

# The Pied Flyer

North East Norfolk Bird Club



January 2026 - Issue 127

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

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Through a Lens



By our new Chair John Swallow – WELCOME!



Happy New Year and welcome to the January issue of NENBC's famous monthly Newsletter. As you will know by now Trevor after eleven tremendous years forming and steering the club has decided to move onto pastures new (see [page 23](#)). Under his stewardship the club has remained true to the founding values as a welcoming, encouraging, diverse and enthusiastic place for people to gather and share their love of birds, nature in general and long may this continue. Thank you Trevor, you are a hard act to follow!

Of course embarking on this adventure as your new chair would not have been possible were it not for the amazing team there is in our club. From creating this Newsletter, the team working on summarising many thousands of sightings to produce the club's Annual

Report (which is a vital conservation tool), the walks and meeting programs, to social media and more, much more. Thank you all.

In November 2024 BTO announced that they would be leading another atlas – Bird Atlas 2027-31. I wasn't bird watching at the time of the first atlas which was published in 1976, but I did take part in the 1980s atlas and the most recent atlas, 2007-2011. Each atlas has provided more detail with the latest providing information on breeding status, bird density and distribution in summer and winter. These atlases provide invaluable conservation data but are also fun too. We have arranged an early meeting with the BTO to understand how as a club we can be involved.

With more technology available the BTO is considering how they might incorporate this new technology such as Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) in the next atlas. Plus BTO are developing a web and mobile app to help with data capture giving live feedback to every surveyor. The atlas will require "boots on the ground", many "atlasers" will be seasoned birdwatchers but the BTO has established a working group on engagement and inclusion to consider how to encourage new audiences and younger people to take part. I found taking part in these atlases daunting but discovered it was fun, a good way of learning new skills, more about birds and I enjoyed visiting new areas around where I lived.

Fieldwork starts in November 2027, but if you cannot wait that long there is a way of "warming-up" by joining BTO's "Birds in Greenspaces" initiative which launches in April this year ([www.bto.bto.org/greenspaces](http://www.bto.bto.org/greenspaces)).

I don't know you all (our club members) personally but please do come and say hello.

Good birding!

## Membership Renewal - Subscriptions for 2026

We hope you will continue to support the club in 2026 by renewing your membership with us. The subs, which were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January, remain the same as last year:

**2026 calendar year membership of £15 per household to include a copy of the club's printed 2025 Annual Bird Report which we hope will be ready for publication in the summer, 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.

We aren't intending to issue membership cards to existing members this year due to the rising costs of postage. Our club sponsor BirdVentures, who offer discounts on their own brand bird food to members at their Holt shop, are happy to accept your 2025 cards as proof of membership. Please get in touch if you can't find yours!

**Many thanks for your continuing support and engagement and happy birding for 2026!**

# A Note from the Editor



By Carol Thornton

## Welcome to our January newsletter!

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and are raring to go on the birding front this year. Quite a few of you got off to a good start on 1<sup>st</sup> January for our **New Year's Day Birding Challenge** and you can read all about that on [page 27](#).

We have a great year of activities coming up. We had to postpone our guided outing to **Strumpshaw and Buckenham** on 4<sup>th</sup> as the RSPB closed the reserve due to a flood alert but we hope to reschedule that soon. We also have some pop-up events in the pipeline so watch this space, and the website, for info on those and if you fancy joining our **NENBC Comms WhatsApp Group** you get a notification a day or two before any of our events. Please do. We recommend this for hearing about any last minute changes to walks and events too.

It was good to see so many of you enjoying yourselves at our **Christmas Social and AGM**. Those of you that didn't make it can see what we got up to on [page 20](#). We said fond farewell to **Trevor Williams** as our Chair but he isn't going far and will still be involved with NENBC as one of our Vice Presidents, promoting the club, leading walks and participating as enthusiastically as ever in our initiatives going forward.

'Through a Lens' for the front cover last month was 'birds on or over water' and we had a great selection to choose from. Here are my favourites, from the top, Black-headed Gull [Richard Farrow], Mute Swan [Ken Thornton], Oystercatcher [Richard Farrow], Grey Heron [Andrew Crossley], and Great Black-backed Gull [Dave Billham]. For January, our theme will be 'Geese' so get clicking!

Here are my **favourite member photos** from December, selected from the ones that didn't make it on to our monthly

NENBC Bird Highlights section of the more unusual species ...  
Kingfisher [Andrew Crossley],  
Kestrel, Grey Wagtail [Richard Farrow],  
Feral Pigeon [Doug Cullern] plus this lovely Redshank [Richard Farrow].  
Thanks all!





By Paul Laurie

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

≈ 6,417 individual records covering 142 bird species were added in December

**This is Paul's last monthly Bird Highlights report. A huge thanks from us for undertaking this regular write up throughout 2025.**

**December 2025:** The highlight was an **Eastern Black Redstart** that was seen by forty-four members and reported sixty times during the last week of the month. It must be one of the most twitched birds in the NENBC's history and certainly one of the most photographed and photogenic. *Photo here from Richard Farrow, more overleaf.* During the month 6,417 records were submitted and 142 species recorded which is close to the five-year average of 6,642 records and 145 species.



**Bean Goose:** On the 21<sup>st</sup> two adults and three juveniles were seen at Gimingham and on the 31<sup>st</sup> four birds were seen at Happisburgh.

**Russian White-fronted Goose:** Five flew over Mundesley on the 19<sup>th</sup> with a large flock of Pink-feet. On the 21<sup>st</sup> four birds were found feeding at Gimingham and finally seven birds were reported east off Weybourne on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mandarin Duck:** A pair were seen on Oxnead Hall lake on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a single duck was on Dilham Canal on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Shoveler:** A high count of twenty-five plus birds on Antingham lake on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard:** A bird was present on the 26<sup>th</sup> on Antingham lake.

**Scaup:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> a drake was seen to fly east from Weybourne Cliffs.

**Velvet Scoter:** Present all month off Weybourne though in reducing numbers with eight on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, seven on the 11<sup>th</sup> and just one reported on the 28<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 1 courtesy of Jo King*

**Long-tailed Duck:** One – two on the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> at Weybourne and two east at the same site on the 22<sup>nd</sup> were the only records.



1

**Goosander:** One on Felbrigg Lake on the 6<sup>th</sup> then single drakes reported from Selbrigg Pond on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Brinton Hall Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Oxnead Mill pond on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Grey Partridge:** The only significant count was of fourteen together at Saxlingham on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Slavonian Grebe:** Presumably the November bird present off Sheringham on the 2<sup>nd</sup> though not reported again in December.

**Ruff:** One on the pig fields at Saxlingham on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Jack Snipe:** A bird reported from Holt Lowes on the 24<sup>th</sup> was the only recorded bird.

**Green Sandpiper:** No inland records this month; the sole report was a bird east on the 15<sup>th</sup> at East Runton.

**Caspian Gull:** A 1<sup>st</sup> winter present between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Sheringham sea front.

**Great Skua:** Singles reported on five dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> along the coast from Cromer to Weybourne.

**Great Shearwater:** A bird was seen flying east past Weybourne on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Cattle Egret:** A record year for this species ended with a single bird with cattle at Saxlingham on the 31<sup>st</sup> and constitutes the first record for this site.

**Hen Harrier:** One reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> 'At Home' from Swafield. Then on the 19<sup>th</sup> a male was seen by Dilham Canal, and a "ringtail" flew east past Beeston Regis. A second calendar year female was videoed hunting for several minutes at Saxlingham on the 31<sup>st</sup>. *Photo 2 courtesy of Paul Laurie*

**Merlin:** The bird at Weybourne was seen on several dates during the month though not after the 19<sup>th</sup>. Birds were seen at Dilham Canal on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and a bird was over Northrepps on the 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 31<sup>st</sup> a brown bird was seen hunting on two occasions at Saxlingham.

**Hooded Crow:** At Mundesley the bird was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven:** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> a bird was seen and heard "cronking" from the wood at Blickling Park. This constitutes the first record for this site.



2

**Firecrest:** Birds reported from Felbrigg Park, Weybourne and High Kelling. The only regular site was Beeston Common with a bird reported on four dates between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**BLACK REDSTART:** On the 24<sup>th</sup>, Graeme Hewson found an 1<sup>st</sup> winter **Eastern Black Redstart** on The Leas at Sheringham. This form is an Middle-east/Asian species that winters in India and Myanmar and is a vagrant to Britain. The first accepted record was at Dungeness in 1981 and since then there have been seventeen further records including the two in Yorkshire in autumn 2025. The last record in Norfolk was 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at Snettisham.

Photos 3 courtesy of a) Richard Farrow; b) Steven & Barbara Lines; c) David Griffiths; d) Jane Crossen; e) Philip Cartlidge; f) Stu Buck; g) Paul Baker; h) Jo King; i) John Hayward.



**Rock Pipit:** Singles seen at Sheringham on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and with one on the 15<sup>th</sup> at West Runton.

**Brambling:** Low numbers generally reported during the month with fourteen at Thornage on the 18<sup>th</sup> the highest count. *Photo 4 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

**Redpoll:** Two close to a Gresham garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, one recorded at Saxlingham on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, one at Letheringsett on the 13<sup>th</sup> and five at Ingworth on the 19<sup>th</sup> were the only records. *Photo 5 courtesy of Ken Thornton*



**Common Crossbill:** Birds at Felbrigg Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Selbrigg Pond on the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Siskin:** The best counts of birds were as follows; Thirty at Gresham and twenty-five at Beeston Common on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, fifty at Dilham Canal on the 10<sup>th</sup> and thirty at Felbrigg Park on the 14<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 6 courtesy of Mark Clements*

**Lapland Bunting:** A single bird seen and photographed on Weybourne Cliffs early in the month. *Photo 7 courtesy of Ollie Allison*

**Snow Bunting:** Weybourne Cliffs held eleven on the 5<sup>th</sup>, fourteen on the 13<sup>th</sup> and twelve on the 19<sup>th</sup> with no further sighting after this date. *Photo 8 courtesy of Jo King*



## January: What to look forward to .....



**January:** The month that can be quite sedentary as birds are settled into their winter ranges and routines. Cold weather can still encourage birds to move and falls of snow will help folk spot the wintering **Woodcock** (*library photo, Moss Taylor*).



Raptor roosts are worth a visit, and cold north winds can drive coastal birds inland on to pig fields and flooded meadows. These days you are more likely to come across a wintering **Glossy Ibis** (library photo, Richard Farrow) or **Cattle Egret** (library photo, Ken Thornton), and the leafless woods may provide a sightings of **Brambling** (library photo, Richard Farrow) and **Hawfinch** (library photo, Carol Thornton).



## Observations from last month .....

## Member Extra!

### Ringed Bird Highlights

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

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



### Turnstone – all ringed records were from Sheringham

"Rocks in front of the Crown – inc" JAJ [21<sup>st</sup>]; "One tagged. Left leg red JAJ" [28<sup>th</sup>]; "Including leg flag JAJ" [30<sup>th</sup>]

### Black-headed Gull – all ringed records were from Sheringham

"Including Polish ringed bird" [2<sup>nd</sup>]; "approx 200 - inc CR bird T42R" [15<sup>th</sup>]; "including Polish ringed bird still" [17<sup>th</sup>]; "Ringed bird - ringed in Poland. T42R" [21<sup>st</sup>];

## Great Black-backed Gull

"including Norwegian ringed (JJ049) 1st seen in Cromer in Dec 2018" | Sheringham [4<sup>th</sup>]; "mostly east with a few lingering off-shore including Norwegian JJ049 - during 11/2 hour sea-watch" | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs [7<sup>th</sup>]



## Marsh Harrier

"young, wing-tagged male - highlight of our Upper Bure Valley farm survey" | Ingworth [19<sup>th</sup>]

## Goldcrest

"M&F caught during Felbeck Trust work party, Spurrell's Wood" | Sustead Common [18<sup>th</sup>].

**Dunnock** "Ringed during Felbeck Trust work party, Spurrell's Wood" | Sustead Common [18<sup>th</sup>]

Great Black-backed Gull, Mark Clements

**Ornithological Station Museum and Institute PAS, Nadwiślańska 108, 80-680 Gdańsk**  
tel. +48 58 30 80 759, fax +48 58 30 80 982 email: ring@mlz.waw.pl, <http://www.stornit.gda.pl>

We are grateful to you for your report of a ringed bird. You will find the ringing and finding details below. If you notice any errors please let us know.

blue T42R colour legring (numbered) ring already present

**Ringing data**

Species: Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) []  
Sex, age: unknown, after 2nd calendar year  
Status: nesting  
Condition: [8] alive and probably healthy - observed or released by ringer  
Date, time, accur.: 22/04/2025, 0:0, date accurate  
Place: [PL KP] Jankovo, KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE, POLAND  
Coordinates: 52°46'58.4"; 18°05'04.7" (52.78289300, 18.08465100)  
Accuracy of coord.: accurate to the given coordinates  
PLG|AO|FS...46846|0|1|8B|05820|05820|M|0|M|N|U|U|6|6|N|---|---|22042025|0|---|PLKP|+524658+0180505|0|8|20|0|4

**Recovery data**

Verification of ring: [1] ring verified  
Date, time, accur.: 21/12/2025, 10:0, date accurate  
Place: [GB NK] Sheringham, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM  
Coordinates: 52°56'00.0", 1°12'00.0" (52.9333300, 1.2000000)  
Accuracy of coord.: somewhere in the circle with radius 5 km  
Species: Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) []  
Sex, age:   
Status:   
Condition: [7] alive and probably healthy - observed or released  
Circumstances: [81] colour ring read  
Finder: J. C.  
Remarks:

PLG|AO|FS...46846|1|0|8C|05820|05820|U|9|2|U|U|U|0|0|U|---|---|21122025|0|1000|GBNK|+525600+0011200|1|7|81|0|4  
Distance: 1130 km, Direction: 277°, Elapsed time: 243 days



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## Member Highs, Lows and Ponderings

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



**Pink-footed Goose** | "on the sea looking unwell - during 11/2 hour sea-watch." | Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 11<sup>th</sup>

**Pink-footed Goose** | "2,700x Skeins of 50+ east over the garden for approximately 15 minutes. The largest numbers encountered here." | John Hurst | Mundesley | 19<sup>th</sup>

**White-fronted Goose** | "Family party trailing the Pinkfeet skeins east. First garden record." | John Hirst | Mundesley | 19<sup>th</sup>

**Shoveler** | "25x Maybe more and predominantly male, difficult viewing through vegetation at this site

as usual!" | Stella Baylis | Antingham & Bradfield | 26<sup>th</sup>

**Tufted Duck** | "31x incl 1 hybrid Tufted x Ferruginous. Apart from an earlier Spring record of 32 this year this is the largest flock of Tufted on the lake since Jan / Feb 2018 when the flock peaked at 45/50" | Trevor Williams | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 14<sup>th</sup>

**Pheasant** | "Female - a very lucky bird, as it only got its tail feathers clipped after leaping into the air in front of our car" | Val Stubbs | Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course | 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Pheasant** | “2 resident males who have a Barney most mornings and 6 females who like to hang out in the Donkey Shelter at Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary” | Ellie Farrow | West Runton | 24<sup>th</sup>

**Woodpigeon** | In apple tree - probably the pair that have been canoodling on the fence for the last week, now considering building a nest “| Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 7<sup>th</sup>

**Collared Dove** | “Again trying to build a nest on our Sky dish bracket in December!” | David Griffiths | Holt | 6<sup>th</sup>

**Water Rail** | “3x hope reed bed. seen with thermal imager” | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 16<sup>th</sup>

**Water Rail** | “At the bridge in the woods walking round the lake. After over 20 Felbrigg visits this year finally ticked a water rail.” | David Barrass | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 30<sup>th</sup>

**Turnstone** | “1x On prom by Tank - where are all his mates?” | Val Stubbs | Sheringham | 1<sup>st</sup>

**Woodcock** | “sitting in garden for several minutes (new in off sea?) before flying swiftly west, pursued by Magpies.” | Chris Mason | Beeston Regis | 4<sup>th</sup>

**Common Sandpiper** | “A flock of around 20 sandpipers appeared flying in tight formation once round the lake and sped off to the south and disappeared like a puff of smoke !” | Andrew Crossley | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 25<sup>th</sup>

**Herring Gull** | “15 on rocks by lifeboat station, 40 by slipway, some of which were enjoying a bath in the large puddle at the bottom of the slipway” | Val Stubbs | Sheringham | 1<sup>st</sup>

**Great Shearwater** | “East. 9:15. WhatsApp message from Cley said, great shear east, close. After the longest, anxious fifteen minutes it came into view. For a large shearwater, close was an understatement, what a view (for seawatching from the beach). Seen from seven sites, Cley to Winterton.” | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 27<sup>th</sup>

**Grey Heron** | “Very confiding adult individual that allowed us to stroll by it as it fished.” | John Hurst | Spa Common | 26<sup>th</sup>

**Buzzard** | “Trying to avoid the attention of a peregrine!” | John Hurst | Sidestrands | 25<sup>th</sup>

**Barn Owl** | “Hunting (successfully) over Glaven water meadows” | Roger Unite | Thornage | 26<sup>th</sup>

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** | ! only 13 garden records in 12 years, now several times daily at feeders.” | Chris Mason | Beeston Regis | 13<sup>th</sup>

**Kestrel** | “attempting to persuade a buzzard to move on” | Phil Borley | Edgefield | 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Merlin** | “flew along woodland then over trees in brief view, no sooner had it disappeared when a male sparrowhawk appeared - I was just accepting I had mis-identified the bird when the merlin reappeared with the sparrowhawk. In a brief view the fast low flight of both species can invite confusion in spite of obvious differences in wing shape” | Julian Thomas | Dilham Canal | 10<sup>th</sup>

**Magpie** | “6x With Carrion Crows around carcass (Muntjac? Hare?)” | Tony Pope | Weybourne | 15<sup>th</sup>

**Magpie** | “10x having a conference in the beach car park” | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 20<sup>th</sup>

**Rook** | “50x In copse and Community Field until they were disturbed by an Osprey (the plane not the bird, alas!)” | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 11<sup>th</sup>

**Marsh Tit** | “Very brief appearance-first for many months and chased off by almost immediate by Great Tit!” | David Griffiths | Holt | 7<sup>th</sup>

**Blackbird** | “in full song for 15 minutes - must be the currants he gets!” | Chris Mason | Beeston Regis | 19<sup>th</sup>

**Fieldfare** | “First of the year. On the apple tree next to our house. Been waiting for over a month to see one and thought I might miss out this year. A nice Xmas present.” | David Barrass | East Beckham | 25<sup>th</sup>

**Eastern Black Redstart** | “Eastern Black Redstart (Asian sub-species) showing well on the Leas, east of the boating pond. Doing a bit of research online I found the following [birdingfrontiers.wordpress.com](http://birdingfrontiers.wordpress.com). The site gives an easy ID to age. Using the greater coverts feathers if they are fringed pale buff brown = first winter. If fringed blue grey = adult. Using this criteria it would seem to be a first winter bird.” | Francis Farrow | Sheringham | 24<sup>th</sup>

**Greenfinch** | “Every day about 3pm flock of up to 40 birds on top of large beech. Top of Cremers Drift. Frequently come and go en masse. My ID skills not up to identifying them all as a bit distant, may include chaffinch, Merlin says red poll” | Kala Nobbs & Mike McConnell | Sheringham | 14<sup>th</sup>

**Redpoll** | “SUPERRGREEN just 1 more to go to get the badge! On the alders just beyond the garden perimeter” | Carol Thornton | Gresham | 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Conservation Corner - can you help??

Would you be interested in joining or team of article writers for the Conservation Corner slot? We really want to continue with this thought-provoking and varied theme but we do need folk to have a go at putting 'pen to paper'. Can you help? If you don't fancy writing an occasional article, please let us know any suggestions for what you'd like to see covered in this spot and we'll get researching!

## WhatsApp Groups.....



The club runs two WhatsApp groups:

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

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

The advantage of both these groups is that you can get instant details about a bird sighting rather than having to rely on looking at the website later in the day and missing out. If either of these groups are of interest, drop us an email on [nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto: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.

## WhatsApp group for general NENBC communications Mobile numbers required to sign up!

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

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

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

If you are interested in signing up, then **please let Carol have your mobile number**. Please be aware that like all WhatsApp groups, your number will be visible to all those on the group. There isn't a way to hide them.

## 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!*

**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](http://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](mailto:salesbirdventures@aol.com)

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



## Restocking our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:ahstevens52@gmail.com)

Thank you!

# What's On?

General Event Information – please see our **website** or 'upcoming events' in this newsletter for **fuller details** of what we have on offer



## Overview

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

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

## General Walks Information

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

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

**DOGS:** We regret no dogs except assistance dogs.

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

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

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

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

## General Talks Info

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

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

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

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

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

# Upcoming Events

In the coming weeks we have a couple of our regular **Felbrigg Park Walks**, a monthly mid-week favourite, a walk along the **Happisburgh Coast** and upcoming a hopefully rescheduled **Strumpshaw Fen** walk. Our **January Evening Talk** is about **Birding in the Seychelles** with Rob Lucking. Also, don't forget the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** at the end of the month. Look forward to seeing you at these events soon.

## Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk 9:00am to 11:00am with Dave Billham or Trevor Williams

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 see around 40 bird species on an average walk and even on the 'worst' of days more than 30. And there is a café stop at the end of the walk.

**21<sup>st</sup> January | 18<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**NO BOOKING REQ'D | PARK & MEET:** Main Felbrigg Hall car park – free for National Trust members | **DISTANCE:** 2 miles | **ACCESSIBILITY:** Not suitable for wheelchair users but could be for those with limited mobility – please get in touch. | **FACILITIES:** Café and loos at the Hall | **BADGES:** In area so all appropriate individual records count towards club badges.

**29<sup>th</sup> January 7:30pm to 9:30pm**  
**Gresham Village Hall and via Zoom**

## "Bird in in the Seychelles" a talk with Rob Lucking

Rob has worked in nature conservation for over 30 years, initially for BirdLife International and then for the RSPB leaving in 2019 to pursue a freelance career in ecology consultancy. His main conservation interests lie in land management, species recovery and habitat restoration and he also has expertise in project management and commercial development. Rob's talk will be about his involvement with Aride Island in Seychelles where he has been working since the 1990s. He is now the chairman of the Island Conservation Society UK, the charity that owns Aride, and looks forward to sharing the wonders of this island in the Indian Ocean with us..

## Happisburgh – sea and coast in winter

**Saturday 14 February 2026**  
**9.30 am to 1pm with optional afternoon wander to Cart Gap assuming suitable weather**  
**Leader: Andy Clarke**

A winter adventure awaits! Always something of an enigma, Happisburgh can turn up interesting species at any time of the year. Expect some scanning of the sea for divers, passing geese and sea duck. The cliff top fields may hold geese and curlew, along with flocks of roaming finches and buntings. Below the cliffs is a sandy beach, popular in summer but in the quieter winter months loafing gulls and possibly a few waders may be present. Scrub with larger trees complete the range of habitats to explore, with resident woodland birds along with wintering thrushes possible. Heritage is also on offer with views of the famous Happisburgh Lighthouse and listen out for the evocative 'Time and Tide Bell' (depending on tides and how submerged it is).

**NO BOOKING REQ'D | PARK & MEET:** Happisburgh Community Car Park, Beach Road, Happisburgh, Norfolk, NR12 0PR - charges apply £1.50 per hour, up to £7 for 24 hours (details on website). | **DISTANCE:** approx 5-6km | **ACCESSIBILITY:** Paths are generally level. We will be walking on grassy tracks and some gravel tracks, which may be uneven and bumpy in places. Paths are likely to be damp or wet. The access ramp down to the beach may not be accessible on the day, this part of the coast is prone to cliff falls, especially after wet or stormy weather. Sturdy footwear advisable and please come dressed for winter weather on exposed sites. | **FACILITIES:** Public toilets available at the car park. There is a café nearby at Cart Gap and a pub in Happisburgh village although stops are not a formal part of this walk. Do consider bringing a packed lunch and refreshments. | **CLUB BADGES:** Some parts will be in the club area so check with leader for boundary.

**No prior booking is required for this walk**

**Sadly this walk was postponed as flooding at Strumpshaw closed the site for a few days. We intend rescheduling and will post a note on the website as soon as we have had it confirmed. If you booked for the initial date we will let you know by email of the revised date; if you didn't sign up for the initial date but would like an email sent with the revised date, please drop Carol an email at [nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk).**

### **Strumpshaw Fen and Buckenham Marshes**

**A Grand Day Out with Trevor and Drew**

**\*\*\*\*\* 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk \*\*\*\*\***

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January | 10:00am to 4:00pm**

This 'Broadland Winter Wonderland' event is the stunning finale to the club's 10th anniversary celebrations. Alongside Trevor Williams, we are thrilled to be joined by Drew Lyness, who is a local expert and has birded these sites for more than a decade as his local patch. Starting at [RSPB Strumpshaw Fen](#), we hope to see resident species like Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Bearded Tit and Marsh Tit, with the potential for some scarcer winter visitors like Hen Harrier and Water Pipit. This part of the day will include an informative talk about the reserve, its management and the wildlife. We will then travel the short distance to Buckenham Marshes, with a walk along the north bank of the River Yare with views over the marshland and reedbeds. There is potential to see Russian White-fronted Geese, Crane, Peregrine, plus a good selection of wildfowl and waders. Culminating with the famous Corvid roost later in the day, this surely will be a fabulous start to your 2026 birding year.

**BOOKING REQ'D FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT – limit of 20**

## **RSPB Big Garden BirdWatch 2026**

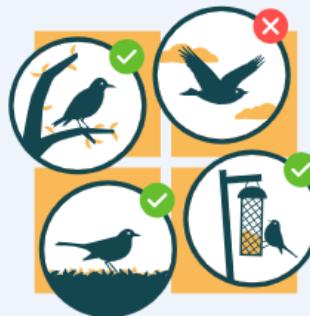
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**



Simply choose an hour anytime in the three-day period and count the birds you see land in your garden, on your balcony, or in your local park. Feed your results back to the RSPB for the national survey but also, if you live in the NENBC area, we'd appreciate having your records logged too. Thank you! You can sign up on the [RSPB website](#) (which also has loads more info on attracting birds, what you might see, what it's all about etc) but please add your sightings to the club website if you live in the club area, adding RSPB or something similar in the comments box, and we'll see how we all do. Don't live in our area? Just drop us an email to [nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk) with your list of birds and we'll include you in our next newsletter write up. Have fun!



Choose an hour between  
23 and 25 January



Only record the birds that  
land in your patch



Record the highest number  
of each bird species you  
see at any one time



### By Dave Billham

After a few wet and windy Felbrigg walks, the weather gods smiled for the December one; calm and bright, though somewhat chilly. Fog had been forecast, but it had mostly dispersed before we arrived at the park. Driving along the road from the park entrance to the hall, the surrounding fields were full of **Common Gull**, dotted around everywhere I looked, which I hoped was an omen for the morning. As it was only a week until Christmas, Carol had mentioned the wearing of festive headgear, so a Christmas-themed bobble hat and antlers were donned – hopefully the antlers would also provide camouflage! Once we were all assembled, with Trevor leading and Carol sweeping up, we had a grand total of 18 participants, keen and eager to find something special! Carol was the only other antler wearer, so when we stood together we made a very small herd, though, I would imagine, to the wildlife we were practically invisible!

The list had been started as we waited for the walk to begin, and it was a good start; as well as the many Common Gull, we found **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Dunnock**, **Chaffinch**, **Blackbird**, **Woodpigeon**, **Jackdaw** and **Rook** in and around the car park, three **Greenfinch** that flew

into the nearby treetops, a **Common Buzzard** sat on a fence, and overhead a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, a **Black-headed Gull** and a lone **Collared Dove**; only the second sighting of this species for the year. Well pleased with this selection of Felbrigg's birds, we started by walking to the bridleway that runs down to and behind the church, along which we found a few **Herring Gull** in amongst the many Common Gull. Moving on further, a **Pheasant** was flushed from near the field edge, and a distant flock of **Pink-footed Goose** were pointed out to one and all. On reaching the church we went through the churchyard and onto the grass beyond, where we headed for the slope leading down to the lake.

Reaching the fenceline of an adjacent field I spotted a single **Pied Wagtail** on the soil; closer examination by the group revealed that there were at least a dozen of these black and white beauties, along with twenty plus **Skylark**, all busily feeding on the ground. Also in the field were a number of Black-headed Gull, and as we were watching them, Trevor spotted a **Mediterranean Gull** flying over the field. We were able to go through the salient ID points with everyone as it spent most of the time airborne and displaying well. This was our

second Med Gull in 2025. Amazingly, this Med Gull was a Felbrigg 'first' for Sue Morrison - pretty remarkable given how much time her and Peter have spent



watching and surveying birds in Felbrigg Park over the years. She was very pleased!

Also added to the list in this area was **Carrion Crow**, **Magpie**, **Meadow Pipit** and a trio of **Stock Dove** amongst the many Woodpigeon.

At this point we were nearing the lake, where a number of wildfowl were visible. On the water we found six **Mute Swan**, twelve plus **Gadwall**, twenty four plus **Tufted Duck**, many **Mallard** and **Teal**, and singles of **Moorhen**, **Coot** and **Wren**. In amongst the Tufted was the Ferruginous / Tufted hybrid, a regular here. Another flock of Pink-footed Geese flew over us, but none were tempted down by the water! Walking through the woods bordering the lake added **Nuthatch** and **Jay** to the list. From the bridge at the end of the lake we scanned the water meadows to see what was hidden in amongst the reeds. A pair of **Shoveler** were conspicuously white in the sunshine, as were a further two Mute Swan; a lone **Grey Heron** much less so. As we watched and chatted, a **Water Rail** was heard calling,

followed by the call of **Cetti's Warbler** – wonderful! Two **Snipe** appeared overhead, then dropped into the vegetation and promptly vanished. Val managed to get her telescope onto another Snipe sitting perfectly still in the reeds, giving super views to those who had a look, whilst some of us found a different bird which also remained obligingly still so we could all eventually find it.



At this point the Cetti's was seen on the edge of the reedbed, where it spent a little time disappearing then re-appearing. It did this enough times that most of us were able to get a look. Finally, the Water Rail flew a short distance! A small flock of **Goldfinch** flying overhead were almost an anti-climax by comparison!

With our time almost up we set off back to the house, adding only a **Song Thrush** to the list on the way to give a total of **41 species** for the two hours. A fitting end to the year's set of walks, and leaving us all looking forward to starting again in the new year. The café called to most of the group for a warming drink and other treats. Why not join us in 2026, for a slow wander with like-minded souls through the lovely grounds of the hall – all are welcome!



# Felbrigg Park Club Walk Statistics 2025



The chart shows the species noted on the eleven monthly walks at Felbrigg Hall in 2025 (eleven, as there is no walk in August). The green fill in a cell indicates that a particular species was seen in a given month, and the species are listed in order of the most number of sightings in the year to the least number.

Note that the chart contains all the species seen from January 2022 through to December 2025; those species at the bottom of the chart with zero sightings, were not found in 2025, but had been noted in at least one of the previous three years. The number of species noted in each year is as follows:

2022 = 82 | 2023 = 84

2024 = 90 | 2025 = 85

The total number of species recorded on the walks since January 2022 is now 108 (which, if you had joined each walk, and recorded your sightings on the website, would have earned you a bronze badge with a few left over)!

This year saw **Cetti's Warbler** added to the species list, it being recorded on three consecutive months (for the first two months heard only, but on the third seen as well) – this species, despite a good amount of suitable

2025		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total from 11
Species	Total =	44	49	47	39	42	32	43	26	44	41	41	11
Blue Tit													11
Carrion Crow													11
Jackdaw													11
Mallard													11
Moorhen													11
Rook													11
Woodpigeon													11
Wren													11
Blackbird													10
Buzzard													10
Goldfinch													10
Grey Heron													10
Mute Swan													10
Robin													10
Chaffinch													9
Great Tit													9
Herring Gull													9
Long-tailed Tit													9
Magpie													9
Pheasant													9
Stock Dove													9
Black-headed Gull													8
Gadwall													8
Great Spotted Woodpecker													8
Jay													8
Skylark													8
Coot													7
Cormorant													7
Greenfinch													7
Kestrel													7
Nuthatch													7
Pied Wagtail													7
Common Gull													6
Dunnock													6
Green Woodpecker													6
Meadow Pipit													6
Red Kite													6
Treecreeper													6
Tufted Duck													6
Chiffchaff													5
Redwing													5
Snipe													5
Starling													5
Teal													5
Blackcap													4
Feral Pigeon													4
Linnet													4
Mistle Thrush													4
Shovellor													4
Swallow													4
Bullfinch													3
Cetti's Warbler													3
Coal Tit													3

habitat, has been rarely recorded here. Other new additions were **Hen Harrier** (a cracking male) and **Osprey**, both single sightings, and the overflying flock of five **Whooper Swan** in February.

Library pics below



**Cetti's Warbler**

Alan Stevens. Weybourne



**Hen Harrier**

Trevor Williams. Felbrigg



**Osprey**

Philip Cartlidge, Bodham



**Whooper Swan**

Moss Taylor, Weybourne

<b>2025</b>		<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total from 11</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Total =</b>	44	49	47	39	42	32	43	26	44	41	41	
Fieldfare													3
Pink-footed Goose													3
Red-legged Partridge													3
Reed Bunting													3
Song Thrush													3
Swift													3
Tufted / Ferruginous hybrid													3
Water Rail													3
Collared Dove													2
Greylag Goose													2
Lapwing													2
Mediterranean Gull													2
Reed Warbler													2
Stonechat													2
Whitethroat													2
Brambling													1
Goldcrest													1
Grey Wagtail													1
Hen Harrier													1
House Martin													1
Little Egret													1
Little Grebe													1
Little Owl													1
Osprey													1
Sand Martin													1
Siskin													1
Sparrowhawk													1
Tawny Owl													1
Whooper Swan													1
Wigeon													1
Woodcock													1
Yellowhammer													1
Canada Goose													0
Cuckoo													0
Egyptian Goose													0
Garden Warbler													0
Goldeneye													0
Golden Plover													0
Goosander													0
Goshawk													0
Greater Black-backed Gull													0
Great White Egret													0
Green Sandpiper													0
Hobby													0
Jack Snipe													0
Kingfisher													0
Lesser Black-backed Gull													0
Lesser Whitethroat													0
Marsh Harrier													0
Marsh Tit													0
Oystercatcher													0
Ring Ouzel													0
Sedge Warbler													0
Spotted Flycatcher													0
Wheatear													0



Image from the [www.visitnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.visitnorfolk.co.uk) website

By Janice Darch

For my last regular weekend walk I chose to go back to Holkham, a place I've led several weekend club walks over the last 8 years. We stayed north of the Coast Road to explore the area around and west of Lady Anne's Drive, the pines, dunes and shoreline. This gave us a nice range of habitats which produced **43 species of birds** during the four hours we were out. We kicked off by scoping the fields either side of Lady Anne's Drive which produced huge numbers of Pink footed Geese, Wigeon and Lapwing accompanied by Mallard, Curlew, Starlings, Barnacle Geese, Jackdaw, Teal and Wood Pigeon. The hedges gave us Goldfinch, Robin, Magpie and Dunnock. Red Kites showed well too. The Pink Footed Geese were restless and we were treated to listening to them circle. Moving onto the path west through the pines it was pretty quiet apart from some showy Goldcrests, a couple of Blue and Great Tits, Robin, a Kestrel and a Great Spotted Woodpecker over our heads. At the pond we added Gadwall, Shoveler, Pintail and Little Grebe to our growing list. We joined a small group looking for Yellow-browed and Hume's Warblers for a while but it was going to be a long job; Janice managed a leader-only view of the Hulme's but that was all. From the Joe Jordan Hide we scanned the marshes adding White-Fronted and Egyptian Geese, Grey Heron, Marsh Harrier, Buzzard, Pheasant and a lot more Pink-footed Geese. Making our way through the pines to the dunes and sea we scanned. The beach was empty of birds apart from a couple of Herring Gulls being full of walkers, dogs and a group of Father Christmases and Elves on Horseback—honest! However, we had about 700 Common Scoter on the sea along with a pair of Red-Breasted Mergansers, Brent Geese, a few Cormorants and one Great Northern Diver. Back at the Washington Hide we added Great White Egret and Mute Swan. The weather had been kind up to this point but the forecast mist and drizzle started to come in and so we made our ways back to the cars to go our separate ways.

May I thank all of the participants who have come on my weekend walks over the last eight years. We have travelled all over the county and beyond, including to Bardsey, seeking out birds. I do not know how many species we've seen but we have visited 44 different sites in that time on average doing 11 walks a year. Best wishes to you all, *Janice Darch*



**A huge thanks to everyone who turned out for our Christmas event on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

December in Gresham Village Halls, those who joined us via Zoom for the AGM and voting element of the evening and also those who sent their apologies.

This was Trevor's last AGM as Chair, stepping down as you will all know after 11 years of service. He completed his Review of the Year one last time (see overleaf) and the formalities of an AGM were worked through as per the decisions shown here on the right.

Business over, we were delighted to award one of our new Blue Badges for Seawatching to David Griffiths, presented by new Club President Francis.



## 2025 AGM Business

## Committee Members (and Club Officials) elected for 2025:

Stella Baylis, Colin Blaxill, Andy Clarke,  
Seán Dempster, Russ Malin, Alan Stevens,  
John Swallow (Chair), Carol Thornton  
(Secretary), Roger Unite (Treasurer)

## Club President elected for 2026:

## Francis Farrow

## Club Vice President elected for 2026:

Val Stubbs, Trevor Williams

## Independent Examiner of 2025 Club Accounts appointed:

## David Barrass of Felbeck Trust

2024 Final Accounts adopted

## Minutes of the 2024 AGM adopted



**We then had a bit of a surprise in store for Trevor** with the award of a well-deserved Purple Badge and the presentation of some gifts of thanks from the club. We were asked by a number of members if they could contribute to a collection for Trevor and once we had set up a way for those that wanted to do so, we were completely overwhelmed! If you weren't there on the night in person or online, you can read a bit more about it on [page 23](#).

Then we were on to the social part of the evening – a rather large hot and cold Christmas Buffet giving us plenty of time to chat and catch up, and then the annual quiz, with participants aided in their concentration (or not!) by mulled wine or mulled apple juice. Personally I was delighted to see lots of party hats and jumpers this year!

A big thank you to Tim Turner, Kirsty Turner (in her absence – hope you shook off that bug quickly!), Stu Buck and John Swallow for their time and effort in putting together and presenting their very enjoyable and a-little-tricky-in-parts birdy quiz which included a display of both feathers and skulls. The tech behaved and we were able to send the quiz on afterwards to those who couldn't make it on the night.



Congratulations to the winning team **Mark Boyd, Chris Tucker, Séan Dempster, Chris Moorhouse and visitor Geoff Bockett**. Vouchers to spend with our sponsor Bird Ventures of Holt were awarded and we are pleased to hear that the team are up for leading the 2026 quiz as per tradition – hope you have started your planning already!





By Trevor Williams

"Our AGM is intended to provide an insight for members into how the Club is run and what it has achieved over the previous 12 months, along with giving members the opportunity to contribute to the organisation and future direction of the Club. We're always keen to hear from any member who has ideas about how we can improve the Club, especially those who are willing to help implement change by joining the Committee.

We're also joined tonight for this AGM by members on Zoom - welcome.

This year's report - my last before I step down as Chair shortly - is easy as it coincided with our **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year**. Celebrations started back in January with the publication of our **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book** and **badge** recognising those members who have been with the Club for 10 years - recognition which will continue as the years go by. Flicking through the pages of the book it's remarkable how much we've achieved over the past decade - well worth delving back into it every so often.



Our **Indoor meeting programme** continued though the year, featuring a number of talks from speakers who had previously presented down through the years - most recently of course Aldina Franco from UEA and her talk on White Storks. We've also enjoyed presentation on the theme of 'migration' which has been a constant thread through our anniversary year - culminating of course in our **Anglo-African migration day conference** back in June. With keynote speakers from BTO, RSPB and St Andrews University and a mixed audience representing delegates from a number of Norfolk wildlife groups and national conservation organisations - we certainly punched above our weight on that occasion!

Our regular **walks programme** continued but again reflecting our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme with a number of our **weekend walks** revisiting popular locations from the early years of the Club. The ever-popular **monthly Felbrigg Park walk**, continues as does the **Walks Week** initiative, which we started during covid, with small groups led by members around less well visited location. **2026 will see us move to a more open / informal walks programme** which maintains the high standards already achieved but opens the activity up to a much wider audience.

Other key calendar events took place with the **Big Sit** in May and the **Coordinated Sea-watch** in October.

Sea-watching is becoming a more mainstream activity in the Club nowadays and in recognition of that we've introduced **'pop-up' events** - with shorter notice to reflect favourable weather conditions - and introduced **another Club badge** - a blue badge which gives members encouragement to spend time looking for and identifying seabirds. Our ongoing 'citizen science' project, **calculating the flying speeds of migrating seabirds**, continues helped by the Club-run **Sea-watching WhatsApp group**. We intend expanding the concept of 'pop-up' events across the range of Club activities and a **new dedicated WhatsApp group** has been created to advertise those more impromptu events and keep members abreast of any last-minute changes to scheduled events. A brief mention of our other WhatsApp group dedicated to the reporting of **scarce and rare birds** in the NENBC area which has continued to prove useful and certainly helped connect participants with some of the rarer birds in our area - including this year: Pallas's, Marsh and Dusky Warbler, Night Heron, Pallid Swift, Shore Lark, Durian Shrike, Rose Finch, Red-breasted Flycatcher and more..

The Club continues to support **UEA 3rd year Environmental Science students** who take up our project proposals to analyse data, construct theories and make recommendation on a variety of bird and conservation topics. This year we had successfully completed projects on: *Uncovering the mystery of Golden Oriole, Phenological trends in migratory species plus Migratory links between Norfolk and Africa*

The Club again worked in **collaboration with the Cromer Peregrine Project (CPP)** to help protect these iconic birds which have made Cromer church their home. This year they managed to successfully fledge three more chicks - though sadly one youngster met an early demise. They have become a popular feature in our local birding landscape.

This year's **Annual Bird Report** was another triumph, thanks to the hard work of all those involved - but with particular thanks to Andy and Carol for editing, design layout and illustrations. Our annual report, collates the records of all the birds seen in the Club area during the year and provides analysis of patterns and trends of bird migration and resident and breeding species in North East Norfolk. Annual Reports continue to be distributed free to members who hold the appropriate subscription - though inevitably with rising costs of printing and postage subscription rates will have to rise.

The efforts of the Editor of our **Monthly Newsletter**, and the numerous contributors through the year, are to be congratulated. Feature-packed and informative they continued to drop into our 'in box' as regular as clockwork. We much appreciate the effort that goes into the newsletter and she and they are worthy of our thanks and admiration.

Since the transition to the Bird.Club platform in 2024 the **Club website**, has continued to function well, providing an easy to use and an invaluable tool for birding in the Club area. Our thanks go to webmasters Matthew and Joe for a first class and totally free website. One change we can expect however in the New Year is the move to the single globally supported **AviList of species** - resulting in the loss of a number of full species from the NENBC list - making it just that bit harder to reach your next badge!

In our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and to mark the importance of our links to Africa through bird migration, we extended eligibility of our **Young Birder Bursary** to include overseas applications. Through it we were delighted to be able to support Naffie, a young birder working with the Gambia Bird Observatory. We are enormously proud to support this young black women in developing her career in conservation and education and hope to meet her in person eventually - if she manages to get a visa!

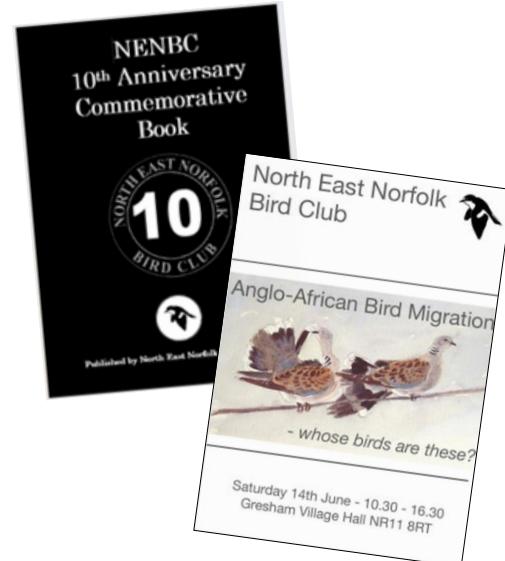
Just a quick heads up on our current membership which stands at **306 households, 470 members** - continuing the steady rise in recent years.

So all that remains is **to thank those** people who run the Club on your behalf and continue to take it forward:

- **Tasso Leventis** of the AG Leventis Foundation who generously funded our Migration Conference
- President: **Nigel Redman** (standing down - after 4 years)
- Vice Presidents: **Francis Farrow** and **Val Stubbs** (co-opted during 2025)

Members of the Management Committee ...

- Treasurer: **Roger Unite**
- Membership & Peer Review Secretary: **Colin Blaxill**
- Records Officer & Annual Report Editor: **Andy Clarke**
- Outdoor Walks Organiser: **Janice Darch** (standing down - after 8 years)
- Indoor Programme Coordinator: **Alan Stevens**
- Youth Engagement: **Seán Dempster**
- Club Secretary & Newsletter Editor: **Carol Thornton**
- Assistant Treasurer: **Trevor Warren** (also standing down)



Also a word of thanks to our faithful band of 'behind the scenes' helpers - too numerous to mention in person but a particular shout out to **Hilary Stevens and Jane Williams** for refreshments. Thanks also go to our Sponsors, **Bird Ventures** for financial support over the year.

**But the biggest thanks of the night goes to you, our members** - who continue to pay your subs, contribute your bird records and photos to the web-site, support our values and ambitions and share our achievements.

**Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and I look forward to celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Thank you!"**

# A Farewell to Trevor – thank you!



Purple badges are awarded for something or someone really special.

They are ... a merit award in recognition of significant activities to encourage and share the enjoyment of birdwatching, including promoting the conservation of birds and wildlife, championing inclusion or making an exceptional contribution to club life.

Here's what Club Vice Chair Andy Clarke had to say on the night about the award to Trevor ....

"Club members will be aware that we run a number of badge schemes, for those interested, to mark progress with the number of species seen in the club area, or those seen without the use of powered transport, or when sea-watching. However there is one other badge, the purple badge, to recognise those people who have made a special contribution to the club.

It is now a decade since a small number of individuals had the idea of forming a club to cover what was otherwise an under-watched, or at least under-reported, part of Norfolk. From the start it was intended was that the club should be inclusive, catering for all levels of birding skill, all levels of interest and all ages. The club has been a great success, and numbers have grown far faster than any of us expected.

While it takes a number of people to make sure that a club like NENBC runs smoothly, there can be no denying that there is one person who has driven the club to be the success it is.

That person has made sure that the club caters for all, that it continues to grow, and also that it makes a positive difference through its commitment to using birding to support conservation both locally and globally.

There can be no more worthy recipient of a Purple Badge than our retiring Chairman, Trevor Williams, and so I invite our new President Francis Farrow to present Trevor with his purple badge."

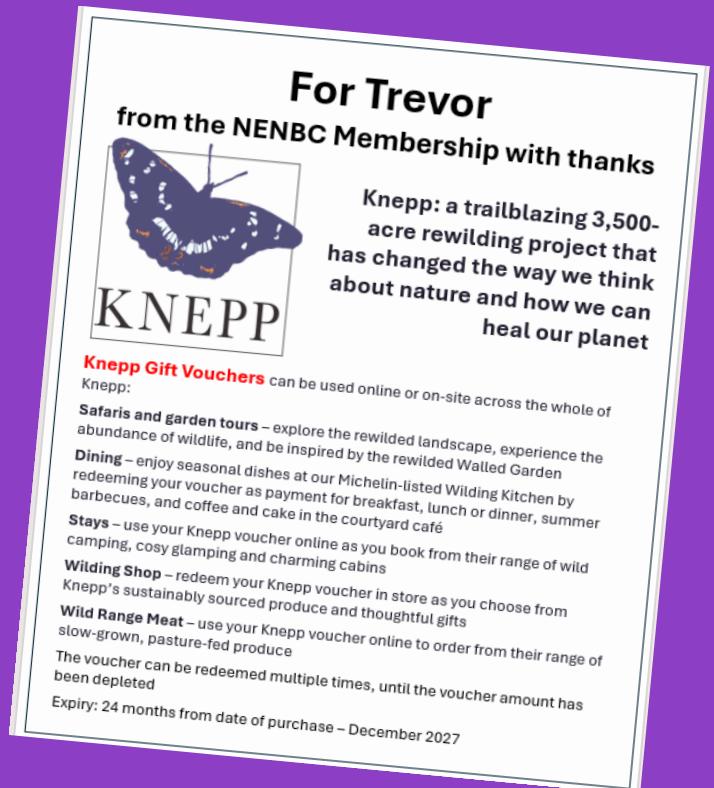


**"I want to show my appreciation to that amazing, visionary, energetic and "non-stop get it done" man!"**

That is what one of our members said to us in a note about Trevor. Judging by the response to his collection and the things other folk have said about him and his tenure as Chair, this is a fair summary! We thought long and hard about an appropriate gift from members and based on Trevor's love for nature conservation we came up with vouchers to use at the [Knepp Rewilding Estate](#). For those that haven't heard of it, Knepp is a 3,500 acre former failing farm in Sussex that has been reimagined and transformed over 20+years to a nature haven through rewilding. From their website ...

*"Knepp is now a leading light in the conservation movement, an experiment that has produced astonishing wildlife successes in a relatively short space of time and offers solutions for some of our most pressing problems – like soil restoration, flood mitigation, water and air purification, pollinating insects and carbon sequestration. Visited by numerous conservation organisations, including the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and the National Trust, as well as policy makers, farmers and landowners, Knepp is shaping the future of nature conservation."*

Alongside this we also bought some accommodation vouchers to use on any birding trip. The Committee provided him with a selection of lovely red wines and a wooden goblet to go alongside.



"I really don't know what to say - except thank you. The gifts I received after the NENBC AGM were completely unexpected - but very much appreciated. The 'expenses paid' trip to Knepp from the members - for so long the birth-place of rewilding in Britain - will fulfil a dream I've had for many years. The wine I'll share with the family over Christmas and I absolutely love the wooden goblet - though I doubt I'll spoil it by putting liquid in it! Finally, being awarded the coveted purple badge along with the citation is very special to me.

Although I'm stepping down I'm most certainly not stepping away. I'll continue to support the club I cherish in any way that is considered appropriate and I wish the current Committee the very best over the coming years. Being bird-centric and inclusive but also outward-facing are the hallmarks of the NENBC - long may it remain so.

Once again my sincere thanks." Trevor







## New Year's Day Birding Challenge



How many species of bird did we all record in the NENBC area on the first day of the new year?

January 01, 2026

	Atmospheric conditions and temperature °C	RealFeel °C	Atmospheric pressure mmHg	Wind speed m/s	Humidity
Night	0°	-5°	756	► w 5.4	92%
Morning	+1°	-4°	751	► w 6.5	84%
Day	+5°	0°	748	► w 6.6	83%
Evening	+3°	-2°	747	► w 6.7	84%

After the pouring rain of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, the weather wasn't actually too bad this year! Well done to the 39 members who posted 1,533 records on 1<sup>st</sup> January (972 records in 2025) covering 102 species across 33 sites with 7 more 'At Home' garden sites to add to that list. Full list of members and the number of species they recorded are in the table on the right overleaf.

Well done **Roger for coming top with 82 species**. The records still stands at 86. Roger knocked Trevor off his usual top-spot despite spending the day with him and Phil H, who both finished with 78. Here's where the differences lay ....

	Chaffinch	Collared Dove	Great Crested Grebe	Grey Wagtail	Little Owl	Razorbill	Sparrowhawk	Woodcock
Philip Hall	✓	✓		✓				
Roger Unite	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trevor Williams		✓	✓					✓

Those shown in green on the list on the right are by my best guesstimates of the folk who did a 'green' challenge (without the use of motorised transport). Top of the pile are Carol & Ken Thornton (whoop! whoop!) with 50, but down on the current record of 67.

Below is the full list of the 102 species seen by members , including the 9 for which there was only one record (shown in red) and my nest estimate for the 11 for which there was only one sighting by a group birding together (shown in blue). There is also a 3<sup>rd</sup> party report of a Rough-legged Buzzard at Gresham which, unbeknown to us, was just a few hundred yards from our house!

*Barn Owl, Black Redstart, Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Brambling, Brent Goose, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Common Scoter, Coot, Cormorant, Curlew, Dunnock, Egyptian Goose, Eider, Fieldfare, Fulmar, Gadwall, Gannet, Goldcrest, Golden Plover, Goldeneye, Goldfinch, Great Black-backed Gull, Great Crested Grebe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Great White Egret, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Plover, Grey Wagtail, Greylag Goose, Guillemot, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Linnet, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Little Owl, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Marsh Harrier, Marsh Tit, Meadow Pipit, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Peregrine, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Pink-footed Goose, Pochard, Razorbill, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Redshank, Red-throated Diver, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Ringed Plover, Robin, Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon), Rook, Rough-legged Buzzard, Shoveler, Siskin, Skylark, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Tawny Owl, Teal, Treecreeper, Tufted Duck, Turnstone, Water Rail, Wheatear, Wigeon, Woodcock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer*

Well done everyone! Thanks for adding your records to our website and please do keep on doing so throughout the year. Counts always good to have and additional comments most welcome. [BirdGuides breaks New Year's Day record - BirdGuides](#)

Roger Unite	82
Philip Hall	78
Trevor Williams	78
Colin Blaxill	62
Mark Clements	62
Peter & Sue Morrison	52
Carol Thornton	50
Ken Thornton	50
David Griffiths	50
Phil Borley	50
Ann Gladwin	46
Nick Kimber	46
Stella Baylis	43
Thomas Wright	42
Francis Farrow	41
Mick Rebane	39
Ellie Farrow	38
Gary Bunting	35
Christopher Mason	33
Michael Harcup	25
Valerie Stubbs	24
Philip Cartlidge	23
Stephanie Witham	23
Alan Stevens	22
Andrew Clarke	21
Nick Stubbs	16
John Hurst	13
Andrew Gorton	10
Anne Sims	10
Jonathan Anderson	9
Tony Forster	8
Steven & Barbara Lines	7
Judith Anderson	6
Stuart Jones	6
Andrew Crossley	5
Janice Darch	5
Peter Geary	4
Shaun Ream	3
Lin Pateman	1
Third Party Report	1

## Sidney the Swallow

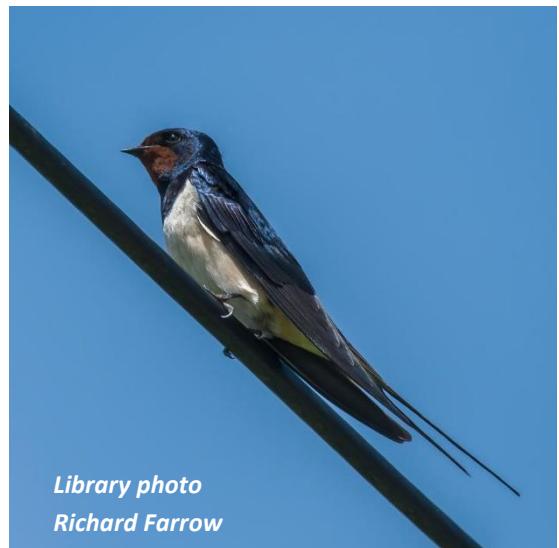


By Jonathan White

We live in the Brecks, in South Norfolk, and are lucky enough to be visited, each summer, by a number of swallows who breed in our cart lodge and wood-shed. We usually have 2-3 pairs in the cart lodge and one or 2 in the woodshed.

The summer of 2024 was an excellent summer for our swallows; they arrived and bred early and, by August, the 2 pairs in the cart lodge were actually on their third brood. Unfortunately, this level of activity does take its toll, not only on the parents but also on their nests - presumably, the hot dry weather also meant that there was very little mud available for repairs.

One morning my wife went out to find 3 dead swallow chicks, lying on the concrete floor. One nest had simply collapsed under the strain with



disastrous results. On looking around, though, she found that a fourth chick had only fallen a short distance onto a wooden beam, and was still alive. This was rescued, given a home in the utility room, in a margarine tub full of shredded paper, and named Sidney! The next problem was how to feed it.

Firstly, we tried meal worms, soaked in water to make them easier to swallow. We fed them with long-nose tweezers and, while they were wolfed down, we noted that the chick's droppings contained lots of meal worm and worried that not enough was being digested. So we moved onto maggots.

We used plain white maggots but froze them, in small amounts, to kill them. We then thawed and fed them with tweezers; this worked well as, whilst the skins passed straight through the chick, the soft innards were obviously doing it some good as it began to grow quite noticeably.

After a few weeks it was nearly fully-fledged and trying to fly about. Well, to cut a long story short, we eventually moved it outside and had it flying around the cart lodge, where there was another pair of adults, with just one final fledgling. Sidney appeared to join in with this small family who appeared quite happy to adopt him, taking him flying outside and showing him how to feed.

Then an interesting thing happened. From the house to the cart lodge is a power cable which all of the swallows rest upon, between feeding sprees. This 'extended family' would all sit there and when we came out of a nearby door, they would fly off (giving their usual alarm call) - all but Sidney who seemed quite happy to stay there an twitter away as we looked up and talked to him again.

After some days of this consolidated feeding and resting, the inevitable happened and, one morning, the whole group had migrated.

Fast-forward to the spring of last year (2025), and, as always, on or about 18 April (weather and winds dictating), the first swallows returned to Church Cottage. This is always an amazing sight to witness as the pattern seems to be that they find the cottage and circle it a number of times, they then drop low, speed up the drive, lift over the gate and go straight up onto the beams in the cart lodge. This year was no different.

Unsurprisingly, we wondered if Sidney had survived his 2 long journeys and had made it 'home'; then, after a few days I think that we had our answer. A group of birds was perched, as usual, on the power line one morning as we went out to the car. With the usual alarm call they flew off, all but one, who simply sat there 'twittering' away as we walked under the line, looked up and bade him 'welcome home'. Presumably, having been hand-reared by us, a level of imprinting had taken place (one of the reasons that the BTO didn't want to come and ring him) and he viewed us with no natural fear, whatsoever.

He continued this behaviour over the whole summer, with him chattering away as we moved about, leaving us in no doubt as to the fact that this was indeed Sidney. Presumably he found a mate and raised his own family and, in due course, left Church Cottage and headed off to warmer climes. It will be interesting to see if he returns again next spring and if he still views humans as his friends, as he did after his first 9 months of life.



# NENBC Alerts: WhatsApp Group Update

Annual Summary – January to December 2025



By Tony Forster

2025 offered an excellent mix of memorable rarities, strong local birding and steady group growth for the NENBC WhatsApp Alert Group.

**January–March** set a solid foundation, with over 30 species reported and two new additions to the group list: *Long-tailed Duck* at Weybourne and *Lesser-spotted Woodpecker* at Selbrigg. Regular sightings of *Ravens*, *Cattle Egrets*, *Whooper Swans* and *Purple Sandpipers* kept interest high, with membership rising to 64.

**April–June** proved outstanding, a remarkable day at Beeston Bump produced *White-tailed Eagle*, *Booted Eagle* and *Red-rumped Swallow*, the Booted Eagle then reappeared and was seen over Holt, Letheringsett and Glandford enabling many club members to see this wide ranging bird. There was a strong supporting cast including *Long-eared Owl*, *Osprey*, *Hoopoe*, *Bee-eater*, *Bluethroat*, *Marsh Warbler*, *Common Rosefinch*, *Rose-coloured Starling*, *Black-crowned Night Heron* and *Nightjar* making it a really good quarter. Nine new species were added, taking the group list to 125, while membership increased to 67.

**July–September** was quieter overall but delivered real quality. Around 25 species were recorded, including seven new group additions. Highlights included *Daurian (Isabelline) Shrike*, *Wood and Western Bonelli's Warblers* and productive seawatching. The standout sighting of the period and arguably the year was an exceptional 3 minute sighting of *Wilson's Petrel* at Cromer. Group membership continued to grow, reaching 73 by the end of September.

**October–December** Now 2025 has drawn to a close and though there were just 2 species added to the group list it was nonetheless an outstanding quarter. The first record was *Saker Falcon* which had it not been wearing jesses and its owner desperately trying to catch it, it would have been up there with the best of records. With over 30 species recorded it provided a great opportunity to catch up with some hard to see birds relatively easily. With 2 *Pallid Swifts* ranging from West Runton to Cromer, *Dusky*, *Pallas's* and *Yellow-browed Warblers*, 2 *Glaucous Gulls*, *Redstarts* were plentiful with 5 in Cromer on the same day there many good birds to catch up with if you were so inclined.

The highlights this quarter were undoubtedly *Rough-legged Buzzard*, just the one sighting on the edge of the area though of course it could still be around but without doubt the best bird of the quarter was a *Great Shearwater* that was tracked from Cley to Winterton. With a severe case of man flu I awoke when it was being reported as it passed Eccles which was probably a blessing and saved me from driving under the influence of cough medicine...

All in all it's been an excellent year, there are now **77 members in the group** and the group list is at **135 up from 115 at the start of the year**. Personally I'd like to thank everyone for making group admin an easy task, wish you all a healthy and happy 2026 and here's hoping the birding next year is at least as good as the last.

**Drop Carol a line if you are interested in joining the group.**

## NENBC ALERTS

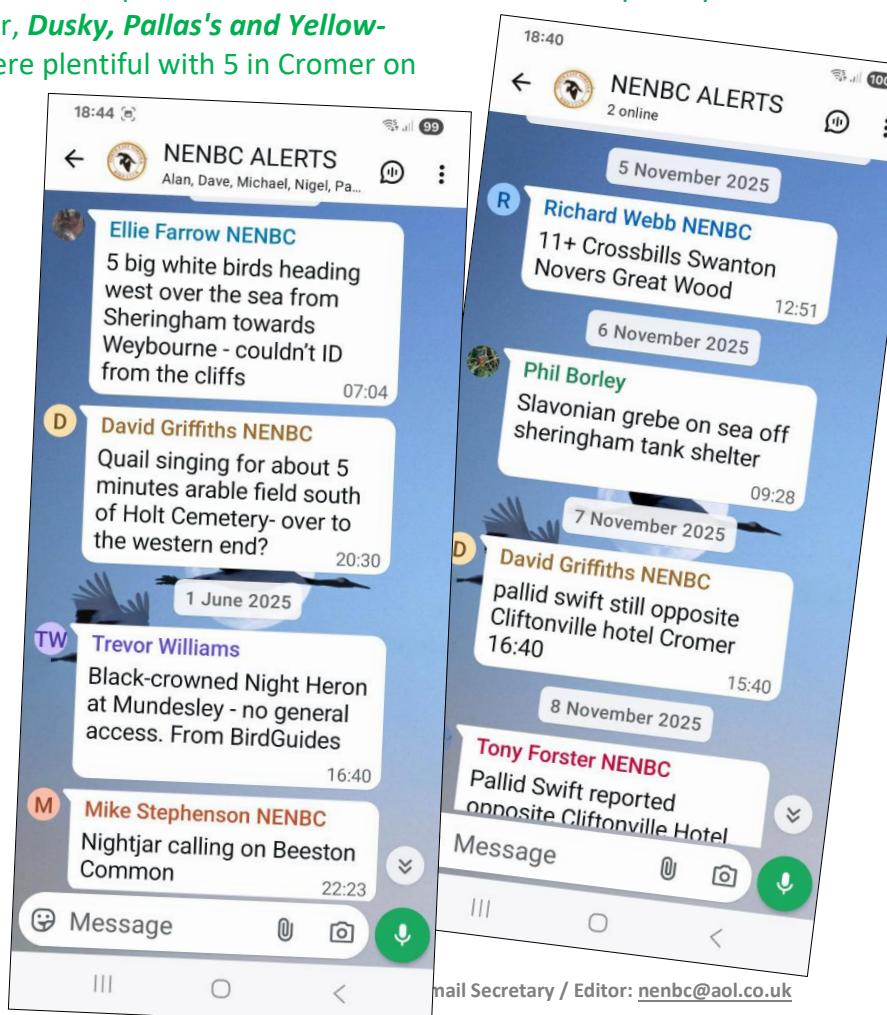
An NENBC members-only group to share news of interesting birds within the club area.

Please share records of species early/late dates, notable counts, scarce and rare birds.

Be mindful of potential rare breeding birds, sensitive locations and locations with no public access.

Please post news in a single message and keep messages to bird news ONLY, this is not a chat group.

The Norfolk Recorder may extract records for the bird report, please be as accurate as you can with locations and dates.



# Check This Out!

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



-  [Climate change drives Europe's mountain birds further uphill - BirdGuides \[07-Jan\]](#)
-  [New study reveals woodpeckers use whole-body 'hammer' technique – and even grunt for power - BirdGuides \[25-Dec\]](#)
-  [David Campbell: calling it out - BirdGuides \[17-Dec\]](#)
-  [More than 1,100 Sandwich Tern chicks fledge at key Scottish reserve - BirdGuides \[02-Jan\]](#)
-  [Curlew recovery noted on Dartmoor after five-year conservation effort - BirdGuides \[07-Jan\]](#)
-  [Influx of Russian White-fronted and Tundra Bean Geese into England - BirdGuides \[28-Dec\]](#)
-  [Conservation grazing brings rare breeding birds back to Dartmoor - BirdGuides \[25-Dec\]](#)
-  [Police probe as White-tailed Eagles go missing at several UK sites - BirdGuides \[20-Dec\]](#)
-  [Public backing helps protect key wetland site in Suffolk - BirdGuides \[14-Dec\]](#)
-  [Motus tracks Jack Snipe from Teesside to Swedish breeding grounds - BirdGuides \[05-Dec\]](#)
-  [Lakenheath in Suffolk hailed by RSPB as a key conservation success as it helps save common crane | ITV News Anglia \[02-Jan\]](#)
-  [Rapid expansion of ring-necked parakeets in UK sparks concern | Environment | The Guardian \[02-Jan\]](#)
-  [Bird conservation groups use data from birdwatchers to fill critical information gaps for declining species | Phys.Org website \[16-Dec\]](#)
-  [Wins for wildlife in 2025 | RSPB | \[16-Dec\]](#)
-  [Day of action for Turtle Doves highlights the need for nature-friendly farming | RSPB | \[10-Dec\]](#)
-  [Petition to protect Norwich Market pigeons after complaints - BBC News \[18-Dec\]](#)
-  [Macaulay Library's Best Bird Photos 2026 | All About Birds | Cornell University \[23-Dec\]](#)
-  [So Many Sports Teams Are Named for Birds—Here's Why \(and Where to Find Them\) | All About Birds | Cornell University \[23-Dec\]](#)
-  [Purple Sandpipers Feast on Barnacles along Maine's Coast | All About Birds | Cornell University \[23-Dec\]](#)
-  [2025 Year in Review: eBird, Merlin, Macaulay Library, and Birds of the World - eBird | eBird \[25-Dec\] – including the nice little graphic on the right...](#)



The top 3 most frequently identified bird species by Merlin Sound ID on each continent.



2025 © Cromer Peregrine Project

By Bev Coleman

After a lot of witnessed mating during February and early March, the 2025 project got underway with the first egg being laid at 10.17 on 19th March (2 days later than first egg last year), followed by the second at 03:13 on 22nd March, and a third egg at around 18:29 on 24th. All three eggs were very different in colour with the middle of the three eggs being almost white.

Despite concerns that the different colour might be the sign of an infertile egg, this proved not to be the case with all three eggs hatching successfully: the first time this has happened at Cromer since 2020. The three hatchings were on 24th, 25th and 26th April, with around 48 hours between all three.

They were ringed on 19th May when they were between 23-25 days old. They weighed 688g, 706g and 741g. Many thanks to Phil Littler for undertaking the ringing procedure, as he has done since 2019. The weight of the birds indicated that two were probably male and one was probably female. The DNA results confirmed VFP and VBP as male. VDP was undetermined.

The first to fledge was VDP on 4th June. Unfortunately, his first landing was very, very near to a Herring Gull's nest on the Upstairs Downstairs shop. Having stayed there for a few hours he flew round the back of the church and landed right on top of another one - on the roof of The Big C charity shop. With three Herring Gull chicks in the nest, the adult gulls, unsurprisingly, were constantly attacking it. It sensibly remained in situ and at one point was actually seen lying on its back defending itself. A really good instinct to have! After taking advice, and with careful consideration, the fire service, literally, came to the rescue as he was still there the following morning.



The fire crews made it clear it was a situation they were happy to help with, "good for training", and if they had received a 999 call they would have left immediately. Thanks are also due to the police who diverted traffic around town whilst the road was closed for around 20 minutes.

As the crew got near to the nest, the gulls flew a bit higher and VDP was able to make his getaway. He was not seen in the vicinity for over 24 hours but was picked up on the webcam as returning at 9pm on Friday, 6th June. Meanwhile VFP fledged on 5th June, going first to the roof of the Red Lion, then moving to the Hotel de Paris (where he was mobbed by Herring Gulls) and then making his way back to the nave roof. Later that day he was back on the roof of the tower.



VBP was first spotted flying well on 7th June, although she may have taken a flight earlier that was not witnessed. Despite the Herring Gulls interaction with VDP, all three chicks fledged successfully.

Unfortunately, during August we had reports that VBP had died, likely as a result of injury. Due to the risk of bird flu contamination, a post mortem was unable to be carried out. Research shows that only around 40-70% of peregrine chicks survive their first year so, whilst very sad, a death at that stage is not unexpected.

The watchpoint outside the museum continued to be very well supported with approximately 16,500 visitors. The watchpoint closed at the end of August as the last sighting of any of the juveniles at the church was 5th August: although the adults continue to be present throughout the year. Since the webcams first started streaming we have now had 1,167,960 hits with a fantastic 266749 in 2025, up on 2024 figure of 160,801. The cameras remained online until the end of July.

We continue to monitor the prey of the Peregrines in Cromer. Whilst the majority of their prey is wood pigeon or feral pigeon, the prey list (identified via the webcam and bodies around the church) now stands at 51 species, including, this year, some rare birds such as: two little auks and a storm petrel!

Many thanks to the Cliftonville Hotel and Viking Optics for their sponsorship and the museum staff for allowing us to store our equipment there. \*



**The watchpoint can only open with the support of volunteers and we would welcome anyone who is interested in getting involved with the project to come to our AGM at 7pm on 19th February, at the Community Centre in Garden Street, Cromer to find out a bit more about us.**

Many thanks to the 2025 volunteers who did us proud. Thanks to their efforts we are able to make a donation of £2,000 to the church in recognition of the fact that, without their continued support, the project could not take place.

To end on a high note, a report was received in August that one of our juveniles from 2020, ringed as 49, is now breeding just north of Grimsby and raising two chicks. Great news!

On to 2026 - the adults are regularly visiting the nest box and inspecting the scrape. **The cameras will go live again on 1st March and the watchpoint will operate from early April.**



Press release 2025-23 from the BTO | 29-Dec-25

"A new report published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) reveals glimmers of hope as 2025 proved successful for many of the UK's favourite breeding songbirds.

Scientists from BTO are reporting that many of our resident and migratory songbirds had a highly successful nesting season in 2025, thanks chiefly to a warm and sunny spring and summer. This increase in the number of chicks reared is very welcome following the extremely wet summer of 2024, where many young birds either died in the nest or soon after leaving it, particularly as several of these species are continuing to decline in the long term.

(b) Rainfall index for England & Wales (data from the Met Office Hadley Centre UK Precipitation dataset)



During 2025, trained volunteer bird ringers across the UK monitored 29 songbird species at specified locations under BTO's [Constant Effort Sites](#) (CES) scheme. This project, launched in 1983, involves participants catching birds at the same place in the same way throughout the summer, allowing scientists to see how numbers of adults and newly fledged young are changing over time, and whether they are surviving better or worse than in previous decades. Similar projects run across Europe, allowing us to understand what is happening to populations at a Continental scale.

Numbers of adult birds were lower than average for many resident birds, including [Blue Tit](#) and [Great Tit](#), this summer, and the same was true for migrant birds that winter in Africa, such as [Willow Warbler](#), [Garden Warbler](#) and [Whitethroat](#). This drop is most likely due to the lack of new recruits into the breeding population from 2024, but the 2025 breeding season could not have been more different.

**Dr Ellie Leech, Head of the Ringing Scheme, said** "Thanks to the fantastic efforts of BTO bird ringers, we know that the breeding success of 14 species was higher than average in 2025, in large part due to the mild weather."

She added "This is welcome news, but the contrast between the sunny summer of 2025 and the continual downpours of 2024, could not be more stark, and shows just how important the weather can be; this is particularly for young birds that are less well insulated and less experienced at finding food in difficult conditions. Several of the species monitored on CES sites, such as Willow Warbler and Garden Warbler, are exhibiting long term declines, and if, as projected, climatic change brings an increase in unsettled weather conditions, this could make matters worse. This is why it is so important to keep projects like CES going for the next 40 years and beyond."

The Constant Effort Sites Scheme is supported by a partnership between the BTO and the JNCC on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies (Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland). It is part of the BTO Ringing Scheme which is also funded by the BTO/JNCC Partnership, The National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and the ringers themselves. The BTO's contribution to the Ringing Scheme is supported by funding from gifts in Wills, for which we are extremely grateful.

Read the report at [bto.org/ces-2025-report](https://bto.org/ces-2025-report) with some excerpts below:

### Migratory warblers continue downward trend

Of the 29 species monitored for CES, eight are migratory warblers. In 2025, four of these eight (Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Whitethroat) recorded significant reductions in abundance when compared to the previous five-year mean (2020–24); while Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat also recorded non-significant declines. Blackcap was the only species for which this reduction was seen across all regions as well as at a national scale; in contrast, Chiffchaff was the only species, migratory or resident, to show significantly higher abundance in 2025. For Willow Warbler and Garden Warbler, the numbers recorded in 2025 were the lowest on record, while for Chiffchaff, the numbers were the highest on record. The results show no significant changes in the numbers of migratory adult birds returning to CES sites between 2024 and 2025 when compared to the five-year mean, so poor overwinter survival of adult birds is unlikely to be the main cause of the reduction in numbers seen in 2025.

## Mixed fortunes for resident species

Resident species fared a little better than migratory species in 2025. Only four resident species exhibited significant reductions in abundance compared with the five-year mean (2020–24): Blue Tit, Great Tit, Dunnock and Bullfinch. Like Blackcap, the reduction in Blue Tit numbers was seen across all regions. Also like Blackcap, the reduction in Great Tit numbers reflects a recent change, as this species is exhibiting a statistically significant increase in abundance in the long-term (1983–2025). The long-term change for Blue Tit is not significant either way, while both Dunnock and Bullfinch numbers are declining significantly over the longer term. Neither Blue Tit nor Great Tit recorded a significant change in adult overwinter survival between 2024 and 2025; however, both had a poor breeding season in 2024 suggesting that reduced recruitment of juvenile birds into the breeding population is likely to be the driver of this change. As neither Dunnock nor Bullfinch had a significantly poor breeding season in 2024, and neither showed a significant change in adult overwinter survival, the decline in numbers seen in 2025 is likely a result of poor juvenile overwinter survival. The long-term CES declines exhibited by both species mirror those reported by BBS since the mid-2010s.

## Good year for breeding success

More positively, it was a better breeding season for migratory species with five of the eight (Chiffchaff, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Whitethroat) recording significant increases in productivity compared with the five-year mean, and the remaining three recording non-significant increases. It is likely that all species benefited from the mild and dry spring and summer weather and that the prolonged good weather in summer 2025 increased the likelihood of second broods, leading to higher productivity. Those species that were recorded in lower numbers in 2025 may also have benefitted from reduced competition for resources, leading to above average breeding success.

Similarly, the 2025 breeding season was also a good one for residents, with nine species (Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Cetti's Warbler, Long-tailed Tit, Robin, Dunnock, Chaffinch and Goldfinch) recording statistically significant increases in productivity when compared to the five-year mean (2020–24) and none recording a significant decline. As with the migratory species, the favourable weather conditions in 2025, increased likelihood of second broods and reduced competition for resources in those species that were recorded in significantly lower numbers, are likely to be contributory factors in these increases in productivity. For early breeders such as Long-tailed Tit and Robin, the mild winter and dry, settled weather in spring are also likely to have presented particularly favourable breeding conditions.

Library photos: Blue Tit [Jane Crossen], Great Tit [Richard Farrow], Willow Warbler [Andrew Crossley], Garden Warbler [Andrew Crossley], Whitethroat [Mark Clements]





# What's That Song?



Many of us find it difficult learning or remembering bird song whilst others seem to have a natural knack for it, a bit like a foreign language or music skill. Can you recognise a bird from the description of its voice though? The descriptions come from three different books, but they all refer to the same bird – no

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

“Call hard, dry, clicking or ticking ‘tik!’ (often louder than Robin but very like a Redstart), or ‘tik-ik-ik’. Quiet, variable song.”

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

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

from Collins BIRD GUIDE 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterström

“Most common call is a short ‘tic, tic’, slightly harder than a Robin’s alarm call. The rarely heard song is a slow ‘deek, waree, ree, ree’.”

from RSPB Handbook of British Birds 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves



## Wordsearch

This month, we have the 19 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in January 2025 for which we have less than 4 records – 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.](#)

Common Redpoll

Kittiwake

Puffin

Red-breasted Merganser

Ring-necked Parakeet

Whooper Swan

Bewick's Swan

Black Guillemot

Black Redstart

Glossy Ibis

Goldeneye

Little Gull

Sanderling

Caspian Gull

Dartford Warbler

Hawfinch

Raven

Razorbill

Ruff

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



A few new 'Accepted' records from the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] for our area since our last newsletter and their current '**NRC work in progress**' file has been updated to 03-Jan-26. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a '**BBRC work in progress**' file available on their website [Dec-24].

 Norfolk Birds  
@norfolkbirds.bsky.social

Norfolkbirds

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Red-rumped Swallow Beeston Bump 14th April 2025

07:51 · 8 Dec 2025 

 Norfolk Birds  
@norfolkbirds.bsky.social

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Roseate Tern x2 Weybourne 28th May 2025

07:53 · 8 Dec 2025 

 Norfolk Birds  
@norfolkbirds.bsky.social

Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Black Kite Holt 27th April 2025

07:58 · 8 Dec 2025 

 Norfolk Birds  
@norfolkbirds.bsky.social

Happy New Year to all. We've updated our Work in Progress file: [norfolkbirds.weebly.com/work-in-prog...](http://norfolkbirds.weebly.com/work-in-prog...)

Don't forget to send in your 2025 records, either via eBird, or by email to [norfolkbirdrecs@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkbirdrecs@gmail.com)

13:17 · 3 Jan 2026 

 2025  
Club  
Stats

460 individual members  
across 307 households

91,247  
bird records logged

251  
bird species reported

## NENBC Website



A huge thanks to everyone who uploaded records to our website last year date – nice to see some of our new members getting to grips with the website. It is very much appreciated by us and the bodies we send the data on to for inclusion in the county reports. Not started adding records yet? Plenty of time to get going this! If you need any assistance, just drop Carol a line on [nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk) or through the messaging element of the website. Please keep adding all your sightings to our website at [www.bird.club/clubs/north-east-norfolk-bird-club](http://www.bird.club/clubs/north-east-norfolk-bird-club) (or typing 'NENBC' into your search engine will get you there). Let us know if you have forgotten your password and need it resetting or need assistance on how to upload your records.

## Prolific Posters 2025 by Val Stubbs

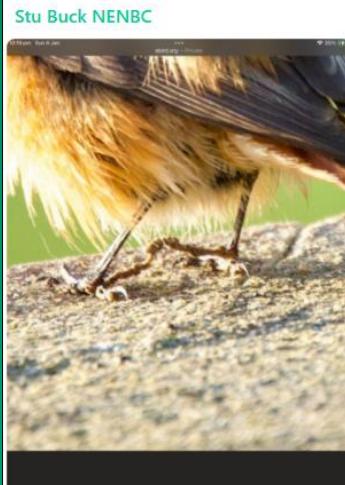
And the winner is... Phil Borley with over 215,790 points! Well done, Phil. Mark Clements edged into second place, marginally ahead of Tony Pope. 19 members exceeded 10,000 points, with nine scoring over 20,000 points.

Rank	Birder	Points
1	Phil Borley	215,790
2	Mark Clements	85,080
3	Tony Pope	84,200
4	Valerie Stubbs	82,770
5	Philip Cartlidge	72,360
6	David Griffiths	40,110
7	Doug & Jenny Cullern	33,390
8	Trevor Williams	27,100
9	Paul Laurie	20,700
10	Peter Geary	16,510
11	John Hurst	16,290
12	Stephanie Witham	15,800
13	Russell Page	14,520
14	Stuart Jones	13,060
15	Colin Blaxill	12,310

Rank	Birder	Points
16	Ann Gladwin	11,920
17	Andrew Clarke	11,080
18	Stella Baylis	10,140
19	Dawn & Tim Wright	10,130
20	Julia & David Ivison	9,830
21	David Barrass	9,650
22	Alan Stevens	9,650
23	Di & Richard Farrow	9,440
24	Andrew Kershaw	9,260
25	Ollie Allison	8,550
26	Bob Farndon	8,510
27	Roger Unite	7,840
28	Moss Taylor	7,710
29	Gary Bunting	7,180
30	Michael Harcup	7,120

Let's see who can give 2025 leaders a run for their money in 2026. And don't forget that while this is all just a bit of fun, there is a more serious purpose to logging birds on the NENBC website. All NENBC's records are added to the BTO's [BirdTrack](#), whose data is used by the county recorders to compile the annual Norfolk records. These form part of the data that can be used to analyse trends in bird populations – both abundance and distribution. This in turn can inform strategies to protect birds and their habitats, helping to ensure that they will be there for our enjoyment and that of future generations.

## Social Media & WhatsApp – a couple of bits from social media and WhatsApp in the last few weeks. This is something we really haven't got to grips with of late so if you can tag us in any of your BlueSky posts or indeed have an interest in social media and can help us out, please do get in touch!



The eastern black redstart at Sheringham appeared to have something caught between its feet this morning. String or similar maybe. Hopefully it will rid itself of it.

Edited 22:19



Ken T  
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

One of the two Egyptian Geese flying over the lake at Felbrigg NT today, an introduced species to the UK. Often found on ornamental ponds, they escaped into the wild where it's now successfully breeding. Magpie sitting in the tree canopy in the woodlands.



Jo King  
@jokingnorfolk.bsky.social

I really wanted to see the #EasternBlackRedstart in #Sheringham which is such a delightful bird and it performed so well #NorfolkBirding



19:20 · 31 Dec 2025 · Everybody can reply



19:21 · 5 Jan 2026 · Everybody can reply



19:21 · 5 Jan 2026 · Everybody can reply



Ken T  
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Nuthatch, has been visiting the garden for several weeks. Amazing to watch as they can climb up and head-first down tree trunks oh and hang upside down from tree branches. Sadly they only tend to visit in the winter months, but good to see none the less.



17:12 · 7 Jan 2026 · Everybody can reply

Stella Baylis  
@silyab22.bsky.social

Happy to be back doing my WeBS count at 'Salthouse West' after a leave of absence, family matters and Covid keeping me away. Thanks to Chris Goodlie for covering! Smashed the sector Teal count today but Lapwing count was well down, serenaded by Pink-footed Geese flying over #norfolkbirding



Ken T  
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Redpoll seen in the local Alder tree together with 30+ Siskin. In previous years Siskin have been regular winter visitors to the garden, so Viburnum has shed all its leaves and is in flower again. With the leaves cast Black-bryony berries can now be seen on the branches.



19:20 · 4 Dec 2025 · Everybody can reply

## Star Badges

### No new achievers this month

Currently, 6 members have achieved GOLD STAR status, 25 members have been awarded SILVER STAR status and a fabulous 86 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](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk) when they are ready for their website records to be peer reviewed by the Peer Review Group.

**NOTE:** The Norfolk Birds Rarities Committee is a little behind at the moment in assessing submitted description species (rarities) for acceptance. This is having an impact on our ability to award badges as we only confirm a rarity for badges once accepted by NBRC so apologies if you are waiting and thank you for your patience.

## Eco-Badges

### No new achievers this month but a couple of members now really close!

We currently have 27 members who have achieved their GREEN ECO-BADGES [Coastal: 16 | Inland: 11] and 9 who have achieved SUPER-GREEN [Coastal: 8 | 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!



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

Number of bird species recorded in the NENBC area at or from home without the use of motorised transport since 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk) along with a declaration that award requirements have been met.

## Sea-watching Badge

### No new achievers this month but a couple of members now really close!

We currently have 5 members who have achieved their BLUE BADGE.

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



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

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

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

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



This one is from an old book by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) called 'All the Year Round' which was published in 1923. Farjeon's most widely published work is the hymn "Morning has Broken", written in 1931. *Photo of Blackbird from Alan Stevens*

### THE BIRDS KNOW

The birds know. – You can hear they know,  
The eager birds at daybreak ; though  
The morning is less gold than grey,  
And a cold wind still cuts the day,  
And skies still look like snow.

The birds their chorus have begun.  
No weather can stop it ; none  
Can hear them at the early hour  
And not foresee the lanes in flower,  
Or dream upon the sun.

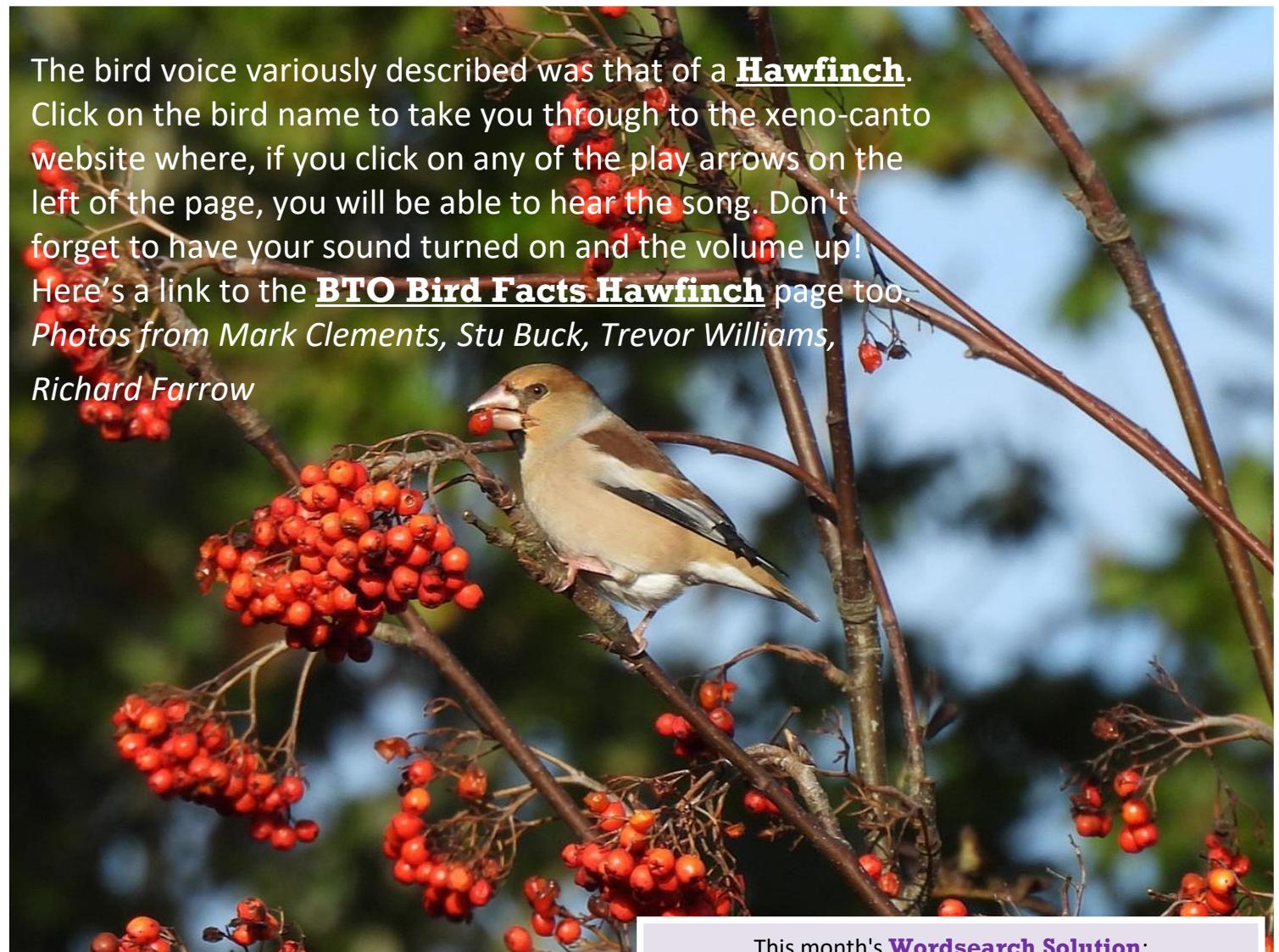


The bird voice variously described was that of a **Hawfinch**. Click on the bird name to take you through to the xeno-canto website where, if you click on any of the play arrows on the left of the page, you will be able to hear the song. Don't forget to have your sound turned on and the volume up!

Here's a link to the **BTO Bird Facts Hawfinch** page too.

*Photos from Mark Clements, Stu Buck, Trevor Williams,*

*Richard Farrow*



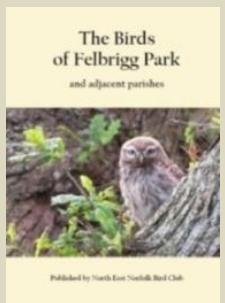
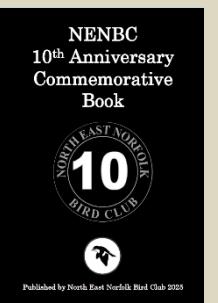
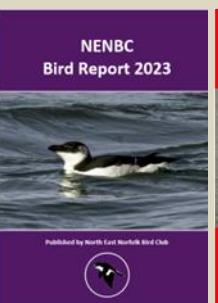
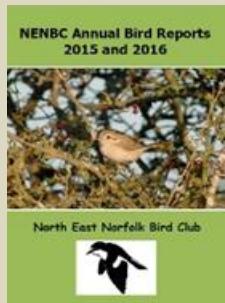
This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**

BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN

JANUARY 2025

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

## Back Page Club Info .....



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

[www.felbecktrust.org.uk](http://www.felbecktrust.org.uk)

For Annual Reports or  
The Birds of Felbrigg  
Park, contact Carol on  
[nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk).

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



### The NENBC objectives:

- Encourage and share the enjoyment of birdwatching in North East Norfolk with people of all abilities and experience.
- Promote diversity and inclusion in all its activities.
- Gather and collate data on birds in the recording area.
- Share information between members.
- Participate in regional and national surveys incorporating the recording area.

- Administer the Club in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Promote the conservation of birds and wildlife within Norfolk.
- Liaise with other conservation groups within the local area and more widely.
- Hold regular indoor and field meetings and social events throughout the year.
- Put the interests of birds first and respect other people, whether or not they are interested in birds, in line with the birdwatchers' code.

**Monthly mid-week bird walks** around Felbrigg Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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