



September 2025 – Issue 123

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

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Through a Lens



By Trevor Williams

Forming a significant boundary, the Club enjoys a coastline of over 20 miles, from Weybourne Camp in the west to Cart Gap in the east. One in every three species recorded on the Club website can be considered a sea or shore bird. The impact of climate change, rising sea temperatures and the devastating impact of Avian Flu on breeding colonies have significantly affected numbers of seabirds off our shores in the decade the Club has been in existence. The occurrence of seabirds and patterns of migration are changing. And yet sea-watching remains something of a minority interest amongst our members.

We want to change that by introducing more of you to the joys of sea-watching and thereby helping us collect more data on these under-recorded and often threatened species. Recently we have introduced 'pop-up' events which, together

with our annual coordinated sea-watch, brings sea-watching skills and identification in reach of most members. As a further incentive, from this autumn, we are introducing a new Blue **Sea-watching Badge** which will recognise time spent and species recorded.

Once considered an early morning activity in the few short weeks of spring and autumn migration, recent trends have extended sea-watching opportunities to any time of the day and any day of the year. What could be nicer or more rewarding than finding a good vantage point, overlooking the sea, and spending an hour or two just watching what goes by?

For further details of how the badge works see the article from [page 12](#).

A Note from the Editor



By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our September newsletter. Our new season of events started this month so do get yourself along to a walk or a talk – we'd love to see you there. Apologies for not getting this out in advance of our first two walks but we hope to see many of you at our Members' Night Mini Talks next Thursday the 25th.

'Through a Lens' for the front cover last month was 'Woodpeckers' and we have the Great Spotted Woodpeckers on the left David Griffiths, Mark Clements, Jane Crossen and bottom right circle also Jane along with the only two Green Woodpecker pics on the website last month. For October, our theme will be 'Cormorants' so get clicking!

Here is my **favourite member photo** from August from the ones that didn't make it on to the Monthly Bird Records section which only covers the more unusual species – an inquisitive Sparrowhawk from Richard Farrow.



We have recently been trialling some 'Pop-Up' Seawatches where we decide a couple of days in advance that we will be running an event based on weather forecasts. We have advertised these on the website and on the club Seawatching WhatsApp group but as we move to expand our Pop-Ups to events wider than seawatching we really need a better way of spreading the word to interested folk at short notice. To this end we will shortly be setting up an **additional club WhatsApp group for general communications**. In addition to Pop-Up advertisements, we plan to use it to remind folk when any of our other events are about to happen (walks, talks and our special activities) or if we need to change any details of a pre-advertised event (for example if Felbrigg Park issue a closure notice for high winds on a day we have a walk planned) or to additionally circulate anything we are currently putting on the 'Announcements' section of our website. It won't be used as a bird alert and won't duplicate the purpose of our other two WhatsApp groups. Unlike the other groups, this one will be set up so that only the club committee can send messages out; members won't be able to respond via it so there shouldn't be a lot of traffic on it.

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

We had some feedback that a few birders looking for the reported Western Bonelli's Warbler at **Woodhill Caravan Park** last week were not respectful of the privacy of the pitches of guests staying there resulting in a couple of complaints to their office. This may well not have been NENBC members as there were plenty of other birders about, but we thought we would take the opportunity to remind folk to be mindful of boundaries and access permissions on private land and the impact of their birding actions on others. Thank you!

Update: Kartong Bird Observatory have still not heard back from the Home Office regarding the Visa situation for Naffie, the young Gambian birder we are sponsoring who we had all hoped would be on a series of birding placements in the UK this year but whose Visa application was rejected. She continues her survey work at Kartong in which we will support her and we hope we will have some positive news soon, but sadly we aren't holding our breath.



By Paul Laurie

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

≈ 5,800 individual records covering 168 bird species were added in August

August 2025: During the month 5,767 records were logged; the five-year average for August is 7,100. A good total of 168 species were recorded in August 2025 beating the five-year average of 160. The club 2025 species total currently stands at 232 with Skuas and Shearwaters adding five species to the year list. Fifty-seven members logged records in August 2025, the five-year average is sixty-seven. August was a month with no rare birds reported but some good spells of sea-watching gave a good variety of bird species. The passerine highlights this month was the Wood Warbler in the north-east of the club area and sightings of the now very scarce Corn Bunting.

Mandarin Duck Single record from Thornage on the 27th of August.

Teal A steady flow of birds west along the coast peaked on the 21st with 185 past Sheringham.

Goosander On the 4th, twelve birds flew west off Weybourne.

Quail A bird was heard calling at Edgefield on the 12th of the month.

Cuckoo The only bird reported was on the 3rd in an Edgefield garden. *Photo 1 courtesy of Tricia Maile*

Turtle Dove The only report was of one on the 9th on Kelling Heath.

Red-necked Grebe A single flew west at Sheringham on the 19th.

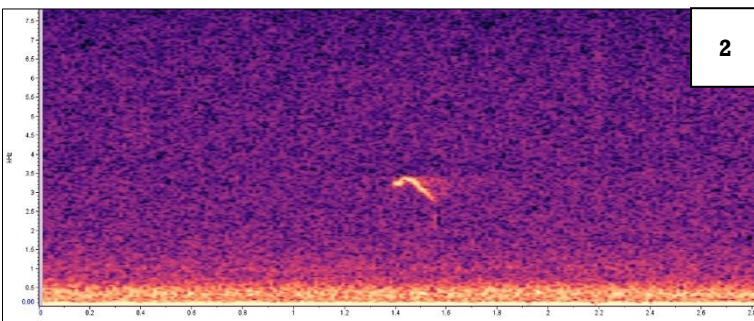
Stone Curlew A bird was heard calling, moving westwards on the 11th, past Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs.

Avocet Five west on the 26th, offshore at Weybourne.

Little Ringed Plover: Two Noc-Mig records, one on the 15th and one on the 25th both over Sheringham. *Image 2 courtesy of Andy Clarke*

Whimbrel Two inland records this month with a least one bird over Aylmerton on the 16th and a single on the 20th at Thornage. *Photo 3 courtesy of Tony Pope*

Curlew Away from the coast a single bird was over Bodham on the 21st of the month. *Photo 4 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Ruff Two flew east on the 17th past Weybourne.

Purple Sandpiper On the coastal protection rocks at Sheringham a bird was present on the 22nd and 23rd of the month. *Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Little Gull On the 1st a single bird flew west at Weybourne.

Caspian Gull Up to six individuals seen during the month with two on pig fields at Saxlingham and expected juvenile birds at Sheringham. *Photo 6 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Yellow-legged Gull A juvenile and 2nd year bird at Saxlingham with a large concentration of gulls in the first week of the month and one juvenile at Weybourne on the 17th of the month were the only records.

Sandwich Tern An inland record on the 9th when three flew north calling over Saxlingham. *Photo 7 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Great Skua On the 1st a bird was seen off Cromer but the next record was not until the 20th when one bird was reported from Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs and four birds from Sheringham. Two were seen off Sheringham on the 21st and one at Weybourne on the 23rd was the last of the month.

Pomarine Skua On the 3rd an adult seen moving east off West Runton. This was the first of the year for the NENBC.

Arctic Skua One to ten birds reported from coast sites between the 10th and the 19th of the month. On the 20th a peak of thirty-one birds were seen from Sheringham during a late afternoon sea-watch. Then nineteen at Sheringham on the 21st, fourteen off Weybourne on the 22nd and 24th. *Photo 8 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Long-tailed Skua On the 20th three flew west past Sheringham with two there the next day. On the 25th two birds were reported offshore at Weybourne and Weybourne Camp.

Puffin On the 1st a single was seen off Sheringham during the early evening.

Great Northern Diver A summer plumaged bird was reported on dates between the 19th and 25th from Sheringham and Weybourne.

Cory's Shearwater A distant bird was seen to fly east past Sheringham on the 1st at 0815.

Sooty Shearwater One to two birds reported between the 1st and 3rd at Happisburgh, West Runton and Sheringham. On the 20th/21st birds were seen at Sheringham and Weybourne.



Manx Shearwater Reported in small numbers during the month with a peak of 47 east on the 20th from Sheringham.

Balearic Shearwater Singles seen from Sheringham on the 21st and Happisburgh on the 26th of the month.

Shag A good showing this month with one to three birds seen along the coast at Weybourne, Sheringham and West Runton. *Photo 9 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Great White Egret The maximum count was an impressive flock of six west at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on the 6th at 0622.

Osprey On the 9th a bird was seen over Kelling Heath, Weybourne and Weybourne Camp. On the 30th a bird was watched over Weybourne and Sheringham Golf Course. *Photo 10 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Honey Buzzard Two records; with one west on the 3rd over Holt and one on the 17th over Brinton in the company of two Ravens before heading south. *Photo 11 courtesy of Paul Laurie*

Hooded Crow: One bird was seen on the 18th at West Runton.

Wood Warbler A bird present in Trimingham clifftop wood on the 11th of August. This is only the eighth record for the NENBC and only the second record in the month of August. Four of the records were in the excellent spring for this species of 2019. *Photo 12 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Pied Flycatcher One present in the Trimingham clifftop wood on the 11th of August in the company of the Wood Warbler. The only other record this month was a bird on the 25th/26th around Weybourne Camp.

Redstart On the 11th a female was seen along the railway track on Kelling Heath and on the 24th/25th a female was present on Weybourne Camp.

Whinchat Only reported from Weybourne Camp with one on the 25th and two on the 28th of August.

Yellow Wagtail Singles reported from Weybourne on the 11th, 12th and 14th of the month. On the 20th a bird was inland at Thornage among the cattle.

Crossbill On the 3rd three flew over Aylmerton, on the 7th a bird was seen on Weybourne Heath and on the 17th a flock of six, including a red male, flew east over Gunthorpe.

Corn Bunting The first record for 2025 was a single bird seen flying west over Sheringham Golf Course on the 22nd followed by a bird east over Weybourne Camp on the 25th. There are only 21 previous records of this species since the formation of the NENBC in 2015 and only two of those were twitchable, though by just a handful of members.

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September: What to look forward to



Oddly, and this is to inspire effort rather than induce complacency, September has been a poor month in the club area over the last few years with no notable rarities and very few scarce birds found. This has been due to the lack of east winds or rather the persistent westerly winds we now seem to experience in autumn months.

Yellow-browed Warbler is the likely scarce bird most birders will find in September, with their distinctive call and active behaviour drawing our attention. Overnight and early morning rain will force migrants to seek shelter and birds such as **Redstart**, **Pied Flycatcher** and **Wheatear** can appear in good numbers along the coast and at inland sites.

A strong north-west wind will produce some exciting sea-watching with the numbers of grebes, divers, wildfowl and waders moving westwards increasing as the month progresses.

September is a good month to expect the odd **Wryneck** and **Red-backed Shrike** and a settled **Ortolan Bunting** would be a welcome addition to the NENBC species list. By the end of the month the first **Lapland Bunting** and **Snow Bunting** should have arrived an indicator of the winter to come.

Observations from last month

Member Extra!

Noc-Mig Highlights



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

Quite a few noc-mig records this month. Andy Clarke records in his Sheringham garden and Francis Farrow in his garden at Beeston Common:

Species	Sheringham	Beeston Common
Mallard	14-Aug [1]	
Moorhen	22-Aug [1]	
Oystercatcher	14-Aug [1]; 16-Aug [3+1]; 18-Aug [3]; 24-Aug [1]	16-Aug [2]; 18-Aug [1]
Golden Plover	17-Aug [1]; 23-Aug [1]	16-Aug [3]; 18-Aug [1]
Ringed Plover	15-Aug [1]; 16-Aug [1]; 17-Aug [1]; 23-Aug [1]	15-Aug [1]; 16-Aug [2]; 17-Aug [1]
Curlew	17-Aug [3]	20-Aug [2 or possibly more as 9 calls recorded]
Dunlin	17-Aug [1+2]	16-Aug [1]; 18-Aug [1]; 20-Aug [1]
Common Sandpiper	18-Aug [with 14 calls was possibly a small flock]	
Grey Heron	13-Aug [2]; 14-Aug [1]	
Spotted Flycatcher	13-Aug [1]; 15-Aug [1 probable]	
Barn Owl		17-Aug [1]

Member Highs, Lows and Ponderings



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

Mute Swan | "4x The resident swans on the pond at Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary. It's strange, this is the first year that they haven't departed after winter, they seem to be content staying." | Ellie farrow | West Runton | 2nd

Mute Swan | "10x Last years cygnet which was never able to fly is no longer being chased or attacked and has at last been welcomed into the family. A good news story." | Andrew Crossley | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 5th

Teal | "45x west, including 7 which pitched down in front of the shelter - during 2 hour sea-watch" | Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 19th

Collared Dove | “2x Still trying to nest on our satellite dish brackets “ | David Griffiths | At Home | 23rd

Yellow-legged Gull | “1x Juvenile in tandem with Herring Gull attacking a juvenile Razorbill. Thankfully they gave up and the Razor lives on!” | David Griffiths | Weybourne | 17th

Long-tailed Skua | “1x Juv east. Review against morning sighting at Cley and very much think that this was the bird seen at Cley in the morning. Grey juvenile with a fairly pale head, nice black tail tip, pale belly and dumpy, small-skua appearance.” | David Griffiths | Weybourne | 20th

Razorbill | “1x young bird being drowned by GBBG close to pier - during 3 hour 'pop-up' sea-watch event” | Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 20th

Grey Heron | “1x In main pond. At one point made a stab into the bank and caught what looks like a juvenile Slow Worm.” | Francis Farrow | Beeston Common | 9th

Grey Heron | “2x Decimating the stranded fish. Village pond.” | John Hurst | Paston | 26th

Grey Heron | “1x Village pond. Eyeing up stranded fish, including carp that were cruising like jaws in the very shallow water.” | John Hurst | Paston | 17th

Sparrowhawk | “1x As I walked through a stand of oaks I heard a dull thud. I looked up and saw a female sparrowhawk pass over the trees. I then went to where I heard the 'thud', which turned out to be a dead large juvenile bird. The body was basically featherless and there was no head, however, the feet were still present. The feet seemed unusually large and were a uniform grey. The only bird that I know has such feet is the Mute Swan and the size of the body could easily make it a cygnet. Mute Swans bred at the Britain's Lane pit so it's not too much of a flight to the Common. Unfortunately it was raining so no photo.” | Francis Farrow | Beeston Common | 4th

Buzzard | “2x One soaring distantly and one that created havoc amongst corvids and gulls. This continued out to sea until the bird returned inland. Photo check being carried out as a 'suspicious buzzard' in plumage and the response from the gulls and crows. Subsequent expert analysis confirmed adult common buzzard.” | John Hurst | Paston | 31st

Tawny Owl | “Seemed to be several birds calling, sometimes excitedly. Keewick and usual hooting heard as well as 'tremolo' call which I don't believe that I have heard before (it is in the Collins guide).” | Tony Pope | Weybourne Heath | 17th

Great Spotted Woodpecker | “1x juvenile in hedgerow west of cemetery. Not seen a GSW there for a long time. And nice that it's a juv!” | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 6th

Green Woodpecker | “1x Juvenile poking about in the grass on the Cow Field at Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary. I've seen adults a few times here but never a juvenile before.” | Ellie Farrow | West Runton | 5th

Green Woodpecker | “1x Stunning juvenile in garden this morning. Caught me unawares and impossible to get to camera before it launched itself into our dense cherry tree.” | David Griffiths | At Home | 10th

Peregrine | “1x Spooked all the gulls that spiralled very high to get above the peregrine as it also soared before taking a long stoop to the west at a feral pigeon. Having missed, it soared again and stooped at a wood pigeon. Despite the awesome speed, again a miss so soared again to the west.” | John Hurst | Field Dalling & Saxlingham | 8th

Magpie | “18x A loose flock of 18 birds piled into the pines on Franklin Hill, then 9 birds lifted off, circled around noisily and headed west” | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 27th

House Martin | “10x Rough count of flock in sky over Bernard Road. There have been at least three nests near me. One in Alfred Road, one in Bernard Road, one in Macdonald Road” | Andrew Gorton | Cromer | 24th

Whitethroat | “4x Fly catching and bramble foraging in shafts of sunlight with deep grey rain clouds forming an atmospheric background. Wonderful.” | John Hurst | Paston | 29th

Dartford Warbler | “1x NOT seen. Only picked up on Merlin App. Would be great if someone more skilled than me could check it out.” | Sarah Hanson | Beeston Bump | 13th

Wren | “2x 1 denmark house scrub. 1 leucistic bird in beach scrub, paler brown with all white wings. stunning looking bird.” | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 14th

Blackbird | “12x Mostly juveniles, and nervous. Behaviour suggested newly arrived birds feeding up.” | Andy Clarke | Sheringham Cemetery | 26th

Blackbird | “4x Possibly tipsy after feeding on fermenting pears” | David Griffiths | At Home | 31st

Robin | “3x The Robins are singing again - 1 in village, 1 near station, 1 by Springs Farm” | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 21st

Wheatear | “3x On straw bales in farmyard and then one on the dung heap (presume one of the three that were on the straw bales). Checked the next morning and evening and no sign of them. Showing well, though one looked extremely tired and didn't move for nearly an hour.” | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 16th

Goldfinch | “1x Oh dear! I think the Sparrowhawk has had its lunch!” | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 26th



Welcome back to our returning members – look forward to seeing you soon!

* Kevin & Jane Hardman * Richard Taylor * Michael Rimmell * Mark Dumpleton *

441 individual members
across 293 households

66,609
bird records logged

234 bird species reported

Please keep adding all your sightings to our website at www.nenbc.co.uk. Let us know if you have forgotten your password and need it resetting or need assistance on how to upload your records. More information from our website records, posts and social media presence in **Data, Records & Posts** from [page 24](#).

Club Achievement Awards

Star Badges

No new achievers this month

Currently, **5** members have achieved **GOLD STAR** status, **22** members have been awarded **SILVER STAR** status and a fabulous **86** members now hold the **BRONZE STAR** status.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Eco-Badges

No new achievers this month but plenty of time to bag a badge before the end of the year!

We currently have **26** members who have achieved their **GREEN ECO-BADGES** [Coastal: 16 | Inland: 10] and **9** who have achieved **SUPER-GREEN** [Coastal: 8 | Inland:1].

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



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

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

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

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

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

WhatsApp Groups.....



The club runs two WhatsApp groups:

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

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

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

Speaker Suggestions

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

Thank you!

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 as they also supply feeders and much more with good advice and help for garden bird enthusiasts. Free local delivery available

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

Telephone 01263 710203
salesbirdventures@aol.com

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



Restocking our 2nd hand bookstall

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

nenbc@aol.co.uk

What's On?



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

Overview

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

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

General Walks Information

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

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

DOGS: We regret no dogs.

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

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

BADGES: Birds seen on club-area walks count towards individual Star 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, and Walks Week, we sometimes require advance booking and if this is the case it will say so on our publicity

General Talks Info

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

We kick off the new season this month with a regular **Felbrigg Park Walk**, a monthly mid-week favourite, followed by a 10th Anniversary weekend **Cromer-Runton Loop Walk** and for the first of our evening events, the return of our popular and now annual event **Members' Talk Night** where we hear from several members on a range of topics. On to October and we have two more annual events on offer - our **Coordinated Seawatch** and one of our **Walks Weeks programmes** as well as another **Felbrigg Parak Walk** and one around **Overstrand / Trimmingham**. Hope to see you at one or all of these events!

Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk 9am to 11am

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

17th September
15th October

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

Saturday 11th October Coordinated Seawatch 7:30am to 10:30am

| Happisburgh | Mundesley |
| Cromer | Sheringham |

For this annual event we will have teams at a series of sites with good sea views, each led by an experienced seawatcher, to record the number and species of all the birds we see flying along the coast throughout a 3-hour time frame. As well as passing on our love of seawatching, by sharing our sightings across sites and noting timings we can also calculate flight speed data.

Everyone welcome whatever your level of experience. We'll be there to guide you if you are new to seawatching and want to see what it is all about or if you are a seasoned veteran, please come along to help us out with observations and IDs!

25th September
Members' Talk Night
With 4 mini talks from club members
7:30pm to 9:30pm | Gresham Village Hall | Zoom

1 **Maureen Harper – African Fish Eagle: a personal encounter** "The cry of the Fish Eagle is said to be the real call of Africa. At Naivasha, it is the alarm clock as well. I studied this top predator for over a decade as part of my husband's research on the lake ecosystem. Share my passion with this bird and with Kenya."

2 **Bev Taylor – Felbeck Trust: Improving habitat for native wildlife** Bev will be talking about this local charity's work, its challenges and successes, and the bird life at its sites across North Norfolk. A good number of NENBC members enjoy volunteering each month with the charity.

3 **Andy Clarke - In search of owls in the land of the midnight sun** Andy will describe a short trip to Finland and northern Norway, looking for owls and woodpeckers in the forest, then waders and skuas on the tundra, as well as bumping into other club members in roadside **cafes!**

4 **John Hurst - Ornithological Education (or not!)** "Features the many experiences I encountered as a rural school environmental and arts advisor during the 80s prior to embarking full time on my watercolour career."

Saturday 20th September

The Runtons and Inleborough Walk

A 10th Anniversary Walk Celebrating our 1st decade!

9:00am to 12:00 midday

We will be returning to the site of one of our walks from the early years of the club. A loop from Cromer via East Runton, Inleborough and West Runton exploring little known migrant hotspots and coastal birding with a café option at the end.

Autumn Walks Week

We are planning a week of small group walks over 7 days and 7 locations. This year it will be at the end of October with dates to be published shortly on the website. In response to the call from several members, some of the walks will be less strenuous this time, maybe with a café opportunity, and possibly to include some of: **Holt Lowes, Spout Hill, Weybourne / Sheringham, Happisburgh, Sheringham / Beeston Bump, Cromer Golf Course area, Blickling Park, Muckleburgh Hill, Around Corpusty and Overstrand / Northrepps.**

Any of those of interest to folk? Hope so!

Sunday 5th October

Overstrand and Trimmingham Walk

9:00am to 1:00pm

We'll walk the cliffs between Trimmingham and Overstrand, inland paths through sunken lanes, woodland and a disused railway track. The cliffs are spectacular with lots of cliff erosion and slumps providing a large area of undercliff habitat. Views from the cliff top give good perspectives for scanning the beach below and for seawatching and the habitat there ranges from small woodland patches to gardens and arable fields. *Advance booking required.*

A New Club Badge!

Introducing the Sea-watching Badge



Eider – Mark Clements

By Trevor Williams

The introduction of this new badge is intended to incentivise and reward members who spend time sea-watching and recording, on our website, the shorebirds and oceanic species they see off our coastline. But first let's establish what we mean by sea-watching. Here's a brief definition:

'Sea-watching is a specialised form of birding that involves the static observation of seabirds from a coastal vantage point. It's typically done from headlands, piers, or other elevated coastal locations that offer a good view of the sea and migrating bird routes. Sea-watchers look for a variety of seabirds, including shearwaters, petrels, skuas, gulls, terns, and various ducks, divers and waders. Sea-watching helps researchers and birders understand the distribution and movements of seabirds, migration patterns, and the impact of weather and environmental conditions on their populations. It also provides opportunities to spot rare or unusual species. Sea-watchers often use binoculars and telescopes, especially when observing birds at a distance. They need to be familiar with the different species, their flight styles, and how they behave at sea. Sea-watching can be productive at any time of year, but it's often most popular during migration seasons, especially during storms that bring birds closer to the shore.'

How do I earn a badge?

To be awarded a badge you must earn a total of a thousand points, through a combination of time spent sea-watching and species recorded.

You get 10 points for every half-hour spent watching - so typically for a two hour sea-watch you'd earn 40 points towards the total.

Points are also award for each of the species on our selected list - see below. 10 points for the easy species, 15 for the more difficult or scarce and 20 points for the rare ones. Points for species are only award for the first time you record them - so it does get progressively more challenging to add new birds to your sea-watching list! The most difficult or rare species have deliberately been omitted from this list to avoid the need to complete county rarity description forms.

As a 'one off' bonus you also get 100 points for attending either our annual coordinated sea watch or any of our increasingly frequent pop-up events. You don't however get credited with the time spent observing at that qualifying event. If you do attend more you get points for the time spent of course.

Our testing of the criteria over several months suggests that members who initially attend one of our events should earn around 300 points (depending on season, weather etc) and with a dedicated monthly sea-watch (more if you fancy it!) most members should qualify within approximately 12 - 18 months.

In order to qualify each of your sea-watching sessions will need to be recorded on the club website - giving details of the time spent and species seen. For example: Location - Cromer Pier - Date and Time started - 11/10/2025 - 07.30 - species seen - number - any comments e.g. 'all in winter plumage' and adding a comment - 'during 11/2 hour sea-watch' - which can be simply 'cut and pasted'. Its as simple as that!

Once you think you've qualified for a badge just email us with the details - much the same as you do for a 'green' eco-badge.

The introduction of this badge coincides with this year's **Coordinated Sea-watch Event on Saturday 11th October** where we will have teams at Sheringham Tank, Cromer North Lodge Park, Mundesley and Happisburgh. Any records which predate this will not qualify.

Sea-watching WhatsApp group

If you are likely to be sea-watching on a regular basis you might consider joining the dedicated **NE Norfolk Sea-watching WhatsApp group** - which is also open to non-members along the coast and encourages 'live' reporting to assist gather data for our sea-bird flight speed project.

Top tips for better sea-watching

For more advice about how to get the most out of your sea-watching sessions here is an extract from the recently published 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book:

1. Location, location, location: Choose your sea-watching location with care, preferably a prominent point which extends out from the coast, is easily accessible and provides some form of shelter.
2. Timing is key: Spring and autumn are the best seasons, when there is an on-shore wind. The first two hours after dawn is the optimal time but evenings can be good too.
3. Be prepared: Take all your kit with you, including refreshments as once you're settled you might be there for a couple of hours or more. Use the bathroom before you set off!
4. Wrap up warm: Even on a mild day an on-shore wind can be chilling. Take something to sit on. If you get cold you can't hold your optics still and your concentration goes.
5. Take the right kit: You'll need binoculars to scan and look at birds which are close to the shoreline but a telescope is handy to zoom in on more distant birds. Regularly clean your lenses as you might not notice the accumulation of salt and spray.
6. Know the seascape: Before you start, establish landmarks' or points of reference to help find birds and describe their location to others. Turbine: boats, buoys, crab-pot, f lags are all useful markers.
7. Keep your eyes on the prize: Watch the bird / flock as long as they are in view - you rarely get a second chance. Birds look different as the angle or light changes or they gain or lose height.
8. Look and learn: Concentrate on the key bird features. Study shape and flight styles as groups of birds often behave in distinctive ways. Plumage details can be difficult to see at a distance.
9. Check your ID: Have a reference guide handy as you may not be familiar with features on flying birds, which are different from those of birds at rest e.g. ducks or terns.
10. Keep a log of what you see: Keep records as you watch - time, species, number, direction and age - and make sure you add them to the club website for future reference.



List of qualifying species:

Points for species when first recorded | **Common - 10** | **Scarce - 15** | **Rare - 20**

Avocet	Fulmar	Little Egret	Redshank
Arctic Skua	Gadwall	Little Gull	Ringed Plover
Arctic Tern	Gannet	Little Ringed Plover	Sanderling
Bar-tailed Godwit	Goldeneye	Little Tern	Sandwich Tern
Barnacle Goose	Goosander	Long-tailed Duck	Scaup
Black Guillemot	Great Black-backed Gull	Mallard	Shag
Black-headed Gull	Great Crested Grebe	Manx Shearwater	Shelduck
Black-tailed Godwit	Great Egret	Mediterranean Gull	Shoveler
Brent Goose	Great Northern Diver	Mediterranean	Slavonian Grebe
Canada Goose	Great Skua	Shearwater	Sooty Shearwater
Cattle Egret	Greenshank	Mute Swan	Teal
Common Gull	Grey Heron	Oystercatcher	Tufted Duck
Common Sandpiper	Grey Lag	Pink-footed Goose	Turnstone
Common Scoter	Grey Phalarope	Pintail	Velvet Scoter
Common Tern	Grey Plover	Pomarine Skua	Whimbrel
Cormorant	Guillemot	Puffin	White-fronted Goose
Curlew	Herring Gull	Purple Sandpiper	Wigeon
Curlew Sandpiper	Kittiwake	Razorbill	Woodcock
Dunlin	Knot	Red-breasted Merganser	
Egyptian Goose	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Red-necked Grebe	
Eider	Little Auk	Red-throated Diver	

Something to finish with an interesting illustration of one of our recent 'pop-up' events - depicting observer and record-keepers at work!

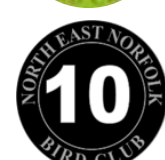
An excerpt from "Rent Day in the Wilderness" Sir Edwin Henry Lanseer 1868



And talking of badges

Congratulations to **Carolyn Hall** on her Bronze Badge and to **Andy Clarke** on both his Gold and his Super-Green Coastal, all presented over the summer break by club Vice President Francis Farrow.

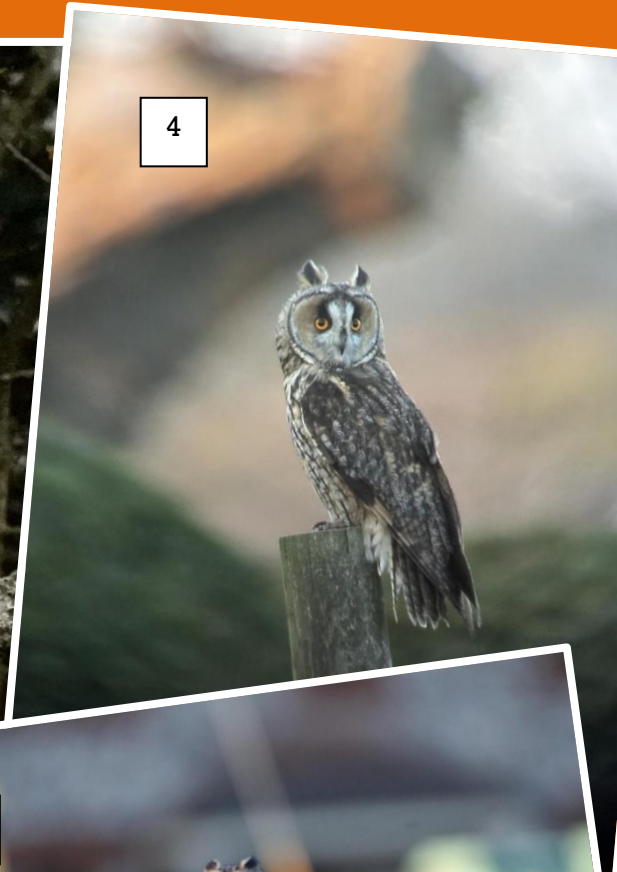
Also, those of you who joined NENBC in the latter half of 2015, you will be receiving your 10th Anniversary Badges soon. Thank you so much for your support over the past decade.



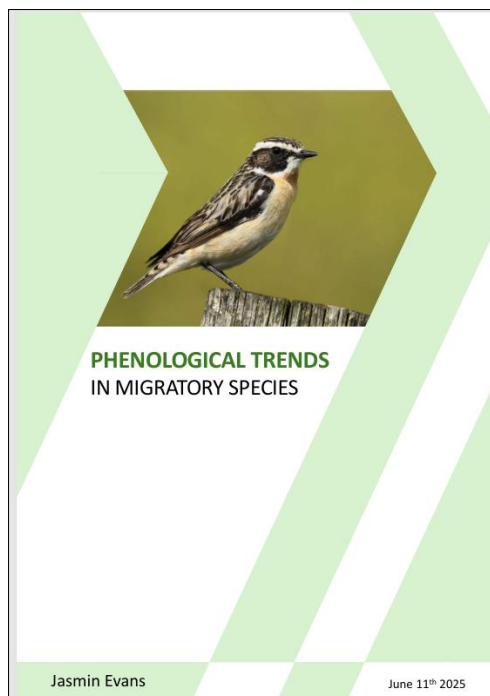
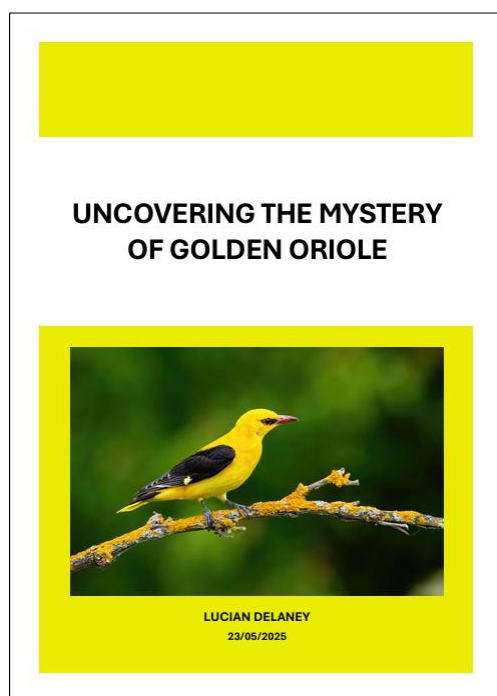
The Thwaite Common Long-eared Owl



Earlier in the year many members were lucky enough to view a Long-eared Owl at Thwaite Common. Whilst there was a possibility of breeding we asked members not to post any more records on our site after the initial flurry but here now are a selection of photos from members and others received from non-members. Sadly there was no breeding as no other owls turned up! Photos courtesy of 1) Stu Buck; 2) David Griffiths; 3) Geoff Lenton; 4) John & Val Mears; 5) Trevor Williams; 7) John Hurst; 8) Geoff Lenton.



We were delighted to be back working with the University of East Anglia's Environmental Science department again this year. This is where, along with other organisations, we pitch real-life environmental consultancy projects to a group of 3rd year students in the capacity of 'client' and we get selected by 'consultant' students in line with their areas of interest. Working on the briefs provided by us, they research and document their topic, feedback regularly via Zoom or in-person, and at the end of the process present us with an individual consultancy report. This time we worked with three students. Below is part of the brief for the first of these along with the Executive Summary from the student consultant and we'll have the remaining two projects in the coming months. If you would like to be emailed the full consultancy reports for any of these projects then just let us know.



Uncovering the mystery of Golden Oriole

Tell the story of Golden Oriole in Britain - charting the historic rise and fall, and through careful analysis of data uncover the likely explanation behind the recent pattern of spring records in North Norfolk.

Using the available data assess the status of Golden Oriole in Britain since the earliest records, drawing a distinction between occasional (spring overshoot), passage migrant or as a breeding species. Consider any changes in distribution and range in mainland Europe as possible factors influencing British records. In respect of British breeding records make an assessment of preferred habitat and compare with mainland Europe. Recent records in North Norfolk might refer to migrants - moving between wintering and breeding grounds - if this is the case where are they going? From existing studies are there noticeable differences in migration routes in Spring and Autumn? What effect is climate change having on this species - population, range shift, food supply, breeding success etc.

Uncovering the mystery of Golden Oriole by Lucian Delaney

Disclaimer: This material is based upon work supported by **Lucian Delaney** for ENV-6031B Environmental Consultancy module in the School of Environmental Sciences, UEA. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations are those of the author and do not reflect the views of the School of Environmental Sciences, UEA its employees or its administration.

Overview of the project and methods

This project explores the history of Golden Orioles in the UK, looking at the rise and fall, patterns in breeding and the mechanisms enabling annual visits from individuals. The project also considers the future of this species, including its conservation, threats and climate change impacts. Several years of exceptional sighting numbers in north Norfolk has prompted this recent intrigue and raised numerous questions. This project aims to answer these through a multi-faceted research approach, including: a literature review, analysis of datasets, archival research and correspondence with experts. Hopefully a clearer picture of this species' status and future directions are presented here.

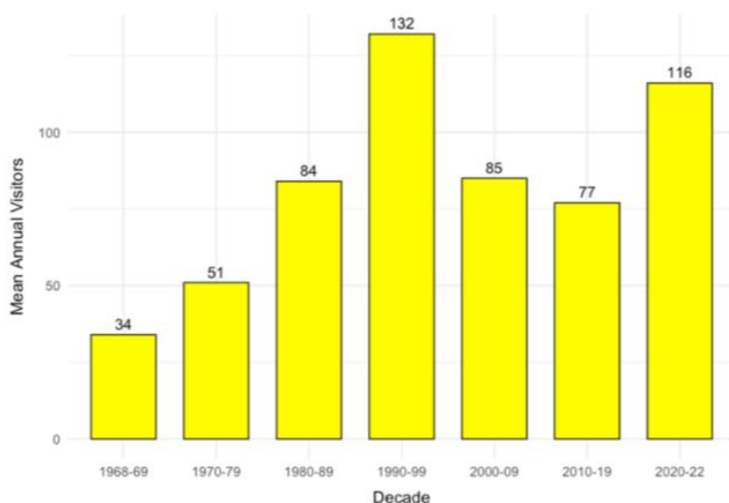
Global picture

Golden Orioles (*Oriolus oriolus*) are striking migratory songbirds that breed across Europe and Asia, wintering in sub-Saharan Africa. Recognised from their distinct fluting call and vivid yellow and black plumage, they favour woodland habitats, feeding high in the canopy on insects and fruit. Though globally listed as Least Concern due to their wide range and stable population, they remain rare in the UK and no longer breed here. Despite their adaptability, their presence in Britain remains an unusual although intriguing occurrence.

Golden Orioles in Britain

Once a rare but regular breeding bird in the UK, today Golden Orioles are considered scarce passage migrants, primarily seen in spring as they travel to breeding ground in Scandinavia and eastern Europe. The sightings peaked in the 1990s at over 130 annually but declined between 2000-2010 (below left). This is likely due to population declines in mainland Europe as the UK is at the margin of the species range. In recent years, specifically 2021-2022, saw a high number of sightings in north Norfolk, sparking fresh interest. These appearances are likely influenced by favourable weather in spring, such as warm temperatures and southerly winds. Increased observer effort may play a role, it's unlikely to be a major factor. Preliminary analysis suggests Norfolk's birds may originate in the Netherlands, with five potential sites identified (below right). However, further study and tracking will be needed to confirm this.

Average annual visitors to the UK by decade



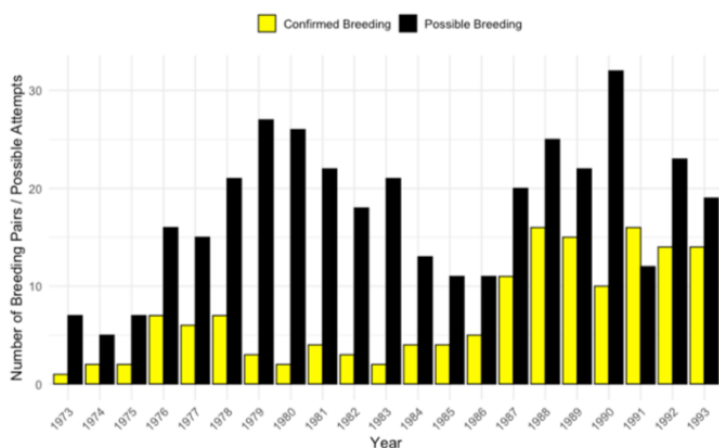
Potential origin sites of Norfolk's Golden Orioles



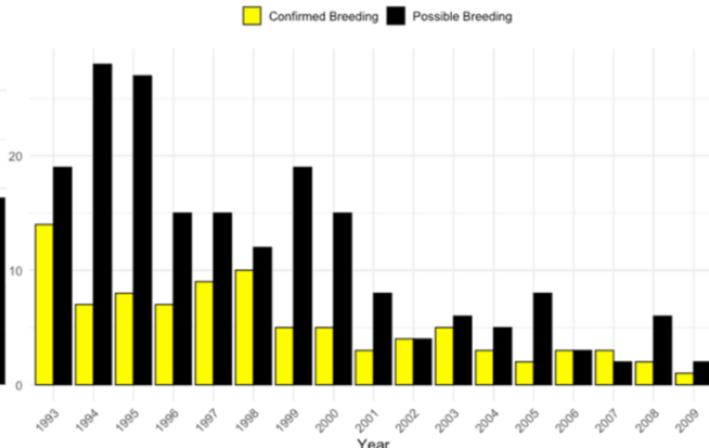
Breeding in Britain

Golden Orioles have an intermittent breeding history in the UK, with confirmed attempts occurring as early as the 1800s, mainly in East Anglia. The most successful period began in 1967, peaking in the late-1980s to early-1990s with up to 20 confirmed annual attempts (below left). The poplar plantations at Lakenheath acted as the stronghold. Breeding drastically declined after 1993, with the last confirmed attempt in 2009 (below right). The most likely causes are poplar plantation degradation, several years of poor weather at critical times in the 90s, egg poaching, and population declines in the Netherlands. Despite probable sporadic attempts since 2009, Golden Orioles are no longer classified as UK breeders. However, it could be possible to reverse this demise.

UK Golden Oriole breeding records (1973-1993)



UK Golden Oriole Breeding records since 1993



Challenges – hunting, climate change, and more...

Golden Orioles face a multitude of challenges, migration risks, habitat loss, climate change, and illegal hunting. The species must overcome major geographical barriers during migration, including the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea. Critical stopover sites are key for survival. Destruction of these habitats jeopardises the population. Illegal hunting is a grave issue, causing 80,000 individuals to be killed annually, particularly in Egypt and the Mediterranean. Climate change poses growing risks through extreme weather, habitat loss, and phenological mismatches. However, warmer temperatures could cause expansions in suitable breeding range across Europe, which could create new opportunities for recolonisation, potentially in the southern UK.

Recommendations and conservation

There are many actions the NENBC could take to enhance understanding and potentially assist in the re-establishment of Golden Orioles in the UK, including:

- Habitat management and creation – map and restore poplar plantations in North Norfolk, collaborating with landowners to support potential breeding habitat
- Surveying and monitoring – establish dedicated monitoring team during peak
- months, record weather data and explore tracking to better understand migration
- Awareness campaign – partner with other bird clubs to ignite national interest
- Reintroduction – feasibility study to assess viability of Golden Oriole reintroductions

The Great 'Fall' of September 1965

By Moss Taylor

This year sees the 60th anniversary of the great 'fall' of early September 1965 along the Suffolk and east Norfolk coasts. It was fully described in British Birds Vol. 59 by Peter Davis [p353], who was the BTO Migration Research Officer at the time. Previously he had been the warden of the Bird Observatories on Lundy, Skokholm and latterly Fair Isle. For those of us birding that autumn, and sadly there are fewer and fewer as the years go by, it was a week never to be forgotten. Similar 'falls' or 'rushes' in the first week of September had been a recurrent and prominent feature of autumn migration around the North Sea coast of East Anglia (unfortunately no longer the case), especially in 1956, 1958 and 1963. But the 'fall' in Suffolk on 3rd September 1965 was by far the heaviest ever recorded in Britain. I was living in Essex at the time, in my early years at medical school in London, but more of that later.

By September 1st, an anti-cyclone had become established over central Scandinavia resulting in light winds and clear skies: ideal conditions for emigration. Over the next two days, the high slowly shifted north-east, while low pressure was to the south of Scandinavia producing east to north-east winds over the North Sea, until the morning of September 3rd when the wind changed to south-east and the weather over the North Sea steadily deteriorated with torrential rain by late morning, when the main 'fall' of migrants along the east coasts of Suffolk and Norfolk took place.

An estimated half-a-million birds descended along the 24 miles of coastline between Sizewell and Hopton in Suffolk: involving no less than 78 species, not only passerines but also waders, raptors and waterfowl. Amongst the most impressive species' totals were 280 Wrynecks and 200+ Bluethroats. Similar unprecedented, but smaller 'falls', were recorded in east and north Norfolk.

To get a proper flavour of the day, the following are some extracts from the article in *British Birds*:

"At Lowestoft, at 13.15 GMT, a huge cloud of small birds was seen to appear over the town ... which itself was soon alive with birds hopping about in every garden and open space, on walls and television aerials, in all the streets (where many were killed by traffic), on the sea-wall and even among the groynes on the beaches. Two people in different parts of the town had the extraordinary experience of Redstarts descending from the mass of migrants overhead and alighting on their shoulders."

"Further south, at Benacre Pits, many thousands of birds arrived along a half-mile front. Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts were the most abundant, but there were huge numbers of Wheatears, hundreds of Whinchats, Garden Warblers and Willow Warblers, smaller numbers of Spotted Flycatchers, Tree Pipits, Whitethroats and Robins, and at least 20 Wrynecks. Between the start of the arrival on the 3rd and early on the 5th (when he ran out of rings) Tony



Hurrell caught some 650 migrants there, of which half were Pied Flycatchers, as well as 14 Wrynecks, two Bluethroats, three Icterine Warblers and an Ortolan Bunting.”

“At *Walberswick*, in the early morning of September 4th, David Pearson covered a two-mile stretch of coast south of the village, and in this walk encountered an estimated 15,000 Redstarts, 8,000 Wheatears, 4,000 Pied Flycatchers, 3,000 Garden Warblers, 1,500 Whinchats and as many Tree Pipits, 1,000 Willow Warblers, 500 Whitethroats and smaller numbers of Spotted Flycatchers and Robins. His other figures for the day include at least 40 Wrynecks, 20 Ring Ouzels, 20 Bluethroats, a Great Reed Warbler (caught), an Icterine Warbler and two Barred Warblers ... and amongst the waders 350 Ruffs, ten Little and three Temminck’s Stints, and a Kentish Plover.”

In the same article it stated that there was evidence of onward movement as early as the 4th, and tucked in among the records from Essex is mention of a Bluethroat caught near Hornchurch. This was, and still is, one of the highlights of my ringing career. During the late summer and early autumn of 1965, I was regularly ringing at two gravel pits near Hornchurch: Newbury Park GP and Peter’s & Barham GP, and it was at the latter that I netted a first-winter male Bluethroat in a reed bed on the late afternoon of September 4th. Also present were three Whinchats, a species I had not previously recorded at the site, but in retrospect were clearly also part of the massive ‘fall’ in East Anglia. The Bluethroat turned out to be only the third record of the species in the London area, following singles in 1936 and 1942!



Moss ringed this Bluethroat in Hornchurch during the fall (Moss Taylor).

Contemplating Conservation Songbird Crisis in Indonesia



By Tracy Brighten

This month’s article covers concerns raised by club member Chris Abrams about the impact of the wild bird trade in Indonesia.

I’ve just returned from a memorable trip to West Papua, Bali and Java, places I’ve wanted to visit for many years. They are billed as paradise islands and in many ways they are. However, I have been staggered by the effect the cage bird trade has had on the birds of both Bali and Java. It’s illegal, of course, but nobody does anything about it because those in power also seem to like keeping songbirds. Seeing wild birds in cages in which they’re not even able to turn around, is very distressing and, of course, most don’t live very long.

Forests once teeming with birds are now silent. Trying to find them is really very difficult. This is an incredibly sad situation. I’d love to know what, if anything, I/we can do to help to improve things. I understand that it’s very easy for many of us with privileged lives here in North Norfolk to be unaware of the very significant issues of poverty in other nations. I’m sure that if you have a family to feed and you don’t know where that next penny is coming from, maybe you have to take drastic action, which might include trapping wild birds, but, with appropriate help, surely there must be another way round this?

[Chris Abrams]

The Songbird Crisis in Indonesia

Home to more than 1,800 bird species, including 542 endemic species, Indonesia is the fourth richest country for avian diversity behind Columbia, Peru and Brazil (Burung Indonesia; BirdLife International, 2023). However, the popular pastime of keeping songbirds in cages threatens 43 of Indonesia’s 332 songbird species with extinction. Ecosystems are harmed too when avian services of seed dispersal and pollination cease. Each year, over 600,000 songbirds are trapped and traded illegally in Indonesia, the epicentre of the Asian songbird trade. On Java alone, 75 million birds are kept in 12 million households.

Java Sparrow by Ramon Velasquez via Wikimedia Commons

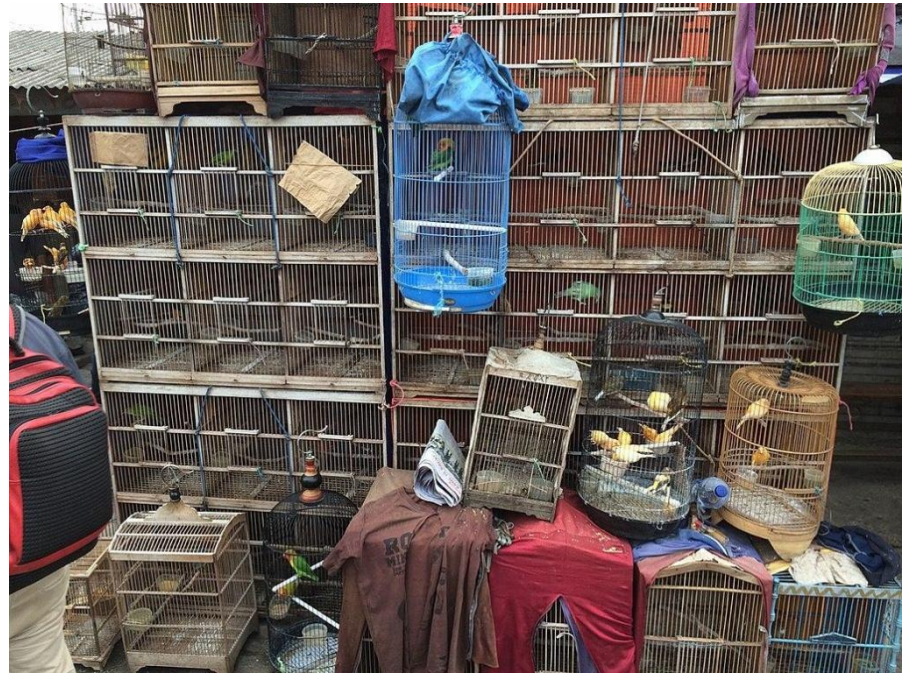


Chester Zoo's video highlights the scale of both the illegal trade and biodiversity crisis. The Javan Pied Starling is likely extinct in the wild, the Bali Myna is reduced to a tiny population, and the Straw-headed Bulbul is declining across its range, all three listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. While Indonesia's law allows trade in unprotected bird species, a 'no harvest' quota has been in place for native birds since 2002 [TRAFFIC]. Except for low numbers of a few species for commercial breeding, capture or trade of any native wild birds in Indonesia is therefore illegal, although punishments differ. Illegally catching protected species carries prison sentences and fines while non-protected species results in confiscation, but enforcement is weak, hindered by insufficient resources, corruption and culture.

What is driving the songbird trade?

Derived from royal nobility, the practice of keeping birds in cages is a centuries old tradition in Indonesia, Java especially. Keeping caged birds, especially songbirds, demonstrates cultural sophistication and high status. A bird in a cage is one of five things a Javanese man needs for a fulfilling life, showing he has time for a leisure pursuit. More recently, Indonesia's growing middle class display their wealth in birds while poorer rural communities make a living from trapping and selling.

Market in East Jakarta by [Wolf Gordon Clifton via Wikimedia Commons](#)



In the 1970s, songbird competitions took off with the patronage of President Suharto. The practice of keeping caged birds has since soared in popularity and native birds with superior songs have replaced imported Zebra Doves. Captive-bred Lovebirds and Canaries are among the most common caged birds now, but the ease and low cost of poaching, and the preference for wild birds as superior songsters, means wild birds are traded too. Significant cash prizes entice people to take part in competitions. Keepers can also make money from "master birds" by offering singing classes. With its vocal range and mimicry, the Javan Green Magpie is highly valued for this purpose. Student birds of various species are kept covered in the vicinity of the master bird, so they imitate the master's songs.

Competitions threaten both competing species and those used as master birds. Javan markets are packed with caged birds of up to a thousand species, with a couple of hundred species seen regularly. Online markets have grown too, with one study showing that online seller respondents tend to be educated middle-aged males in urban areas, identified as hobbyists selling birds for extra income. While songbirds listed were mostly captive-bred, study authors recognised the potential for response bias whereby contacted sellers who refused to be a respondent might have been selling wild-caught birds.

What is being done to stop the wild bird trade?

Law enforcement and regulation. Supported by FLIGHT and BirdLife partner Burung Indonesia, Indonesian authorities intercept illegally trafficked birds. In 2024, quarantine authorities in Lampung, Sumatra seized a truck carrying 6,514 birds. There is continued pressure on Sumatran birds to meet demand in Java, particularly species not protected by Indonesian law. In February 2025, 6,860 smuggled songbirds were intercepted in East Java, reflecting a shift in trade routes after the seizure in Sumatra, west of Java. Confiscated birds were not protected species, so even though 579 birds died in transit and the suspect did not have capture permits and health certificates, they were not charged. Smuggling networks source birds from islands in Indonesia, as well as Vietnam, China, and Thailand [Cornell Lab of Ornithology].

Experts warn that weak regulation threatens wild populations, increases extinction risks, and poses public health concerns through potential zoonoses. However, research by the University of Leeds highlights the need for multi-faceted solutions, not least because fines and imprisonment disproportionately affect poorer rural communities and enhance social inequalities that drive poaching in the first place.

Scientific research on drivers of the songbird trade. Research by Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and Chester Zoo is analysing the perceptions, behaviours and preferences of Indonesian songbird keepers. This will inform conservation strategies to reduce demand for wild birds. A 2020 study identified three bird-keeping user groups in Java: Hobbyists who own birds mainly as pets; Contestants who own birds to enter singing contests; and Breeders who own birds to breed for resale or as a pastime.

Further MMU studies examined the motivations for keeping or not keeping caged birds. Surveys showed that sanitary or welfare concerns did not affect whether people chose to keep birds, despite the significant suffering of wild-caught birds in transit and

confined in cages. Most keepers cited their enjoyment of birds' beauty or song, or peers as the motivator. Hobbyists started opportunistically while Contestants and Breeders started for financial gain (the Indonesian caged bird trade is worth at least US\$80 million annually). Researchers suggest efforts to increase the sustainability of bird-keeping in Java should promote captive-bred birds, especially to Hobbyists whose bird-keeping behaviour poses the biggest threat to wild birds. They also suggest incentivising legal breeding among Contestants and Breeders. Due to its cultural and economic importance, the caged bird trade is not likely to stop anytime soon, so targeting different user groups could be an effective approach to reduce the impact on wild birds.

Another recent MMU study looked at the barriers to behaviour change among bird keepers and the potential for messages based on keepers' values to reduce demand for wild-caught birds. The most effective messages were about the impact of over exploitation on Indonesia's wildlife populations and national heritage and on the future of bird-keeping, and about the benefits of keeping captive-bred over wild-caught birds.

Songbird conservation in Indonesia. Following the Asian Songbird Trade Crisis Summits in 2015 and 2017, and the declaration of the Asian Songbird Crisis by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (ASTSG) was formed to respond to unsustainable trapping and the illegal trade of wild birds. The ASTSG 2020 report lists achievements since 2017 and plans for the next four years.

Set up in 2018 to combat the illegal wildlife trade, FLIGHT has assisted with the rescue of over 300 thousand songbirds. They also run the Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park songbird rehabilitation centre in Lampung, Sumatra. Their community development programmes help improve people's quality of life through sustainable agriculture and crafts as alternative sources of income to the wild bird trade. Education initiatives help communities understand the value and importance of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

Burung Indonesia supports the Indonesian government's increased efforts to confiscate wild-caught birds, particularly at Java's entry points. They also advocate greater enforcement at bird markets, where protected species are sold, and emphasise the importance of engaging with trappers, traders, and consumers to promote the benefits of a sustainable trade.

In partnership with MMU, Burung Indonesia, is coordinating a project to identify and establish protected areas in the Javan uplands, conducting studies to understand local communities' relationship with forests and wildlife, and monitoring the trade in the fast-declining Javan Pied Starling and other songbird species to develop targeted conservation strategies.



Planet Indonesia focuses on habitat protection and providing economic incentives to reduce reliance on the bird trade. In 2022, they set up the Wak Gatak Songbird Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in West Kalimantan, Borneo, the first songbird rescue centre in Indonesia to focus on victims from the illegal wildlife trade.

Chester Zoo is involved in breeding and reintroduction programmes in Indonesia. Their work focuses on the highly threatened Javan Green Magpie, Sumatran Laughingthrush, Black-winged Myna and Bali Myna. Researching suitable landscapes and species' behaviour, vocalisations especially, informs the viability of reintroducing captive-bred birds to the wild. Education and engagement programmes for communities near potential reintroduction sites helps prevent reintroduced birds being trapped for the songbird trade. The zoo also supports MMU researchers to survey Java's most important habitats and local communities.

Javan Green Magpie by [Václav Šilha via Wikimedia Commons](#) and Bali Myna by [Angela via Pixabay](#).



The expansion of the trade to online platforms increases the threat to wild birds and makes law enforcement more difficult. Researchers are exploring the use of AI to monitor online markets for songbirds, including IUCN Red List species. Information from this study can help stakeholders take action based on the current market.

Taman Safari Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark restored a wild breeding population of Javan Pied Starlings in East Java. While millions of these birds survived in cages, they had not been seen in the wild for over twenty years. The Ark had to buy every bird at market for their reintroduction to the wild.

Hope for cultural change. The recent BBC Asia series provides hope for a change in cultural perspectives. The film crew for the Saving Asia episode set out to understand the culture behind the songbird trade. They followed field biologist Panji Gusti Akbar who is on a mission to save the Javan Green Magpie, one of the rarest birds in the world. Panji is trying to breed these birds in

captivity for release in the wild, but to prevent poaching, he must persuade people of birds' value in the wild rather than cages. Mr Neo's property is filled with prize-winning birds in small cages, including a Javan Green Magpie. Panji tells him about the magpie's rarity and invites him to join the film crew the next day. After visiting an ecotourism project and seeing wild birds in their natural environment, Mr Neo gives his magpie to Panji's project.

While captive breeding programmes like Panji's can maintain the viability of a species, there are risks of inbreeding, losing their wild songs, vulnerability to disease, and reduced fitness to survive in the wild. Captive breeding can also be used as a cover for poaching by placing rings on wild-caught birds.

In some communities, ecotourism and a local ban on trapping have helped restore native species in local forests. The Javan village of Jatimulyo banned bird hunting ten years ago in their strategy for ecotourism development. Villagers were consulted and included in the decision. The forest is now home to over 100 native species, providing tourism income for local people and reconnecting them to the environment. Change is possible, and ecotourism benefits can encourage communities to protect birds in the wild.

Tackling the trade in wild songbirds involves a multi-faceted approach of law enforcement, rescue and rehabilitation, community engagement and ecotourism, field and genetic research, and conservation breeding and reintroduction. Understanding and addressing the cultural and socio-economic factors that drive bird keeping and working with local communities will help protect Indonesia's natural heritage.

What Can We Do To Help Save Indonesia's Songbirds?

Support conservation projects and research. Donate to Burundi Indonesia (BirdLife), FLIGHT, TRAFFIC or one of the local rescue and rehabilitation centres.

Support ecotourism in Indonesia. When you travel, support ecotourism projects, which provide communities with sustainable sources of income that protect nature.

Help stop deforestation. The expansion of oil palm plantations has been a key driver of deforestation in Indonesia. The largest markets for Indonesian palm oil are Indonesia, China and India. These countries tend to use supply chains with twice the per-tonne deforestation exposure compared to EU countries. However, we can still make a difference by checking the source of palm oil in food products (and derivatives in personal hygiene products) and switching to those using sustainable palm oil identified by the RSPO logo. The palm oil industry is an important part of Indonesia's economy, and oil palm is a more efficient crop in terms of land use, so supporting sustainable palm oil production is arguably better than boycotting it.

Check This Out!

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



-  [Historic first nesting of Zitting Cisticola in Britain - BirdGuides \[27-Aug\]](#)
-  [Hungarian-ringed Great Egret seen in Lincolnshire - BirdGuides \[04-Sep\]](#)
-  [Massive Glossy Ibis influx reaches Britain and Ireland - BirdGuides \[069-Sep\]](#)
-  [House of Lords move to make bird-safe glass mandatory in new buildings - BirdGuides \[11-Sep\]](#)
-  [Leach's Storm Petrel survival rate linked to ocean temperatures - BirdGuides \[11-Sep\]](#)
-  [Birdlife Among the Solar Panels: How Agrivoltaics Shape Avian Communities - RareBirdAlertUK \[19-Sep\]](#)
-  [GPS Study Reveals Why Some Young Storks Fly West and Others East - RareBirdAlertUK \[04-Sep\]](#)
-  [Viral 'Seagull Boy' judges Weston-super-Mare competition - BBC News \[31-Aug\]](#)
-  [RSPB Sandwell Valley bird watching group helps those with dementia - BBC News \[20-Aug\]](#)
-  [Weatherwatch: Early ripening berries could be bad news for UK's visiting birds - The Guardian \[18-Sep\]](#)
-  [Light pollution causes urban birds to stay awake longer each day, study finds - The Guardian \[21-Aug\]](#)
-  [Here are a few pics of Paston Pond from Bob Cobbald. Water levels are apparently dire so not fishing even for the herons!](#)





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.](#)

"Sharp, high, loud, rising 'tchu-wee!', 'tssoooo' or 'tsweet', weaker, whispy, at distance."
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

"Vocal. Commonest call a loud, penetrating, high-pitched 'swu-eest' or 'tsoeest', the quality of the call often recalling Coal Tit, though higher-pitched and more clearly rising at end, apart from being uttered in a consistent way (Coal Tit calls often vary in pitch and details). Song a few hesitant, very fine notes, 'tsewee, sese-wee...sewees' (somewhat recalling Hazel Grouse)."
from Collins BIRD GUIDE 3rd Edition by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterström

"The call is similar to that of a Coal Tit and is a loud single rising note 'suu-eet'. Individuals often call repeatedly, especially if others are also calling in the locality."
from RSPB Handbook of British Birds 4th Edition by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves

Wordsearch

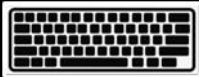


This month, we have the 26 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in September 2024 for which we have less than three records for each – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. Solution is at the end of this newsletter.

Brambling
Curlew Sandpiper
Dartford Warbler
Fieldfare
Green Sandpiper
Hawfinch
Lesser Redpoll
Mandarin Duck
Osprey
Raven
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Reed Warbler
Ruff
Tree Pipit
Twite
Woodcock
Yellow-legged Gull
Black-tailed Godwit
Common Crossbill
Firecrest
Garganey
Leach's Petrel
Red-breasted Merganser
Red-necked Grebe
Siberian Stonechat
Spoonbill

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





No new rare bird record have been ‘Accepted’ by the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] for our area since our last newsletter update. You can view their current '**NRC work in progress**' file on their website [16th Dec 24]. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a '**BBRC work in progress**' file available on their website [11th Mar 24].

NENBC Website



A huge thanks to the 127 of you who have uploaded records to our website so far this year date. It is very much appreciated by us and the bodies we send the data on to for inclusion in the county reports.

Prolific Posters January-August 2025 By Val Stubbs

Phil B continues to lead the pack in the first eight months of the year with over 150,000 points. A group of four members each have scores of around 50,000-60,000 points. John H has now joined the 10,000+ points club. How many more will join them by the end of the year?

Rank	Birder	Points
1	Phil Borley	151,870
2	Tony Pope	60,860
3	Valerie Stubbs	56,800
4	Philip Cartlidge	51,570
5	Mark Clements	50,530
6	Doug & Jenny Cullern	23,740
7	Trevor Williams	17,840
8	David Griffiths	16,080
9	Paul Laurie	13,920
10	Peter Geary	13,140
11	Stephanie Witham	11,520
12	John Hurst	10,910
13	Ann Gladwin	9,120
14	Colin Blaxill	8,980
15	Russell Page	8,860
16	Stella Baylis	8,210
17	Stuart Jones	8,130
18	Dawn & Tim Wright	8,040
19	Alan Stevens	7,830
20	Andrew Clarke	7,360
21	Julia & David Ivison	7,110
22	Di & Richard Farrow	6,820
23	Michael Harcup	6,710
24	Peter & Sue Morrison	6,670
25	Roger Unite	6,550
26	Bob Farndon	6,250
27	David Barrass	6,020
28	Gary Bunting	5,940
29	Moss Taylor	5,840
30	Andrew Kershaw	5,810

Not started adding records yet? Plenty of time to get going this! If you need any assistance, just drop us a line on nenbc@aol.co.uk or through the messaging element of the website.

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

Social Media

A few posts from our members this month – not necessarily Norfolk related!



Steve Stansfield
@bardseyobswarden.bsky.social

Nightingale and pied fly from this morning. Also Balearic, Sabine's Gull, Pom Skua, Grey Phal and Black Tern.



8 September 2025 at 18:00
Everybody can reply



Carl Chapman
@wildnorfolk.bsky.social

I got eyeballed at Bampton this week.



15 September 2025 at 14:53
Everybody can reply



Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

A few birds seen last week - Black-headed Gull in winter plumage, Coot looking slightly grumpy and a Moorhen looking for something!



17 September 2025 at 18:47
Everybody can reply



James Emerson
@norwichbirder.bsky.social

Duration Brewery has released the third beer in their duck series, Eider, and have also rebrewed the first one, Mallard, which I can highly recommend if you like NEIPAs. #BirdyBeers



17 September 2025 at 17:50
Everybody can reply

BlueSky: @nenbc.bsky.social Website: www.nenbc.co.uk

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Email Secretary / Editor: nenbc@aol.co.uk



This month here is a new poem from David North. We would really love to receive poems from other members for this section. If you don't fancy writing one of your own, do you have any favourite poems by others you would like us to include?

The meaning of geese

The meaning of geese is born in a singularity
The mystery of a chipping egg,
An arrival, both ancient and entirely new.

The meaning of geese is hidden
Hidden in the flock
Where the sum is always more than the parts.

The meaning of geese is written in sky shapes
Geese calligraphy
Lines clear to see but hard to read.

The meaning of geese
Is a story told in the sounds of wingbeats
And in soft goose conversations.

The meaning of geese
Is in arrivals and departures
And wild sky journeys

The meaning of geese
Like the meaning of life
Is in the one and the many

The meaning of geese
Is in stillness and movement
And on the edge between

The meaning of geese
Can be felt but not thought
And never fully understood.
(Except by geese)

David North, July 2025
Inspired by the title of Nick Acheson's book

White-fronted Goose, Richard Farrow





The bird voice variously described was that of a **Yellow-browed Warbler**. Click on the bird name to take you through to the xeno-canto website where, if you click on any of the play arrows on the left of the page, you will be able to hear the song. Don't forget to have your sound turned on and the volume up! Here's a link to the **BTO Bird Facts Yellow-browed Warbler** *Photos from Moss Taylor, James Appleton, John Swallow,*



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

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

Back Page Club Info



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

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

www.felbecktrust.org.uk

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

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



The NENBC objectives:

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

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