



## January 2025 – Issue 115

## The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

**Contents** - if something is underlined, you can Ctrl-click / press on it etc to jump to an external website link or that point in the newsletter

<a href="#">Chair's Corner</a> .....	Page 2	<a href="#">Review of the Year 2024</a> .....	Page 22
<a href="#">A Note from the Editor</a> .....	Page 3	<a href="#">Purple Badge: Julian Bhalerao</a> .....	Page 23
<a href="#">Membership News and Statistics</a> .....	Page 4	<a href="#">NENBC New Year's Day Birding Challenge</a> .....	Page 27
<a href="#">NENBC Bird Highlights</a> .....	Page 5	<a href="#">A Year at Weybourne Camp: December 2024</a> .....	Page 28
<a href="#">December 2024</a> .....	Page 5	<a href="#">WhatsApp NENBC Alerts - Annual Summary</a> .....	Page 29
<a href="#">NENBC Ringed Bird Records</a> .....	Page 10	<a href="#">Ask the Audience: Blackbirds</a> .....	Page 30
<a href="#">What To Look &amp; Listen For in January</a> .....	Page 11	<a href="#">Changes a Beeston Common</a> .....	Page 30
<a href="#">Club Notices</a> .....	Page 12	<a href="#">Volunteering Opportunity: Birding at Felbrigg Park</a> .	Page 31
<a href="#">What's On?</a> .....	Page 13	<a href="#">Contemplating Conservation: Felbeck Trust</a> .....	Page 32
<a href="#">Walks: Felbrigg Park / Sculthorpe</a> .....	Page 13	<a href="#">Member Highs, Lows &amp; Ponderings</a> .....	Page 34
<a href="#">Talk: Kartong Bird Observatory with Roger Walsh</a> ....	Page 14	<a href="#">Check This Out</a> .....	Page 35
<a href="#">RSPB Big Garden BirdWatch</a> .....	Page 15	<a href="#">Ficedula Fun</a> .....	Page 36
<a href="#">Last Month's Felbrigg Walk</a> .....	Page 15	<a href="#">Data, Records &amp; Posts</a> .....	Page 37
<a href="#">Felbrigg Park Walk Stats</a> .....	Page 17	<a href="#">Cultural Birds: Robin &amp; Sparrow</a> .....	Page 38
<a href="#">10th Anniversary Walk #1: Felbrigg Park</a> .....	Page 19	<a href="#">Ficedula Fun Solutions</a> .....	Page 39
<a href="#">Last Month's Back Roads of Cley Walk</a> .....	Page 20	<a href="#">Back Page Club Info</a> .....	Page 40
<a href="#">AGM &amp; Christmas Social 2024</a> .....	Page 21		



**Through a Lens**





### By Trevor Williams

I always look forward to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, the start of a new birding year, with all that that brings - the chance of adding something new to one of my various lists! If you keep a year list, as I do (in fact I keep two - one for the Club and another for the county), it's a chance to start again from scratch - when every species holds a touch of excitement, no matter how common. The Club's own New Year Birding Challenge is a great way to kick-start your list and this year was no exception.

Plenty of members were out early and their accumulated totals over the course of the day amounted to an impressive 972 records / 99 species. For me personally it was hard going. The weather wasn't good, with regular downpours and strong winds and, by the time it got dark, I'd managed to see 64 species. Well down on previous years. Participation in the Cley Bird Club 'Big Bird Day' a few days later helped boost my 2025 county list by quite a few as well as providing some good-humoured competition. Our team managed to scrape together a closing total of 85 - the winners amassing an impressive 93. It took me another ten days to get to the minor milestone of 100 in the Club area.

In amongst that first one hundred in the NENBC area were several goose species but one in particular proved to be rather special. The Greenland White-front, originally found by James McCallum, in a flock of several

thousand Pink-feet near Saxlingham was a 'first' for the Club area, with only a couple of historic records: Moss Taylor in his 'Rare and Scarce Birds in North-east Norfolk' lists a single bird, near Sharrington, in December 2008 and James had previously seen two, in a flock of 140 Russian White-fronts, near Baconsthorpe in December 2011 (NBR). The two races of White-fronted Goose - Russian and Greenland - as their names imply come from very different geographical regions, have distinctive plumage features and are considered by many observers to be separate species. Both races are declining, the already small population of Greenland White-fronts more so. Compared to the more regularly seen Russian White-front, Greenland are larger birds, darker overall with less white in the tail and the slam-dunk feature of an all-orange bill.

Any addition to the NENBC list is something to be celebrated. Since the Club was created in January 2015 some 306 species (and a number of distinctive sub-species) have been recorded - all of them listed in our about to be published **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book**. **Publication of the book and the specially commissioned '10 year' badge kick-off our year of celebration, with the official launch happening at the January indoor meeting on 30<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!**



*Photos: David Griffiths  
and Mark Clements (main)*





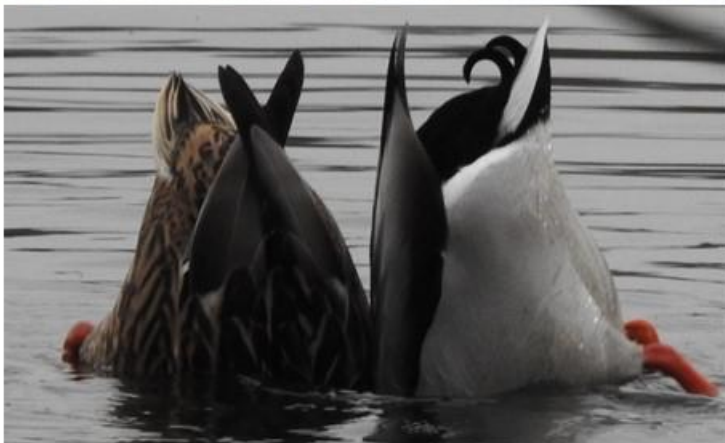


By Carol Thornton

Hi folks. Welcome to our January issue, the first of our 2025 **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!** As always, full details of our schedule of events are on our website. Look out for some of our additional events in this special year and we hope to get more of you participating than on our hastily arranged replacement 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary walk at Felbrigg last week – see [page 19](#).

Last month's **Through a Lens** subject for the front page was **ROBINS** and our cover images this time are from Claire Brayne (main), Ken Thornton, Francis Farrow and Doug Cullern. Thanks all! The **theme for January is Geese**.

Below is my pick from December of some great photos from our website of the more common birds that don't make it to the Monthly Bird Highlights section: Great Black-backed Gull, Kestrel and Carrion Crow (Richard Farrow), Mallards (Doug Cullern) and Blue Tit (Ken Thornton).





Welcome to our new members – look forward to meeting you soon!

\* Lynne Burrell \* Calum Lamont \* Trevor & Janet Bland \*

\* Karen Wilson \* Janet Turton \* Gary Bunting \*

\* Stuart Clear \* Berni Marfleet \*

445 individual  
members across  
291 households

88,833  
bird records  
logged

240 bird species  
reported

Please keep adding all your sightings to our website at [www.nenbc.co.uk](http://www.nenbc.co.uk). Let us know if you have forgotten your password and need it resetting or need assistance on how to upload your records. More information from our website records, Twitterings and social media presence in **Data, Records & Posts** from [page 37](#).

Please see membership renewal information for 2025 on [page 12](#).

## Club Achievement Awards

### Star Badges

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### Eco-Badges

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

We currently have **26** members who have achieved their **GREEN ECO-BADGES** [Coastal: 16 | Inland: 10] and 7 who have achieved **SUPER-GREEN** [Coastal: 6 | Inland:1].

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



Number of bird species recorded in the NENBC area at or from home without the use of motorised transport since 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.





By Carol Thornton

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

≈ 5,500 individual records covering 141 bird species were added in December

There were 5,485 records submitted for December which is 1,214 more than those submitted for the same period last year and 713 less than the previous month of November. A total of 141 species was recorded which was 5 less than was recorded in the same period in 2023.

The best species this month were the **Bewick's Swan** over Beeston Common and **Velvet Scoter** along the coast but plenty of other interesting reports. Records of all of the less common species in our area last month listed below:

**Brent Goose** There were 71 records throughout the month with high counts of 1,057 at Bale on 13<sup>th</sup> and 130 at Weybourne on 11<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 1 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

**Barnacle Goose** Singles at Weybourne on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> on fields with Brent Geese.

**Tundra Bean Goose** A single reported over Weybourne Camp on 14<sup>th</sup> "east, then back west, calling constantly, probably detached from pink-feet skeins which flew west 10 minutes earlier".

**White-fronted Goose** A single came in from north east at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 29<sup>th</sup> with Pink-feet then separated, heading west over the town, calling."

**Bewick's Swan** Three birds were reported over Beeston Common heading west on 20<sup>th</sup> and the same over Weybourne Camp on 29<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 2 courtesy of Mark Clements*

**Whooper Swan** Five east over Weybourne and then Sheringham on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** Twenty seven records throughout the month from Edgefield [max 2], Beeston Regis [4], Weybourne Camp [5], Weybourne [1] Weybourne Heath [2], Thornage [7], Thorpe Market [2], Barningham Hall Lake [4], Weybourne Cliffs [1], Roughton [2], Little Barningham [2], Bodham [4], Wolterton Park [1], Mannington Hall Park [2], Blickling Park [5] and Brinton [2]. *Photo 3 courtesy of Doug Cullern*

**Pintail** Records from three dates in December starting with 4 west at Sheringham on 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup> a flock of at least 14 were tracked west from Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs, past Sheringham and on from Weybourne Camp with up to 2 birds the following day flying west along the same stretch.

**Pochard** With the exception of one west at Weybourne on 14<sup>th</sup>, the other 12 records were from the tail end of the month. A single drake was on the Priory Ponds at Beeston Regis on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, a pair at Selbrigg Pond on 30<sup>th</sup> plus 2 males and a female on Felbrigg Lake on 31<sup>st</sup>. *Photo 4 courtesy of Francis Farrow*

**Scaup** An adult drake and 2 female west at Weybourne Camp on 2<sup>nd</sup> plus a drake west at Weybourne on 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Eider** Virtually all records were on 9 days in the first half of the month with the exception of a single east at Sheringham on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Other reports were from Weybourne Camp through to Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs with the high count during seawatches being 121 west at Sheringham on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Velvet Scoter** Records throughout the month of either birds heading west or on the sea with Common Scoter flocks. The high count was 11 at Weybourne Camp on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-tailed Duck** A drake was on the sea at Sheringham with a scoter flock on 29<sup>th</sup> before heading west. All other reports, which were scattered throughout the month, were of a single drake from the Weybourne area.

*Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

**Goldeneye** A female west at Weybourne on 6<sup>th</sup> plus 3 drake and one duck west at Weybourne on 24<sup>th</sup> plus 2 drake on sea with scoter flock from the same observer on the same day.

**Goosander** A redhead west at Weybourne Camp on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a drake west at Sheringham on the same date and again on 5<sup>th</sup>. A single at Felbrigg Park on lake on 7<sup>th</sup> and on 18<sup>th</sup> a female was seen flying over the car park and later on and away from the lake on the club walk. Single drakes west at Weybourne and Sheringham on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively.

*Photo 6 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

**Red-breasted Merganser** A single east at Sheringham on 9<sup>th</sup>, a female west Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 10<sup>th</sup>, one west Weybourne on 14<sup>th</sup>, a redhead west Sheringham on 16<sup>th</sup> plus at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs, 2 males and 4 redheads west during a seawatch on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Partridge** Two in a field off Kelling Road, Holt on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a single in ploughed field to the east of Holt on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Rail** Records came from Felbrigg Park & Lake, Selbrigg Pond, Sheringham Park, Weybourne and Weybourne Camp throughout the month of 1-3 birds. Most reports were of calling or squealing birds but quire a reliable spot for actually seeing this species was in the outlet below the dam to Felbrigg Lake. *Photo 7 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

**Little Grebe** Singles on the lake at Felbrigg Park on 5<sup>th</sup>, the scrape at Weybourne Camp on 19<sup>th</sup>, the pond at Mannington Hall Park on 24<sup>th</sup> with 2 in the castle moat at Baconsthorpe on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-necked Grebe** A single east at Sheringham on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** Thirty records of up to 7 individuals moving along the coast or on the sea throughout the month from Weybourne Camp to Sheringham but none from Cromer despite it being well-watched.. Inland, up to 3 on the lake at Blickling Park.

**Oystercatcher** Plenty of records of predominantly 1-3 birds along the coastal spots from Weybourne through to Cromer, with a high count of 12 in the cliff-top car park field on 31<sup>st</sup>. The only inland record was of 2 over a Holt garden on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Lapwing** Records predominantly from the north west of the club area, a mix of flyovers and in flocks in fields. Triple figure records were of 167 in a cereal field at West Beckham on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 100 at West Beckham again on 29<sup>th</sup> plus 300 flew over Thornage also on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Plover** Just 14 records in December of fly-overs and settled flocks on cereal fields from the Weybourne area, Bodham, Sustead, Gresham, West Beckham, Baconsthorpe and Briston.

**Grey Plover** One on the beach at Weybourne Camp on 3<sup>rd</sup> before heading west plus 2 on the rocky shore at West Runton on 17<sup>th</sup>.





**Ringed Plover** Reports from Sheringham (with up to 4 birds there between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>), Weybourne area on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, with high counts of 6 east along the beach at East Runton on 30<sup>th</sup> and 7 on the rocky shore at West Runton on 17<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 8 courtesy of Mark Clements*



**Curlew** there was a single on field north of Bodham on 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 on Kelling Heath on 6<sup>th</sup> with all other records of mostly double-figure counts from the Weybourne area with high counts of 108 east there on 1<sup>st</sup> and 103 east from the cliffs in 4 flocks on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** One west at Sheringham on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Knot** Three west at Weybourne Camp on 3<sup>rd</sup>, one west at Weybourne on 15<sup>th</sup> and at Sheringham on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** One west at Sheringham on 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 feeding on shoreline at Overstrand on 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 west at Weybourne on 9<sup>th</sup> and one east there on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** All records were of birds heading west, with 12 at Weybourne Camp on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 at Weybourne on both 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Sandpiper** All reports were from Sheringham from 1<sup>st</sup> through to 31<sup>st</sup>, generally around the prom area and on the rock in front of the museum, with 2 reported on the groynes on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 9 courtesy of David Griffiths*



**Woodcock** Records of singles in off the sea at Weybourne Camp on 1<sup>st</sup>, with all other records of single flushed birds or flyovers from a further twelve locations. There were reports of two birds at Felbrigg park & Lake on 18<sup>th</sup>, Bale (at a Felbeck trust site) on 20<sup>th</sup> and in woodland at Tuttington on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Snipe** Thwaite Common and Beeston Common had reports of singles, Brinton of up to 2, up to 5 at Felbrigg Park & Lake with a high of 7 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 7 also at Baconsthorpe on the same day.

**Green Sandpiper** Singles in a puddle at Bodham on 7<sup>th</sup>, flying over Thornage on 15<sup>th</sup> and on the edge of a stream at the church near Barningham Hall Lake on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** One west at Weybourne Camp on 4<sup>th</sup>, one on flooded meadow at Bale on 13<sup>th</sup>, one west at Sheringham on 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 on rocky shore at West Runton on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenshank** One west at Sheringham on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Kittiwake** Records from 3<sup>rd</sup> through to 11<sup>th</sup> along the coast with high counts at the sites of 7 at Cromer Lighthouse & east Cliffs on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 30 at Sheringham on 8<sup>th</sup>, 4 at Weybourne on 9<sup>th</sup> and 4 at Mundesley on 10<sup>th</sup>.

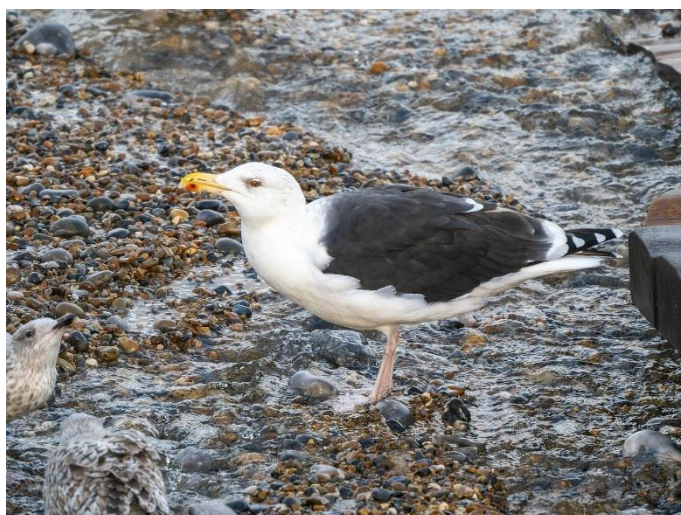
**Little Gull** Two east at Sheringham on 8<sup>th</sup>, a single around Weybourne on 9<sup>th</sup> and one east at Weybourne Camp on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** Just 12 records of singles predominantly west off the coast through the month, a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird headed inland from Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 1<sup>st</sup> with a bird on a rooftop in Beeston Regis on 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull** Nearly 80 records in December predominantly at the coast with high counts of 30 off Weybourne and 35 off Sheringham streaming west on 6<sup>th</sup>. Inland, 3 were in pig fields at Edgefield on 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 9 on 29<sup>th</sup> plus one at Thornage on 15<sup>th</sup>, with a single near Thorpe Market on 6<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 10 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

**Caspian Gull** A single in a pig field at Edgefield on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great Skua** Records of birds moving east at the coast between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from Weybourne, Weybourne Camp (2 on 10<sup>th</sup>) and Sheringham (4 on 8<sup>th</sup>).





**Little Auk** Records from 3<sup>rd</sup> through to 19<sup>th</sup>. Mostly singles from Sheringham, Weybourne and Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs with double-figure counts on the 9<sup>th</sup> of 16, 17 and 11 respectively. *Photo 11 courtesy of David Griffiths*

**Guillemot** Just 10 records of mostly single-figure counts with the high count of 14 reported just as 'Auk species'.

**Razorbill** Reports of singles off Weybourne on 3 dates with 3 birds west off Sheringham on 7<sup>th</sup>. One bird was killed off Sheringham on 10<sup>th</sup> by a Great Black-backed Gull but not subsequently eaten.

**Red-throated Diver** Nearly 60 records throughout the month from Cromer Lighthouse East Cliffs (max 150 during a seawatch on 20<sup>th</sup> including a flock of 32), Mundesley (2 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Sheringham (58 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Weybourne (69 on 13<sup>th</sup>) and Weybourne Cliffs (8 on 16<sup>th</sup>).

**Black-throated Diver** One east at Weybourne on 9<sup>th</sup>, one west at Sheringham on 10<sup>th</sup> plus one west there again on 19<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 12 courtesy of David Griffiths*

**Great Northern Diver** Thirteen records over 10 dates all of singles apart from 2 off Sheringham on 23<sup>rd</sup>. *Photo 13 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

**Fulmar** Fifteen records over 10 dates all of singles offshore except for a report of 2 west at Sheringham on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great Egret** One low west over Cromer on 5<sup>th</sup> and one on the lake at Wolterton Park during a WEBS count on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** All records of singles from Beeston Regis, Brinton, Ingworth, Sheringham, Southrepps Common, Weybourne, Weybourne Camp and Wolterton Park, with two of the records being garden reports and a third nearly a garden report!

**Goshawk** A single over local woods at Edgefield on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Harrier** All singles, west offshore at Weybourne on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a juvenile east over Weybourne Camp on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and adult male west over Pigneys Wood on 5<sup>th</sup> then a dearth of reports until over Selbrigg Pond on 30<sup>th</sup> and Brinton on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Barn Owl** Eleven records of single birds often seen flying across roads and sometimes with prey. A couple of lucky members managed to see 5 in their journey back from Lincolnshire including one at Thornage and one at Bodham On 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Owl** Singles at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – they have been very elusive there of late – plus one at Weybourne Camp on 17<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 14 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

**Short-eared Owl** One flushed from rough grass on Weybourne Cliffs on 17<sup>th</sup> before being lost to view in the late afternoon gloom.

**Kingfisher** Eleven records of singles from Beeston Common, Blickling Park, Dilham Canal, Felbrigg Park & Lake, Holt Country Park & Lowes, Hunworth and Walcott.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** Over 70 records from over 20 locations throughout the month with high counts of 4 drumming at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 26<sup>th</sup> and also at Beeston Common on 29<sup>th</sup>, where there were 3 males and one female.





**Green Woodpecker** Nearly 30 records but just the record from Felbrigg Park & Lake on 14<sup>th</sup> was of 2 birds. *Photo 15 courtesy of Mark Clements*

**Merlin** A single west over Beach lane and low over Weybourne Camp on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** Surprisingly just 7 records in December. Four were from Cromer with two of them of 2 birds, plus singles at both Weybourne Cliffs and Sheringham on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Weybourne on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven** A great record on 23<sup>rd</sup> of three together flying north over Bale calling, then a minute later a fourth bird following

**Marsh Tit** Singles at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Selbrigg Pond between 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> plus up to 2 on garden feeders in Brinton from 8<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Cetti's Warbler** Records of singles were throughout the month and came from Felbrigg Park & Lake and Weybourne Hope reed bed, all bar one heard only.

**Blackcap** Twelve records of 1-2 birds mostly after the 22<sup>nd</sup> and often in gardens. A mix of male and female.

**Firecrest** Records of singles from Beeston Common on 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with 2 there on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Fieldfare** Over thirty records with nearly 2/3 of single-figure sized groups. The only really large flock of 150 reported at Hempstead on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Song Thrush** Seventeen records of 1-2 birds from 11 locations, coastal and inland.

**Mistle Thrush** More than double the amount of records of this thrush than Song with a high count of 17 at Felbrigg Park & Lake on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat** Records of mostly 1-2 birds from ten locations both coastal and inland with a high count of 5 at Weybourne on 17<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 16 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

**Grey Wagtail** Twenty eight records of mostly singles with 2 at Holt Sewage Works on 1<sup>st</sup>, plus 2 at the prom on Sheringham on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Rock Pipit** One at Weybourne on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Brambling** Just 9 records, often with Chaffinch, with high counts of 100 at North Barningham on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Barningham Hall Lake on 30<sup>th</sup>. *Photo 17 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

**Bullfinch** Nearly 40 records with a high count of 7 at Thornage on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Redpoll** Four at Thwaite Common on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 at Kelling Heath on 11<sup>th</sup> and one at Southrepps Common on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin** About a third of the 30 records were of double figure counts with forty+ reported at High Kelling, Felbrigg park & Lake, Selbrigg Pond and Southrepps Common.

**Snow Bunting** One at Sheringham on 19<sup>th</sup> and west offshore at Weybourne on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Corn Bunting** Seen flying west on 17<sup>th</sup> at the western end of Weybourne Camp which had presumably come across the NENBC area.

**Yellowhammer** Sixteen records through the month with 6 at Bale on 13<sup>th</sup> and Gunthorpe on 15<sup>th</sup> plus 7 at Thornage on 29<sup>th</sup>.



# NENBC Ringed Bird Records in December



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

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

## Mute Swan

- “Additional Swan joined the group of three. 4ERP Ring Number.” | Doug & Jenny Cullern | Selbrigg Pond | 24<sup>th</sup> | *as per photos right*



## Turnstone

- “Tank groyne, with JAC red flagged.” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 1<sup>st</sup>
- “Tank area minimum, JAC red flagged bird” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 3<sup>rd</sup>
- “Ringed and colour flagged bird - originally ringed in Alert, Canada 2017.” | Trevor Williams | Cromer Pier | 14<sup>th</sup>
- “min 40 count, with JAA and metal ringed right tarsus birds.” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 17<sup>th</sup>
- “Including JAA and JAC.” | Di & Richard Farrow | Sheringham | 18<sup>th</sup> | *as per photos right*
- “c40 on prom with metal ringed right tarsus bird” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 18<sup>th</sup>
- “Including leg flag JAA” | Roger Emmens | Sheringham | 19<sup>th</sup>
- “including JAE” | Mark Clements | Sheringham | 19<sup>th</sup> | *as per photo right*
- “Tank area with JAE red flagged bird” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 19<sup>th</sup>
- “c17 near Museum, including ringed JAE.” | Di & Richard Farrow | Sheringham | 19<sup>th</sup>
- “Tank area, with JAC/JAE flagged birds” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 23<sup>rd</sup>
- “on prom. including flagged JAE and JAC” | Phil Borley | Sheringham | 23<sup>rd</sup>
- “c30 museum area inc JAC flagged and metal ringed (right tarsus) birds” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 26<sup>th</sup>
- “Including leg flag JAE” | Roger Emmens | Sheringham | 25<sup>th</sup>
- “Including leg flag JAC” | Roger Emmens | Sheringham | 26<sup>th</sup>
- “c40 tank area with JAC flagged, and right tarsus metal ringed bird” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 27<sup>th</sup>
- “including metal ringed (right tarsus) bird” | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 31<sup>st</sup>





# What to Look and Listen For in January



Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to January 2025!

For winter birding there is plenty to keep us occupied. January can be a good month for **Merlin** which can turn up just about anywhere. If you have a local finch flock that has become established this winter, particularly in game cover crops, it could well be worth staking out to see if attracts our smallest falcon.

We are privileged to be an area known for its wintering numbers of **Pink-footed Geese** and if you are lucky enough to find a flock, please take the time to look through it for **Taiga** and **Tundra Bean Geese** or **White-fronted Goose**. Last January we had a **Red-breasted Goose** amongst the **Brent Geese** so who is to say that one won't put in an appearance again? Assuming there is only one bird of course! On the subject of Brent Geese, you can really push your ID skills to the limit trying to pick out a *nigricans* '**Black**' **Brant** but be aware of hybrid birds. Some hybrids are relatively obvious given good views, being clearly intermediate between the two parents. Others can be really tricky, with some birds very closely resembling pure Black Brant and may easily be identified as such especially if conditions and views are not perfect.

The same general rule of thumb applies to finch and bunting flocks, particularly near the coast. **Lapland Bunting** is an obvious candidate to look out for, but **Little Bunting** has also been reported from our area in recent years.

Also, one to watch out for is **Water Pipit**. We haven't had a winter report of this bird since December 2020, and they have turned up along the coast as well as inland so don't assume every pipit is a Rock or Meadow. There is a really detailed, and useful article, on the Birdguides site [here](#) that offers some good pointers as well as some soundbites of calling birds.

January is a great month for birding in our area and, wherever your patch is, we hope you see some good birds

## Historical January Records

by Russ Malin

Records taken from "Rare and Scarce Birds in North-east Norfolk"

by kind permission of the author Moss Taylor

Historically, January is one of the quieter months for rare and scarce birds locally. However, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1987, gave us our first report of Black Brant when a single bird was observed feeding with Dark-bellied Brent Geese on arable field at the eastern end of Weybourne Camp. Even rarer, the fourth ever Norfolk record of Pine Bunting came from our area on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, with a female found at Felmingham. You have to go back to 1930 for the earliest record of Bittern when 1-2 birds were present in Weybourne Hope reed-bed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> until late February and, going back to white-wingers, the first documented Glaucous Gull involved 'several' birds from January 1942 at Sheringham, although there were almost certainly others that pre-dated these.



Pink-footed Geese – Mark Clements



## Conservation Corner – can you help??

Would you be interested in joining or team of article writers for the Conservation Corner slot? We currently have two members writing excellent articles alternate months but a bit of back up would be very handy for months when they have other commitments. If you don't fancy writing an occasional article, please let us know any suggestions for what you'd like to see covered in this spot and we'll get researching!

### WhatsApp Groups.....



The club runs two WhatsApp groups:

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

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

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

## 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)

## 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



## 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!

## Membership Renewal - Subscriptions for 2025

We hope you will continue to support the club in 2025, our **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**, by renewing your membership with us. The subs, which were due on 1st January, remain the same as last year:












**2025 calendar year membership of £15 per household to include a copy of the club's printed 2024 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.

**Many thanks for your continuing support and engagement!**



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

-  Talks on the last Thursday evening of the month at Gresham Village Hall from Sep-Nov and Jan-Apr, also available live via Zoom
-  Walks around Felbrigg Park on the 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

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

### INFO FOR ALL WALKS:

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

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

**DOGS:** We regret no dogs.

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

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Unfortunately most of our walks aren't suitable for wheelchair users but please do contact us on [nenbc@aol.co.uk](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 Status badges & if you walk or cycle from home, they also count towards your Eco-Badges.

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

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January | 9.00am-11.00am |  
**Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk**  
 with Trevor Williams



No advance booking needed

*This sociable walk caters for all levels of ability so come and give us a try. The walk is around the park and lake with a focus on bird and other wildlife recording. We regularly see a wide range of species on an average walk and even on the coldest days more than 30.*

Sorry - we were a bit slow with the newsletter. Next Felbrigg Walk is 19<sup>th</sup> February

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

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February | 9.30am-1.00pm |  
**Sculthorpe Nature Reserve Walk**  
 with Janice Darch



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

*This Hawk & Owl Trust reserve near Fakenham is located in the Wensum Valley & is internationally recognised for its wildlife. Boardwalks make access easy for everyone & lead you through the reserve via a series of viewing screens & hides. The reserve is rich, full of wildlife & varied but, at only 18 hectares (45 acres), easy to explore. Bird feeders are strategically placed to give superb sightings & photo opportunities. Birds we are very likely to have great views of are Bullfinch, Brambling, Chaffinch, most of the tit family, various redpolls, Nuthatch & Treecreeper. In the fields & overhead we will look for Redwing & Fieldfare as well as Buzzards & Red Kites. There is often a Tawny Owl on view.*

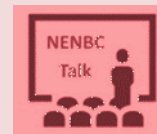
**MEET:** In car park | **PARKING:** Reserve car park, Turf Moor Road, Sculthorpe, Fakenham NR21 9GN | **DISTANCE:** 2 miles | **ACCESSIBILITY:** Most of the walk is on boardwalks & hides are accessible so this event may appeal to wheelchair users. | **FACILITIES:** Toilets & café available at the reserve visitor centre | **BADGES:** Outside the club area so unfortunately records can't count for Star Badges or Green Eco-badges this time.

## Monthly Evening Club Talk

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January | 7.30pm-9.30pm |

Gresham Village Hall and via Zoom

zoom



### **“The Kartong Bird Observatory, The Gambia” A talk with Roger Walsh**

***PLUS launch of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year & the NENBC Young International Birder Bursary***

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**A BIT ABOUT THE SPEAKER AND THEIR TALK:** Roger started birding in his early teens and spent seasons working as a Voluntary Warden on Skomer Island and then the Farne Islands between 1977 and 1980, where his passion for ringing began. Since 2011, he has been involved in studying migratory and resident species in West Africa, participating in, and now leading, regular twice-yearly expeditions to Kartong Bird Observatory located in the southwest corner of The Gambia and overlooking a former sand mine. Since mining stopped, these areas have filled with water during each rainy season and created one of the best birding sites along the coast of The Gambia with its rich tapestry of habitats. These offer migratory, inter-African and resident birds a broad range of contrasting environments. Bird ringing began at Kartong in 1996 and continues today with a team of ringers from the UK establishing a permanent station in 2010. An impressive range of species have been caught in large numbers allowing them to develop new ageing and sexing criteria for an avifauna that is understudied. They have caught many migrants from the Palearctic and aim to increase knowledge of their migration patterns through West Africa and beyond. They run regular ringing expeditions for bird ringers from the UK, and each expedition sponsors a number of Gambian students to gain valuable work experience learning the skills of ornithological research. To date 396 species of bird have been recorded at the Observatory. For his talk Roger will focus on the education work, research and conservation efforts there into a variety of species including those common to us in the UK as well as those that are globally critically endangered like the Hooded Vulture.

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

**BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS:** It is always nice to know if you are coming to the hall but by no means essential so if it takes your fancy on the evening, please just turn up as we would love to see you! If you are intending to join via Zoom though, you definitely need to let us know in advance so we can get the link out to you in good time. You can get in touch via [nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk).

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

**DIRECTIONS:** Gresham Village Hall, East Beckham Road off Church Lane, Gresham, Norfolk, NR11 8RT but note the published postcode might not take you to exactly the right spot! If you are coming through Aylmerton and Lower Gresham, turn right by the church (just after the school) and the hall is on your left. If you are coming through Gresham, turn left at the church (just before the school) and the hall is on your left. If you are dropping down from East Beckham, the hall is on your right opposite the church.

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



## RSPB Big Garden BirdWatch 2025

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<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  
24 and 26 January



Only record the birds that  
land in your patch



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

## Last Month's Club Mid-Week Walk

Felbrigg Park | 18<sup>th</sup> December







The December walk was the last of 2024, and indeed the last club event of the year; however, check out the calendar on the club website for all the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year events! The weather on the morning was a continuation of what we had already seen through most of this December, grey and windy but not particularly cold. Sixteen members turned up for this last chance to find some good birds on a club outing; fingers crossed we would!

The 'car-park' list, compiled as we waited for the walk to start, was a little longer than those of previous months; a sign of things to come we hoped. Corvids put on a strong showing with **Rook**, **Corrion Crow**, **Jackdaw**, **Magpie** and **Jay** all noted, joined by **Woodpigeon** and **Stock Dove**, whilst seen overhead were small numbers of **Redwing** and **Blackbird**, and singletons of **Red Kite** and **Herring Gull**. After Trevor had delivered his brief, and just as we were about to set off, low and fast over the house came a lone **Goosander**, the first sighting of this species on a walk for a good few years. Hopefully, we said, it was heading for the lake, and we would see it later.

Setting off across the fields towards the church, we spied a mobile **Starling** flock, feeding in the short grass for a few minutes, then lifting as one to move to another area. We were surprised that there were no **Common Gull** to be seen on the grass; a single

example floating overhead was the only one to grace the list, joined by an equally lonely example of **Black-headed Gull**. Stopping at the church to search for smaller birds revealed none whatsoever, the only visible avian being a **Common Buzzard** sat on a distant fencepost. Leaving the church for the lake revealed that a field adjacent to the park was full of **Common Gull**; that solved the mystery of where they had decided to feed. As we neared the start of the slope down to the lake a shout alerted us to the **Goosander**, fast and low again as it left the lake; it had not stayed long at all, presuming, of course, that it was the same bird! Visible from here was a **Grey Heron** down on the water meadows, whilst a **Kestrel** was seen hunting overhead the same location.

Arriving at the lake we were pleased to note that there were more birds visible on the water than we had seen since at least the spring; things were looking better. Six **Mute Swan** stood out well against the dark water, with examples of **Mallard**, **Gadwall**, **Moorhen** and **Cormorant** also found. More exciting were a pair of **Shoveler**, the first sighting of this species this year, and a few **Wigeon**, only the second sighting of these beautiful ducks in 2024, the previous one being in October. Here we also met club member Andrew Crossley, who had managed to photograph the **Goosander** on the lake (see below); it had been chased off by the swans, hence its rapid departure.



Reaching the woods bordering the lake we at last found some smaller passerines; a mixed flock of **Siskin** and **Goldfinch** were in the tree-tops, and a **Blue Tit** could be heard calling. A **Pheasant's** alarm call was also heard from deeper within the trees. Heading uphill from the lake Trevor left the group and walked through the area associated with **Woodcock**; two were flushed, one of which gave good if speedy views. At the feeding log, Andrew had earlier left some food, and here we found **Nuthatch**, **Coal Tit**, **Great Tit** and **Robin**. The call of a **Green Woodpecker** was immediately followed by that of a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, causing a bit of confusion with my list-keeping (which one did you hear? - but that's not what he said!). A glimpse of the lake through the trees revealed a species we had not

noticed earlier; **Teal**. Equally distant was a female **Bullfinch** in some scrub, the second sighting of this species on a walk this year, the last instance being in April. A calling **Wren** was the final bird noted in this area.



Leaving the woods we headed in the direction of the house, along the path above the water meadows. A large mixed Goldfinch / Siskin flock flew over us, and more Teal along with two further Grey Heron were seen. John managed to pick out a **Common Snipe**, extremely well camouflaged against a grass tussock; remaining motionless, it was very difficult to find. It was hard just to get others onto the right clump of tussocks amongst the many others, never mind find the bird! Even when Val got her scope on the right area, it remained frustratingly invisible to most. This

excellent spot by John proved to be the last species seen (by some!) on the walk.

With a grand total of **40 species** found, this was the first time we had cracked that figure since April; totals for the year have been consistently in the thirties, so we were very pleased with that. A trip to the café for those who chose to was a great way to wrap up the club year. Why not give the walk a try in 2025; excellent company, a bit of exercise to work off the holiday's excesses and some great birds!



Felbrigg Park Club Walk Statistics

The one figure that jumped out is that compared to 2022's species total of 82, and 2023's of 84, **we saw an amazing 90 species in 2024!** Despite the monthly species totals remaining fairly consistent across the year, there were a number of species noted this year that had not featured in the previous two years.

Number of Species Noted on Monthly Walks by Month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	41	41	44	43	35	37	30	36	44	37	35
2023	38	42	39	40	45	39	36	38	31	32	47
2024	45	33	45	48	38	35	34	34	34	34	40

Species noted on club walk days in 2024, that were NOT either seen or heard in 2022 or 2023 were:

Cuckoo, Goldeneye, Garden Warbler, Goosander, Great White Egret, House Martin, Jack Snipe, Kingfisher, Marsh Harrier, Mediterranean Gull, Shoveler, Wheatear, Woodcock and Yellowhammer.

The ones that got away in 2024:

The 2024 total of 90 species could well have been exceeded as we did miss a few 'sitters'; no sighting of Pink-footed Goose (there were a couple of very distant flocks seen, that probably were, but were too far away to be positively confirmed), and the equally 'easy' Stonechat, normally picked up at least a few times in a year.

Other species seen or heard on club walks in 2022/2023 that were NOT noted in 2024 were:

Canada Goose, Egyptian Goose, Golden Plover, Great Black-backed Gull, Sand Martin, Spotted Flycatcher and Ring Ouzel.



## Species Recorded on 2024 Felbrigg Park Club Walks:

### Green Infill

indicates that a species was seen on the club walk in a given month.

### Nov\*

The club walk that wasn't! Thanks to those members who recorded their sightings on the day that we made the decision in advance to cancel the club walk due to the high winds and rain forecast that were threatening the Park closure that turned out not to be quite as dire as expected.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov*	Dec	Total
Carrion Crow													11
Jackdaw													11
Jay													11
Mallard													11
Moorhen													11
Mute Swan													11
Robin													11
Rook													11
Woodpigeon													11
Blackbird													10
Blue Tit													10
Buzzard													10
Goldfinch													10
Great Tit													10
Kestrel													10
Magpie													10
Herring Gull													9
Stock Dove													9
Black-headed Gull													8
Chaffinch													8
Nuthatch													8
Pheasant													8
Red Kite													8
Wren													8
Great Spotted Woodpecker													7
Grey Heron													7
Teal													7
Cormorant													6
Gadwall													6
Snipe													6
Chiffchaff													5
Common Gull													5
Feral Pigeon													5
Green Woodpecker													5
Linnet													5
Pied Wagtail													5
Reed Bunting													5
Skylark													5
Swallow													5
Blackcap													4
Coal Tit													4
Greenfinch													4
Long-tailed Tit													4
Redwing													4
Song Thrush													4
Starling													4
Whitethroat													4
Coot													3
Duncock													3

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov*	Dec	Total
Greylag Goose													3
Grey Wagtail													3
Mistle Thrush													3
Reed Warbler													3
Sparrowhawk													3
Swift													3
Tufted Duck													3
Bullfinch													2
Collared Dove													2
Goldcrest													2
Meadow Pipit													2
Red-legged Partridge													2
Sedge Warbler													2
Siskin													2
Treecreeper													2
Water Rail													2
Wigeon													2
Woodcock													2
Brambling													1
Cuckoo													1
Fieldfare													1
Garden Warbler													1
Goldeneye													1
Goosander													1
Great Egret													1
Green Sandpiper													1
Hobby													1
House Martin													1
Jack Snipe													1
Kingfisher													1
Lapwing													1
Lesser Black-backed Gull													1
Lesser Whitethroat													1
Little Owl													1
Marsh Harrier													1
Marsh Tit													1
Mediterranean Gull													1
Shoveler													1
Tufted / Ferruginous hybrid													1
Wheatear													1
Yellowhammer													1
<b>Monthly Species Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk #1

### Plan B: Felbrigg Park | 5<sup>th</sup> January



By Trevor Williams

There were fewer people on our special 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary walk in Felbrigg Park on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January than there had been on the walk we actually cancelled back in November - possibly a record! But let me explain. The first of our planned 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend walks (walks, with open access, to destinations visited in the early years of the club) was intended to be to **Buckenham Marshes**, for raptors and wildfowl. In the lead-up to the walk the weather forecast was horrible, with severe warnings for wind, rain and possibly ice and snow. So with great



reluctance we decided to postpone the trip to later in the year but, to continue to mark the occasion at the start of our anniversary year, we decided on a last minute walk at Felbrigg Park. The weather was still horrid but at least it wasn't so far to travel!

I was eventually joined in the car-park by Ken & Carol and the three of us set off to see if we could find some birds. In the event we found over thirty – **31 species** to be precise - which included the Tufted x Ferruginous hybrid, Water Rail, Woodcock, Bullfinch and two species of woodpecker, which had evaded me on the New Year Birding Challenge. We got back to the Hall just as it started to rain heavily again. It had been a chance to get some fresh air, meet up with friends and see some interesting birds - everything a good NENBC walk should be. I look forward to the next special 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend walk - only next time with a few more participants!

*PS Carol here. When he says 'eventually' joined by Ken & Carol, I would just like to point out that we were there a good 15 minutes in advance of Trevor and not rolling up late to the party. We sat in our car watching him (yep, opted not to walk there on this occasion) and wondering why he hadn't put his*

*wet weather clothes on before he left home rather than standing in the rain in the car park trying to do so!*



## Last Month's Club Weekend Walk

### Back Roads of Cley | 7<sup>th</sup> December



By Janice Darch

Red weather alerts did not deter us from undertaking the last walk of 2024 and we neither got blown away nor drenched! In fact we had a splendid walk and saw **48 species of birds**. Our walk took us from Cley Village Hall car park past the church and onto the back road to Glandford Ford, passing the water treatment works en route. From there we went through the water meadows to Bayfield Lake and afterwards we reversed our route past Natural Surroundings and its feeders and onwards to Bayfield Brecks and the pig fields. We then returned to the cars via more back roads. This route provided a range of habitats for us to investigate. In the lane to the church we saw several Blackbirds and the churchyard gave us

Collared Dove and Wood and Feral Pigeon. In the Glaven Valley we had male and female Bullfinches which showed well in the scope and a group of 4 Little Egret, a hovering Kestrel, two Red Kites, Pheasant, Common Gull, Jackdaws





and Rooks. Our prizes at the Water Treatment Plant were Grey and Pied Wagtails. The Glaven Ford was very full and a shooting party disturbed the peace, scattering the birds away but we spotted a Red-legged Partridge fleeing the area. Our walk through the water meadows was productive as we lucked into a mixed flock of Siskin, with Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Blue and Great Tits. A Grey Heron flew up valley and Janice spotted a Barn Owl which soon dived for cover. A Moorhen occupied a small pool and a Robin was showing in the hedge. Large skeins of Pink-footed Geese were overhead but we could not see where they landed. The Natural Surroundings feeders were active and worth allowing 10 minutes and we added Coal Tit and Nuthatch to our tally while a Jay showed in the wood. The walk over to Bayfield Lake provided a complete change of habitat with Redwings in the grass. Beside the lake there was a big flock of Greylag Geese. We were pleased to find a pair of Goosanders on the lake together with Mute Swans, Shoveler, Gadwall, a Wigeon, Little Grebe, Mallard and Cormorant with Buzzard calling overhead. From the Natural Surroundings car park we spotted a large flock of Brent Geese grazing and resting across on the other side of the valley. We went onwards and to the pig fields where we added Lapwing, Starling, Meadow Pipits and three more species of Gulls- Black-headed, Herring and Greater Black-backed. From there we returned to the cars and as it was beginning to rain a little we didn't linger but we were all safely driving home before the rain really started.

## AGM & Christmas Social 2024



A huge thanks to everyone who joined us for our Christmas event on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December in Gresham Village Hall, those who sent their apologies and also those who joined us via Zoom for the AGM and voting element of the evening. Once we had the formalities of the AGM out of the way (decisions right) and Chair Trevor had run through what we have achieved this year (see Review of the Year overleaf), we were delighted to present our purple Merit Badge to a very worthy recipient (see overleaf). Formalities over, 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!

### 2024 AGM Business

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

Colin Blaxill, Andy Clarke, Janice Darch, Seán Dempster, Alan Stevens, Carol Thornton (Secretary), Roger Unite (Treasurer), Trevor Warren, Trevor Williams (Chair)

#### Club President elected for 2025:

Nigel Redman

#### Club Vice President elected for 2025:

Francis Farrow

#### Independent Examiner of 2024 Club Accounts appointed:

David Barrass of Felbeck Trust

#### 2023 Final Accounts and Minutes of the 2023 AGM adopted

A big thank you to Mark Boyd, Chris Tucker and Richard & Susan Fisher for their time and effort in putting together and presenting their very enjoyable and a-little-tricky-in-parts birdy quiz which included picture and music rounds, cryptic sonograms and table quizzes. The tech behaved and we were able to send the quiz on afterwards to those who couldn't make it on the night. Viewing from the back, I was quite entertained by the inter- and intra- team bickering during the scoring. I even witnessed one member remove their cracker crown, screw it up and throw it on the floor in disgust – you know who you are!

Congratulations to the winning team Tim & Kirsty Turner, Stu Buck and John Swallow. Vouchers for 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 2025 quiz – 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. Since the Covid lockdowns we’ve continued to share some of the Club’s activities with



our online audience so tonight, a warm welcome to those of you who are joining this AGM via Zoom. Those of you here in person, vote when the time comes using your voting sticks (now 10 years old as they were made for our 1<sup>st</sup> AGM!) and if the voting technology lets us down, those at home hold your hands up long enough for Carol to count! So now’s my opportunity to summarise what we have achieved during the past year - the highs and the lows of the 2024 Club year.

Over the past year we have continued with our **indoor meeting programme**, with attendance slowly returning to pre-covid numbers, whilst continuing to broadcast ‘live’ via Zoom - the new IT equipment helping reduce outages! A great selection of topics have been covered, with our ‘members mini-talks’ in September being a particular favourite.

Our regular **walks programme** continues. As well as the ever-popular monthly mid-week Felbrigg Park walk, we have also visited a wide range of locations at weekends both ‘home and away’ and our **Walks Week** initiative continues to prove popular.

In 2024 we repeated a couple of special activities. The annual **Big Sit** was reasonably well supported but we had fewer sites operating and, in keeping with the general birding situation this year, totals on the day were disappointingly low. Our **Coordinated Seawatching event** was well attended - we saw some interesting birds and added to our growing database of flight speed-checks.

Both **Club WhatsApp groups**, the sea-watching group and the scare and rare bird alerts, have continued to prove useful.

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. One chick successfully fledged, the only one in Norfolk this year. CPP are always on the lookout for more watch-point volunteers so let us know if this could be you.

During the year we have continued to award a variety of **Club badges** to members reaching important birding milestones. At the end of this AGM we have another *very special* award to make.

The **2023 Annual Bird Report**, published in the summer, was well received by members. Thanks to the hard work of all those involved in its production, but with particular thanks to Andy the Editor and Carol for design layout and illustrations. Our annual report collates all your records from the website and covers all the birds seen in the Club area during the year.

**Newsletters** have continued to be produced on a monthly basis, keeping members informed and entertained throughout the year. The efforts of the Editor and her numerous contributors are much appreciated and she and they are worthy of our admiration and thanks.

At the start of the year we moved the **Club website** on to a new platform. The change was relatively straightforward and most members have now got used to the new Bird.Club environment. Being part of a shared national platform means that we have a bit less autonomy but it does have a number of improved features ... and it’s free.

For the third year running **Bee-eaters** returned to the quarry at Trimmingham but the weather was against them and despite remaining in the area for several weeks, they failed to nest. So no watch-point volunteers required. Still, a remarkable event in itself.

We have continued to be more systematic and inclusive in our use of **Club surplus funds**. We've made a couple of awards - details in the annual accounts. Following the creation of our **Young Birder Bursary** which provides limited financial support to encourage young people pursue an interest in birds and their conservation, we intend to extend that scheme as part of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in the coming year to cover a young person from overseas. More about that at our official launch at the January indoor meeting.

Membership has been maintained at around **450 members covering nearly 300 households**

So all that remains is for me to thank, on your behalf, those people who support the Club and continue to take it forward:

- President: **Nigel Redman** (*who will be standing down at the end of 2025*)
- Vice Presidents: **Lin Pateman** (*standing down at this meeting so we will be co-opting a second Vice President during 2025*) and **Francis Farrow**

Members of the Management Committee ...

- Treasurer: **Roger Unite**
- Membership & Peer Review Secretary: **Colin Blaxill**
- Records Officer & Annual Report Editor: **Andy Clarke**
- Walks Organiser: **Janice Darch**
- Indoor Programme Coordinator: **Alan Stevens**
- Youth Engagement: **Seán Dempster**
- Engagement: **Russ Malin** (*standing down at this meeting*)
- **Trevor Warren** (*co-opted as Assistant Treasurer during 2024*)
- Club Secretary, Newsletter Editor and much more besides: the extraordinary **Carol Thornton**



And a big thank you to Club Chair **Trevor Williams** too who never mentions himself at these events! Having been persuaded by the Committee to stay on for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, he will be standing down as Chair at the next AGM

Also a word of thanks to our growing band of 'behind the scenes' helpers - **Jane Crossen** our social media manager, **Tony Forster** our WhatsApp Manager, all the members of the **Annual Report team and the newsletter contributors**, **Jane Williams & Hilary Stevens** for refreshments and website designer / web-masters **Joe & Matthew Williams**.

Thanks also go to our Sponsors, **Bird Ventures** for financial support over the year. A huge thank you goes to all those people ....and anyone I've forgotten to mention!

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

So turning our attention to next year - it's the **Club's 10th Anniversary**! We'll be maintaining our core programme but with some tweaks to reflect this important milestone. The first event of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year is, of course, New Year's Day Birding Challenge - we hope for more participants and a record-breaking total. The official launch of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be on the evening of our January indoor meeting when we'll be distributing our special **10 year badge** to folk who joined us back in 2015 (and will be awarded on a rolling basis going forward in year) and the **Commemorative Book** to everyone. The speaker that evening will be the first in our run up to the **Summer Conference** - focusing on **Anglo-African migration and conservation**. That day conference, on 14<sup>th</sup> June, will be free to members but ticketed to control numbers. We already have an 'A list' line-up of speakers. The previous evening, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June, we are planning on our own **Club Summer Social**. Details of those events and more to follow.

So I hope you'll agree it's been another good year for the Club with plenty more to look forward to in our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. Thank you all for your continued support."

## Purple Badge – Julian Bhalerao



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.*



So far we have just 3 recipients – **John Wagstaff** for his passionate voluntary oversight of Kelling Heath, **Phil Hall**, co-founder and our first President who, through his work with the Leventis Foundation, has also made a significant contribution to Anglo-African wildlife conservation and **Moss Taylor**, our second President, author, club project initiator and long-time recorder at Weybourne Camp. Joining them tonight, I'm delighted to announce that **Julian Bhalerao** is our latest Purple Badge recipient.

For those who don't know Julian - he's been a member of the Club since the very beginning. A recognised photographer - even back in the day when film was a thing! He was appointed our photographic advisor in 2018. His images have adorned the pages of our Annual Reports and feature in the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book.

In May 2016, whilst out birding (of course!) he suffered a catastrophic stroke and is lucky to be alive to tell his story. After seven months in hospital, for a long time in an induced coma, he was discharged. Fuelled by his own optimism and self-belief, and with the loving support of his wife Sarah and their two kids, he tore up his birding life-lists (a UK list of 500 and a Norfolk list of over 400) and started again... his *post-stroke life list*! Eight years later he is knocking on the door of 300! A truly remarkable achievement.

Despite his significantly reduced mobility, impaired eye-sight and occasional memory loss, Julian is a frequent visitor to various birding locations around North Norfolk. I regularly bump into him at Cley on a Monday. Julian has been quick to praise the efforts of wildlife organisations for measures to improve access for the disabled, but equally never slow in pointing out the blindingly obvious - like small timber thresholds at the entrance to hides or boggy paths!

Through-out all this Julian has retained his dry sense of humour. He happily recounts the story of an encounter with a former birding colleague who asked him "didn't you used to be Julian Bhalerao?" – "I still am' was his polite reply!"

Can I ask the past, present and future Julian Bhalerao to come and receive his award..."



Julian presented with his badge and certificate by President Nigel Redman and former President Phil Hall







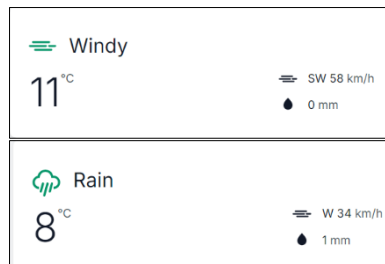








## How many species of bird did we all record in the NENBC area on the first day of the new year?



Well, the conditions were pretty much as shown on the left – cold wet and windy and really not very conducive to a day out birding. Routes were replanned, folk intending to do bike-a-thons were thwarted and even the really hardy weren't as out as early as they would have liked or found themselves hunkered down in seawatching shelters at the start of the day. Nonetheless, a

commendable 34 members posted 972 records on 1<sup>st</sup> January covering 99 species across 35 sites with 10 more 'At Home' garden sites to add to that list.

Well done Trevor on your 65 species – unsurprisingly well down on the New Year's Day record of 86 though. A shout out to Paul Laurie and Carol & Ken Thornton who managed 'Going Green' recording on the day (without the use of motorised transport) despite the conditions with 52 and 42 respectively, but also down on the current record of 67.

Below is the full list of the 99 species seen, including the 12 for which there was only one record (shown in red). We were collectively 13 species down on 2024:

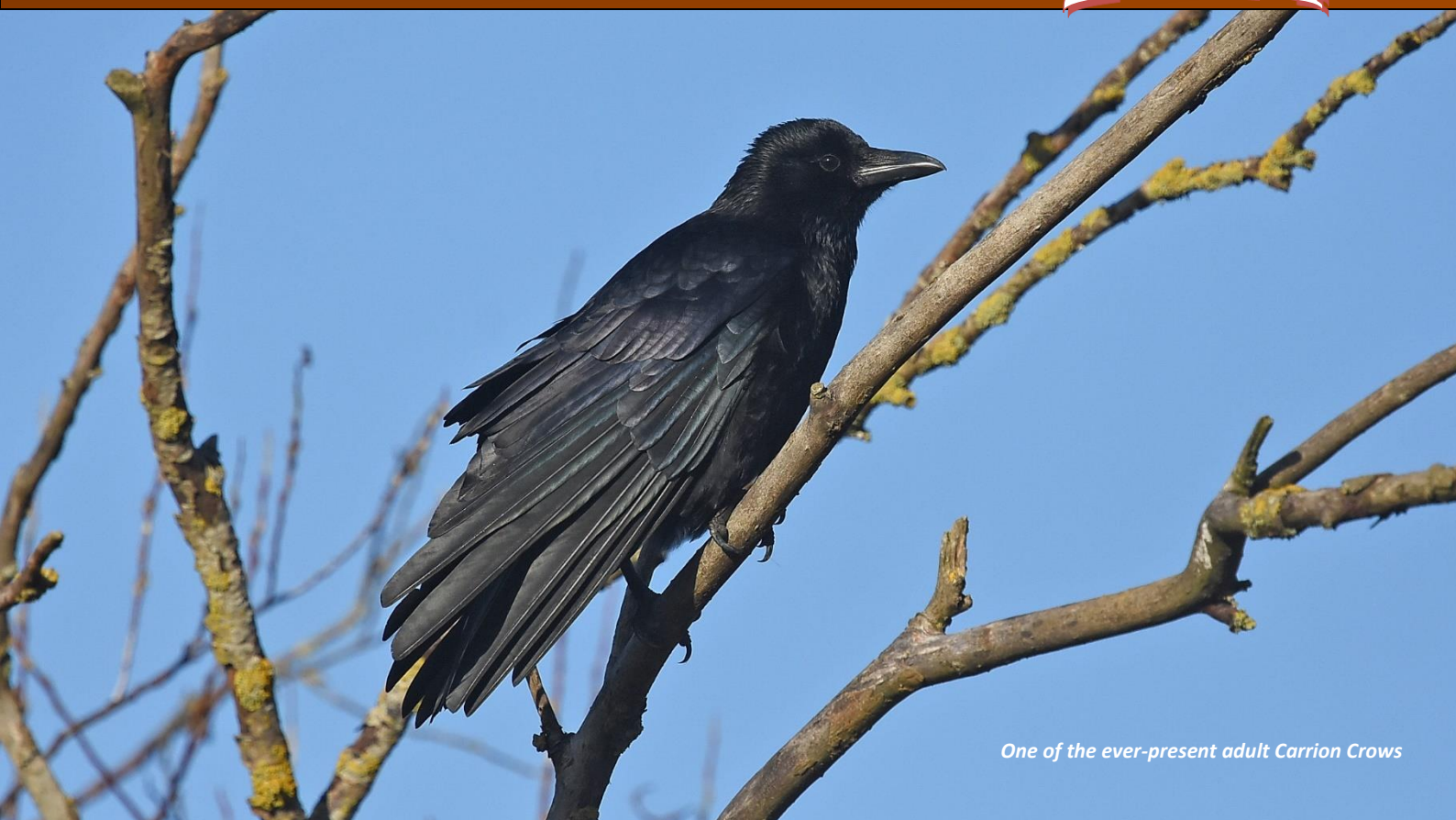
*Barn Owl (Field Dalling & Saxlingham), Blackbird, Blackcap (High Kelling), Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Brambling, Brent Goose, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Cetti's Warbler, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff (Aldborough), Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Common Scoter, Coot, Cormorant, Curlew, Dunnock, Egyptian Goose, Fieldfare, Fulmar, Gadwall, Gannet, Glaucous Gull, Goldcrest, Golden Plover (Field Dalling & Saxlingham), Goldfinch, Great Black-backed Gull, Great Crested Grebe, Great Northern Diver (Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs), Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Plover, Grey Wagtail, Greylag Goose, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Jack Snipe (Felbrigg Park & Lake), Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kittiwake (Mundesley), Lapwing, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Linnet, Little Egret (Field Dalling & Saxlingham), Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mandarin Duck, Marsh Harrier (Field Dalling & Saxlingham), Marsh Tit, Meadow Pipit, Mediterranean Gull, Mistle Thrush (Holt), Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Pink-footed Goose, Pintail, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Red-throated Diver, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rock Dove, Rook, Shoveler, Siskin, Skylark (Field Dalling & Saxlingham), Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Tawny Owl, Teal, Treecreeper, Tufted Duck, Turnstone, Velvet Scoter, Water Rail, Wigeon, Woodcock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer (Field Dalling & Saxlingham)*

Photos: Blackcap (Steve Hale), Glaucous Gull (Trevor Williams), Mandarin Duck (Andrew Crossley), Blue Tit (Dave Billham)

Trevor Williams	65
John Hurst	55
Philip Hall	55
Colin Blaxill	53
Paul Laurie	52
Julian Thomas	47
Carol Thornton	42
Ken Thornton	42
Michael Harcup	39
Valerie Stubbs	39
Nick Stubbs	36
Phil Borley	36
Christopher Mason	33
Stella Baylis	28
Mick Rebane	26
David Billham	25
Mark Clements	25
Alan Stevens	19
Gary Bunting	18
Di & Richard Farrow	17
Roger Unite	17
Pauline Walton	16
Peter & Sue Morrison	16
Hilary Stevens	11
Philip Cartledge	10
Francis Farrow	9
Ann Gladwin	8
David Griffiths	8
Tony Forster	8
Ellie Farrow	7
Andrew Crossley	6
Janice Darch	6
Chris & Kathrin Turner	3
Steve Hale	3







*One of the ever-present adult Carrion Crows*

**By Moss Taylor**

**This is the twelfth and final report for the year of the wildlife recorded at Weybourne Camp in 2024. December can be rather quiet, but this year an interesting selection of birds was recorded on and from the camp during the month.**

The most interesting geese were an adult Pale-bellied Brent Goose that passed offshore on two dates, in the company of Dark-bellied Brents, no doubt part of the flock that grazed on the cliff-top beet fields, and a Tundra Bean Goose that flew west on 14<sup>th</sup>. Pink-footed Geese flying east peaked at 6,570 on 13<sup>th</sup>. Both species of 'wild' swans were recorded in December: 5 Whooper Swans east on 20<sup>th</sup> and 3 adult Bewick's Swans west on 29<sup>th</sup>. A flock of 16 Pintail flew west on 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Common Scoter raft was joined by six other species of duck during the month: 2 Teal & 2 Tufted Ducks, and single drake Wigeon, Pochard and Long-tailed Duck, the last being present for most of December. But the highlight was up to 13 Velvet Scoters, including some fine adult drakes, while the number of Common Scoters steadily built up throughout the month, once the wind farm rig had been towed away, and had reached 630 by the end of December. Finally 3 Scaup flew west on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a single drake on 4<sup>th</sup>.

Up to 3 Water Rails could be heard sharming in the reeds at Weybourne Hope throughout the month, and a Cetti's Warbler also revealed its presence by its distinctive sharp, ticking call, while a Chiffchaff was present in the willows on 4<sup>th</sup>. A surprising find on the scrape on 19<sup>th</sup>, was a Little Grebe, the first winter record of the species in the area.

Offshore 1-2 Bonxies were recorded on two dates, the first local Fulmar to return after its annual moult in the North Sea was back by 2<sup>nd</sup> and a small passage of Little Auks was recorded from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, peaking at 16 east on 9<sup>th</sup>. A loose flock of 87 Red-throated Divers flew west on 17<sup>th</sup> and single Great Northern Divers were regularly noted in the first half of the month.

The only raptor of note was a Merlin on 30<sup>th</sup>, while the first Fieldfare of the autumn appeared on 17<sup>th</sup>, the same date that a short-staying Chiffchaff was found in the willows by the mound and a Corn Bunting flew west. The flock of Mistle Thrushes built up during the month and peaked at 16 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and were joined by up to 8 Fieldfares at the end of December.

I am most grateful to all the observers who have provided records throughout the year, enabling these monthly summaries to be as comprehensive as possible, especially the ever-present stalwart, Phil Borley.

**If you would like an e-mailed annual report for Weybourne Camp during 2024 then just contact Moss on [moss.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:moss.taylor@btinternet.com) and he will send it on.**



By Tony Forster, *WhatsApp Group Admin*

**Group membership is 62 (including 10 members joining in 2024) | List Total 114**

### **\*\*January to March\*\***

- Noteworthy sightings included **Twite**, **Corn Bunting**, **White-tailed Eagle** and **Common Crane** plus 5 commoner species bringing the group total to 86.
- Interesting species seen in the area that didn't make it onto the group were *Bewick's Swan*, *Scaup* and *Spoonbill*.

### **\*\*April to June\*\***

- A disappointing quarter weather wise but one that added 10 new species including **Barnacle Goose**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Glossy Ibis** and 2 **Nightingales**, one of which was very twitchable. A 2-day **Golden Oriole** at Kelling Heath and a singing **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, showing and singing for most of the day at Beeston Regis completes an impressive list.
- Other notable species reported in the area but not on the group were *Waxwing*, *Black Tern* and an unfortunate *Storm Petrel* fed to the Peregrine chick at Cromer church live on camera.
- Merlin heard *Marsh Warbler* and *Upland Sandpiper* while I was attempting to record *Nightingale* which it didn't pick up at all!!!

### **\*\*July to September\*\***

- July and August were very quiet but things took off in September, with 4 times as many messages the group achieved its 100<sup>th</sup> species, a one day **Red-breasted Flycatcher** reported by John Hayward near Happisburgh; unfortunately it was found late in the day and didn't hang around. Taking the list total to 105 were **Yellow Wagtail**, **Arctic Skua**, **Leach's Petrel**, **Siberian Stonechat** and **Water Rail**.
- Other notable species recorded in the area were *Red-breasted Flycatcher* (Sheringham cemetery), *Roseate Tern* (3), *Bee-eater* (7) *Sabines Gull* (2), *Hawfinch* (3), *Caspian Gull* (20+), *Tree Pipit* (5), *Black Tern* and *Sooty Shearwater*.

### **\*\*October to December\*\***

- In a good end to the year 9 new species were added to taking the list to 114, new birds this quarter were, **Richard's Pipit**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Brambling**, **Redwing**, **Dusky Warbler**, **Ruff**, **Rose-ringed Parakeet**, **White-fronted Goose** and **Pale-bellied Brent**.
- Species of note in the area that didn't make it onto the group were 2 *Penduline Tits* at Spalla Gap, *Slavonian Grebe*, *Storm Petrel*, *Water Pipit* a possible *Black-browed Albatross*, 2 *Rose coloured Starlings* and a *Grey Phalarope* top off an impressive list.

#### **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.

All in all a good year with **37 new species for the group** and many of which stuck around for more than a few minutes making it possible to catch up with some hard to see birds if you had time.

**Please try to add news as soon as you can**, posting hours later defeats the objective of the group. Please be specific re the location, what3words & Google maps allow live map sharing for locations other than Weybourne beach car park for example. If you have concerns about releasing news, the group has 2 admins if you would like to talk it through.

Personally I would like to thank all members for making this an easy group to oversee and for all updates throughout 2024, let's hope 2025 has a few birding delights for us all.

**Happy Birding!**





If anyone has a question they have been puzzling over, do please drop us a line and we will try and find out the answer for you. We'd really appreciate any club members writing in with their responses to the questions asked too.

**This month Val Stubbs has a question:**

***“Has anyone else noticed the preponderance of male Blackbirds over females? Any ideas why this might be? Or is it just that my eyesight is getting worse?!”***

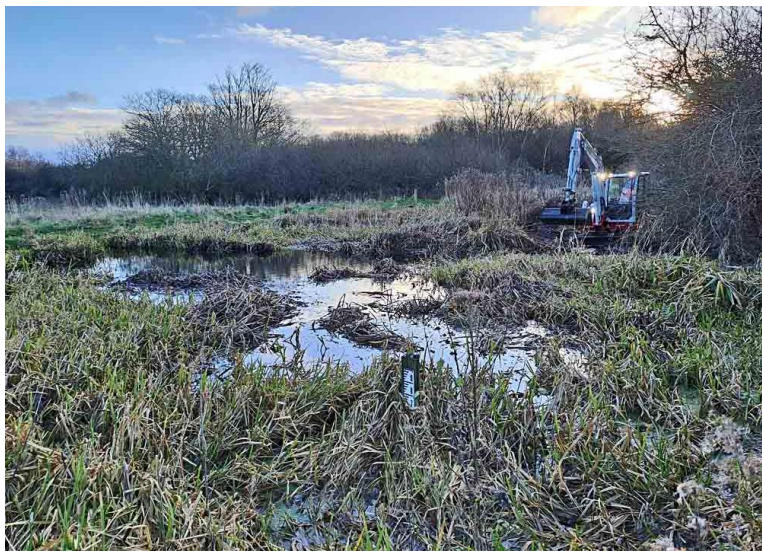
**Any thoughts folks?**

## Changes at Beeston Common ... pond, pond and pond!



By Francis Farrow

As many members will know Beeston Common has a main pond (Newt Pond) which has attracted Marsh Warblers, a Bittern and more frequently a Kingfisher. Last month (December 2024) the pond underwent a clear-out of excess vegetation and quantities of silt, which tend to overwhelm the pond every three years. As the pond is connected to the Beeston Beck silt is regularly brought into the pond where it tends to settle out. This last clear-out was carried out in conjunction with the formation of a scrape on the eastern edge of the central marsh where a small pond was present. The extension was welcomed by Natural England and Sheringham Town Council who granted consent and paid for the works respectively. It is hoped that with the additional surface area and its shallow saucer-shape construction it will prove an ideal site for Snipe and perhaps the odd –passage migrant such as Green Sandpiper. The pond was already a favourite for amphibians and dragonflies so hopefully the extension will attract greater numbers in the spring and summer. Once the vegetation has regrown and covered the surrounding mud it will make a very attractive habitat, which has the potential to increase the biodiversity of the Common. On the north side of the A149 the Dew pond (created in 2007) also underwent some vegetation reduction (November 2024) plus part of the pond area was also deepened to 1.5 metres in anticipation that it will attract Great-crested Newts. This work was undertaken for Sheringham Town Council under a GCN funding scheme. All the pond works were devised and overseen for STC by the Hon. Warden, Francis Farrow.



*Newt Pond – at the start of the day and on completion of the project (19/12/2024)*





*Scrape – at the start of the day and on completion of the project (18/12/2024)*



*Dew Pond – at the start of the day and on completion of the project (21/11/2024)*

## Opportunity to Volunteer at Felbrigg Park...



**By Peter Morrison**

For the last 15 years Sue and I have walked Felbrigg Park every month, recording the birdlife for the National Trust. We followed a set route and recorded species in each of nine sections. The route and sections were defined by Richard Daplyn, The NT Countryside Manager.



The route included the Great Wood, the Scarrow Beck, the lake, the church and the fields. Species found varied by habitat and season with occasional oddities like Snow Bunting and Spotted Redshank. We aimed to start as early as possible to maximise the chances of seeing owls and minimise the impact of visitors. The circuit usually took us about four hours and we often concluded with coffee and cake in the cafe.

Richard would like this regular recording to continue and wondered if any NENBC members would care to take it on. His email is [richard.daplyn@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:richard.daplyn@nationaltrust.org.uk) and he can explain what is involved and the benefits of volunteering for the National Trust. *Photo: Moss Taylor*





A good number of NENBC members volunteer with Felbeck Trust and we often mention them in passing but it has been a while since we elaborated a little more. So, for our newer members, here's some info on a lovely local wildlife conservation organisation which is always looking for volunteers to join the team.

**If you are interested in doing some light outdoor work with a group of very friendly local people, Felbeck Trust work parties might be for you.**

The Trust is a charitable conservation organisation which manages 13 sites around North Norfolk for the benefit of wildlife and the environment. It is run by a board of trustees and two of our patrons are well-known Norfolk naturalists and published authors, Patrick Barkham and Nick Acheson. The main movers of our work are our volunteers – we have around 30 on our books and we meet every fortnight at a different site, usually on a Thursday morning. At these work parties, volunteers help with whatever they feel able to do – this might be mowing, raking, scything, cutting back vegetation, planting hedge whips or helping to build a shed or a new fence. The highlight of the morning is the coffee break when doughnuts are provided (other comestibles may be available!), when we get a chance to talk to fellow volunteers.

Above all, Felbeck Trust is a very friendly organisation and volunteers invariably say that, apart from the environmental good they are doing, the best thing about the work parties is the companionship provided by other volunteers.

“I found out about the FT through the NENBC. I signed up a few years ago and really do enjoy my involvement, some work to get stuck into with good company while making a real difference for nature.” *Alan*

“I absolutely love volunteering with FT. We get a few hours outside on a regular basis doing practical stuff where you can really see the fruits of your efforts. Activities are varied depending on how energetic or adventurous you are feeling - it is great for wildlife, great for fitness and great for mental health. I have made lots of new friends - we have a chat and a joke and a doughnut and generally put the world to rights.” *Carol*

Our sites are quite widespread – the furthest west is in Bale and the furthest east is in Felmingham – but the core of our work is at our original sites are in Sustead, the Beckhams and Aylmerton. If you want to have a look at any of the local sites, you are free to walk around Sustead Common and Sustead's Spurrell's Wood (the latter without a dog), or East Beckham Common, West Beckham Green and West Beckham Old Allotments (the latter with seasonal restrictions on dogs). Have a look at our website and blog to get more of an idea on who we are, what we do, how we do it, where we do it and when we do it.

Feel free to contact Peter Maingay, our volunteer co-ordinator ([pmaingay@gmail.com](mailto:pmaingay@gmail.com)), for information as to where exactly the sites are, how you can join the volunteers or if you'd like a guided tour. If you are interested, you would be welcome to come along to a work party to get a taste of what we do before committing yourself. Once you join us, there is no pressure to turn up to every work party. We let you know when and where the next work party will be and you come if you can.

Upcoming work parties are:

January: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Sustead | Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> East Beckham Common

February: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Hindolveston | Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> West Beckham Old Allotments (WBOA) / West Beckham Green

Give it a try: you won't regret it!

*Peter Maingay, NENBC member and FT Volunteer Coordinator*





## The Felbeck Trust Conservation Sites

**The Sustead Cluster:** This complex is made up of four contiguous areas under a single management programme. As a result of its habitat management work, Felbeck Trust has met the biodiversity standards required for recognition of the four Sustead sites as a County Wildlife Site – helping to safeguard their wildlife value for the future. | **Sustead Common** and **The Surveyor's Allotment** – two areas of meadow grassland and scrub, with some mature trees, joined by a footbridge across a chalk stream, Gur Beck | **Spurrell's Wood** – an area of Hazel coppices, Hornbeam and other native trees planted during the 1990s, surrounded by ancient boundary trees, with Gur Beck running through it. | The **Roadside Nature Reserve** – species-rich verges which run along Sustead Road both north and south of the other sites



**West Beckham Old Allotments:** This former allotment and daffodil field is being restored to wildflower meadow, boundary hedges are being gapped up and native trees are being planted. The reserve is part of the RSPB's "Operation Turtle Dove" project – intended to reverse the decline of Turtle Dove, and several drinking ponds have been created to meet the requirements of these scarce birds.

**West Beckham Green:** This site – designated as a village green – is located close to Sheringham Park. It comprises open woodland, including several mature Oaks, with areas of scrub and Bracken and dense leaf litter in places. Some natural regeneration is occurring.

**East Beckham Common:** This gently sloping site lies to the south of the village of East Beckham and consists of a public footpath with broad margins to either side. There are mixed mature trees and hedges along the route with areas of Blackthorn thicket, Bramble/Bracken scrub, and small patches of open grassland. The boundary bank may date back to Saxon times.

**Brinton Nine Holes:** Felbeck Trust is working with the Friends of Brinton to continue to improve the wildlife value of the site. The site comprises an acre of mixed woodland and scrub, including mature trees. A mown grass area is surrounded by scrub, nettles and tall grasses. We have been improving the boundary hedge by hedge-laying and gapping up.

**Bale Surveyor's Allotment:** The site comprises two acres of mixed woodland and scrub. The deep steep-sided pit contains a small patch of water in the deepest corner.

**Hindolveston Surveyor's Allotment:** This former gravel pit is a two-acre site, containing five patches of water. Felbeck Trust is working to improve the condition of the pools which are overgrown and silted up.

**Wood Norton Surveyor's Allotment:** The former clay pit is dominated by a large pond in a shallow depression. The remainder of the one-acre site is mixed woodland and scrub, predominantly Willow, but with other species such as Field Maple and Crab Apple. The whole site is surrounded by an impenetrable hedge.

**Stow Heath:** Felbeck Trust manages Felmingham No 1 Surveyor's Allotment – known as Stow Heath – under a ten-year lease from Felmingham Parish Council. The site comprises three acres of dense woodland and scrub, with several ancient banks. There are a number of linked overgrown ponds with dead wood, fed by becks on the north and east boundaries.

**Aylmerton Surveyor's Allotment:** The latest addition to Felbeck Trust's portfolio, Aylmerton No 2 Surveyor's Allotment is comprised of mature and younger established trees planted under the Woodland Management Scheme which was administered by the Countryside Section of NNDC. Felbeck Trust began habitat management in 2024.

And it is not just practical conservation work parties that Felbeck Trust is engaged in .... there are bio-blitzes at the sites with volunteer species recorders covering plants, insects, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds supported by a bird ringing team, moth trapping and bat walks, water quality monitoring in partnership with the National Trust, fundraising events such as folk evenings and 'in conversation' sessions with conservationists, community engagement with Gresham School volunteers and corporate groups and so much more!

Felbeck Trust produces an excellent quarterly newsletter about their activities and you can follow them on Facebook, X, or Instagram.

Come and give Felbeck Trust a try!







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!

**Woodpigeon** "4 in trees, 1 doing a very good impersonation of a Sparrowhawk along the hedge opposite the entrance to Mackay's car park" | Val Stubbs | Holt Country Park & Lowes | 30<sup>th</sup>

**Water Rail** "2x hope reed bed. one calling. one seen with thermal imager" | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 21<sup>st</sup>

**Great Black-backed Gull** "gang of five on sea attacking a razorbill, which put up a valiant defence of its life, however the relentless attack meant there was only one outcome and the razorbill met its demise." | Phil Borley | and | **Razorbill** "On sea but dispatched by several GBbGulls, then left and not eaten." | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 10<sup>th</sup> | *photo courtesy of Mark Clements*

**Little Auk** "8e,7w and 1 wherever the great black back carried it! Many more missed." | Andrew Kershaw | Sheringham | 9<sup>th</sup>



**Great Egret** "low west over Cliff Ave and then Norwich Road - a house tick!" | Trevor Williams | Cromer | 5<sup>th</sup>

**Kingfisher** "Flying along canal from Swafield towards Bacton Road, calling loudly. The first I've managed to see along there all year!" | Stephanie Witham | Dilham Canal | 14<sup>th</sup>

**Kingfisher** "Classic zip of electric blue as it flew across the back of the pond and away" | Stella Baylis | Beeston Common | 30<sup>th</sup>

**Kestrel** "On telegraph poles in Mill Lane, interacting - not sure whether it was aggression or bonding behaviour" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne Cliffs | 6<sup>th</sup>

**Kestrel** "Watched it battling the wind for a few minutes until it was harried away by BH Gulls - why?" | Alan Stevens | Sheringham | 10<sup>th</sup>

**Peregrine** "On/over fields NNW of Deadman's. Initially mobbed and driven off by two or three Carrion Crows; then turned the tables and drove off the crows, returning to its place on the field." | Tony Pope | Weybourne Cliffs | 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Peregrine** "possibly female, on SE pinnacle of church tower (seen at distance from Ashdown Court). Last recorded sighting of 2024 - identical to 2022!" | Roger & Janet Fickling | Cromer | 31<sup>st</sup>

**Rook** "2 on roof of no 40 and 1 on our roof making a strange humming noise, 50 flew over, west" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 25<sup>th</sup>

**Great Tit** "First Great Tit in the garden since we took the feeders down at the beginning of November, and just as I was getting the feeders ready to go out again - how did it know?" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 30<sup>th</sup>

**Cetti's Warbler** "At base of reeds at Weybourne Hope reedbed - great spot by Vision!" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 25<sup>th</sup>

**Blackcap** "We don't feed the garden birds here (Lower Street) all year, feeders went up yesterday for some Xmas Day viewing and it took this Blackcap less than a day to find the sunflower hearts! Merry Christmas!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps | 25<sup>th</sup>

**Robin** "Nearly sits on my hand we are just getting to know each other ..." | Anne Sims | Gresham | 8<sup>th</sup>


















**Goldfinch** "The benefit of leaving seedheads overwinter - a party of 5 goldfinches were feeding on seeds of Evening Primrose and Buddleia in garden" | Francis Farrow | Sheringham | 28<sup>th</sup>

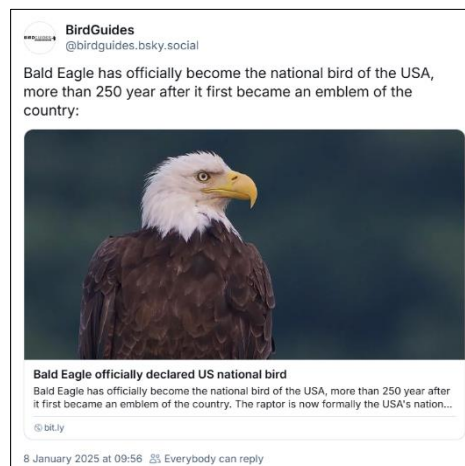
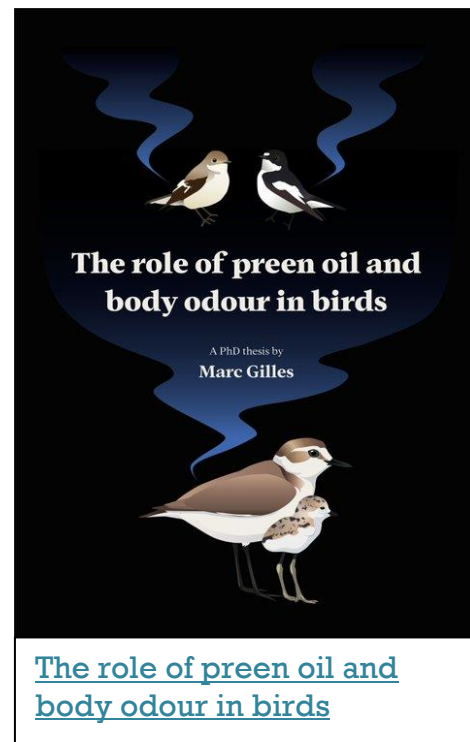
**Siskin** "1m/2f, one female checked out the food selection on the feeders but declined to partake!" | Dave Billham | Beeston Common | 1<sup>st</sup>

# Check This Out!

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



-  [Australia's waterbird numbers down 50% in 2024 - BirdGuides \[11-Jan\]](#)
-  [Puffin nests on Alderney triple in 20 years - BirdGuides \[11-Jan\]](#)
-  [UK Jack Snipe fitted with GPS trackers - BirdGuides \[07-Jan\]](#)
-  [BTO makes breeding-bird data freely available - BirdGuides \[31-Dec\]](#)
-  [RSPB launches interactive Hen Harrier map - BirdGuides \[30-Dec\]](#)
-  [RSPB launches interactive Hen Harrier map - BirdGuides \[24-Dec\]](#)
-  [Changes to the BirdGuides news service in 2025 - BirdGuides \[19-Dec\]](#)
-  [Webcam captures Peregrine eating Little Auk - BirdGuides \[18-Dec\]](#)
-  [Bumper BBRC report covers year of 'quality and quantity' - BirdGuides \[17-Dec\]](#)
-  [BTO cuckoos back in Africa - BirdGuides \[13-Dec\]](#)
-  [Plans for new wetland in Cambridgeshire - BirdGuides \[11-Dec\]](#)
-  [Frampton Marsh RSPB records highest Whooper Swan numbers - BirdGuides \[10-Dec\]](#)
-  [Golden Eagle killed by wind turbine in Scotland - BirdGuides \[05-Dec\]](#)
-  [Eagle-eyed experts assess museum bird collection in Leeds - BBC News \[15-Dec\]](#)
-  [Eight ways birds beat bitter weather - RSPB \[09-Jan\]](#)
-  [The most wonderful time of the year! What went right for nature in 2024 - RSPB \[19-Dec\]](#)
-  [Lift off at Lakenheath: Runways in reedbed help Cranes to take flight - RSPB \[17-Dec\]](#)



[Bald Eagle officially declared US national bird - BirdGuides](#)







# 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.](#)

“Characteristic rippling, rhythmic ‘til-lil-il-it!’; bright, whistled ‘peu’, often combined,”  
from *WILDGuides BRITAIN'S BIRDS 2nd Edition - An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland 2nd Edition* by Hume, Still, Swash, Harrop and Tipling

“Calls, which often reveal birds overhead, are a rippling, Crested Tit-like ‘per’r’r’rit’, and a soft but emphatic whistle, ‘pyüü’, much as Little Ringed Plover; the whistle is given mostly by lone birds. When irritated (eg: overcrowding in larger flocks, territorial disputes), gives a hoarse ‘bersch’. Song a brief twitter with clear voice (...) and desolate ring (...) eg: ‘swito-süvee-vitüta-süveh’.

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

“Call, usually heard in flight, is a rippling twittering ‘tirrirririp’. There are calls that sound like ‘seu’ and ‘sichew’. Song is loud and musical and given from perch or in flight.”

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

## Wordsearch



This month, we have the 19 species or races recorded in January 2024 for which we have less than one record for each – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. [Solution is at the end of this newsletter.](#)

Bar-tailed Godwit  
Bewick's Swan  
Hawfinch  
Short-eared Owl  
Snow Bunting  
Hooded Crow  
Merlin  
Raven  
Shag  
Slavonian Grebe  
Barnacle Goose  
Black-throated Diver  
Kittiwake  
Woodlark  
Black Redstart  
Goldeneye  
Lapland Bunting  
Red-necked Grebe  
Rock Pipit

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





Just one new rare bird record has been 'Accepted' by the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] for our area since our last newsletter update in November 2024. You can view their current **NRC work in progress** file on their website [16<sup>th</sup> Dec 24]. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a **BBRC work in progress** file available on their website [16<sup>th</sup> Dec 24].



## NENBC Website



A huge thanks to the **133** of you who have uploaded records to our new website this year to date covering over **88,000** records. 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? Make it your new year's resolution this year! If you need any assistance, just drop us a line on [nenbc@aol.co.uk](mailto:nenbc@aol.co.uk) or through the messaging element of the website.

**Most recorded species for 2024** was Blackbird with 3,007 records followed by the rest of the Top Ten: Woodpigeon, Robin, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Goldfinch, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Buzzard and Dunnock.

At the other end of the spectrum, we had **single records** of the following species: Dotterel, Dusky Warbler, Little Stint, Montagu's Harrier, Penduline Tit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Rose-coloured Starling, Storm Petrel, Tawny Pipit, White Stork and Wood Sandpiper.

The **location with the most species recorded overall** was Weybourne Camp with 194 species, with the rest of the Top Ten sites for species being Weybourne, Sheringham, West Runton, Felbrigg Park & Lake, Weybourne Cliffs, Beeston Regis, Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs, Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course and Beeston Bump.

## A Note from the Peer Review Group

Just a couple of quick points of clarification following December's Peer Review Group meeting....

### 'Lumping and splitting'

This query came up as a result of the 3 redpoll species being combined last year.

We have no intention of removing members' badges following the outcome of any lumping. But before a next (higher) badge is awarded, a member's total list will need to reflect any changes (which we have decided to implement from 1st January 2025). So, for example, a member may have had three species of Redpoll on their list for an already awarded Silver. However, when they are reviewed and have the requisite number for Gold, only one Redpoll will count - the other two aren't 'carried forward'.

### Qualification for Eco badges (see [page 4](#) for the definitions within the eco-badges)

To restate the rules. Without the use of motorised transport means on foot or bike (e-bikes are not allowed) from home. That home address is the basis of the list. A change of house/home (away from the original parish) means their list restarts. Members can choose which category (inland or coastal) they apply for irrespective of whether their home is in a coastal location or not. So, in the same way as a member who lives in an inland parish (say Gresham) could make it to the coast and therefore elects for the higher (coastal) target - a member who lives in say East Runton and who does their birding inland, at say Felbrigg, could elect for the 'inland' target. But they can't 'mix and match'.

## Social Media ...







### **Waistcoats** *By Betty Docking*

*From the very lovely book "Once in a Blue Moon"  
published in 1960*

A Sparrow and a Robin met  
One morning on a tree;  
The Robin proudly puffed its chest,  
And said: "Just look at me"  
Now don't you think my waistcoat smart?  
Your own is very tame."

The Sparrow said: "I'm quite content,  
My Father's is the same."

"My family for years and years  
Has dressed in modest brown;  
A most becoming colour  
For the country and the town.  
And what is good enough for them  
Is good enough for me."

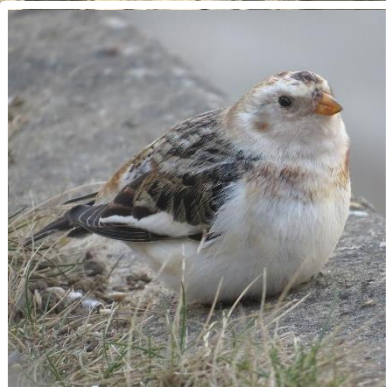
The Robin blushed a deeper red,  
And fluttered off the tree.

*Photos: Richard Farrow*





The bird voice variously described was that of a [Snow Bunting \(Plectrophenax nivalis\)](#). 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 [Snow Bunting | BTO Bird Facts](#) page and their ID video [Identifying winter buntings | BTO](#). Photos from John Wheeler, Richard Farrow, Mark Clements, Moss Taylor, Pauline Walton and Trevor Williams (main pic)

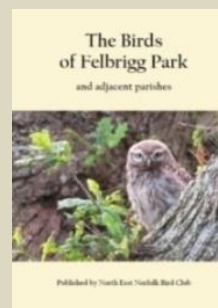


This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**  
BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN  
JANUARY 2024

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



## Back Page Club Info .....



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

**The Birds of Felbrigg Park** is a systematic review of the records of all 220 species seen in and around the park over the past 50 years, indicating their current status and highlighting, for the rarer species, every recorded sighting. The publication includes photographs and artwork from local artists. The book is now reduced to £5.00 (postage extra) and all profits from the sale of this book go to Felbeck Trust, our local wildlife conservation charity:

[www.felbecktrust.org.uk](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](mailto: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