



The Pied Flyer

North East Norfolk Bird Club



November 2024 – Issue 113

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

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Through a Lens



By Trevor Williams

Autumn has slipped imperceptibly into winter. Migration of small birds heading for their wintering grounds in the Mediterranean and Africa has slowed to a standstill, yet the arrival of birds which spend their winters here with us in Norfolk has only just got going. The shorter days have been off-set by much milder weather than average. Don't get me wrong, we've certainly had some good birds over the past month - Siberian Stonechat, Richard's Pipit, Dusky, Barred and plenty of Yellow-browed Warbler for example - but it's generally been hard work finding stuff. The same has been true with seawatching, but there have been days when the duck and geese numbers have been impressive. I guess the point I'm making is that it seems nowadays much more difficult to predict the seasons - and therefore the birds. In a month which saw catastrophic flooding in Spain - more than a year's rainfall in just one day - and temperatures in northern Scotland 10 degrees above the average, this seasonal turbulence seems the 'new normal' We all know that this summer was bad for insects - the cold damp conditions impacting on butterflies, bees and dragonflies.

But the weather has certainly had an effect on our breeding birds to. A recent article in the birding press caught my eye. The Woodpecker Network - established to monitor the declining population of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers in the UK - reported that: "2024 was one of the poorest breeding seasons since we created The Woodpecker Network in 2015. The crude average was only 1.3 young fledged per nest which is lower than the previous poor year of 2016, ... and despite massive efforts to find them, only nine nests were reported and monitored and these were relatively unsuccessful."

Another species which has been in the birding news is Hawfinch. There has been an invasion of these amazing birds in the last 2 weeks, with a reliable bird on Beeston Common providing many members with a rare opportunity to watch at relatively close range. It feels like in these unpredictable times that there's at least one more birding surprise before the year is through. All we've got to do is find it!

A Note from the Editor

By Carol Thornton

Hi folks. Welcome to our rather late November issue! As always, full details of our schedule of events are on our website.

On the very near horizon is our **Christmas Social and AGM** so get the date in your diary if you haven't already! We will be at **Gresham Village Hall on Thursday 12th December from 7.30pm** for our AGM 'Review of the Year' (which will be additionally available via Zoom) followed by our annual get-together - great company and the chance for a chat, full hot and cold buffet with desserts and mulled wine & mulled apple juice plus our fun Xmas Quiz produced by last year's winners Mark Boyd & Chris Tucker and Richard & Susan Fisher. We are sorry but the social bit will be in-person only and I will need numbers nearer the time so expect an email from me in a couple of weeks on that along with all the official bumf regarding the AGM. Looking forward to catching up with lots of you then!



Last month's **Through a Lens** subject for the front page was **THRUSHES AND FINCHES** and our cover images this time are from Mark Clements with a mass of berry pics (anti-clockwise from top left Song Thrush, Blackbird, Redwing, Fieldfare, Brambling, Hawfinch), Richard Farrow (Bullfinch), Ken Thornton (Goldfinch) and Ollie Allison (Fieldfare). Thanks all! The **theme for November is Corvids**.

Below is my pick from October of some great photos from our website of the more common birds that don't make it to the Monthly Bird Highlights section: Grey Wagtail, Grey Heron, Kestrel (Richard Farrow), Mark Clements (Wren) and Dave Billham (Cormorant).

Update on our call for landscape photographers ...

Thank you so much to the many of you have been sending in photos of our locations following my email of 1st November. As a reminder, we are after some specific photos to help illustrate our 10th Anniversary Book due out next year and also lots of general shots of all of our locations so we can keep a library for use on the website and in future publications, fully attributable of course, taken recently or from your back-catalogue. Listed below are the specific ones we still haven't had anything in on which is the priority for me at the mo with printing deadlines coming up, and at the bottom, the general sites we could do with more on that reflect the birding habitat there. If you can help, please email Carol with your images on nenbc@aol.co.uk. Thank you!

Aylsham

Town view Aylsham (showing Swift territory)

Baconsthorpe

The water at Baconsthorpe Mere

Buxton Heath

Heathland at Buxton Heath

Cromer

The cliffs at Cromer East

Town view of Cromer (showing Peregrine territory)

Cromer A148 Layby (or view from as a raptor watching site)

The sea at Cromer East Cliffs

The shore/beach at Cromer

Dilham Canal

Dilham Canal a representative view of the site

The canal at Dilham Canal

East Runton

The shore/beach at East Runton Coastwatch Station

Edingthorpe Church

View from Edingthorpe Church as a raptor watching site

Glaven Valley/Letheringsett

The river at Glaven Valley

The ford at Letheringsett

Happisburgh

The cliffs at Happisburgh

Haveringland Great Wood

Woodland at Haveringland Great Wood

Heydon

The parkland around Heydon Hall

Holt

Town view at Holt (any likely spots showing urban birding)

Incleborough Hill

Incleborough Hill site or view from as a raptor watching site

Heathland at Incleborough Hill

Mannington Hall Park

The parkland at Mannington Hall Park

Northrepps

Farmland around Northrepps

North Walsham

Town view of North Walsham (showing gull territory)

Pigneys Wood

Pigneys Wood a representative view of the site

Woodland at Pigneys Wood

Pretty Corner Wood

Woodland at Pretty Corner

Sharrington

Farmland around Sharrington

Sheringham

Sheringham Cemetery view from as a raptor watching site

Town view of Sheringham (showing House Sparrow territory)

Southrepps Common

Any of the wet areas at Southrepps Common

Swanton Novers

Swanton Novers watchpoint site or view from as a raptor watching site

Woodland at Swanton Novers

Thwaite Common

Heathland at Thwaite Common

Tunstead

Farmland around Tunstead

West Runton

A view at West Runton representative of it as a vis-mig site

The shore/beach at West Runton

Weybourne Area

Woodland at Weybourne Heath

Views for any of our locations gratefully received but these are the ones where we have the fewest submissions:

Aldbrough | Antingham & Bradfield | Aylmerton | Aylsham (Woodgate Nursery) | Bacton | Bale | Barningham Hall Lake (*no public access*) | Beeston Regis | Beeston Regis Heath (Stone Hill) | Bessingham | Bodham | Booten Common | Brampton & Oxnead | Briningham | Brinton | Brison | Buck Bridge | Burgh-next-Aylsham | Buxton Heath | Buxton & Little Hautbois | Calthorpe | Cawston | Cawston Heath | Corpusty & Saxthorpe | Cromer Pier | Cromer (Stone Hill) | Beckham | East Runton & Thains Lane | Edgefield | Felmingham | Field Dalling & Saxlingham | Gimingham | Gresham | Gresham Sewage Works | Gunthorpe | Hanworth / Hanworth Common | Happisburgh (Doggetts Lane) | Hempstead | Hevingham | High Kelling | Holt Hall | Hunworth | Ingworth | Itteringham | Knapton | Little Barningham | Marsham Heah | Melton Constable | Metton | Muckleburgh Hill | North Barningham | Oulton | Overstrand | Paston | Plumstead | Ridlington & north Crostwight Heath | Roman Camp | Roughton | Sharrington | Sheringham Cemetery | Sidestrand | Silvergate & Abel Heath | Southrepps Common | Spa Common | Stody | Sustead | Sustead Common | Swafeld | Thorpe Market | Thurgarton | Trimmingham | Trunch | Tunstead | Upper Sheringham | West Beckham | Weybourne | Wickmere | Witton Bridge | Wyndham Park |

Sadly we have recently been made aware of the death of **Sally Quarterman**. Sally, who passed away peacefully on 27th October, was an NENBC member from 2015 to 2022 and our condolences go out to her family and friends. Her funeral is on 26th November, St Peter's Church, Sheringham at 1pm.



No new Members this month for the 1st time in ages!

441 individual
members across
287 households

77,995
bird records
logged

240 bird species
reported

Please keep adding all your sightings to our website at www.nenbc.co.uk. Let us know if you have forgotten your password and need it resetting or need assistance on how to upload your records. More information from our website records, Twitterings and social media presence in **Data, Records & Posts** from [page 27](#).

Club Achievement Awards

Star Badges

No new achievers this month but the Peer Review Panel are reviewing at a few soon so we are looking forward to a few more coming through!

Currently, **4** members have achieved **GOLD STAR** status, **21** members have been awarded **SILVER STAR** status and a fabulous **83** 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.

Eco-Badges

No new achievers his month but a couple in the pipeline for the near future!

We currently have **27** members who have achieved their **GREEN ECO-BADGES** [Coastal: 16 | Inland: 10] and 5 who have achieved **SUPER-GREEN** [Coastal: 5 | Inland:1].

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



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

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

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

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



By Carol Thornton

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

≈ 7,069 individual records covering 184 bird species were added in October

There were 7,069 records submitted for October which is 1,105 less than those submitted for the same period last year and 1,381 more than the previous month of September. A total of 184 species was recorded which was 1 more than was recorded in the same period in 2023. Listed below is a round up from Andy Clarke and summaries of records of the less common species in our area last month.

“October is typically a month dominated by arriving winter migrants and – hopefully – a few rare vagrants. **Brent and Pink-footed Geese** continued to arrive and as did winter duck, with highlights being **Velvet Scoter** at Weybourne, two records of **Long-tailed Duck** and two of **Scaup** (including a flock of 9). There were two records of **Red-necked Grebe** and five of **Great Northern Diver**. The last of the summer terns were seen, with sightings of **Sandwich, Common and Arctic Tern**. Other seabird highlights were **Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua** and **Leach’s Petrel**. Often October is the month when owls arrive for the winter, and there have been a few **Short-eared Owl** seen coming in off the sea, but only a single record of **Long-eared Owl** (Trimingham). A few **Marsh Harrier** have been on the move; also one record of **Hen Harrier**, a scattering of **Merlin** arrivals and an **Osprey** seen coming in off the sea. Although not a vintage October for rarities, there have been a few nice birds to see. There was a very confiding **Hoopoe** in North Walsham, and a short-staying bird in Sheringham. **Bearded Tit** have been moving around the club area, with sightings from Weybourne, Southrepps, Beeston and Felbrigg. This year has seen a large arrival of **Yellow-browed Warbler**, with up to 6 on Beeston Common and sightings from across the club area. An elusive **Barred Warbler** has been on Beeston Bump, and an even more elusive **Dusky Warbler** was present for an afternoon at Trimingham. A **Black Redstart** was at Beeston Bump, and a highlight was the club’s first **Siberian Stonechat** at Cromer (though a different bird at Weybourne did very occasionally wander into the club area). There were up to 2 **Richard’s Pipit** at Happisburgh, and a single bird briefly at Beeston Regis. One lucky observer found a **Tawny Pipit** at Weybourne Camp that did not linger. Lastly a very confiding **Hawfinch** feeding on rowan berries on Beeston Common delighted many observers who were able to catch up with this often highly elusive species.” *Andy Clarke*

Brent Goose Sightings all along the coast throughout the month, including some good speed checks between our watching points. There were triple-figure sightings on 5 days in the first half of the month, with the highest count 615 past Sheringham during a seawatch on 2nd.

Barnacle Goose Six west past Weybourne Camp during a seawatch on 10th and two singles also west later on the same day from Cromer Pier. A further record of 9 west Weybourne Camp on 27th.

Whooper Swan A single bird east south of Weybourne village on 12th.

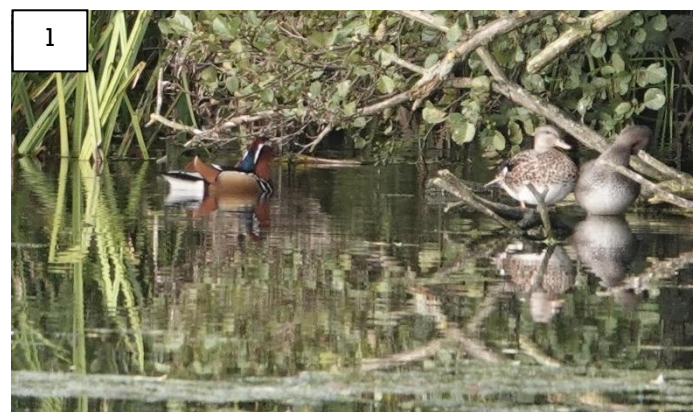
Mandarin Duck A single on Felbrigg Park lake on 10th and a fly-by male there the following day. *Photo 1 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Scaup A flock of 9 east Sheringham on 2nd and a single female east there the following day.

Velvet Scoter A single adult drake east with Eider Weybourne Camp on 5th, 2 male and 2 female east Weybourne on 27th and a single east there on 28th.

Long-tailed Duck Two west at Weybourne on 16th and a female east there on 29th.

Goosander Four female-type east from Weybourne Camp and Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 19th and a single ‘redhead’ west close inshore Sheringham on 28th. *Photo 2 courtesy of Trevor Williams*



Red-breasted Merganser Records from Weybourne Camp to Mundesley of 1-3 birds predominantly in the first half of the month with a high count of 4 west during an hour-long seawatch at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 11th.

Grey Partridge All 5 records from the Weybourne area with a high count of 5 on 18th.

Red-necked Grebe One west past Cromer Pier on 10th and another single east Weybourne on 16th.

Grey Plover One record of a single bird at West Runton on 12th.

Bar-tailed Godwit Records from two dates in October. A single west at Cromer on 1st with 7 west Sheringham on the same date. On 11th, a single at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 11th plus 5 west Sheringham.

Knot Ten west Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs 1st plus up to 22 west Sheringham on the same day. A single west Cromer Pier and Sheringham on 13th.

Purple Sandpiper Just a single record of one bird on groynes at Sheringham on 11th.

Woodcock One at Felbrigg Park on 19th, 3 at Weybourne on 25th and 1 there on 28th.

Jack Snipe One accidentally flushed at Felbrigg Park on 10th plus one with Snipe there on 20th and a third party report of a single at Trimmingham on 11th.

Kittiwake Records of 1-3 birds from Sheringham (1st, 2nd, 6th), Weybourne (1st, 3rd), Mundesley (2nd), Beeston Regis (2nd) and Happisburgh (8th) plus up to 25 east at Sheringham on 10th. No records from later in the month.

Sabine's Gull All records were from Sheringham. A single juvenile east with Little Gull and an Arctic Tern plus an adult also east. On the 10th a single east, one report specifying a juvenile, and on 11th a single flew in close, west.

Little Gull Seawatchers were rewarded on the 1st with up to 17 east at Sheringham and 48 east from Cromer Pier during extended seawatches. On the 2nd, 5 south east from Mundesley and up to 18 east at Sheringham plus a flock of 5 there on 3rd and up to 2 at Weybourne on the same day. Two east and then on sea from Beeston Bump on 5th and 3 adults east Sheringham on 10th.

Mediterranean Gull Over 60 records throughout the month along the whole length of our coast from Happisburgh to Weybourne Camp plus inland records from Aylmerton, Felmingham and Kelling Heath. High count was 10 on the beach at Trimmingham in a mixed gull flock on 18th. *Photo 3 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Caspian Gull Just 3 records this month – a 1st year gull at Cromer Pier on 20th, plus 2 records of a colour-ringed adult also at Cromer.

Sandwich Tern nearly all of the 20+ records were in the first half of the month from Cromer through to Weybourne are, with the high count being 17 there on 3rd.

Arctic Tern One east at Sheringham on 1st, a juvenile on 10th and 3 there diving and hovering whilst heading east on 11th. The only other report was of a single west off Cromer Pier on 13th.

Black Tern Two birds west at Sheringham on 1st.

Great Skua Most of the records were of singles, with 3 east off Sheringham on 1st (2 together), up to 3 east again there on 10th and 3 east at Cromer Pier on 10th.

Pomarine Skua A least one single off Sheringham on 10th and one west at Weybourne on 30th.

Arctic Skua Seventeen records between the 1st and 10th with high counts of 12 east off Sheringham on 10th and 15th east off Cromer Pier on the same day.

Long-tailed Skua One east off Sheringham on 1st, a juvenile east there on 10th with a juvenile off Beeston Regis and an immature east at Cromer Pier on the same day.

Little Auk Just one record of 2 birds at East Runton on 24th.

Black Guillemot A single close in west off Sheringham on 1st.

Puffin the 10th saw up to 4 east at Sheringham and 2 off Beeston Regis with two records of a single west off Weybourne on 20th.



Red-throated Diver Nearly 80 records throughout the month with 20 records in double figures during seawatches with the high count 104 east off Sheringham over 2½ hours on 9th. *Photo 4 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Black-throated Diver A single east close in on 10th at Sheringham.

Great Northern Diver One east off Weybourne on 3rd, and again on 8th, 17th (west) and 19th (west) plus 2 east together at Weybourne Camp on 27th.

Leach's Petrel A single close in at Sheringham on 10th.

Sooty Shearwater A single east at Sheringham on 10th and a report a Beeston Regis too.

Manx Shearwater Two off Sheringham on 2nd, reports of 2 off Beeston Regis and Mundesley and up to 3 at Sheringham on 10th plus a single off Cromer Pier. Two heading east from Sheringham on 11th.

Shag Two drifting east on the tide off Sheringham on 6th.

Great Egret The highlight of the club walk at Felbrigg Park on 16th was a fly-by heading north west. There were two west off Weybourne also on 16th, three there on 17th plus a single east on 18th, two on 19th, two on 26th and one on 27th.

Osprey A single in off the sea, seen from the top of the seawatching shelter at Sheringham lees on 7th.

Hen Harrier An adult female west off Weybourne Camp on 26th.

Long-eared Owl A single perched in clifftop scrub at Trimingham on 25th. *Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Short-eared Owl Reports of singles in off the sea at Sheringham on 2nd and Weybourne on 3rd and 18th. A single from Beeston Bump on 16th and 31st plus an individual pursued by Magpie over the Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course on 18th.

Hoopoe Twenty members were lucky enough to see a Hoopoe in October. Most records were of the North Walsham bird which very obligingly stopped in the front garden of a bungalow from 5th to 9th. Other reports were from Sheringham on 5th and 8th and a third party report from Gresham on 12th – and yes, I managed to see exactly no Hoopoes! *Photos courtesy of Jaimie Shailes 6, Francis Farrow 7, Martin Browne 8, Trevor Williams 9*



Kingfisher Singles from Selbrigg Pond, Beeston Regis, Roughton, Beeston Common, Blickling Park, Paston, Felbrigg Park & Lake, Mannington Hall Park, Wolterton Park, Holt and Bodham. Two birds were seen fighting at Mannington Hall Park on 29th. *Photo 10 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Merlin Singles reported from Weybourne / Weybourne Camp on 19th, 22nd and 27th with 2 in off the sea there $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour apart on 20th.

Hobby A single appearing to come in off the sea at Sheringham on 2nd but it was unclear to the observer whether it was migrating or hunting over the sea.

Peregrine Records of up to 2 of the 3 Cromer birds on 1st, 18th, 26th and 30th in Cromer. In addition, two birds over Bale on 9th, a single west at Weybourne Camp on 10th, a female (sub-adult plumage) with an unsuccessful attack on a Curlew on Weybourne Cliffs on 18th, one east at Weybourne on 22nd, and one west offshore being harassed by a gull at Weybourne on 31st.

Red-backed Shrike A single first winter bird around the Blacksmiths Lane bowling green, Happisburgh on 5th and 6th.

Raven Singles recorded calling during a Felbeck Trust work party at West Beckham Old Allotments on 3rd, calling over Weybourne on 12th and over Thornage on 29th.

Marsh Tit Just 6 records from 12th at Selbrigg Pond to 25th at Beeston Common taking in Mannington Hall Park (2+ there on 18th) and Brinton. *Photo courtesy 11 of Doug Cullern*

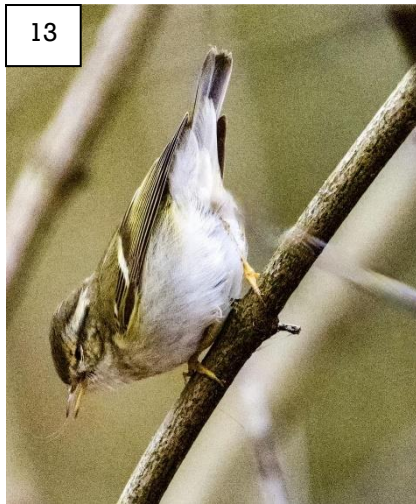
Penduline Tit A Third Party Report of 2 birds briefly in hedge north of railway line near Dead Man's Wood on Sheringham Cliffs, then flew south.

Bearded Tit The majority of records came from the Hope reedbed at Weybourne between 6th and 26th, with a maximum count of 6 there on 14th. Other records were one at Southrepps Common on 14th and 22nd, one Sheringham Cliffs 17th, four at Beeston Common on 23rd plus one at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 26th and two there on 29th. *Photo 12 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

Woodlark A singing bird at Kelling Heath on 9th and one east over Weybourne Camp on the same date. The only other record was a single east over Beeston Common on 18th.

Yellow-browed Warbler A fantastic 70 records from 2nd to 26th of mostly 1-2 birds from Beeston Bump, Beeston Common (42 records, max 6 on 14th), Beeston Regis, Happisburgh, Letheringsett & Ford, Sheringham, Sheringham Park, Southrepps Common, West Beckham, Weybourne, Weybourne Camp (12 records, max 4 on 6th), Weybourne Cliffs. One bird was ringed at West Beckham Old Allotments by the Felbeck Trust Ringing Group. *Photos courtesy of Richard Cross 13, John Swallow 14 and Ian Prentice 15*





13



14



15

Dusky Warbler A single at Trimingham on 25th.

Willow Warbler A single at Beeston Common with the Yellow-browed warbler on 11th. *Photo 16 courtesy of mark Clements*

Barred Warbler An individual at Happisburgh on 4th and 5th along Blacksmiths Lane. All other records were from Beeston Bump / Beeston Regis of a single between 29th and 31st, reported as a first year bird or immature.

Lesser Whitethroat A single at Weybourne Camp on 3rd.

Dartford Warbler Records from Kelling Heath on 9 days of 1-3 birds with a maximum count record of 10 birds in two groups on 3rd. On the 11th there were records of a single bird with Stonechats from Beeston Regis / Beeston Bump. *Photo 17 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Firecrest Single birds from West Beckham, Southrepps Common, High Kelling, East Runton & Thains Lane (2), Beeston Common, Aylmerton and Weybourne Camp.

Ring Ouzel Singles on 17th at Sheringham Cemetery, 18th at Beeston Common and 26th at West Runton. *Photo 18 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Black Redstart Reports of a single on rooftops in Beeston Regis 24th, 26th and 27th. *Photo courtesy 19 of Claire Brayne*

Redstart A single on cliff op at Beeston Regis Caravan Park on 15th. *Photo 20 courtesy of Claire Brayne*

Whinchat Thirteen records from Cromer between 4th and 6th of singles, with 2 birds reported on 4th. Four records from Weybourne Cliffs between 5th and 8th, half of 2 birds. *Photo 21 courtesy of Stu Buck*

Siberian Stonechat All records of a single were from Cromer between 4th and 9th, variously reported as a first winter, immature of female type, Discussion amongst observers was that it was a different bird to the one at Weybourne Camp . Kelling Water Meadows previously. *Photo 22 courtesy of Martin Browne*

Wheatear Singles at Weybourne / Weybourne Camp on 5th, 10th, 11th and 254th with a further report from the cliff top path at Happisburgh on 11th.



16



17



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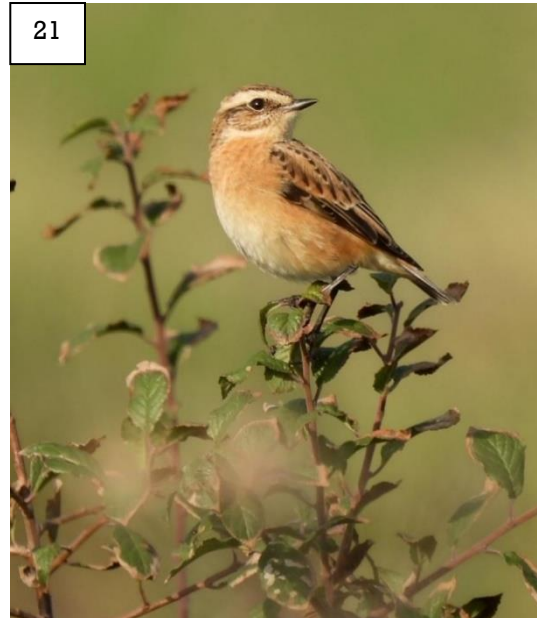


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20



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22



23



Tree Sparrow A single was reported amongst House Sparrows at West Runton on feeders by the café on 12th, 16th and 26th.

Yellow Wagtail Two reported west along beach at Beeston Bump and at Weybourne Camp on 5th.

Richard's Pipit A single in cliff top fields at Happisburgh on 6th and 7th, with two birds there on 8th and 9th, one more vocal than the other. A single at Beeston Bump on 16th and Weybourne Camp on 19th. *Photo 23 courtesy of John Hayward*

Tawny Pipit On 5th, a single on Weybourne Camp, briefly with Meadow Pipits, then flew over plateau.

Rock Pipit Reports of predominantly 1-2 birds from Sheringham, Weybourne Camp (7 west on 3rd), Weybourne (up to 8 west on 11th), Cromer Pier and West Runton.

Hawfinch Two birds were reported at Beeston Common on 22nd and thereafter a single through to the 27th. A single was heard only at East Runton & Thains Lane on 24th. *Photo 24 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Lesser Redpoll Records from Weybourne Camp, West Beckham, Beeston Common and Buxton Heath. Max count was 8 at Beeston Common on 30th.

Common Crossbill A single flew over Sheringham calling on 11th.

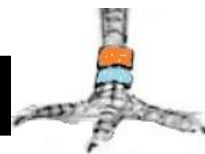
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Lapland Bunting Singles at Happisburgh on 7th, Sheringham on 11th, Weybourne on 18th and West Runton on 26th.

Snow Bunting Singles were seen on 27th, Weybourne and West Runton. Most reports had the individual moving west.

NENBC Ringed Bird Records in October



Just a reminder to folk logging ringed birds on our website. Although we send our data off en masse to the county recorder through BirdTrack uploads, we don't directly contact ringing coordinators of individual projects – that needs to be down to you if you have a sighting. Project coordinators love to get data on their birds – after all, that is the reason for ringing them - so here is a reminder on how to do it from Chris Lamsdell:

Please report your colour ring birds to the relevant project co-ordinator which can be found through the EU Colour Ring website <https://cr-birding.org/>. Locally ringed Turnstones (red flag three letters starting JAA), Black-headed Gulls (red rings starting 2C00) and Marsh Tit (white rings 00-99) can be reported through <https://iceni.shinyapps.io/sightings/>. Metal only rings can be reported to the BTO <https://app.bto.org/euring/lang/pages/rings.jsp>

Turnstone

- “East beach slipway area, metal ringed bird, right tarsus” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 14th
- “East beach slipway area, 1 metal ringed bird (right tarsus).” | Peer Geary | Sheringham | 24th
- “On Tank, including ringed JAA, spotted by JS. Independent counts with MS.” | Richard Farrow | Sheringham | 24th

Caspian Gull [Photo: Trevor Williams]

- “Colour-ringed adult in the roost prior to dawn dispersal - possibly P:6US” | Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 25th
- “Adult colour-ringed bird still present on the beach in front of No1, then flew west” | Trevor Williams | Cromer Pier | 25th



What to Look and Listen For in November



November is the onset of winter birding with a good number of sea duck starting to be seen as well as the possibility of divers and auks. Geese numbers should be on the up as well. There is still the outside chance of a scarce or rare bird even in November.

From our 2023 Annual Report: “November proved to be another really interesting month. A goose flock at Weybourne, upon close scrutiny, gave us both Taiga Bean Goose and Tundra Bean Goose. A Cory's Shearwater was again reported at Sheringham. Sea ducks were in evidence and Red-necked Grebe, Slavonian Grebe and Black-necked Grebe were all reported. Not astonishingly rare, but worthy of merit, was a male Red-crested Pochard west past Sheringham. This was the first in our area since the pair at Felbrigg in January 2020. The West Runton Glossy Ibis remained into the month. Black Guillemot was reported off Weybourne Camp and a swift species, possibly Pallid Swift, was reported from Sheringham Cemetery. Yellow-browed Warbler and Hume's Leaf Warbler were both reported from Weybourne Camp with the latter staying for six days. Finally, a Richard's Pipit was west over Weybourne Camp.” *Russ Malin*

Historical November Records by Russ Malin

Records taken from “Rare and Scarce Birds in North-east Norfolk”
by kind permission of the author Moss Taylor

In 1951 a Ferruginous Duck was found by R.P. Bagnall-Oakley at Brinton Hall Lake on the 11th of November and way back in 1820 the first Norfolk record of Little Bustard involved a bird killed at Mundesley sometime during the month of November. A Scops Owl was picked up alive, but slightly injured, at the base of Cromer lighthouse on November 27th 1861 and in 2005 the first Norfolk record of Little Swift concerned a bird that was hawking along the cliff-face between Cromer and Overstrand on November 12th. It roosted on the cliffs overnight before departing south the following morning. A Melodious Warbler was found at Happisburgh on November 8th 2011 where it remained until the 10th. We finish the round up of historic November news with two classic late autumn vagrants. In 1994 a first-winter male Desert Wheatear was found on cliff-top fields near to Weybourne Coastguard Cottages on November 5th. The following morning it was relocated at Salhouse and Cley. Finally, in 1987 an Olive-backed Pipit was found at Sheringham on November 7th.

Conservation Corner – can you help??

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

If you don't fancy writing an occasional article, please let us know any suggestions for what you'd like to see covered in this spot and we'll get researching!

WhatsApp Groups.....



The club runs two WhatsApp groups:

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

NENBC Alerts is administered by Tony Forster and is solely for club members to share news of interesting birds within the club area – no gossip allowed!

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

Contributions to the Newsletter

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

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Speaker Suggestions

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

Thank you!

Restocking our 2nd hand bookstall

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

nenbc@aol.co.uk

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












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

Telephone 01263 710203
salesbirdventures@aol.com

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



Summary of our annual offer directly below with info after that of upcoming events. Our website is the place to go for the most up to date and detailed info.

-  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

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

INFO FOR ALL WALKS:

Please wear clothing suitable to conditions - footpaths can be muddy at any time of the year - and continue to respect social distancing on the walk if appropriate.

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

DOGS: We regret no dogs.

EQUIPMENT: Binoculars are always recommended to gain full enjoyment from your birding and for some of our walks, a scope is definitely useful.

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 Status badges & if you walk or cycle from home, they also count towards your Eco-Badges.

BOOKING: For the Felbrigg Park Walks no booking is required so just turn up on the day if you fancy it, although it is always nice to know to expect you so feel free to let us know! For the other, generally weekend, walks that are led by Janice, booking is essential and numbers are limited to 15. Please book with Janice at least 2 days prior to the walk on janicedarch@gmail.com

Wednesday 20th November | 9.00am-11.00am |
Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk
 with Trevor Williams



No advance booking needed

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

MEET: Main car park | **PARKING:** Although access to the grounds is free to all and parking is free in the main car park for National Trust [NT] members with their machine-validated membership card, a parking fee is payable via the machines for non-NT members (£5 per vehicle at time of writing). Sexton's Lodge car park at the western end of the estate however remains free to all users and you can walk up from there along the internal estate road to the start point. | Check out the [NT website](#). | **DISTANCE:** up to 2-mile circular walk | **ACCESSIBILITY:** The walk is usually 'off-road' along dirt footpaths and tracks, across fields, through woods and can include a few stairs by the lake. As such, this event isn't suitable for wheelchair users. | **FACILITIES:** Toilets and café facilities available at Felbrigg Hall. | **BADGES:** Walk within the club area so records count for Star Badges plus Green Eco-badges if non-motorised transport conditions are met.

Sunday 17th November | 9.00am-1.00pm |
Winterton Dunes and Somerton Estate Walk
 with Janice Darch



Booking required via Janice by 5pm on the Thursday before janicedarch@gmail.com (15 places)

This walk will take us through the Somerton Estate and return through Winterton North Dunes. The are good for Brambling, finch and tit flocks, Green and Great Spotted 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 late autumn migrants and species such as Bluethroat, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike and Barred Warbler are possibilities! Short-eared Owls can sometimes give stunning views in the dunes. 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. If there are any interesting birds on the South Dunes we will extend the walk to include them if people wish.

MEET: In car park | **PARKING:** Somerton Road Playing Fields free car park, Winterton-on-Sea NR29 4AW | **DISTANCE:** 5 miles | **ACCESSIBILITY:** Easy tracks but sandy surfaces so probably isn't suitable for wheelchair users. | **FACILITIES:** Loos available in the village only | **BADGES:** Outside the club area so unfortunately records can't count for Star Badges or Green Eco-badges this time.

Monthly Evening Club Talk

Thursday 28th November | 7.30pm-9.30pm |

Gresham Village Hall and via Zoom

zoom



“Birding Ghana - discovering the Gold Coast”

A talk with Nik Borrow

A BIT ABOUT THE SPEAKER AND THEIR TALK: This compact West African country is home to about 770 species of birds including a good selection of exciting 'Upper Guinea' endemics. Nik will be taking us on a journey through the various habitats that include beautiful beaches and coastal lagoons home to wintering waders from Northern Europe and the UK; remnant, ancient tropical rainforests where we can watch birds high in the treetops from a canopy walkway and meet the bizarre Yellow-headed Picathartes under giant boulders hidden in the dark forests whilst in the north the hot Guinea savannah woodlands predominate populated by colourful barbets, bee-eaters and rollers amongst the many other exciting species that make this country a birdwatchers paradise. Nik Borrow is the artist and co-author of the Helm Field Guides - "Birds of Ghana" and "Birds of Western Africa".

AT THE HALL: Those of you attending in-person at the hall 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.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS: It is always nice to know if you are coming to the hall 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 are intending to join via Zoom though, you definitely need to let us know in advance so we can get the link out to you in good time. You can get in touch via nenbc@aol.co.uk.

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.

DIRECTIONS: Gresham Village Hall, East Beckham Road off Church Lane, 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.

PARKING: Access to the hall car park is actually 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.



By Dave Billham

After a spell of colder weather, the morning of the October club walk turned out to be much warmer, so much so that a few hardy sorts had donned shorts, even though the sky was overcast and the wind blowing. Three newbies were due to join us, namely Wendy, Caz and Lynne, one of whom was on a 'try before you buy' – hopefully the morning's experience proved to be a 'club-joiner'! However, one had been delayed, which led to an interesting sight later in the walk! It was great to see one of our original members Bob out on the walk – he moved out of the area but now residing back here and has rejoined us again. A loan of his spare pair of binoculars to Wendy for the duration of the walk was much appreciated - thanks!

Migrants were the hope for the morning, though to date these had been few and far between, with the winter thrushes noticeably absent. However there was some promise being shown for the morning, as during the time we were assembling in the car park, small flocks of **Redwing** were passing overhead. These were occasionally joined by **Starling**, also coming in from the coast; surprisingly, and especially so for the latter, this was the first time both species had been recorded on a monthly walk since the previous January. Other species noted whilst the sixteen participants were gathering together in the car park were **Common Gull**, **Rook**, **Jackdaw**, **Woodpigeon** and a lone **Sparrowhawk**. Following Trevor's brief we set off into the woods behind the house, heading in the direction of the Old Deer Park, with Carol bringing up the rear and ensuring no-one got left behind.

The first 'species' noted were the **Feral Pigeon** sharing the dovecote roof with the resident birds, these were followed by calling **Blue Tit** and **Wren**, both heard in the woods. Coming onto an open, grassy part of the deer park we

noted further **Redwing** passing over, which were accompanied by a single overflying **Great Tit**. Returning into the trees we came across a tit flock, which, apart from further **Blue** and **Great Tits**, also held a number of **Long-tailed Tit**. Around this area Val also heard **Goldcrest** calls. From a clearing in the trees we noted a pair of **Greylag Goose** overhead. At this point those of us at the front of the group had the surreal experience of seeing the back of the group appearing in front of us and walking in our direction! It turned out that Carol and Wendy had returned to the car park to collect our late arrival, and were taking a short-cut back. No sooner had they re-joined us than Vision spotted a large bird flying just above the trees; it turned out to be a **Great Egret**, in view for only a few seconds meaning that unfortunately most of us missed it. However, this was the first recording of this species on a Wednesday walk. A **Black-headed Gull** over was also noted in the log.

Continuing on in the woods we heard a **Robin** singing, and saw **Magpie** and **Jay**. Arriving on the edge of the park, at the 'back entrance from Aylmerton where that Water Rail used to hide in the pipe' as Carol called it, we paused to look across the adjoining fields where a lone **Red Kite** and two **Buzzard** were visible over a distant church spire. A **Carrion Crow** and a **Nuthatch** were the other species seen here. Returning back into the park we headed to the lake where we found two adult and four juvenile **Mute Swan**, a number of **Mallard**, two **Moorhen**, a pair of **Wigeon** in eclipse plumage (the first sighting of this species on a club walk this year) and two sleeping **Gadwall**. A fishing **Cormorant** was also pointed out on its brief above-water appearances. Looking across the adjoining water meadow a **Kestrel** could be seen sitting in a tree, along with a pair of flying **Stock Dove**.



Taking the path paralleling the water meadows we found a single **Meadow Pipit**, another species last noted in January.



Whilst we were watching two Roe Deer in the meadows a **Chaffinch** flew above us, and on a small pool we found more mallard and a small number of **Teal**, these small ducks being the final species seen before we returned to the house.



Totting up the numbers gave a total of **34** species for the two hours. Not a great amount, especially for October, with a number of expected species conspicuous by their absence (where are all the Fieldfare?) but, as always, a thoroughly enjoyable walk, and a chance to catch-up with, or meet for the first time, fellow club members. A coffee in the cafe, and cake for some, rounded off a smashing experience; see you there in November?



Last Month's Club Weekend Walk

Blakeney to Cley | 12th October

By Janice Darch

Our first walk of the 2024-5 season was a repeat of one I led a few years ago. Starting at Blakeney Village Hall car park we followed the coast path along to Cley Village and then returned to Blakeney through the grounds of Wiveton Hall and Friary Hills to the cars. We started at noon to catch the rising tide in Blakeney Harbour and ended just after 4pm having been delayed by tea and cakes in the Wiveton Hall café!!

In all we saw 35 species of birds during our walk. There included waders- Redshank, Black-tailed Godwits, Dunlin, Curlews (one leg flagged which has now been reported) and a single Grey Plover. Among the duck were Mallard, Wigeon, Teal and Shoveler. A few Shelduck were visible and several Oystercatchers. Gulls included Black-headed and Herring plus Great and Lesser Black-backed. We saw Mute Swan, Grey Heron and Little Egrets. A lovely male Stonechat posed. Overhead, male and female Marsh Harriers put on a show along with two Red Kites and a Buzzard. At Friary Hills we added a Blackbird while a few Dunnocks dashed from undergrowth then one bush to another bush. Rooks and Jackdaws were overhead too.

Library photo of Redshank from Francis Farrow



Last Month's Club Evening Talk

"A Year at Cley and Salthouse Marshes: its changing landscape, seasons & wildlife"

With David North

zoom

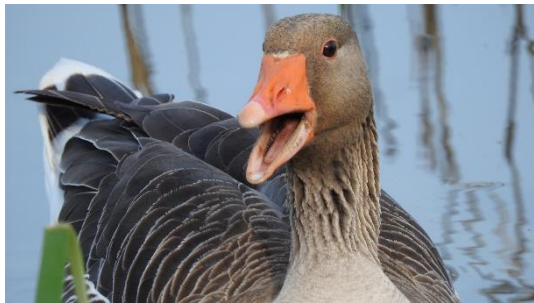


By Alan Stevens

For our October meeting we welcomed back **David North**. Booked to be with us in November, David very kindly stepped in on the day after our planned speaker Ros Green was unable to visit us from Wales as unfortunately she was unwell. She has promised to arrange a future date to talk to us "Shelduck migration in relation to offshore wind farms" so we will get her rescheduled as soon as we can.

After a career in nature conservation including work with Wildlife Trusts, the RSPB and the National Trust, David is now retired and loves spending time outdoors wildlife watching. He also enjoys writing about nature and landscape and has a special love for the North Norfolk coast. A volunteer reserve guide at NWT Cley and Salthouse Marshes he sometimes helps answer wildlife questions for NWT's 'Wildline'. As many of you will know, he enjoys sharing his love of nature with others and leading guided walks and volunteering as a reserve guide gives him the opportunity to show the visitors the wildlife there. He says he finds it especially rewarding to share wildlife spectacles and enable visitors to see nature in new ways. Visiting the reserve every week makes him very aware of the changing wildlife and landscape ... "A privilege to see birds arriving in the spring – wheatears, warblers, swallows and terns. To see the first Pink-feet, Wigeon and Brent Geese arrive in the autumn. There are wildlife bonuses too, such as seeing kingfishers or occasionally otters. But really every visit is special, even if it's just sharing a close view of some of the commoner species on the reserve. Who could not be inspired by the plumage of a drake Teal in sunlight or watching a flock of waders twist and turn over the scrape pools?"

Those present and have heard David talk before knew that his talk would be different and engaging as he wove his observations with his delightful descriptions of the natural world around us. The talk was led off with David saying how lucky we are to live in a temperate area of the world and the benefits that brings with the seasons we enjoy and followed that with some scene setting images of the coastal habitats at Cley, Salthouse and some other spots for illustrative purposes. They served to remind us of the diversity of landscape we have on our doorstep, the swirls of sand and mud created by the tides, shingle, Marram grass, grazing pastures, soft cliffs and the flora found there. Straight lines noted human activity where we have 'adjusted' nature to suit our own needs. As the talk was about



seasonal changes David adopted a 'month by month' approach prefacing each by a short excerpt from his soon-to-be-published latest book which set the scene for his observations and comments starting with and précised as follows:

April – Blackthorn, gorse and Alexander flower and Scurvy Grass, a source of vitamin C in earlier days. Greylag had a special mention with their mating patterns centred on the origin of the female. Pussy Willow attracting queen bees. Birds are at their best in breeding plumage shown in sharp images of Redshank, Shoveler, Godwits, Goldfinch, Avocets and Mute Swans.

May – There is activity everywhere and Wheatear arrive, among everyone's favourite spring migrants. Avocet chicks are present at 'Pats Pool', perhaps 60 whereas 20 years ago there were only two. Sea and Red Campion flower. We were reminded of the origins of 'Polish' Mute Swans and the African origins of Egyptian Geese and therefore their early start to breeding. Birds chosen to illustrate the month were Coot, Gadwall whose plumage David thought is often under-rated and, like so much in nature is worth a closer look. A Grey Heron swallowing a water vole whole caught on one of those off chances that happen.

June – Heralded in by Yellow-horned Poppy our speaker recalled 'Salhouse Broad' home to a thousand Sandwich Terns during the summer in the 1930s and 40s and the eel population, before reminding us of the history behind 'Arnold's Marsh' and the story of a wildfowler turned conservationist. Our Common and Grey Seals were introduced and Bearded Tits and Sedge Warbler picked as birds for June. Changes in, and the resilience of, the Sedum roof on Cley Visitor Centre was noted as was the rising of a full moon at sunset during this month reminding us of the lunar cycle and its influence on our nature.

July – Flowering Chicory and Wild Carrot are the backdrop to photographs and notes on Chinese Water Deer, Otters, Dragon and Damsel flies followed by further history of Avocets before turning to Marsh Harriers, egrets and an image reminding us just how smart a Linnet can be.

August – With bird song almost ceased things are quieter with even Cetti's Warblers being heard less. Duck, swans and gulls are moulting and, although we are still in summer, autumn migration is beginning with sandpipers chosen for example. Water Rail, Cormorants and Little Grebe were birds in the spotlight and Sea Lavender pictured flowering underwater after high tides.

September – 'Arnold's Marsh' is in, David thought, its seasonal colours of red wines and is a good time for Bearded Tits, passing divers and Gannet, arriving Widgeon and flowering Sea Aster.

October – For this month David concentrated in some part on Wigeon and how important Cley is to the species and took a look at seawatching, something he said he doesn't really have patience for, but he does admire those dedicated to it. He talked of flocks of birds, Starlings and their murmurations, the flight of divers and Marsh Harriers now over wintering.

November – The first of the winter months with an emphasis on Brent Geese on the grazing marshes.

December – A good month for Kingfishers, Wigeon, Snow Buntings camouflaged against the shingle, Pink-foot, Shelduck and Lapwing. Look



closely we were advised, and you may find something hidden like a Red-breasted Goose. David has only seen 2 and both were at Cley. David told how he enjoys watching the movement of sea foam over the beach during rough seas and explained how the marshes are drained and flushed after saltwater incursions.

January – A month for reed cutting, we learnt about the cycle of harvesting to create a variety of habitat and that it is a practice that still divides opinion. The talk then moved briefly to the duck pond beside the road at Salthouse known in earlier times as ‘Spring Holes’, a popular spot to feed the birds and to observe them at close quarters, especially gulls which sometimes only get a passing glance or are looked at only for indemnification. Back on the marsh Teal and Snipe were referenced.

February – Majoring on ducks for this month, Teal, Shoveler, Mallard, Pintail and then, moving on again David told us that all Snow Buntings vary in plumage from one to another, something to be honest that had slipped by me. February sees the emergence of the first frogs and toads as they make their way across the busy coast road in preparation for spawning. Turning from amphibians, David showed some images of a hare he had a close encounter with and picked out in detail some characteristics of these valued mammals.

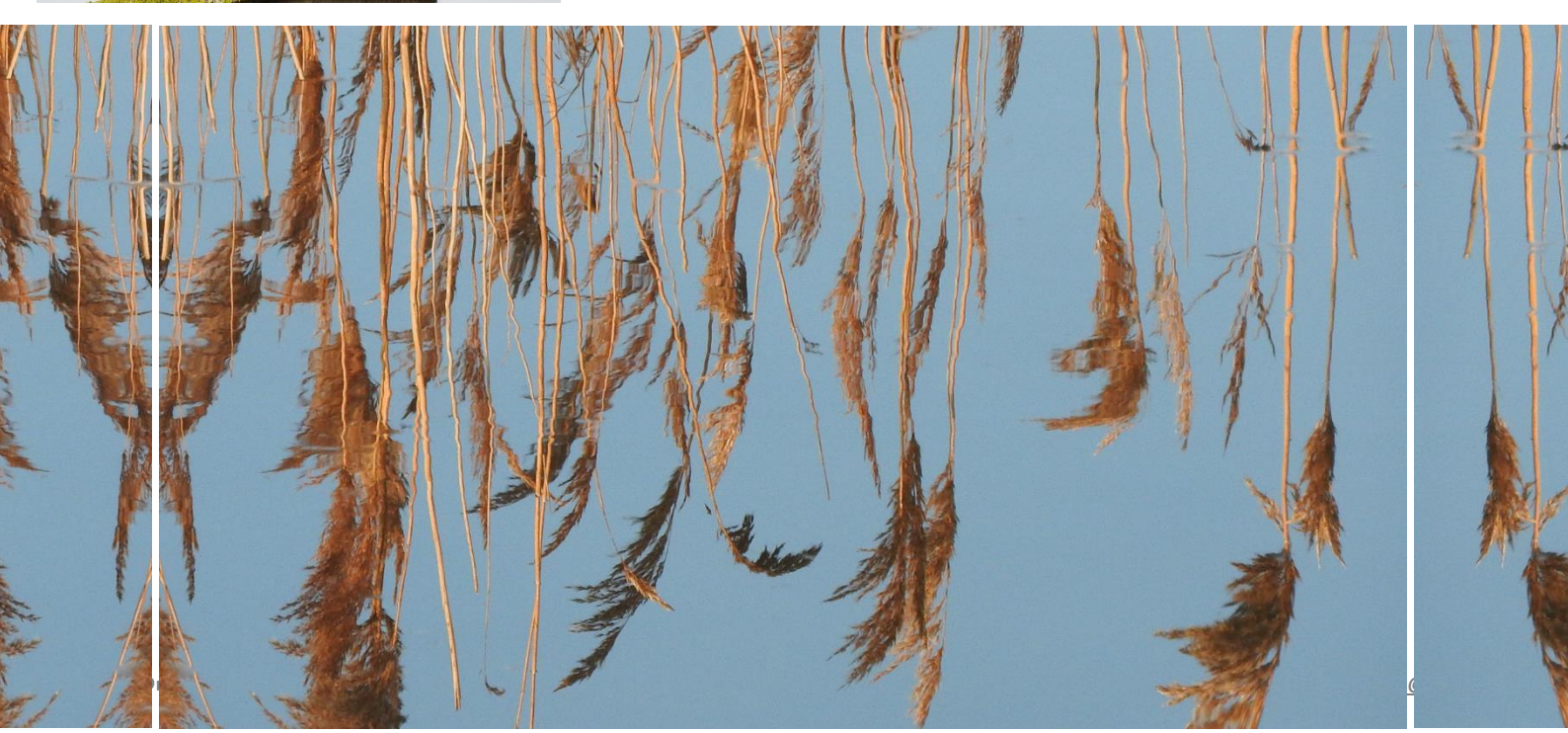
March – Rounding off his sojourn through the year, David bought us full cycle with super images of geese, Curlew, Greylag and Mallard and a Wren, Wood Pigeon and a Little Egret and finished with further pictures of fishing boats and reflections in the marshland water.

From David’s previous talks we knew that he likes to look at things in detail and then find the words to describe what he has seen. He imparts his experience and knowledge in a gentle and lyrical way to draw the audience in closer for an enjoyable evening before we go out the next day and, perhaps pause to take a closer look ourselves. David is currently working on a new book on which his talk was based, not out in time for Christmas alas, but I’m sure we will watch for it in a few months!

“David’s photos and evocative descriptions show why seeing a place in all seasons is so special.”

“I enjoyed David’s talk on Thursday, always inspiring.”

“Wow that was an enjoyable evening”





Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull that first appeared in May 2022 in its third calendar year, bearing a pink, plastic tie on its right leg. At the time it was extremely tame and would take bread from the hand: clearly it had been hand-reared. It has since returned each winter and appears as soon as I arrive to have its daily quota of bread!

By Moss Taylor

This is the 10th in a monthly series this year of the wildlife at Weybourne Camp during 2024 ...

As with many other birders, October is my favourite month. Not only are the wintering wildfowl and passerines arriving almost daily but there is always the chance of finding that special bird, which will turn it into a red-letter day. This year, October seemed to be rather disappointing but on reviewing the records from Weybourne Camp, it was actually pretty good.

Brent Geese peaked at 439 flying west offshore on 16th and small parties of Barnacle Geese were recorded on two dates. Maximum numbers of both Wigeon and Teal passed west offshore on 27th with day counts of 690 and 380 respectively, while 23 Eider also moved west and 2 pairs of Velvet Scoter flew east. However, the most interesting sea-duck sightings were of 2 Long-tailed Ducks west on 16th and a female-type east on 29th. The only grebe of note was a Red-necked west on 16th.

Mediterranean Gulls were seen daily from 4th to 8th with a daily maximum of 15 on 5th, including a flock of 8 flying inland. The last Sandwich Tern was noted on 11th and a late Common Tern on 30th. Only two skuas were reported all month: a Bonxie on 3rd and a Pomarine on 30th. Not a single Arctic Skua was seen, perhaps the lack of sightings was a direct result of avian flu. A single Puffin flew west on 20th. Single Great Northern Divers were recorded on four dates between 3rd and 19th and 2 flew east together on 27th. Up to 3 Great White Egrets flew over the Camp or offshore on six dates from 16th to 27th. The most interesting raptor was an adult female Hen Harrier that flew west over the Camp on 26th. The Little Owl was present in the Muckleburgh Collection compound throughout the month and single Short-eared Owls flew in-off on 3rd and 18th.

Adult female Hen Harrier



Moving on to passerines, up to 6 Bearded Tits were recorded on nine dates between 6th and 26th, either flying over the Camp or in the reeds on the scrape or at Weybourne Hope. Hirundines were noticeable by their low numbers with the last House Martin on 6th and Swallow on 11th. Single male Cetti's Warblers sang by the scrape and Weybourne Hope for most of the month, and an additional singing male was heard by the RAF compound on 20th. A presumed family party of 6 Long-tailed Tits arrived from the west on 24th and remained together around the mound until the month's end. After bemoaning the absence of any Yellow-browed Warblers, despite a major influx throughout the rest of the county, one hung around from the end of September and remained for most of the month, being joined by two more on 5th and on the following day a fourth was found in the oaks by the Muckleburgh Collection car park, two more different individuals were present between 7th and 26th. One of the other gems of the autumn, a Firecrest was present by the mound from 21st to 28th.

Redwing passage commenced on 3rd and the first Fieldfares were recorded on 30th. Stonechat passage peaked at 9 on 17th, and a most handsome adult male Greenland Wheatear was found on 19th. A late Yellow Wagtail flew west on 5th, the same day that Phil Borley watched a Tawny Pipit accompanied by Meadow Pipits drinking from a pool of casual water just inland from the coastal footpath. A Richard's Pipit flew west calling on 19th. Up to 7 Rock Pipits were recorded on an almost daily basis, the majority flying west. The first Brambling was heard on 3rd and Siskin on 11th. An unusual and heavy easterly passage of Reed Buntings was noted from 4th peaking at 21 on 24th, while on 27th a Snow Bunting was on the beach before flying west. As usual flocks of Starlings, sometimes in the hundreds, passed west on most days, often stopping to avidly feed on the fields or remaining blackberries before continuing their journey westwards.

Once again this report would not have been possible without the enormous input from Phil Borley to whom I am most grateful..



Starlings enjoying the few-remaining Blackberries

Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report



It's Out! The 2023 Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report is available now!



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Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2023

If this is not something you usually treat yourself to, then please do consider giving it a go this year. All our NENBC records which we submit to BirdTrack feed into this county report. Lots of members are listed as contributors and 5 have photos included.

Copies available for purchase at NWT Cley, via Wildsounds, other bookshops and direct from Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society, £16 including postage.



By David North

I did think about calling this article, 'birding circles' but, after a bit of thought, decided it might give the wrong impression. I'm fascinated by the patterns that are found in nature. They are everywhere if you look.

There are three very big patterns that drive the life of the birds we watch, and they all take the form of circles. Or do they? I'm talking about the sun, the earth and the moon. Three rings of power and one ring to Oh dear, that sounds a bit 'Lord of the Ring-ish'. The three big circles I'm talking about are day and night (**circadian**), the changing seasons (**circannual**) and the lunar month (**'circlunar'***).

** I have invented the word 'circlunar'. Surprisingly, there doesn't seem to be a single word that expresses changes in the natural world driven by the circling of our moon. Or do you know one?*

The 24 hours cycle of day and night has obvious, and very profound, impacts on bird behaviours. We all experience, and love listening to dawn choruses, watch evening flights of birds to winter roosts and are familiar with the way the activities of birds vary at different times of day. Circannual rhythms of bird behaviour include the familiar breeding and non-breeding periods which, as well as massive changes in behaviour they bring, often involve changes to appearances: from brighter breeding plumages in spring, through post-breeding moults, to drabber winter dress. Migrations are perhaps the most awe-inspiring of circannual patterns. Sometimes involving huge and wondrous flights north in spring and south in the autumn. These are predicated on hormone changes, most likely brought about by changing day lengths, and by birds' internal biological 'clocks' that track the annual circling of our planet round the sun.

'Circlunar', by which I mean events that track the lunar month, most obviously impact our coastal wading birds. Spring tides that follow each new and full moon drive waders off their intertidal feeding grounds to seek safe resting places. The great spectacles at Snettisham are just one example. But the circling of our moon has many more subtle impacts on bird behaviours. Pink-feet will leave their coastal roosts and fly inland to feed on a clear moonlit night. The moon may influence the timing of migrations. November's full moon is sometimes called 'a woodcock' moon and there seems some truth in the idea that more woodcock do arrive around the time of the full moon.

So, if like me, you enjoy observing patterns of behaviour in birds, and in the wider world around us, then being alert to these three great circles is not a bad starting point. But are these patterns circular? The circling moon and earth are really moving in space-time spirals because we are all, sun, earth and moon included, also traveling, at quite alarming speeds, across our universe, following pathways driven by forces well beyond my imagination. Most patterns that we think of as circular in nature are actually spirals. (including DNA / RNA which is the basis nearly every living thing) – but that is a thought for another day!

I will leave you with a puzzle.... The lunar month, from one full moon to the next, is roughly 29.5 days and yet the moon performs a full circle of the earth every 27 days. How can this be true? See the Solutions section on [page 29](#).

Cromer Peregrine Project ...



A lovely still from the church webcam recently (left) plus a link to a webcam vid clip posted on Twitter-X recently (right): [CPP Link](#)

Also, a few interesting stats from the CPP camp (thanks Chris S):



"The live webcam had 159,905 views in 2024. UK views made up 75% of views followed by the USA, Japan, India and Australia. We have had viewers from far and wide including Ukraine, Iraq, Singapore and New Zealand, London was the most popular viewing location followed by Cromer, Sheringham, Norwich then Peterborough. 56% of viewers were of retirement age with females making up 54%."



By Carol Thornton

Last month, the RSPB published their latest annual Birdcrime report and for the first time it looks at 15 years of data, giving a broader view of this continuing problem which is affecting some of our most magnificent and vulnerable species.

Below is an excerpt from the [RSPB Website](#) ...

Between 2009 and 2023, the RSPB has recorded 1,529 confirmed incidents, involving the illegal persecution of at least 1,344 birds of prey. These include vulnerable and recovering species such as Hen Harriers, White-tailed Eagles, Golden Eagles, Red Kites and Goshawks. The majority of these incidents are associated with land managed for gamebird shooting where

some individuals deliberately target birds of prey to try to maximise the number of gamebirds available to shoot for sport and profit. [Graphic 1 left]

Birds of prey are being illegally shot, poisoned and trapped across the UK. This latest report includes a number of high profile cases which reveal the lengths to which some individuals will go to commit these crimes ... but it's the tip of the iceberg. These confirmed incidents are only those which have been detected. As many of these crimes take place in remote and inaccessible areas, the actual figures are likely to be far higher. [Graphic 2: A 15-year review of the illegal persecution of birds of prey in the UK (2009–2023) the tip of the iceberg]

The RSPB has been fitting satellite tags to Hen Harriers since 2014, to better understand the movements and survival of these birds. This technology has highlighted the scale of illegal persecution, with many birds' tags suddenly ceasing transmission, without malfunction. Suspected persecution of Hen Harriers in the UK hit a record high in 2023, with 34 Hen Harriers suspiciously disappearing or confirmed to have been persecuted on or near land managed for grouse shooting. [Graphic 3: Heat map to show confirmed Hen Harrier persecution incidents and suspicious disappearances. This 2023 data has been compiled from records of Natural England and RSPB satellite tagged Hen Harriers and reports from bird of prey workers.]

In March 2024, the Scottish Parliament took significant steps to tackle the issue of bird of prey persecution in Scotland, with the passing of the Wildlife and Muirburn Bill. Under this new legislation, grouse shoots in Scotland must be licenced. If there is evidence that illegal persecutions of birds of prey occurred on that land, an estate could have their licence revoked.

The RSPB's Chief Executive, Beccy Speight says:

"For decades, the RSPB has investigated hundreds of cases of illegal bird of prey persecution in the UK. A significant proportion of these incidents happen on or near land associated with gamebird shooting. Many of these crimes are happening in some of our most remote and inaccessible areas of the UK. Because of this, we're barely scraping the surface when it comes to the actual scale of this problem. Legislation has been failing these protected species for too long. At a time of nature crisis, we urgently need meaningful and effective legislative change."

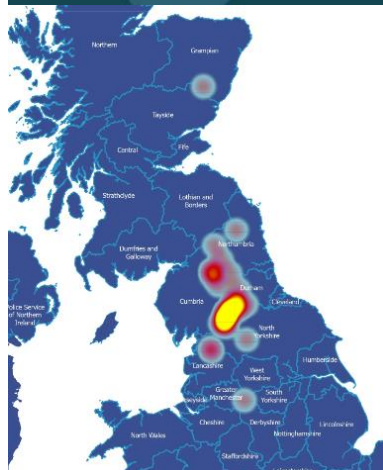
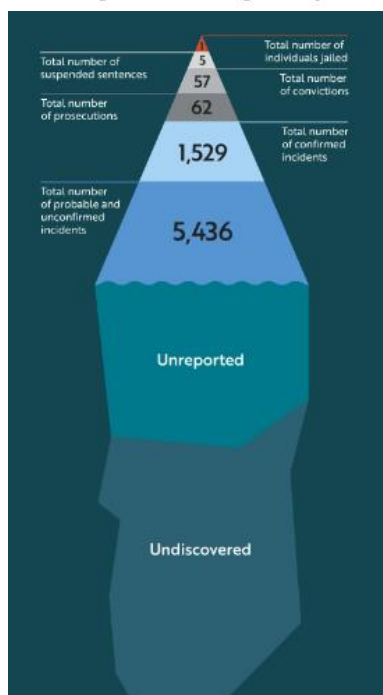
The RSPB is calling on Westminster and all devolved administrations to introduce the licensing of all forms of gamebird shooting across the UK.

You can read the full illustrated report here: [Birdcrime Report 2023](#) along with the more detailed [Appendices](#) and graphics which cover more detail on data, persecution victims, incidents, prosecutions and convictions

Also, for further info, have a look at the Raptor Persecution UK website: [2024 Persecution Incidents](#)



75%
of all individuals convicted of
bird of prey persecution-related offences
from 2009 to 2023 were connected to
the gamebird shooting industry





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!

Egyptian Goose "Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary's pond. Our resident female, her former mate, and a new female with white flashes on her wings" | Ellie farrow | West Runton | 21st

Wigeon "Nocturnal flight calls: 2230 (3 single calls) and 0550 (flock of indeterminate size)" | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 14th

Mallard "Otherwise empty pond" | Anne Sims | Baconsthorpe | 14th

Dunlin "Conservative estimate of 200+ on a day when birds were 'pouring through' and difficult to count. Some flocks of 30 birds at times (7 05 am to 12 05 pm)." | Dawn & Tim Rice | Cromer Pier | 1st

Sabine's Gull "adult east, picked up this striking bird as it was called. I didn't understand the caller's name for the direction but I now know "the tower" is the direction I was looking in :-)" | John Swallow | Sheringham | 1st

Black-headed Gull "Took advantage of a very low tide this afternoon and walked from Overstrand to Mundesley on the beach. A mixed flock of around 800 gulls were loafing on sea and on the beach, it was quite a sight as they were whirling around us as we walked. Numbers are approximate, we didn't spend long with them as the tide was on the turn! Note: only attempt this beach walk at low tide." | Stella Baylis | Trimingham | 18th

Mediterranean Gull "Adults hawking insects over the garden. Translucent white wings against a blue Mediterranean sky." | John Hurst | Mundesley | 18th

Mediterranean Gull "adult anting, along with Black-headed Gulls and Starlings despite the mist." Moss Taylor | Weybourne Camp | 25th

Herring Gull "Juvenile. Cruising the cafes around the church, probably hoping for some dropped food" | Andrew Gorton | Cromer | 15th

Sparrowhawk "burst through Starling flock eventually catching one over field above cafe, landing on concrete area of new drainage works, then immediately mobbed by three Carrion Crows" | Roger & Janet Fickling | West Runton | 27th

Tawny Owl "A good start to the day. A Tawny calling 'Kwik' from the oak trees, lots of stars and a lovely moon. and the space station crossing the sky all at the same time." | Stephanie Witham | North Walsham | 18th

Kingfisher "Well, that was an unexpected bonus, never seen one at Paston pond before!" | Stephanie Witham | Paston | 18th

House Martin "Surprised to see a small party of House Martins feeding low over a stubble field, before heading south. Later, 2 south over the Common, vis mig!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 8th

Long-tailed Tit "Really good views - although they were - as usual - in a bit of a hurry!" | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 18th

Yellow-browed Warbler "Seen from garden list! Amazing views as I walked out of my drive, there it was in a small ornamental cherry tree in my neighbours garden opposite! There are surely several along the valley here, in the 7 years I have lived here, we've never had so many locally." | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 12th

Blackbird "Dropped it from very high and proceeded to chase each other around the garden. One would have thought they would be too exhausted to do that! Exactly the same weather conditions as in march when the migrant blackbirds departed." | John Hurst | Mundesley | 25th

Song Thrush "Feeding in my garden - this is actually quite a rare visitor to my garden" | Nik Borrow | Sheringham | 19th

Siberian Stonechat "Lovely! Chatting to the finder, there has been much discussion about this bird, but most observers are happy with the ID at the moment anyway!" | Stella Baylis | Cromer | 5th

Grey Wagtail "Fed around garden pond for a short time before disappearing. A nice surprise and a first in the garden although we have had fly overs." | Dawn & Tim Wright | Upper Sheringham | 23rd

Siskin "A large flock in the cypress trees near the Weavers Way west of the lake. Even more flew out of the tree tops as two jets flew vertically and the awful noise disturbed them, and me." | Andrew Crossley | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 7th

Populations of many species will be affected by climate change, but migratory species are expected to be affected more than most, in part because change can occur on both the breeding and non-breeding grounds, but at different rates. See the graphic on the right and read the full report: [**Differential changes in the morphology and fuel loads of obligatory and partial migrant passerines over half a century in Britain | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology**](#) [September 2024]

[**European Turtle Dove bag limit reduced in Morocco - BirdGuides**](#) [01-Oct]

[**'Stunning' new Norfolk wetland opens to public - BirdGuides**](#) [03-Oct]

[**Charities urge stronger protection for UK seas - BirdGuides**](#) [03-Oct]

[**Housing developers must put nature first, says new report - BirdGuides**](#) [17-Oct]

[**British list set for major taxonomic shake-up - BirdGuides**](#) [18-Oct]

[**No incentive for older birds to make new friends | ScienceDaily**](#) [28-Oct] Imperial College London | Like people, birds have fewer friends as they age, but the reasons why are unclear. New research suggests they may just have no drive to.

[**Bird study finds sons help their parents less than daughters because they're scouting future prospects | ScienceDaily**](#) [24-Oct] University of Exeter | Male birds help their parents less than females because they're too busy scouting for new places to live and breed, a study shows.

[**Egyptian geese spread wings in France, threatening biodiversity | Phys.Org**](#) [16-Oct]

[**Collisions between planes and birds follow seasonal patterns and overlap with breeding and migration—new research | Phys.Org**](#) [02-Nov]

[**Record breaking success for Norfolk's Natterjack Toads | NWT - RareBirdAlertUK**](#) [31-Oct]

[**Study finds cheating boosts male sparrow fitness | Imperial College London - RareBirdAlertUK**](#) [31-Oct]

[**Bird flu in pheasants in England sparks concern over lax rearing rules | Bird flu | The Guardian**](#) [17-Oct]

[**New six-stamp set features birds central to Manx folklore - BBC News**](#) [06-Oct]

[**Norwich nature reserve reaches 'gold standard' of accessibility - BBC News**](#) [13-Nov]

[**Endangered parrots who escaped London Zoo found 60 miles away in Cambridgeshire | ITV News Anglia**](#) [28-Oct]

[**'The bully of the bird table': how the humble starling conquered the world | Wildlife | The Guardian**](#) [19-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. Can you recognise a bird from the description of its voice though? The descriptions come from three different books, but they all refer to the same bird – no

wonder it is so confusing! As you can see, some books go into more detail than others. Answers are on the last page of this newsletter, along with a link through to a website where you can listen to an audio excerpt and decide which description resonates best with you! Solution [at the end of this newsletter.](#)

“Call hard, dry, clicking or ticking ‘tik!’ (often louder than Robin) but very like Redstart, or ‘tik-ik-ik’. Quiet, variable song.”
from WILDGuides BRITAIN’S BIRDS 2nd Edition - An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland 2nd Edition by Hume, Still, Swash, Harrop and Tipling

“Has a very hard and sharp clicking ‘pix!’ with an almost electric quality, or like the sound made by jabbing a spike into solid granite; with a bit of practice easy to recognise and distinguish from eg: Robin’s ticking ‘tic’; often repeated at slow pace in undulating flight (one ‘pix!’ on each rise). Besides this call, has more anonymous ‘zrri’ and ‘zih’ which are easily drowned in the varied sounds from the woodland’s Chaffinches, Spotted Flycatchers, thrushes and others. Song a rather quiet, stumbling series of ‘zih’ and ‘zrri’ notes rather hard to make out.”
from Collins BIRD GUIDE 3rd Edition by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterström

“Most common call is a short ‘tic, tic’, slightly harder than a Robin’s alarm call. The rarely heard song is a slow ‘deek, waree, ree, ree’.”
from RSPB Handbook of British Birds 4th Edition by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves

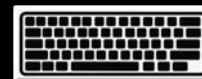
Wordsearch



This month, we have the 16 species or races recorded in November 2023 for which we have just one record for each – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. Solution is at the end of this newsletter.

- Black Guillemot
- Black-necked Grebe
- Cory's Shearwater
- Hawfinch
- Hume's Warbler
- Iceland Gull
- Pallid Swift
- Pochard
- Richard's Pipit
- Taiga Bean Goose
- White-fronted Goose
- Woodlark
- Yellow-browed Warbler
- Black Redstart
- Dartford Warbler
- Fulmar
- Grey Partridge
- House Martin
- Jack Snipe
- Lapland Bunting
- Puffin
- Ring Ouzel
- Shore Lark
- Slavonian Grebe
- Tundra Bean Goose

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



Some new rare bird records have been 'Accepted' by the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] for our area since the last newsletter. You can view their current '**NRC work in progress**' file on their website [14th Oct 24]. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a '**BBRC work in progress**' file available on their website [11th Mar 24].

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

There has been some changes to the list of species requiring descriptions:

Long-tailed Skua - from immediate effect details will no longer be needed for records between August and November, details will still be required for any records outside this period

5:12 am · 14 Oct 2024 · 2,009 Views

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Blyth's Reed Warbler Sheringham 27th May 2024

8:51 am · 29 Oct 2024 · 247 Views

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

We've updated the description species list, add new members and uploaded a new Work in Progress file. Check out the Norfolk Birds Records Committee website at norfolkbirds.weebly.com #birding #Norfolk

6:18 pm · 14 Oct 2024 · 1,129 Views

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Icterine Warbler West Runton 7th September 2024

8:58 am · 29 Oct 2024 · 255 Views

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

Golden Oriole - from immediate effect details no longer needed for spring records April-June, details will still be required for any records outside this period

5:12 am · 14 Oct 2024 · 443 Views

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Honey Buzzard Sheringham 27th May 2024

8:57 am · 29 Oct 2024 · 237 Views

Norfolk Bird Records
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Montagu's Harrier Sheringham 5th May 2024

8:59 am · 29 Oct 2024 · 268 Views

Here are some bits and bobs from our website and social media...

NENBC Website



A huge thanks to the **130** of you who have uploaded records to our new website this year to date covering over **78,000** records. It is very much appreciated by us and the bodies we send the data on to for inclusion in the county reports. **During October, 77 of you logged records which is great and slightly up from last month** but that is still only around 20% of our membership. For those of you who haven't used it before, our website is easy to use so please give it a go. If you haven't logged your records for a while (like the Editor!), do try and get back to it before the end of the year. Your records count, whether they are rarities or the birds you see every day.

Most recorded species for October was Robin with 253 records. The rest of the top 5 were made up of Blackbird, Blur Tot, Woodpigeon and Dunnock with the 3 seabirds that made it the previous month dropping out of sight.

At the other end of the spectrum, we had **single records** of the following species: Black Guillemot, Black Tern, Black-throated Diver, Canada Goose, Common Crossbill, Dusky Warbler, Garden Warbler, Green Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Hobby, Leach's Petrel, Lesser Whitethroat, Little Auk, Osprey, Penduline Tit, Purple Sandpiper, Redstart, Reed Warbler, Shag, Tawny Pipit, Whooper Swan and Yellow-legged Gull

The **location with the most records** overall was Weybourne (1,342) followed by Beeston Common, Bodham, Sheringham and Weybourne Cliffs. The **location with the most species reported** was Weybourne (120) followed by Sheringham, Weybourne Camp, Beeson Common and Beeston Regis.

Star and Green badge clarification – proposed way forward: Following the lumping of our 3 redpoll species into one, please note that those of you working towards any Star or Green badge will only be able to include redpoll once on your submitted lists to count towards your target thresholds. Those of you who were awarded a badge prior to the change, your claimed badge is not affected but any higher badges you submit for in the future will only be able to include redpoll once. Any queries, please get in touch. Subject to Peer Review Group Sign-off

Social Media ...

jane crossen
@bridgejanejone

Lovely views of a couple of Meadow Piptits here in Sheringham (yesterday - weather's not like that today!) They soon saw the Goldfinch off! Well, dunno about you, but I wouldn't mess with those claws!

@NaturesVoice @NorfolkWWT @NENBC_Info

5:08 pm · 19 Oct 2024 · 408 Views

jane crossen
@bridgejanejone

Fantastic views of the two adult Green Woodpeckers and juv in Sheringham today. @NaturesVoice @NENBC_Info @NorfolkWWT @bbcwildlifemag

9:35 pm · 18 Oct 2024 · 513 Views

Jane Ferguson
@Jane_Ferguson

Hoopoe this morning at North Walsham.

6:49 pm · 8 Oct 2024 · 1,295 Views

Stu Buck
@Stubuck1

The two Richard's pipits at Happelburgh this morning showed rather well.

David Ratcliffe

7:16 pm · 8 Oct 2024 · 1,562 Views



Crows *By David North*

“In autumn and winter large flocks of crows – jackdaws, rooks and carrion crows – gather in fields at sunset and then, as darkness falls, fly to communal woodland roosts.”

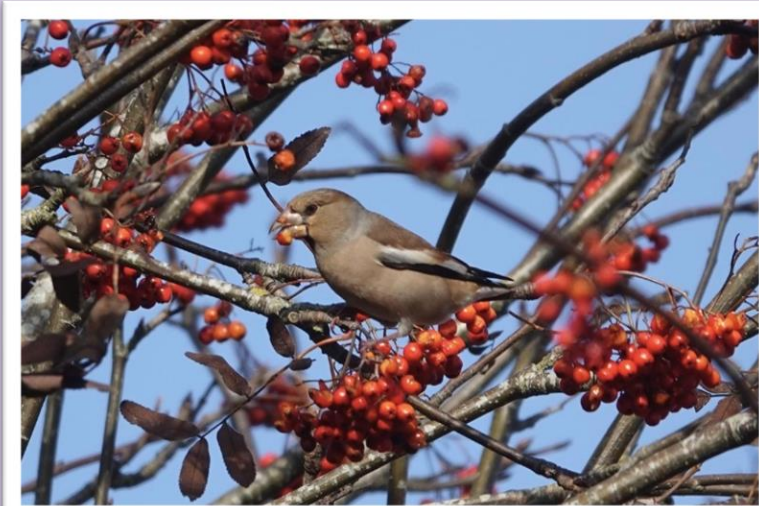
Winter-blown crows
scattered across a storm-grey sky
They dance,
falling like dark leaves
into the gathering darkness.
Calling, cawing, tumbling,
as they fly to roost.



Photos: Richard Farrow, Philip Cartlidge, Dave Billham



The bird voice variously described was that of a [Hawfinch](#) (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*). Click on the bird name to take you through to the xeno-canto website where, if you click on any of the play arrows on the left of the page, you will be able to hear the song. Don't forget to have your sound turned on and the volume up! Here's a link to the [Hawfinch | BTO BirdFacts](#) page. *Photos from Andrew Crossley, David Billham, David Griffiths , Mark Clements*



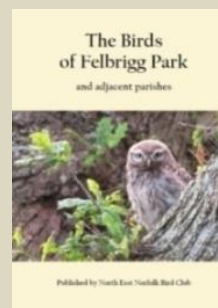
This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**
BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN
NOVEMBER 2023

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

Solution from page 22 | Why is there a 29.5 day gap between full moons (the lunar month) and yet the moon circles the earth in just a little over 27 days? At least a partial answer is that a full moon happens only when the sun is 180 degrees opposite the moon when viewed from earth. This is the only time its face is fully lit. In the time it takes for the moon to circle the earth our planet has also moved in its yearly circling of the sun. This means it takes longer for the moon to reach a position opposite the sun when viewed from earth. A couple of days longer than the moon takes to circle our planet. If anyone has a better explanation I would love to hear it! **David North**



Back Page Club Info



NENBC Annual Bird Reports are compiled from the records and photographs added to the club website by members since we were established in January 2015 and complemented by articles on club activities. Member price for the most recent report is £3 and back-copies £2 (postage extra).

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 £5.00 (postage extra) and all profits from the sale of this book go to Felbeck Trust, our local wildlife conservation charity:

www.felbecktrust.org.uk

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

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



The NENBC objectives:

- Encourage and share the enjoyment of birdwatching in North East Norfolk with people of all abilities and experience.
- Promote diversity and inclusion in all its activities.
- Gather and collate data on birds in the recording area.
- Share information between members.
- Participate in regional and national surveys incorporating the recording area.
- Administer the Club in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Promote the conservation of birds and wildlife within Norfolk.
- Liaise with other conservation groups within the local area and more widely.
- Hold regular indoor and field meetings and social events throughout the year.
- Put the interests of birds first and respect other people, whether or not they are interested in birds, in line with the birdwatchers' code.

Monthly mid-week bird walks around Felbrigg Park on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to July / Varied **monthly weekend bird walks** to a range of local birding hotspots from September to July / **Occasional evening walks** in the spring and summer / **Monthly evening talks** on the last Thursday of the month from September to November and January to April - refreshments provided / An annual **Big Sit** birding event at a number of locations across the club area in May, recording the total number of species seen from one spot between dawn and dusk / Autumn **Global Big Day** birding challenge / Annual **Coordinated Seawatch** event along the coast in the autumn recording visible migration / A **Birding for Beginners** workshop series combining practical and theoretical elements of birdwatching / **New Year's Day Birding Challenge** / **Occasional master-classes, lectures, workshops and conferences** to develop better skills and understanding of the birding world / A combined **Christmas Social and AGM Evening** in December