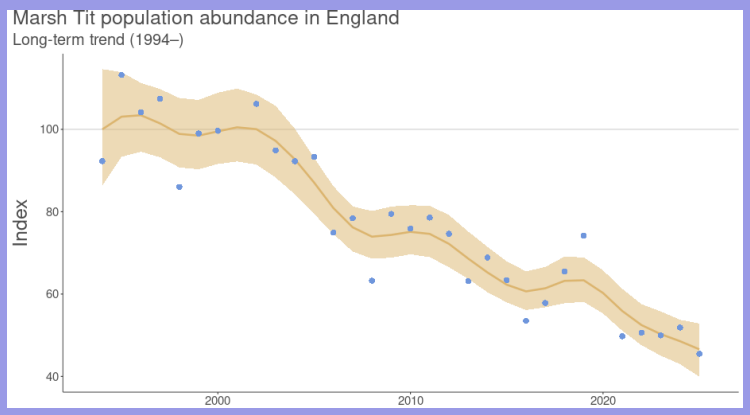
Bird Atlas

By Andy Clarke

We are living in a time when the natural world is changing around us, and doing so at an unprecedented rate. If we are to do anything about this, and we must try, we need to understand those changes. At the centre of documenting changes in the UK's birds has been the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The BTO has a number of long-running surveys that provide hard evidence of change, evidence that is essential if we are to influence government policy in relation to key areas such as farming and water.

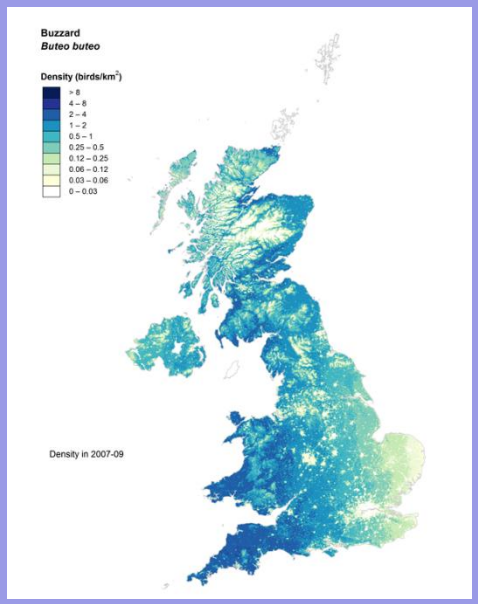
These surveys allow us to detect population trends, and two examples show opposing trends: Buzzards have increased, partly because of reduced persecution by gamekeepers, whereas Marsh Tit has declined severely, for reasons that are not fully clear.





Plots from the BTO Trends Explorer. Note that these are relative trends, with the population index set to 100 at the start of the plot.

However in addition to knowing how numbers have changed, it is also important to know how distribution has changed, and this is where atlases come in. Once again the BTO has played a central role, and over the years it has organised an important series of atlases. The first covered breeding birds 1968-1972, which was followed by an atlas of wintering birds (1981-1984). Bird distributions are never static, and so a repeat atlas of breeding birds was undertaken in 1988-1991. This was followed by the most recent atlas, a combined breeding and wintering atlas, in 2007-2011. It is worth looking at the resulting book (pictured in Carol's article in the previous newsletter) to grasp what a monumental piece of work this was, and how detailed and careful the analysis was. As an example of the outcome, here is the map for Buzzard.



You can see how, at the time of the last atlas, Buzzard was largely a western and northern species in UK. Since then we have all become aware of how Buzzards have increased in Norfolk, and we can expect a very different pattern when the forthcoming atlas is finished.

The NENBC Committee has decided that the club should support the forthcoming atlas as much as it can. We recognise that atlas work is not for everyone, but it can be very rewarding. Atlas work will be based on a selection of tetrads (a tetrad being a 2km x 2km square). Each tetrad is visited twice in winter and twice in summer, each visit being an hour, after which it is regarded as having been surveyed.

Atlas work used to require eyes, ears, notebook and pencil, with the data being entered online afterwards. It is planned that for this atlas there will be dedicated smartphone Apps for entering data in the field. It might be thought that using 'Merlin' might help things, but at the moment its reliability is still suspect for some important species so Merlin-only records will not be valid.

The NENBC area will contain more tetrads than the club alone can survey, but we encourage members to contribute where they can to this important project. The BTO will be selecting tetrads in the coming months, and there will be training available for those who would like to contribute. In the meantime we will keep everyone up to date with developments, so watch this space – and think about whether you might be able to help. Our birds need you!

The Blue Badge Challenge | Episode 6

All on my own!

By Val Stubbs

My Current Points Tally	
Duration Points	300
Event Bonus Points	100
First Time Species Points	460
TOTAL	860

As another month slipped between my fingers, I decided to head down to Weybourne Beach on **September 29th**, to join Phil Borley, who almost invariably watches from there. A fine drizzle began to fall as I walked down Beach Lane, and on arriving at the beach I discovered that visibility was appalling and Phil was nowhere to be seen.

Oh well, I would have to stand on my own two feet – literally (no shelter or seats at Weybourne). The first thing that struck me was a cloud of corvids swirling up from the Camp, must have been several thousand, gradually moving inland mostly **Jackdaws** with some **Rooks**.

As I turned my attention to the sea, there were plenty of gulls moving east along the shoreline – a few **Black-headed Gulls**, some of which were still on breeding plumage, but mostly **Herring Gulls** and **Great Black-backed Gulls**, in fact I don't think I have ever seen so many of the latter. As well as the gulls going along the shoreline at the start of the sea-watch, there were about 60 following a fishing boat later, split roughly 50:50 Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls.

My Species List	Points	My Sightings					
		Number of Sessions Seen	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8	Session 9
Arctic Skua	15	1		3			
Bar-tailed Godwit	15	1			1		
Black-headed Gull	10	5	1		7		20
Brent Goose	10	1					
Common Gull	15	1					
Common Scoter	10	8	7	50	37	5	4
Cormorant	10	8	3	4	4	2	3
Curlew	15	2			2		1
Dunlin	15	1		5			
Eider	15	1					
Fulmar	15	7	1	1	3		
Gadwall	15	1					
Gannet	10	8	1	31	26	31	22
Great Black-backed Gull	10	6			2	1	60
Great Crested Grebe	15	1					
Grey Heron	15	1			1		
Greylag	15	2	5				
Guillemot	15	2					
Herring Gull	10	9	15	2	20	11	100
Kittiwake	15	3				1	
Knot	15	1		4			
Lesser Black-backed Gull	15	1		2			
Little Egret	15	1	1				
Little Tern	15	1	9				
Mediterranean Gull	15	3		1			
Oystercatcher	10	4	1	5	2		
Red-throated Diver	15	5					5
Redshank	15	1			6		
Sandwich Tern	10	6	18	8	21	8	
Shelduck	15	2					
Spoonbill	15	1	1				
Teal	10	4		8	16	11	5
Tufted Duck	15	1	1				
Whimbrel	15	2			3		2

Other than that, it was pretty quiet until a **Whimbrel** flew east just offshore, and later a second went the same way, as did a **Curlew**. The mist did seem to be pushing the birds closer to shore than they often are, which made up for the paucity of numbers. Over the next hour or so, I had some lovely views of **Gannets**, mostly heading east though six were going in the opposite direction. These were mostly adults and juveniles, with just one third year bird seen, quite a few were single adults with a juvenile in tow.

Ducks were rather thin on the ground, although I did see a group of three **Common Scoter**, and later a single – not common to see them on their own – all flying east, while a small flock of five **Teal** were going in the opposite direction.

Final sighting of the morning was a group of three **Cormorants** flying east.

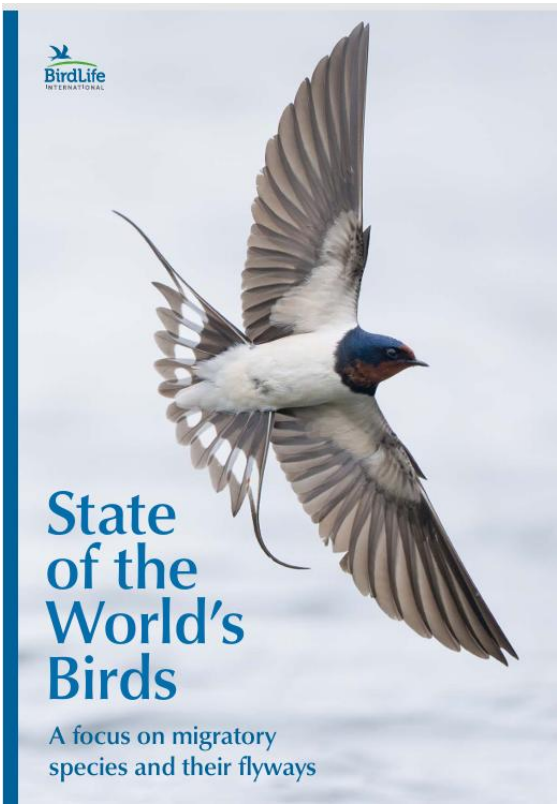
As it turns out, I didn't end up all alone, as I was joined for the last half hour or so by a visitor staying in the village who was clearly a very experienced sea-watcher – though even he was unable to conjure up a new Blue Badge species for me!



Library photo | Cormorants, *Richard Farrow*

State of the World's Birds

This recent report is well worth a look. The full report is available here. This 100 page publication contains a huge amount of information and data and is packed full of graphs, charts and images to put the points across. It is also available in an online interactive summary which presents the information in a user friendly and engaging way that allows you to delve further into the data should you choose. It really is very well done. Below is the Executive Summary and a graphic illustrating the contents far better than we can by attempting to summarise it!



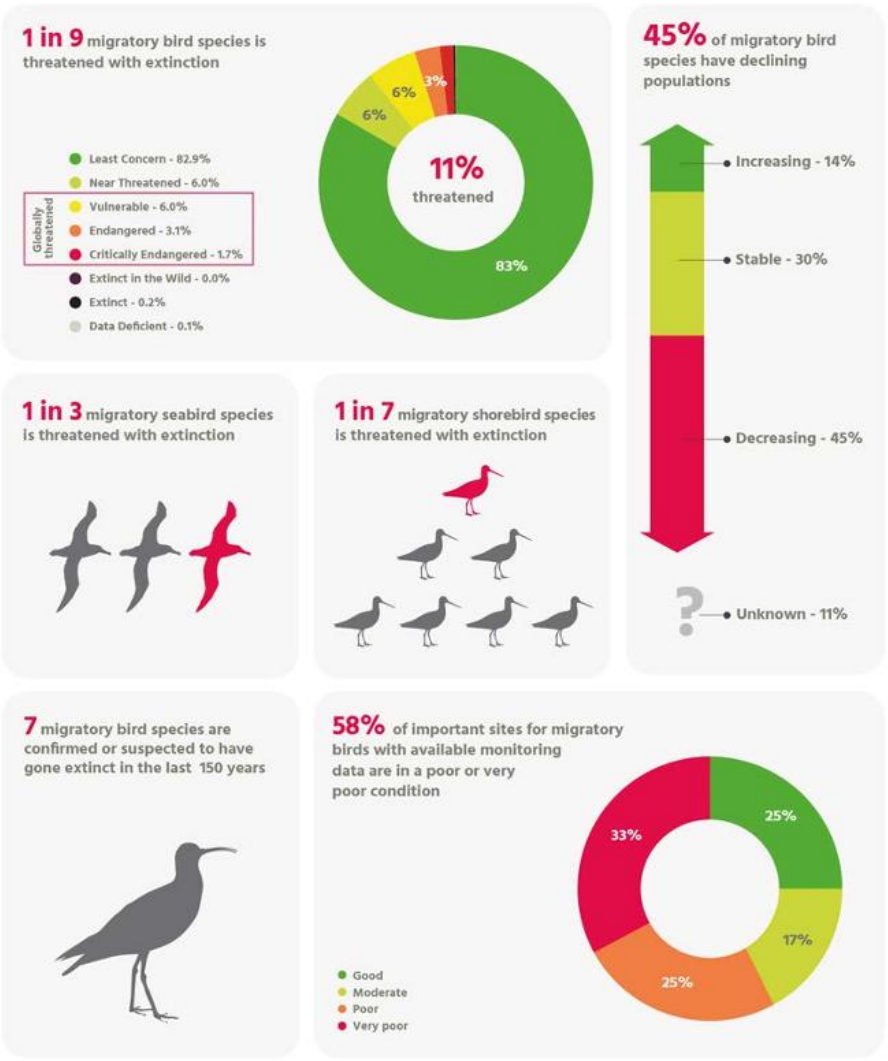
"This sixth edition of State of the World's Birds focuses on migratory birds and their flyways, and what they reveal about the state of nature, the drivers of biodiversity loss, and the solutions needed to reverse declines. Bringing together BirdLife's own data with a synthesis of the wider scientific literature, this report provides the most comprehensive assessment to date of the conservation status of migratory birds, the threats driving declines, and the actions needed to address them." *BirdLife International*

Executive Summary

"Migratory birds undertake extraordinary journeys as they travel across the world between breeding and non-breeding areas. Arctic Terns Sterna paradisaea fly from pole to pole, travelling the equivalent of four journeys to the moon and back in their lifetime. Great Snipe Gallinago media fly at almost the height of Mount Everest as they cross the Sahara Desert, while Ruby-throated Hummingbirds Archilochus colubris weigh just three grams yet cross the Gulf of Mexico nonstop. The broad routes used by migratory species are called 'flyways'. Every country in the world is connected to others through bird migration.

Migratory birds present a unique conservation challenge. Their journeys across continents and oceans are central to their survival and make them a shared natural heritage, but also expose them to multiple threats along their flyways.

Birds are powerful indicators of environmental health, and are better studied than any comparable group of organisms. This wealth of information enables a detailed assessment of the status of migratory birds across the world's terrestrial and marine flyways.



The findings are alarming. One in nine migratory bird species is threatened with extinction, and seven species are confirmed or suspected to have been lost in the last 150 years. The official announcement in 2025 of the extinction of the Slender-billed Curlew Numenius based action can restore habitats, prevent extinctions, and support population tenuirostris marks the first global bird extinction in mainland Eurasia and Africa in recent centuries. Many formerly common species now have depleted populations, with 45% of migratory species in decline. Seabirds and shorebirds are faring particularly poorly. Furthermore, the networks of habitats on which migratory birds depend are becoming increasingly degraded and fragmented, including the loss of intertidal wetlands along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway.

The drivers of these declines are well understood and are overwhelmingly caused by human actions. The most significant threats to globally threatened migratory birds include invasive alien species and diseases, agricultural expansion and intensification, climate change, hunting and trapping, and pollution. These threats are already having profound impacts across flyways, from declines of formerly common species in North America and Europe linked to agricultural intensification, to mass mortality events caused by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and climate driven shifts in species' distributions and migration patterns. Additional pressures include expanding energy infrastructure and urbanisation, human disturbance, injury or death in fisheries (bycatch) and logging. Most migratory species face multiple threats across their flyways, leading to cumulative impacts and high mortality during migration.

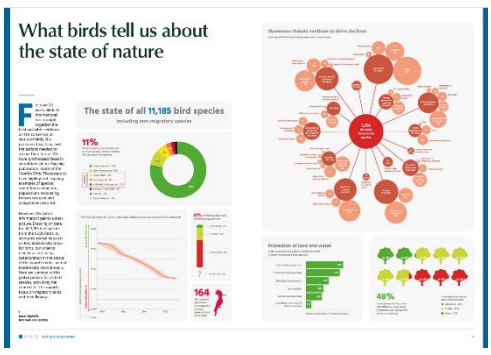
Fortunately, the solutions are also well known. Conservation programmes around the world show that evidence based action can restore habitats, prevent extinctions, and support population recovery. Few conservation challenges illustrate the value of collaboration more clearly than migratory bird conservation, where coordinated action across flyways can achieve impacts far greater than isolated efforts within individual sites or countries. The BirdLife Partnership is uniquely placed to unite such conservation efforts across countries, continents and ocean currents, with 120 of our Partners (98%) working to conserve migratory birds.

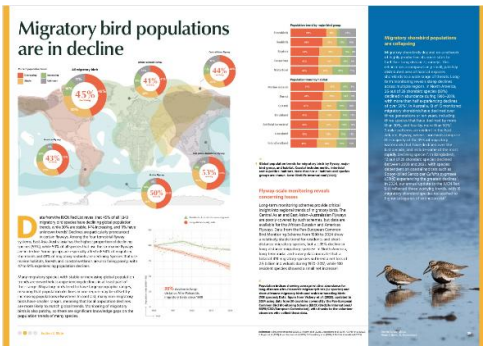
A priority is conserving and effectively managing the network of sites critical for migratory birds, particularly Key Biodiversity Areas. This can be achieved through protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures. Beyond these sites, retaining intact habitats, restoring degraded ecosystems, and implementing conservation solutions in production landscapes is essential to maintain connectivity along flyways.

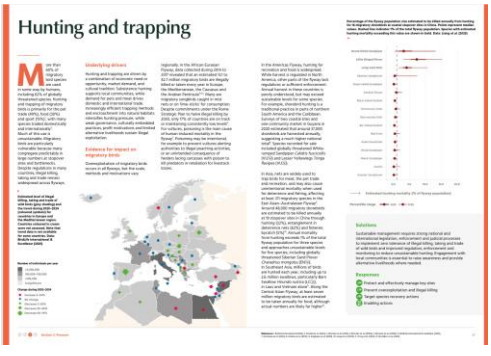
Key threats to migratory birds require targeted action. This necessitates controlling or eradicating invasive alien species, managing agriculture and forestry more sustainably, minimising harmful impacts of energy and other infrastructure, ending overexploitation and illegal killing and preventing fisheries bycatch. Nature must be integrated into land-use planning to support sustainable development, while nature-based solutions should play a central role in climate mitigation and adaptation. Some species will also require intensive, species-specific interventions such as captive breeding and reintroduction.

Delivering these interventions depends on a suite of enabling conditions. Lasting global change is built on local action, making the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and national institutions essential for effective and equitable conservation. Policies and legislation must be science based, comprehensively implemented and supported by monitoring systems that track progress towards biodiversity targets. Achieving effective conservation across flyways will require sustained and innovative financing.

Birds provide both a warning and a source of hope. They demonstrate the scale of the biodiversity crisis but also show that conservation works. Yet current efforts remain insufficient. Since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022, progress towards its goals and targets has remained far too slow. Urgent action is needed to scale up conservation for migratory birds, protect the natural world and secure a sustainable future for people and the planet."





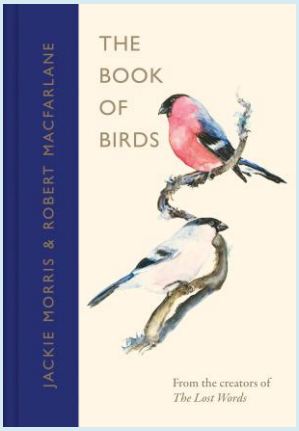


Check This Out!

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.

- **New US rule removes protection from unintended killing of endangered birds - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 24-Sep
- **Summer wildfires burn key habitats for threatened British birds - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 22-Sep
- **Seasonal signs may curb dog disturbance of ground-nesting birds - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 09-Sep
- **Europe's raptor recoveries depend on safer wintering grounds in West Africa - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 11-Sep
- **A bridge too far for Europe's migrating birds? - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 25-Sep
- **Lucy McRobert: sound inequality - BirdGuides** | 24-Sep
- **European Turtle Dove shows no clear genetic borders in western Mediterranean - BirdGuides** | 12-Sep
- **Second seabird in Herefordshire blown 100 miles off course - BBC News** | 15-Sep
- **Diss gets in a flap over High Street pigeon mess - BBC News** | 12-Sep
- **Runaway emu in Australia sparks police chase - BBC News** | 03-Sep
- **How connecting with birds and nature helped me recover - RSPB** | 29-Sep
- **Feeding garden birds – how to keep our feathered friends healthy - RSPB** | 17-Sep
- **Joe Harkness obituary - The Guardian** | 25-Sep
- **Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris' guide to 49 threatened British birds wins Wainwright book of the year - The Guardian** | 17-Sep





- **From fairways to flyway: birds move into Lincolnshire's newest wetland - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 02-Oct
- **'A magnificent moment' as threatened Norfolk coast birds receive new conservation funding - RSPB** | 30-Sep
- **Which birds are really the loudest on Earth? - @RareBirdAlertUK** | 30-Sep
- **Rare northern bald ibises take flight in human-led European migration project - The Guardian** | 02-Oct
- **'Birdwatching is close to rapture': Margaret Atwood on why she has given C$1m to avian research - The Guardian** | 25-Oct
- **We Just Want to Go Birding - British Ornithologists' Union** | 03-Sep
- **The Rise of iOrnithology — a new method in the ornithologist's toolbox - British Ornithologists' Union** | 13-Jul
- **Can seabirds forage in the dark? - British Ornithologists' Union** | 21-Sep
- **When did we stop looking at nature? - British Ornithologists' Union** | 28-Sep
- **Birds are building nests with our rubbish. Can we offer them something better? - The Conversation** | 01-Oct

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!

"Low, hollow whistle 'peooo' or 'heeew', particularly penetrating in spring. Song quiet, vibrant, reedy ('policeman's whistle'), creaky sounds. 'Trumpet' call sometimes given is distinctive of race…"
from WILDGuides BRITAIN'S BIRDS 2nd Edition - An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland 2nd Edition by Hume, Still, Swash, Harrop and Tipling

"Call a short whistle or fluted note, low-pitched, discreet, usually with melancholy ring 'phü'; locally in Europe with distinctly falling pitch; 'phü-ew'/ A variation with toy trumpet tone could have its origin in N Russia. Conversational call, sometimes when flushed, a stifled, repeated 'bütt'. Song soft, slowly recited, halting and tentative, a mixture of call-like, low-pitched fluted notes and choking squeaky and scraping notes; often double-noted 'phü-phü' inserted, or the fluted notes are drawn out into melancholy descending notes, 'pyüüuh'. Some notes are so muffled that they are audible only at very closest range, making the song sound even more discontinuous and hesitant at distance."
from Collins BIRD GUIDE 3rd Edition by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterström

"Usual call soft but distinctive 'peu-peu' and also quieter piping as birds keep contact in dense cover. Song is a quiet, creaking or piping warble and is seldom heard."
from RSPB Handbook of British Birds 4th Edition by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves

Wordsearch

This month, we have 24 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in October 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.

Common Redpoll
Common Sandpiper
Fulmar
Hawfinch
Hobby
House Martin
Jack Snipe
Leach's Petrel
Long-eared Owl
Puffin
Ring-necked Parakeet
Sabine's Gull
Whimbrel
Bar-tailed Godwit
Goshawk
Green Sandpiper
Hen Harrier
Lesser Whitethroat
Little Owl
Pochard
Ring Ouzel
Scaup
White-fronted Goose
Yellow-legged Gull

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

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 September 2026

By Val Stubbs

No change at the top, with Phil Borley way out in front with over 180,000 points. Tony Pope in second position is now approaching 77,000 points, ahead of Mark Clements, whose score now exceeds 70,000 points. Philip Cartlidge remains in fourth place, having reached nearly 63,000 points, followed by Val Stubbs on almost 55,000 points. David Griffiths, Doug & Jenny Cullern, Stuart Jones, Trevor Williams and Ken Thornton make up the rest of the top ten

Of the 124 members who have logged birds so far this year, 16 have already scored over 10,000 points, with another 13 exceeding 5,000 points, and 27 more on over 1,000 points.

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

!1	Phil Borley	181,830
2	Tony Pope	76,910
3	Mark Clements	70,310
4	Philip Cartlidge	62,840
5	Valerie Stubbs	54,730
6	David Griffiths	41,940
7	Doug & Jenny Cullern	32,630
8	Stuart Jones	16,130
9	Trevor Williams	14,650
10	Ken Thornton	14,500
11	Stephanie Witham	13,940
12	Ann Gladwin	12,780
13	Carol Thornton	11,920
14	Andrew Clarke	11,590
15	John Swallow	10,760

16	David Barrass	10,160
17	Russell Page	8,890
18	Steven & Barbara Lines	8,760
18	Thomas Wright	8,400
20	Julia & David Ivison	8,230
21	Stella Baylis	8,110
22	Colin Blaxill	7,160
23	Alan Stevens	7,030
24	Peter & Sue Morrison	6,270
25	Paul Laurie	6,140
26	Gary Bunting	5,820
27	Francis Farrow	5,750
28	Stuart Buck	5,680
29	Andrew Gorton	5,640
30	Philip Hall	4,980

2026 Club Stats

446 individual members across 301 households

77,109 bird records logged

231 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!

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social

Cracking Stonechat at Sheringham - bit spoilt for choice fly-wise! @nenbc.bsky.social



18:48 · 22 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Turnstones arrived back at Sheringham a couple of weeks ago. It's good to see them back.



19:19 · 20 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Watching a couple of Cormorants on the groyne at Cromer this morning and then noticed another one flying in over the sea. It decided that it would land between the other Cormorants and then they all stood happily together.



20:14 · 23 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Mute Swan



20:39 · 26 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Red-throated Diver seen at Sheringham yesterday. The red throat is still showing quite well but will gradually fade and disappear during the winter months. This one dived, hunting for food and reappeared again 20metres away.



4 · 29 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Louis P
@sibthorpia.bsky.social

What was meant to be a quiet day of walking around West Penwith soon turned into quite the day of birding! Utterly incredible views of the Upland Sandpiper were bookended by two equally tame buntings - Lapland at Pendeen and Snow Bunting (self-found) above Cot. All photos taken with phone+bins!



16:47 · 4 Oct 2026 Everybody can reply

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social

Some more images of the weird Cormorant at Sheringham today. That's A LOT of white on its chest - and so uniform! @nenbc.bsky.social



21:47 · 27 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Justin Lansdell
@yarevalleyjus.bsky.social

On land, Happisburgh was very quiet this morning with single GW Egret, Jay and Rock Pipit all north plus a welcome increase in Meadow Pipits finally and a migrant Vestal moth on the cliff top



0:12 · 27 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Mute Swans on the lake at Felbrigg NT. The trees around the lake are starting to take on a real autumnal feel and despite sunny days, dawn and dusk now have a distinct chill in the air.



20:16 · 2 Oct 2026 Everybody can reply

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social

Red-throated Diver off Sheringham this afternoon. Showing well, pity the light wasn't better though. @nenbc.bsky.social



20:53 · 22 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Another bird seen at Sheringham yesterday, juvenile Artic Skua. It's a pirate in that it steals food from other birds, which it did whilst I was watching it. It chased a gull until it lost the food item it was carrying, then dropped down to the sea to collect its prize.



19:25 · 29 Sept 2026 Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Black-headed Gull on the sea at Sheringham earlier this week, and another one flying overhead.



19:05 · 4 Oct 2026 Everybody can reply

Member Awards

Star Badges

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS to Andy Kershaw on achieving his SILVER.

Currently, **6** members have achieved GOLD STAR status, **28** members have been awarded SILVER STAR status and a fabulous **90** members now hold the BRONZE STAR status.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eco-Badges

No new eco-achievers this month.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sea-watching Badge

No new achievers this month but having just concluded the Coordinated Seawatch as I write, we may have some more next month!

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

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

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

Species list available on request

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

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

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

Cultural Birds – A couple of sculptures

Two very different sculptures to show you this month ….

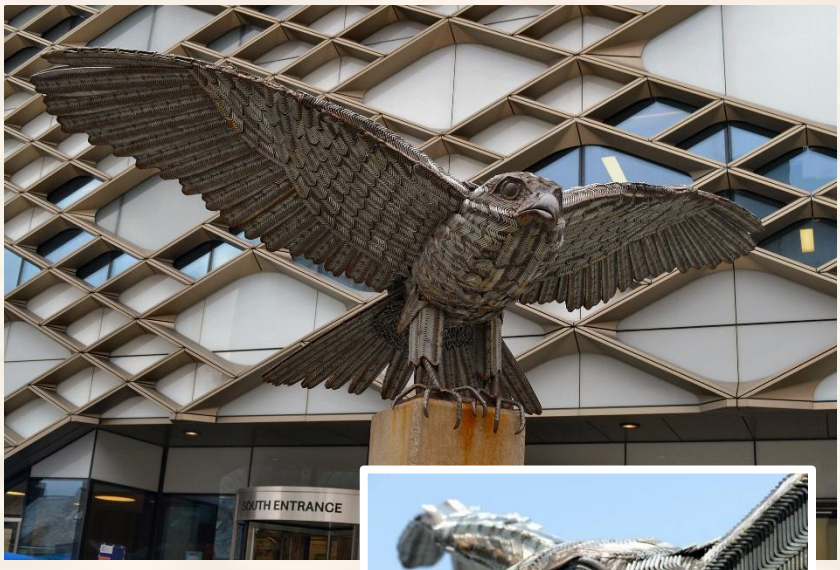
The first is the 'world's largest bird sculpture' and is at the Jatayu Earth's Center in Kerala, India.

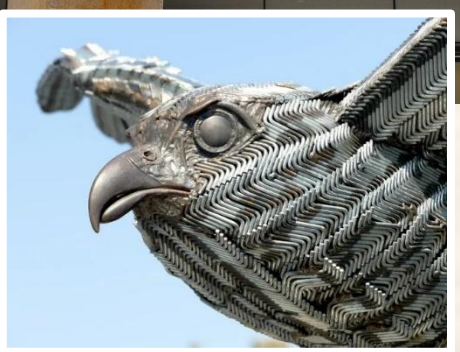


"Spanning 65 acres, this remarkable attraction seamlessly integrates mythology, adventure, and eco-tourism. It is named after Jatayu, the noble bird from the Indian epic Ramayana, who is believed to have valiantly attempted to rescue Sita from Ravana. According to legend, Jatayu was gravely wounded during the battle and fell to the rocks of Chadayamangalam, making this location deeply significant in Indian mythology. The centerpiece of the park is the world's largest bird sculpture, designed by sculptor Rajiv Anchal. Measuring 200 feet in length, 150 feet in width, and 70 feet in height, the colossal structure stands as a tribute to Jatayu's bravery and sacrifice. Inside the sculpture, visitors can explore a museum and an audio-visual gallery narrating the story of Jatayu. From the top of the sculpture, breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys offer a visual treat for visitors. Jatayu Earth's Center is also a model of eco-tourism and sustainability, with initiatives like renewable energy usage, rainwater harvesting, and organic farming." www.keralatourism.org

The photo doesn't do it justice so see the video on this link: Jatayu Earth's Center

The second is closer to home, a Peregrine called Allen from Sheffield.





"Originally installed outside Sheffield's main railway station, 'Allen the Peregrine Falcon' is now perched on the campus of the University of Sheffield outside the Diamond building. The statue was created in 2017 by local artist Jason Helpenstall. He chose to represent the record-breaking bird of prey in honour of Sheffield's growing number of real-life peregrines. The falcons have been a familiar sight in the city since 2012 when a few nested and adopted St George's church tower as their new home. This church tower in fact looks over Allen's present perch, allowing the birds to gaze over their metallic memento. The peregrine falcon not only honours Sheffield but also the local IKEA. The statue is actually composed of 17,000 Allen keys, the traditional tool used to assemble IKEA furniture." www.atlasobscura.com

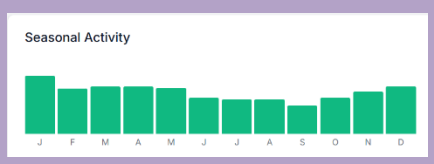
Photo credits Andy Scott and Graham Hogg





The bird voice variously described was that of a **Bullfinch**. 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! website for this species. Here's a link to the **BTO Bird Facts Bullfinch** page.

The bar chart shows the Seasonal Activity from the NENBC.

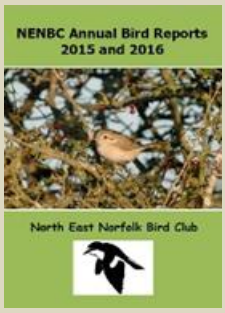


Photos: David Griffiths and Mark Clements

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

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

Back Page Club Info .....





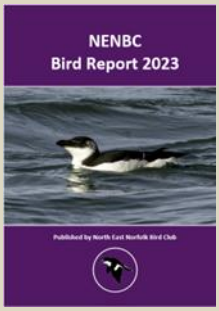




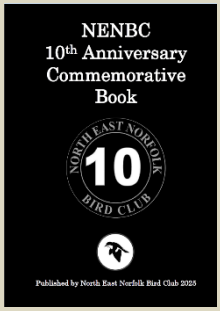




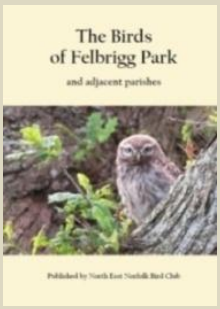








NENBC Annual Bird Reports are compiled from the records and photographs added to the club website by members, supplemented by other local records, and complemented by articles on club activities. The reports are £2 for back-copies, £5 for current one. Our **10th Anniversary Commemorative Book** celebrating 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 £2.00 (postage extra) and all profits from the sale of this book go to Felbeck Trust, our local wildlife conservation charity: **www.felbecktrust.org.uk**

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

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

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