



The Pied Flyer

North East Norfolk Bird Club



April 2024 – Issue 106

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

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Through a Lens ...



By Nigel Redman

In the conservation world, good-news stories are a lot less frequent than reports of habitat loss and species declines (or even extinctions). A few weeks ago, a story broke on social media which even made national headlines – a spectacular species of bird had been rediscovered in Africa. Its name is Yellow-crested Helmetshrike, and the accompanying photograph showed it to be a glossy all-black bird with a striking, flamboyant golden-yellow crest and eye-ring. Many birders reading the press release had probably never even heard of the bird before. It's one of eight species of helmetshrike, all of which live in Africa and, like its relatives, this one is also gregarious, moving around in small flocks in the canopy. Yellow-crested Helmetshrike inhabits montane forest east of the Albertine Rift, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was described in 1933 and has only ever been known from a handful of sites. Its tiny range is not easy to get to, and in recent years has been off-limits due to political instability and civil war. While a few older reports of Yellow-crested Helmetshrike considered it to be not uncommon, there has been no recent information about it all.

I was of course delighted to read about the 'rediscovery', but what constitutes a rediscovery? Was the bird really lost? The triumphant press release claimed it was "considered lost after going unseen for almost 20 years". Surely, assuming the habitat is still present (and it is), it was just 'missing' because no ornithologists or birders have been able to get into its range for a while. On delving a bit further, I discovered that the most recent information about this bird dates from 2007 – just 17 years ago. The photograph below was claimed to be the first ever of the species, and it may well be, but the bird's voice was known back in 2007 and had been previously recorded. I may be cynical, but I would have been more impressed if it hadn't been seen for a century.

This rediscovery of Yellow-crested Helmetshrike was made by scientists at The University of Texas at El Paso during a six-week expedition to the Itombwe Massif, a mountain range in eastern DRC. They trekked for over 75 miles and eventually found 18 birds at three sites. This is undeniably great news! But when I saw the photo, I immediately wondered why they had caught the bird. Why did they need to catch one? Perhaps they required a good photograph to prove that they had found it. A canopy-loving species is not easy to capture 'on film', although with today's cameras you can photograph almost anything. However, I can't help wondering if there is a more sinister reason behind it. American university expeditions are renowned for collecting specimens for their museums. The urge to collect is much stronger in North America than it is elsewhere, and I know of many instances where such university or museum expeditions have been mounted primarily to add to their collections. Sometimes they even collect more than they need so that they can swap valuable specimens with other museums. I may be doing them an injustice, but I cannot help but wonder if the bird in the photograph was released shortly after having its portrait taken, or whether it now resides in a dusty museum drawer in Texas. I hope my hunch is wrong.

Photo: Matt Brady / The University of Texas at El Paso



A Note from the Editor

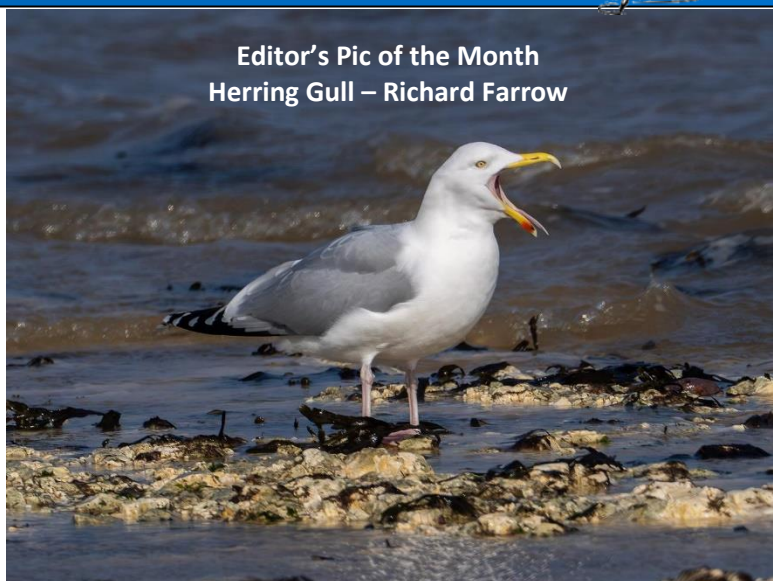


By Carol Thornton

Hi folks. Welcome to our April newsletter. Spring has arrived (just!) and there are plenty of events coming up (see [What's On?](#)) so I hope to be catching up with some of you at them very soon.

Last month's **Through a Lens** subject for the front page was **BIRDS EXHIBITING BREEDING BEHAVIOUR**. Our cover images this time are courtesy of Francis Farrow [Robin and Rook], Alan Stevens [Great Tit nest box] and Doug Cullern [Dunnock]. For May I am going to stick with the same **Through a Lens** subject as I think I peaked too early as we didn't have many pics this month along that theme! Can you get a pic of a singing bird, or one collecting nesting materials, or checking out a bird box or building a nest? I am sure you can!

Editor's Pic of the Month
Herring Gull – Richard Farrow



Due to other commitments I am still a bit light on articles for the upcoming May newsletter so if anyone fancies putting 'fingers to keyboard' (or even 'pen to paper') and writing something bird-related, I would be very much obliged! Short or long, expert or novice, with photos or without, whatever suits. Many thanks to those who have already answered the call in the past couple of months when I have been a bit tied up!



Welcome to Our New Members - we look forward to seeing you soon!

*** Richard Cross * Diana Mavroleon * Paloma Guerrero Tene ***

415 individual
members across
270 households

28,099
bird records
logged

167 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 & Tweets** from [page 30](#).

Details on **2024 membership renewal and switch off** on [page 9](#) if you haven't already. If we don't hear from you soon we will assume you don't wish to renew this year. Thanks for your support thus far.

Club Achievement Awards

Star Badges

No new star awards this month but with spring having sprung, plenty of time to get going this year!

Currently, **4** members have achieved **GOLD STAR** status, **20** members have been awarded **SILVER STAR** status and a fabulous **82** 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 Eco-Badge recipients this month.

We currently have **23** members who have achieved their **GREEN ECO-BADGES** [Coastal: 14 | Inland: 9] and **4** who have achieved **SUPER-GREEN** [Coastal: 3 | 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.

≈ 9,500 individual records covering 154 bird species were added in March

There were 9,504 records submitted for March which is 415 less than those submitted for the same period last year and 2,333 more than the previous month of February. Total species records were 154 which was 10 more than was recorded in the same period in 2023.

The **VELVET SCOTER** records from Weybourne on 14th and Weybourne Camp on 31st were of note, as were the number of **TWITE** reports at the beginning of the month – 21 records of up to 36 birds on Weybourne Cliffs. Prior to this year we had just 21 records since the cub was established in 2015, which was the year with our previous highest flock size of 10, with just one record in 2023.

Grey Partridge There were 17 records throughout the month, virtually all from the Weybourne area, with a maximum count of 3 on the Camp on 6th. The only other record was from Bodham on 20th.

Brent Goose Over 70 records of mostly double-figure counts of these geese throughout the month seen during sea-watching sessions from Weybourne, Sheringham, East Runton and Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs. The high count was 53 east at Weybourne on 4th. Birds were heading predominantly east during the first week of the month and mainly west by the end of the month. A Pale-bellied 'hrota' individual was reported at Weybourne on 2nd and a flock of c.40 feeding on winter barley NW of Happisburgh also included a bird of the race 'hrota'. *Photo 1 courtesy of James Appleton*

Barnacle Goose One individual west at Weybourne Camp on 26th with 4 Brents and a Greylag Goose.

Whooper Swan Three birds were at Field Dalling & Saxlingham on the 18th, presumably the same three birds reported at Bale et al in January. *Photo 2 courtesy of Paul Laurie*

Mandarin Duck A pair were reported west along beach line at Weybourne on 21st.

Velvet Scoter One individual was reported west at Weybourne on 14th and two west past Weybourne Camp during a seawatch on 31st.

Goosander A Redhead was west at Weybourne on 13th and 15th and a pair west past Weybourne Camp on 26th.

Red-breasted Merganser Records of single birds west on 6th, 18th (M), 22nd (M) and 28th past the Weybourne sites plus two Redheads (Weybourne Camp) also on that latter date. One east-flying drake past Weybourne on 31st.

Crane A single bird reported east over Weybourne Camp and on towards Sheringham on 9th, picked up heading inland from Cromer a little later. *Photo 3 courtesy of Steve Stansfield*

Red-necked Grebe A single bird was reported west from Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 27th and thanks to the club's Seawatching WhatsApp, we were able to do a speed check to add to our database as it passed Weybourne 10 minutes later.

Avocet Reports of a single bird on 6th west past Weybourne and again 18th additionally reported west past Weybourne Camp on that occasion.



Grey Plover Seven records throughout the month of between 1 and 5 birds at both East and West Runton, Sheringham Cliffs and Weybourne Camp, with the high count of 5 being at West Runton on 4th. *Photo 4 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Whimbrel On the 22nd, one flew east over sea, calling, followed by a further 3 birds and was seen from Weybourne Cliffs.

Bar-tailed Godwit A single bird was on the beach by Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs and reported during 2 hour sea-watch on the 5th.

Knot One bird west at Weybourne on 23rd.

Purple Sandpiper There were 50 records from Sheringham throughout the month of between 1 and 3 individuals, with one further record of 2 birds at East Runton on 5th. *Photo 5 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Woodcock There were 10 records between 2nd and 26th of single birds in flight at Swanton Novers, Aylmerton, Bale, Felbrigg Park & Lake, Sustead Common, Brinton, Kelling Heath, Southrepps Common and Cromer. In addition, 4 birds were reported over Aylmerton and towards Felbrigg Park on 1st plus one in off the sea at Weybourne on 14th.

Jack Snipe Single birds reported on the grazing meadow at Baconsthorpe on 1st, during a WeBS count at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 10th and flying over the scrape at Weybourne Camp from the south on 16th before heading west.

Kittiwake Five west at Paston on 24th.

Little Gull On the 8th there were 4 east at Sheringham followed shortly after by another 2 birds and on 9th there were 2 east at Weybourne.

Mediterranean Gull Eighteen records from 4th to 30th from Sheringham and Weybourne / Weybourne Camp of mostly singles with 2 west at Weybourne on 15th and 2 over Weybourne Camp on 18th. Where age was specified, birds were adult. *Photo 6 courtesy of Russell Page*

Red-throated Diver Seventy five records throughout the month from the Weybourne sites, Sheringham and Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs. Notable numbers were 52 (5 east. 47 west) at Weybourne on 2nd. 31 (east during 2 hour sea-watch) at Cromer on 8th and 29 (28 east. 1 west) at Sheringham on 17th with numerous other records in double figures.

White Stork A single bird flew east over a lucky member's garden in Weybourne on 5th. As per our NENBC Alerts WhatsApp group, it had moved from Stiffkey earlier and was then reported over Sheringham.

Spoonbill One bird was recorded heading west at both West Runton and Weybourne on 15th and 3 were flying over A148 Holt Road, near Lidl in Cromer on 20th.

Cattle Egret An individual bird was seen east at both Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs and Weybourne Camp on 15th and 2 birds flew in over the airfield at Weybourne, landed briefly on the sheep field then flew off south and west towards Kelling Water Meadows.

Great White Egret A single bird was in the castle moat at Baconsthorpe on 10th.

Goshawk There were 6 records from the regular haunt at Swanton Novers from 2nd to 26th of up to 3 birds, including a grey female and brown male playing/fighting and soaring together for about 15 minutes over the woods on the 8th. In addition, a single bird on the ridge at Sheringham on the 22nd with the observer commenting "an unexpected encounter coming eye to eye at 30 feet, makes you realise just how big they are..." plus one over Mannington Hall Park on 25th.

Hen Harrier Four separate sightings of single ringtail birds during March (female or juvenile): over Kelling Heath on 13th; Bale on 23rd; Weybourne on 24th; and Edgefield on 28th. One record of a male south of Suffield on 15th.



White-tailed Eagle A slew of records on the 14th when a single bird was reported over Aylmerton, Sheringham, Beeston Common, West Runton and Upper Sheringham. Reports were of a well-tracked juvenile (Dutch ringed bird - per RBA). Further afield, there were also reports of a second White-tailed Eagle juvenile over Holkham at 12 30 pm (per RBA).

Kingfisher Records of this beautiful bird from 5 locations this month: Felbrigg Park & Lake on 5th and 16th; Pigneys Woof on 5th; Ingworth on 14th; Weybourne on 19th; Selbrigg Pond 21st and 29th. *Photo 7 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Merlin Records of singles at Weybourne on 14th and 21st and then on 30th, seen dramatically chasing down a passerine there. One bird was also reported perched on a post at Weybourne Camp on 31st.

Peregrine Records of the local birds throughout the month around Cromer, culminating in some egg laying. [See report on [page 21](#)]. Away from Cromer, sightings were Sheringham Cliffs and heading inland on 19th, Weybourne on 19th and 20th and over Beeston Regis on 22nd in same thermal as Buzzards and Sparrowhawk; briefly 'attacking' the Sparrowhawk before leaving thermal. *Photo 8 courtesy of Jane Crossen*

Raven A single bird over Aylmerton towards Felbrigg Park on 8th and a bird heard over Pretty Corner Woods on 9th.

Waxwing Six birds were in hedgerows on south side of West Beckham Old Allotments on 5th.

Marsh Tit There were 18 records in March with the majority coming from Selbrigg Pond and which included one individual with ring number 10 on 3rd and 4 birds on 23rd, two of which were ringed. Other records were from Beeston Common, High Kelling, Mannington Hall Park, Brinton, Pretty Corner Woods, Felmingham and Beeston Common.

Woodlark The majority of reports of up to 6 birds were from Kelling Heath throughout the month. Elsewhere, one at Weybourne Camp on 4th, 3 Weybourne on 13th and one singing on Weybourne Heath on 26th. A single was singing in Sheringham Park on 26th and a report of a bird on the newly created heather area Pill-box Hill, Beeston Common on 29th. *Photo 9 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Dartford Warbler Twenty three records of up to 3 individuals on Kelling Heath observed throughout the month, with up to 2 singing males. *Photo 10 courtesy of Martin Browne*

Firecrest Records of 1-2 birds from 2nd to 30th from Beeston Common, Holt, Pretty Corner Wood, Holt, Cromer, Aylmerton, Weybourne Heath, High Kelling and Selbrigg Pond. A pair was observed at Weybourne Heath along with a third bird on 20th. Lots of the birds were also heard singing.

Nuthatch Forty eight records across the area with the maximum being 4 at Selbrigg Pond on 29th.

Black Redstart Many members caught up with the "stunning male" Black Redstart around Coastguards Cottages, Weybourne Cliffs on 16th and 17th. A 2nd calendar year male was at Weybourne Camp on 25th and a single bird at East Runton (Coastwatch Station) the same day. *Photo 11 courtesy of Andy Clarke*



Wheatear Records after 6th from Weybourne and the surrounding Camp and Cliffs, with most after the 20th. Most reports were of 1-2 birds but there were 3-4 on Weybourne Camp on 23rd. Also 2 on Sheringham Cliffs on 19th and 1 East Runton (Coastwatch) on 26th. *Photo 12 courtesy of Thomas Wright*

Grey Wagtail Thirty two records of 1-2 birds from a range of sites all month with high counts of 4 at Hunworth on 18th and 3 at Blickling Park on 14th. *Photo 13 courtesy of Doug Cullern*

Water Pipit A single bird at Weybourne Camp on 16th. It flew around scrape calling but finding nowhere to land (no muddy fringe due to height of water) continued west.

Rock Pipit There were 1-2 birds observed along the prom at Sheringham from 2nd to 15th and 4th to 21st at Weybourne Camp / Weybourne.

Brambling There were 53 reports in March but the stand-out high counts were at Barningham Hall Lake (no public access) with 150 on 16th and 450 12th on mixed seed crop field. *Photo 14 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

Hawfinch A single Hawfinch with a mixed flock of Siskin, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Chaffinch and Brambling at Letheringsett & Ford on 7th plus one on feeders in a lucky member's garden in West Runton on 9th.

Twite A surprising influx of Twite in March. Between 2nd and 9th there were 21 records from Weybourne Cliffs and a couple from Sheringham Cliffs. High counts: 25 on 3rd; 15 on 4th; 22 on 5th; 36 on 6th.

Common Redpoll Two records of single birds in mixed flocks at Weybourne Cliffs on 4th and 5th and three there on 6th.

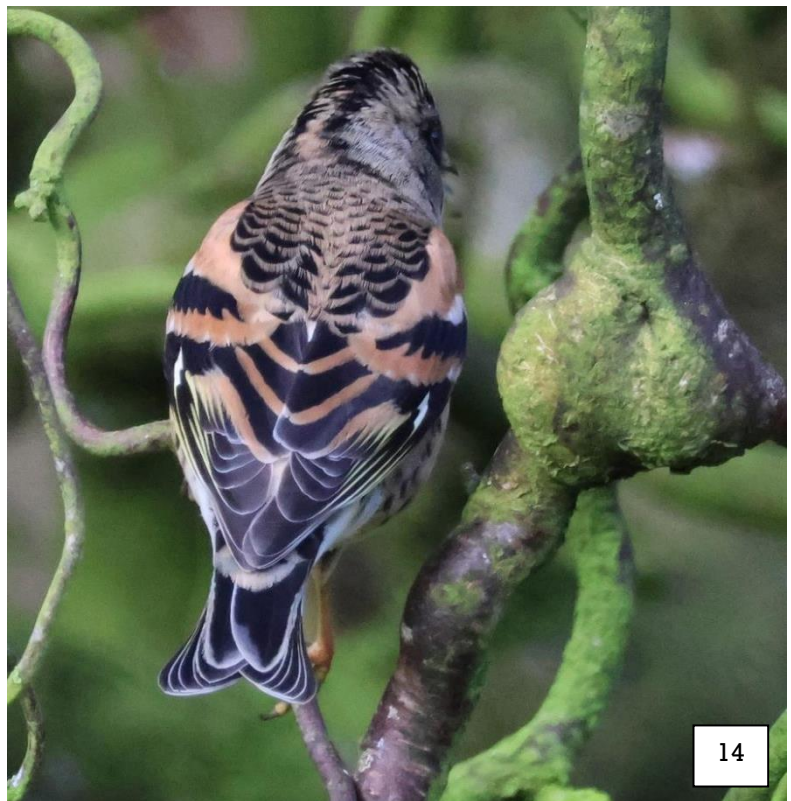
Lesser Redpoll Up to 4 birds between 2nd and 26th at Beeston Regis, Letheringsett & Ford, Weybourne Cliffs, Barningham Hall Lake (no public access), Beeston Common and Southrepps Common.

Common Crossbill Up to 12 birds in the Aylmerton area between 5th and 28th with 20 at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 6th in the Great Wood. Twenty at Sheringham Park on 6th and heard at Pretty Corner Wood on the same day. Other records from Weybourne Heath on 13th (10) and 15th and heard at Swanton Novers on 19th.

Lapland Bunting Twenty two records between 2nd and 6th on Weybourne Cliffs of 1-4 birds and reports of 2 birds at Sheringham Cliffs on 3rd and singles on 9th there.

Snow Bunting Records from both Weybourne and Sheringham Cliffs between 2nd and 16th. High counts were 25 on 3rd and 5th on the Weybourne stretch with most reports in double figures. *Photo 15 courtesy of Alan Stevens*

Corn Bunting One report of a single bird on 14th at Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course.





By Russ Malin

April is a peak month for the arrival of spring migrants, and we should be starting to see, and hear, the commoner warblers such as Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge and Garden Warbler plus there is a good chance of some more scarce species such as Tree Pipit, Cuckoo, Pied Flycatcher and Redstart. Black or Arctic Tern are a good possibility and keep looking up for Ospreys. There is always the possibility of turning up something really special in the month of April.

One cautionary note is to please give careful thought to the reporting of certain species at the start of the breeding season. For example, news of Goshawk or Dartford Warbler away from their normal, publicised locations. Rare breeding birds inevitably attract attention and interest from a wide range of people, who mostly wish them well.

Our friends at the Rare Breeding Birds Panel have produced some really useful guidelines which you can see [here](#).

If you are still in any doubt, please speak to a committee member before releasing any news on local birdwatching message boards, social media on Facebook and WhatsApp groups, or sharing on personal websites, blogs, Facebook or Twitter accounts. Thank you.

If we delve into the history books again, we find some fabulous records for April.

Our first Green-winged Teal was found at Weybourne Camp scrape on April 5th, 2002. We have also been fortunate to have several records of Purple Heron during this month as well. Weybourne again features on April 1st, 2001, with the first reported Penduline Tit for our area. We have a few Subalpine Warbler records for April including the first which involved a male at Lower Bodham in 1974. The first two records for Citrine Wagtail occurred in April 2011 and April 2012 in East and West Runton, respectively. The first Norfolk records of Alpine Accentor came Dead Mans Wood, Sheringham in 1978 and the second from Cromer 26 years later!

Ringed Bird Records



Turnstone: "East beach slipway area 40+/ JAA red flagged bird and right tarsus ringed bird" | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 2nd

Turnstone: "crown groyne, with flagged JAA, JAC and JAE." | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 16th

Turnstone: "43+ busily feeding on the sea wall, beach and breakwaters. Canadian flagged '5KY' present." | James Appleton | Walcott | 19th

Turnstone: "One red flagged bird, 'JAM', had been ringed a little way to the south-east at Eccles on 28th January 2024." | James Appleton | Walcott | 21st

Great Black-backed Gull: "including a Norway ringed bird (J222Y)" | Mark Clements | Sheringham | 5th

Marsh Harrier: "over hope reed bed. wing tagged, ON (orange / niger) 43, male. as per reply from ringer" | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 15th

Hi Phil,

Orange Niger 43 (ON43) is a male bird, ringed and tagged near Wiverton on 12.06.2023 and was one of just two in the nest, the other being a female. ON(43) was first seen at Cley on 14.10.23, then KWM on 01.11.23 followed by Cley again on 14.11.23. Been a bit of a gap over the winter period (migration to warmer climes?), so possibly back for the breeding season. His sister has been seen one just one occasion, on 25.09.2023 on Gosforth NR, which is near Newcastle.

I'll put you down as the finder when I enter the details onto the BTO database, and so you'll get an official reply in due course.

Thanks again,

Phil Littler
North West Norfolk Ringing Group

Phil reported the Marsh Harrier sighting to the appropriate ringing group and had the following info back from him and the BTO:

Phil Borley



05 April 2024

Dear Phil Borley

Thank you for taking the time to report to us details of a bird ring you found. Information about this bird and its movements is given below.

Ringing Scheme: London Ring Number: **FH62089** Species of bird: Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

This bird was **ringed** by North West Norfolk R.L.G. as age nestling, sex male on 12-Jun-2023 10:30:00 at Glandford, Norfolk, UK
OS Map reference TG0943 accuracy -, - co-ordinates 52deg 57min N 1deg 3min E accuracy -.

Colour Marks left wingtag ON(43)

Colour Marks right wingtag ON(43)

It was **found** on 02-Mar-2024 time unknown at Weybourne Camp, Norfolk, UK
OS Map reference TG0943 accuracy -, - co-ordinates 52deg 56min N 1deg 7min E accuracy -.

Finding condition: Sight record by non-ringer

Finding circumstances: Identified by Wingtags

Extra Information: -

It was found 264 days after it was ringed, 5 km from the ringing site, direction -.

A Members' Night of 4 Mini Talks! September 2024

We are looking for volunteers to take to the floor for our next "Members' Night" and give us a 20-minute talk of their choice on something about birds or any other related subject. This has been a popular event previously with an eclectic range of subjects embraced by our members.

It doesn't have to be scientific or funny (but could be!) – an appreciation of any aspect of a birding life, a birding patch or holiday, a related hobby, a cause you are passionate about, a grumble to get off your chest, a project you would like some help with.

A simple talk would be lovely, but slides are a great addition and if you needed some support with that then help is at hand!

Please get in touch if you want to have a chat.

| Alan Stevens | 07765892515
| ahstevens52@gmail.com |

Conservation Corner

If you have any suggestions for content for our Conservation Corner slot, please let us know and we'll pass your ideas on to our writers.

Restocking our 2nd hand bookstall

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

nenbc@aol.co.uk

Speaker Suggestions

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

Thank you!

Membership Renewal Subscriptions for 2024

LAST CALL FOR THIS YEAR'S SUBS

We hope you will continue to support the club in 2024 by renewing your membership with us. The subs, which were due on 1st January, remain the same as last year:

2024 calendar year membership of £15 per household to include a copy of the club's printed 2023 Annual Bird Report which we hope will be ready for publication in the spring, or **£12 without the report.**

Our preferred method of payment is by standing order, but one-off payments can be made electronically to the club account (Account Number: 20842968 / Sort Code: 30- 94-34; TSB) or by posting a cheque to the membership secretary Colin Blaxill at Caitlins, Bernard Close, High Kelling, Holt NR25 6QY. Cheques need to be made payable to "North East Norfolk Bird Club" and not NENBC. If you want to pay by cash then catch Colin or one of the other Committee Members at one of our events.

Many thanks for your continuing support and engagement. If we haven't heard from you shortly we'll assume you don't want to renew and remove you from our circulation lists, NENBC WhatsApp Alerts if applicable and close website access.

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!

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.

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 17th April | 9.00am-11.00am |
Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk
 with Alan Stevens



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.

Saturday 27th April | 9.00am-1.00pm |
NOA/NWT Holme and Thornham Walk
 with Janice Darch



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

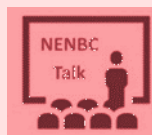
First up the NOA hide to view the Broad Water for Mallard, Coot, Moorhen, Shoveler, Gadwall and maybe some waders, depending on water levels. Then through the NOA section of Holme viewing the pines for birds such as Goldcrests, Chaffinch and tit flocks before paying our entry fee. If we are lucky the warden may be ringing birds. The viewing platform gives us views south up to Ringstead Downs and over the grazing marshes. It should be possible to see several species from here including Buzzards, Red Kite and Marsh Harrier. We will then proceed onto the Coastal Footpath, stop to do a seawatch and make our way over to Thornham Harbour, stopping to view both the sea and shoreline, which is good for feeding waders and inland to the brackish pools. We will walk into Thornham Village and follow an off road field track to return to the reserve along Drove Orchard.

MEET: NOA car park | **PARKING:** See details on website as we need to park in the NOA car park, not NWT | **DISTANCE:** 3 miles | **ACCESSIBILITY:** Coastal paths so not wheelchair-friendly, but hides are. | **FACILITIES:** On NWT preserve after 10am | **BADGES:** Walk outside club area so records can't count towards Star or Green Eco-badges.

Monthly Evening Club Talk

Thursday 25th April | 7.30pm-9.30pm |

Gresham Village Hall



Really sorry but we are unable to offer a Zoom option on this occasion as Carol can't be there.

"Bermuda's Birds" ... an evening talk with Andrew Dobson

THE SPEAKER AND THEIR TALK: *Andrew had a life-long career in teaching. He moved back to Cambridge in 2018 after nearly 30 years in Bermuda, where he served as President of the Bermuda Audubon Society as well as President of Birds Caribbean. He is a regional editor for the journal North American Birds. His bird photos have appeared in many books, journals and travel magazines. His publications include a 'Birdwatching Guide to Bermuda' - now out of print. He was recently elected as Chair of the Cambridgeshire Bird Club.and he's a UEA graduate. In his talk on Bermuda's birds, he will explain how an isolated island of only 21 square miles and with 20 breeding species can have recorded nearly 400 bird species. The reasons for the relatively large number of species will be discussed, including Bermuda's isolation from other land areas, its situation in relation to the Gulf Stream, migration routes and weather patterns experienced in the autumn months. Andrew will highlight the remarkable story of the Bermuda Petrel or Cahow - a great conservation success.*



Photo: A Bermuda Petrel by Andrew Dobson

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!

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.

International Dawn Chorus Day – Sunday 5th May



We are hoping that many of you will join us in this "worldwide celebration of nature's greatest symphony" [The Wildlife Trusts]. Why not embrace the dawn at first light on the 1st weekend in May and take the time to really appreciate what nature has to offer? We are asking all NENBC members to make a special effort to log their early morning records (including no-migged) on the club website over the weekend, making sure you slide the 'SINGING' option to the right when uploading your records so we know you heard the bird singing. If you can get out in your garden or out for a walk at dawn, please do but, don't forget, if that is a bit too keen for a weekend, open your window, whether you are town or rurally based, and just listen... or tune in to one of the live audio feeds from the National Trust:

[Felbrigg Park Live Audio](#)

[Blickling Park Live Audio](#)

[Info on the Upper Bure Restoration that supports the audio links](#)

The Big Sit: Saturday 11th May

NENBC's Dawn to Dusk Static Bird Count



The Big Sit Made Easy



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

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

We are looking forward to this year's event following last year's washout – many thanks to the valiant souls who braved the conditions in 2023! This time we are going to be based at two sites, Felbrigg Park and Beeston Common and very much hope you can come along to give us a bit of support and join in the general excitement of the day. For those of you new to it, there is a bit of general info on the right but basically we hang about in the same spot watching, listening and taking note of what is about. It is always a fun day out with the chance to chat during the slower periods, engage with the passing public and with the added bonus at Felbrigg of an events shelter if the weather is a little inclement. You absolutely don't need to

be a birding expert to take part and we would love to see you for all or some of the day. If you can make it down for dawn to either of the sites for the dawn chorus that would be great but if you just want to pop by at a more civilised hour then that is also great!

FELBRIGG PARK with Trevor Williams & the gang | Dawn to Dusk | Above the lake on 'The Warren' so we have a view onto the water, across the grassland, a bit of the water meadow in the scopes and of course the trees and sky.

BEESTON COMMON PILLBOX with Francis Farrow & the gang | Dawn onwards and through the morning depending on the activity | The pillbox is reached by following the path from the layby to the pond then left along the main track until you pass the last bungalows then take a right through the wood. On passing through the wood ascend the Hill and you will see the old pillbox. We'd love to see a few members turning out to support Francis in this lesser-watched spot - hope you can make it!

The event coincides with Global Big Day and we hope that if you are birdwatching on this day you log as many of your records as possible on the club website from your walks, your garden potterings or other activities. We will be entering an NENBC 'Team' on the eBird website for Global Big Day with our combined results from the public Big Sit sites and all your records from your walks and home sightings during the day so don't forget to get posting!

NENBC Birding for Beginners Course

Wednesdays: 22nd & 29th May plus 5th June | 6:30pm to 9:30pm



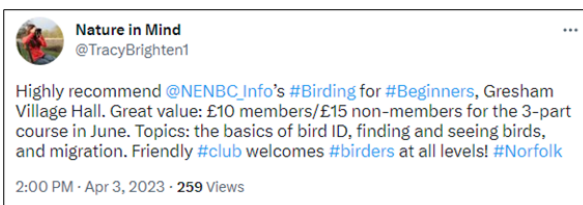
With Trevor Williams & Carol Thornton

Taking bookings now!

Hurrah! - our popular three-evening **Birding for Beginners** course is back! It will be a repeat of our successful programme from previous years, a series of workshops covering the basics of birdwatching including bird identification, equipment & field skills and migration and including both theory and 'in the field' activities. Total cost £10 per person for the series Do you know any non-members who might enjoy and benefit from the course? Put them in touch - £15 each in total for non-members or they could join the club!:

- **Workshop One** – The Basics of Bird Identification including: **bird topography, feathers, moult, size, structure, colour, behaviour, sound**
- **Workshop Two** – Finding and Seeing Birds including: **field guides, optics, attracting birds to your garden, where to go to see birds**
- **Workshop Three** – Migration and taking things further including: **reading the weather, bird movement, visible migration, vagrancy, taking your interest to the next level, making the most of the club website, alumni feedback**

If you haven't already, please let us know if you would like to attend these three sessions on nenbc@aol.co.uk. If you have attended this course with us in previous years and missed a session, give us a shout – you are very welcome to come and join us.



Last Month's Club Mid-Week Walk

Felbrigg Park | 20th March



By Vision Stubbs

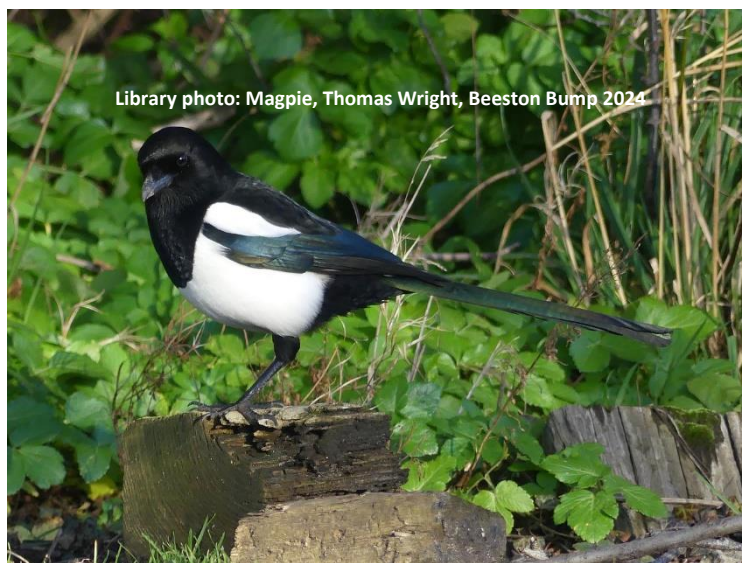
Eighteen of us gathered as usual, on an overcast but mild morning, ready to sample Felbrigg's finest feathered offerings. Unfortunately, our usual author of this section, Dave, was unable to join us, hence my guest contribution (fear not Dave, I am not taking your gig!). Trevor briefed us about likely species and explained that due to March changeovers - some birds flying north for better feeding, but many summer migrants still on their journeys - there was a good chance bird numbers would be lower than previous months.

However, things started well: before we had left the car park we had **Jackdaw**, **Blackbird**, **Chaffinch**, **Wood Pigeon**, **Pied Wagtail**, **Goldfinch**, and **Blue Tit** on the list. We set off for the church and plenty of **Rooks** were making a racket in the recently formed rookery. Hordes of **Common Gulls** were in the sheep field; later they took off in a flurry of white, and Trevor picked out a **Black-headed Gull** amongst them - the rest of us had to take his word for that! Several **Feral Doves** were on the wing and a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was heard drumming as we passed by a copse. Along the fence line, a **Great Tit** was noted fluttering along, and a skulking **Wren** was spotted in a bramble thicket. We had a lovely view of a **Red Kite** in the skies above the church, but the Rooks were less keen on it, mobbing it until it departed. A **Skylark** was singing overhead and seen in



the fields from beside the church. Also in the fields, a **Buzzard** was sitting, minding its own business, and a couple of **Mistle Thrushes** were hopping about.

As we headed across the field towards the lake, a **Stock Dove** was called, and Trevor explained the difference between Wood Pigeon and Stock Dove - one being the absence of a white collar in Stock Dove! *Apparently*, a **Magpie** (my favourite bird!) was on a distant hedge, but it eluded my binoculars 😡.



Library photo: Magpie, Thomas Wright, Beeston Bump 2024

I did, however, see the **Greylag Goose** flying over. Some **Red-legged Partridges** were loitering in the far corner of a distant field as we neared Scarrow Beck, and a number of **Pheasants** were wandering about. A **Grey Wagtail** was only seen by a lucky few; the rest of us were at least able to spot a **Mallard** bobbing along in Scarrow Beck. Two bare trees made excellent perches for a pair of **Kestrels** on either side of the Beck.

The feeding log on the Weaver's Way brought us wonderful views of a **Robin** and two **Nuthatches** flitting about. As the lake came into view we saw only a **Moorhen** and a single **Mute Swan** gracing the waters. A **Carriion Crow** cawed as it flew over. Most of us missed

the **Marsh Tit** in the trees - but not Victoria! Trevor's prayers of seeing a **Chiffchaff** were finally answered: after hearing it sing for a while, it was found at the top of a tree with the sun illuminating its plumage.

I was baffled that I was unable to see the **Reed Bunting** which others were telling me was obvious in the Alder - turns out I was looking in the wrong Alder!! Off the other side of the path, the distinctive squeal of a **Water Rail** was heard in the reeds by the bridge. A group of **Teal** was hiding amongst cut reeds in the wet meadow, while a **Coot** was on the open water.

At the top of the steps by the bridge, a **Duncock** was seen taking shelter at the base of a bush. We progressed around the corner, spotting three Roe Deer grazing by the water and a **Snipe** walking along the lower channel. A distant **Green Woodpecker** "laughed" as a **Song Thrush** flew overhead. Our eyes were then drawn towards the woods, with the excitement of a **Marsh Harrier** soaring aloft. Then the call of "Magpie" was once more heard - alas, the Marsh Harrier proved too much of a distraction and I missed it again 😡! A beautiful **Jay** seen on the field through the trees softened the blow a little. Cresting the slope towards the house, a **Collared Dove** was spotted flying out of a tree. Trevor did his best to get my sights on a Magpie he saw above the hall, but once more I was out of luck 😡.

Library photo: Magpie, Dave Billham, Beeston Common 2022

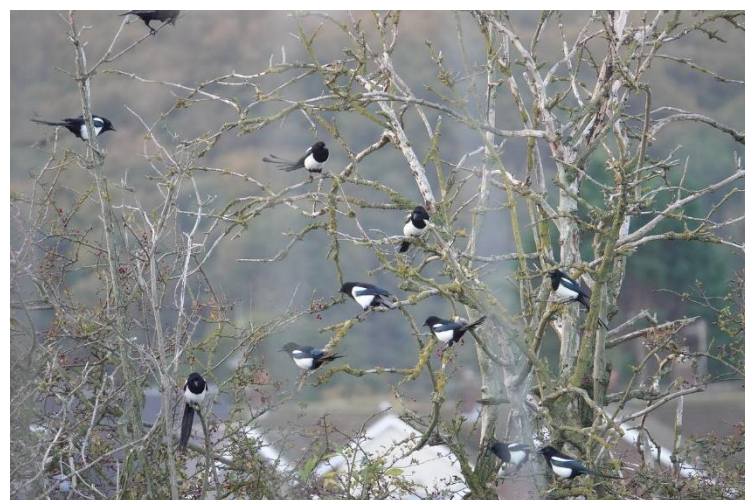


It seemed I was doomed not to get my beloved corvid this day...

As we gathered to finish up the walk, a **Herring Gull** joined our count, bringing the number to a **healthy 45** - so much for the March changeovers! Drinks and refreshments were enjoyed outside in the courtyard thanks to the clement weather.



And, as the Stubbs clan said our goodbyes and began our departure, I was overjoyed as I **finally** saw my Magpie!! 🐦 So a happy ending after all!



People pics from Carol Thornton

Seems like Beeston is the place to be for Magpies Vision!

News Flash!

As of April, Felbrigg Park Main Car Park will be a stop on several bus routes from / to Sheringham and Cromer and beyond so you can cut down on your carbon footprint by making use of public transport to walk around the park or even take a bus one way (the uphill bit from the coast I was thinking!) Here is a link to the [Bus Timetable](#). To be honest, we couldn't understand it but our trusted club member and bus user Jonathan got to the bottom of it for us:

"Local bus company Sanders Coaches have introduced a new bus service which is routed via Felbrigg Park using bus numbers 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20. This bus service runs Mondays to Fridays only. There are buses at 0950 from Cromer to Sheringham via Felbrigg and 1338 which arrive at 1004 and 1352 and various departures back to Cromer from Sheringham and don't forget the £2 fare is valid until 2025."

Last Month's Club Weekend Walk

Burnham Overy Dunes walk | 31st March



By Janice Darch

Being a typical Easter weekend it was somewhat cold and windy for our Easter Sunday walk yet we saw some great species, highlights being flying Bittern, two Great White Egrets, two Spoonbills and two Grey Partridges. In all we saw 53 species between us, and all but 3 or 4 were seen by all 10 of us. The walk covered a range of habitats - hedges, rough grazing, cultivated fields, wet pasture land, reed beds, brackish water, the sea and dunes. Passerines included Goldfinches, Linnets, Blackbirds, Dunnock, Robin, Woodpigeon, Yellowhammer, Wren and Cetti's Warbler, most of which were in the hedges of the lane leading towards the coast. The fields had Oystercatcher, Curlew, Snipe, Lapwing, Greylag, Canada, Egyptian and Brent Geese and in the wetter areas Pied Wagtail, Moorhen, Teal, Wigeon and Mallard. Marsh Harriers, Grey Heron and Buzzard were overhead. The tide was well in so there wasn't any exposed mud but in the brackish water and on the islands we found several Redshank, a Grey Plover, Shelduck, Shoveler, Avocet, a sole Black-tailed Godwit, Coot and Little Grebe. The sea yielded Great-crested Grebe with small skeins of Common Scoter passing and a Red-breasted Merganser while on the shore we found Ringed Plover and a Turnstone. Gulls included Black-headed and Herring. In the dunes, although the wind kept activity low, there were several Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and Linnets. It was our first club visit to Burnham Overy Dunes and certainly one that I shall repeat on a future programme.

Last Month's Club Talk

"Bengal Tigers, Birds and the Taj Mahal"

with Trevor Williams



By Alan Stevens

Apologies to those who had hoped to tune in via Zoom. Unfortunately we weren't able to run with it last month and sadly we won't be able to in April either. We will be back to business as usual in the autumn. Congratulations to Ellie Farrow who was awarded her Bronze Star badge by ex club president Phil Hall on the night – 100 species in the club are. Well done Ellie – get working on that Silver!



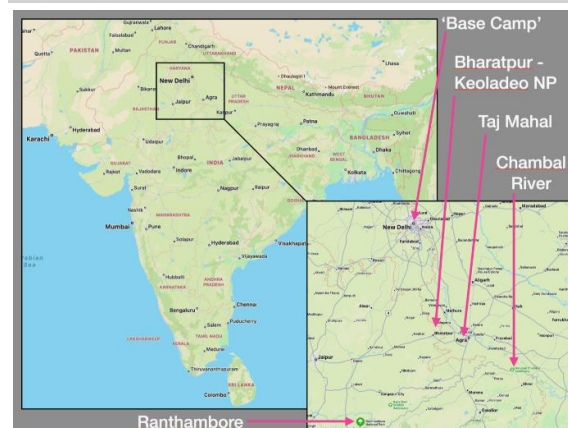
Our chairman Trevor has been away again and for our March meeting returned to give us another of his travelogs about places, people, wildlife in general and most of all of course about birds. India was the destination towards the end of last year with a trip centred on New Delhi and an area broadly to the southwest with visits to Ranthampore and Bharatpur-Keoladeo National Parks, the Chambal River National Reserve and the Taj Mahal.

True to form as soon as the hotel was checked into Trevor, Jane and the rest of the small party they were travelling with were out in a nearby park to start looking for birds among the gardens, temples and the nice variety of habitat available. As usual, at each location, Trevor reeled off a list of the birds seen with great accompanying images which I will simply sample from as we go along. The park got the first ticks in the book with Asian Pied Starling, Jungle Babbler among others and what was probably a Palm Squirrel although, ID was not certain, as the first mammal of the trip. Familiar screeching gave away Ring-Neck Parakeets.

One of the party was particularly keen to pick up on Green Pigeons and they were pleased to locate one in the park, a Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, and they were all very pleased with themselves having got a target species soon. It wasn't until later that they realised that they are found in abundance almost everywhere! Other birds in the park and hotel gardens included the ubiquitous Black Kites, Little Cormorant on the lakes, Golden Flameback, Rufus Treepie and a surprise Red-naped Ibis. Bulbuls were also seen, including the Red-vented Bulbul, listed as one of the top 100 destructive escapee species in the world.

Next stop was the Sultanpur National Park about 2 hours' drive from Delhi, a site with a back story of interest. Originally a site of salt extraction it was closed in 1923, leading to much local hardship, and was left unnoticed until discovered by a British ornithologist Peter Jackson who recognised both its importance and potential. In 1970 it became a sanctuary and in 2021 became an accredited RAMSAR site, a wetland sanctuary to over 320 bird species. As with many wetland areas it suffers from periodic loss of water partly through abstraction, but it now thankfully supplemented from accessible sources. Home to Asia's largest antelope the Nilgia (literally meaning) "blue cow") birds in abundance included White-fronted and other kingfishers, Cone Duck, tiny Pygmy Geese, Painted Stork and some familiar back home in the UK with Tufted Duck and Coot being present. Less common observations were of the Common Hawk-Cuckoo, Long-tailed and Bay-backed Shrike, White-breasted Waterhen and the Indian Spotbill Duck which Trevor explained is now split into 2 species east and west.

The next challenge was to get to the railway station through the Delhi traffic and after that achieve getting on to the right apart of the train to travel to the next stop Ranthambore National Park for the 'tiger' part of the expedition. At some 1300sq km, of which only around 20% is accessible, and with an estimated population of 80 Bengal Tigers there was, Trevor acknowledged, a low chance of an encounter. But, with multiple jeep trips booked they set off 'fingers crossed'. Fortune was on their side, and they were lucky enough see a pregnant female tiger on the first day and learnt later that it had given birth to 2 cubs. Subsequent excursions failed to find another but with a tiger seen



they could turn more of their attention to the birdlife the list of which was impressive including kingfishers, darters, Gt Thick-knee, River Tern, Blue Fish Owl, Brown Crake, Grey-headed Canary and Eastern Stonechat. Mammals included Spotted Deer, Black-faced monkeys, fruit bats and Sloth bear.

Back on the train the trip moved along to the Bharatpur and the Keoladeo National Park. A change of gear here from jeeps to foot through a reserve which can largely be walked. Trevor highlighted some interesting numbers associated with the running of the reserve: in 2000/1 40000 overseas visitors paid to enter, by 2021/2, largely as a result of covid, this number had fallen to 400 but the authorities showed revenue of approximately the same, so some ingenuity had obviously been employed by the management. Much of the area was too wet restricting access so birding was quite hard work, but an impressive list was still compiled with Swampphen, Indian Grey Hornbill, White-eared Bulbul, White-eyed Buzzard, Black (Sooty) Night Heron and Black Bittern. Owls included Spotted, Indian Scops and Dusky Eagle owl. At one point the party were stumped by a moorhen like bird and although photographs were taken it remains unidentified. If any members are experts on such species, I am sure Trevor would like to hear from you.

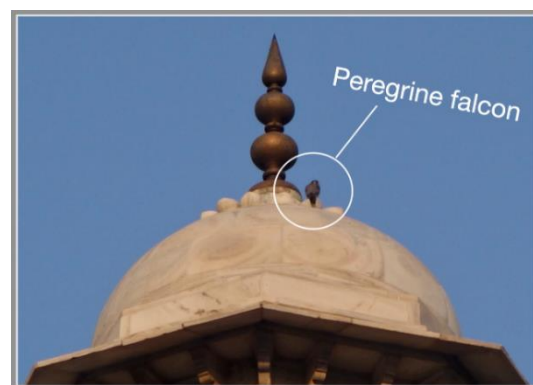
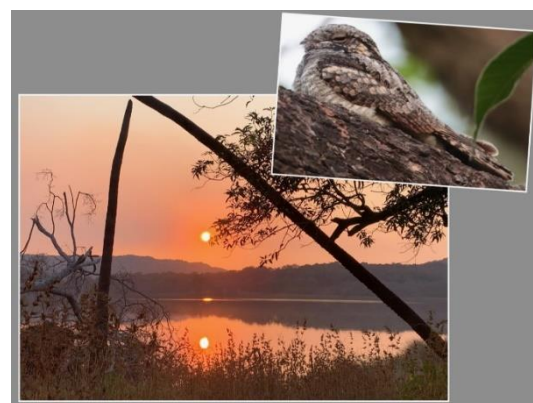
The fortunes of the Siberian Crane, a wonderful but seriously endangered species, were related and attempts to save the eastern race from complete loss by trying to pair an Iranian female with what was thought to be the only remaining eastern male. An interesting insight into the efforts that are made to try and save species, which in this instance, failed. On the way to the Siberian breeding grounds the female failed to keep contact with the male which she had partnered with. Unless the exercise can be successfully repeated it is likely that the eastern race will unfortunately die out.

As an aside Trevor bought up slides of wildfowling parties in the area during the times of the Raj when British hunters, including royalty, would slaughter thousands of birds a day, the maximum on one list was 4373 to a single gun in a day. A sad reflection on the past.

Further forays in the area produced an array of Redstarts, warblers, pipits and chats and Chestnut-shouldered Sparrows and Wryneck. A canal side track walk delivered Ruddy-breasted Crake, Bank Mynah, Steaked Wren-Babbler, Indian Crested Lark and Grey-headed Lapwing. Temmink Snit and Citrine Wagtail reminded us of home and this section was rounded off with Black-neck Stork.

The penultimate stop was on the Chambal River at another National Reserve. Another change of habitat with river birds, Indian Skimmer, Black-bellied Tern etal with Blue Rock Thrush, Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli's Eagle also putting in an appearance. Meanwhile Gharial and Mugger Crocodile added variety and a sense of caution to the day. The river, during the course of a year, can change between extraordinary extremes with up to 8m lifts in the water level.

Leading towards the end of the evening Trevor ran by us some of the ups and downs of Indian life and had to include a snake charmer, his cobra and a mongoose. The final destination was the Taj Mahal, one of those global 'if you are in the country you have to go there' places. Awed by the site but nonetheless a true birder to the end our speaker found a Peregrine perched on one of the domes! A great evening of birds and more.



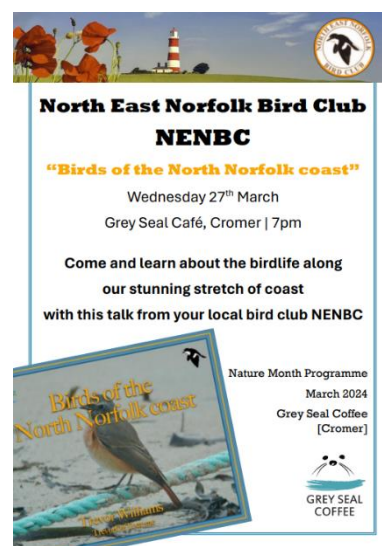


In a new venture for Cromer, Grey Seal Coffee have been running a Nature Month, with different local wildlife groups invited to give a weekly evening presentation. The programme included Cromer Green Spaces, Felbeck Trust, Cromer Peregrine Project and our own Club - rounded off with a fitting talk about Grey Seals by NWT. The 'performance' space isn't large, so a couple of dozen people provides a good audience.

Trevor Williams, Club Chair did a new talk **'Birds of the North Norfolk Coast'** which started with an introduction to the Club: our aims, activities and recording area, before looking in more detail at some of the birds seen along our

coast. Aimed at people with little or no knowledge of birds, the short talk explained what sorts of birds we might see at which times of the year - residents, summer and winter visitors, migrants - before showcasing some of our rarer visitors, and the possible reasons why they occur. Bird occurrences associated with various weather events, such as cold weather dispersal, eruptions and spring overshoots were covered, with photos of some of our most stunning visitors including Roller, Golden Oriole and, of course, Bee-eater featured. The various special habitats in North Norfolk are also included. The talk ended with a couple of examples of species under threat and the need to step up our conservation efforts.

Several people who attended the Grey Seal evening returned to Gresham on Thursday for the indoor meeting - job done!



On the Market ... a follow up report



Last month we let you know that club member William Earp's call for a second-hand telescope and tripod to buy for a birding project he had visited in India had been successful. Following a recent upgrade, Andy Clarke's old scope found a new home. William has since heard back from the recipients. He says: "These photos show one of the brothers, Rinkesh, with Andy's Kowa mounted on a Velbon Sherpa tripod passed on by a member of the Bristol Ornithological Club (in whose Newsletter I had made a similar appeal). Success all round! Thank you."



Dear William, Happy Holi, I have received the scope and tripod from Harish on the 21st, I was busy in our Holi festival, Rinkesh started using the scope in our bird park, he doesn't have experience to use it, Harish taught him.

Tomorrow I will go to the park and take a few photos with your scope then I will send you. Then you can send it to the owner of it. We like this scope and it works well. Rinkesh is enjoying his guiding with scope in Keoladeo National park. Thank you once again.



Shifting baseline syndrome (SBS) describes a gradual change in the accepted norms for the condition of the natural environment due to lack of past information or lack of experience of past conditions. Many members new to birding in the club and others will have their idea of the NENBC area and its birds, especially since the millennium.

Being a long term native of the area I can look back at earlier decades and will endeavor to illustrate how much has changed especially with Passerines. There are many reasons why our small birds have declined and while the exact factors are not fully understood the following have contributed to their local and national decline:

1. **Habitat loss and Degradation.** Changes in use (urbanisation and agricultural intensification) have led to fragmentation of habitats which in turn leads to loss of nesting sites and sufficient food availability.
2. **Climate Change.** More extreme weather and different weather patterns can affect migration, breeding times and food supply.
3. **Pesticides and Chemicals.** Since the publication of Rachel Carson's '[Silent Spring](#)' in 1962 we have known the environmental harm caused by the indiscriminate use of certain pesticides. Such chemicals affect both food sources and bird health.
4. **Predation and Disturbance.** Natural predation is balanced by large and with some birds multiple broods, however, domestic cats, Mediterranean and sub-Saharan hunters account for millions of birds killed each year. It is estimated that 25 million birds are killed around the Mediterranean annually. Disturbance, particularly in relation to ground nesting birds, can be a problem due to human activities, including off-roading, dogs off-leads and wildfires.
5. **Disease and Parasites.** We are hearing more each year of avian influenza, although it has devastated water fowl and seabirds in particular, there is some evidence that it has been found in passerines. Trichomonads are single-celled organisms that affect many smaller birds as it is spread by direct contact or through infected water eg bird baths. In 2009 there was mass mortality among Greenfinches. Good hygiene practice around feeders and water facilities is essential to reduce the spread of the disease.

Before all of the above became problematic the NENBC seemed to be populated with a variety of species that would have 'WhatsApp' messages flying throughout the membership today. Reproduced below are a few extracts from my note-books for May, June and July 1964:

May 8th 1964: Common (Grey) Partridge and 9 Pink-footed Geese heading east (Beeston Common)

May 10th 1964: Spotted Flycatcher (Sheringham Woods) and Tree Pipit (Old Wood, Sheringham). Grasshopper Warbler 'reeling' (Beeston Common)

May 12th 1964: Garden Warbler, 2 Turtle Doves, Spotted Flycatcher and singing Wood Warbler (Beeston Common)

13th May 1964: Common (Grey) Partridge, 3 Grasshopper Warblers 'reeling' (Beeston Common). Two Wood Warblers (Sheringham Woods)

14th May 1964: Wood Warbler - pair (Sheringham Woods). Turtle Dove - pair and Tree Pipit (Beeston Common)

16th May 1964: Stone Curlew - pair (High Kelling). Yellow Wagtail – pair (Beeston Common)

17th May 1964: Black Redstart – female (Beeston Regis). Redstart – singing and 15 Crossbills (Sheringham Woods). Corn Bunting – singing (Sheringham Golf Course)



22nd May 1964: Corn Bunting (Beeston Regis cliffs)

23rd May 1964: Wood Warbler – singing, Crossbill – pair, Tree Pipit (Pretty Corner). Canada Goose – pair with 12 young, Great-crested Grebe – pair with 3 young and Tree Sparrow (Gunton Park)

24th May 1964: Red-backed Shrike – pair (Muckleburgh Hill). Stone Curlew – pair (High Kelling)

2nd June 1964: Hooded Crow (Sheringham)

7th June 1964: Two flocks (20 & 30) Crossbills (Sheringham Woods). Corn Bunting (Beeston Regis cliffs)

18th June 1964: Quail (Upper Sheringham)

22nd June 1964: Spotted Flycatcher, Grasshopper Warbler and Turtle Doves (Beeston Common)

9th July 1964: Nightjar (Old Wood, Sheringham). Quail (Pretty Corner)

13th July 1964: Spotted Flycatcher – nest with young, Turtle Doves (Beeston Common)

23rd July 1964: Red-backed Shrike – male (Beeston Common)

28th July 1964: Red-backed Shrike – female and 1 juvenile (Beeston Common)

As you will have seen, birds I saw day-to-day are very scarce nowadays and I gave this note the title 'Silent Spring' because when I go out in the spring now I do not hear Grasshopper Warblers 'reeling', Snipe 'drumming', Turtle Doves 'purring', Cuckoo, Yellowhammer or the loud deep scolding of the Willow Tit from my local patch.

It is, however, not all doom and gloom as there have been some successes in the NENBC area with Dartford Warblers (Kelling Heath), Cetti's Warbler (Weybourne) and Firecrest (Cromer-Holt ridge) also there has been a huge increase in raptor and heron species into the area. Our birds have a lot to contend with and we need to keep monitoring them as this is the only way we can see changes so if you are not adding your sightings to the club website please start!



Library photos from the NENBC website courtesy of: a) Tree Pipit – James Appleton; b) Grasshopper Warbler – Julian Thomas; c) Wood Warbler – Francis Farrow; d) Turtle Dove – Roger Hughes; e) Stone Curlew – Dave Billham; f) Corn Bunting – Moss Taylor; g) Black Redstart – John Wheeler; h) Great Crested Grebe – Nick Kimber; i) Tree Sparrow – Moss Taylor; j) Red-backed Shrike – Stu Buck; k) Common Crossbill – Nik Borrow; l) Nightjar – Francis Farrow; m) Spotted Flycatcher – Richard Farrow; n) Grey Partridge – Trevor Williams; o) Cuckoo – Tricia Maile; p) Yellowhammer – Jane Crossen; q) Snipe – Andrew Crossley.





3 eggs!



Hurrah! Three eggs for the Cromer Peregrines this year and the watchpoint is up and running – extra

volunteers always appreciated so do get in touch! There was a little bit of a problem with the camera feed when the first egg was laid but here are the video links for the second two: |23rd March: [3rd egg being laid](#) |21st March: [2nd egg being laid](#). The webcam is now up and running and you can view it here: [Livestream Link](#)

Here's an excerpt from a report in the local EDP on 23rd March:

Cromer Peregrine Project donates £2,000 to Norfolk church

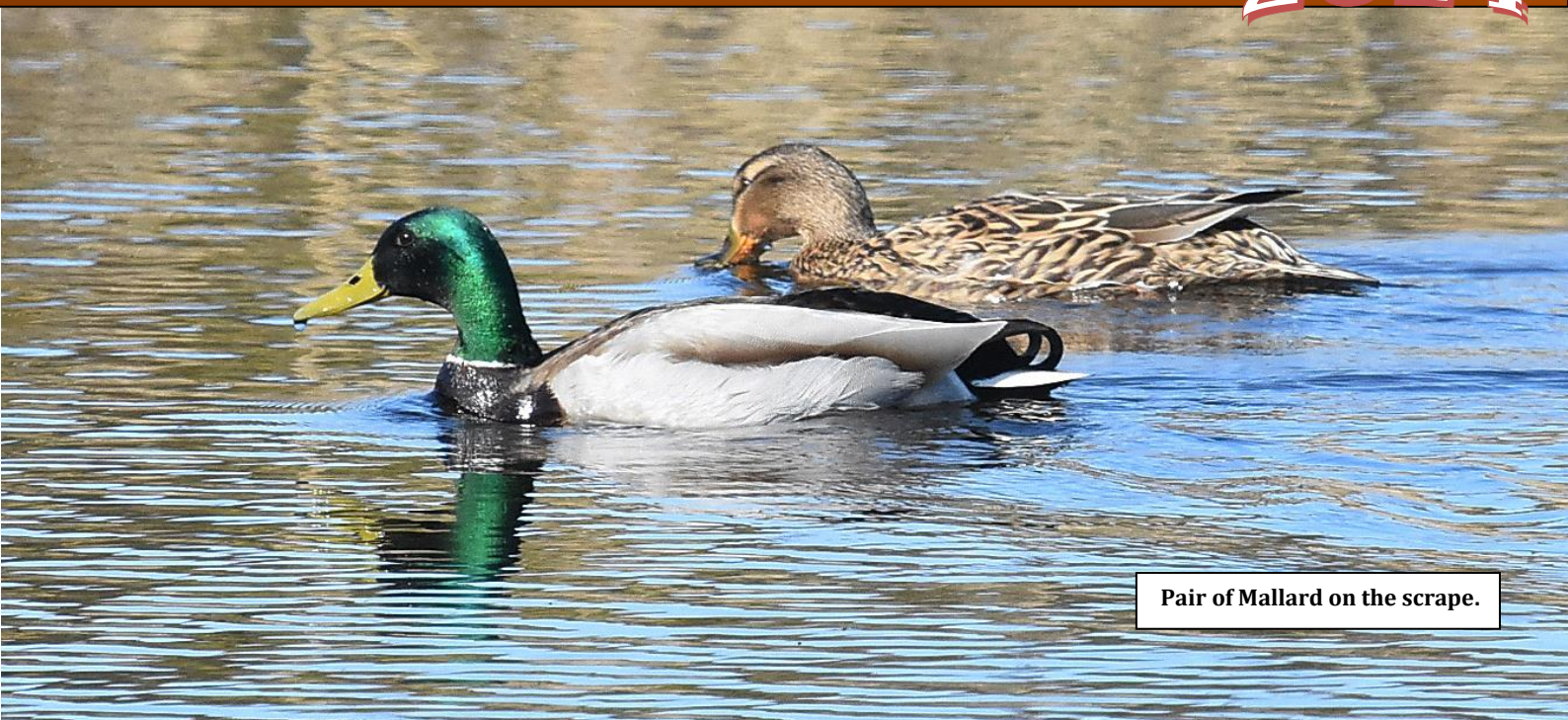
"Every year when the peregrines breed, we run a watchpoint outside of the museum which local optical company Viking loan us binoculars and scopes for the public to view the peregrines," Chris Skipper, a Cromer Peregrine Project committee member, said. "We also sell peregrine merchandise on the watchpoint and in the local shop Upstairs



Downstairs, as well as streaming the peregrines on YouTube, which is kindly sponsored by the Cliftonville Hotel. Money raised is donated to the church as they have had to close the tower because of the breeding peregrines. With the sale of merchandise, people donating on the watchpoint and online via our PayPal link, we have managed to raise enough to donate £2000 to the church."

Mr Skipper said hatching should take place around April 25th

We also made it to the BBC website: [Cromer peregrine falcon lays first egg of season at church \[19-Mar\]](#)



Pair of Mallard on the scrape.

By Moss Taylor

This is the 3rd in a monthly series this year of the wildlife at Weybourne Camp during 2024 ...

Even by the end of March, warm spring-like days were still few and far between, but despite this the Camp was visited on an almost daily basis in the hope of finding some early migrants.

A skein of 70 Pink-footed Geese heading offshore to the WNW on 14th were the last of the winter. While single pairs of Gadwall, Mallard and Teal were welcome visitors to the scrape, which is still at record water levels, they were outshone by a most handsome drone Pochard from 6th to 8th, joined by a female on 9th, but sadly both had left by the following morning. These constituted the first records of Pochard on any of the three scrapes that have been created on the Camp during the last 35 years.

Sea ducks were in evidence throughout March with up to 85 Common Scoters still present offshore at the month's end, as well as 100 flying west on 25th. The last 2 Velvet Scoters flew west on 31st and the easterly passage of Eiders peaked at 66 (including one flock of 40) on 12th.

An early 'spring' migrant included a White Stork flying east on 5th (only the second record for the Camp), and more expected a Crane east on 9th, a Spoonbill west on 15th & single Avocets west on two dates. Less predicted were 2 Ruffs flying west on 20th and 24th, and a Cattle Egret east close inshore on 15th, which was also seen flying east at Cromer. This was only the sixth record for the Camp, but just eight days later, two more Cattle Egrets were seen to land on the sheep field before flying inland. So March certainly produced the goods as far as non-passerines were concerned.



Pair of Pochard on the scrape.

Up to 17 Oystercatchers were present on the Camp in March.



The first passerine spring migrant was a Chiffchaff on 11th, the passage peaking with seven on 25th, a Sand Martin on 18th, the first Wheatear on 20th, a Swallow on 25th (the earliest ever by three days), the same date that a very elusive first-summer male Black Redstart played hide-and-seek on the plateau finally a Blackcap and 3 House Martins on 30th.

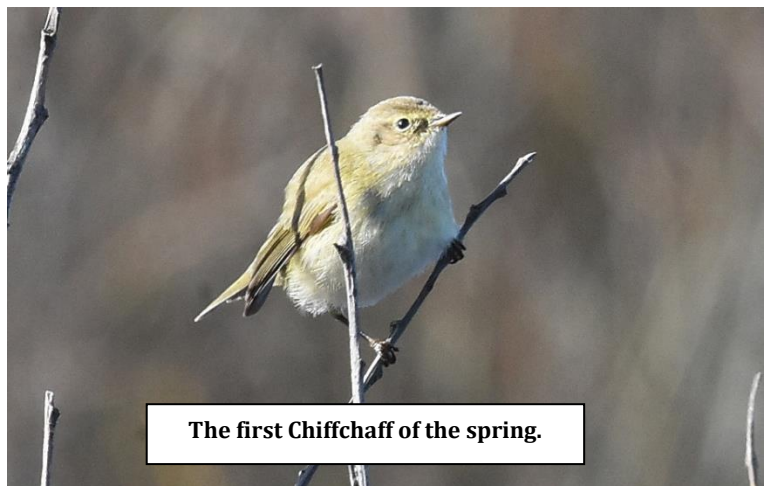
Single female White Wagtails were at the east end on 22nd and 24th, and Meadow Pipit passage peaked on 20th with 134 flying west, while a Water Pipit circled around over the scrape on 16th but finding nowhere to land continued on its way to the west. By the end of the month a total of five species of butterfly had been recorded.



Male Brimstone.



An immature male Marsh Harrier, one of three over Weybourne Hope reed bed in March.



The first Chiffchaff of the spring.

NENBC Alerts: WhatsApp Group



By Tony Forster

Faced with 29 species reported on the group in the last 3 months I anticipated a giant step towards the group's bronze badge but at the end of the day it was more of a large stride of as we added just 9 bringing the group total to 86. Of note were **Twite** and **Corn Bunting** on the inland fields between Weybourne coastguards and Sheringham golf club. While in the air you'd have been hard pressed to miss **White-tailed Eagle** and **Common Crane** as they flew over Sheringham if you were looking of course... 25+ **Bewicks** were on the sea at Cromer on February 10th but somehow news didn't make it onto the group at all, particularly annoying as that's one I am having trouble catching up with in the area. Also reported in the area were 2 x **Red-Necked Grebes**, **Great-Northern Diver**, **Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Avocet**, **Common Crane**, **Spoonbill**, and **Crossbills** moving late March. Current membership stands at 56.

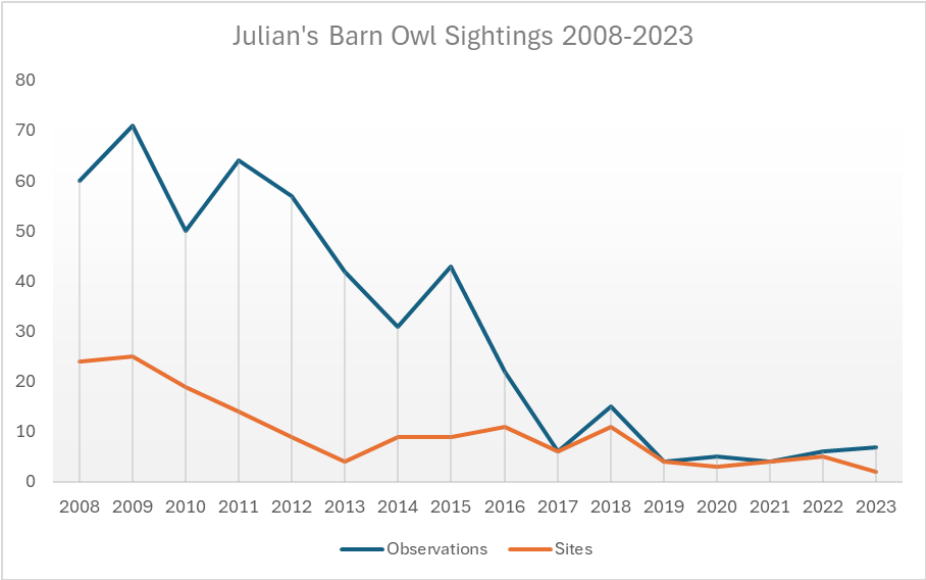
Library photos from top courtesy of James Appleton (Twite and Corn Bunting), Moss Taylor (Common Crane)





By Julian Thomas

When we moved to Norfolk in 2007 one of the delights of birding in the county was how regularly we encountered Barn Owls. It seemed that pausing by any area of rough grassland, particularly along river valleys or the coast would guarantee sightings of this charismatic species in the late afternoon. Perusal of the Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report does not seem to indicate any serious problems with the Barn Owl population in the county – the species is green listed and in 2022 was recorded at 361 locations, a number almost identical to 2021. However, I haven’t had a single sighting of a Barn Owl this year, which motivated me to look through my diaries to see how my own personal encounters with Barn Owls have reduced since 2007. These are only one person’s observations so are of limited value but it does, perhaps, point to a serious decline.



Year	Observations	Sites
2008	60	24
2009	71	25
2010	50	19
2011	64	14
2012	57	9
2013	42	4
2014	31	9
2015	43	9
2016	22	11
2017	6	6
2018	15	11
2019	4	4
2020	5	3
2021	4	4
2022	6	5
2023	7	2

If there has been a decline what might be the cause? Barn Owls are sometimes considered to be the wimps of the bird world, rather unfairly as this is really a tropical species at the edge of their extensive world range, but they certainly suffer in wet windy conditions, and during periods of severe frost or snowfall, and numbers reduce when such weather strikes – a vicious cold snap in February 2013 certainly affected Barn Owls, and the ‘Beast from the east’ can hardly have helped, but a high reproductive output should allow them to bounce back quickly from such setbacks. Factors that can impact Barn Owl populations are loss of nesting sites, reduction in permanent pasture with healthy Field Vole populations, and collision with cars, perhaps because birds are forced to hunt along roadsides as grassland habitat is lost, but none of these factors would seem to have increased dramatically in severity in Norfolk. There is another new factor in Norfolk that might be significant and it is with great reluctance that I suggest the rapid increase in the Common Buzzard population might have something to do with it (I like Buzzards!). Certainly, the disappearance of Barn Owls from the Swafeld area correlates very well with the establishment of several breeding pairs of Buzzards. If Buzzards are partly responsible for a decline in Barn Owls I think it would be unlikely to be because of competition for food – Buzzards are far less effective than Barn Owls in hunting voles in long grass. Like Kestrels, Buzzards have been seen ‘mugging’ Barn Owls for prey, and one might imagine that a Buzzard might be a rather more brutal mugger than a Kestrel. In a conversation with Mark Watson (who operates guided pike trips on Barton Broad, and although not a birder is an excellent wildlife photographer and acute observer) I mentioned that in all the time I have watched Buzzards I had never seen one catch anything larger than a beetle or earthworm, only to be told he had only once seen a Buzzard make a kill – and that was a Barn Owl! Against any theory that Buzzards might impact on Barn Owls it can be seen that in areas like the west country and Wales Barn Owls and Buzzards have co-existed for eons, but perhaps it is the sudden arrival of a new predator that Barn Owls find difficult to cope with. Perhaps the presence of Buzzards might make Barn Owls more nocturnal and therefore harder to observe, or given time a balance will develop between the species, if indeed the finger of guilt can really be pointed at the Buzzard. Both species add immeasurably to the landscape.



Back in November we submitted several project proposals to the University of East Anglia (UEA). Those of you who have been members for a while will recall that for a number of years we have enjoyed working with 3rd year students studying an Environmental Consultancy module. We set them an environmentally-linked project in the role of client and they act in the capacity of an environmental consultant and produce a research report for us. We really enjoy the process and we are lucky to have three projects underway this year, and on one of them we need your help....

Bee-eaters - The history of breeding Bee-eaters in the UK and the conservation implications going forward

Although there have been relatively few breeding attempts in the UK by European Bee-eaters, the successful breeding season of the 'Trimingham Bee-eaters' in 2022 and their subsequent return in 2023 was significant and potentially reflective of a developing change in breeding range of this species further northwards from predominantly southern and central Europe, Africa, and western Asia. Climate change has been widely promoted as the reason for this range extension but what does the data tell us? How does the experience here in Norfolk fit in to any emerging patterns? What are the conservation implications?

Gulls - What's that gull eating my chips! - the rise of Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls in Norfolk

Until 25 years ago the large common gull species along the Norfolk coast was likely to be Herring Gull. A species with a close affinity with people - and their chips! Then the birds were split into two separate species: Herring Gull - in the north of Europe - and Yellow-legged Gull in the south. In 2007 the southern birds were further divided, west and east - the eastern population becoming Caspian Gull. This three-way split created renewed interest amongst birdwatchers in an otherwise much ignored bird. Separation of the three species can be an identification challenge but the more birders looked the more they found. This project will examine the occurrence of the two new species along the Norfolk coast, classify records by season and age, analysing any changes in distribution. Some individuals have been colour-ringed in their place of origin (particularly Caspian) - this data helping to assess the spread of these species across Europe. In the right conditions could either species successful breed in Norfolk - and if so are there any likely impacts on biodiversity?

Ecological grief - is nature bad for you?

We are becoming increasingly familiar with the evidence that access to and engagement with nature and green spaces is good for our health both physical & mental. But as the evidence for and pace of climate change increases, more people are becoming concerned about the impacts on nature - the possibility of a collapse in global biodiversity, along with an individual sense of helplessness, is creating 'eco angst'. The project is intended to scope the extent of this problem, gauge responses from a cross-section of people enjoying nature or participating in wildlife conservation work - helping draft a new narrative. Understanding individual attitudes to declines in nature could help engagement and mobilisation towards a more connected response to the global threats we face.

This last project is a joint one with local wildlife conservation charity **Felbeck Trust** and it is this one that we would very much like your help with. In the coming weeks we hope that you will consider responding to a questionnaire link we send out on behalf of the student running with this one to assist them with their primary analysis. Thank you.

Contemplating Conservation Migrating thoughts from years gone by



By Roger Fickling

This is the time of year when we birders get all excited about the arrival of our summer migrants. As I write this the temperature is still in a single figure and the wind is blowing from the north-west with a chill factor taking it lower still; but I am undeterred, and my mind is racing ahead a few weeks when I will be out enjoying the sights and sounds of the spring migration.

Most of us will spend little time thinking about the intricacies and complications of bird migration, the occasional passing wonder at it maybe, but not the detailed study of the science behind it nor the awareness of the physiological extremes and great hazards the birds have to undergo. Of course, an enormous amount of scientific study has been done regarding bird migration, and we could be forgiven for thinking that there is nothing left to learn; but it has not always been so! The early pioneers and observers of wildlife had to forge their own way through the unknown and arrive at their own theories.

Back in the 4th century BC Aristotle unwittingly arrived at a hypothesis that birds may well move from one area to another over winter. But with no real way of proving this, he searched for more “believable” explanations. As he had observed some martins (and probably Swifts) crawling into crevices, he surmised that they must go into a torpid state over winter, and then warm up again when the warmer weather arrived. He also observed two particular species, one through the summer and the other through the winter, and, as they appeared to have similar habitats and characteristics, he arrived at the conclusion that they underwent a transmutation, the one changing into the other for winter, and then back again in spring. Although he does not mention these specific birds, it is often held that he was referring to the Redstart and the Robin.

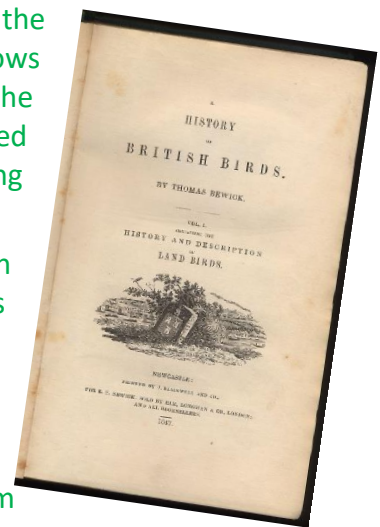
In 1680 an English minister Charles Morton put forward a theory that birds migrate to the moon for the winter. This may have come about as at the time there were a number of observations of birds, such as Cranes, travelling at night across the face of the moon. Although this sounds ridiculous today, he correctly conjectured that birds may be spurred to move to new areas due to changing weather and lack of food, and even noted that body fat might help sustain them on their journey. *Photo courtesy of Jane Crossen*



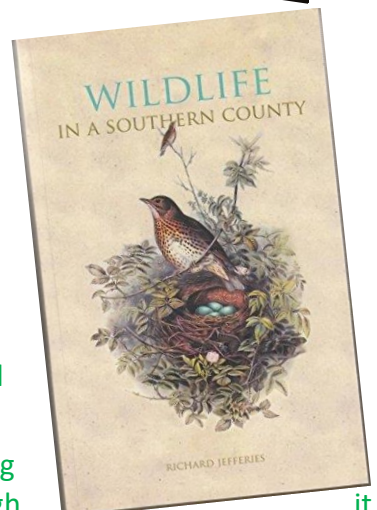
In the second half of the 18th century Gilbert White, a vicar from Selborne in Hampshire, spent much of his life studying the local wildlife in his garden and the surrounding areas, writing detailed journals of these observations. Over the course of some 20 years he wrote numerous letters to two eminent naturalists of the time based on these journals, and in 1789 these letters were eventually published as a book, “The Natural History of Selborne”. His observations were detailed and, in many cases, groundbreaking, and he may be said to be the first real field naturalist, observing what he actually saw going on around him, and writing notes on his findings. In White’s day it was thought largely inconceivable that birds could undertake such vast journeys between continents or even countries, and all sorts of theories abounded as to what happened to them during the winter. White himself seemed to bounce between a number of ideas about migration, and, observing that Swallows “have some strong attachment to water”, he wrote in 1781 that “ though they may not retire into that element, yet they may conceal themselves in the banks of pools and rivers during the uncomfortable months of winter”. In 1767 he had already commented that as swallows were so often seen near water in September it could “give some countenance to the northern opinion (strange as it is) of their retiring under water”. Again White observed swallows quite late in the year and supposed that “some stragglers stay behind for a long while, and do never, there is the greatest reason to believe, leave this island.”

Gilbert White noticed all the smaller insectivorous birds that came to this country in spring; he called them soft-billed birds, and had this to say in 1767 regarding the theories as to where they went come September: “As to the short-winged soft-billed birds, which come trooping in such numbers in the spring, I am at a loss even what to suspect about them. I watched them narrowly this year, and saw them abound till about Michaelmas, when they appeared no longer. Subsist they cannot openly among us, and yet elude the eyes of the inquisitive: and, as to their hiding, no man pretends to have found any of them in a torpid state in the winter. But with regard to their migration, what difficulties attend that supposition! That such feeble bad fliers should be able to traverse vast seas and continents, in order to enjoy milder seasons amidst the regions of Africa!”

It was really only towards the end of the eighteenth century that “true” migration was accepted as an explanation for the winter disappearance of birds from northern parts of the globe. Thomas Bewick conducted a number of experiments to keep Swallows alive through the winter and concluded in his “History of British Birds” in 1797: “ that the result clearly proves that Swallows do not in any material instance differ from other birds in their nature and propensities (for life in the air); but that they leave us when this country can no longer furnish them with a supply of their proper and natural food”.



Just over a hundred years after Gilbert White, another natural history writer was making his observations of migration. He clearly accepted this natural phenomenon, and although it may not have been known exactly where the birds travelled from and to, he clearly enjoyed the experience. Richard






















Jefferies was born in 1848 and his childhood and early adult years were spent on a small Wiltshire farm from which he drew inspiration for much of his writings on rural life and natural history. In his book “Wildlife in a Southern County” published in 1879, a compilation of numerous essays he wrote, Jefferies shows that he is a keen observer of wildlife and their habits, and he writes regarding the arrival of birds in spring, and the changes he sees taking place at this time of year: “Lady day forms with Michaelmas the two eras, as it were, of the year. The first marks the departure of the winter birds and the coming of the spring visitors; the second, in reverse order, marks the departure of the summer birds and the appearance of the vanguard of the winter ones. In the ten days or fortnight succeeding Lady-day – say from the 6th of April to the 20th – great changes take place in the fauna and flora; the nightingales arrive and sing, and with them the white butterfly appears. The swallow comes, and the wind-anemone blooms in the copse. Finally, the cuckoo cries, and at the same time the pale lilac cuckoo-flower shows in the moist places of the mead.”

Check This Out!

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



-  **“Balearic Shearwaters respond to climate change as individuals”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [14-Mar]
-  **“British gulls contribute to plastic pollution at Spanish wetlands”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [17-Mar]
-  **“Understanding eggshells”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [31-Mar]
-  **“Bittern flourishes in Britain”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [05-Apr]
-  **“Calls for chimney bird guards following Tawny Owl rescue”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [29-Mar]
-  **“Surprises in latest BBRC decisions file”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [27-Mar]
-  **“Norfolk Ruff breeding scheme given green light”** from the [BirdGuides website](#) [12-Mar]
-  **“Solar eclipse could scramble bird behaviour”** from the [Rare Bird Alert website](#) [02-Apr]
-  **“Operation Easter – 27 years of stopping egg thieves”** from the [Rare Bird Alert website](#) [02-Apr]
-  **“Dancing grebes have record-breaking year on RSPB reserves”** from the [Rare Bird Alert website](#) [28-Mar]
-  **“The crow's best friend: Humans - A new study examined the activity of birds when humans aren't near”** from the [ScienceDaily website](#) [Tel-Aviv University: 10-Mar]
-  **“Study considers ways to increase accessibility for all wildlife enthusiasts”** from the [Phys.Org website](#) [26-Mar]
-  **“Dorset cliff cameras to probe mystery of missing puffins”** from the [BBC website](#) [05-Apr]
-  **“Owner of rhea on run in Suffolk warns public not to catch it”** from the [BBC website](#) [22-Mar]
-  **“Bristol's We The Curious inspires new seagull mural”** from the [BBC website](#) [12-Mar]
-  **“Trespassing bird brings rush-hour trains to a standstill in Brighton”** from the [ITV website](#) [03-Apr]
-  **“Bella the hawk brought in to tackle pigeon problem at Essex train station”** from the [ITV website](#) [17-Mar]
-  **“Ernie the owl to retire after 30 years at Warwick Castle”** from [The Guardian website](#) [24-Mar]
-  **“How birdwatching's biggest record threw its online community into chaos”** from [The Guardian website](#) [24-Mar]





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.](#)

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

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

“Clicking hard ‘tet’ or ‘tuk’, sharper than Blackcap; high ‘see’. Song low warble before loud, wooden rattle ‘tuk-atuk-atuk-atuk-atuk-atuk-atuk.’”

from WILDGuides BRITAIN'S BIRDS 2nd Edition - An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland 2nd Edition by Hume, Still, Swash, Harrop and Tipling

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

Intermediate versions also occur.”

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

Wordsearch



This month, we have the 23 species or races recorded in April 2023 for which we have just one or two records 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.

Garganey
Goosander
Greenshank
Hawfinch
Hen Harrier
Manx Shearwater
Merlin
Montagu's Harrier
Rock Pipit
Black-tailed Godwit
Bluethroat
Garden Warbler
Iceland Gull
Kittiwake
Little Gull
Little Ringed Plover
Little Stint
Pochard
Ruff
Sanderling
Short-eared Owl
Spoonbill
Woodcock

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





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!

- Red-legged Partridge:** "Including one somersaulting as part of his aggressive display" | Moss Taylor | Weybourne Camp | 1st |
- Canada Goose:** "Plus one hybrid apparently with greylag" | Bob Farndon | Pigneys Wood | 14th |
- Egyptian Goose:** "farm reservoir. pair + two, just hatched goslings" | Phil Borley | Thornage | 12th |
- Pochard:** "Adult drake flew on to scrape and remained all the time I was there. The first record of one on scrape." | Moss Taylor | Weybourne Camp | 6th | and "Pair on scrape, presumably the drake was calling during the night and attracted down a female." | 9th |
- Stock Dove:** "Pair appear to have taken over Little Owl nest site in compound" | Moss Taylor | Weybourne Camp | 29th |
- Moorhen:** "Calling by night over garden (assumes two sets of calls several hours apart were different birds)" | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 6th |
- Little Grebe:** "Pair on scrape getting very annoyed with Moorhen that had strayed into their nesting area" | Moss Taylor | Weybourne Camp | 25th |
- Oystercatcher:** "At Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary - possibly the pair that nests in the Pond Paddock each year." | Ellie Farrow | West Runton | 2nd |
- White Stork:** "Flew east over our house, Weybourne - what a stonker!!" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 5th |
- Cormorant:** "Some white, younger one? Not the leucistic one. Flying East." | Ellie Farrow | Weybourne | 1st |
- Cattle Egret:** "Past North Lodge Park going east. Thanks to MT and NENBC sea-watch app for the prompt post." | Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 15th |
- Sparrowhawk:** "Being mobbed by a crow, joined a thermal with four buzzards & a peregrine, the crow decided discretion was the best play & departed, then the peregrine briefly 'attacked' the sparrowhawk - not his/her day." | Dave Billham | Beeston Regis | 22nd |
- Sparrowhawk:** "Pigeon it was chasing hit conservatory window, but came to no harm and flew off. A fruitless foray for the Sparrowhawk which then sat in the Scots Pine eyeing up any birds moving." | Di & Richard Farrow | At Home | 27th |
- Sparrowhawk:** "male, through low past my patio door as I had coffee, backside birding!" | John Swallow | At Home | 31st |
- Marsh Harrier:** "1430-1700, male from east, hunting over the airfield, ignored the two of us parked by the caravan and flew within twenty feet of us at head height, quite amazing." | Dave Billham | Weybourne Camp | 16th |
- Red Kite:** "Drifted over west, keeping me entertained as I worked in the garden" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 7th |
- Red Kite:** "One on the road and one loitering in the field by a dead hare. Had to stop the car to avoid catastrophe!" | John Hurst | Mundesley | 11th |
- Buzzard:** "Following a plough with gulls and taking small rodents. Seen flying by the road carrying prey. The first time I have seen this opportunist behaviour." | John Hurst | Mundesley | 11th |
- Tawny Owl:** "Loud calling around midnight, opened window to find one perched on roof two in trees in garden." | Richard Kershaw | At Home | 1st |
- Tawny Owl:** "Heard only (from bed), hooting frequently for at least ten minutes." | Tony Pope | Weybourne | 22nd |
- Kingfisher:** "On fence wires along new beck South of Lake, I heard it first" | Tony Forster | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 5th |
- Long-tailed Tit:** "Gathering cobweb from around my kitchen window at Weybourne as I stood on the other side of the window, washing up." | Tony Pope | At Home | 9th |
- Chiffchaff:** "8 singing and one other non-singer seen, be interesting to see how many stay and how many are passing through2" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 25th |
- Blackcap:** "Female feeding furiously on fat slab in garden. First record this year after a winter with apparently no Blackcaps in the garden; have we been missing them, or are local wintering birds beginning to wander in search of territories or maybe getting into condition to migrate back to central Europe?" | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 1st |
- Blackcap:** "First of the spring (had no wintering birds) Beechwood Avenue" | Andrew Kershaw | Aylmerton | 30th |
- Starling:** "x39 A garden record. It's weird but we have lived here for 5 years and very rarely do we see a Starling settling in our garden or field and none on the feeders." | Alan Stevens | Gresham | 12th |
- Blackbird:** "3 flew from the garden skywards, slowly gaining height below the half moon. They flew to each quarter of the space, becoming mere specks until heading NE, lost from sight. The wonder of migration, I wished them well." | John Hurst | Mundesley | 18th |
- Redwing:** "Redwing festival this morning, circa 40 roosted in a small copse. As they left, I was treated to a community chorus of Redwing sub-song for an hour, presumably moving through on their northwards journey" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 12th |
- Song Thrush:** "Using the brick I supplied for it on my meadow .snail for breakfast ." | Anne Sims | Gresham | 21st |
- Pied Wagtail:** "One Pied on clifftops, one alba (White Wagtail) west along cliffs, identified by sharper call, strikingly pale grey back and clean flanks." | Andy Clarke | Pied Wagtail | West Runton | 19th |
- Siskin:** "Max number feeding in the garden at one time. Also several birds noted drinking the sap from some recent cuts to a birch tree in the garden." | Di & Richard Farrow | At Home | 5th |

Great to see so many of you using and getting to grips with the website. Anyone out there still having issues? Please let us know if you haven't been able to log in or have any queries about how to use it. We have had over 29,000 records uploaded since **launch on New Year's Eve bringing our club tallies to over 705,000 records – phenomenal achievement!**

Getting Started

If you haven't yet, take a look at this short video clip on how to get started on the website so you know what to expect once you are in:

NENBC on BirdClub

If you haven't yet 'activated' yourselves on the new website by changing your password then you can do that by clicking this link and following the instructions

<https://www.bird.club/members/password/new>

Don't forget to use the email address for yourself that you had registered with the old NENBC website – if you reset your password and then try and log in using a different email address then it won't work.

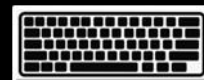
If you are already a user of the BirdClub platform with another club or group, you shouldn't need to change your password and you can switch between your different clubs once you are logged in to any of them - click on the arrow by your name at the top right of your screen.

Do give the new website a go and please contact us if you are struggling, have questions or queries or want to provide some feedback (we welcome both positive and less positive / constructive communications!) please get in touch - nenbc@aol.co.uk

Using the comments facility and sending personal messages to other members:

The new club website has the option of adding a comment to a record or a photo of others (which can be seen by all club members) or send a private comment to an individual. We encourage club members to take advantage of this new facility, but do remember that we aim to be a friendly, welcoming and inclusive club. Not everybody in the club has the same experience, and some club members are relatively new to birding. As with everywhere else in life, please be friendly and courteous and (to reiterate the request we place at the top of the club social media feed), please refrain from anything that could be construed as abusive, derogatory or inflammatory by other club members.

Data, Records, Posts and Tweets




Several 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 [27th Sep 23]. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a **'BBRC work in progress'** file available on their website [11th Mar]. Those of you interested in the work of the Rare Breeding Bird Panel following Dawn Balmer's 'Tri-partite' talk at Cley Village Hall in February might be interested in some new vids on their YouTube channel with some interesting videos on **Putting Birds First** plus some library previous talk presentations.

**Norfolk Bird Records**
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Hoopoe Cromer 11th April 2023


7:19 AM · Mar 25, 2024 · 247 Views

**Norfolk Bird Records**
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Cory's Shearwater Sheringham 17th September 2023


7:19 AM · Mar 25, 2024 · 255 Views

**Norfolk Bird Records**
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Golden Oriole West Runton 6th May 2023

7:20 AM · Mar 25, 2024 · 270 Views

**Norfolk Bird Records**
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Alpine Swift Paston 21st March 2023


7:13 AM · Mar 25, 2024 · 245 Views

**Norfolk Bird Records**
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Wood Warbler Paston 28th April 2023

7:21 AM · Mar 25, 2024 · 315 Views

**Norfolk Bird Records**
@NorfolkBirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Honey Buzzard Swanton Novers 2nd July 2023

7:10 AM · Mar 25, 2024 · 238 Views

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

NENBC Website



A huge thanks to the **105** of you who have uploaded records to our new website this year from **125** locations. It is very much appreciated by us and the bodies we send the data on to for inclusion in the county reports.

So far this year we have collectively recorded **167** species across the NENBC area. Don't forget that 100 species will earn you a Bronze Star badge from the club so do get out there recording yourself and telling us what you see. Attending club walks is a great way to see more birds with the added bonus of the extra sets of eyes from other members. The monthly Felbrigg walk is within the club area so all sightings there count towards your Star badges (and your Eco-badges if you have walked or cycled there) and some of the weekend walks are in the club area too.

Most recorded species for March was Blackbird, knocking Robing off last month's top-spot, and the location with the most records overall was Weybourne – just! We also had 421 'At Home' records too last month from 21 of you garden birding and 1,724 singing records covering 54 species

Top 10 Species Recorded (March)	
Number of Records Uploaded	
Blackbird	299
Robin	282
Woodpigeon	272
Buzzard	248
Dunnock	243
Carrion Crow	238
Blue Tit	232
Chiffchaff	227
Wren	218
Herring Gull	216

Top 10 Locations (March)	
Number of Records Uploaded	
Weybourne	1,517
Weybourne Camp	1,232
Sheringham	530
Weybourne Cliffs - Coastal Path	431
Beeston Common	336
Felbrigg Park & Lake	334
Bodham	309
Kelling Heath	288
Letheringsett & Ford	259
Holt	234

Top 10 Singers (March)	
Number of Records Uploaded	
Chiffchaff	181
Wren	178
Robin	172
Dunnock	139
Skylark	139
Chaffinch	90
Greenfinch	78
Great Tit	66
Song Thrush	64
Blackbird	60

NENBC Twitterings from (the platform formerly known as) Twitter

We very much welcome users tagging us **@NENBC_info** to keep us posted and so we can Retweet them but please refrain from posting any discussion that could be construed as abusive, derogatory or inflammatory to or by other users – thank you!



Please continue to tag us **@NENBC_info** in your own Tweets as we'll be doing more Re-tweeting of local, regional and national bird news. It is always great to see you sharing your outings, your photos, your questions, even your disappointments! We'd love to see you posting about club events, and your thoughts on them, with photos of birds or members (with their permission of course!) and expect to start getting reminders about club events direct from us with a brief write up of how they went.

Here are some highlights from the last month ...

1,761
followers

**NENBC**
@NENBC_Info

White-tailed eagle in our area this morning. Seen from: Sheringham, Beeston Common, Overstrand and Aylmerton.

3:56 pm · 14 Mar 2024 · 398 Views

**Adam**
@Adski44

You reposted

Not going to win any awards through the double glazing, but my first Mealy Redpoll on my parents feeders in Beeston Regis **@NENBC_Info**



7:39 pm · 24 Feb 2024 · 442 Views

**Jane Crossen**
@bridgetjanejone

You reposted

Both peregrines showing well at Cromer, especially the female. Excellent view of the distinctive white cheek mark that means we know it's the same female as the last few years. Hoping for an egg soon!



11:43 am · 16 Mar 2024 · 335 Views

Here's a list of the members who we know have a Twitter account they use for bird sightings, although not all are NENBC area residents - let us know if you're not on here!

James Appleton	Colin Blaxill	Tracy Brighten	Emma Buck	Stu Buck	Ben Clark	Sally Clark	
Jane Crossen	James Emerson	Ian Gordon	Andy Hale	Sarah Hanson	Emma Hurrell	Russ Malin	Louis Parkerson
Lin Pateman	Steve Stansfield	Val Stubbs	Alan Stevens	Carol Thornton	Ken Thornton	Pauline Walton	
Lizzie Wallis	Trevor Williams	Riley Woodhouse					

Don't forget that you don't have to have a Twitter account to peruse Twitter pages – take a look at our feed on your computer / laptop / phone etc: www.twitter.com/NENBC_Info

Cultural Birds – Fulmars

By David North

Fulmars can be seen along the whole length of our club coastline, their nesting sites along the cliff faces, with most of our 3,700+ records being from between Cromer-Sheringham-Weybourne where we generally have the most observers. Unusually they have also been recorded a little inland with single reports over Kelling Heath and Edgefield, a couple over Sheringham Park and surprisingly one circling the fishing lake at Roughton!

Fulmars

Along red and white cliffs stiff-winged fulmars patrol. They hang, suspended like kites in the wind, riding the cliff updrafts, their laughter echoing from carstone and chalk.

*Photo credits from the top:
Jane Crossen, Mick Rebane, Richard Farrow,
James Appleton*





What's That Song?

The bird voice variously described was that of a **Lesser Whitethroat**. Click on the bird name to take you through to the xeno-canto website where, if you click on any of the play arrows on the left of the page, you will be able to hear the song. Don't forget to have your sound turned on and the volume up! Here's a link to the **BTO BirdFacts: Lesser Whitethroat** page. There is also a BTO Bird ID Video featuring Wheatear: **Identifying Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat**. Photos from Jane Crossen, Moss Taylor, Philip Cartlidge, Francis Farrow.

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

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



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 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

My Birding Life by Club President Moss Taylor. Moss has been watching birds and keeping records of his sightings since 1953, as well as ringing and photographing birds for over 50 years. Although only a hobby, birding has really taken over his life, especially during the last 25 years since he retired from general practice. Since 1969 he has lived in Norfolk and much of the action in this book takes place there. All profits from the sale of this book will be going to his charity Love for Leo. See below for more details on this charity and contact details for Moss. £20 (or £18 if collected from Sheringham when restrictions permit).

Rare and Scarce Birds in North-east Norfolk This book by Moss Taylor presents all the records of rare and scarce birds that have been recorded in the NENBC area up to the formation of the Club in 2014. There is a Classified List and a chapter on the historic habitats and birding activities in the area plus all additional rarity records from 2015 to 2018. It is also illustrated with 78 colour photographs and runs to 104 pages. Now out of print, but there is an electronic version on our website.

For Annual Reports or **The Birds of Felbrigg Park**, contact Carol on nenbc@aol.co.uk. For **My Birding Life**, or emailable recent Annual Summaries of the Bird Life at Weybourne Camp, contact Moss Taylor, 4 Heath Road, Sheringham, NR26 8JH, phone 01263-823637 or email: moss.taylor@btinternet.com

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](http://www.birdventures.co.uk) as they also supply feeders and much more with good advice and help for garden bird enthusiasts. **Bird Ventures, The Wildlife Shop, 9B Chapel Yard, Albert Street, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6HG, Telephone 01263 710203, Email salesbirdventures@aol.com**



The NENBC objectives:

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

Monthly mid-week bird walks around Felbrigg Park on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to July / Varied **monthly weekend bird walks** to a range of local birding hotspots from September to July / **Occasional evening walks** in the spring and summer / **Monthly evening talks** on the last Thursday of the month from September to November and January to April - refreshments provided / An annual **Big Sit** birding event at a number of locations across the club area in May, recording the total number of species seen from one spot between dawn and dusk / Autumn **Global Big Day** birding challenge / Annual **Coordinated Seawatch** event along the coast in the autumn recording visible migration / 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