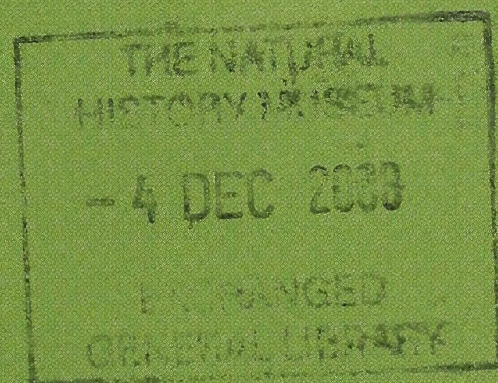


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Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2007



Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

(Reg Charity No 291604)

www.nnns.org.uk

The county's senior natural history society. It has for its principal objectives the practical study of natural science, the conservation of wildlife, the publication of papers on natural history, especially those relating to the county of Norfolk, arranging lectures and meetings and the promotion of active field work. Specialist groups cover most aspects of the county's flora and fauna.

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Front cover photograph: Pied Wagtail on barbed wire. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Back cover photograph: Brown Hare. (*John Miller*)

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NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 2007

Editorial

On behalf of the Society I am pleased to present the annual report on the Birds of Norfolk. Apart from the Systematic List and Ringing Report there are a variety of articles. Two relate to new birds for the county - Iberian Chiffchaff and Slate-coloured Junco - and another to a second for Norfolk, a Blythe's Reed Warbler. Two new species bred for the first time - Goosander and Darford Warbler - and Little Gull for the second; appropriate 'write-ups' are included. Also, hopefully of major interest, are articles on the Greenish Warbler invasion and details of visible passerine migration along the east coast. Details can also be found, for the first time for a number of years, of the Breeding Birds Survey and also of the Nest Records Scheme, both ongoing BTO projects.

Finally after 10 years as Editor and over 30 years as a major contributor to the production of this Report, as a small self-indulgency I have written an article covering my 50 years of Norfolk Birding.

Acknowledgements

As always the Report continues to be very much a team effort and my special thanks go to:

- Neil Lawton, my co-recorder - for his enormous help and encouragement in all areas,
- Julian Bhalerao - for organising and collating all the photographs,
- Peter Lindsley - for his major role in the actual production of the Report.

However, without the help of many other people the Report in its present format would not be possible. My thanks also go to:

- the inputters of monthly records into the computerised recording system - Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Judy Dunmore, Vince Hanlon, Neil Lawton and Pat Wileman;
- those who drafted sections of the Systematic List - Tim Allwood, Greg Bond, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Andy Brown, Pete Clement, Keith Dye, Mick Fiszer, John and Judy Geeson, Vince Hanlon, Phil Heath, Gary Hibberd, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Ben Murphy, Peter Morrison, Ashley Saunders, Mick Saunt, Andy Stoddart and Peter Wilson;
- members of the County Records Committee;
- authors of the articles in the Report, in particular Andrew Grieve, Andy Stoddart and John Wagstaff;
- Justin Lansdell for compiling the Review of the Year;
- the artists and photographers who have made their work freely available;
- The Sarnia Charitable Trust for its continued assistance towards the cost of colour photographs;
- Steve Wakeham for the meteorological information;
- all the many individual contributors and clubs/societies, and in particular Rare Bird Alert and Birdline East Anglia, who have contributed records;
- Pat Wileman for her continued help and support in the computerisation process;
- finally my wife Judy without whose help, support and patience the whole process would never happen.

New Editor

Articles and artwork for consideration relating to 2008 and subsequent years should be submitted to the new Editor, Andy Stoddart at 7 Elsdon Close, Holt NR25 6JY or by e-mail to andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk

The County Records Committee (Dave Bridges, Mick Fiszer, Justin Lansdell, Richard Millington and Andy Stoddart) considered numerous descriptions relating to county rarities in 2007 and accepted the majority. Only 12 records were not accepted, mainly meaning 'not proven'. In these instances the Committee did not disbelieve the observer, nor the fact that the bird many have been the species claimed, but that evidence fell short of a required confidence level for the Committee.

At its annual meeting, on the basis that 'Nordic-type' Jackdaws are now breeding in the county, it was decided that this race be deleted from the list of 'considered species' and that Hooded Crow be added. It was also agreed that Graham Etherington be invited to join the Committee, Mick Fiszer stepping down as the longest serving member.

It was also appropriate for me to resign as non-voting Secretary, having been Chairman/Secretary since 1976, and it was unanimously agreed that Jacquie Bridges should take over this role.

Recording

All records should be sent to Dave and Jacquie Bridges the joint County Recorders (with Neil Lawton) at 27 Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt NR25 6DP or by e-mail to dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com

All contributors are requested **to submit records monthly** or, if this is not possible, then at least on a 3-monthly basis. I cannot emphasis enough the extent to which this cuts down the enormous workload experienced in recording without which there would be no Report.

Obviously records can be accepted annually after the end of the year but all observers are requested to submit their notes within a shorter time scale if possible to reduce the pressure of recording in January/February the following year. Receipt of late records causes a major problem in drafting the Systematic List *and observations received after February of the following year cannot be guaranteed for inclusion in the Report or the database*. All records should be listed in the order of species appearing in this Report. Receipt of notes will not normally be acknowledged but names of all contributors will be published. To obtain as complete coverage as possible records via Rare Bird Alert and Birdline East Anglia have been frequently used in the compilation of the List. However, records of national and local rarities have only been included where considered and accepted by the appropriate Committee.

The list of county rarities requiring written descriptions or photographic evidence is as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose (away from Yare Valley)
American Wigeon
Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck
Surf Scoter
Black-necked Grebe (at sea)
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Balearic Shearwater
Wilson's Petrel
Storm Petrel
Night Heron

Bee-eater
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Tawny Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
Dipper ('gularis')
Bluethroat
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Subalpine Warbler
Greenish Warbler

Great White Egret
Purple Heron
White Stork
Black Kite
Red-footed Falcon
Spotted Crake
Corncrake
American Golden Plover
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper

'Kumlien's' Iceland Gull
Sabine's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Rose-ringed Parakeet
Alpine Swift

Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
Chiffchaff ('*tristis*')
Coal Tit ('*ater*')
Woodchat Shrike
Hooded Crow
Raven
Rose-coloured Starling
Serin
Common Redpoll
('*islandica/rostrata*')
Arctic Redpoll
Bullfinch ('*pyrrhula*')
Common Rosefinch
Ortolan Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting

Written descriptions should consist of a brief note of the circumstances of the observation (weather, distance from bird, any other observers, etc), a description of the actual bird(s) and details of any other species nearby for comparison as well as stating clearly how the bird was identified. Details of previous experience of the species should be given and, if relevant, a brief outline of how any confusable species were eliminated. Copies of field sketches (however poor artistically) are often invaluable together with written field notes and photographs if available.

With regard to the submission of **national rarities**, the British Birds Rarities Committee wishes to deal with all records in an electronic format. Ideally, where possible, descriptions should be submitted using a form downloaded from the BBRC website, with any accompanying photographs or sketches as *separate jpeg attachments*.

During the year a considerable amount of time is spent 'chasing' descriptions of both national and local rarities. Finders of such birds should submit details as soon as possible and not leave it to the end of the year. In addition observers often state or claim that someone else will be submitting details only for no description to be forthcoming in the long term and records lost. Jacquie Bridges has made a special request for as many observers as possible to submit details of rarities even though they were not necessarily the finder.

Giles Dunmore

Review of the Year

Justin Lansdell

(with weather details by Steve Wakeman)

As usual **JANUARY** began with a selection of left-over attractions from the previous year including 2 Lesser Snow Geese, up to 33 Common Cranes and an elusive Great Grey Shrike to keep yearlisters happy. Mild and often wet weather prevented any hard weather influxes but doubtless helped an unseasonal Quail seen on three dates at Brancaster while above average numbers of Hawfinches and Shore Larks were more obliging than usual and were well received as a result.

Proof that the sea should never be neglected was provided by a Balearic Shearwater off Sheringham on the 4th, our first record at this season, while at the same time the productive waters off the north-west coast enjoyed massive numbers of Little Gulls and Red-throated Divers, amongst which a few Black-throated and Great Northern Divers hid. Chief prize of the month, however, was a wintering Lesser Yellowlegs in Thornham Harbour from the 13th into February, attracting many admirers and continuing a productive run for the species.

A cooler wintry start to **FEBRUARY** brought low temperatures, intermittent snow showers and a recent record Great-crested Grebe count at Snettisham. In a generally unremarkable month raptors provided the highlights; a mobile Rough-legged Buzzard toured farmland around Wells-next-the-Sea and the longstaying 'Black-eared' Kite settled in for a 10 week stay at Snettisham. The rest of the month passed with mild unsettled weather and little ornithological excitement save an unseasonal Richard's Pipit over Terrington Marsh and a smattering of Waxwings, doing their best to lift spirits.

MARCH continued the trend with mild conditions and strong south-west winds, perhaps aiding the arrival of a very early Quail at Salhouse but more showy were two Red-breasted Geese, seen by many in the north of the county before re-locating to The Wash with their Brent Geese hosts. A record count of Shoveler at Breydon/Berney must have been an impressive spectacle at this isolated wetland but cold spells curtailed any early spring flavour until late in the month when temperatures recovered and winds from the south brought our earliest ever Nightingale to Hempton Marsh on the 26th.

Weather dominated by northerly winds brought in **APRIL** but nevertheless a popular Serin struggled to Heacham with expected migrants arriving on schedule and the highest Black-tailed Godwit count at Welney for 9 years both dramatic and very welcome. By mid-month a high towards Scandinavia brought warm easterly winds and the county bathed in temperatures up to 24 degrees. A strong influx of Ring Ouzels resulted with large flocks gracing coastal dunes while the weather will have helped our less heralded, but equally important, breeding avifauna that included good numbers of Stone Curlews and for the first time confirmed Dartford Warblers.

For many the excitement turned up a notch when high pressure finally slipped away into central Europe around the 20th leaving a run of southerly winds. As always birds were quick to respond; the county's first Iberian Chiffchaff on the outskirts of Norwich was both popular and unexpected, while the next day's Red-rumped Swallow over Winterton added to the Mediterranean feel.

The first three weeks of **MAY** were largely settled and assisted over-shooting European birds. Typically brief migrants appeared in the form of two Purple Herons, three Woodchats and single Red-footed Falcon, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater and Red-rumped Swallow keeping



Black Kite (*Gary Wright*)

observers on their toes but surprisingly that most elusive of continental raptors, the Black Kite gave up more easily with a bird making a protracted stay on the north coast.

Star-billing for the month was another Bonaparte's Gull at Hickling (mirroring one in 2003) staying 15 days and sharing the site with one of three Pectoral Sandpipers, a record spring for the species. From the east came a Broad-billed Sandpiper to Breydon, the first at the estuary for 11 years and a welcome return at a locality so historically famous for this charismatic calidrid that its image adorns the local bird club's logo!

A front from the north-west in the last week of the month broke the spell and triggered a dramatic passage of Manx Shearwaters off the north coast, a movement that was to prove the largest all year. Resultant unsettled conditions brought significant rainfall at the month end helping to ground a Short-toed Lark, two increasingly rare Bluethroats, three Common Rosefinches, a smattering of Icterine Warblers and the year's only Marsh Warbler.

Less lauded, amazing numbers of breeding Firecrests were found as the status of the species continues to be re-written while a singing Savi's Warbler and a hybrid pair of Pied x White Wagtails were worthy of note. On the debit side the Ouse Washes were totally flooded such that no waders were fledged at Welney.

JUNE began with settled conditions and a light easterly airflow from a high pressure over Scandinavia. A Booted Warbler arrived on cue at Blakeney Point and further similar winds on the 11th/12th once again turned on the supply of eastern birds – this time Blyth's Reed Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and two Icterine Warblers proving that spring does not conclude in May as commonly perceived.

Unsettled weather persisted from mid-month with frequent and often thundery rain a feature. A showy Little Bittern at Titchwell was the first for 10 years at a time when their larger cousin was having a reasonable year locally and a positive season nationally.

Terns are a feature of Norfolk summers and 2007 was no exception. Sandwich Terns were in the process of a productive year at Blakeney Point but in direct contrast Scolt Head witnessed a total failure. Often amongst them, a good series of Roseate Terns perhaps reflected a poor year further north but the 'boom and bust' years at Great Yarmouth's Little Tern colony was broken by average productivity; a miracle in a month where over 100 mm of

rain fell. Every cloud has a silver lining, literally in this case, as inclement weather dropped in a wandering Alpine Swift for three days and, perhaps more predictably, two adult White-winged Black Terns arrived.

Alternate spells of wet and settled weather typified **JULY** but summer days passed quietly with Spoonbills snoozing away long hours on favoured marshes. The malaise was interrupted abruptly by the simultaneous arrival of two Dark-eyed Juncos; a well watched one-day stunner in north Norfolk gardens and another longer-staying bird in the extreme west. Equally unexpected a pair of Little Gulls settled to breed at Titchwell, only the fifth such attempt on British shores.

Of our more regular breeding birds numbers of Montagu's Harriers increased as did those of Little Egret, Hobby and Stonechat; long term trends and evidence that our avifauna is not static. Away from the glare of observers breeding Black Redstarts persisted in the east but on the negative side Spotted Flycatchers suffered a further decline.

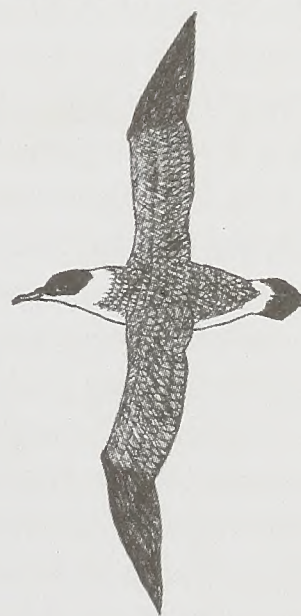
The holiday month of **AUGUST** was welcomed in with high pressure and the warmest temperatures of the entire year. However changeable weather soon resumed and the now almost expected mid-summer White-rumped Sandpiper appeared to grace Breydon Water for 26 days from the 14th. In a quiet spell for rarities the depth of our ornithological treasures meant there was still interest; a site record 1234 Mallard at Breydon/Berney was followed by a county record of 133 Mediterranean Gulls roosting on the vast mudflats of the same site by the month end.

A deepening area of low pressure moved south-west over the near continent around the 23rd and brought a strong north-easterly blow, persistent rain and the first drift migrants of the autumn. From Scandinavia came a traditionally early Great Snipe to both entertain and frustrate observers who had made the long trek up Blakeney Point, while the second Booted Warbler of the year appeared on Scolt Head. Bank holiday excitement was provided by a bumper crop of Greenish Warblers and a good fall of 'hide and seek' Wrynecks enjoyed by many towards the month end.

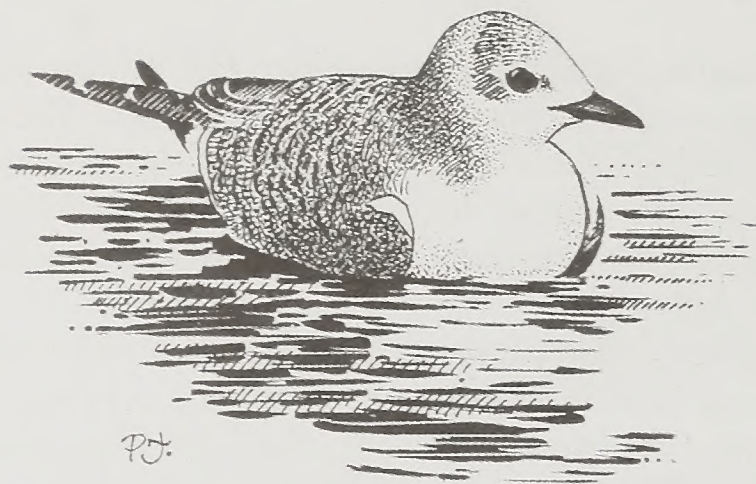
In late summer large numbers of duck were released for shooting at gravel pits in the upper Waveney valley, Suffolk, and possibly elsewhere. As well as Mallard, this release included Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Pintail (many of which were leucistic to varying degrees), Garganey, Red-crested Pochard (mostly pinioned), Tufted Duck and possibly other species. Some, though not all, bore coloured rings and were subsequently sighted elsewhere in Suffolk and Norfolk, particularly at Hardley Flood, clouding true patterns of occurrence.

A cold front brought outbreaks of rain from the north to start **SEPTEMBER** with a large anticyclone over south-west Britain feeding often strong north-west winds across the county. Seawatching friendly winds produced an incredible series of Sabine's Gulls that was to continue all month but little prepared birders for the events of the 10th. On that day an outstanding seawatch was headlined by unprecedented numbers of Great Shearwaters plus a huge Little Gull passage, significant numbers of Sooty Shearwaters, Arctic Skuas and Puffins, a smattering of Leach's Petrels and the year's largest Gannet movement.

More active fronts mid-month brought a strong and much cooler northerly wind and another notable



Great Shearwater (Alan Burtenshaw)



Sabine's Gull (*Phil Jones*)

seabird movement; this time featuring large numbers of Sooty Shearwaters and Great Skuas while a reminder that winter was not far away was the arrival of the first of two white-morph Lesser Snow Geese. Trans-atlantic waders are often a feature of September and this year's crop included two juvenile White-rumped Sandpipers, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper and a popular well-watched Long-billed Dowitcher at Titchwell that brightened a quiet weekend.

Cold northerly winds continued to keep daytime temperatures low but as high pressure transferred to Scandinavia by the 29th, coupled with a low pressure in central Europe, strong north-east winds and more rain produced a gripping end to the month. The arrival of Grey and Red-necked Phalaropes at Cley offered a unique opportunity to witness the two gems side by side; the year's largest Great Skua passage and an influx of fenno-scandian Short-eared Owls were the pre-cursor to a rarity-filled final two days. A Red-flanked Bluetail trapped at Weybourne 29th was available to those nearby but flew off strongly on release. Fortunately the weekend was salvaged by the almost simultaneous finding of a Subalpine Warbler at Burnham Overy and a Blyth's Reed Warbler at Salhouse, eventually seen by many. A backing cast of Radde's Warbler, Great Grey Shrikes and the first of three Little Buntings ensured observers along the entire coastal strip ended the month on a high.

OCTOBER began with high pressure over the North Sea bringing easterly winds and a Lesser Grey Shrike at Holkham, quickly followed by another Radde's Warbler at Holme four days later but it was to be a low key month thereafter.

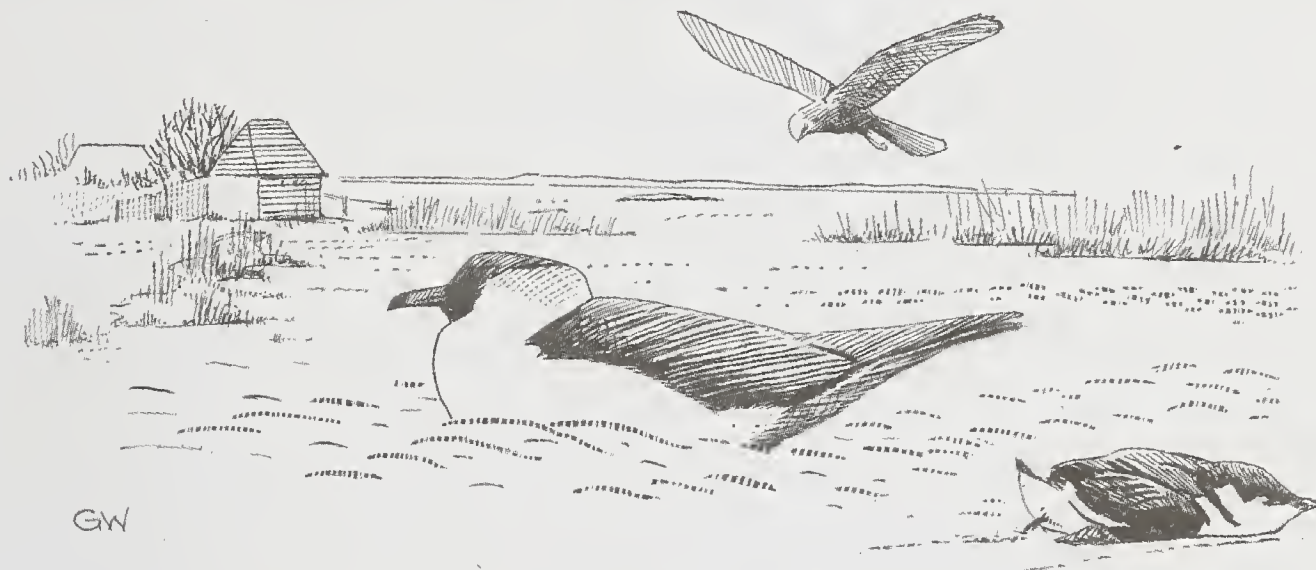
A series of Great White Egret records along the north coast represented an unprecedented influx with a Rough-legged Buzzard wandering the same area offering a good contrast. An incredible 133 Yellow-browed Warblers provided both the second best year on record and further evidence that they are not solely the product of easterly winds as long distance migrants from this quarter were in short supply.

Light and variable winds dominated with only an anticyclone transferring to the Baltic around the 20th opening the door from the east and providing the year's only Pallas's Warblers and Dusky Warbler. Throughout the month staggering numbers of common birds were logged passing strategic visible migration watchpoints by the dedicated few but it was not until the last week that the majority of observers had the chance at another rarity; this time an elusive Olive-backed Pipit at Holkham Meals. In keeping with the rest of the month it frustrated, being seen only occasionally, most observers settling for a late and unusual Spotted Flycatcher by way of compensation. The feeling of disappointment prevailing throughout the month was intensified

by news of the illegal shooting of 2 Hen Harriers at a roost in the west of the county.

NOVEMBER weather began tamely but a weak front sweeping south-east on the 6th introduced the first of a series of northerly blows. On this day a White-billed Diver passed three watchpoints while three days later strong north to north-west winds provided one lucky observer with both White-billed Diver (presumably the same) and a Surf Scoter amidst a more widely enjoyed dramatic Little Auk passage, including an amazing 1175 passing Sheringham. Numbers of this late autumn refugee continued until mid-month by which time cold north-east winds following an occluded front on the 14th had triggered an impressive passage of Eider.

Mild conditions dominated the rest of the month and doubtless helped a late Red-breasted Flycatcher at Eccles and a lingering Wood Sandpiper. More headline grabbing, a reliable Rough-legged Buzzard beside Breydon Water was both showy and popular: equally welcome



Pomarine Skua and Little Auk (*Gary Wright*)

a lingering Iceland Gull used Edgefield Tip providing most observers with their first opportunity all year to enjoy this dainty visitor from the high arctic. A good influx of Lapland Buntings was eclipsed by record counts of Whooper Swans at Welney and Black-tailed Godwits at Breydon.

The month concluded with a tame Desert Wheatear resident at Horsey, a popular bird that was to entertain into **DECEMBER** when another passerine, a Richard's Pipit, showed up at the opposite end of the county.

Despite a further spell of northerly winds and widespread night-time frosts the festive month passed uneventfully. Healthy numbers of Velvet Scoters made a welcome return to the fertile waters off the north-west coast but Twite showed no signs of recovery and Pink-footed Geese dropped from the record numbers of recent seasons.

Further evidence of our ever-changing avifauna brought the year to a close with huge numbers of Little Egrets unthinkable years ago, and the last of 49 Caspian Gulls just a decade since the first. It was left to a familiar bird to conclude another fascinating year; an incredible 97 Marsh Harriers were counted at a single roost in the Broads, ten years since it only wintered here in single figure numbers and leaving us to reflect on what changes the coming years will bring to the fascinating birdlife of our county.

Wetland Bird Survey 2007

The Complete Wash: *Jim Scott and Neil Lawton*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	21	27	12	7	3	5	12	9	15	19	2	19
Pink-footed Goose	9114	5367	1002	3	1	-	1	-	175	6632	25154	49317
Greylag Goose	797	231	189	235	616	704	858	562	807	373	570	813
Canada Goose	657	89	63	65	70	194	216	559	529	538	503	448
Dark-bellied Brent	16224	20870	12654	6653	2697	12	12	8	44	7280	5132	21112
Egyptian Goose	10	1	-	3	2	9	13	3	8	6	4	32
Shelduck	5440	5328	2197	1365	1577	2406	5244	876	3945	5150	1316	6656
Wigeon	5687	2868	554	6	6	3	6	4	711	1854	1538	8961
Gadwall	39	29	15	14	13	12	7	12	30	26	9	57
Teal	763	613	73	3	-	-	24	38	959	1906	863	2537
Mallard	1569	1031	543	340	285	443	258	689	1323	1511	1236	2027
Pintail	700	1215	1	4	-	1	-	-	121	170	142	608
Shoveler	1	12	18	7	18	-	7	25	28	28	19	22
Pochard	26	26	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	7	20
Tufted Duck	84	136	122	63	27	62	44	48	67	77	38	87
Eider	155	113	57	89	65	3	86	41	62	13	8	51
Common Scoter	4	1810	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	11	24	14
Goldeneye	77	80	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	23	37
R B Merganser	5	70	29	1	-	-	1	-	1	16	37	32
Red-throated Diver	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	9	6
Little Grebe	88	68	42	3	-	-	3	6	26	72	36	113
Great Crested Grebe	7	11	8	2	9	14	3	4	11	14	21	13
Cormorant	467	390	85	65	27	70	177	223	247	409	145	453
Little Egret	88	86	60	25	24	46	122	201	308	319	71	130
Grey Heron	4	9	4	7	4	10	21	20	29	37	9	21
Moorhen	19	31	9	25	4	4	28	21	39	51	35	55
Coot	110	149	79	30	23	45	51	72	115	69	70	85
Oystercatcher	15112	14103	6351	4918	4792	4031	5724	15872	8307	13798	11273	19626
Avocet	1	32	291	310	303	322	850	433	16	5	1	-
Ringed Plover	120	203	105	106	1127	93	153	280	289	298	28	11
Golden Plover	31350	22068	216	20	1	3	897	5670	5276	10769	786	4939
Grey Plover	3657	2878	3595	6162	8717	85	799	995	4178	4219	1879	5098
Lapwing	25778	24777	50	35	28	145	345	1518	752	7483	1639	2845
Knot	85615	57360	46828	29900	3791	1831	12273	26592	60224	160224	82532	45053
Sanderling	301	490	86	35	1090	81	612	58	133	184	174	285
Dunlin	23412	23482	13694	12919	11955	248	17898	24241	7625	15722	8382	24523
Snipe	2	7	3	-	-	-	-	13	71	65	14	22
Black-tailed Godwit	3856	4306	441	46	156	72	6112	6961	6090	3103	1007	2723
Bar-tailed Godwit	7429	11015	2745	1976	417	197	2812	10354	9410	9383	8012	7109
Whimbrel	-	-	-	21	20	9	45	324	36	8	-	-
Curlew	3410	3873	1989	1033	291	428	3936	7664	6811	3915	1916	2451
Spotted Redshank	-	-	1	1	-	1	9	48	32	19	-	13
Redshank	2368	2398	1501	1111	559	545	2000	4407	2168	1589	1139	2879
Greenshank	-	1	-	11	4	3	108	252	82	16	3	-
Common Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	1	-	8	9	10	3	-	-
Turnstone	238	277	172	272	278	54	118	185	242	478	106	255
Black-headed Gull	3808	5281	2630	1724	1290	2792	6388	17585	17179	5944	1914	4855
Common Gull	432	282	206	49	63	72	55	1748	403	1237	150	717
L B B Gull	33	9	186	258	593	252	333	474	486	1163	128	461
Herring Gull	6212	4357	1090	1597	3353	3197	3391	3568	5952	3252	1001	4279
G B B Gull	272	121	18	34	35	152	126	160	1465	2131	296	230

The above data is unvalidated and for official uses the BTO should be contacted

Wetland Bird Survey 2007

North Norfolk Coast: *Neil Lawton and Michael Rooney*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	46	60	50	49	51	53	88	49	62	58	52	40
Pink-footed Goose	4610	1041	1079	831	1	2	1	1	11400	3004	7885	855
White-fronted Goose	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	13	19
Greylag Goose	1032	423	723	582	756	363	348	797	252	876	831	724
Canada Goose	163	45	109	123	131	161	205	146	65	65	156	122
Dark-bellied Brent	6502	5034	2866	3117	2365	13	15	13	32	2918	4539	5579
Egyptian Goose	29	46	54	62	64	18	61	71	112	65	17	24
Shelduck	1430	1111	795	812	624	390	135	140	124	305	645	787
Wigeon	14173	11291	6873	104	33	15	2	57	985	7054	8369	11998
Gadwall	174	110	183	178	186	183	10	127	146	101	82	121
Teal	3336	1760	1051	307	21	159	46	344	2110	2423	2455	2713
Mallard	1373	1085	856	528	557	575	333	624	1047	906	1250	1093
Pintail	537	752	44	7	2	3	-	-	179	309	497	522
Shoveler	362	336	353	191	104	101	62	138	88	156	192	145
Pochard	51	91	32	37	35	31	11	6	7	7	28	11
Tufted Duck	55	72	97	109	110	83	60	29	55	75	57	22
Eider	-	12	4	13	21	13	15	1	15	1	10	12
Common Scoter	2969	1517	1036	2552	2988	1948	210	3	596	400	625	6
Goldeneye	89	105	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	33	41
R B Merganser	84	92	55	15	-	-	-	1	7	34	39	96
Ruddy Duck	-	-	6	8	12	13	3	6	1	-	-	-
Red-throated Diver	62	65	2	2	-	1	-	-	7	27	14	11
Little Grebe	36	44	28	59	56	59	66	17	32	38	38	64
Great Crested Grebe	11	75	5	17	3	1	2	2	7	18	26	21
Cormorant	41	75	50	85	90	153	195	168	190	207	50	140
Little Egret	109	88	83	60	51	68	111	138	184	189	147	119
Grey Heron	14	22	21	33	28	33	40	48	36	35	14	24
Coot	226	235	253	321	283	234	124	285	256	313	324	353
Moorhen	91	118	112	224	223	209	42	73	84	139	126	230
Oystercatcher	2854	3238	2187	1780	1718	1632	1954	2343	3635	2537	2647	2442
Avocet	28	194	425	645	585	585	235	103	33	17	16	32
Ringed Plover	306	325	322	216	1280	264	264	890	1002	485	291	198
Golden Plover	4604	4552	332	210	-	2	25	487	2132	1444	661	3154
Grey Plover	1262	720	775	434	396	22	26	259	998	1039	654	961
Lapwing	654	11242	715	555	534	460	327	434	227	1038	986	4521
Knot	3617	1813	686	531	5	80	27	313	10741	2318	10860	3062
Sanderling	467	307	62	449	753	32	432	892	761	337	918	540
Dunlin	3402	2317	1063	910	1770	16	568	2255	1582	1885	2393	2686
Ruff	42	63	7	37	-	-	30	59	62	90	39	35
Snipe	35	53	23	26	26	22	-	21	81	42	55	99
Black-tailed Godwit	50	251	386	286	69	162	346	1138	633	324	374	80
Bar-tailed Godwit	1723	1261	340	257	39	17	172	320	856	1282	1394	1122
Whimbrel	-	-	-	61	27	2	75	197	16	1	-	-
Curlew	2365	1295	853	530	82	243	2044	2875	1444	1255	1014	1466
Spotted Redshank	2	10	6	13	-	1	10	17	21	29	1	2
Redshank	866	698	688	619	562	585	1606	1642	1572	1289	1060	1022
Greenshank	3	4	4	12	6	4	65	87	53	23	3	4
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	7	1	-	-	-
Turnstone	596	597	375	413	545	75	330	912	724	496	639	585

The above data is unvalidated and for official uses the BTO should be contacted

Maximum Monthly Counts 2007

Breydon and Berney: *Peter Allard*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	92	43	81	70	135	84	40	29	50	65	38	71
Bewick's Swan	58	147	16	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	12	15
Pink-footed Goose	17810	10304	1109	1	-	-	-	-	50	3700	7640	10410
White-fronted Goose	-	112	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	26
Greylag Goose	54	2	2	8	38	17	13	12	79	308	330	60
Canada Goose	2	4	13	6	19	46	24	36	110	116	45	19
Barnacle Goose	-	14	-	15	5	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
Brent Goose	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	1
Egyptian Goose	2	2	2	4	13	45	56	29	101	134	22	2
Shelduck	65	144	197	173	297	375	137	261	212	140	42	153
Wigeon	15100	18184	8120	42	7	1	1	21	89	2760	13300	14610
Gadwall	102	88	116	88	29	15	5	14	5	1	19	20
Teal	3620	3321	2349	798	4	27	10	102	125	750	940	1410
Mallard	229	145	64	47	47	39	56	1234	872	173	253	208
Pintail	209	148	94	11	3	-	-	4	48	49	93	111
Garganey	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Shoveler	658	538	768	49	18	18	9	4	5	122	230	246
Pochard	-	-	10	9	14	5	9	3	1	-	6	-
Tufted Duck	-	26	28	8	6	4	6	12	5	1	1	-
Little Grebe	3	6	5	5	6	5	7	13	39	42	16	4
Great Crested Grebe	3	5	13	5	6	5	6	6	11	11	9	1
Cormorant	31	26	19	18	16	23	23	33	18	19	45	26
Little Egret	43	71	67	36	56	51	126	84	73	71	76	53
Spoonbill	-	-	-	1	4	8	4	7	7	-	-	-
Coot	63	47	98	49	12	-	-	-	-	-	21	17
Oystercatcher	27	68	148	190	61	43	106	48	21	21	3	-
Avocet	171	307	268	207	113	191	703	896	532	171	104	120
Ringed Plover	63	57	54	41	116	61	40	184	169	135	71	34
Golden Plover	15640	20187	2645	3	-	-	102	2200	1010	4000	11560	14810
Grey Plover	23	42	41	2	14	3	1	7	2	19	36	37
Lapwing	17220	17620	487	280	221	235	200	417	130	1552	6830	19700
Knot	440	438	116	54	21	11	10	88	41	89	240	261
Sanderling	6	3	7	5	5	1	7	-	2	1	2	9
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	8	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	3	12	7	1	-
Dunlin	3090	2910	3840	1326	560	19	553	443	391	1060	2740	5310
Ruff	55	40	16	9	-	-	17	10	5	4	36	42
Snipe	7	12	35	15	6	8	6	70	25	41	51	16
Black-tailed Godwit	1320	1120	1120	426	20	120	671	823	1350	987	2469	1806
Bar-tailed Godwit	71	54	53	541	653	3	3	10	13	10	41	32
Whimbrel	-	-	-	40	35	-	31	2	3	-	-	-
Curlew	1013	1178	917	274	53	69	427	810	921	994	747	880
Spotted Redshank	6	2	3	8	6	1	1	3	5	5	5	4
Redshank	1083	952	1356	1149	190	141	929	1180	1278	1220	808	1405
Greenshank	1	1	1	4	4	-	8	9	10	2	1	-
Green Sandpiper	1	1	1	-	-	2	15	1	-	1	1	1
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	12	1	4	3	6	-	-	-
Turnstone	4	6	5	5	13	-	8	13	7	8	8	3
Little Gull	-	-	-	5	-	2	7	3	-	-	-	-

BTO Breeding Birds Survey

Kate Risely, BBS National Organiser

The fieldwork for the Norfolk Bird Atlas, admirably co-ordinated by Moss Taylor, was completed last year, and all those who contributed to this massive undertaking should be justifiably proud of their efforts. However, anyone who thought this would bring a welcome respite from those seeking to persuade, entreat and cajole them into survey work is due to be sadly disappointed. The National Bird Atlas 2007-11 will need all hands on deck and, in addition, I intend to use my space on these pages to interest as many Norfolk birders as possible in the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).

For those hazy on the details, this national survey is a partnership between BTO, JNCC and RSPB, designed to monitor changes in bird numbers by comparing standardised annual counts made at selected 1-km squares. BBS results are used by government, and others, to set conservation priorities, and are an immensely valuable resource with many applications in conservation research. As well as these UK-wide results, however, we can also calculate trends on a regional or county level (providing enough BBS squares are covered in the relevant area).

For this report, we have calculated population trends based specifically on the 83 active BBS squares in Norfolk – enough to calculate reliable trends for 32 species (those found on at least 30 BBS squares, on average, during the survey period 1994-2007). These trends are presented with the relevant species accounts in the Systematic List, and there are some interesting comparisons with the national trends. For example, Swallows have declined in Norfolk by over 30% since 1994, part of a decline of 11% in the East of England, despite the fact that this species has increased significantly by 25% in England as a whole. Skylarks, as we are all aware, have declined across the UK, but the drop in numbers has been even more pronounced in Norfolk, where Skylarks have decreased by almost 40% - the biggest decline of all species for which Norfolk trends can be produced. On the other hand, Mallard, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Blue Tit, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow and Greenfinch (all doing well nationally), showed even bigger increases in Norfolk than in the UK overall. Collared Dove showed the biggest increase in Norfolk, of over 250% since 1994. As well as the changes in numbers since the start of the survey in 1994, we also calculate the changes since the previous year - in this case, 2006-2007. None of these changes were statistically significant, with the exception of Chiffchaff, which increased by over 70% between 2006 and 2007 - a huge change, but one that was reflected in all parts of the UK.

As mentioned, reliable trends can only be presented for the 32 species that reached the minimum sample size, out of the 126 species seen in total. However, to give an indication of abundance, in the species accounts we have also given the number of BBS squares on which each species was found, out of the total 83 squares.

I hope you find these results interesting – if so, further information on the BBS, and the national trends, can be found on the BBS website at www.bto.org/bbs. If you are interested in seeing Norfolk-specific trends for even more species next year (such as for Moorhen, Cuckoo, Willow Warbler and Long-tailed Tit, which are all just below the minimum sample size) please help achieve this by taking on a BBS square! BBS visits are relatively undemanding - just two visits during the breeding season, each of which should take around 90 minutes, plus a reconnaissance visit at the start of the season. If you'd like to help, please get in touch with me (bbs@bto.org), or one the Norfolk BBS Regional Organisers:

South East: Rachel Warren, campephilus@btinternet.com

South West: Vince Matthews, bto@vincemattthews.plus.com

North East: Chris Hudson, chris697@btinternet.com

North West: Allan Hale, allan.heidi@eidonet.co.uk

Finally, I'd like to thank all the existing volunteers, and the Regional Organisers, for their contribution to these results.

Systematic List

Introduction

The Systematic List follows that most recently published by the BOU in terms of the order and latin names. However, the English names that have been used in the Report for many years are retained. In order to avoid confusion with the names adopted by the BOU these have been included in brackets where applicable.

Unless otherwise stated, all observations are of single birds and refer to 2007. The following abbreviations are used in the species accounts:

BO	=	Bird Observatory	NBC	=	Norfolk Bird Club
BBRC	=	British Birds Rarities Committee	NBR	=	Norfolk Bird Report
BF	=	Sugarbeet Factory	NNR	=	National Nature Reserve
BOU	=	British Ornithologists' Union	NR	=	Nature Reserve
BTO	=	British Trust for Ornithology	RC	=	Relief Channel
CP	=	Country/Coastal Park	RSPB	=	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ESA	=	Environmentally Sensitive Area	SM	=	Saltmarsh
FM	=	Fresh Marsh	STW	=	Sewage Treatment Works
GC	=	Golf Course	TA	=	Training Area
GM	=	Grazing Marsh	WeBS	=	monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts
GP	=	Gravel Pit	WM	=	Water Meadows
NBA	=	Norfolk Bird Atlas	WWT	=	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Where tables are used in the species accounts these refer to monthly maximum counts for main sites unless otherwise stated. A dash indicates that no count details have been received or none present. For wildfowl and waders, the data used derives generally from the monthly WeBS counts although if higher totals are available these are used instead; readers are also referred to the tables giving composite counts for the Wash, north coast and Breydon/Berney which should be read in conjunction with the individual species accounts in the Systematic List. Updated WeBS thresholds for International/National importance have been inserted for all relevant species.

Whilst many records to the west of Sheringham town are in the Sheringham Bird Observatory recording area, for the sake of simplicity most records are referred to as 'Sheringham' only. The area previously referred to as 'Lakenheath Washes' is called 'Hockwold Washes' to avoid confusion with the adjacent Lakenheath Fen RSPB Reserve situated in Suffolk. The area referred to as mid-Yare RSPB includes the reserve at Strumpshaw and adjoining land under the Society's control and/or ownership. Where details of breeding birds are given at Holkham NNR for example these refer, unless otherwise stated, to the grazing marshes at Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy and Holkham.

Whilst a considerable proportion of the county's coastline to the north-east runs on a north-west/south-east axis to simplify matters movements have been quoted as east/west and north/south. Hence records to the west of Happisburgh are listed east/west as appropriate and those to the east as north/south.

Observers' initials are given for all national and county rarities and for a few other exceptional records. Normally the initials of the finder(s) are given (where known), and if applicable initials of observers who have also submitted detailed descriptions.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

A common resident; the Ouse Washes attract the most important winter concentrations

Monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holkham NNR	7	7	19	10	12	12	10	4	22	4	2	17
Blakeney GM	17	16	10	3	12	12	30	23	5	4	3	13
Cley	11	25	10	11	16	15	19	8	9	16	18	22
Whitlingham CP	13	35	22	14	19	-	26	-	40	22	28	25
Breydon/Berney	92	43	81	70	135	84	40	29	50	65	38	71
Welney	31	-	19	74	-	141	-	-	-	199	128	186

Other concentrations: Jan 97 Acle Marshes; Feb 112 Tunstall, 86 Halvergate Marshes, 67 Claxton Marshes; May 52 Hockwold Washes; Sept 58 Haddiscoe Island, 55 Nar Valley Fisheries.

Records of 64 nests/broods: Blakeney GM 3, Cley 3, Ditchingham, Felbrigg Park, Great Ryburgh, Haddiscoe Island 5, Hickling Broad 4, Holkham NNR 7, mid-Yare RSPB 25, Norwich Pulls Ferry, Pensthorpe, Postwick R Yare, R Wissey 2, Rockland Staithe, Rollesby Broad, Salthouse, Stanford TA, Stanford Water 2, Titchwell, Welney 2, Wighton R Stiffkey.

Coastal movements: 2 west Sheringham April 22nd, single north over sea Winterton May 16th, 4 west Scolt Head Aug 1st, 2 at sea Mundesley Oct 3rd.

Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers

Counts at Welney WWT:

Jan 7th	Feb 18th	Mar 4th	Oct 24th	Nov 26th	Dec 9th
1575	1397	308	304	2564	2664

International importance (winter): 200

Poor numbers in early part of year but an encouraging increase in late part compared with 2005 and 2006.

Peak counts in Broad: Jan 143 Catfield 10th, 161 Ranworth Marshes 24th, 130 Horning Upper Street 25th; Feb 137 Hickling Swim Coots and 215 St Benet’s Level 2nd, 186 Ranworth Marshes and 114 Tunstall 6th, 143 Acle 7th, 156 Halvergate Marshes 9th, 100 Upton 19th, 155 Strumpshaw 26th; Dec 129 Catfield 27th, 219 Hickling Swim Coots and 187 Repps-with-Bastwick 30th. The flock of 129 at Catfield Dec 27th contained only 2 family parties with 2 young each, perhaps indicative of a very poor breeding season.

Reports of birds moving east in late Feb 80 Hoveton 23rd, 84 Hethel 25th, 14 Dereham 26th and early March 30 Paston 9th with 40 there 11th, and 3 Holme 14th. May records of 2 Berney 5th and single south Winterton 6th. An injured bird Welney July 7th.

Earliest arrival 4 Titchwell Oct 1st, followed by 4 east Sheringham, 4 at Happisburgh and 4 at Breydon 2nd - possibly all the same birds. Subsequently migrating flocks: Oct 32 west Cley/Blakeney Point, 46 east Southrepps/Paston and 19 west Winterton all 22nd; Nov 26 west Scolt Head 15th; Dec 11 west Old Catton 11th, 14 west Holme and 13 south-west Langham both 13th.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Winter visitor, mainly from Iceland, in internationally important numbers

Counts at Welney WWT:

Jan 7th	Feb 4th	Mar 4th	Apr 4th	Oct 24th	Nov 11th	Dec 9th
2339	2100	1035	118	1388	4232	2462

International importance (winter): 210

Numbers up in all months except April with the highest-ever monthly count in Nov. Latest in spring 2 east Sheringham May 6th; at Welney up to 11 birds summered.

Peak counts in Broads: Jan 204 Catfield 31st; Feb 155 St Benet's Level 3rd; Dec 7, Hickling Broad 8th.

Earliest report in autumn 2 Welney Sept 26th. Double-figure counts reported away from Fens/Broads in second winter period: Oct 32 south Snettisham 22nd; Nov 19 west Titchwell 15th, 11 west Brancaster Staithe and 25 south East Tuddenham 18th, 12 over Kelling Heath and 10 north Sea Palling 26th; Dec 20 on sea Titchwell 12th, 11 west Holme 13th. Comments have been made in previous Reports about the difficulty in separating Whooper and Bewick's Swans in flight, especially at a distance, and it is probable that some of above records, in fact, refer to Bewick Swans.

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

Taiga Bean Goose A (f) fabalis

Winter visitor to the Yare Valley

As usual almost all records from Yare Valley where numbers slightly below par, with 98 Jan 7th, 135 27th and 111 on 30th; most birds departed shortly thereafter with last Feb 2nd. In autumn first 55 Nov 5th, with 58 8th, 136 12th and up to 132 until end of year.

Only other records from Somerton Holmes where 2 Jan 20th, 4 24th and 14 on 27th.

Tundra Bean Goose A (f) rossicus

Small numbers increasingly recorded in winter

As usual close scrutiny of Pink-footed Goose flocks revealed small number of wintering birds, in north/north-west of county numbers poor with 2 Wells/Holkham area Jan 1st-4th, one, Burnham Norton 24th, 6 Snettisham Feb 18th and one March 25th. At least 14 present in Broads, including 9 Winterton Jan 19th, 3 Heigham Holmes 23rd, 14 Happisburgh 29th-Feb 2nd, 9 Walcott and 5 Brograve Levels Jan 30th, 4 Horsey Feb 3rd and 5 Heigham Holmes March 8th; 7 Haddiscoe Jan 28th and 2 Feb 5th-13th may have been different. Small flock again present at Welney where 6 from at least Jan 26th until Feb 17th.

Singles Hemsby April 16th and Earsham May 14th, with 3 at latter site June 9th, were probably escapes.

Very few in final two months of year with 3 Brancaster/Docking Nov 25th, 3 Welney Dec 16th, one Southery Fens 18th, 2 Brancaster Staithe 26th and one Docking 29th.

Pink-footed Goose
Winter visitor in internationally important numbers from Iceland and East Greenland

Anser brachyrhynchus

First winter period:

	<i>Jan 10th</i>	<i>Jan 22nd</i>	<i>Jan 29th</i>
Snettisham	5295	5480	14550
Holme	-	-	3000
Scolt Head	3350	1800	-
Holkham/Wells	39595	30000	20600
Horsey/Potter Heigham	3126	13325	15860
Berney	14400	5700	10100
Total	65766	56305	64110

Second winter period:

	<i>Oct 15th</i>	<i>Nov 12th</i>	<i>Dec 3rd</i>	<i>Dec 10th</i>	<i>Dec 18th</i>
Snettisham	5780	25150	22660	14730	47530
Holme/Thornham	-	810	260	112	40
Scolt Head	350	180	6430	3030	1690
Burnham Norton	-	10	-	-	-
Holkham/Wells	9500	41000	42464	57441	14410
Horsey/Potter Heigham	5140	4286	8710	5120	3695
Berney	3700	4920	6500	5630	10500
Total	24470	76356	87024	86063	77865

The highest count during Dec down by around 20,000 birds on previous two winters. Numbers using the Scolt Head roost on a regular basis once again declined with most birds roosting on the grazing marshes at Holkham rather than flying out to intertidal areas. Whilst numbers in north of county appeared to have declined, those in Broads and at Berney continue to increase with both areas recording record numbers, when in addition to counts in table 17,810 Berney Jan 15th.

Additional roost counts included 13,130 Berney Feb 1st, 11,860 Heigham Holmes 2nd, 5000 Snettisham 20th, 30,000 Holkham GM 30th, 7000 Hickling Stubb Mill Oct 12th, 50,000 Holkham GM 28th and 35,000 Scolt Head Nov 22nd.

Largest feeding flocks and counts away from main areas: Jan 15,000 Langham, 7370 Holme, 5000 Flitcham, 4000 Ken Hill GM, 3500 Acle, 2000 Lynn Point, 147 Welney, 50 Cantley Marshes; Feb 6000 Great Bircham; Oct 4000 Cantley Marshes; Nov 20,000 Heacham, 8720 Holme, 7500 Field Dalling, 10 Welney.

As usual most had left county by mid-Feb, after when highest counts 2500 Heigham Holmes March 5th, 2565 Snettisham 7th, 1077 Holkham GM 18th, 240 Holme April 1st, 670 Snettisham 5th, 26 Horsey Mere 7th, 500 Burnham Norton 15th and 350 on 26th, with last of spring 10 Holme May 18th.

Departing birds noted heading north-west out to sea from late Jan when 300 Scolt Head Jan 30th, 800 Overstrand Feb 9th and 700 March 7th, 250 Titchwell April 6th and a large flock just before midnight Scolt Head April 18th.

Only small numbers of feral/injured birds during summer months with singles Holme June-Aug, Flitcham July and Holkham GM Aug.

First returning birds of autumn 10 in off sea Scolt Head Sept 7th, followed by 10 east Brancaster and 5 over Choseley 9th, and 15 in off sea Scolt Head and 5 east Cley 10th. Birds

arrived in good numbers during rest of Sept when 1897 east Titchwell, 8875 in off sea Scolt Head and 10,016 Holkham GM 15th, 1879 in off sea Scolt Head 19th, with 13,000 into roost there 22nd, and 10,000 into roost Scolt Head, 30,000 Holkham GM, 5000 Blakeney Point and 2100 east Sheringham 30th. Birds much slower to arrive in Broads with first there 550 east Paston Sept 30th and 5140 Horsey Oct 8th, and first in Breydon area at around same time.

There was much inter-change between sites along north coast, Broads and Breydon/Berney area, resulting in some good counts of birds moving overhead, best of these 3750 east Mundesley Jan 13th, 800 east Salthouse and 1500 east Weybourne Oct 1st, 420 north-west Hanworth Commoh 5th, 1800 east Aylmerton 9th, 2720 west Strumpshaw 19th, 4500 east Paston 21st, 2500 east Paston and 1000 west Norwich Airport Nov 2nd, 400 north-west Frettenham 5th, 5000 north-west Reepham Dec 30th, 9500 east Northrepps, 12,000 east Paston and 1060 south-east Roughton 31st.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

European White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose) *A (a) albifrons*
Winter visitor and passage migrant from Siberian tundra
Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Holkham GM	160	200	224	35	183
Hickling/Heigham Holmes	400	570	566	42	306
Buckenham/Cantley	66	108	60	34	94

Elsewhere during first winter period 6 Pentney GP Jan 4th, 2 Snettisham 6th, 6 West Somerton 24th, 3 west Cromer GC 28th, 5 Horsey Feb 6th, 11 south Sea Palling 16th and 53 east out to sea Winterton March 28th. Last of spring 3 Holkham GM April 1st and 2 perhaps escape/feral birds Pentney GP 5th.

Escapes/feral birds between spring and early autumn Hickling Rush Hills April 22nd, Holkham GM Aug 5th, Holme Sept 15th and Cley with Greylags Oct 13th-15th.

First returning birds in autumn 3 Holkham GM Oct 14th, 4 Buckenham 20th, 9 Holkham GM 25th-29th with 12 there and 10 Chedgrave Marshes 30th. Also in Dec 2 Sheringham 10th, 2 Cley with Brent Geese 21st, 4 east Titchwell 22nd, 16 Blakeney GM 24th, 10 Breydon 26th. and 8 Welney 26th-29th.

A count of 306 at Heigham Holmes in Jan included 47 juvs (15.4%) in 27 family parties with an average brood size of 1.7 young.

Greenland White-fronted Goose *A (a) flavirostris*

Regular visitor in very small numbers from Western Greenland

Only records adult Brancaster Thompson Farms Jan 1st, Brancaster Nov 24th and Brancaster Staithe 26th.

Greylag Goose

Long-established and increasing feral population complicates identity of genuine wild arrivals

Anser anser

Highest counts at most regularly counted important sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	800	172	250	205	609	702	848	500	628	351	610	718
Holme	43	37	50	41	23	12	38	15	300	75	70	85
Titchwell	99	-	7	10	20	47	-	117	800	385	-	-
Holkham NNR	252	262	293	140	152	168	121	214	70	188	268	360
Holkham Park	140	122	71	26	27	-	52	36	24	32	8	-
Stiffkey Fen	401	-	-	24	196	7	-	478	806	505	423	267
Blakeney GM	41	3	51	80	40	74	-	-	2	-	-	-
Cley	137	116	245	187	174	-	121	420	148	67	23	436
Barton Broad	165	-	-	41	-	95	-	-	165	15	176	-
Ranworth Broad	113	115	-	-	-	164	-	-	82	-	128	-
Breydon/Berney	2	4	13	6	19	46	24	36	110	116	45	19
Marlingford Mere	43	120	-	4	4	280	136	38	390	70	100	-
Welney	66	-	33	27	-	-	-	-	-	70	316	323

Highest counts elsewhere: Jan 300 Fleggburgh Burgh Common, 250 Tottenhill GP, 240 Wroxham Broad, 143 How Hill Reedham Water; Feb 320 Potter Heigham, 160 How Hill Reedham Water; March 450 Potter Heigham; April 140 Hickling Broad; July 422 Hickling Broad; Aug 500 Buckenham Marshes, 445 Brograve Levels, 430 Hickling Broad, 252 Hardley Flood, 250 Martham Broad; Sept 1000 Buckenham Marshes, 650 Hickling Broad; Oct 730 Strumpshaw, 591 Pentney GP, 545 Swanton Morley GP; Nov 370 Strumpshaw, 292 Beechamwell, 280 St Benet’s Level, 250 Martham Broad, 200 Leziate Heath, 200 Potter Heigham; Dec 624 Heigham Holmes, 290 Bittering GP. Also up to 400 throughout year Sparham.

Broods/breeding pairs during breeding season: Blakeney GM (11), Blakeney Point (1), Cley (120 - 100 young fledged), Dersingham Bog NNR (10), Hickling Broad (24), Holkham NNR (36), Hoveton Park (1), mid-Yare RSPB (46), Morning Thorpe GP (1), Swanton Novers NNR (2), Westmere (1), Whitlingham CP (5-6); also nested Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Pentney Heath, Sparham and at several additional sites along Wensum Valley.

Presumed wild Icelandic birds with Pinkfeet Ringstead Jan 21st-Feb 11th and Burnham Norton Jan 24th.

Snow Goose

Feral/escaped birds in small numbers; probability of occasional genuine vagrants

Anser caerulescens

The two Lesser Snow Geese, an adult white morph and an adult intermediate morph, remained in county at start of year mixing with the hordes of Pinkfeet. The intermediate morph present in Langham/Morston area Jan 1st/2nd, moving to Holkham 3rd, Docking 10th and finally being seen at Terrington Marsh Jan 20th. The white morph was at Docking Jan 2nd, Holme 5th and finally Snettisham 6th. A presumed feral blue-phase bird present amongst Barnacle Geese Snettisham during March and April.

In second winter period an adult white morph Lesser Snow Goose arrived at Holkham GM on afternoon of Sept 15th having previously been tracked moving down east coast passed various East Yorks and Lincs watch points earlier in day. It remained in Holkham area until end of Sept before relocating to east of county for remainder of year, spending most time in

Berney/Halvergate Marshes area. A different, slightly larger, white morph Lesser arrived in Choseley/Docking area Dec 4th and was then at Wells 10th, Houghton/Amner 15th/16th and Wells/Holkham 25th/26th.

Greater Canada Goose
Introduced resident

Branta canadensis

Highest counts at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	25	25	30	33	64	161	188	102	15	19	145	90
Holme	15	5	19	17	23	33	16	19	4	155	17	12
Titchwell	36	10	18	13	16	201	155	86	-	4	4	-
Holkham NNR	103	-	61	65	54	41	-	62	61	17	72	-
Blakeney GM/Point	27	28	10	-	11	160	14	21	-	-	55	41
Cley	60	2	1	6	6	139	139	16	88	40	45	35
Breydon/Berney	2	4	13	6	19	46	24	36	110	116	45	19

Highest counts elsewhere; Feb 76 Buckenham Marshes; March 100 Potter Heigham; July 67 Nar Valley Fisheries, 81 Swanton Morley GP; Aug 171 Pentney GP, 66 Thornham; Sept 640 Wissington BF, 160 Buckenham; Nov 320 Algarsthorpe Floods, 185 Potter Heigham, 120 Cockley Cley; Dec 111 Bawburgh.

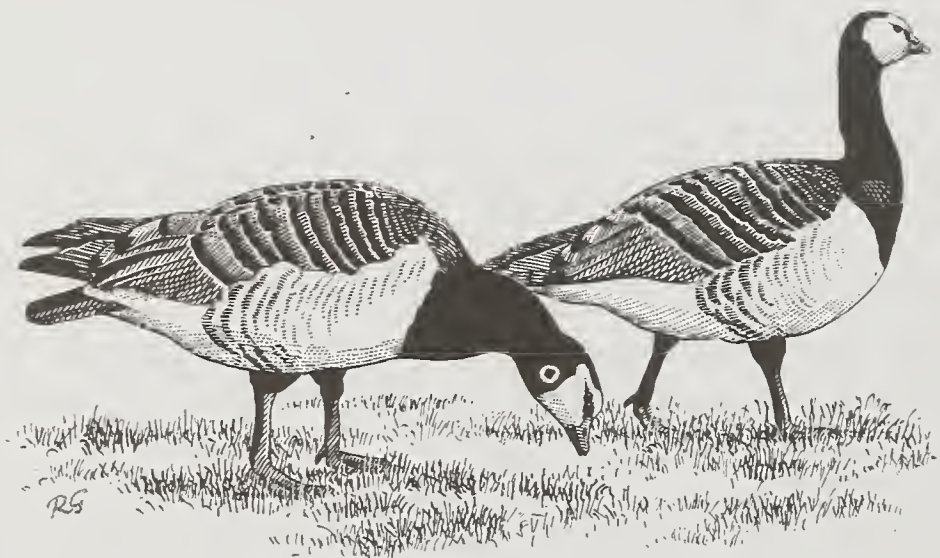
Traditional late May/early June coastal movements only recorded at Scolt Head with 15 west May 23rd, 18 west 30th, 13 on beach and 35 west June 12th, and 80 west 13th.

Breeding recorded at Blakeney GM (3 prs), Corpusty, Hickling Broad complex (18 prs), Holkham NNR (7 broods), Lopham Fen (3 prs), Lynford GP, Nar Valley Fisheries, mid-Yare RSPB (17 prs), Pentney GP and Shotesham.

Barnacle Goose
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers with feral/escaped birds often in large groups causing confusion

Branta leucopsis

As usual many records in both winter periods of 1-4 birds associating with Pinkfeet in both east and north-west of county. Quite how many individuals involved is virtually impossible to assess due to high mobility between feeding sites. Only two counts above 4 presumably relating to wild birds 10 Welney Oct 18th and 9 Horsey Dec 29th.



Barnacle Geese (Robert Gillmor)

Only two records of spring coastal migrants, both in May, 4 east Weybourne 15th and one west Scolt Head 19th.

Presumed feral birds present in county all year with regular flocks at Buckenham Marshes, where max monthly counts 58 Jan, 40 Feb, 47 Oct, 54 Nov and 52 Dec, and Shotesham where 70 Jan, 51 June, 40 Sept and 50 Oct. Elsewhere 68 Heigham Holmes Jan, 40 offshore Cley July 1st and 35 east Norwich Earlham Road Aug 30th.

Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B (b) bernicla*

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly peak counts at selected important sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington	983	2784	2440	275	352	6	266	2057
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	3500	2885	5000	1805	1200	500	600	2721
Snettisham	39	655	900	910	160	205	335	550
Holme/Thornham/Titchwell	401	430	470	300	90	196	426	750
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1130	1100	675	730	520	750	935	1500
Holkham GM Wells	1288	289	1000	198	443	491	350	825
Stiffkey/Cockthorpe/Langham	2500	1400	-	464	479	-	2500	2000
Blakeney GM/Hbr/Cley	1000	2750	1400	867	350	335	1942	1500

International importance (winter): 2000

For further counts in Wash and along north coast see WeBS tables

Most birds had departed by early June, leaving only a few summering individuals, the most favoured sites being Scolt Head and Blakeney Hbr; unusually 6 west Cley July 9th.

A few birds began returning mid-Sept with numbers gradually increasing thereafter. Highest counts of returning birds noted Oct 13th when 1246 west Cley, 1733 west Sheringham and 512 north 146 south Winterton.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B (b) hrota*

Scarce winter visitor

Very scarce during first winter period with 3 west Mundesley Jan 3rd, followed by singles Choseley 6th, Holme 8th, Titchwell 13th, Cley 15th and 18th, Eccles and Winterton 25th, Salthouse 27th-29th and Holme 30th. Only Feb record one Cley/Salthouse all month remaining until March 3rd followed by others Wells and Warham March 22nd, Snettisham 31st and April 5th, Titchwell (2) 13th, Ousemouth 14th and Snettisham May 2nd.

First record in second winter period juv Burnham Overy GM on very early date of Sept 12th. Thereafter 1-2 at Blakeney Point, Breydon, Burnham Overy Staithe, Cley, Cockthorpe, Eccles, Holme, Rollesby, Sheringham, Stiffkey, Terrington, Warham Greens, Wells, Weybourne and Winterton.

Black Brant *B (b) nigricans*

An almost annual vagrant from Arctic Siberia

During first winter period recorded as follows: Jan 2 Titchwell area all month, one Holkham all month with a different bird there 2nd, Cley 9th, Morston 10th, Cockthorpe/Langham 21st and 27th-29th (with hybrid also present 27th); Feb 2 Titchwell all month and singles Cley 4th and 8th, Morston 8th and 15th, Holkham 10th, Wells 16th with 2 on 19th; March 2 Titchwell (until 10th), 2 Wells 12th-22nd, one Stiffkey 21st; April singles Snettisham and Stiffkey 2nd, Holme

10th, Ousemouth 14th, Stiffkey 23rd; May Blakeney Point 1st and 13th-15th. From analysis of above data it would appear that at least 4-5 birds present in county at this time.

In second winter period: Oct 2 Wells 6th with one 10th, 2 11th and singles 14th and 18th, Blakeney Hbr 21st, Burnham Deepdale 25th, Wells Hbr 26th, Burnham Overy GM 28th; Nov Burnham Overy 2nd, north Winterton 6th, Wells 7th, Morston 9th, Warham Greens 14th, 3 Titchwell 17th, one Cockthorpe 23rd with 3 there 26th, Snettisham 27th; Dec singles Titchwell and Wells all month with additional singles Wells 17th/18th and 23rd, Field Dalling 20th/21st, 2 Holkham and one Stiffkey/Blakeney Hbr 21st, Holkham 26th, Morston 27th. As in first winter period at least 4-5 individuals present in county during last 3 months of year.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Vagrant from Siberia

Two adults, last seen in Lincs late Jan, appeared Warham Greens March 10th, then Wells 11th-21st, Lynn Point 25th-28th and finally Snettisham 30th-April 4th (many obs).



Red-breasted Geese (Gary Wright)

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Long-established resident feral population

Highest counts: Jan 53 Pentney GP, 43 Alderby Tip; Feb 29 Holkham Bay, 21 Nar Valley Fisheries; March 37 Holkham Park Lake; April 34 Holkham Park Lake; June 40 Horning, 34 Swanton Morley GP; July 43 Holkham Park Lake, 36 Nar Valley Fisheries, 32 Sparham Pools, 24 Cley, 23 Salhouse; Aug 136 Pentney GP; Sept 138 Pentney GP, 105 Buckenham Marshes; Oct 134 Berney (site record); Nov 68 Horning Upper Street; Dec 54 Leziate Fen.

Small-scale coastal movement recorded during year as follows: south Caister Jan 6th, at Winterton (all north) April 15th, 3 16th, 3 23rd and one May 10th, 2 east Mundesley Aug 12th, 16 east Kelling WM (inc partial albino) Oct 5th and 13 west Paston Oct 31st.

Breeding records from Ashmanhaugh, Bayfield Hall, Bintree, Buckenham Tofts, Cley, Earsham GP, Felbrigg Park, Fleggburgh, Gayton Thorpe, Haddiscoe Island, Hickling Broad (5 prs), Holkham NNR (6 broods), Holme, Hoveton, Ingoldisthorpe, Irstead, Langmere (Wretham), Lopham Fen, Martham, mid-Yare RSPB (9 prs), Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Potter Heigham, Salhouse, Sparham, Stanford TA (9 prs), Swanton Morley GP, Wensum Valley ('many pairs'), Whitlingham CP and Wisington BF.

Shelduck
Widespread but declining breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor
Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

Tadorna tadorna

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington	1220	667	362	206	156	-	976	660	1252	2007	-	1063
Ousemouth	329	398	415	270	905	1939	3156	-	1842	1247	20	66
North Wootton	106	-	250	-	410	150	500	400	60	-	-	-
Snettisham	482	1348	272	219	163	275	918	94	659	1109	632	1697
Titchwell	67	-	89	49	41	54	2	12	29	20	78	28
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	290	360	190	150	73	90	77	28	16	84	168	202
Holkham NNR	107	71	138	169	143	27	-	7	4	25	32	13
Blakeney Hbr	447	358	155	219	117	66	11	11	9	64	156	31
Cley	173	65	66	99	98	92	56	33	71	105	44	98
Breydon/Berney	65	144	197	173	297	396	137	261	219	140	42	153

International importance (winter): 3000; National importance (winter): 782

Note good numbers present in Wash during June and July when few elsewhere, presumably these counts refer to moulting birds using a tradition moult site.

Few notable counts elsewhere: Jan 196 Hardley Flood, 74 Stiffkey SM, 106 Warham SM; March 80 Blakeney GM, 100 Welney; April 100 Welney; Nov 159 Holme, 62 Warham SM.

Spring movements at Winterton totalled 56 south 39 north Feb 26th-May 25th.

Breeding records (single broods unless otherwise stated): Beechamwell Cockleycley Wood, Blakeney Point (25 prs -15 young), Breydon (crèche of 21 young), Cantley BF (2), Cley (crèche of 17 young), Earsham GP, Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR (6 broods), Langmere (2 broods), Scolt Head (30+ prs - several broods), Sparham Pools, West Walton, Whitlingham CP.

Regular easterly midsummer departure to traditional moulting grounds off Heligoland noted from June 17th onwards. All observations from Scolt Head where peak counts 76 June 17th, 152 27th, 36 28th, 46 30th, 35 July 13th and 30 24th.

Westerly movement of returning birds from Aug 19th; peak counts: 50 Holme, 116 Scolt Head and 40 north Winterton Aug 20th, 73 Holme 21st, 45 Scolt Head 22nd and 38 there 23rd, 224 Scolt Head, 35 Weybourne (single flock) and 56 north Winterton 24th, 51 Holme 29th, 211 Holme and 283 Scolt Head Sept 27th, 107 Scolt Head 28th, 46 Cley, 109 Sheringham and 134 north Winterton Nov 10th, 253 Weybourne, 320 Sheringham, 542 north Winterton and 119 north Hopton 11th, 81 Holme and 42 Cromer 12th, 178 Sheringham, 65 Beeston Bump and 204 north Winterton 14th, and late movement 122 north Winterton Dec 10th.

Leucistic bird Buckenham Marshes June 22nd presumably that noted Breydon in previous two summers.

Mandarin Duck
Small population derived from introductions and escapes
Regularly recorded only at Felbrigg Park where peak monthly counts:

Aix galericulata

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Felbrigg Park Lake	11	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	4

Elsewhere only records South Creake Feb 6th, Strumpshaw Feb 19th and 21st, Thompson Common March 3rd, 3 Aylmerton village pond March 20th with female present all summer and subsequently drake Oct 27th, Rollesby Reservoir June 27th, Southrepps/Trimingham Aug

11th, Cantley BF Aug 23rd, Marlingford Mere Oct 14th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Nov 26th-Dec 31st, South Creake Nov 28th, 5 Sustead Dec 1st and Stalham Staithe Dec 22nd into 2008. Note proximity of Aylmerton and Sustead to Felbrigg Park.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers; a few over-summer and have bred

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

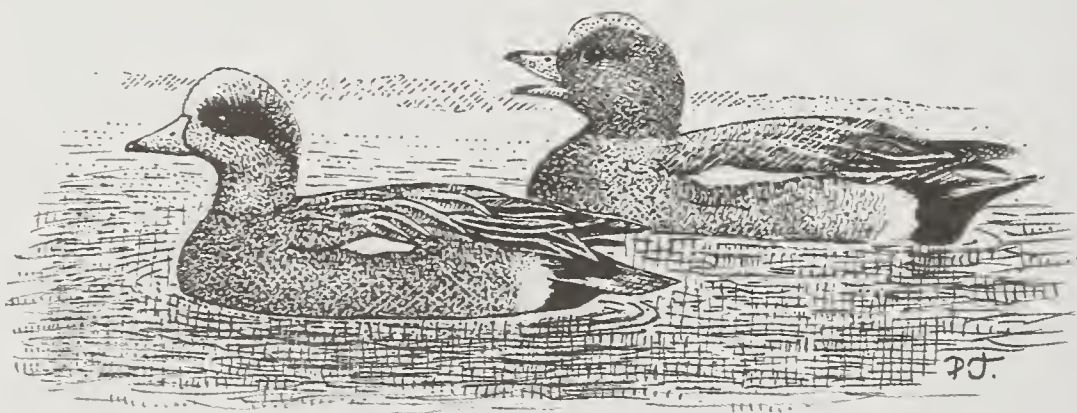
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ousemouth	1445	705	-	-	-	93	190	767
Snettisham	1890	1150	200	2	73	661	750	1611
Holme	750	1000	1012	200	137	570	998	1400
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	640	410	22	4	2750	2550	4200	904
Holkham NNR	8518	6760	5358	97	288	2193	2235	6970
Stiffkey Fen	444	-	-	-	17	411	346	177
Blakeney Hbr/GM	1125	1470	88	-	209	685	1973	1536
Cley	1197	716	247	3	225	2050	611	275
Salthouse	632	465	63	-	29	314	357	438
Breydon/Berney	15100	18184	8120	42	89	2760	13300	14610
Ranworth Broad	1962	1123	110	-	-	57	338	1206
Cantley/Buckenham	2500	3434	-	1350	-	1899	1500	4000
Welney	15159	7199	4639	1746	200	2404	3508	4350

International importance (winter): 15,000; National importance (winter): 4060

Only significant counts elsewhere: Jan 2000 Horsey Mere, 1030 Ken Hill Marsh; Feb 350 Algarsthorpe Floods, 320 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 1180 Ken Hill Marsh; March 1355 Ken Hill Marsh; Dec 310 Pentney GP, 700 Postwick Marshes, 395 Titchwell.

Usual rapid spring departure during April with small numbers lingering into May. Only visible movement 6 west Scolt Head April 5th. As usual small numbers over-summered at various wetlands with June records (max): Cley (3), Holkham NNR (12), How Hill Reedham Water, Nar Valley Fisheries, Snettisham (4) and Titchwell (4). No indications of breeding.

Returning birds from early July through until early Dec, although apart from large movements late Sept and mid-Nov, visible passage generally poor. Peak counts (west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): 183 Scolt Head Sept 11th and 225 there 12th, 198 Holme 19th, 843 Holme, 1246 Scolt Head, 600 Sheringham, 348 Cromer,



American and Eurasian Wigeon (Phil Jones)

350 Overstrand, 441 Mundesley and 465 Walcott all 27th, 376 Scolt Head 28th, 102 north 24 south Winterton Oct 13th, 101 Sheringham 19th, 84 north 48 south Winterton 22nd, 367 Sheringham and 612 north 26 south Winterton Nov 14th, 179 north 165 south Winterton 15th and 214 Winterton Dec 10th.

Leucistic female Pentney GP Feb 7th.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*
Vagrant from North America
A 1st-winter drake lingered Buckenham Marshes Feb 12th-April 23rd (AJM *et al*).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*
Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
Peak monthly counts at principal localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	80	99	18	12	13	12	7	12	14	16	4	51
Holme	55	78	21	29	22	24	2	6	25	20	54	1
Titchwell	19	27	22	29	13	19	23	210	78	29	23	32
Holkham NNR	63	22	88	64	77	67	-	40	25	37	4	21
Cley	43	24	27	34	47	123	2	68	80	56	3	22
Hickling/Heigham	-	10	73	30	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	102	88	116	88	29	15	5	14	5	1	19	20
Whitlingham CP	74	3	1	7	3	-	-	-	20	8	24	49
How Hill NNR	54	-	4	36	4	54	-	65	20	72	98	128
Ranworth Broad	49	23	-	5	-	-	-	-	38	20	45	15
Welney	13	29	38	42	130	75	40	170	250	35	155	98

International importance (winter): 600; National importance (winter): 171

Best counts elsewhere: Jan 58 Alderfen Broad, 55 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 48 Nar Valley Fisheries; Feb 82 East Ruston Mown Fen, 76 Heigham Holmes, 116 Horsey Mere; April 55 Buckenham Marshes, 40 Strumpshaw; Aug 65 How Hill Reedham Water; Oct 37 Marlingford Mere, 60 Martham Broad, 100 Stanford Water, 105 Strumpshaw; Nov 57 Stanford Water, 107 Strumpshaw; Dec 104 Horsey Mere, 87 Postwick Marshes, 138 Rollesby Broad. Few counts received from Brecks.

Winter movements 2 north Winterton Jan 18th with further 2 north there March 17th. Further northerly spring movements all from Winterton where 2 April 14th, 6 on 21st, 2 May 8th and 3 on 10th.

Only records of successful breeding: Cantley BF (3 broods), East Wretham Ringmere (brood), Holkham NNR (10 broods), How Hill Reedham Water (brood), Stiffkey Fen (brood), Swanton Morley GP (brood), Whitlingham CP (4 broods). Varying numbers also present over summer and may have bred at following additional localities: Blakeney GM, Cley, Dersingham Bog, Hickling Broad, mid-Yare RSPB, Morning Thorpe GP, Nar Valley Fisheries, Scolt Head, Titchwell and Welney.

Usual small-scale late summer/autumn movements, mostly along east coast, with all records given: apart from 8 south Gorleston July 1st and 3 south Hopton Aug 12th majority of records from Winterton where singles south July 21st, north Aug 20th and 24th, 2 north Oct 13th, 2 north 14th, 8 north 22nd, 2 south Nov 2nd, 2 north 4th, 4 north 11th, 5 south 4 north 14th and 2 north 2 south 19th; on north coast 2 west Sheringham Nov 4th and 5 west there 12th.

Teal

Anas crecca

Passage migrant and abundant winter visitor; breeds in small numbers

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	411	600	40	-	2	525	993	950	1526
Holme	192	109	38	20	76	100	88	102	188
Titchwell	224	70	95	28	290	223	402	427	311
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	365	300	84	4	125	450	182	278	367
Holkham NNR	896	399	507	141	211	116	435	636	723
Blakeney Hbr/GM	215	227	77	5	16	163	162	215	357
Cley	858	391	125	22	526	1307	841	238	449
Salthouse	164	183	173	4	1	86	135	157	199
Breydon/Berney	3620	3321	2349	798	102	125	750	940	1410
Hickling Broad	-	620	800	300	733	620	-	2250	1200
How Hill NNR	320	240	15	12	10	80	455	30	445
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	228	171	152	84	-	289	662	340	800
Welney	648	973	407	502	75	400	993	462	970

International importance (winter): 5000; National importance (winter): 1920

Notable counts at other sites: Jan 3000 Horsey Mere, 719 Stiffkey Fen, 150 Tottenhill GP; Feb 500 Buckenham Marshes, 600 Heigham Holmes (extensive shallow flooding), 400 Horsey Mere, 500 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 148 Marlingford Mere; March 250 Heigham Holmes; Aug 200 Cantley BF; Sept 1000 Cantley BF, 150 Hardley Flood, 228 Strumpshaw; Oct 391 Stiffkey Fen, 465 Strumpshaw, 300 Wissington BF; Nov 680 Horsey Mere, 200 Potter Heigham Marshes, 200 Rollesby Broad, 552 Stiffkey Fen, 729 Strumpshaw; Dec 1260 Horsey Mere, 370 Postwick Marshes, 189 Stiffkey Fen.

As usual small numbers summered at various wetlands around county. Confirmed breeding at Burnham Overy (nest with 8 eggs), Holkham (brood) and South Pickenham (brood).

Steady build-up of birds on wetlands from mid-June with first visible passage 20 west Scolt Head 17th. Visible migration most notable late Aug to end Sept with peak counts (west unless otherwise stated): 193 Titchwell and 120 Scolt Head Aug 9th, 127 Holme, 572 Scolt Head and 133 Blakeney Point 20th, 535 Holme, 1040 Scolt Head, 328 Sheringham, 342 Cromer and 117 north Eccles 21st, 125 Scolt Head 22nd, 205 Mundesley and 319 north 10 south Winterton 31st, 184 Scolt Head Sept 4th, 653 Sheringham, 475 Mundesley and 461 north Winterton 5th, 123 Scolt Head 24th, 147 Scolt Head, 150 Blakeney Point and 192 Sheringham 26th, 280 Holme, 419 Scolt Head, 450 Sheringham, 257 Cromer, 335 Overstrand, 320 Mundesley and 235 Walcott all 27th.

Pale sandy-coloured leucistic bird How Hill Reedham Water Aug 23rd-Oct 17th.

Green-winged Teal

Anas c carolinensis

Vagrant from north America

Spring drake Titchwell March 16th-April 2nd. At year end drake returned for its sixth winter Hickling Rush Hills Nov 28th-Dec 8th. This bird could well be present much earlier each autumn, but is only being detected once it moults out of eclipse.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Widespread but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington	111	100	43	21	2	13	171	-	124
Ousemouth	45	144	34	23	-	-	199	100	110
Snettisham	637	413	225	133	587	330	358	579	887
Holme	63	91	17	10	59	100	59	93	118
Titchwell	110	49	80	37	113	78	23	64	65
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	271	238	55	48	62	198	90	146	159
Holkham NNR	396	369	485	230	206	346	325	459	416
Blakeney GM/Hbr	158	104	58	39	34	16	47	112	142
Cley	189	83	44	51	92	174	146	109	86
Breydon/Berney	229	145	64	47	*1234	872	173	253	208
Barton Broad	-	69	53	64	-	85	122	70	97
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	253	124	57	59	-	155	294	180	144
Whitlingham CP	69	62	35	33	-	102	74	138	85
Welney	879	814	252	134	-	-	472	528	510

International importance (winter): 3520

*Site record

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 285 Hardley Flood, 96 Holkham Park Lake, 140 Horsey Mere, 441 King’s Lynn Gaywood, 100 Stanford Water, 210 Strumpshaw; May 301 Holkham NNR, 116 Snettisham; June 307 Holkham NNR, 526 mid-Yare RSPB, 100 Rollesby Broad, 211 Snettisham; July 100 Cantley BF, 110 Ranworth Broad, 100 Stanford Water, 147 Whitlingham CP; Aug 120 Barton Broad, 400 Bittering GP, 250 Cantley BF, 300 Ormesby Little Broad, 133 Ranworth Broad, 109 Wells Hbr; Sept 175 Strumpshaw; Oct 100 Martham Broad, 110 Stanford Water; Nov 165 Horsey Mere, 145 Martham Broad, 179 Nar Valley Fisheries, 90 Potter Heigham Marshes, 158 Wells Hbr; Dec 266 Hickling Broad, 369 Horsey Mere, 104 Wells Hbr, 120 Wissington BF.

Only confirmed breeding counts from Hickling Broad (8 broods - 43 young), Holkham NNR (95 broods) and Scolt Head (13 prs), although varying numbers present and obviously breeding at many other wetland sites. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 324 individuals of this species were recorded in 54 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 74% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 30% between 2006 and 2007.

Usual limited visible migration in autumn (west unless otherwise stated): 14 Scolt Head Sept 22nd and 11 there 26th, 3 Walcott 27th, 28 Sheringham Oct 19th, 10 north 7 south Winterton 22nd, impressive 179 Sheringham and 13 Walcott Nov 4th, 14 Kelling, 16 Sheringham and 10 north Winterton all 10th, then 15 north Winterton 25th.

Passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred

Peak monthly counts at regular localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington	281	285	-	2	1	-	190
Ousemouth	130	556	-	-	-	11	170
Snettisham	700	10	-	77	2	1001	200
Titchwell	210	50	23	28	206	3	287
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	235	255	4	95	175	270	270
Holkham NNR	19	65	24	5	-	50	31
Stiffkey	64	126	-	28	46	-	18
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	500	351	14	69	109	145	107
Breydon/Berney	209	148	94	48	49	93	111
Hardley Flood	84	56	-	37	-	-	280
Tottenham GP	-	-	-	-	600	70	67
Welney	482	686	310	-	120	171	95

International importance (winter): 600; National importance (winter): 279

Most birds at Hardley Flood in Dec released leucistic drakes, many bearing yellow rings.

Usual small scatter of records elsewhere: Jan 16 Castle Acre, 5 Horsey Mere, 20 North Wootton, 8 Wretton Fen; Feb 4 Heigham Holmes; March 3 Heigham Holmes, 3 Holme; April 2 Buckenham Marshes, one Bodney WM, one Horsey; Oct 3 Holme.

Winter movement 5 west Holme Jan 13th. Usual rapid nocturnal departure early March with only double-figure count in April 19 Welney on 2nd. Summering records of principally drakes May/June from Blakeney GM (3), Cley, Holkham NNR, Snettisham and Welney (2). No evidence of breeding and no July records.

First returning bird of autumn Breydon Aug 7th followed by regular visible movements around coast Aug 18th until Oct 3rd, with double-figure counts (birds moving west along north coast and north along east coast): 12 Winterton Aug 24th (incl 2 leucistic birds), 27 Holme, 145 Scolt Head, 20 Eccles and 14 Winterton Sept 10th, 20 Holme, 39 Scolt Head, 64 Mundesley, 71 Eccles and 21 Winterton all 11th, 38 Scolt Head 15th, 61 Scolt Head and 18 Sheringham 26th, 57 Holme, 104 Scolt Head, 34 Sheringham, 29 Cromer and 30 Walcott all 27th, 35 east Walcott and 33 Gorleston 28th, then 27 Winterton Oct 3rd. Subsequent small movement noted Walcott where single Nov 4th, 3 on 12th and 2 14th.

Winter movement 24 north Winterton Dec 10th.

Very scarce breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant

First spring arrivals 2 Heigham Holmes March 8th followed by Horsey Cringle Hill 10th-30th, Haddiscoe Island 14th, Horsey Mere 15th and 2 Lopham Fen 27th.

Recorded April/May at 17 localities (with highest counts): Berney Marshes, Blakeney GM, Buckenham Marshes (3), Cantley Marshes (2), Cley (2), Haddiscoe (2), Hickling Broad (3), Hockwold Washes (7), Holkham NNR (2), Holme (3), Lopham Fen, North Wootton, Snettisham, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Titchwell (2) and Welney (4).

Visible movements: drake in off sea then south inland Scolt Head May 9th and pair north Winterton 13th.

Records from just 6 localities in June. Successful breeding at Hockwold Washes (2 juvs reared) with additional unsuccessful pairs Blakeney GM and Welney. Otherwise 3 Cley,

female Earsham GP and pair Pensthorpe, but no indication of breeding. Only one July record, Colney GP 21st.

Typical scatter of autumn records, chiefly 1-3 birds, from Berney, Breydon, Buckenham Marshes, Burnham Norton, Cantley BF, Cley, Holme, Pentney GP, Stiffkey Fen, Stiffkey WM and Titchwell, with last Welney Oct 14th. Coastal migrant north Eccles then west Mundesley Aug 21st. Late record Strumpshaw Nov 3rd with possibly same on R Yare at Buckenham Dec 22nd when appeared to have damaged wing.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	52	37	70	32	8	18	23	20	23
Titchwell	85	77	60	29	142	103	77	56	120
Holkham NNR	132	93	133	109	60	12	10	51	23
Cley	74	83	34	21	35	67	38	27	18
Breydon/Berney	658	538	*768	49	4	5	122	230	246
Cantley BF	-	-	-	-	225	150	-	49	50
Ranworth Broad	84	43	-	-	-	-	-	113	54
Welney	232	140	-	203	-	-	173	243	124

National importance (winter): 148

*Record count for reserve

Notable counts at other sites: Jan 50 Filby Broad, 114 Holkham Park Lake, 45 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 42 Strumpshaw; Feb 42 Blakeney GM, 274 Filby Broad, 145 Heigham Holmes, 44 Holkham Bay, 55 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 40 Tottenhill GP; March 53 Blakeney GM, 240 Heigham Holmes, 45 Hickling Rush Hills, 97 Holkham Park Lake; April 40 Buckenham Marshes; May 57 Holkham NNR; June 47 Holkham NNR, 138 mid-Yare RSPB, 46 Titchwell; Oct 91 Marlingford Mere, 264 Strumpshaw; Dec 40 Earsham GP, 138 Hickling Swim Coots.

Winter movement 6 south Gorleston Jan 28th. Small visible spring passage with 10 north Winterton March 18th and 3 west Scolt Head April 5th.

Birds present at many wetland sites over summer but only confirmed breeding records of broods: Bayfield Natural Surroundings, Cantley BF (2), Holkham NNR (2) and How Hill Reedham Water.

Autumn passage from July 17th when 11 east Scolt Head. This followed by unusually high number of observations through until Nov 14th, with all records given (west along north coast and north along east coast): 10 Winterton July 21st, 2 Scolt Head Aug 3rd, 13 7th and 15 there 19th, 5 Sheringham 17th, 5 Holme and 11 Scolt Head 20th, 5 Scolt Head and 3 Sheringham 21st, 12 Scolt Head 24th, 8 Sept 12th, 3 15th, 3 21st, 6 23rd, 12 24th and 19 on 27th, 10 south Winterton Oct 22nd, 5 Sheringham and 12 Walcott Nov 4th, 5 Sheringham and 12 Winterton 14th.

Leucistic bird Wissington BF during Feb.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

An escape, but with possibility of genuine vagrants from the Continent

In first winter period (single females unless stated): Jan Alderfen Broad 5th, Wroxham Broad 7th, 11th, 16th and 21st, Cley male 12th/13th, Hoveton Hall 12th, Breydon 15th; March Hickling Broad 15th, separate male and female Hickling Broad 26th; April 2 Titchwell 8th-10th, pair Morning Thorpe GP 29th (see below).

Summer records: May pair Morning Thorpe GP 3rd (female only 18th), female Guist Common 12th, pair Holme 19th/20th (female until June 11th); July female Titchwell 1st-22nd; Aug Cantley BF 21st-26th.

In second winter period: Sept juv Pentney GP 5th-Oct 20th, eclipse male Hardley Flood 9th and 19th-21st, male Cley 12th, pair Haddiscoe Island 23rd, female Hardley Marshes 24th; Oct female Titchwell 21st until Dec 24th at least, Welney 22nd; Nov female Waveney Valley Lakes 19th; Dec 2 males one female Hardley Flood 18th, male 2 females Horsey Mere also 18th, Welney 26th-29th.

In Suffolk 120 birds released at Flixton GP for shooting in Aug 2005 (re Suffolk Bird Report), many of which were leucistic. Leucistic birds reported from Morning Thorpe GP (male) April 29th and Horsey Mere (female) Dec 18th.

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*
Summer breeder in small numbers, common passage migrant and winter visitor
Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	24	24	8	-	2	2	9	24
Holme	13	20	30	19	4	28	9	10
Titchwell	30	64	28	8	-	6	-	22
Ranworth Broad	-	43	57	6	-	-	95	-
Pentney GP	-	23	-	-	-	-	48	99
Welney	1091	1407	458	-	-	264	613	710

National importance (winter): 595

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 50 Whitlingham CP 3rd, 179 Wroxham Broad 13th, 110 Hardley Flood 20th, 110 Ormesby Broad 21st; Feb 315 Cantley BF 24th, 100 Rollesby/Ormesby Broads 28th; March 345 Cantley BF 10th; Sept 84 Nar Valley Fisheries 16th; Oct 125 Martham Broad 17th; Nov 95 Ranworth Broad 25th; Dec 53 Rollesby Broad 15th, 99 Pentney GP and 69 Whitlingham CP 16th, 67 Martham Broad 28th, 65 Swanton Morley GP 30th.

Records of 71 pairs/broods in breeding season: Berney 3, Blakeney GM, Buckenham 3, Cantley BF 6, Cley, Fowl Mere, Haddiscoe Island, Hickling Broad 2, Holkham NNR 7, How Hill Reedham Water, mid-Yare RSPB 39, Stanford Water 5, Titchwell.

Coastal movements: May 2 west Mundesley 3rd; Aug 3 west Scolt Head, 4 west Cley and 3 north Winterton 21st, one west Holme 25th; Sept 5 west Scolt Head 12th, with one west there 24th and 7 west 27th; Oct 9 south 4 north Winterton 22nd; Nov one west Cley 5th, 5 west Stiffkey 24th; Dec 5 south Winterton 15th.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Rare visitor from the Continent, or escape from captivity

A drake Cantley BF Sept 19th (AJS *et al*) with presumed same Strumpshaw also 19th, Horning and How Hill Crome's Broad Oct 12th and Martham Broad Oct 13th. In view of the release of numerous surface water and diving ducks in both south Norfolk and north Suffolk the provenance of these birds is open to question.

Ringed males (therefore presumed escapes) Earsham GP 2 Sept 13th, one 14th and 2 Dec 14th, and Whitlingham CP Nov 14th.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	81	64	75	82	36	46	35	66
Holme	32	34	22	26	7	40	100	30
Holkham NNR	18	15	28	39	12	15	4	-
Ranworth Broad	-	70	-	21	46	12	65	-
Whitlingham CP	112	84	94	66	2	42	58	91
Welney	250	413	214	142	-	60	206	281
Marlingford Mere	26	51	29	32	71	17	36	-

National importance (winter): 901

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 218 Wroxham Broad, 190 Ormesby Broad, 130 Tottenhill GP; Feb 138 Pentney GP; Apr 100 Swanton Morley GP; Sept 188 Nar Valley Fisheries; Dec 112 Martham Broad, 104 Barton and Rollesby Broad.

Breeding records (broods/pairs): Bayfield Hall, Berney 2, Blakeney GM 10, Cley 8, Cockshoot Broad, Corpusty 3, Earsham GP, Haddiscoe Island 2, Hickling Broad 4, Holkham NNR 17, Horning, How Hill Reedham Water 4, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, Martham Ferry, mid-Yare RSPB 33, Morning Thorpe GP 2, Nar Valley Fisheries, St Benet’s Level, South Pickenham, Stanford TA, Swanton Morley GP 2, Titchwell, Welney 12. Whitlingham CP.

Notable coastal movements: 6 west Scolt Head May 17th, Aug 20th and 21st with 11 west there Sept 12th, 6 north Winterton July 7th and 20 north there Oct 5th-Nov 19th, 10 west Cley Oct 22nd, 12 south Hopton and Scratby Nov 3rd.

Scaup (Greater Scaup)

Aythya marila

Winter visitor in varying numbers; scarce inland; occasional in summer

During first winter period regular at Welney where 1-2 Jan 1st-early March; also at Snettisham where 1-4 early Jan-end April and Holme where 1-8 Jan 18th to mid-March. Elsewhere: Jan Cley 3rd, Holkham Park Lake 6th, 3 Heacham 8th, Breydon 14th, Blakeney Hbr 27th, Filby Broad 30th; Feb Filby Broad 9th, Blakeney Hbr 17th, 2 Cley 23rd, Winterton 27th; March Eccles, 2 Hickling Broad and 2 north Winterton all 20th; April Sparham Pools 7th, Holkham 17th.

Summer records: west Sheringham May 6th, Burnham Overy June 9th, Titchwell June 27th, Cantley BF July 11th/12th, Snettisham 17th and 2 Colney GP 20th.

Autumn coastal movements (all anti-clockwise around coast unless stated otherwise): Aug 2 Scolt Head, one Cley and 3 Mundesley 20th, 2 Paston 22nd, Holme 24th; Sept Holme 9th, Winterton 10th, 2 Holme 11th, Overstrand and Sheringham 18th, 2 Scolt Head 26th, Cromer and Scolt Head 27th; Oct 2 Scolt Head 14th; Nov Holme 4th, Kelling 6th, 6 Sheringham 11th, 3 Winterton 12th, 7 Winterton 15th; Dec south Winterton 15th.

In second winter period: Oct Wissington BF 1st, 4 Cley 6th, 2 Felbrigg Park 27th/28th; Dec 2 Snettisham all month, 6 Hunstanton 9th and Heacham 16th, with singles Martham Broad, Nar Valley Fisheries, Swanton Morley GP and Welney.

Eider (Common Eider)

Somateria mollissima

Non-breeders throughout year, highest totals usually in winter and early spring

Max counts at regularly visited sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	15	43	66	8	11	26	13	20	18	10	43	32
Titchwell	9	32	3	4	26	28	14	14	24	13	183	38
Blakeney Hbr/Point	4	2	-	6	5	4	5	8	6	-	-	4
Cley	3	80	110	-	5	3	9	8	-	-	-	30

National importance (winter): 730

Elsewhere: 35 Wash Outer Trial Bank Feb 26th, 22 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr April 16th, 27 Sea Palling Sept 19th, 22 Scolt Head Sept 22nd, 20 Hopton Nov 25th.

Coastal movements in first half of year included: Feb 18 east Salthouse and 16 east Overstrand 18th, 32 west Titchwell 20th; March 66 east Holme 7th; May 2 north Winterton 13th; June east Mundesley 5th, 5 north Winterton 16th and 2 north there 25th.

Notable movements occurred in last two months of year when: Nov 14th 462 north Winterton, 340 north Eccles, 330 west Sheringham in 5 hrs 30 mins, 244 Cley, 183 west Titchwell; Dec 10th 65 north Caister, 312 north Winterton, 339 north Eccles in 6 hrs 30 mins, 327 west Mundesley, 288 west Sheringham; Dec 11th 221 north Winterton, 95 west Beeston Bump in 4 hrs 30 mins.

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Winter visitor chiefly to north-west Norfolk coastal waters; occasional inland

In first winter period mainly at Holme with monthly max Jan 50, Feb 34, March 2, April 2. Also 7-14 Hunstanton Jan/Feb with 1-2 occasionally elsewhere along north coast; on east coast singles Gorleston March 6th and Hopton March 24th. Latest 2 Holme April 11th.

In second winter period earliest one inland at Cantley BF Oct 10th followed by singles at Kelling 12th, Blakeney Point/Cley 13th and Hopton 14th. At Holme numbers built up from one Oct 24th to 15 in Nov and 45 in Dec. At Titchwell 2 Oct 27th increased to 10 by Dec 26th. Elsewhere 1-5 along north coast with northerly and westerly movements of 1-2 early Nov. Also another inland (same as Cantley bird?) Berney Nov 8th-Dec 16th.



Long-tailed Duck (John Geeson)



Goosander - bred for the first time in the county. (*J. H. Marchant*)

American Wigeon - this drake wintered at Buckenham Marshes. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Grey Partridge - a pair at Choseley. (*Bob Cobbold*)





Great Crested Grebes - a common sight on the Broads. (*Bob Cobbold*)

Purple Heron - this superb adult was present briefly at Kelling Water Meadows. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Little Bittern - a booming male was at Titchwell in June. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Pheasants - two males in territorial dispute. (*Chris Knights*)

Kestrel and Barn Owl - brilliantly photographed, sparring over a vole. (*Brian Macfarlane*)





Golden Plover - a common sight in the county. (*Murray Smith*)

Sanderling - an obliging bird in the winter. (*Glyn Herrieven*)



Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

Winter visitor in varying numbers, passage migrant, non-breeders over-summer

Max monthly counts at principal Wash/north coast sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Heacham/Hunstanton	-	-	630	2500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holme	1000	1000	139	141	1021	1400	1250	119	1990	600	676	1230
Titchwell/Brancaster	217	78	165	130	2300	1948	1969	95	419	60	540	304
Scolt Head	-	-	-	1400	1400	1400	1400	232	653	400	400	-
Holkham Bay	52	3000	700	3000	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-
Cley/Salthouse	3500	3000	240	-	72	60	150	170	90	134	788	6

National importance (winter): 500

Other notable counts in first winter period: Jan 2800 Blakeney Point; Feb 2000 Blakeney Point, 244 Winterton; March 300 Winterton, 125 Eccles. Only inland record from Barton Broad where 5 on Feb 25th.

Coastal movements in first half of year of 1550 west Sheringham Jan 4th, 271 east Mundesley Jan 15th and 155 east there Feb 12th, 630 west Old Hunstanton April 6th, 174 south 83 north Winterton April 16th, 80 east Mundesley May 5th and 112 south Winterton May 16th.

Regular observations Scolt Head produced westerly movements of 75 July 22nd, 205 Aug 20th, 232 21st, 100 Sept 4th, 165 9th and 147 on 10th. Notable westerly movements occurred late Sept when 162 Scolt Head and 145 Sheringham 26th, and 653 Scolt Head and 339 Mundesley 27th; also in early Nov when 930 Sheringham and 876 Mundesley 4th, 385 Weybourne 5th and 676 Holme 7th. East coast late autumn movements included 146 north 42 south Winterton Nov 6th and 146 north 76 south there 9th, and 480 east Walcott 12th.

Only large flock in second winter period not detailed in table Eccles where max 800 Nov 18th.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Rare vagrant from North America

A female/imm west Sheringham (AKe JM-S MTe et al) and Cley (RGM) Nov 9th, and presumed same west Titchwell next day (PE et al).

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Winter visitor, but numbers and localities fluctuate; occasional in summer

Max counts from principal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	1	8	1	3	10	1
Titchwell	3	2	3	8	11	25	24

Elsewhere in first winter period: Jan Cley and 2 Winterton 21st, 2 north Eccles and Winterton 25th; Feb3 Cley 9th, 2 Winterton 26th; March 3 west Sheringham 4th, 2 west Cley 7th, 2 Eccles 20th; April 2 Winterton 15th, 6 Holkham Bay 22nd.

Summer records: up to 8 Titchwell in May and one June 8th-10th, also single Holme July 26th-28th.

First returning birds of autumn Titchwell Aug 26th, Salthouse Sept 3rd and Holme 8th. Movements noted from late Sept with east Sheringham 26th, 3 west Weybourne Oct 13th, 2 west Sheringham 14th, 2 south Winterton 17th and 2 west Weybourne 18th.

During second winter period 1-6 recorded on north coast away from sites detailed in table with max 13 Burnham Overy Dunes, 14 west Cley and 10 Salthouse Nov 4th. On east coast max 4 Happisburgh Nov 3rd, 5 west Mundesley and 6 north Eccles Nov 7th, and total 19 north Winterton Nov 3rd-Dec 15th with max 4 Nov 9th.

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye)

Bucephala clangula

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	52	36	43	3	3	30	29
Titchwell	57	27	13	3	9	30	41
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	20	37	15	4	3	14	26
Blakeney Hbr	3	25	5	7	-	11	6
Barton Broad	30	18	-	-	-	21	36

Elsewhere in first winter period double-figure counts: 11 Great Ouse RC Jan 17th, 12 Martham Broad 21st, 17 Stowbridge and 12 Tottenhill GP 28th, 11 Nar Valley Fisheries Feb 18th with 15 there 24th, 10 Pentney GP 25th, 11 Rollesby Broad March 15th, 30 Ranworth Broad 18th and 15 Nar Valley Fisheries 25th.

Summer records of one east Scolt Head May 13th, 4 west there on unusual date of July 24th and one west Sheringham Aug 8th.

Return passage first noted Titchwell Sept 6th with 3 further records of 1-2 in month; subsequently 1-10 recorded at many sites in Oct. Westerly passage picked up in Nov with 21 Cley 3rd, 14 Holme and 13 Cley 4th, 10 Sheringham 5th, 36 Holme, 35 Sheringham and 11 (north) Winterton 10th, 11 Sheringham and 11 (north) Winterton 11th, and 17 Mundesley 13th.

In second winter period only other double-figure counts at Holme where max 36 Nov 10th, and 13 Tottenhill GP and 11 Martham Broad both Dec 28th.

Smew

Mergellus albellus

Winter visitor in small numbers, increasing during severe weather

A poor year with only three singles present during first winter period: drakes Snettisham Jan 1st-14th and Tottenhill GP Jan 28th, with redhead Wroxham Broad Jan 7th. Coastal movement noted Sheringham where Jan 21st and a redhead west 24th.

Only records in second winter period from Welney where (all redheads) Dec 17th-29th, with 2 18th/19th and 23rd, and 3 on 22nd.

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	23	35	22	11	20	13	38
Titchwell	15	-	8	5	12	47	20
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	28	40	30	27	32	24	33
Holkham Bay	8	20	-	-	-	-	25
Blakeney Hbr	15	15	13	-	-	8	2

National importance (winter): 98

Other double-figure counts in first winter period: Jan 14 Burnham Overy Hbr 21st, 20 Hunstanton 25th; Feb 12 Snettisham 18th; March 12 Snettisham and 12 Terrington both 18th; May 11 Holme 1st. Only inland record female Lynford GP March 29th.

Singles reported from seven sites mid-May to mid-Sept with 2 north Winterton May 20th and 6 Holme Sept 1st.

In autumn 1-2 at several sites until 9 Holme and 6 east 4 west Sheringham Sept 27th, 7 north Horsey Oct 20th, 11 Stiffkey 21st, 7 Cley and 6 north one south Winterton 22nd, 3 east Sheringham 24th, 8 west Mundesley Nov 4th, 9 west Sheringham (0700-1215), and 16 north Winterton 10th, with 12 north there 11th.

Double-figure flocks in second winter period not tabulated: 19 Hunstanton Dec 15th, 17 Snettisham and 10 Wells Hbr 16th.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most abundant in severe winters

Max counts from favoured sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
UEA Broad	2	5	-	-	2
Sparham Pools	12	15	13	-	8
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	22	-	22	-	-
Denver Sluice	14	4	8	7	2
Wretton Cut	22	17	8	5	13

Max counts elsewhere in first winter period: Barnhamcross Common (6), Cley (3), Cringleford (5), Downham Market (1), East Ruston Mown Fen (1), Holkham Park Lake (1), Hoveton Park (1), King's Lynn (2), Lynford Arboretum (1), Magdalen RC (6), Pentney GP (4), Saddlebow RC (5), Stowbridge (15) Titchwell (2), Wells (1), Whitlingham CP (1).

Coastal sightings during this period (all west): Holme and 2 Stiffkey Jan 2nd, Scolt Head Feb 21st and 2 there March 5th, Sheringham March 11th and 20th, Mundesley April 9th, Weybourne May 6th and Scolt Head 7th.

Breeding recorded at Thetford, the first occurrence in the county (see article page 174). Also in June single R Babingley/North Wootton Marsh 10th.

Autumn movements: east Salthouse Sept 11th, Snettisham and 4 Holme Oct 10th, 2 north Winterton 13th, west Morston 18th, west Cley 19th, 2 west Sheringham and Titchwell 31st, then several records of 1-4 north/west Winterton to Holme Nov/Dec. Also in Nov 23 west Sheringham 5th.

In second winter period also records from (max counts): Cley (6), Hickling Broad (1), Holkham Park Lake (3), Holme (9), Horsey (6), Lynford GP (12), Norwich R Wensum Cow Tower (1), Pentney GP (5), Stanford Water (1), Stowbridge (13), Whitlingham CP (1).

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

An introduced resident, first recorded in 1977

Again only regularly seen at 3 sites and also in reduced numbers:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	-	1	4	8	1	2	3	-	1	-	-
Titchwell	-	-	3	2	-	3	3	2	-	2	-	-
Cley	-	-	-	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-

Occasional records of 1-3 birds from 20 other sites with 4 Welney June 20th.

Breeding records from Holkham NNR (6 prs) and Lopham Fen, where 2 half-grown young Sept 13th. Pairs also recorded Hickling Broad March 28th, Cley May 20th and Ringmere, East Wretham June 28th.

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Common introduced resident

Only counts reported in first winter period from North Wootton where 40 Jan 1st and 20 March 26th.

Breeding pairs included: Ringstead Courtyard Farm 21, Holkham NNR 7, Scolt Head 6, Blakeney Point 1. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 254 individuals of this species were recorded in 56 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 4% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 30% between 2006 and 2007.

Counts in second winter period: Sept 100 North Wootton Marsh, 52 Hanworth; Oct 112 Winterton, 100 North Wootton Marsh, 70 Hanworth, 65 Hassingham, 47 Wolterton Hall; Nov 100 Sustead, 60 Repps-with-Bastwick, 44 Ashmanhaugh; Dec 32 Kelling.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Resident

Double-figure counts in first winter period: Jan 34 Morning Thorpe GP; Feb 15 Fleggburgh Billockby.

Breeding pairs reported: Bawsey 3, Blakeney GM 4, Holkham NNR 5, Hoveton Hall 4, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 20 (17.6% increase on 2005 and 2006), Scolt Head 4, Sparham 7. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 31 individuals of this species were recorded in 13 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Counts in second winter period: Aug 15 Sandringham; Sept 14 Warham Camp, 8 Snettisham; Oct 35 Warham Greens, 15 Blofield Heath, 9 Whissonsett, 8 Snettisham; Nov 12 Bawsey, 11 Narborough, 8 Thornham Farms, 7 Snettisham; Dec 15 Nar Valley Fisheries, 12 Little Cressingham.

Quail (Common Quail)

Coturnix coturnix

Summer visitor in erratic numbers; sporadic breeder

An overwintering bird Brancaster Thompson Farms Jan 11th and same or another Jan 25th/26th.

A bird seen Salthouse March 13th may have overwintered or was very nearly the earliest ever migrant. Next records singles Great Witchingham, Morston and Paston May 13th, a more usual earliest migrant date.

Subsequently singing males May-July at Blakeney Point and Village, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Castle Acre, Choseley (up to 4), Great Ryburgh, Grimston Warren, Hickling, Hilborough (3), Holme, Little Cressingham, North Creak, Ringstead Common and Courtyard Farm (2), Roydon Common, Scolt Head (where watched June 10th/11th feeding in open down to a few feet), Stanford TA, Thornham and Welney. Latest Choseley Aug 7th.

Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident

At Scolt Head 28 males and 6 broods noted.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 600 individuals of this species were recorded in 77 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 5% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 11% between 2006 and 2007. One observer reported birds of “Reeves” type and commented on the ‘motley hotch-potch of pheasants throughout the county’, likely as a result of eggs/poults from the Continent on game-rearing estates.

Golden Pheasant

Chrysolophus pictus

Scarce and local introduced resident

In first half of year reported from East Wretham Heath (3), Great Hockham (3), Wayland Wood, Wolferton (3), West Harling Heath (4) and West Tofts.

Two breeding territories recorded at Dersingham Bog NNR.

In latter half of year only record 2 males Wayland Wood Dec 23rd.

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

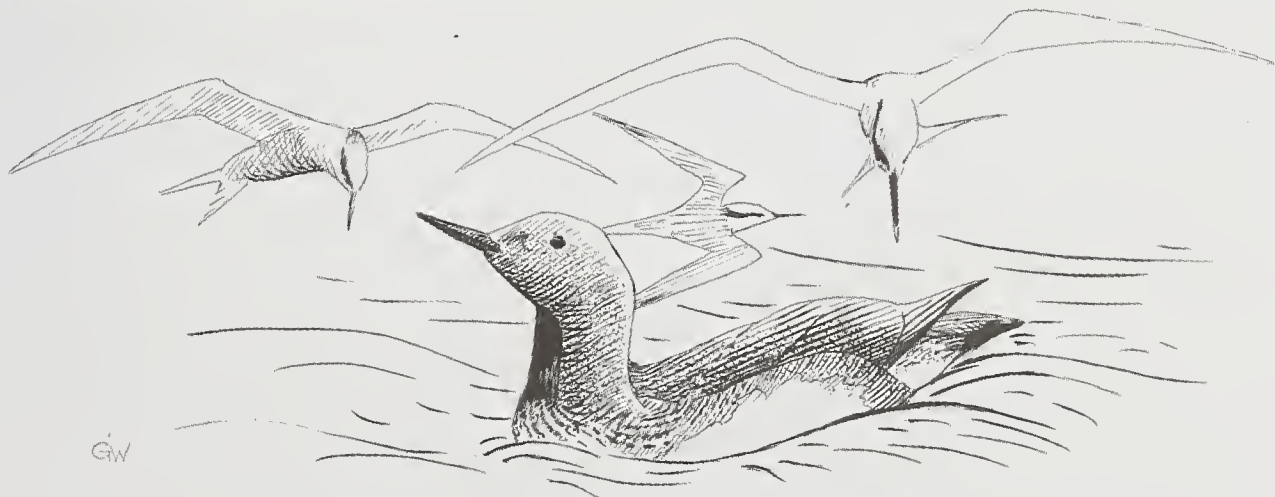
Common passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer

Monthly max (including birds in flight and on sea):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hunstanton-Scolt Head	300	36	6	1	-	1	1	2	83	33	24	15
Burnham Overy-Blakeney Hbr	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2
Blakeney Point-Happisburgh	221	294	10	10	3	1	1	3	53	41	200	282
Eccles-Hopton	63	679	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	161	169	173

National importance (winter): 49

Recorded throughout year, with 9 records in May, 5 June and 9 in July. Exceptional counts from north-west of county continued on from those of 2006, with peak 300 Holme Jan 5th. However, numbers then fell rapidly, with last three-figure count in area 160 Holme Jan 7th and highest count thereafter 36 there Feb 11th.



Red-throated Diver and Sandwich Terns (Gary Wright)

All other three-figure counts, as usual, from north-east and east coasts: 122 Cley Jan 6th, 223 west Feb 13th and 158 Feb 16th; 104 Sheringham Feb 10th, 184 east Feb 14th and 235 east Dec 10th; 221 west Mundesley Jan 3rd, 181 east March 2nd, 169 east 31 west Nov 3rd and 221

west 61 east Dec 19th; 679 south Eccles Feb 9th; 432 north 42 south Winterton Feb 8th, 143 south in 90 mins Feb 24th, 153 on sea 8 south Oct 22nd, 136 north 11 south 22 on sea Nov 24th, 104 south 18 north 12 on sea Dec 10th, with 135 south 38 north Dec 14th, and 165 mostly south Hopton Dec 7th.

Few records from Wash: singles off Snettisham Oct 14th and 22nd, with 5 there Dec 16th.

Inland: Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen RC Dec 4th.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Scarce in first winter period and regularly reported only in north-west of county where singles Snettisham Jan 23rd, Hunstanton Jan 24th, 3-4 Holme Jan 2nd-8th, with singles Jan 14th, Feb 5th and 19th, and 2 Titchwell Jan 11th. Elsewhere Cley Jan 3rd, 6th and 14th, Kelling-Salthouse Feb 27th and Winterton Feb 3rd.

More frequently reported in second winter period from Aug 27th (west Sheringham), with most reports from Holme where 1-2 on 12 dates Sept 26th to year end, with 3 Dec 15th, 17th and 31st; Titchwell where singles Sept 8th/9th, throughout Oct, Nov 3rd, Dec 13th, 16th and 30th, with 2 there Nov 19th and Dec 15th; Cley-Salthouse where singles on 11 dates Sept 1st-Nov 6th with 2 Oct 17th and 4 Nov 13th; Sheringham where singles Sept 1st, 12th and 26th, 2 Nov 3rd, 6th, 9th and 11th and 4 Nov 10th.

Elsewhere around coast Hunstanton Dec 15th; Burnham Overy Dunes Nov 4th with 3 there and another in Hbr Nov 25th; Holkham Gap Oct 20th; Blakeney Point Sept 17th and 19th; Kelling Nov 15th; Weybourne Sept 14th and Oct 17th; West Runton Nov 3rd; 2 west Cromer Nov 11th and one west next day; Walcott Nov 4th; Sea Palling Nov 7th and 13th; Horsey and Waxham Oct 14th; 2 north Winterton Nov 10th with singles Nov 11th/12th and Dec 11th and 15th.

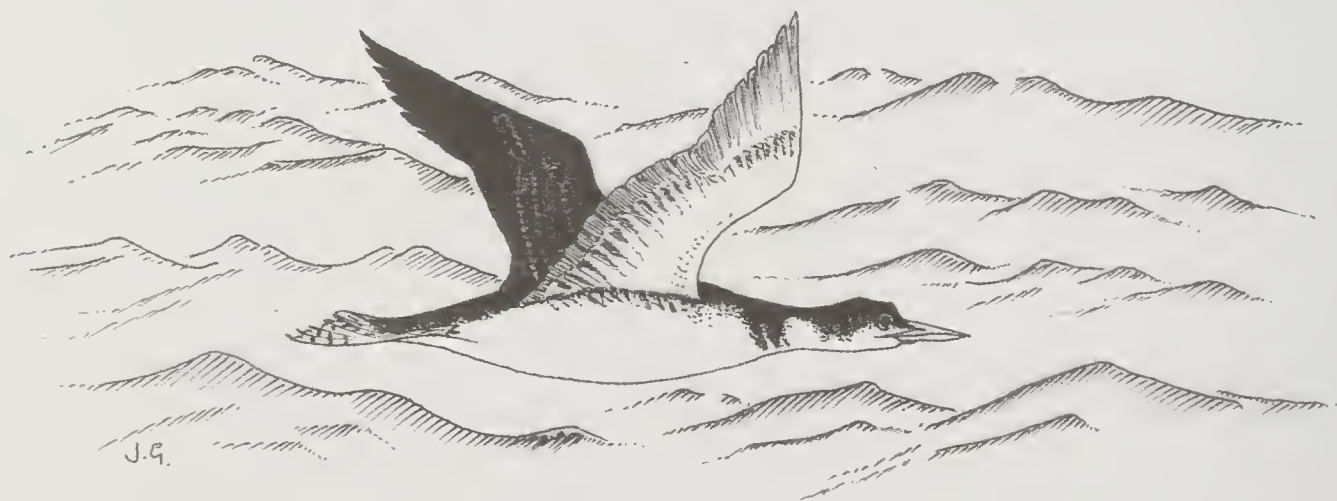
Inland: Pentney GP Feb 6th and Morning Thorpe GP March 7th/8th.

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Most numerous in north-west of county in first winter period, where Hunstanton Jan 25th, 1-2 Holme on 13 dates Jan 5th-May 8th with 4 reported Jan 5th; singles Titchwell Jan 7th, April 10th and 19th/20th, with 2 Jan 14th and 21st, 3 on 9th, 4 on 2nd and 6 on 5th, and single Brancaster Hbr Feb 10th-21st. Elsewhere, Blakeney Hbr Jan 1st/2nd, Cley-Salthouse 6 dates



Great Northern Diver (John Geeson)

Jan 1st-Feb 20th, Overstrand Jan 22nd, Mundesley Jan 2nd, Walcott Jan 14th and a summer-plumaged bird Winterton April 12th.

A summer-plumaged bird also east Sheringham June 23rd, where first of autumn Sept 18th, with many reports thereafter, with singles Sept 26th and 30th, Oct 17th, Dec 16th, 2 west Sept 27th and Dec 10th, 5 Nov 6th, 6 west on 10th and 8 on 11th. Good numbers also off Titchwell with singles Oct 1st and throughout month, with 2 on 13th, 2 on Nov 13th and 30th, and singles Dec 1st/2nd and 16th; Cley-Salthouse with singles on 6 dates Sept 26th-Nov 27th, with 4 Nov 4th, 6 Nov 11th and 13th, and 2 Nov 12th; and off Winterton with singles Nov 8th, 11th, 13th and Dec 25th, 2 Nov 7th and 23rd, 3 Dec 10th and 4 Nov 10th.

Elsewhere, Hunstanton Dec 16th; Holme 8 dates Nov 24th-Dec 26th; Brancaster Nov 11th; Scolt Head Nov 21st; Stiffkey Nov 25th; Blakeney Point Nov 2nd and 10th; Kelling WM Nov 13th; West Runton Nov 29th; 2 west Cromer Nov 10th and one west Nov 12th; Mundesley Sept 27th (also Walcott) and 2 west Nov 7th; Eccles, Sept 25th.

Inland: Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen RC from Dec 30th 2006 until Jan 15th, Barton Broad Jan 11th-March 16th and Nar Valley Fisheries Nov 11th-13th.

White-billed Diver

Gavia adamsii

Vagrant

One around coast passed Eccles (AJK), Walcott (PJH) and Sheringham (GED AJLS *et al*) Nov 6th. Presumed same Cley Nov 9th (RGM DWi). The first since 2002 and the ninth county record.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Found throughout the county with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	48	45	24	13	-	-	-	-	11	27	13	28
Holme	12	9	10	4	-	1	1	2	10	12	13	12
Titchwell	3	2	8	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	2
Holkham NNR	6	6	6	52	52	52	50	7	15	12	7	9
Holkham Lake	4	1	1	2	2	-	9	5	2	3	9	-
Wells Hbr	6	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	8
Cley	12	10	8	2	1	5	4	2	5	7	5	8
Breydon/Berney	3	6	5	5	6	5	7	13	39	42	16	4

Elsewhere counts of 10 or more birds: an exceptional 42 Breydon/Berney during Oct, 41 Haddiscoe Island Sept 23rd, 27 Fowl Mere Oct 10th, 18 East Winch Aug 4th, 12 Martham Broad Oct 22nd with 11 there Nov 15th, and 10 Burnham Overy Hbr Dec 16th.

A total of 72-75 pairs recorded from 15 sites: Blakeney GM (2-5), Blackborough End Tip, Calthorpe Broad, Cantley BF, Cley (2), Earsham GP (3), Holkham NNR (31), Langmere (3), Lopham Fen (14), mid-Yare RSPB (3), Sheringham BO, Shotesham, Stanford TA (1+), Swanton Morley (2), West Tofts Mere, Wisington BF (5).

A juv found alive in garden at Southrepps Sept 18th had almost certainly been dropped by a predator as its wing feathers appeared insufficiently developed for flight and the nearest breeding ground was ¼ mile away.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

Found throughout county in both coastal and inland waters with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	20	28	15	2	5	1	4	6	14	21	77	22
Titchwell	30	34	8	14	1	1	-	15	3	30	15	11
Scolt Head	4	7	-	3	3	1	1	11	6	5	16	6
Ranworth Broad	-	11	16	21	15	30	35	14	23	15	10	-
Barton Broad	12	21	25	34	25	33	30	26	18	26	2	-
Rockland Broad	5	13	12	21	14	8	14	14	10	10	7	2
Breydon/Berney	3	5	13	5	6	5	6	6	11	11	9	1
Nar Valley Fisheries	12	15	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	12	-
Welney	9	23	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-

The high Nov count at Holme involved 77 birds west on 9th between 0745 hrs and 1600 hrs. Elsewhere, there was just one count involving 20 or more birds, a massive 208 off Snettisham Feb 1st - the largest count since 250 between Snettisham and Holme in Dec 1961.

Just 57-59 breeding pairs reported from 16 sites: Alderfen Broad, Berney (2), Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound (12), Lyng/Easthaugh GP (1-2), mid-Yare RSPB (13), Nar Valley Fisheries (2-3), Pentney GP (2), Rockland Broad (6), Sparham Pools (2), Swanton Morley GP (6), Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thompson Water, UEA Broad (2), Welney (3), Whitlingham CP and Wissington Cut (2).

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period: 2 Holme Jan 2nd, 4th and Feb 14th with singles March 2nd and 8th; Titchwell Jan 16th and 20th, Feb 25th, April 11th and May 5th; 2 Scolt Head Feb 12th and 21st; east Cley March 19th; west Salthouse Feb 13th and last of spring a summer-plumaged bird which drifted north off Happisburgh May 8th.

A juv off Scolt Head Aug 18th was first of autumn, with other singles Cromer 21st, and Winterton 24th and 26th, before birds became widespread from early Sept onwards: Lynn Point Nov 9th; Holme 7 dates Sept 24th-Dec 19th with 2 on Nov 3rd; Titchwell 5 dates Sept 29th-Dec 24th with 2 all Oct and Nov 28th, and 4 Nov 7th; 2 west Scolt Head Sept 18th with singles there on 5 dates to Dec 15th; Brancaster Hbr Sept 15th, 18th and 22nd; 1-2 Holkham Bay/Burnham Overy on 5 dates Oct 10th-Nov 25th; Stiffkey Nov 25th; Blakeney Point Nov 6th and 26th, and Dec 12th; 2 Cley Sept 10th and 2 east Oct 21st with singles 6 dates Sept 18th-Nov 28th; Kelling Nov 4th, 6th, 10th and 11th; Weybourne Nov 2nd; Sheringham 6 dates Sept 2nd-Nov 10th; Cromer Sept 27th and Nov 9th and 11th; Overstrand Sept 4th; west Mundesley Sept 27th with 7 west on Nov 7th; Horsey Oct 13th; Winterton Sept 12th and Nov 3rd-14th.

Allowing for some duplication of records, it is plausible that no more than 6-8 birds involved in Sept and Oct coastal records, with perhaps 15 or so in Nov but just 4 in Dec.

Inland: Marlingford Mere Oct 14th, Ranworth Broad Nov 1st, UEA Broad Nov 12th and R Little Ouse at Santon Downham Dec 16th.

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly during autumn

Very scarce in first winter period, with 2 Holme Jan 1st-March 15th, 3 Jan 29th and 5 Feb 8th. Singles Hunstanton Jan 24th, Titchwell Jan 7th and 21st, and Scolt Head Feb 14th and 21st may have been additional to this group. Away from north-west, the sole first winter period record was one south Gorleston Jan 13th.

First of autumn 2 Sheringham Sept 10th but other than singles south Winterton Oct 8th and 24th, and Nov 25th, 2 Cley Oct 20th with singles there Nov 7th and west 10th, Blakeney Point and Kelling Nov 15th, Holkham Bay Nov 24th and Dec 1st, Eccles Dec 16th, Blakeney Hbr Dec 21st, 5 Burnham Overy Dunes Nov 25th and a remarkable 9 west Mundesley Nov 4th, all other records in coastal waters in north-west of county. Here small numbers reported almost daily from Sept 22nd (Brancaster Hbr - until 30th) with singles Snettisham Dec 13th, 11 dates Holme Sept 25th-Dec 19th, with 4 on Oct 24th and Titchwell many dates Oct 6th-end Dec with 3 Oct 12th/13th, 4th Nov and Dec 30th, 4 Oct 13th and 17th, and 5 Nov 1st.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

A very poor year with records of up to 5 birds: Pentney GP Feb 5th-March 13th, How Hill Reedham Water Aug 12th-23rd, Gorleston and later Hopton Aug 19th (INS), Hickling Broad Aug 24th and west Sheringham Nov 10th (GED PJH *et al*).

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)

Fulmarus glacialis

Breeder, some remaining all year; regular coasting and storm movements

During first winter period, most noteworthy accounts 50 Hunstanton Feb 15th, 110 Winterton March 18th and 125 north there 20th, and 54 west Mundesley March 22nd.

In spring 134 south 15 north Winterton April 30th. Notable weather driven movements on two May dates when 320 east Scolt Head, 230 Blakeney Point, 293 in 6 hrs Cley, 500 Sheringham and 240 in 2 hrs Walcott 27th. The following day 55 east Scolt Head, 20 Blakeney Point, 100 east Sheringham and 149 east Mundesley; on same date an unusual inland sighting at Norwich.

Early return to nesting sites noted when 3 pairs Weybourne Feb 25th and 2 pairs West Runton 26th. During breeding season 9 nests occupied Cromer to East Runton, 53 nests Hunstanton April 14th increasing to 131 occupied nests June 18th (107 sites in 2006) - only 26 juvs noted there Aug 6th.

Few autumn movements with best in Sept when 451 Blakeney Point and 134 east Sheringham 10th, 153 west 23 east Scolt Head 11th, 16 west and 75 lingering offshore there 16th and 89 Blakeney Point 18th.

Blue-phase sightings confined to first half of year when singles Mundesley Jan 22nd and May 11th, and 2 Sheringham May 27th.

Cory's Shearwater

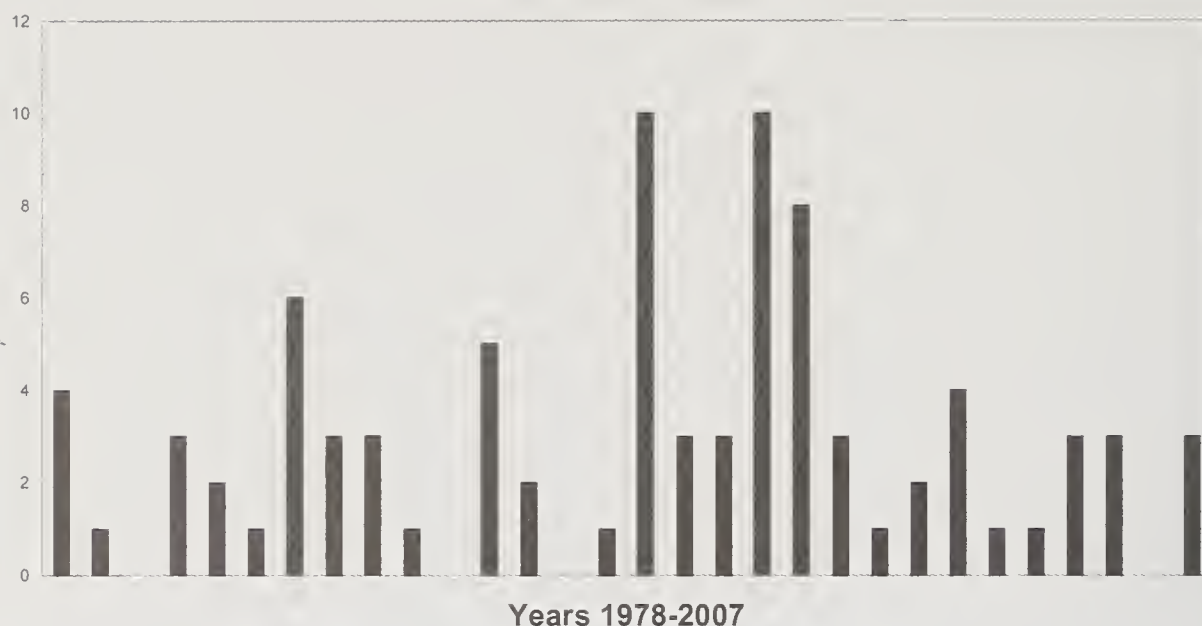
Calonectris diomedea

Annual vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic; most during autumn

One east Blakeney Point (JRMc) and subsequently 2 east Sheringham (GED KBS *et al*) Aug 22nd.

Over recent years the status of Cory's Shearwater has changed little. The dominant high counts in the 1990s stand out with 10 in 1993 and 1996, and 8 1997, probably years when good numbers were present in the North Sea with northerly winds in the summer and autumn.

Cory's Shearwater Annual Totals



Great Shearwater

Puffinus gravis

Rare vagrant from North Atlantic

Following large numbers in north-west Britain Sept 8th/9th some appeared in the North Sea with first east Scolt Head 9th (NML MESR) only 150 metres offshore. Next day (Sept 10th) unprecedented numbers seen along north coast with 2 east one west Holme (AFB GFH), 3 west 2 east Scolt Head (NML MESR), 2 east one west Blakeney Point (JRMc), one east Cley (TCD), one east Weybourne (MPT), 15 east Sheringham (many obs) and 4 east Overstrand (GBo). Subsequently singles west Overstrand 11th (BJM) and Blakeney Point 17th (JM-S).

Prior to this there had been only 14 previous county records, the last in 1997.



Great Shearwater (Robert Gillmor)

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

Autumn passage migrant, most during northerly gales; rare at other times

Two early sightings when singles Yarmouth May 21st and Sheringham June 17th. A better than average autumn with records from Aug 6th. Peak Aug counts 8 west Scolt Head 20th, 10 Mundesley 21st, 10 north Sea Palling and 19 north Winterton 28th, and 44 north 8 south Winterton 29th. Sept peaks included 14 Sheringham 4th, 14 north one south Winterton 9th, 47 Holme, 94 west 27 east Scolt Head, 97 Blakeney Point, 40 Cley, 100 Sheringham and 33 north Eccles 10th, and 6 west Scolt Head, 11 Blakeney Point and 10 Sheringham 11th. The 18th proved memorable when 101 west Scolt Head, 101 Blakeney Point, 37 west Cley in 3 hrs, 40 west Sheringham, 50 Cromer and 31 north Eccles. During remainder of month best counts 30 Blakeney Point, 14 west 10 east Sheringham and 9 Mundesley 26th, and 8 south Winterton 27th.

Oct reports included singles from 4 east coast sites with best 3 west Mundesley 18th and 2 south Eccles 24th. In Nov, 10 west Sheringham 9th with singles at 9 sites Holme to Hopton. Just 3 reports Dec when singles Sheringham, Mundesley and Eccles 10th.

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

Passage migrant with majority during autumn movements

Unseasonal report Holme March 21st. Subsequently 8 records of 1-4 from late April until late May then on 27th (May) 23 Holme, 103 east in 40 mins in heavy rain Scolt Head, 216 Blakeney Point, 485 east Cley, 357 east Sheringham, 18 Cromer, 12 south Eccles and 32 south Walcott; on 28th 18 Holme, 19 east Scolt Head, 55 east Sheringham and 6 Mundesley. Notable June reports of 11 Sheringham 5th, 12 east Scolt Head 8th, 11 south Winterton 25th and 28 east Mundesley 30th. Recorded 6 dates July with max 1st when 20 Sheringham, 16 Mundesley, 53 Eccles and 16 Winterton.

Notable Aug movements only on 3 dates when 13 Holme, 36 west 2 east Scolt Head, 15 Cley and 15 Sheringham 20th, 13 west Scolt Head, 11 west Cromer and 12 west Mundesley 21st, and 12 Titchwell 22nd. In Sept best counts: 21 west 3 east Holme, 36 west 24 east Scolt Head, 10 Cley 10th; 35 Blakeney Point, 17 east Sheringham 17th, 7 east 5 west Holme, 21 west 6 east Scolt Head, 37 Blakeney Point, 40 east Sheringham 18th; 12 Titchwell, 10 Blakeney Point/Cley 25th; 14 Titchwell, 21 west 5 east Scolt Head, 35 Blakeney Point, 25 Cley, 23 east 10 west Sheringham 26th. Just two Oct records when single Cley 10th and 4 Titchwell 16th/17th. Last reports 3 Holme Nov 11th and single Cley Nov 22nd.

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

Annual in small numbers during autumn

County's first winter record single Sheringham Jan 4th.

In autumn Blakeney Point July 28th and 2 west Mundesley 30th; in Aug west Cley 17th and 18th, west also Sheringham 18th, west Mundesley 21st, and Cley and Gorleston both 22nd. In Sept (with some undoubted duplication) singles west Sheringham 8th, Scolt Head 9th, 2 west one east Holme, west Weybourne, one west one east Sheringham, one west one east Cromer, 2 east Mundesley and one south Eccles 10th, east Titchwell and 2 west Scolt Head 11th, west Holme 12th, south Eccles 17th, 2 west Scolt Head and singles Sheringham, Cromer and Overstrand 18th, and single lingering Blakeney Point/Cley 24th-26th. Final report Eccles Nov 4th.

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel)*Hydrobates pelagicus****Almost annual late autumn visitor, often in stormy weather***

Following singles west Titchwell Aug 21st (PE *et al*), west Cley Aug 23rd (RGM), north Winterton Sept 11th (AGr) and Blakeney Point Sept 18th (JRMc) a batch of records in Nov when one west Sheringham 6th (AJLS *et al*), 2 there 9th (JRMc *et al*), one west Overstrand also 9th (GBo) and one north Winterton 10th (AGr JRWh). Subsequently one found dead Cockthorpe Airfield Nov 17th.

Unfortunately details of 10 other reported birds remain unsubmitted, 5 occurring in mid-Nov.

Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel)*Oceanodroma leucorhoa****Gale-blown visitor mostly during autumn***

A better than average year. Single Aug record Salthouse 23rd. In Sept, reports confined to just 7 dates (with some undoubted duplication): 5 west Holme, one west Titchwell, 5 west one east Scolt Head, 3 west 2 east Salthouse, single Weybourne, 10 east Sheringham and 4 east Cromer 10th, Titchwell 12th, Cley/Blakeney Point and Gorleston 18th, 3 Lynn Point, single Holme, 2 west Titchwell, 3 west one east Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney Point, 5 east Sheringham, one west Weybourne and other singles Walcott, Happisburgh and Eccles 26th, Waxham 27th and east Cley 29th. In Oct, single Titchwell and 4 south Winterton 10th. Nov reports included singles Cley and Horsey 9th, Cley 10th, Mundesley 11th and Sheringham 23rd. Very late record Sheringham Dec 10th.

Gannet (Northern Gannet)*Morus bassanus****Passage migrant, most during autumn gales***

An average first winter period when best counts 43 east Mundesley Jan 22nd, 20 Cley and 22 east Mundesley Feb 11th, and 20 north Winterton March 23rd. With exception of 219 north 83 south Winterton April 30th and 314 south 6 north there May 16th, best spring movement confined to late May when on 27th 197 east Scolt Head, 240 Blakeney Point, 343 in 6 hrs Cley and 217 east Mundesley; on 28th 41 east Scolt Head, 245 Sheringham and 230 east Mundesley.

June peaks included 88 east Scolt Head and 60 Blakeney Point 25th, 61 Cley 27th and 158 east Mundesley 30th. Only significant July counts 245 south 114 north Winterton 20th and 269 east Mundesley 21st. Well recorded late Aug when 155 Blakeney Point and 300 east Cley 20th, 411 Holme, 411 Holme, 701 west 85 east Scolt Head, 252 Cley and 293 west 32 east Sheringham 21st, 222 Holme, 373 east 55 west Scolt Head, 200 east Cley and 266 east Sheringham 22nd, and 335 west 28 east Holme and 375 west 120 east Scolt Head 23rd.

Sept peaks included 1920 east 275 west Scolt Head, 870 east in 6 hrs Cley, 1146 east in 8 hrs Sheringham and 889 south 186 north Winterton 10th, 430 east Sheringham 11th, 463 west Scolt Head 12th, 409 west 197 east Holme, 500 Titchwell, 680 west 175 east Scolt Head, 500 in 3 hrs Cley and 600 west Cromer 18th, 425 feeding offshore Scolt Head 21st, 1316 offshore Cley 24th, 666 west 328 east Holme, 944 Cley and 2250 east 50 west Sheringham 26th, 543 west 98 east with one on ternery hut roof Scolt Head and 450 west 150 east Sheringham 27th. On the same day 5 north two miles inland at Terrington. Oct peaks 426 north 108 south Winterton 1st, and 533 Cley and 249 west in 2 hrs Sheringham 19th. Only notable Nov reports 100 Walcott and 115 Hopton 4th, and 119 Hopton 13th.

Cormorant (Great Cormorant)
Phalacrocorax carbo

Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant; sporadic breeder

Monthly counts from roost sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	10	13	34	18	37	47	108	105	101	87	-	35
Titchwell	127	-	23	22	16	29	36	104	72	86	16	-
Holkham GM	40	65	80	150	150	150	300	300	300	50	170	33
Ranworth Broad	242	322	132	75	3	34	-	29	61	287	277	173
Welney	86	167	199	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	-	117

National importance (winter): 130

Other notable roosts included 78 Haddiscoe Island March 31st, 100 Filby Broad Aug 17th and 110 Hoveton Great Broad Sept 11th.

Other daytime roosts from most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt/Brancaster	17	25	33	45	53	142	105	105	123	97	11	73
Cley	-	8	18	-	31	22	33	26	34	40	-	-

National importance (winter): 130

Largest counts elsewhere 90 Holme Jan 7th, 56 west Mundesley Jan 19th, 44 Hickling Broad Feb 16th, 38 Nar Valley Fisheries 18th, 71 Winterton 19th, 67 Cley Aug 1st (including birds on reserve and at sea), 35 Sparham Pools Oct 13th, 58 Holme Oct 17th and 228 Gorleston Dec 24th.

During breeding season 75 nests Holkham NNR, representing a slight decrease on 2006 (88 breeding pairs).

Shag (European Shag)
Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Autumn and winter visitor with occasional birds wrecked inland

During first winter period, with exception of 2 Blakeney Hbr Jan 1st, singles reported from 10 coastal sites from Hunstanton to Gorleston. Inland sightings during this period included singles UEA Broad Feb 9th-11th and Swanton Morley GP Feb 11th. In summer 2 Cley May 3rd, singles Cley July 21st, Titchwell Aug 12th, Kelling 16th, West Runton 18th, Sheringham 21st and imm Scolt Head 24th (found dead later in month).

Following singles at 4 north coast sites in Sept, best Oct counts of 3 Sheringham 13th and 5 west Mundesley 18th. Highest numbers Nov when 2 Scolt Head 1st (with one found dead end of month), with max counts 4 Sea Palling 4th, 5 Sheringham 5th, 6 west Mundesley 6th, 5 Cromer 10th, 5 Saddlebow RC 14th, 31 offshore Eccles 24th and 2 west one east Holme 25th. In Dec singles at 7 north coast sites with 4 Wells Hbr 12th, 3 remaining until 23rd. Last, single Holkham Park Lake Dec 26th.

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)
Botaurus stellaris

Rare resident breeder; also winter visitor in variable numbers

Recorded singly at 19 sites during first winter period including: Jan Titchwell 1st-April 1st, Nar Valley Fisheries 9th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 13th, Cley 14th-April 9th, Blakeney GM 16th, Barton Broad 27th-March 9th, Denver 27th, Thompson Water 29th; Feb Alderfen Broad 1st, Hickling Broad 3rd-18th, How Hill 11th, Horsham St Faiths 15th, Sutton Fen 19th, Ranworth Flood 23rd-March 18th; March Holme 2nd-6th. Intriguing record Feb 24th of one extracted (unharmd!) from narrow belt of reeds alongside footpath at Horsey by observer's

Greyhound which was on a lead. The bird frilled its neck feathering, uttered some threatening guttural croaks and nodded back into the reeds none the worse for the experience!

Evening dusk departures of birds migrating east high out to sea noted at Hickling when 2 March 3rd, Horsey Mere 5 March 28th and Brayden Marshes 2 April 5th.

Booming first recorded Feb 23rd. This year total of 51 booming males in UK, 7 more than in 2006, with number for county equal to last year at 13. On north coast booming noted at 3 sites, while in Broads boomers noted at 10 localities; 6 nests (4 in 2006) at 4 sites, two of which were new sites.

Evidence of post breeding dispersal from sites away from known breeding areas with occasional singles Titchwell and Cley July/Aug, Breydon July 28th, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh Aug 6th, Welney Aug 9th and 14th, and at Holme where singles Sept 17th-19th, with 2 from 20th into Nov.

In second winter period recorded singly at 14 sites, with those away from regular haunts at Buckenham Marshes Nov 15th, Holkham GM Dec 17th and Holme Redwell Marsh Dec 28th, with 2 there 30th.

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus

Vagrant from Continent

Following a lack of records since 1997 two birds arrived, both at Titchwell, booming male June 18th-26th (S&JJ *et al*) and juv Oct 19th/20th (AJS *et al*).

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Increasing visitor especially in winter; breeding has occurred since 2002

Max monthly counts tabulated below, there is doubtless some overlap involved between sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ousemouth	5	10	14	3	3	7	9	-	8	12	5	10
Terrington	20	18	8	3	5	-	18	53	47	25	-	12
Snettisham	6	3	5	11	-	6	9	32	31	30	-	2
Holme	5	5	6	4	4	1	6	9	9	14	6	5
Thornham Hbr	5	4	4	2	3	3	3	4	11	15	4	10
Titchwell	4	8	23	3	9	9	20	-	50	16	7	30
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	34	31	38	15	17	22	33	66	66	67	65	43
Holkham GM	97	62	82	100	100	100	200	200	100	185	238	183
Wells Hbr	18	3	10	3	1	6	7	6	10	13	21	11
Warham SM	20	34	28	13	7	6	15	8	11	13	18	36
Stiffkey SM	10	8	-	4	3	-	6	-	15	15	24	11
Blakeney Hbr	16	17	3	9	7	17	18	20	43	32	23	21
Cley/Salthouse	4	3	2	4	7	10	6	7	5	20	5	5
Breydon/Berney	43	71	67	36	56	51	*126	84	73	71	76	53
Welney	2	5	1	8	4	3	1	-	22	6	-	-

*Record count

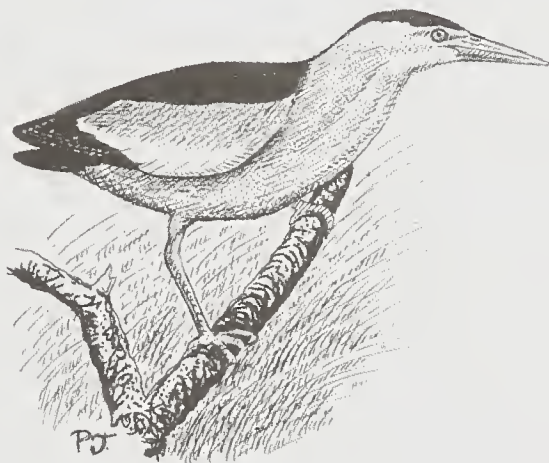
Good spring passage recorded with singles noted at a number of coastal watchpoints. Small groups included 4 west West Runton April 21st, 7 north 7 south at Winterton May 2nd-21st, 4 west Beeston Bump and 5 south Eccles May 14th, and last 3 west Weybourne May 18th.

Increase in records from inland areas again this year with birds regularly following river valleys in north of county particularly along the Stiffkey, Glaven and Wensum. Singles recorded from a number of sites but 2 Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 7th, 4 Castle Rising Feb 8th, 6 south-east Roydon Common Feb 12th, 2 Marham Feb 25th, 3 Bintree April 29th, 3 Sennowe

Park May 29th, 3 Attleborough Sept 1st, 3 Thornage Nov 6th, 2 Pentney Abbey Dec 16th and 2 Briston Dec 27th. A slight increase from Fens as indicated by counts from Welney but 3 Ouse Washes June 10th and one Southery Fen Dec 7th only other records. In Brecks still rare, with only records Santon Downham Feb 17th, Lynford GP July 7th and again Sept 29th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Sept 16th and Methwold Severals Sept 25th. In Broads, Yare Valley claimed most of records with peak counts of 15 Cantley March 27th, 10 Buckenham June 29th and 8 Strumpshaw Aug 1st. Elsewhere 3 Acle June 29th and 2 Martham Oct 14th.

Breeding: Total of 128 pairs at 6 sites with 15, 17, 19, 50, 17 and 10 respectively, and a further site hosting a single failed pair. Fledging success probably poor due to rain with one colony losing half the chicks due to weather. The possibility of undetected isolated pairs along quiet inland river valleys must remain.

Evidence of post breeding dispersal or autumn movement: 7 west Mundesley July 7th, 4 west Scolt Head Aug 17th, west Sheringham Sept 12th and 2 west there 30th, 14 in off sea at Holme Oct 5th, 3 south Hunstanton Oct 7th, 2 west Beeston Bump Oct 22nd.



Little Bittern (Phil Jones)

Great White Egret (Great Egret)

Ardea alba

Increasingly regular vagrant from the Continent

Following singles north-east East Carleton April 16th (KBS) and south-east Cromer May 19th (MPL RBV) a plethora of records in autumn. All sightings listed: Sept Holkham GM then west, west Titchwell and south-west Hunstanton 21st; Oct Terrington March 1st, 2 Holkham GM 3rd with one there 5th, 2 west Holme 5th, Stiffkey/Warham Greens 10th, Cley (ringed) and later south Salthouse Heath 18th, north Winterton/Horsey and then west Sheringham, Salthouse, Cley, Blakeney Hbr, Stiffkey and present Holkham GM (later east) 19th, another Burnham Overy Dunes 19th, 2 in from west Salthouse then west again, then west Cley and present Stiffkey SM 20th, west Salthouse 22nd, Wells Lodge Marsh and then west Holkham GM 23rd, 2 Wells Lodge Marsh/Warham Greens 24th-28th with singles (same?) west Holkham GM 27th and Burnham Overy GM 28th, Wells Lodge Marsh 29th and presumed same Stiffkey GM 29th/30th; Nov Burnham Overy Dunes/Holkham GM 2nd, inland Whitlingham CP 4th, south Hunstanton 5th, Thornham Point 10th, north Waxham then west Sheringham/Weybourne/Cley/Morston 13th.

It is impossible to determine how many birds were involved in this unprecedented influx. One further record at year end, Welney Dec 28th/29th.



Great White Egret and Rough-legged Buzzard (Gary Wright)

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

Spring passage noted from March 3rd when east Overstrand, west there March 7th, east Sheringham April 8th, 4 north-east Scolt Head 21st, in off sea Hopton 23rd, west Weybourne 26th and north-east Scolt Head May 15th. Total of 10 north 8 south at Winterton during this period.

Breeding details received of 265 pairs at 29 sites: Barton Broad 13, Burgh Castle 21, Burgh Common (Fleggburgh) 1, Calthorpe Broad 1, Catfield Dyke 3, Cley 1, Cockshoot Broad 4, Didlington 4, Fordham 19 + 3, Great Witchingham 30, Hickling Broad 16, Holkham GM 7, How Hill Reedham Water 1, Islington 29, Mautby 1, Narford 3, Old Hunstanton Hall 3, Quidenham 14-16, Reedham 10, Scoulton 11, Sennowe Park 3, Snettisham 10, Starston Nursery 10, Stoke Ferry Fen 3, Sturston Carr 10, Surlingham 7, Upton 10, Wimbotsham 15, Woodbastwick 2.

Summer and autumn coastal movements noted at well-recorded watchpoints as follows:-

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Holme	-	7	8	30	6
Scolt Head	4	1	43	86	-
Sheringham	2	-	8	1	5
Cley	-	-	10	40	3

Other notable coastal movements 5 in off sea Winterton Aug 11th, 8 west Titchwell Sept 23rd and 3 west Weybourne Oct 3rd. Elsewhere 30 Welney July 30th, 18 Haddiscoe Island Sept 23rd and 11 Holkham GM Oct 14th.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea

Almost annual spring and autumn vagrant from the Continent

In May two short-stayers at Breydon 12th (PRA) and Kelling WM 13th (CGo MV *et al*).

Spoonbill (European Spoonbill)

Platalea leucorodia

Scarce non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; rare in winter

With no records in first winter period, first spring migrant at Holkham GM April 3rd. Further April records from Titchwell and Wells 7th, Stiffkey 12th, Hickling Broad and Winterton 19th, Cley where west 21st followed by 8 on 24th, 2 Hickling Broad 25th and Breydon 29th.

Elsewhere during May east Holme 1st, Snettisham 2nd, 2 Cley 4th and one west there 15th, 2 Titchwell 6th, 2 north Sea Palling 12th, east Overstrand 16th, west Cromer 18th, 2 Waxham 19th, 2 south Aylmerton and 5 Holkham GM 20th, 3 Holme 21st and 2 Scolt Head 24th. A bird at Titchwell on 25th was ringed as a nestling in Holland in 2005.

A good number of summer records with birds recorded at 9 localities. The table below shows peak counts at selected sites:

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Titchwell/Scolt Head	3	7	-	8
Holkham GM	5	7	13	2
Cley	2	5	8	4
Breydon/Berney	4	8	4	7
Hickling Broad	1	2	-	4

At Sheringham 2 imms west Sept 5th and one west Holme Sept 6th could have involved autumn migrants. Other autumn records included 7 Breydon Sept 2nd, 2 west Cantley 3rd, Titchwell 8th, Snettisham 10th and 6 Holkham GM 11th.

Honey Buzzard (*European Honey Buzzard*)
Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

Pernis apivorus

Total of 12 migrants in spring: May west Burgh Castle 2nd, east Lyng/Sparham Pools 4th, east Wells and west Welney 5th, south-west Caister 8th, Titchwell 18th, west Hickling Broad 25th, Sheringham 31st; June Thornham 2nd, Cley 7th, north Honingham 11th, Lessingham 12th.

In area where has bred in past no evidence of breeding, with different pattern of behaviour compared to previous years. Only two birds present most of summer with male arriving May 17th and female on May 30th; male last seen in area Aug 31st.

In autumn migrants west Cley July 31st and Aug 11th, Dersingham Bog Aug 8th, Cromer 18th, Kelling Heath 28th, Holkham Park (2) Sept 6th, in off sea Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 15th and Hickling Broad Oct 7th.

Black Kite
Vagrant from the Continent

Milvus migrans

The ‘Black-eared Kite’, present Nov/Dec 2007, at Holt Lowes/Blakeney GM/Cley Jan 1st, then Dersingham/Snettisham area 3rd and 6th, Warham/Holkham GM and Brancaster Hbr



Black Kite (Phil Jones)

(with harriers at roost) 15th, Blakeney GM/Cley again 16th/17th and then Thornham also 17th. Then regularly seen Dersingham/Snettisham area Feb 1st-April 13th, on latter date also Terrington Marsh.

Subsequently nominate Black Kites seen on numerous dates over a 4 week period April/May as follows: April Aylmerton (APB *et al*), Sheringham, Weybourne and Cley 22nd, Brancaster Hbr 23rd/24th, Titchwell 24th, Burnham Deepdale and Burnham Market 24th/25th, East Rudham 29th, North Creake, Burnham Thorpe and Burnham Overy Staithe 29th/30th; May Aylmerton, Felbrigg Park and Metton 7th, Potter Heigham 10th, North Creake intermittently 11th-22nd, Aylmerton 12th/13th, Roydon Common 12th, Flitcham 16th, Burnham Deepdale and Wensum valley 19th, Great Ryburgh 20th. At least two, and probably more, birds included in these sightings.

In June one with 2 Red Kites South Creake Waterden 13th (AIB).

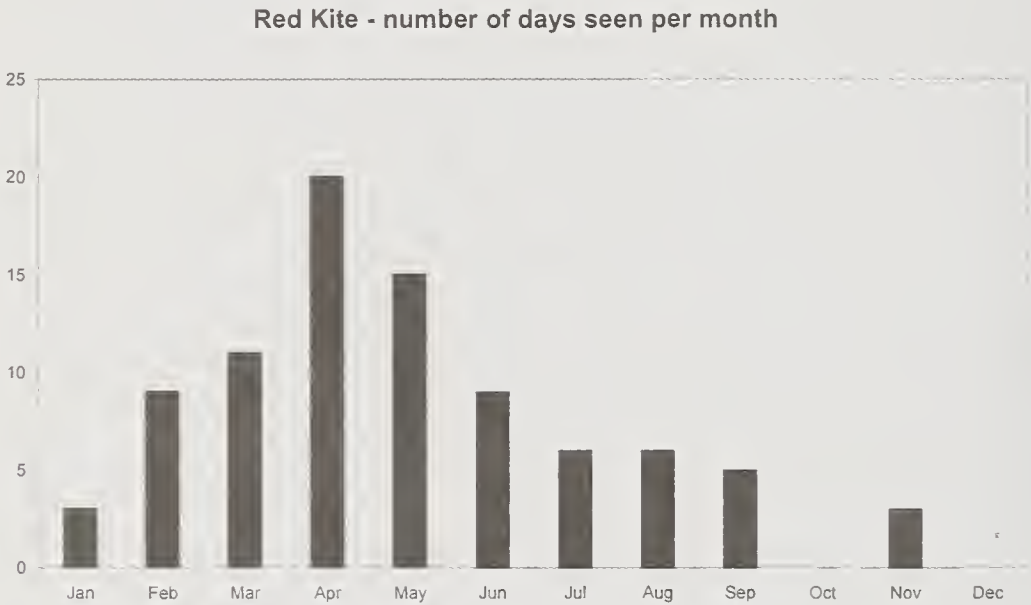
Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Increasing visitor; birds from the Continent and British reintroduction projects occur

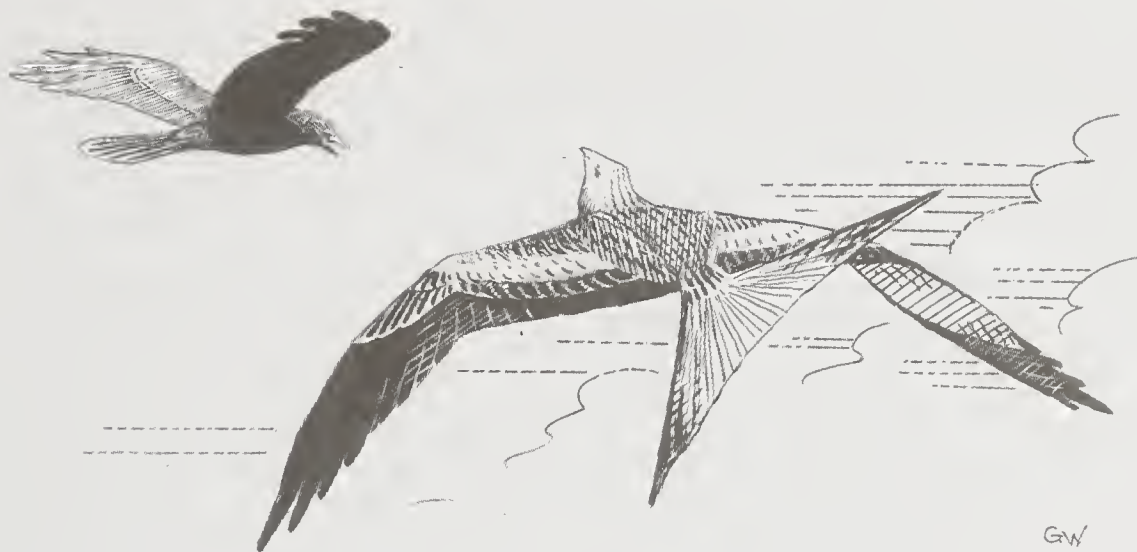
Again an increase in sightings with far too many records to list individually.

Number of days seen per month:



In early part of year few records: Jan Ingleborough Hill 5th, Fakenham and Wormegay 14th, Hickling Broad and Brancaster Hbr (with Black-eared Kite and harriers at roost) 15th; Feb Fakenham/Raynham area (wing-tagged) 6th-13th, Wellingham 21st. Subsequently 27 sightings of singles in March, particularly on 11th when seen at 12 localities, all near/along north coast plus Great Ryburgh. Number of migrants increased in April with total of 52 sightings, all singles except 2 Little Melton 9th, Aylmerton 22nd and Swanton Novers NNR 24th/25th. In May and June numbers reduced with 35 and 20 sightings respectively; again majority singles except 2 Stoke Holy Cross May 18th, Ridlington June 7th and South Creake Waterden (with Black Kite) June 13th. An interesting record of one sitting on roof of house next to Cley Visitors' Centre at 7.25 am June 3rd before flying south!

In second half of year far less records, as in previous years, with 8 sightings in July, 6 Aug and 5 in Sept; all singles except 2 again South Creake Waterden Sept 12th. Interestingly no records Oct and Dec with only 3 in Nov: Grimston (no date given), Thursford 7th and King's Lynn Reffley Wood 27th.



Red Kite (Gary Wright)

Marsh Harrier (Western Marsh Harrier)

Circus aeruginosus

Migrant breeder; also passage migrant; increasing numbers winter

Once confined to Broads during winter months birds can now be encountered almost anywhere at this time, with total of least 15 roost sites in use Jan-March, including main roost at Horsey/Hickling which held 91 birds Jan, 65 Feb and 37 March.

Roost Sites

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Max Total
Jan	5	4	3	-	9	-	91	-	4	16	7	-	-	4	6	149
Feb	-	6	9	-	8	-	65	-	-	21	4	9	4	5	4	135
Mar	3	3	5	3	13	1	37	7	-	-	4	2	-	7	3	88

One in off sea Paston Jan 14th may have been an early returning migrant, main spring passage Feb 21st (Sheringham)-May 24th (Winterton), when total of 27 west Scolt Head March 17th-May 21st, 21 north 9 south Winterton March 3rd-May 24th including 8 south one north May 6th, 4 east Aylmerton and 4 west Ingleborough Hill April 15th, with 3 east latter site 21st.

Although breeding data incomplete min of 90 nesting females reported, fledging at least 98 young. The last national survey in 2005 located 102 breeding females in county, clearly numbers must now exceed this. The poor spring and summer weather played a part in above-average nest failures at some sites, with several localities reporting nests flooded during heavy rain.

Dispersal of fledged youngsters from July 18th, with total 51 west Scolt Head during Aug including 8 3rd and 9 on both 11th and 25th. Elsewhere numbers reported much smaller including one west offshore Kelling Sept 20th, 5 west Welney Oct 21st, in off sea Horsey 28th and west Sheringham Nov 21st.

Roost sites again occupied from late Aug, with at least 17 in use Sept-Dec, again Hickling/Horsey by far best site with max counts of 15 Sept, 35 Oct, 66 Nov and 97 Dec.

Roost Sites

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Max Total
Sep	-	8	-	25	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6	8	68
Oct	8	3	3	15	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	8	8	2	100
Nov	4	4	1	11	4	66	5	-	-	3	12	-	15	12	8	8	1	144
Dec	-	5	-	14	-	97	5	3	5	3	27	-	-	10	-	8	-	185

At Holkham a striking bird reported many dates Jan/Feb, with boldly spotted white scapulars and wing coverts, white tips to primaries, secondaries and outer tail feathers. During Oct at Cley a female was in full squealing sky dance before dawn on an almost daily basis 14th-28th along with territorial defence of central nest area, including lowered legs and direct lunging and aggression at other harriers. Also at Cley at year end a pair seen in regular display with the male seen carrying food to spring breeding site.

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; former breeder, now exceptional in summer

In first winter period total of 13 roosts used, but only around half of these used with any regularity and counts overall down considerably on same period last year. The monthly totals are best viewed with some caution as there is much interchange between roost sites on an almost nightly basis, especially at those along north coast and in Broads.

Roost Site

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Max Total
Jan	1	6	5	-	1	-	1	4	2	3	-	-	7	30
Feb	1	6	5	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	7	24
Mar	-	1	4	4	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	3	18

Most roost sites had ceased to be used by late March, but at one site in Broads 3 into roost April 2nd.

Birds still widely reported away from roost sites until mid-April, with singles inland Cockley Cley 18th and Boughton Fen 20th being noteworthy. Migrants in April north-east Inceborough Hill 5th and west 21st, east Cley 8th and west there 15th, 2 Wells 22nd and male west Happisburgh 29th. Last of spring Breydon May 2nd, Aylmerton 7th, south Winterton 16th and another 19th, west Muckleburgh Hill 18th, west Ringstead Courtyard Farm 26th and last out to sea Waxham 30th.

First returning bird of autumn an exceptionally early juv Aylmerton July 24th-26th. No others until ringtail Choseley Sept 9th, in off sea Titchwell 21st, Scolt Head 21st/22nd, Holme 22nd, and North Wootton and west Aylmerton 29th.

Roost again regularly used from mid-Oct, with roosting birds reported at 11 sites Oct-Dec.

Roost Sites

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Max Total
Oct	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	4	10
Nov	-	4	1	1	3	-	2	-	5	2	4	22
Dec	2	5	1	-	5	1	4	-	2	2	5	27

The persecution of this species on its breeding grounds around the UK is well publicised; the shooting of two birds coming in to roost at a site in north-west of county during Oct demonstrates the dangers faced by this species are not only confined to Britain's uplands.

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

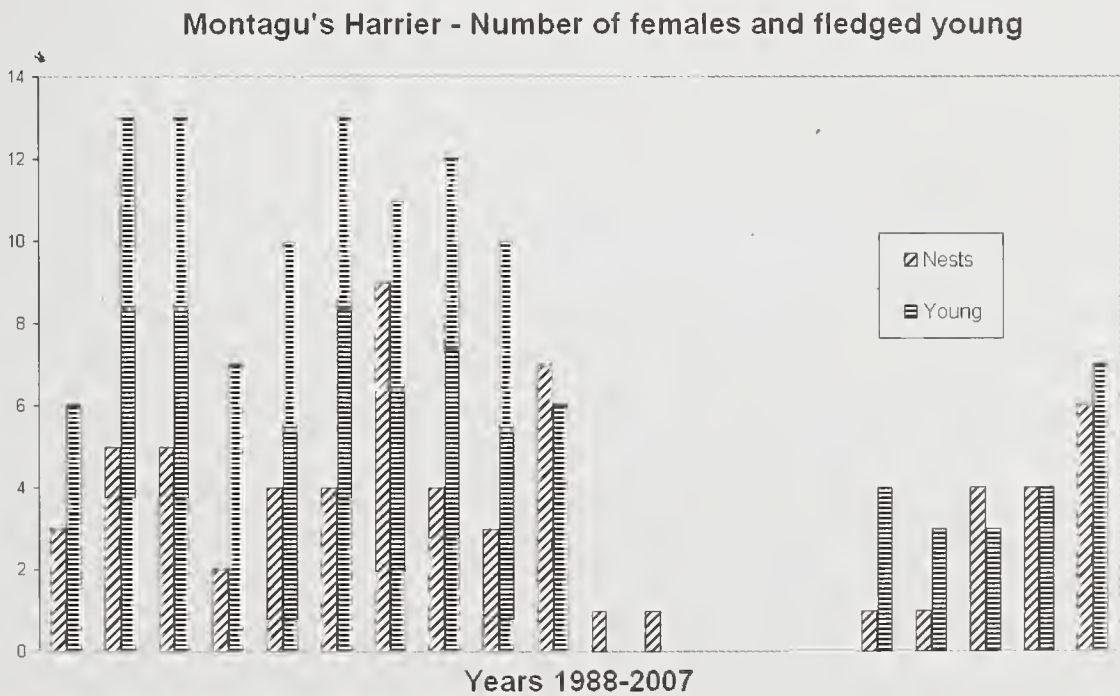
Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

First of year female at breeding site in north-west April 22nd, with 2 males and 2 females there 24th. Other early arrivals male Buckenham April 23rd, male Eccles and 2 males north Horsey 25th, and an imm male Brancaster Thompson Farms, Horsey and male Winterton 26th. Passage continued throughout May when male west Buckenham and south Winterton 6th, male Breydon 7th, imm male west Scolt Head 11th, female Hickling Rush Hills 12th, male north Winterton 13th, West Newton 15th, female Breydon 17th/18th, male Morston 18th, ringtails Sea Palling and Swanton Novers 18th, Somerton Holmes 19th, Winterton 19th/20th, Holme 20th, Blakeney Point 23rd, female Cantley 30th, imm male Waxham 30th/31st and ringtail Roughton 31st. Last spring migrants Strumpshaw June 3rd and ringtail high west Beeston Bump 27th.

The recent upturn in fortunes for this species continued with 6 breeding pairs north-west Norfolk including Wash, 3 pairs successfully fledging at least 7 young, the largest breeding numbers since 1997. Breeding birds also seen wandering widely during May-Aug, including at two coastal sites where hunting adults seen almost daily. Both breeding areas attracted a number of non-breeding/imms during summer.

Migrants/dispersing birds late summer/autumn away from breeding sites and nearby areas: ringtail Dersingham Bog July 14th, Aylmerton 24th, Wiveton Downs Aug 3rd, Blakeney Point 9th, juv Scolt Head 12th-17th, Holme 15th and Snettisham 21st. Sept birds North Wootton 5th, and juvs possibly same Titchwell 5th, 8th and 12th, Brancaster Thompson Farms 16th and Snettisham 21st.

Up to 9 females nested 1988-1997, but for some inexplicable reason numbers crashed after 1997 with single nests 1998/99 and none 2000-2002. Single pairs again bred successfully 2003/04, with 4 nests 2005/06 and 6 in 2007, the highest number for a decade. Success in recent years has been reasonable with an average of just over 1.3 fledged young per nest 2003-2007; however, between 1988 and 1997 fledging success was much higher with an average of just over 2.2 young per nest.



Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

Accipiter gentilis

Rare breeder; also scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeding: in Brecks up to 3 regularly seen Feb-April; in north-west of county up to 3 regularly at one site March-June, at another 1-2 many dates March-May and at a third site 2 pairs displaying April. Pairs also seen at two other sites in spring where possibly also breeding.

Elsewhere isolated records from Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 27th, Ringland Feb 23rd, Hethel March 2nd, Potter Heigham April 14th, Terrington Marsh 19th, Felbrigg Park and Sparham 21st, Norwich (Woodrising) 28th, Nar Valley Fisheries May 3rd, 2 Stanford TA July 12th, Weeting Heath Sept 4th, Snettisham 18th, Little Cressingham Oct 21st, Weybourne 25th, Hickling Broad Dec 1st and Sparham 15th.

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)

Accipiter nisus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Spring migration most noticeable east coast where total 101 north 48 south Winterton March 8th-May 25th, with peaks 8 north 2 south April 22nd and 12 south 10 north May 6th; elsewhere one in off sea Hopton April 7th. On north coast in April 3 east Cromer GC also 7th, 3 west Scolt Head and 8 north-east Ingleborough Hill 8th, single west Scolt Head 4 11th, 4 west Cley and 6 circling Weybourne 18th, 3 west Kelling 20th; in May 2 west Scolt Head on 6th and 9th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 14 individuals of this species were recorded in 13 BBS squares in Norfolk.

In autumn little evidence of migration as usual apart from 2 south one north Winterton Oct 27th and one in off sea Cley Nov 11th.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Increasing resident breeder; also passage migrant and winter visitor

Sightings of 2-4 birds widely recorded in first winter period, again particularly in north-west of county. As usual, larger numbers reported in Feb/March, most notably 16 together Cockley Cley Warren Feb 23rd.

Early spring apparent movements noted from March 13th when 9 east Aylmerton and 9 west Titchwell. Further possible migrants noted as follows: 6 west Titchwell March 14th, Breydon March 15th, 2 west Ingleborough Hill April 5th and 2 west Cley April 18th.

No systematic breeding surveys undertaken but around 30 pairs reported, the greatest concentrations in Swanton Novers and Glaven valley areas, suggesting a continued increase.

Apparent autumn movements included 6 Titchwell Aug 25th, 5 west Brancaster Staithe 26th and 4 north-east Attleborough Sept 22nd but, as in spring, real movements almost impossible to distinguish from local wanderings.

No notable concentrations reported in second winter period.

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; periodic large-scale influxes

In first winter period a single frequented the Warham/Cockthorpe/Stiffkey/Holkham/Wells area Feb 18th-March 18th, with other reports from Snettisham Feb 25th and Roydon Common March 14th.

A spring migrant flew south-east from Happisburgh to Winterton April 8th, with a bird also reported Trunch next day. Further spring sightings Thornham April 12th and Harpley April 29th and May 14th.

In autumn, in off sea Yarmouth Sept 27th, followed in Oct by others Wells 1st, Horsey 4th, Brancaster 6th, Winterton 10th and Holkham 18th, the latter regularly in Scolt

Head/Holkham/Wells area to 31st when it flew west over Titchwell and Holme. In Nov Bradwell Gapton Marshes 18th-28th, then on latter date Horsey and west between East Ruston and Happisburgh Dec 2nd, and Hickling Broad 8th. Other Dec sightings Holme 9th and Wells 26th.



Rough-legged Buzzard (John Geeson)

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Regular passage migrant in increasing numbers; over-summering has occurred

First of year Kelling Heath April 15th, with it or another there 16th. Further April records Cley 21st, Burnham Market 25th, Lynford Arboretum 29th/30th and Whitlingham CP 30th.

As usual, a stronger passage in May: Eccles and Nar Valley Fisheries 3rd, Winterton 6th, Blakeney Point and Breydon 7th, Norwich 8th, Blakeney Point and Lyng 9th, Salthouse/Blakeney Point/Stiffkey 10th, Kelling Heath/Cley 11th, Salthouse/Cley, Scolt Head, Guist/Sennowe Park and Norwich 12th, Sheringham/Kelling/Salthouse, Scolt Head and Snettisham 13th, Scolt Head/Titchwell and Wells 14th, Cley and Titchwell/Holme 15th, Titchwell 18th, Scolt Head 25th and Hickling Broad 29th. June sightings at Mattishall 1st, Cley/Blakeney Point 10th, Buckenham Marshes 14th and Cley 17th.

No summering birds present in county with no records second half of June; only July record, Great Ryburgh 19th. No further records until second half Aug when Roydon Common 18th, Cantley/Rockland Broad/Strumpshaw 20th (remaining until Sept 30th), Rockland Broad and Hardley Flood 27th and Scolt Head/Holme 31st. In Sept, Burnham Market and Earsham GP 2nd, Scolt Head 4th, Hoveton Park 5th, Breydon and Glandford 7th, Holme 12th, Blakeney Point, Holkham and Titchwell/Holme 13th, Cley and Wells/Holkham 14th, Blakeney Point 15th, Cley 16th and Snettisham 16th/17th.

Last records early Oct from Blakeney Point and Holme/Thornham Point/Titchwell 2nd and Alderfen Broad 5th-9th.

Kestrel (Common Kestrel)

Falco tinnunculus

Resident and passage migrant

Few reports received this year with one west Scolt Head April 8th about a km offshore only likely migrant noted in spring. In autumn one in off sea Winterton Aug 31st.

Few breeding details received but 8 territories occupied in Stanford TA, fewer than in 2006. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 47 individuals of this species were recorded in 36 BBS squares in Norfolk.

No notable concentrations reported in latter part of year.

Red-footed Falcon
Vagrant, most often in spring; large influx in 1992
A female north-west Sea Palling/Eccles/Happisburgh May 19th (GJE AJK *et al*).

Falco vespertinus

Merlin
Passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer
In first winter period 1-2 reported from usual coastal localities in north and west, and traditional roost sites again in use, the largest hosting up to 4 birds. Inland birds in Jan at Great Ryburgh 10th, Beechamwell 12th and Grime’s Graves 13th, in Feb at Welney 16th, Upton 19th and in March at Buckenham 2nd, Little Snoring 16th, Houghton 26th (seen in display flight) and Welney 28th. A further inland bird Aylmerton April 12th.
As usual 1-2 birds recorded until late spring, last Blakeney Point June 2nd.
First autumn record Scolt Head July 19th where regular late July/Aug. Other Aug records Breydon 4th, Wells and Blakeney Point 10th, Cley 27th, Blakeney Point again 28th-31st and Holme 30th, then 1-2 regularly at coastal and roost sites from Sept to year end. Max count 3 Terrington Marsh Sept 1st.

Falco columbarius

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)
Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant
First of year Stowbridge April 6th, then widely reported in April, particularly from 20th with 4 Boughton Fen 27th. Widely seen in May, with spring max 6 Lopham Fen 1st, and 5 noted Hockwold Washes, Hickling Broad, Sennowe Park and in Wensum valley.
Singles south Hunstanton April 24th and through Winterton May 1st, 6th and 22nd may have been on active passage.
At least 27 breeding pairs reported, the vast majority (21) in Thetford Forest, an increase from 2006 in this area. All nests found were in mature Scots Pine.
Max pairs in past 10 years:

Falco subbuteo

98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
12	13	16	10	11	13	20	26	27	27

Summer and early autumn reports widespread, with one Scolt Head regularly taking Little Terns. Records mainly 1-2 birds with 5 Great Ryburgh July 2nd and 4 July 19th, and 3 Heigham Holmes Aug 18th.
A likely migrant in off sea Wells Sept 23rd. Only 4 Oct records: Dereham 3rd, Titchwell 4th, Holkham 7th with last of year Weybourne 21st.

Peregrine (Peregrine Falcon)
Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor
Widely recorded in first winter period, particularly at coastal sites, but also seen at a number of inland localities including Aylmerton, Brettenham Heath, Corpusty, Gooderstone Warren, Hethel, Lyng, Sennowe Park, Sparham, Stanhoe, Welney, the Broads and Yare valley. All reports involved one or 2 individuals. Wintering total difficult to deduce, but perhaps approximately 10 birds.
Noticeably fewer in May (last recorded Sparham 25th) and no reports received in June.
In July Thornham 1st, Titchwell 5th, Sedgeford and Terrington Marsh 7th, North Wootton 11th, Welney 22nd and 24th, and Snettisham 29th. Noted at 7 coastal sites Aug with 2 Norwich Airport 17th. Records frequent again from Sept to year end, again mainly at coastal

Falco peregrinus

localities but also recorded at Aylmerton, Brettenham Heath, East Wretham, Fersfield, Gateley, Great Walsingham, Hethel, Langham, Roughton, Shipdham, Tibenham, Welney and Yare valley. All reports again involved one or 2 individuals.

Prey species attacked or killed during year included Arctic Tern, Avocet, Blackbird, Curlew, Knot, Lapwing, Little Auk, Magpie, Redshank and Teal.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak numbers at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	1	2	-	-	1	6	11	4
Titchwell	3	-	2	2	2	1	3	5
Cley	1	1	1	-	2	2	3	2
How Hill	-	-	-	2	-	14	4	-
Catfield Fen	-	10	10	5	-	-	4	-
Strumpshaw	-	-	-	32	-	21	8	27
Hickling Broad	9	-	3	1	2	2	-	-
Sutton Fen	-	-	12	-	-	11	16	21

Other localities with at least 3: Jan 11 Burgh Common; Feb 18 Barton Turf Fen, 6 Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh, 4 Barton Broad, 4 Weybourne, 3 Boughton Fen, 3 Horning Hall Marshes; March 20 Barton Turf Fen, 9 Belton Marshes, 7 Cantley BF, 4 Fleggburgh Burgh Common; April 4 Holkham NNR; June 4 Holkham NNR; Aug 5 Barton Broad; Oct 16 Belton Marshes, 12 Surlingham Marsh, 6 Horning Marsh Farm, 5 Martham Broad, 5 Sharp Street Fen, 3 Fritton Marshes, 3 Swanton Morley GP; Nov 4 Horning Waterworks.

Breeding pairs/calling birds/broods included: Barton Turf Fen 2, Berney 1+, Cley, Haddiscoe Island, Hickling Broad Complex 9, Holkham NNR 3, Holme, Lopham Fen 7, Strumpshaw 2+, Sutton Fen 3, Titchwell 5.

Both spring and autumn migrants noted: running across 7th tee Cromer GC March 25th, in ditch Caister GC April 12th, in pit Warham Greens Oct 23rd and in off sea Gorleston Nov 13th.

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

Scarce passage migrant, rare in winter

Two typical records: calling Belaugh June 21st (ACo) and Holkham GM Sept 13th (AIB).

Moorhen (Common Moorhen)

Gallinula chloropus

Abundant resident; immigrants in autumn

Peak monthly counts at most regularly monitored sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	9	18	11	12	10	11	8	30	40
Titchwell	10	1	8	11	3	5	11	34	24
Holkham Park Lake	9	22	6	3	7	4	-	9	-
Holkham NNR	25	22	45	177	16	44	69	29	81
Cley	14	14	16	11	16	10	17	26	33
Salthouse	21	32	10	2	-	4	21	27	49
Welney	26	37	15	17	-	-	74	27	28
Marlingford Mere	3	5	11	4	8	10	22	23	-

Other counts exceeding 20: Jan 40 King’s Lynn Gaywood River, 21 Norwich Wensum Park; Feb 22 Brundall (private pond); April 43 Strumpshaw; May 178 Holkham NNR; June 176 Holkham NNR; Nov 78 Flitcham, 31 Hoveton Park Lake, 26 North Wootton Marsh; Dec 26 Flitcham.

Breeding pairs included: Cley 10, Blakeney GM 8 and Holkham NNR 114. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 61 individuals of this species were recorded in 35 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Coot (Common Coot)
Common resident and winter visitor
Monthly max at regularly counted sites:

Fulica atra

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	109	100	68	29	18	34	31	31	41	28	-	26
Holme	11	73	28	24	12	8	17	29	54	60	64	98
Holkham NNR	54	88	95	196	194	184	23	151	87	97	66	157
Holkham Park Lake	67	45	31	17	19	-	2	21	16	21	31	-
Welney	634	465	408	308	4	-	328	300	-	631	1682	2077
Whitlingham CP	211	99	42	17	26	-	36	-	90	158	255	242
Marlingford Mere	61	40	14	5	18	10	33	53	84	80	100	-

National importance (winter): 1730

Other counts exceeding 100: Jan 130 Nar Valley Fisheries; June 116 Rollesby Broad; July 130 Martham Broad; Aug 244 Ormesby Broad, 156 Rollesby Broad; Sept 160 Strumpshaw; Oct 450 Martham Broad, 178 Strumpshaw; Nov 136 Ranworth Broad, 135 Strumpshaw; Dec 182 Rollesby Broad, 103 Ranworth Broad.

Breeding pairs included: Blakeney GM 17, Cley 17, Holkham NNR 115, Morning Thorpe GP 6.

Common Crane
Resident colony in Broads since 1979; some records may relate to continental migrants

Grus grus

Up to 33 birds seen in first winter period including one juv. Eight breeding territories occupied but only one young fledged. A sub-adult found dead in area Aug 1st. In second winter period up to 31 although no juvs noted.

Away from regular areas in east of county reports of wandering birds (or possible migrants) began with singles east Titchwell, Sheringham and Overstrand March 4th and 2 birds west Holt, Titchwell, Holme and Hunstanton March 12th. April sightings included 6 west Brancaster 12th and a well-reported peregrination of 5 birds from Northrepps over West Runton, Cley, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Warham and Scolt Head, to Titchwell, where 2 more birds joined in, then back east over Brancaster and Scolt Head 29th. The following day 2 birds were seen heading east over Wells, Stiffkey, Blakeney, Cley and Kelling Heath. In May 2 flew west over Cley, Blakeney Point, Stiffkey and Holkham GM 6th and, presumably same 2, continued west over Burnham Norton and Choseley 7th. On July 23rd 2 east Titchwell, Brancaster Staithe and Burnham Overy Staithe and similarly 2 east Cley, Salthouse and Overstrand Aug 15th.

On July 11th 2 adults flew south from Hockwold Washes into RSPB Lakenheath.

The captive/feral birds at Pensthorpe attracted 4 wild birds mid-Feb and in May a wild bird was seen frequently from the Great Ryburgh Watchpoint in company with 2 feral birds

from Pensthorpe. A wild male was seen accompanying 2 feral females at Pensthorpe June 18th and presumed same 3 Fakenham Aug 15th.

At Welney 1-3 on various dates Oct 8th-Dec 18th.

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher)
Common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeder
Most important and consistently counted sites:

Haematopus ostralegus

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marsh	80	18	42	83	22	-	349	188	136	310	-	1945
Snettisham	4742	2791	1305	1917	1514	1137	1507	3100	6016	4272	4104	2333
Holme	695	1375	519	150	86	134	266	114	977	259	603	229
Thornham Hbr	58	151	5	16	21	25	4	11	4	54	7	39
Titchwell	337	27	309	143	104	116	223	380	507	218	369	436
Brancaster	21	39	30	16	7	-	12	27	12	31	66	39
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	475	435	412	439	389	273	515	585	667	458	489	592
Burnham Overy Hbr	62	32	-	45	42	54	10	18	14	54	5	34
Holkham Bay	18	23	145	20	11	23	5	8	7	7	13	14
Wells Hbr	419	581	540	90	85	227	299	167	375	469	513	39
Warham SM	226	6	13	54	54	31	-	227	-	350	540	653
Stiffkey SM	397	360	-	278	185	-	122	-	910	601	-	318
Blakeney Hbr	299	730	313	372	650	671	624	934	388	153	155	295
Cley	5	26	33	47	38	28	30	6	4	-	1	2
Breydon/Berney	27	68	148	190	61	43	106	48	21	21	3	-

National importance (winter): 3200

Additional counts: April 30 Blakeney GM, 70 Holkham NNR, 64 Salthouse, 53 West Walton; June 72 Holkham NNR; Dec 1085 Ousemouth.

Easterly spring passage at Scolt Head included 40 April 5th, 173 22nd, 45 23rd, 75 May 15th and at Winterton total of 110 south 69 north Feb 27th-June 1st, including 24 south May 14th.

Number of breeding pairs along coast similar to previous year with 431 pairs (433 2006): North Wootton 2, Ken Hill Marsh 5, Snettisham 23, Holme 17, Titchwell 24, Scolt Head 118 (5-10 fledged), Holkham NNR 77 (35 GM and 42 beach), Stiffkey SM 2, Blakeney Hbr R Glaven realignment 5, Blakeney Point 142 (40-50 fledged), Blakeney GM 9, Cley 7. Success was mixed, at Scolt Head few young fledged due to flooding, bad weather and fox predation, whilst Blakeney Point saw largest number of young fledged for many years.

Inland total of 31 breeding pairs reported, down considerably on the 67 pairs previous year: Barnham Broom, Brettenham, Buckenham Marshes 6, Cantley Marshes 2, Corpusty, Earsham GP (2 fledged), Haddiscoe Island 2, Lenwade, Marlingford Mere, Metton, Morning Thorpe GP (2 fledged), Nar Valley Fisheries (one fledged), Pensthorpe, Pentney GP (2 fledged), Raynham, Reymerston GP, Sennowe Park, South Acre, Sparham 2, Stoke Holy Cross, Welney and Wighton 2. Breeding also reported from Stanford TA, whilst breeding pairs around lakes in Wensum Valley failed due to flooding following heavy spring rains.

Autumn passage from mid-July (west along north coast), best counts 109 Cley July 29th and 183 both Aug 8th and 21st, 54 Scolt Head Aug 8th, 61 20th and 79 on 24th, 41 Sheringham Sept 5th and total of 213 north 103 south Winterton July 21st-Nov 12th, best days 57 north 27 south Aug 21st and 30 north 22nd.

The albino present Brancaster Hbr/Scolt Head during first winter period but failed to return in autumn; one with an exceptionally long bill with both mandibles coming to almost a point Blakeney Hbr Nov 17th.

Avocet (Pied Avocet)

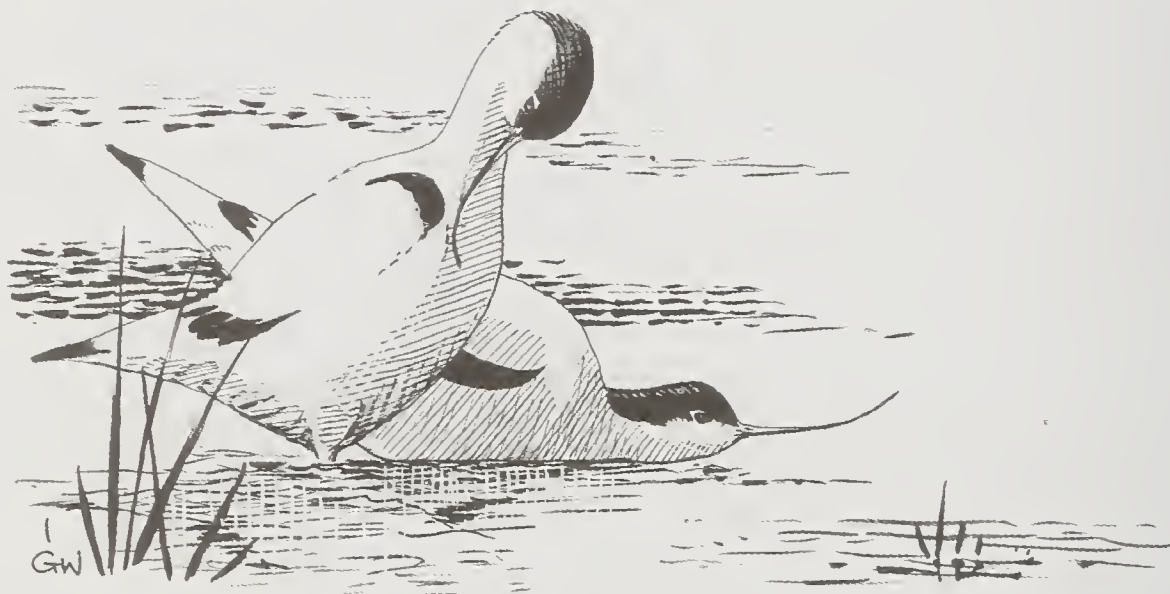
Recurvirostra avosetta

Breeding summer visitor, increasing in winter

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	-	32	116	120	121	109	650	365	7	5	-	-
Holme	-	9	33	34	37	40	17	12	4	-	-	-
Titchwell	11	27	141	156	100	108	133	75	36	10	17	9
Holkham NNR	-	-	110	174	147	131	-	2	1	-	-	-
Cley	41	152	203	211	222	182	180	45	25	9	15	25
Salthouse	-	27	53	64	49	84	46	20	1	1	-	-
Breydon/Berney	171	307	268	207	113	191	703	896	532	171	104	120

Peak counts elsewhere: Feb 25 Brancaster Hbr, March 156 Terrington Marsh, 35 Haddiscoe Island, 53 Hickling Broad, 27 Welney; April 29 Hickling Broad, 31 Horsey Mere, 102 Welney; May 119 Ousemouth, 74 Welney; June 183 Ousemouth; July 95 North Wootton; Aug 167 Terrington Marsh.



Avocets (Gary Wright)

Breeding data more complete this year with 465 pairs reported from 17 sites. A lack of data from 2 sensitive sites would probably have taken the total over 500 pairs for the first time, although failed birds moving between sites and re-nesting may have inflated this figure: Snettisham 52, Ken Hill Marsh, Holme 20 (13 fledged), Titchwell 40 (5 fledged), Holkham NNR 77, Blakeney GM 11 (5 fledged), Blakeney Hbr R Glaven realignment 24 (3 fledged), Cley 85 (25 fledged), Salthouse 42 (3 fledged) Hickling Broad 12 (flooded), Hardley Flood (flooded), How Hill (flooded), Buckenham Marshes 17, Cantley Marshes 6, West Caister Marshes (new breeding locality), Berney 37 (none fledged), Yarmouth R Bure (failed, first attempt since about 1805) and Welney 37 (all nests flooded). Although the number of breeding pairs appears to be continuing to increase, productivity remains poor at many sites; at Blakeney Hbr R Glaven realignment pairs suffered from heavy stoat predation, Grey Herons again took a large number of young at Cley and a number of sites were flooded following an exceptionally wet spring.

	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Pairs	214	203	181	267	186	309	364	383	397	482	405	380	465
Sites	10	11	13	16	11	14	16	14	14	18	14	12	17

Small numbers reported inland away from breeding sites, all pairs perhaps seeking future breeding areas: Rockland Broad April 11th, Leziate Heath 17th, Hockwold Washes 18th and West Walton May 21st.

Small numbers noted moving offshore with 7 south Horsey and Winterton March 27th, 3 north Winterton April 7th, 2 west Sheringham May 12th, 2 west West Runton June 3rd and one south Sept 23rd.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Breeding summer visitor, mainly to Brecks

In Gooderstone area 6 birds wintered Jan/Feb, whilst one at Choseley Feb 8th may have also been a wintering bird or an early returning migrant. Small numbers of early migrants in March at Great Cressingham 8th and 2 Cockley Cley 9th.

In Norfolk Brecks 116 pairs fledged 78 young (0.67 young per pair) making it marginally better than 2006. Elsewhere in north 13 pairs fledged 8 young.

Away from usual sites Shotesham and Weybourne April 22nd, Brancaster 24th, Beeston Regis and Blakeney Friary Hill 25th, Winterton May 25th and Cringleford Aug 13th.

Autumn gatherings: 18 Brettenham July 19th, 27 Great Cressingham Sept 6th with 115 15th, 80 29th, 126 Oct 6th and up to 23 until 23rd, and 60 Hilborough Sept 29th, 26 Oct 2nd and 7 Nov 12th until year end.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

First of spring later than usual at Salthouse and Buckenham March 23rd, Whitlingham CP 26th, Pentney GP and Tottenhill GP 27th, Earsham 29th and on waste ground near Norwich Showground 31st. During spring recorded at 23 sites (26 in 2006) including 5 Buckenham April 9th, 8 Hickling Swim Coots 11th, 3 Welney 19th, 4 Strumpshaw 21st, and in May 6 Hickling Rush Hills 2nd, 4 Welney 11th, 5 Cley 17th and 11 Lynford GP 31st. Migrants west Cley April 2nd, Holme and Scolt Head 8th, north Winterton 10th, north Sea Palling and west Beeston Bump 11th, and north Winterton and west West Runton May 6th.

A total of 18-19 pairs reported from 12 sites: Blakeney Hbr R Glaven realignment (failed), Buckenham Marshes, Cley 1-2 (none fledged), Costessey GP, Earsham GP 2 (both failed), Great Ryburgh (pair fledged 3 young on set-a-side), Hickling Swim Coots 2 (both failed at egg stage), Lynford GP 2, Marlingford Mere 4 (all young and clutches lost when island flooded), Pensthorpe (failed), Pentney GP and Welney. Note low number of breeding pairs for second consecutive year and relatively poor



Little Ringed Plover (Steve Cale)

success at most sites due to spring flooding. Observers are encouraged to report all breeding records to determine whether a genuine decline is taking place or breeding is merely under-recorded.

Post breeding dispersal/autumn passage from early June, peak counts 3 Titchwell June 1st, 3 Blakeney GM 21st, 5 Cley 30th, 12 Cley and 4 Buckenham Marshes July 18th, 6 Blakeney Point Aug 4th and 7 Titchwell 7th. Migrants west in autumn Holme July 19th and Scolt Head 25th. Most birds had departed by mid-Sept after when only records Titchwell 22nd and Pentney GP 28th.

Ringed Plover
Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant, and winter visitor in small numbers
Most regularly counted sites:

Charadrius hiaticula

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	-	8	14	48	28	36	50	85	36	4	-	-
Holme	10	29	68	18	100	31	51	155	235	158	12	17
Thornham	21	8	-	-1	-	7	-	-	42	6	-	2
Titchwell	66	16	10	9	110	143	22	64	77	26	56	22
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	63	95	175	125	749	235	215	805	715	205	55	52
Wells Hbr	4	6	2	-	60	18	20	20	45	-	63	-
Stiffkey SM	17	14	-	8	115	-	20	-	-	2	-	13
Blakeney Hbr	153	113	32	34	240	51	29	174	121	12	70	25
Cley	45	45	33	19	60	34	8	33	78	35	15	18
Breydon/Berney	63	57	54	41	116	61	40	184	200	135	71	34

National importance: 330 (winter), 300 (passage)

Elsewhere: May 333 Ousemouth, Aug 72 Hickling Broad, Sept 99 Yarmouth Beach, Dec 33 clifftop West Runton, 34 Burnham Overy Hbr.

A small bird probably of Scandinavian race Salthouse March 22nd. Passage of *tundrae* race far greater than last year April 27th-June 17th. Largest counts from mid-May when 240 Blakeney Point 15th, 650 Scolt Head 20th, and into June 195 Wells East Hills 1st, 143 Titchwell 4th and still 235 Scolt Head 17th. Elsewhere 11 Welney May 1st, 4 Gresham 14th and 51 Hickling Rush Hills 26th. Migrants west in spring 34 Scolt Head May 11th and 60 Cley 25th.

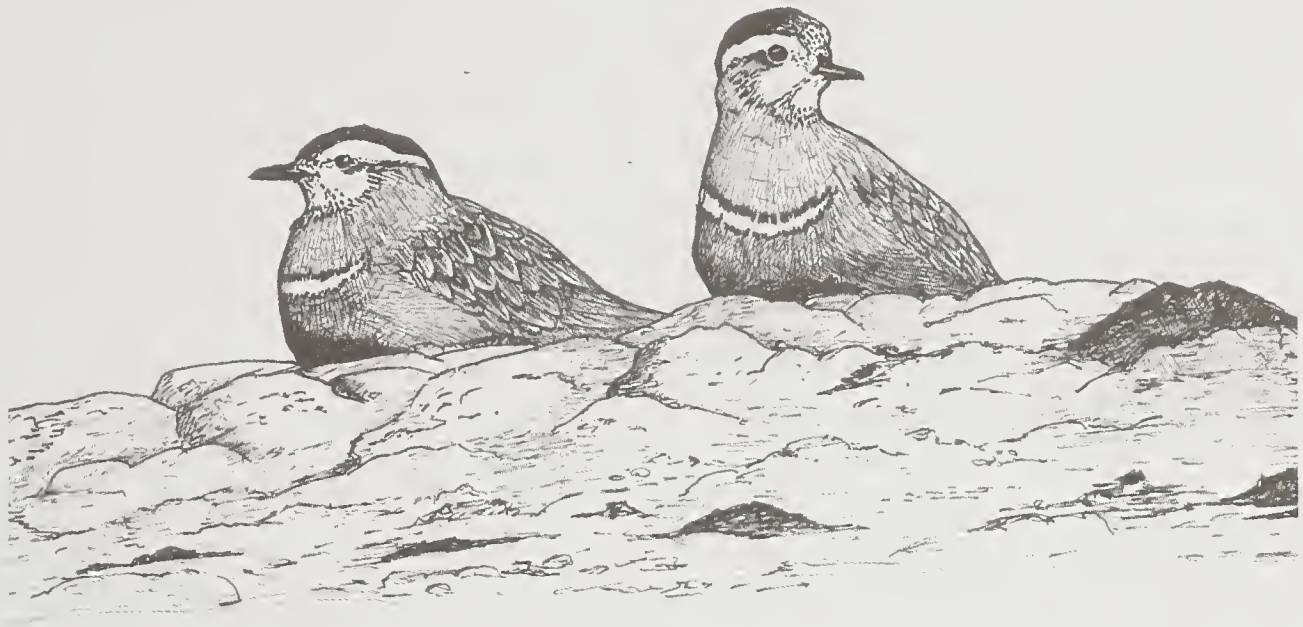
Welcome increase in number of breeding pairs reported with 207 pairs at 12 sites: Snettisham 17, Holme 34 (17 fledged), Titchwell 13, Scolt Head 79 (75-100 fledged), Holkham 24, Stiffkey SM 3, Blakeney Point 14 (8 fledged), Blakeney Hbr R Glaven realignment 2, Cley 9 (5 fledged), Salthouse, Overstrand and Yarmouth 10. No inland breeding pairs reported. Caging of nests at Scolt Head and Holme again helped reduce predation and increase number of broods.

Kentish Plover
Scarce but annual passage migrant, mostly in spring; rare inland
Two records both at Blakeney Point where singles May 12th and June 26th.

Charadrius alexandrinus

Dotterel (Eurasian Dotterel)
Scarce but annual passage migrant; has over-wintered
A poor year, in spring one Waxham May 8th, 2 Choseley 13th and 6 there next day. In autumn singles Yarmouth 21st Aug and Scolt Head Sept 20th and 22nd.

Charadrius morinellus



Dotterel (Alan Burtenshaw)

Golden Plover (European Golden Plover)

Pluvialis apricaria

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	7055	1883	180	-	79	342	2036	-	158
Snettisham	9000	1800	-	3000	1100	1500	1800	2000	2600
Holme	1000	1500	1100	67	60	420	1600	3	305
Titchwell	2500	1198	2000	3	150	334	1000	2000	3000
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1350	1000	5	50	1800	1300	1150	1100	3000
Holkham NNR	180	100	42	11	-	64	6	-	52
Blakeney Hbr	3000	300	5	30	450	138	-	1000	-
Cley	3000	2000	1500	88	100	130	2000	1200	2200
Breydon	15640	20187	2645	3	2200	1010	4000	11560	14810
Buckenham	800	3500	1000	50	-	-	-	12	-
Welney	170	1000	-	300	-	20	300	-	-

National importance (winter): 2500

Counts from the north coast should be used with caution as much interchange takes place between these sites and those just inland.

Counts generally lower during winter than last year.

Elsewhere counts over 1000 in first winter period Jan-March: 4000 Brandiston, 3750 Eastgate, 2000 Choseley, Heydon and Lynn Point, 1600 Ludham and Needham, 1500 Hickling, 1000 Corpusty, East Wretham Heath, North Tuddenham and Thornham Hbr. Counts over 1000 elsewhere Oct-Dec: 1800 Methwold Severals, 1500 Paston and Salthouse, 1000 Halvergate Marshes and Waxham.

Only winter movement 500 south Winterton Jan 27th. Last of spring 4 Titchwell June 4th.

First returning birds Salthouse June 17th and Breydon 28th. Highest counts in July 70 North Wootton Marsh, 40 Snettisham, 25 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 102 Breydon. Westward passage in Aug at Scolt Head where 51 Aug 3rd, 74 19th, 86 21st and 56 on 23rd; elsewhere 73 south Hunstanton (1 hr 30 mins) Oct 16th, and 257 west Sheringham and 100 Beeston Bump 27th.

Grey Plover
Pluvialis squatarola

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Most consistently counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	300	529	526	65	494	3	321	111	322	-	570
Snettisham	55	-	-	1290	2480	-	150	3100	2700	506	527
Holme	120	238	326	18	5	9	80	82	129	113	98
Thornham Hbr	107	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	12	98
Titchwell	169	22	182	120	52	-	250	387	116	107	219
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	265	247	292	390	375	23	345	339	225	268	250
Wells Hbr	104	57	30	4	-	-	5	66	48	56	138
Warham SM	207	-	-	10	-	-	13	-	40	74	103
Stiffkey SM	333	93	-	-	15	-	-	378	497	-	278
Blakeney Hbr	104	67	79	-	2	2	20	74	15	32	109
Breydon/Berney	23	42	41	2	14	1	7	2	19	36	37

International importance (winter): 2500; National importance (winter): 530

Highest counts elsewhere: Feb 36 West Runton; Aug 200 North Wootton Marsh, 55 Yarmouth; Nov 23 Holkham Bay.

Only noteworthy movement in spring 137 west Scolt Head May 11th. In June small numbers of non-breeders over-summered including 4 Snettisham, 22 Titchwell, 19 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 3 Breydon.

Largest movements in autumn 53 west Scolt Head Aug 21st and 33 Sept 6th, 42 west Cley Aug 23rd, 13 west Sheringham and 53 west Mundesley 20th, and total of 219 north Winterton Aug 7th-Nov 26th, peak count 32 Aug 24th.

As usual virtually all inland records during spring when singles Welney March 31st, April 10th and 17th, Hickling Broad April 15th and 29th, May 10th, 12th, 21st and 2 on 22nd, and one Buckenham April 5th and 7th. Only inland birds outside this period Needham Feb 18th, 2 Hickling Broad Aug 20th and one Welney Oct 22nd.

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing)
Vanellus vanellus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	90	240	35	-	-	-	17	500	800	-
Holme	450	140	10	63	24	22	-	-	-	130
Titchwell	1500	1198	-	-	92	27	278	374	1000	28
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	4050	5800	25	4	65	205	184	465	6000	4000
Holkham NNR	528	1540	445	369	28	31	14	12	8	488
Blakeney Hbr/GM	151	360	48	54	25	61	2	12	500	1000
Cley	1072	1440	86	50	95	124	100	228	970	800
Breydon/Berney	17220	17620	487	280	200	417	130	1552	6830	19700
Buckenham/Cantley	3000	2562	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	1500
Welney	3800	3000	73	59	-	-	-	1700	2609	4661

International and National importance (winter): 20,000

Other counts over 1000: Jan 1225 Limpenhoe, 1000 North Wootton, 4539 Ousemouth, 8570 Terrington Marsh; Feb 1500 Heigham Holmes, 4000 Long Stratton, 1706 Ousemouth, 5000



Little Stint - adults are rarely encountered in winter plumage. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Pectoral Sandpiper - an autumn bird at Titchwell. (*Glyn Herrieven*)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - this bird was in cliff-top fields at Happisburgh. (*Neil Bowman*)

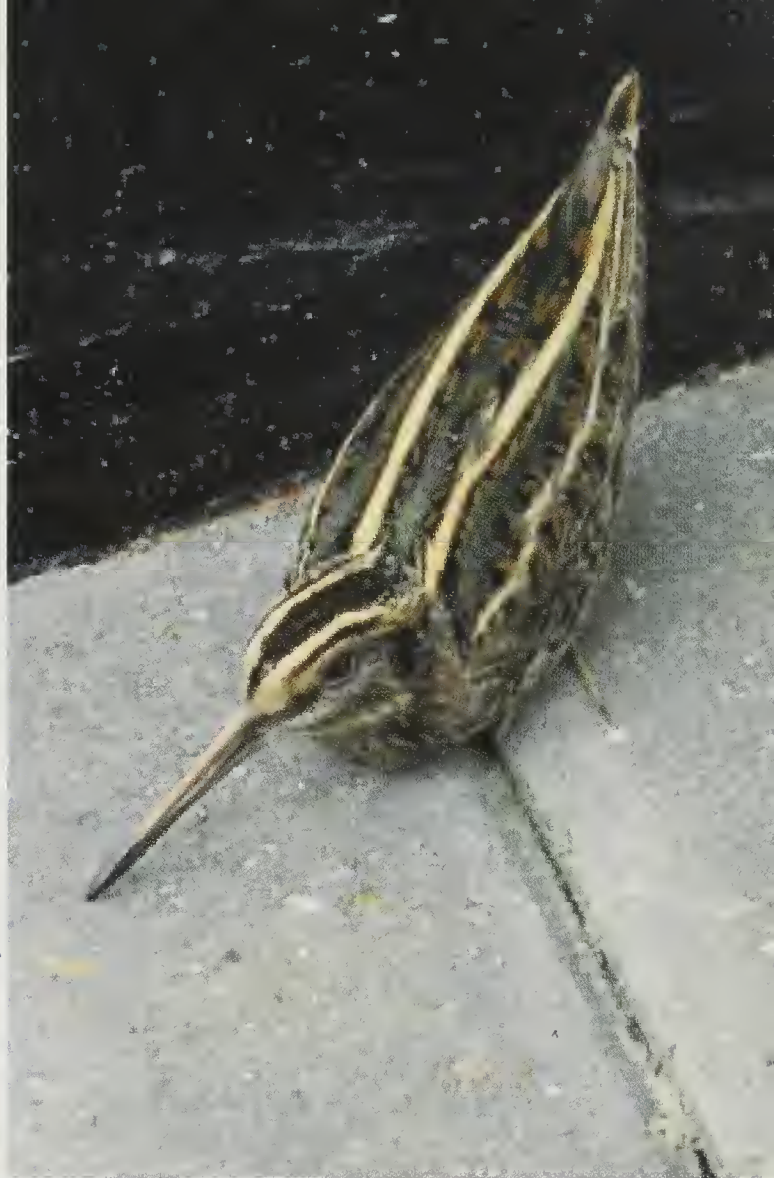




Black-tailed Godwit - present throughout the year at Cley. (*Chris Mills*)

Purple Sandpiper - resting on Blakeney Point. (*Richard Porter*)





Lesser Yellowlegs - this bird was at Thornham early in the year. (*Chris Mills*)

Jack Snipe - found on a doorstep in Holt. (*Peter Morrison*)

Red-necked Phalarope - a juvenile at Kelling Water Meadows. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Grey Phalarope - a juvenile on the sea off Salhouse. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Pomarine Skua - one of two birds which made an extended stay at Salthouse. (*John Miller*)

Great Skua - chasing a young gull and living up to its colloquial name “Bonxie”. (*Dave Curtis*)



Sculthorpe Airfield, 3000 Tasburgh, 5090 Terrington Marsh; Sept 1000 Methwold Severals; Nov 1000 Wissington BF; Dec 2000 Mattishall, 1000 Paston.

Midwinter movements of 1000 south-west Brancaster Jan 2nd, 250 west Paston 6th and 150 high east Weybourne Feb 21st.

During breeding season total of 675 pairs reported from 37 sites: *Wash* Dersingham Bog 2, Ken Hill Marsh 40, Snettisham 1; *north coast* Holme 18, Holkham NNR 194, Warham 3, Blakeney GM 53, Blakeney Point R Glaven 1, Cley 22 (4 fledged), Mundesley 2; *Broads* Hickling Broad 12, How Hill 1, Haddiscoe Island 3, Buckenham 43, Cantley 20, Strumpshaw 3; *Brecks* Hilborough/Gooderstone 100, Narborough 60, Necton 6, Stanford TA 9, Thetford Nunnery 1; *Inland* Aylmerton 1, Baconsthorpe 1, Billingford 1, Bintree 1, Castle Acre 2, Drayton 1, Old Buckenham Airfield 7, Pensthorpe 1, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 1, Sculthorpe 2, South Acre 1, Tatterford Common 2, Thornham Farms 3, Great Ryburgh 3-4, Wighton 3; *Fens* Welney 50. The spring weather affected numbers especially on north coast; numbers of females well down at Holme where a survey found only 18 compared with 50 males and only 8 nests. A decline in numbers also noted at Holkham NNR and Cley. By contrast impressive numbers Hilborough/Gooderstone and Narborough, where Low Farm won an RSPB award for nesting Lapwing, one field there holding 27 pairs; extensive predator control undertaken at both these sites.

In summer post breeding movements from June 11th, peak counts 75 west Titchwell 20th and 1595 west Scolt Head 21st. Main autumn passage poor at Hunstanton where only 680 south Sept 23rd-Nov 5th. Elsewhere best westerly movements 197 Sheringham Oct 14th, 775 Weybourne Nov 5th, 2000 Holme 21st, 1305 Sheringham and 312 Paston 24th, and 315 Holme Dec 14th.

Knot (Red Knot)
Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor
Monthly max at main sites:

Calidris canutus

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marsh	7540	975	650	2800	60	-	3000	1225	-	2000	-	12320
Snettisham	30440	15240	15000	18000	2000	3000	3000	25000	65000	70000	60219	4052
Holme	50	50	204	90	4	-	210	22000	6820	2500	3127	90
Thornham	46	136	65	-	-	-	-	-	150	53	20	40
Titchwell	81	-	65	36	100	70	74	1400	4148	1219	448	250
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	80	200	115	305	295	80	85	80	2000	225	60	400
Wells Hbr	800	400	300	-	-	-	-	-	658	270	41	594
Warham SM	2300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	818	7750	325
Stiffkey SM	370	507	-	226	4	-	-	-	744	641	-	1218
Blakeney Hbr	6	249	2	200	1	24	21	40	80	57	7	376
Breydon	440	438	116	54	21	11	11	88	60	89	240	261

International importance (winter): 4500; National importance (winter):2800

Additional counts elsewhere: Lynn Point 5000 and North Wootton Marsh 5000 Jan, Salthouse 318 Feb, North Wootton Marsh 1000 March and Cley 64 Sept.

Only movements of note in spring 110 west Scolt Head May 11th and 50 east there 16th. Usual scattering of inland birds: 3 Buckenham April 5th, 3 Welney 9th and one there May 1st, 2 Hickling Rush Hills 3rd, 3 Buckenham 3rd-5th, and one there June 8th-11th. Inland birds during autumn included 2 Cantley BF Aug 17th and 3 21st, 14 Hickling Swim Coots Aug 20th/21st, and singles Wissington BF Sept 29th/30th and Methwold Severals Oct 26th.

Offshore movements noted from late July through until late Sept, especially when winds in northern quarter, all moving north off east coast and west along north coast with peak counts: 173 Scolt Head and 43 Cley July 27th, 474 Scolt Head Aug 19th, 134 Holme, 1085 Scolt Head, 145 Cley, 340 Sheringham, 396 Mundesley and 634 Winterton 20th, 466 Holme and 708 Scolt Head 21st, 221 Holme, 135 Scolt Head, 80 Cley and 212 Winterton 23rd, 117 Scolt Head Sept 4th, 432 there 23rd and 711 28th, and 108 Walcott 27th.

Sanderling
Passage migrant and winter visitor
Monthly max at main sites:

Calidris alba

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	175	318	80	-	854	43	82	150	102	55	146	100
Holme	135	62	430	260	328	25	150	461	210	120	55	33
Thornham	89	68	61	59	130	14	200	174	303	17	90	115
Titchwell	197	-	200	118	319	293	169	120	67	77	443	361
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	43	53	43	114	283	30	255	340	355	66	49	33
Holkham Bay	81	25	130	9	-	-	-	-	10	41	379	210
Wells Hbr	55	118	11	-	-	-	-	-	194	150	165	58
Stiffkey SM	29	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	61
Blakeney Hbr	18	-	15	5	16	7	240	128	26	22	17	7

International importance: 1200 (winter); National importance: 210

Peak counts elsewhere: Walcott 32 Jan and 34 Feb, Walcott 40 and Mundesley 28 March, Gorleston 59 May, Cley 36 July, Brancaster 25 and Warham 30 Oct.

Westerly passage noted in spring with 22 Sheringham May 10th and 49 Mundesley 11th. Only movement of note in autumn 21 south Winterton July 21st.

As usual most inland records during May especially at Hickling Rush Hills where one 10th, 3 21st, 2 25th, 3 26th and 6 on 27th. Elsewhere one Pentney GP May 18th and 5 29th, another June 9th/10th, and Welney 10th. Only inland record in autumn Hickling Rush Hills Aug 20th/21st.

Little Stint
Double passage migrant in fluctuating numbers

Calidris minuta

In first winter period one wintered in Cley/Salthouse/Kelling area, but only seen sporadically between Jan and mid-April. Spring passage light with total of around 14 recorded, first Hickling Rush Hills April 27th/28th. In May virtually all 25th-31st, when up to 4 Cley, 2 Hickling Rush Hills and singles Titchwell, Blakeney Point, Salthouse and Breydon. In June 2 Titchwell 1st and singles Cley 1st, 3rd/4th and Salthouse 19th.

Autumn passage from July 21st when one Holme and 2 Cley, but only other records during month singles Salthouse 25th and 27th, and Cley 27th. Slight improvement in numbers Aug, but passage still poor with 2 Snettisham 4th/5th and 3 15th and 28th, Cley 12th and 2 19th/20th, with singles Blakeney Point, Breydon, Cantley BF, Hickling Broad and Titchwell. Passage continued to be poor during first 3 weeks of Sept when up to 3 Wissington BF 15th-24th, 2 Snettisham 1st and singles Holme, Titchwell, Holkham NNR, Blakeney Point, Cley, Yarmouth North Denes, Breydon and Hickling Broad. Numbers slightly improved during rest of Sept when 16 Titchwell and 15 Cley 29th, 11 Salthouse 22nd and 11 Blakeney Point 30th, 3 Welney 24th-29th, 3 Scolt Head 30th and 1-2 Snettisham, Blakeney Point, Kelling and Cantley BF. Numbers remained at similar levels during first 10 days Oct when 20 Hickling Broad, 13 Titchwell, 11 Welney, 9 Snettisham, 7 Cley, 3 Blakeney Point and 1-2 Wells East Hills and

Strumpshaw. Numbers gradually dwindled until last of autumn Wissington BF 17th, Cley 22nd and Titchwell 31st. In second winter period 2 Titchwell Dec 29th.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Passage migrant, more frequent in spring

Total of around 15 in spring; in May 2 Cley 5th, up to 3 there 19th-26th, and 2 29th, one Titchwell 15th-17th with 2 18th, 2 Hickling Rush Hills 19th and one 25th-29th, and singles Burnham Norton 20th, north over sea with 2 Dunlin Winterton 29th and last of spring Titchwell June 6th and 8th.

Three in autumn Cley July 21st/22nd, Hickling Broad Aug 22nd and Titchwell Oct 4th/5th.



Temminck's Stint and Shelduck (Gary Wright)

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Vagrant from north America

Three records: an adult Breydon Aug 14th-Sept 8th (DHR *et al*) and juvs Wissington BF Sept 11th-15th (ABa CDo) and Titchwell Sept 22nd (PMe *et al*).

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Almost annual autumn vagrant from north America/Siberia; rare in spring

Three in spring all during May when Cley 10th, Hickling Rush Hills and Swim Coots 18th, and another Cley 20th/21st and 24th, the first time that more than two have been seen in spring.

At least 9 in autumn: Blakeney Point and Cley July 14th, Buckenham 22nd, Breydon 30th, Titchwell Sept 7th-15th, juv Hickling Broad 13th/14th with 2 on 15th-24th and one 25th, Kelling WM 22nd/23rd, presumed same west Salthouse 23rd, and others Wissington BF 25th and Blakeney Point 28th.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Autumn passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; scarce in spring

Spring passage typically light involving around 30-35 individuals, first Cley April 8th/9th, but no others until one Hickling Rush Hills April 24th. Recorded 16 dates May, highest counts 4 Titchwell 20th, 3 Breydon 23rd and 1-2 Blakeney Point, Cley and Hickling Rush Hills. Passage continued for much of June when 3 Cley 4th and 5 11th, 2 Blakeney Hbr 17th, and 1-2 Blakeney GM, Breydon, Eccles until last Cley 21st-25th.

First returning adults Cley July 11th, Titchwell and 2 Breydon 14th, with peak counts during rest of month 4 Snettisham 17th, 3 Cley and 4 Breydon 18th, 2 Titchwell 22nd and 5 Breydon 26th. Records from 7 sites Aug, when 21 Snettisham 2nd, 28 Titchwell 6th, 27 Scolt Head 19th and 12 24th, 13 Cley 19th, single Hickling Swim Coots 20th (first juv), 8 23rd and 7 on 26th, 3 Breydon 6th, 10th/11th, 14th and 17th, and one north Winterton 28th. More widespread in Sept but passage poor, best counts 15 Cley 14th, 12 Titchwell and Breydon 8th, 9 Wissington BF 11th, 8 Scolt Head 27th, 5 Kelling WM and Snettisham 14th, 3 Hickling Broad 14th, and 1-2 Salthouse, Wells Hbr and Welney. Also during month 3 west Weybourne 10th and one west Sheringham 25th. Peak counts in Oct of 10 Titchwell 10th, 8 Cley 15th, 3 Blakeney Hbr 5th, Welney 2nd-14th and Wissington BF 9th, and 1-2 Breydon, Burnham Overy Hbr and Snettisham. Last of autumn Blakeney Hbr Nov 1st, Breydon 2nd and Cley 3rd-7th.

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Passage migrant and declining winter visitor in small numbers

Very few reported during in first winter period when singles Gorleston Jan 28th, Sheringham Feb 12th, Titchwell Feb 25th and March 22nd, Waxham March 7th and last of spring 3 Sea Palling March 28th-April 4th.

First returning birds Breydon July 22nd-24th and Scolt Head 27th-29th, but no further records until Aug when Titchwell 15th-21st, west Scolt Head 20th, 2 west Sheringham 21st, west Weybourne 22nd and Snettisham 29th-31st. Passage slightly better first half of Sept when 1-2 Blakeney Point, Cley, Sheringham, Snettisham and Titchwell. Notable influx Sept 18th when 5 west Scolt Head, 2 west Cley, 2 Eccles, 2 west Walcott and one Blakeney Point. Apart from one west Scolt Head 20th no others until larger influx in final 4 days of month when up to 5 on tidal pools Scolt Head 26th-30th and 8 west there 26th, 9 27th and 2 on 28th. Elsewhere 2 west Cley and east Sheringham 26th, 3 Blakeney Point 27th and 4 28th, 2 Thornham 28th, and singles Mundesley 28th and Burnham Overy Dunes 29th. Apart from up to 8 at Eccles/Sea Palling and 3 Happisburgh during Oct few others, with 1-2 Thornham Point, Titchwell, Scolt Head, Sheringham, Breydon and one inland Welney 4th.

Excellent numbers in Nov when third influx of autumn during northerly winds, including up to 11 most days Eccles/Sea Palling, 5 Salthouse 14th, 3 Waxham 1st and Horsey 29th, and 1-2 Snettisham, Titchwell, Scolt Head, Warham, Morston, Blakeney Point, Cley, Kelling, Sheringham, Cromer and Waxham. Good numbers also noted moving offshore during Nov, especially at Winterton where one north 6th, 5 9th, one 10th, 2 11th, one 12th, and 2 on 14th. Elsewhere birds west Scolt Head 10th, 7 Sheringham and singles Cromer and north Hopton 11th, Cromer and 2 Walcott 12th, and 2 Mundesley and 3 north Walcott 13th. In Dec best site again Eccles/Sea Palling where up to 13 throughout month; elsewhere 8 Waxham 29th, 3 Walcott 1st and 1-2 Snettisham, Holme, Titchwell, Warham and Horsey.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Passage migrant and winter visitor; non-breeders in summer

Peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	3770	1265	2575	1105	1885	-	638	745	160	1325	-	3495
Ousemouth	80	1810	3107	-	934	-	-	-	10	6	1982	5980
Snettisham	4590	3548	1250	1500	1352	-	6713	3530	3205	5570	2521	4232
Holme	81	425	125	43	86	-	39	71	32	41	116	330
Thornham	286	230	-	-	129	2	-	-	12	13	-	34
Titchwell	288		130	104	183	12	93	98	158	81	89	362
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	800	736	524	610	1450	10	455	800	730	555	527	1000
Wells Hbr	720	145	210	-	-	-	-	25	85	450	660	642
Warham SM	740	-	-	35	100	-	-	25	-	155	60	312
Stiffkey SM	189	135	-	178	94	-	52	-	198	353	-	244
Blakeney Hbr	178	130	2	44	400	13	132	1262	410	45	206	570
Cley	361	669	370	87	50	35	520	372	521	289	251	279
Salthouse	95	103	25	10	34	1	165	3	-	-	-	10
Breydon/Berney	3090	2910	3840	1326	560	19	553	443	391	1060	2740	5310

International importance (winter): 13,300; National importance (winter): 5600

Additional counts: Jan 79 Kelling, 12 Welney; Feb 207 Burnham Overy Hbr; May 35 Hickling Rush Hills, 30 Welney; Aug 78 Hickling Broad; Dec 249 Burnham Overy Hbr, 83 Holkham Bay.

Unusual numbers west in May when 1000 Holme, 947 Scolt and 245 Mundesley all 16th.

Passage over sea on many dates during autumn, especially at Scolt Head where 30 west July 13th, 144 Aug 20th, 158 21st, 133 Sept 9th, 334 23rd, 335 26th, and 231 on 27th; elsewhere 200 west Cley July 30th, 114 west Mundesley Aug 20th and 160 west Walcott Aug 27th. All other noted movements during late autumn from north/east coasts where in Nov 212 Winterton 11th and 846 13th, 178 Walcott 12th, 1977 Eccles and 907 Walcott 13th.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis

Vagrant from north America

Two records, both in autumn and possibly relating to just one individual, with juv Happisburgh Sept 25th-30th (RA *et al*) and Berney Oct 2nd (PRA).

Broad-billed Sandpiper

Limicola falcinelles

Vagrant from north Eurasia

In spring one Breydon May 21st/22nd (INS *et al*), surprisingly the first there since 1996.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Double passage migrant; small numbers over-winter; has bred

Monthly peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	53	75	42	-	-	-	-	12	2	-	-	-
Titchwell	110	75	48	10	3	1	22	104	118	101	100	85
Stiffkey Fen	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	22	28	-	-	-
Blakeney GM	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	-	1
Cley	34	35	31	25	12	6	50	44	30	36	29	33
Salthouse	15	21	27	-	-	-	6	3	-	7	16	20
Cantley BF	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	37	15	-	-
Buckenham	25	34	26	12	9	4	22	12	-	34	23	-
Hickling Broad	4	-	10	21	-	-	21	83	77	45	46	-
Breydon/Berney	55	40	16	9	-	-	17	12	5	4	36	42
Welney	12	14	7	35	25	-	-	-	42	101	21	13

National importance (winter): 7

Highest counts elsewhere during winter months 50 Thornham Jan and 80 Feb, 21 feeding in ploughed field Langham Jan 28th, 14 Heigham Holmes Feb 21st, 50 Waxham Nov, and 25 Postwick Marshes and 23 Field Dalling Dec.

As reflected in table spring passage very poor, only others 9 Hardley Flood March 28th and 11 Brancaster April 22nd, with last in spring 3 Welney May 11th.

First returning males Cley June 12th and Titchwell 20th. Elsewhere during autumn 4 Methwold Fens July 29th, 7 Holkham GM Aug 11th, 4 west Weybourne 22nd, 5 Warham 28th, up to 4 West Walton Aug 25th-Sept 12th, up to 30 Wissington BF, 32 Methwold Severals, 15 Brancaster Hbr and 7 Blakeney GM Sept, and 20 Horsey/Waxham Oct.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyrtes minimus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining

Highest counts during winter months 7 Buxton Heath Feb, 5 Hickling Rush Hills March, 4 Roydon Common Jan, and 3 Algarsthorpe Floods and Brancaster Hbr Feb, and Winterton March. Elsewhere 1-2 Bayfield Hall, Berney, Blakeney, Brancaster, Buckenham, Cantley Marshes, Colney GP, Dersingham Bog, Eccles, Haddiscoe Island, Halvergate Marshes, Holme, Glandford, Kelling WM, Paston, Pentney Heath, Reedham, Stiffkey, Strumpshaw, Sutton Fen, Titchwell, Wells East Hills, West Newton and Whitlingham CP. Last of spring in first half April when singles Hickling Rush Hills 1st, Winterton 2nd, East Ruston King’s Fen and Thetford Nunnery Flood 4th, Horning Hulver Ground and Winterton 5th, and Beeston Common 10th.

First in autumn Scolt Head Sept 27th, 2 Blakeney Point 28th and one Holt 29th. The bird at Holt was present on doorstep of observer’s house and was watched down to one foot, remaining stationary for 20 mins whilst a group of people watched. New arrivals continued to appear during Oct when 5 Welney 8th, 2 Blakeney Point 9th, and singles during rest of month Blakeney Hbr, Caister, Holkham, Methwold Severals, Sheringham, Stiffkey, Strumpshaw, Welney, Weybourne and Winterton.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

A poor first winter period with counts of 40 or more from just 4 sites: Haddiscoe Island 45 March, Hickling Broad 40 April, Strumpshaw 54 Feb and 41 March, and Titchwell 50 Jan.

Total of 86 drummers reported from 12 sites during spring, a welcome increase compared with the 63 reported from 7 sites in 2006: *north coast* Holkham NNR 9, Cley; *Broads* Catfield Fen, Buckenham 7, Cantley 2, Berney 8; *inland* Bayfield Hall, Castle Acre, Great Cressingham 2, Lopham Fen 3, Roydon Common 5, South Pickenham, Welney 45 (all failed). The species' stronghold at Welney was again wiped out by spring/summer flooding.

Visible migration westwards July 16th-Nov 24th with max: 300 Holme Aug 19th, 42 Sept 19th, 32 Oct 6th; 75 Scolt Head Aug 18th, an impressive 618 19th, 95 20th, 74 Sept 5th, 47 6th, 55 18th and 125 Oct 3rd; 46 Warham Aug 19th; 32 Cley Aug 24th; 60 Stiffkey, 40 Salthouse and 31 Sheringham all Nov 24th.

During autumn/second winter period counts of 30 or more from 11 sites, and generally higher than 2006: Algarsthorpe Flood 62 Dec, Blakeney Point 34 Aug and 33 Sept, Buckenham Marshes 100 Nov, Burnham Overy Hbr 234 Dec, Cley 33 Nov, Hickling Broad 54 Aug, Holkham NNR 33 Sept and 36 Dec, Holme 40 Sept, 54 Oct and 49 Nov, Swanton Morley GP 46 Aug and 50 Sept, Wells Lodge Marsh 77 Dec, Welney 87 Sept and 50 Oct, and Wissington BF 66 Sept.

Great Snipe

Gallinago media

Vagrant from north-east Europe

One Blakeney Point Aug 21st (JRMc PN DWo).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus

Vagrant from North America and north-east Siberia

A well-watched juv Titchwell Sept 21st-25th (BL *et al*) and same/another Salthouse Oct 2nd (AJG); surprisingly the first record(s) since 1998.

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock)

Scolopax rusticola

Passage migrant and winter visitor; breeder particularly in Brecks

Widespread during winter months, although few counts of note with best 5 Choseley and Titchwell Jan, 5 Blickling Park and Kettlestone Feb, and 6 Holkham Meals and Whitwell Common Dec, with 1-4 at many other sites.

Spring passage from mid-March until mid-April when scattering of migrants at coastal sites and several flushed at Sparham during first week of April indicative of return passage.

Good numbers of roding birds reported during spring and summer: Alderfen Broad, Barton Broad 2, Bayfield Hall 2, Boughton Fen, Catfield Fen, Cockleycley Wood 12, Dersingham Bog 10, Drymere (Beechamwell), Hoveton, Irstead Hall Fen, Kelling Heath 2, Marsham Heath 3, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Salthouse Heath, Sandringham 2, Santon Downham 3, Strumpshaw, South Walsham and Thetford Warren Wood. An early nest found Gooderstone March 12th.

First migrants in autumn Scolt Head, Burnham Overy Dunes and Cley Sept 28th, and Holme and Blakeney Point 29th. Small numbers of migrants continued to arrive during first 3 weeks of Oct, with much larger arrival between 22nd and 27th, when up to 5 Holme, 3 Titchwell, 3 Scolt Head, 4 Burnham Overy Dunes, 2 Holkham Gap, 7 Warham Greens, 3 Stiffkey, 6 Blakeney Point, 3 Cley, 5 Kelling Heath, 2 Winterton, 4 Caister GC and 3 Yarmouth Cemetery. A second wave of birds appeared Nov 10th-15th when peak counts 11 Holme, 10 Scolt Head, 6 Cley, 7 Sheringham, 3 Walcott, 3 Sea Palling, 5 Gorleston, 12 Sutton Broad and 4 Strumpshaw; many of these either birds seen arriving in off sea or moving west over it. Also at this time large numbers flushed during shoots at Brancaster Thompson Farms where 20 Nov 12th and later 60 Nov 26th and 22 Dec 6th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1	5	-	46	38	2	890	1120	600	-	-	-
Holme	2	6	28	22	10	4	8	331	73	54	17	4
Thornham	19	9	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	19
Titchwell	22	-	33	113	40	12	215	401	214	109	95	10
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	8	13	117	28	43	25	155	223	149	36	17	7
Holkham NNR	-	-	38	77	-	70	-	136	-	40	-	7
Stiffkey Fen	20	-	-	72	-	-	-	85	5	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr/GM	-	13	1	18	-	50	64	8	3	-	1	35
Cley	240	202	250	170	50	204	193	356	422	400	500	182
Salthouse/Kelling	72	166	-	13	-	-	70	223	230	1	240	-
Hickling Broad	-	3	267	102	25	-	13	14	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	1320	1120	1120	426	20	120	671	823	1350	987	2469	1806
Buckenham GM	-	22	8	17	13	-	29	14	-	-	-	-
Welney	450	796	1700	3314	56	2	20	-	-	40	44	-

International importance (winter): 470; National importance (winter): 150

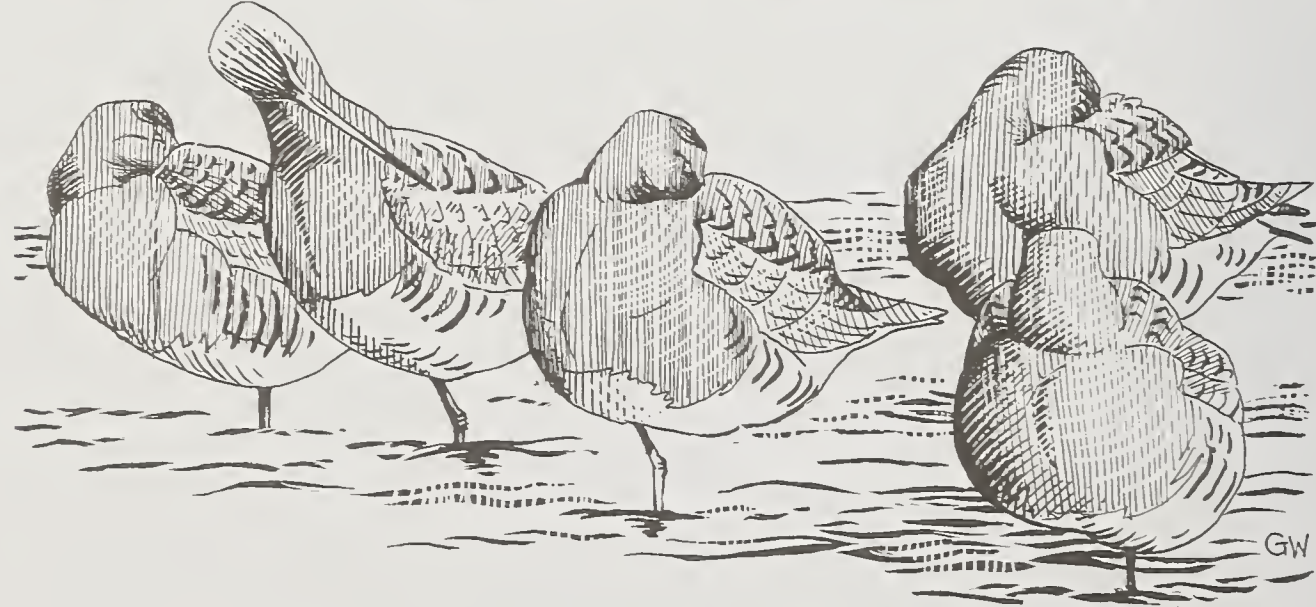
The April count at Welney highest there since 1998 and the Nov count at Breydon a new site record.

Elsewhere highest counts: 70 Heigham Holmes March 9th, 68 Wells Hbr March 18th, 3913 Ousemouth in July, 522 Terrington Marsh July 14th and 475 Aug 4th, 400 North Wootton Marsh July 18th, 175 Burnham Overy Hbr Aug 5th, 400 on flooded land following an earlier tidal surge Postwick Marshes Nov 30th, and 185 Acle Dec 18th. Additional inland birds included 2 Wissington BF Aug 24th and 2 Methwold Severals Sept.

Only noteworthy movements during year 21 east Winterton Feb 13th and 15 north-west out to sea Scolt Head during late evening April 25th.

Nominate breeding birds reported from usual site, where 5 breeding pairs the most for sometime, sadly due to exceptionally wet spring none managed to rear any young.

Other records of nominate race birds from Cley where first March 13th and up to 4 adults during spring Birds present daily June 7th-27th, with influx between 20th and 27th, when max 36 23rd, including 3 colour-ringed birds, all of which presumably originated from the



Black-tailed Godwits (Richard Johnson)

Continent; during autumn 10 still present early July and smaller numbers throughout month, with juv Aug 3rd-5th.

Counts of birds at Cley during Oct-Dec showed flocks contained 9.9% of 1st year birds, although youngsters not evenly distributed in flocks within area.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Passage migrant and winter visitor; a few non-breeders in summer

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	695	77	55	-	-	-	7	204	17	11	160	269
Ousemouth	150	270	50	30	-	-	-	40	-	55	-	170
Snettisham	822	3104	800	600	110	50	1500	2300	2000	3303	2503	1585
Holme	86	26	107	12	5	1	67	761	17	105	300	269
Thornham	12	2	24	-	-	-	21	2	7	-	-	226
Titchwell	457	390	688	180	53	29	201	900	2585	2000	819	244
Brancaster	-	28	25	-	-	-	-	-	15	19	55	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	250	210	130	280	280	15	115	306	265	196	207	272
Wells Hbr	250	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	45	53	-
Warham SM	1	30	23	12	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	17
Stiffkey SM	483	298	-	147	1	-	3	-	36	-	163	64
Blakeney Hbr	184	2	12	20	30	3	19	156	70	2	31	247
Breydon	71	54	53	541	653	3	3	10	13	10	41	32

International importance (winter): 1200; National importance (winter): 620

An early summer-plumage bird present Blakeney Hbr during Jan and a leucistic bird Brancaster Hbr April 10th-21st.

Between late April and early May much of England saw large numbers of birds displaced in brisk north-east winds, resulting in some exceptional numbers, with record spring counts at Breydon and much higher than usual numbers reported from many other coastal sites including 85 Cley May 1st and 34 on fields at Winterton May 2nd-4th. Large numbers also moved east at this time with 373 Scolt Head April 29th, 71 Scolt Head, 92 Mundesley and 105 south Winterton 30th, and in May 47 south 12 north Winterton 1st, 320 Scolt Head and 500 Eccles 2nd, and 250 Scolt Head 5th. Over the same period Dungeness in Kent saw an impressive 16,234 move east between April 27th and May 4th.

Return passage in autumn from late June when 6 west Scolt Head 25th, 26 west there Aug 3rd, 53 5th, 57 18th, 105 19th and 23 Sept 27th, 32 west Cley and 21 west Sheringham July 6th, and at Winterton 159 north July 20th-Nov 11th including 29 July 24th and 53 Aug 20th.

The spring influx also produced many more inland records than normal including up to 2 Pentney GP April 27th-May 3rd, 5 Welney and one Strumpshaw 28th, 25 high north-east Ringland 29th, up to 35 Welney 29th-May 1st, 11 east Colney GP 1st, 9 Buckenham Marshes 1st-5th, 35 west Aylmerton 2nd, 10 Hickling Rush Hills 3rd and singles Nar Valley Fisheries and Swanton Morley GP 4th.

During rest of year only other inland records Hickling Broad July 22nd, Cantley BF Aug 22nd, 2 King's Lynn BF Nov 12th and 14 south Wiveton Dec 21st.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter

Peak counts of grounded/feeding flocks at main sites:

	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep
Holme	15	6	33	9	12
Titchwell	17	54	-	27	2
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	43	55	70	133	13
Holkham NNR	4	-	-	30	-
Warham SM	1	-	3	6	-
Stiffkey SM	5	5	-	4	1
Blakeney Hbr/Point	30	47	31	82	6
Cley	6	7	18	10	4
Salthouse	6	3	-	-	1
Breydon/Berney	40	35	41	16	3

National importance (passage): 50

Breeding records included 16 pairs Stanford TA, 4-5 pairs Brettenham Heath where described as a productive year, 3-4 pairs Roydon Common area (one brood noted) and one Titchwell, with ‘bubbling’ also being noted at Lynford during May.

At Scolt Head 12 west June 7th heralded start of autumn passage, followed by 33 west there 11th, 43 24th, 168 26th and 55 on 29th. Largest movements during rest of autumn 127 west Scolt Head, 283 west Sheringham and 107 south Gorleston July 1st, 207 west Cley 5th, 37 south Hopton Aug 12th and 32 west Sheringham 27th.

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew)

Numenius arquata

Passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce breeder

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	309	617	312	125	55	-	589	570	610	358	-	115
Ousemouth	63	126	109	21	4	-	21	551	-	164	63	19
Snettisham	600	362	95	220	90	25	650	500	1274	258	338	1000
Holme	200	168	134	45	5	1	187	121	91	102	160	104
Thornham	26	19	23	8		1	4	4	50	19	9	25
Titchwell	145		108	9	9	165	153	129	4	136	-	82
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1071	700	390	485	62	550	1500	1512	991	715	679	561
Holkham NNR	590	106	127	1	-	-	-	58	47	69	54	237
Warham SM	82		17	4	-	1	16	600	25	28	40	106
Wells Hbr	24	49	24	1	8	5	8	28	112	78	64	139
Stiffkey SM	78	64	-	11	1	-	95	-	139	137	-	71
Blakeney GM	100	29	58	1	-	1	-	-	7	11	31	70
Blakeney Hbr	149	148	89	150	10	94	406	700	178	85	77	238
Cley	80	50	22	10	9	1	235	29	10	6	21	77
Salthouse	15	16	18	-	-	-	28	5	2	2	18	-
Breydon/Berney	1013	1178	917	274	53	69	427	810	921	747	880	-

National importance (winter): 1500

Additional coastal counts 37 Stiffkey Fen Jan and 83 Heacham April.

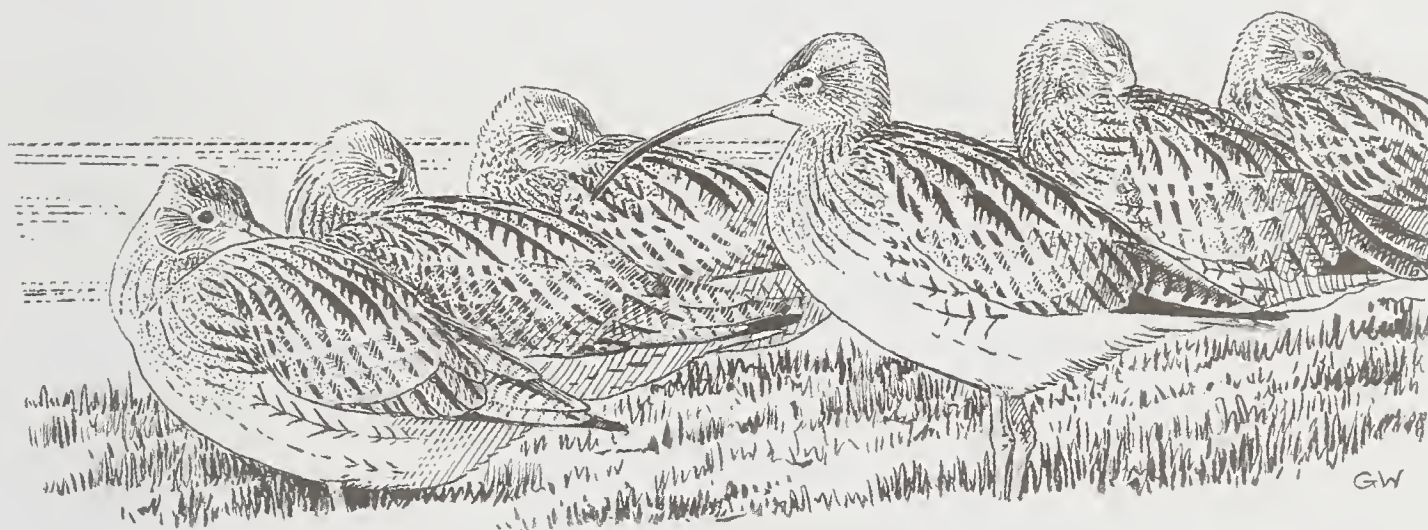
Largest inland feeding flocks 108 Cantley BF, 67 Buckenham Marshes, 60 Anmer, 50 Sandringham, 44 West Newton and 30 Castle Rising Jan, 48 King’s Lynn and 46 Roydon

Common Feb, 121 Castle Rising March, 120 Massingham Heath, 104 Roydon Common and 70 Buckenham Marshes April, 53 Methwold Severals Sept and 90 Limpenhoe Marshes, 74 Rougham and 72 Cantley BF Dec.

North-east departure noted during April when 20 Blakeney Point 7th and 43 Scolt Head 15th, 152 19th and 37 on 21st.

Breeding records included 16 pairs Stanford TA, 4-5 pairs Brettenham Heath where described as a productive year, 3-4 pairs Roydon Common area (one brood noted) and one Titchwell, with 'bubbling' also being noted at Lynford during May.

At Scolt Head 12 west June 7th heralded start of autumn passage, followed by 33 west there 11th, 43 24th, 168 26th and 55 on 29th. Largest movements during rest of autumn 127 west Scolt Head, 283 west Sheringham and 107 south Gorleston July 1st, 207 west Cley 5th, 37 south Hopton Aug 12th and 32 west Sheringham 27th.



Curlews (Gary Wright)

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter; has bred

Single record in first winter period, at Lynn Point Jan 14th, before first of low key spring movement Holme April 11th and 15th. Many reports of 1-3 April 20th-May 31st from 24 sites (same as 2006) plus higher counts in May of 8 Titchwell 4th, 6 Cley 12th, 10 Breydon 17th and 6 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 20th. Uncertain whether singles recorded in June at Holme, Cley and Breydon and in early July at Scolt Head are attributable to north or southbound individuals (or perhaps over-summering).

Autumn passage slow to accelerate but 7 Cantley BF July 16th notable and regular reports of small numbers received from many sites thereafter with double-figure counts in month of 12 Cley 21st, and 16 King's Lynn R Ouse and 20 Cantley BF both 29th. Peak counts during Aug of 12 Scolt Head and 19 Breydon both 7th, 11 Cantley BF 8th/9th, 17 Wisington BF 20th, 11 Pentney GP 21st and finally 11 Breydon 26th suggests multiple waves of migrants through favoured localities. Only notable Sept count 6 Cantley BF 4th, before just 4 singles in Oct including last of year Titchwell 23rd.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Double passage migrant, most in autumn; small numbers over-winter

Records from 21 localities during first winter period (22 in 2006, 29 in 2005) with inland freshwater accounting for majority of sightings. As usual most reports of this unobtrusive winterer singles on isolated dates but two at three sites, 3 Castle Acre and 4 at both Cantley BF

and St Olaves/Herringfleet, perhaps indicating minor increase in wintering population.

Barely perceptible start to spring passage in late March but 6 Wissington BF 27th after which usual small-scale movement peaking in mid-April recorded at further 28 localities. Most reports of 1-2 but 6 north Winterton April 12th and 3 Swanton Morley GP 17th and Catfield 18th. Presumed last of spring lingered Earsham GP May 5th.

Usual record from Hickling Broad May 16th bisected expected spring and autumn migration periods while singles North Wootton May 31st and Great Ryburgh next day more expected dates for harbingers of heavier return passage.

Cantley BF remains county's premier site for the species at least in autumn/winter when lower water levels permit, with monthly peak counts as follows:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Cantley BF	1	59	50	28	5

Elsewhere small numbers widely reported and a number of double-figure counts: 24 Nar Valley Fisheries June 24th, 14 Stiffkey Fen July 21st, 15 Berney July 22nd, 10 Buckenham Aug 1st, 20 East Ruston South Fen and 14 Hickling Broad 2nd, 13 Holme 6th (plus 5 west), 19 Wissington BF 20th and 14 at same site Sept 17th. No reports from Wissington BF in July-early Aug when largest numbers move through county. From records received in previous years (and species obvious attraction to habitat offered by sugar-beet factories) this site should be productive at this season.

Clear drop in reports during Oct as non-winterers retreated south. Thereafter Nov/Dec records from 12 inland and 2 coastal sites. all singles except 3 Cantley BF Dec 15th.



Green Sandpiper (Steve Cale)

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Passage migrant; small numbers over-winter

During first winter period recorded at Snettisham (1 Jan, 2 Feb, 1 March), Holme-Scolt Head (17 Jan, 4 Feb, 8 March), Cley/Salthouse (3 Jan, 2 Feb, 3 March) and Breydon/Berney (6 Jan, 2 Feb, 4 March) representing a further increase in over-wintering population with 17 Titchwell Jan 23rd a new peak count at this season. Remains rare elsewhere with single Welney on 3 dates Feb/March the only sighting away from traditionally favoured localities.

With larger numbers wintering, start of spring passage impossible to detect with certainly but first sighting from 'new' site - Hickling Broad March 29th. Scattered records thereafter but passage small-scale and numbers low with peaks just 12 Titchwell April 22nd, 6 Kelling WM

April 28th and 8 Breydon/Berney on unspecified date in same month. Elsewhere very small numbers (1-5) at main coastal localities with only Hickling Broad, Buckenham and Welney attracting birds inland.

Conclusion of spring movement clouded by occasional midsummer sightings with two records of singles in second half of May and start of June plus 2 Cley June 11th. Above records may be harbingers of southerly withdrawal but perhaps Holme and Scolt Head June 17th (possibly same) more likely.

Monthly peak counts at favoured sites during protracted autumn passage:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	1	7	38	30	6
Thornham/Titchwell	5	28	35	31	26
Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse	4	9	19	16	10
Breydon/Berney	1	3	3	5	5

As always scarce elsewhere with 1-3 Holme, Scolt Head, Kelling WM, Weybourne, Sheringham, Hickling Broad, Cantley BF, Wissington BF, Welney and Methwold Severals.

Passage concluded by end Oct after which small wintering population re-established at favoured localities: Snettisham (1 Dec), Holme-Scolt Head (15 Nov, 14 Dec), Cley (1 Dec) and Breydon/Berney (2 Nov, 1 Dec).

Greenshank (Common Greenshank)

Tringa nebularia

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce in winter

During first winter period reports from Holme (Feb/March), Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (3 Jan-March), Morston/Blakeney Hbr (2 Jan, 1 Feb/March) and Breydon/Berney (Jan-March). Records suggest a wintering population of c6 individuals (3 in 2006, 4 in 2005), a welcome increase while wintering at Breydon/Berney is unprecedented.

First indication of onset of spring April 5th when 2 Snettisham and single Dersingham, sites where species absent Jan-March. Moderate spring passage with numerous reports of 1-5 across county. Higher counts in April: 6 Holme 16th, 7 Hickling Broad 21st and 6 Stiffkey 22nd followed by notable May counts of 14 Cley 1st, 8 Buckenham 2nd and 10 Cantley BE 7th. Marked drop in reports during second half of May suggesting conclusion of northbound passage but scattered records into early June indicates either over-summering or overlap of northbound and southbound individuals.

More records from mid-June but 3 Titchwell 15th only multiple occurrence during month. Monthly max at well-counted key sites during usual heavier autumn passage:

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Terrington	6	26	22	3
Snettisham	37	27	18	2
Holme	1	14	4	5
Thornham/Titchwell	16	22	19	14
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	38	46	28	8
Warham/Stiffkey SM	14	20	2	2
Blakeney Hbr	1	6	9	3
Cley/Salthouse	12	13	6	11
Cantley BF	1	14	11	-
Breydon/Berney	9	10	12	2

Widely scattered reports of smaller numbers elsewhere but only three double-figure counts, 15 Stiffkey Fen Aug 2nd with 11 9th, and 24 Terrington Sept 10th. The absence of latter site from table above reflects lack of coverage rather than species scarcity (45 present July/Aug 2006).

Regularly reported during second winter period but only from Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (3 Nov/Dec) and Warham/Morston/Blakeney (1 Nov/Dec). In addition unusual records from Lynford Nov 17th and Dec 15th, the first inland midwinter records since Dec 2001.

Lesser Yellowlegs

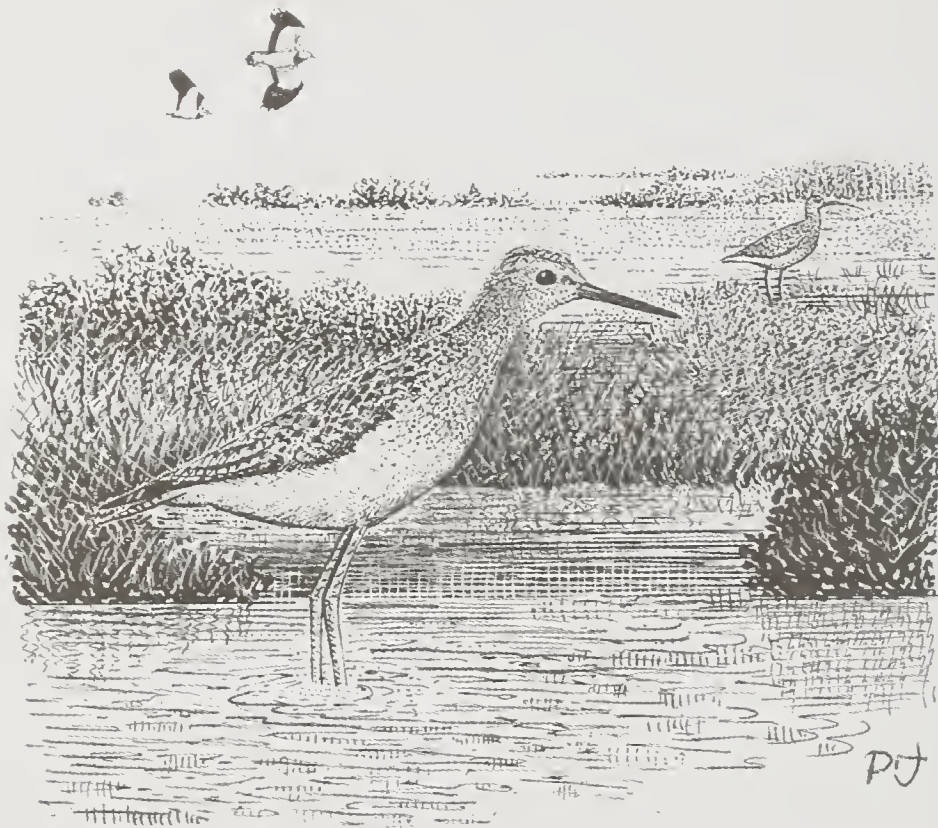
Tringa flavipes

Vagrant from north America

A popular and often tame over-wintering bird Thornham Hbr Jan 13th-Feb 10th (JVB AMo *et al*).

With six records so far, the current decade becomes the most productive on record for this species.

1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-to date
2	1	2	5	6



Lesser Yellowlegs (Phil Jones)

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Passage migrant in spring and autumn

First birds of light spring passage Holme and Buckenham April 22nd. Noted at 12 localities (14 in 2006, 11 in 2005) all on north coast or in Broads except Norwich May 3rd and Earsham GP 12th/13th. Most records of 1-3 with higher counts in May of 5 Hickling Broad 3rd and 4 Cley 11th. Last of spring Cley May 25th/26th followed by two week absence before first returning migrant Earsham GP June 10th/11th.

Poor autumn showing with almost all records of 1-2 and just four more significant counts: 6 Cley June 25th, 11 Hickling Broad Aug 20th, 5 Cantley BF Aug 27th-30th and an amazing 22

there Sept 3rd given dearth of records elsewhere. Recorded at 17 sites during autumn passage comparable with previous years (19 in 2006, 17 in 2005) but most traditionally favoured localities received few of this elegant wader; for instance Titchwell and Welney only recorded one singleton each. An unusual record of one feeding in wet long grass Sheringham Lower Common adjacent to A149 Aug 24th.

Last of year very late at Welney Nov 4th and 12th after just two Oct reports. Only 2 birds (Cley Nov 14th 1952 and Cantley BF Nov 20th 1983) have stayed later.

Redshank (Common Redshank)
Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder in some areas
Monthly max at main and most regularly counted sites:

Tringa totanus

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington	375	506	422	55	99	-	119	752	217	228	-	201
Ousemouth	12	397	78	82	111	124	93	-	104	40	114	185
Snettisham	153	56	55	158	100	258	428	540	1395	130	165	71
Holme	74	129	130	30	12	11	54	72	159	109	145	74
Thornham	14	35	14	5	15	9	10	2	22	55	8	30
Titchwell	57	3	54	33	11	50	126	86	78	82	5	64
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	355	290	240	225	144	168	1170	1280	593	445	533	337
Burnham Overy Hbr	36	42	17	17	8	12	-	15	43	35	30	57
Wells Hbr	17	16	45	1	9	18	10	18	154	57	76	46
Warham SM	24	9	12	11	14	8	10	27	3	16	38	219
Stiffkey SM	77	87	-	39	60	-	101	-	193	205	-	118
Blakeney Hbr	99	72	115	61	52	80	119	113	241	300	119	161
Cley	46	49	34	63	44	61	94	73	90	97	31	36
Salthouse	45	29	30	14	34	16	3	90	4	15	15	41
Breydon/Berney	1083	952	1356	1149	190	141	929	1180	1278	1220	808	1405

National importance (winter): 1200

The Dec count at Breydon was just over 600 birds higher than at same time last year.

Elsewhere: March 220 North Wootton, 102 Welney, 50 King’s Lynn Fisher Fleet, 34 West Walton; April 149 Holkham NNR, 70 Welney; June 148 Holkham NNR; Sept 300 Lynn Point.

Breeding data incomplete, with total of 536 pairs at 15 sites (593 at 13 in 2006). Numbers of pairs/territories (2006 in brackets): *Wash* Snettisham 129 (145), Ken Hill Marsh 15 (11); *north coast* Holme Lavender Marsh 3, Titchwell 25 (30), Scolt Head 53 (65), Holkham NNR 87 (105), Blakeney GM 20 (19) some nests trampled by cattle here but good numbers of young later in season, Blakeney Point 4 (7), Cley 15 (25) fledged 12 young; *Broads* Berney 97 (79) a record year, Breydon 2, Buckenham Marshes 25, Cantley Marshes 14, Haddiscoe Island 2; *Fens* Welney 45 (72).

All movements in autumn during Aug when 78 south Winterton 14th, 37 west Holme and 77 west Scolt Head 19th, 41 north Winterton 20th, 40 east Sheringham 25th, and 70 passed Cley and 56 east 39 west Weybourne 27th.

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone)
Passage migrant and winter visitor; some summering non-breeders
Monthly peaks at most regularly counted key sites:

Arenaria interpres

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington	30	25	6	1	1	-	5	11	55	70	-	6
Snettisham	19	16	15	120	102	36	30	520	141	125	61	11
Holme	69	33	39	2	11	4	5	65	47	17	51	70
Thornham Hbr	40	15	1	-	-	2	2	-	3	8	21	4
Titchwell	81	-	64	16	51	44	-	39	86	86	161	159
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	260	224	202	285	400	65	320	505	344	227	197	170
Holkham/Wells Hbr	22	24	27	3	1	-	-	-	25	20	27	31
Warham/Stiffkey SM	48	18	-	34	56	11	60	-	-	11	1	22
Blakeney Hbr	93	141	67	66	34	8	37	319	143	151	125	175
Cley	19	14	22	-	14	1	25	20	4	9	59	9
Salthouse	14	21	24	17	10	-	-	1	-	16	19	29
Walcott	-	103	60	68	41	1	3	7	41	56	50	50
Breydon/Berney	4	6	5	5	13	-	8	13	7	8	8	3

National importance (winter): 500

Clearly some double-counting is likely from adjacent sites on north coast. Elsewhere counts of over 20: Jan 106 Mundesley, 100 King’s Lynn, 40 Ousemouth; March 68 Mundesley, 35 Yarmouth/Gorleston, 27 King’s Lynn; Sept 97 Hunstanton, 55 Ousemouth; Oct 80 Ousemouth, 37 Eccles; Dec 240 King’s Lynn. It is likely regular counting would confirm these as premier localities for the species.

Reports of visible migration in spring restricted to 9 high north Blakeney Point June 2nd, and in autumn 25 west Cley and 9 south Winterton July 21st, 16 north Winterton Aug 20th and 20 west Cley 21st.

Fewer inland records this year: Welney March 5th, Wissington BF May 11th and at Hickling Broad 7 May 23rd, 2 25th, 3 31st, 3 Aug 8th and 10 on 20th/21st.

Red-necked Phalarope
Scarce passage migrant

Phalaropus lobatus

A good showing with 2 adults followed by at least 5 autumn juvs.

Adults Berney Marshes May 9th and 12th, and Cley July 11th, followed by inland juvs Cantley BF Aug 22nd-28th and Buckenham Marshes Sept 8th-10th.

For 18 days Sept 29th-Oct 16th continual presence along 6 mile stretch of north coast of at least 2 mobile juvs. All records listed: Cley Sept 29th-Oct 1st reported taken by Sparrowhawk but Morston 6 dates Oct 1st-8th, Cley again Oct 2nd and Stiffkey SM 3rd may relate to same wide-ranging bird. Another Kelling WM Oct 7th-16th also visited Cley 10th and Salthouse 14th.

The simultaneous arrival with Grey Phalaropes gave many observers the rare opportunity to study both species side by side.

Grey Phalarope
Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare at other times

Phalaropus fulicarius

Unusual midwinter record at East Ruston Jan 19th.

An excellent autumn with three clear influxes. All sightings listed but needs to be read with caution as individuals undoubtedly recorded passing multiple localities.

First passage Sept 26th when 2 west Holme, 5 west Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney Point, one (offshore) Cley and 4 east Sheringham. Next day singles Salhouse and Overstrand followed by 3 more 28th, at Terrington Marsh, Sheringham and Eccles. Last of influx at Blakeney Point and Eccles Sept 29th and latter site again 30th. Throughout the period Sept 26th-Oct 1st 1-2 present on Cley Marshes (3 on 29th) departing only when Sparrowhawk reportedly claimed accompanying Red-necked Phalarope.

Through remainder of Oct sightings restricted to 2 Cley 19th and another Salhouse 22nd before second influx of year from Nov 4th. On that date singles at Holme, Titchwell, Holkham Bay, Blakeney Point, Cley and Salhouse, with Salhouse again next day, and finally Cley and 2 Sheringham on 6th.

Third and final large-scale arrival from Nov 9th with northerly winds again triggering passage and records from: 9th Cley, 2 Sheringham, East Ruston (briefly on road), Eccles, Sea Palling, 5 Winterton; 10th 2 Cley, Salhouse, Winterton; 11th 3 Cley, Salhouse, 2 Sheringham. Lingering birds of impressive autumn at Hickling Broad Nov 15th and both Walcott (3) and Yarmouth 25th.

The year concluded as it began with midwinter record, this time from Holme Dec 24th.

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Passage migrant during autumn; small numbers at other times

A total of 10 records between Hunstanton and Yarmouth during Jan may reflect increased numbers now wintering in the North Sea.

The few spring and summer records were mostly of single adults with spoons: Titchwell April 16th, 2 north Winterton April 30th, Cley beach May 19th, Hunstanton June 26th and 3 west Titchwell July 2nd.

Autumn passage recorded from Aug 18th when adult at Scolt Head, followed by a further 20 birds logged around coasts during remainder of month. Small numbers (mostly 1-3) recorded throughout Sept, predominantly along north coast, although 10 west Scolt Head 10th and 10 east Cley 26th noteworthy. The trickle of records continued through Oct, with 1-4 birds recorded on 11 dates.

Persistent north-west winds produced a substantial movement throughout first two weeks of Nov, with large counts from most coastal watchpoints: 3rd 60 Holme, 45 Titchwell, 34 Cley, single flock of 19 Salhouse, 31 Sheringham; 4th 29 Hunstanton, 41 Holme, 96 Titchwell, 25 Stiffkey, 26 Cley, 30 Salhouse, 32 Sheringham, 23 Trimmingham; 6th 38 Cley, 103 Sheringham, 46 east Mundesley, 40 Eccles, 36 Winterton; 9th 17 Holme, 85 Sheringham, 23 Cromer, 23 Mundesley, 23 Winterton; 11th 15 Holme, 22 Sheringham. Two pale morph adults lingered on Salhouse marshes mid-month to the delight of photographers, and inland a dead bird was found on a fence at Attleborough 15th. Few recorded later in month, apart from 19 Eccles 23rd. A few continued to be recorded until end of Dec, with largest numbers on 10th when 6 Sheringham and 4 Eccles.

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Mainly autumn passage migrant, scarce at other times

A total of 22 Jan records, mostly from north-west of county, presumably indicative of more birds wintering in the North Sea; these mostly singles but 4 Holme and 5 Titchwell on 2nd.

No further reports until spring passage commenced with 1-2 birds Holme, Titchwell and Cley during April; this trickle continued throughout May with records from 10 localities on 13 dates, largest numbers on 27th when 3 Holme, 3 Blakeney Point, 5 Cley, 2 east Walcott and 2 south Gorleston. Inland one north-east Roydon Common May 3rd.

As in 2006, spring blurred imperceptibly into autumn, with sprinkling of records during most of June, although significant numbers seen late in month: 26th 12 Hunstanton, 16 east Sheringham, 28 Winterton; 29th 28 Winterton.

Autumn passage underway from mid-July: 14th 11 Eccles; 15th 14 Sea Palling; 19th 16 Eccles; 20th 31 Winterton; 21st 10 Cley, 31 Eccles; 25th 11 Blakeney Point, 11 Sheringham, 34 west 12 east Mundesley; 28th 15 Blakeney Point; 30th 15 Eccles; 31st 17 south Sea Palling. The first of several large autumn movements occurred during second half of Aug: 19th 25 Cley; 20th 26 Scolt Head, 40 Cley, 55 Sheringham, 33 east Mundesley, 37 south Winterton; 22nd 42 Blakeney Point, 30 Cley (0615-0800), 30 Sheringham (0730-1030), 31 east Cromer (0615-0845), 16 Yarmouth (0610-0910); 28th/29th 25 Holme.

After a brief lull, 37 west Scolt Head Sept 3rd, with 35 west there and 21 Sheringham following day. The second week of Sept saw largest passage of year: 8th 30 Titchwell; 9th 40 west Holme, 67 west Scolt Head; on 10th, a memorable day of strong north-west winds, dedicated seawatchers logged 103 west Holme, 151 west Scolt Head, 70 Blakeney Point, 50 Cley, 47 east Sheringham, 60 Overstrand, 109 south Eccles (0600-1500), 100 south Winterton. On 26th, another strong north-west blow produced 5 Lynn Point, 23 west Holme, 41 west Scolt Head, 45 Burnham Overy Dunes, 50 Blakeney Point, 58 east Sheringham and 34 east Mundesley (0600-1000).

Very few recorded during Oct and early Nov, although in last gales of year, smaller numbers counted amongst their larger Pomarine cousins: 6th 10 Sheringham, 8 east Mundesley; 11th 10 Mundesley. Ten records during Dec, with last Winterton 17th.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

Autumn passage migrant increasingly identified in recent years

One lucky observer was rewarded by a summer-plumage adult south passed Winterton June 26th.

The usual autumn passage noted from late Aug, when mostly singles reported along north coast between Holme and Overstrand from 20th onwards, although 2 Cley 20th, 3 Holme and 2 west Weybourne 22nd. Birds, predominantly juvs, continued to be recorded along north coast throughout Sept, mostly 1-2 birds, but 7 east Sheringham 11th and 7 (3 ads 4 juvs) Holme, 3 juvs Titchwell, 3 juvs west Scolt Head and 3 Blakeney Point on 26th; on east coast singles Winterton 1st and Yarmouth 18th.

Latest record 4 juvs west over Blakeney Hbr Oct 17th.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

Passage migrant mostly in autumn; small numbers at other times

During first winter period 4 Holme Jan 2nd, and a total of 9 other singles around coast Jan-March. Similarly, April-July produced a sprinkling of mostly singles, although 3 west Sheringham July 30th may have heralded beginning of autumn passage.

First of a series of autumn movements occurred late Aug, when largest counts: 20th 10 Scolt Head, 3 Cley, 12 Sheringham; 21st 21 west Holme, 26 west Scolt Head, 9 Sheringham; 22nd 20 west Holme, 7 Titchwell, 13 west Scolt Head, 9 Sheringham; 23rd 6 west Scolt Head, 5 Cley, 3 Sheringham. Following 33 west Scolt Head Sept 4th, the first major passage was recorded by north coast seawatchers during a busy 3 day period: 9th 30 west Holme, 43 west Scolt Head, 45 east Cromer; 10th 150 west Holme, 178 west 13 east Scolt Head, 99 Blakeney Point, 35 east 25 west in 1 hr 30 mins Cley, 150 east Sheringham, 42 Overstrand, 14 north Winterton; 11th 42 west Holme, 52 west Scolt Head.

After a brief lull, the second large passage occurred Sept 18th when 140 west Holme, 171 west Scolt Head, 83 Blakeney Point and 60 Cley. However, strong north-west to north winds on Sept 26th produced peak counts of autumn, with 239 west Holme, 113 in 6 hrs 30 mins Titchwell, 249 west Scolt Head, 90 Blakeney Point, 80 Cley, 85 east 33 west in 12 hrs Sheringham; despite these numbers, only record on following day 37 west Scolt Head. By comparison, numbers throughout remainder of Sept and Oct very small, with final obvious movement early Nov: 6th 5 Holme, 10 Sheringham; 9th 20 Sheringham, 9 east Mundesley. A trickle of birds noted on 5 dates during Dec with max 9 Sheringham 9th and latest single Winterton 22nd.

Sabine's Gull

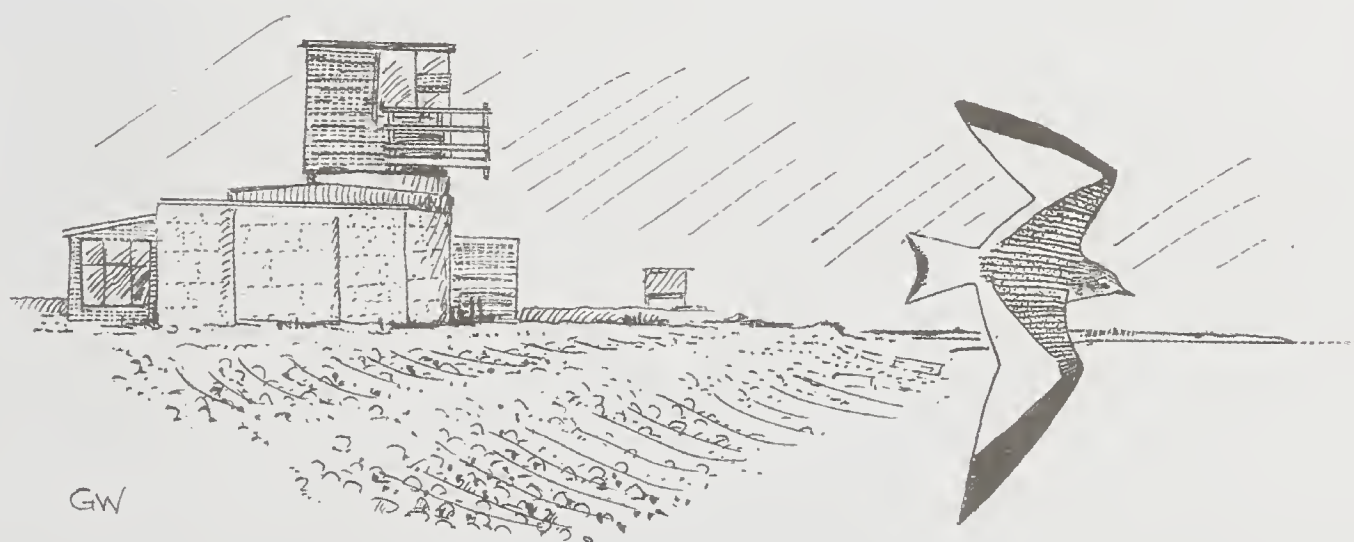
Xema sabini

Almost annual but scarce autumn vagrant from High Arctic; extremely rare in spring

Aug saw no sightings of this exciting gull but a juv east Sheringham Sept 3rd was forerunner of an astonishing and unprecedented passage which continued to Nov 4th. Most birds occurred in period Sept 10th-Oct 5th with peaks 15 Sept 10th and 21 26th and sightings from 16 localities. A total of 172 bird days amassed including 21 Holme, 26 Titchwell, 27 Scolt Head, 20 Blakeney Point, 23 Cley and 31 Sheringham. Ascertaining the number of individuals is impossible but assuming most quickly vacated the southern North Sea records suggest 50-60 birds might be a reasonable if not conservative estimate!

As one might expect majority were juvs yet the 9 aged as 2cy/adults (4 Sept 10th, 2 Sept 18th and 3 Sept 26th) seems a relatively low number compared to some years. Largest day counts: 6 Holme, 11 Scolt Head and 5 Sheringham Sept 10th, 6 Sheringham Sept 11th, 10 Holme, 10 Titchwell, 12 Scolt Head and 6 Blakeney Point Sept 26th and 7 Titchwell Nov 4th (the latter exceptional on such a late date).

Many birders enjoyed the two juvs which lingered off Cley Sept 27th-Oct 3rd, both coming to rest (separately) on the Eye Pool. A bird which graced Pentney GP Sept 26th becomes fifth inland record for county.



Sabine's Gull (Gary Wright)

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Mainly passage migrant; occasional non-breeding concentrations in summer

Relatively high numbers observed off north-west coast at start of year peaking at 100 Titchwell Jan 4th and 260 Holme Jan 12th. A little later 96 off Sheringham Jan 22nd and 49 east Mundesley next day. Overland passage hardly in evidence of late and again this year but for

singles Pentney GP and Tottenhill GP March 27th. Coastal spring passage involved 63 east Mundesley May 14th and 41 east Scolt Head May 27th.

Post breeding brought 131 west Mundesley June 30th, and in July 108 Cley 1st, 567 (324 north 19 south 224 feeding) Winterton 24th, 209 west Sheringham and 805 west Mundesley 25th, with 551 also latter site west next day, and 115 Scolt Head 29th.

Sept movements of note: 887 west Mundesley 7th, 281 west Sheringham 8th, 311 north Winterton 9th, 298 Holme, 387 (368 west) Scolt Head, 295 Blakeney Point and 100 (1700-1915) Eccles all 10th, 153 west Titchwell, 927 (819 west) Scolt Head, 400 Blakeney Point, 350 east Sheringham and 328 east Cromer all 26th, 140 west Titchwell and 97 west Scolt Head 27th. No further notable passage until northerlies in early Nov pushed hundreds passed coastal watch points: 1100 Holme, 1300 west Titchwell and 323 (173 west) Cley 3rd, 1000 east Mundesley and 735 north Winterton 6th, 220 west Holme 9th, 218 Sheringham 11th. Later movements included 143 east Sheringham and 400 Eccles Nov 23rd, followed by 114 Sheringham and 367 east Mundesley Dec 10th.

Bonaparte's Gull
Vagrant from North America

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

The May 2003 Bonaparte's Gull was first in county for 33 years so another occurrence quite so soon was unexpected and all the more remarkable that the bird should turn up at the exact same site and month as the aforementioned individual! Again a 2cy, it frequented Hickling Broad (Rush Hills scrape) May 12th-26th (GJE OJR *et al*), although could be absent for long periods and also visited Sutton 17th-19th and Sea Palling 20th. Yet another bird, aged as 1cy, was picked out at Breydon Nov 28th (PRA) making it quite a spell for the species in recent years.

These are the fourth and fifth county records.



Black-headed Gulls and Avocet (in rain) (Gary Wright)

Black-headed Gull
Breeds colonially, dispersing in winter when many immigrants from eastern Europe

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Peak numbers at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt Head	275	-	365	2565	1670	1420	3500	4500	3850	-	-	-
Hickling Broad	12250	15240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16750
Blackboro' End Tip	2000	2000	700	50	20	-	10	150	-	-	300	1110

Also 2000 Saxlingham Jan 1st, 4500 Pentney GP 12th, 12,000 (roost) Wroxham Broad 20th, 3000 Blakeney Point 24th, a hugely impressive 20,000 Wroxham Broad Feb 8th, 7800 Cley March 22nd, 1682 Blakeney Hbr June 17th, 1018 Cley July 16th, 1722 (roost) Thornham Point Sept 20th, a massive 25,500 (roost) Breydon Oct 16th, 1100 Ranworth Broad Nov 11th, 1160 Titchwell Nov 21st, 5000 (roost) Welney Dec 5th, 4130 offshore Cley Dec 11th.

Data on breeding received from 11 sites with a collective total of 3803 pairs as follows: 1204 Snettisham, 980 Scolt Head, 367 Wells, 1000 Blakeney Point, 8 Blakeney GM, 100 Cley, 20 How Hill, 11 Breydon, 55 mid-Yare RSPB, 2 Pentney GP and 56 Nar Valley Fisheries. About 1000 young fledged on Blakeney Point but the Scolt Head gullery failed completely due to bad weather and fox predation.

Evidence of spring passage slight but for 180 east Beeston Bump April 6th. Loggers of return passage along north coast were rewarded with some impressive totals this year. At Scolt Head total of 33,276 west June 20th-Oct 3rd, with a monthly breakdown of 354 June, 5303 July (max 2041 16th), 5965 Aug (max 2193 5th) 20,419 Sept (max 6547 23rd) and 1235 Oct 3rd. During Aug 3231 recorded west Holme (max 1121 5th) followed by 1000s Sept 23rd, 1518 27th and 750 28th.

Leucistic birds Heacham Feb 20th and Salthouse Nov 12th.

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

Non-breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor

Present in some numbers on north-west coast up to mid-Jan with peak counts of 380 Holme 12th and 300 west in one hour Titchwell 20th. Small numbers followed through to spring with 8 in roadside fields Waxham Feb 26th the most noteworthy record.

A single Catfield Common March 18th may have been first spring bird proper. Inland passage continued into early May but light this year, although 6 visited Martham Broad March 26th and 5 Ranworth Broad April 28th. An adult Salthouse from April 22nd returned for its third spring. The traditional late spring build-up at Titchwell peaked at 16 May 20th and 25 June 9th, with 17 still present July 25th. Rather less expected was the discovery of a pair nest building there and although two eggs were subsequently laid they sadly fell to predation. This is only the fifth documented breeding attempt for Britain (see article page 173).

Generally more widespread in small numbers July including 19 Cley 16th and 10 north Gorleston 29th, followed by an Aug peak of 48 Gorleston 19th. Largest numbers occurred mid-Sept, a little earlier than most recent years. Notable counts: 269 west Mundesley 7th, 427 Blakeney Point, 1000 Sheringham, 853 west Mundesley and 1500 north Walcott (0600-0845), all 10th. Later in month 250 Eccles 15th, 250 Blakeney Point and 235 east Sheringham 26th, and 175 west Scolt Head 28th. Less usual observations at this time included 25 in a ploughed field Walsey Hills 28th, 7 Cantley BF 29th and an adult coming to bread Ranworth Broad 22nd.

Oct saw 500 Scolt Head 1st, 274 Cley (0840-1515) 8th, 310 east Sheringham and 526 Winterton 17th. Passage then quickly fizzled out and a meagre 30 Walcott Nov 4th was highest count to year end.

Peak numbers at any one site per month as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
380	8	6	5	16	25	19	48	1500	526	30	10

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

Regular all-year visitor in increasing numbers, often remaining for weeks; recent breeder

Something of a jump in breeding numbers with 14 pairs (raising 11 young in total) at 4 sites and a pair occasionally present at another. Very many records received, mostly coastal as usual and reported from only 10 inland localities, of these 4 records from Earsham GP notable.

Few juvs reported away from nest sites suggesting no strong influx of 1cy birds this year (although no age breakdown received for large roost at Breydon during Aug). The low numbers of 1cy birds from summer through to year end might also substantiate this.

Estimates of county totals per month as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	6	-	-	-	-
1st-year	19	5	14	23	13	7	23	2	3	5	4	4
2nd-year	10	2	9	6	4	3	30	5	6	7	3	19
Adult	30	10	17	24	25	27	87	7	25	31	8	23
Unaged	27	28	3	8	13	-	6	131	116	71	57	35
Total	86	45	43	61	55	37	157	151	150	114	72	81

Again a large roost built up at Breydon from late summer with peak counts: 101 (1 juv, 16 2cy, 27 3cy, 57 adults) July 25th, 131 (county record) Aug 30th, 130 Sept 2nd, 103 Oct 11th, 58 (only 3 1cy) Nov 17th and 67 Dec 22nd.

Yarmouth seafront continues its special attraction for this species, providing monthly counts of 73 Jan 2nd, 28 Feb 12th, 15 March 23rd, 10 April 5th, 22 July 29th, 16 Sept 18th, 32 Oct 11th, 35 Nov 3rd and 45 Dec 24th. Highest numbers elsewhere: 11 Titchwell June 1st, 17 Snettisham July 8th and 14 Blakeney Point July 13th.

Common Gull

Larus canus

Passage migrant and winter visitor with non-breeders remaining all summer; spasmodic breeder

Large gatherings included: Jan 1000 Blakeney Point 24th, 722 offshore Cley 25th; Feb 780 St Benet's Level 16th, 450 Holkham Park Lake 21st; March 873 Holkham Bay 18th, 848 Titchwell 20th, 3300 Cley 24th; April 1500 (mostly 2cy) Scolt Head 22nd; May 296 2cy Titchwell 15th, 235 Scolt Head 20th; June 805 Titchwell 1st, 550 adults Scolt Head 29th; July 800 Scolt Head 1st; Aug 3000 (roost) Wroxham Broad 20th, 950 Scolt Head 28th; Sept 1528 (roost) Thornham Point 20th, 1800 (roost) Scolt Head 29th; Nov 1200 (roost) Thornham Point 4th, 554 Cley 14th, 991 Titchwell 21st; Dec 900 (roost) Welney 5th, 880 offshore Cley 11th, 2120 (roost) Hickling Broad 15th. The 805 Titchwell June 1st was unusual for time of year and presumed to be late spring passage birds, while 550 Scolt Head June 29th were probably early/failed/non-breeders returning.

Breeding pairs confirmed at Scolt Head (2) and Wells (8) with 3 young fledging from latter area.

Westerly passage Scolt Head (from July 14th) totalled 222 July, 357 Aug and 701 Sept, and at Holme 122 Aug 5th and 95 next day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Passage migrant and migratory breeder; increasing in winter

Monthly max at some regular sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saddlebow	71	-	67	-	-	-	450	600	1000	-	150	-
Scolt Head	-	-	1	9	45	45	50	15	13	-	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	4	10	132	150	500	30	100	175	19	-	2	1

Large counts elsewhere included: 1064 west (1445-1615) Croxton Jan 28th, 65 Wells Hbr March 18th, 202 Cley May 18th, 339 Wells Hbr June 17th, 466 (roost) Breydon Aug 12th, 300 East Wretham Heath Sept 8th, 722 Hethel Sept 9th, 400 East Wretham Heath Oct 5th, 500 Marlingford Mere and 388 west New Costessey Oct 14th, 350 Stanford TA Oct 24th, 126 Ranworth Broad Nov 11th and 1040 (95% adults) East Wretham Heath Nov 15th.

As usual numbers on coast low until spring when westerly passage observed Scolt Head with 46 April (max 31 21st) and 226 May (max 49 10th). Further movement there in July when 74 west 14th and 27 west 16th.

Scant breeding information received but confirmation of 3 pairs holding territory Scolt Head, 123 pairs Wells SM and increasing numbers over Norwich where breeding likely took place.

The Saddlebow flock held a leucistic bird Sept 15th.

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

Increasing visitor from southern Europe

An average year by recent standards and relatively low numbers of juvs arrived in summer. Wintering birds (high proportion 2cy) peaked in Jan followed by a fall until May. Numbers generally reached a peak during Sept with a sharp drop Oct and continued decline through to year end. The summer influx brought c8 juvs, with singles Saddlebow and Blackborough End Tip July 21st, Cley from July 28th, up to 2 Cley Aug and 3 Blackborough End Tip Aug 11th.

Estimates of numbers including age breakdown as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-
1st-year	10	7	5	4	15	5	7	7	6	1	3	1
2nd-year	1	1	-	1	5	3	6	1	6	3	3	-
3rd-year	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	2	-	2
4th-year/Adult	9	2	2	-	2	5	27	25	45	20	9	2
Unaged	6	5	1	1	1	2	4	-	3	1	-	4
Total	26	15	8	6	24	15	49	38	63	27	15	9

Monthly max at favoured sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cley	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	11	2	10	2	-
Blackboro' End Tip	-	1	3	5	19	6	9	3	1	-	1	-
Saddlebow	2	-	1	-	-	-	12	21	46	14	-	-

A concentration of 19 (including 15 2cy) Blackborough End Tip May 19th was unusually high for spring at this locality. The largest count of year 46 at favoured haunt of Saddlebow Sept 8th.

Herring Gull
Increasing breeder, late summer migrant and winter visitor
Monthly max at selected sites:

Larus argentatus

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	734	1116	685	560	574	132	350	1100	1200	700	452	200
Scolt/Branċaster Hbr	165	-	-	650	187	50	141	85	345	-	100	-
Wells Hbr	420	544	561	514	362	715	638	-	-	-	-	-
Blackboro’ End Tip	2500	1500	1100	200	1200	250	800	-	350	0	1600	2000

Highest counts elsewhere: 650 (roost) Hickling Broad Jan 17th, 407 over sea Cley Jan 19th, 793 Titchwell Jan 23rd, 1658 Holkham Bay March 18th, 1030 Cley March 22nd, 704 Titchwell April 28th and 669 there June 1st, 695 (roost) Breydon Aug 12th, 750 Saddlebow Sept 15th, 430 (roost) Breydon Nov 17th, 320 Edgefield Tip Dec 2nd, 715 (roost) Breydon Dec 18th and 1100 Saddlebow Nov 17th.

Offshore movements of 176 west Overstrand Feb 12th and 230 west (0925-1025) there March 20th, and 650 west Scolt Head April 6th.

Breeding information far from complete but a pair fledged 3 young Snettisham, 6 pairs Scolt Head, 520 pairs Wells SM and 3 pairs Blakeney Point.

Caspian Gull
Increasing visitor from eastern Europe
Records well spread through year involving c49 birds from 12 localities and peaks of 8 both Jan and May:

Larus cachinnans

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All localities	8	4	4	2	8	2	6	7	3	2	5	3

‘Concentrations’ of 3 or more included 3 (all adults) Cley Jan 2nd, 4 Blackborough End Tip May 12th and 3 Saddlebow Aug 28th. Favoured sites attracted several individuals including 15 Blackborough End Tip, 9 Cley, 6 Saddlebow, 4 Aldeby Tip and 4 Earsham GP. Also records of 1-2 from Breydon, Edgefield Tip, Fowlmere (near Croxton), Haddiscoe, Hethel, Pentney GP, Whitlingham CP and one following plough with other gulls near Blackborough End village. Age breakdown confirmed birds in their first year to be most frequently encountered, making up 56%. Second year birds made up 20%, 3rd year 8% and 4th year/adults 16% of total.

Last year’s Polish ringed bird (now in its 3rd calendar year) returned to Blackborough End Tip May 12th, June 6th, and July 7th and 21st. Two (1cy and 3cy) at Aldeby Tip Dec 31st bore green rings, thus presumably of Polish origin, while a 3cy Blackborough End Tip Jan 6th and 27th had a metal ring only.

Iceland Gull
Annual but very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Larus glaucoides

Very scarce in early part of year with just 2 sightings, adult Haddiscoe Feb 17th and 3cy Titchwell April 18th. The second winter period saw a relatively strong showing and perhaps 5 different individuals recorded (including a long-stayer at Edgefield Tip): 1cy (Edgefield Tip bird?) Blakeney Point Nov 1st, adult south Winterton Nov 10th, 1cy Edgefield Tip Nov 19th to year end (thought to have roosted Blakeney Hbr), adult Cley Nov 26th, 1cy Titchwell Nov 30th, adult south Burnham Thorpe and 1cy west Holkham Bay Dec 1st.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; rare in summer

As with previous species second winter period much busier than first, possibly a result of unrelenting northerly winds through early to mid-Nov. Approximately 13 individuals (min 4 first winter period) made up all sightings with monthly breakdown as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All localities	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	2

Well over 50% of birds were in their first year including one which frequented Cley/Salthouse intermittently Feb 9th-March 10th. In recent years adults have been scarce, to say the least, so a summer-plumage bird which resided at Cley March 21st-27th was much appreciated. Remainder of sightings listed: 2cy Blakeney Point Feb 17th (presumed same as Cley), 3cy Titchwell March 24th, 3cy east Weybourne April 20th, 2cy Blackborough End Tip May 19th, 1cy Eccles and Yarmouth Nov 7th, 1cy west Holme, unaged east Sheringham, 1cy Eccles and 1cy south Winterton 9th, Blakeney Point 10th, 1cy Caister 11th, 2 1cy west Weybourne-Cley 12th, adult south and north (same bird?) Winterton 14th, 1cy Breydon 16th, 1cy south Winterton 23rd, unaged Blakeney Point Dec 18th and 1cy Saddlebow 24th.

A 2cy Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid Blackborough End Tip Feb 10th with same or another there March 17th. A 1cy likewise assumed to be of this parentage west Cley Nov 12th complementing the two ‘real’ Glaucs there on same date.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor

Largest gatherings at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt Head	85	-	-	40	36	38	60	155	245	-	-	-
Cley	66	112	126	47	200	3	3	195	107	113	82	36
Blackboro’ End Tip	100	30	25	56	30	21	50	35	27	-	275	80

Further gatherings: 70 Blakeney Hbr July 15th, 1265 (roost) Breydon July 28th, 83 Blakeney Hbr Sept 15th, 69 Holme Oct 1st and 22nd, 230 Wootton Marsh Nov 1st, 170 (roost) Breydon Nov 17th and 115 Edgefield Tip Dec 2nd. The 225 (mostly 2cy) west in one hour Weybourne May 9th was notable.

Oddities included a leucistic 2cy bird Blackborough End Tip May 12th and 26th. An off-white (presumed 2cy) gull at same site Nov was a somewhat puzzling individual and may have been a leucistic example of this species or Herring Gull.

Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

Local migratory breeder

First of year Scolt Head April 17th, 2 on 18th, 12 22nd and 15 by 30th. Elsewhere in April 2 Blakeney Point 20th and 22 by 27th, Holme 22nd, inland at Buckenham Marshes and Rockland Broad 23rd, 7 Burnham Overy Hbr 25th, Titchwell 26th and 2 Breydon 30th.

Min of 547 breeding pairs fledged 261 young. Well down on last year’s record number of fledged young, but two sites - Scolt Head and Blakeney Point - had better success this year.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Holme	5	3
Scolt Head	87-90	43
Burnham Overy-Holkham	28	8
Bob Hall Sands	1	0
Wells New Ridge	51	10
Wells Breakthrough	4	0
Little Binks	16	12
Big Binks	1	0
Stiffkey SM	10	0
Blakeney Point	68	28
Eccles	25	0
Winterton	54	0
Yarmouth North Beach	276	157

At Holme, where the 5 nests were protected by cages, 4 young hatched but one lost to poor weather. At Scolt Head a Hobby was known to take at least 5 adults and one fledged young; the good success there was largely down to a good supply of food in the harbour and just offshore. At Stiffkey SM 10 incubating pairs early June had gone by month end, all predated by Magpies. At Winterton there were 54 nests by end of June, but only 10 on July 3rd and 4 on 4th.

The Yarmouth North Beach colony was again the most successful. Wardening and fencing was as in 2006 but no supplementary diversionary feeding of the local pair of Kestrels was carried out by the RSPB in 2007. As a consequence predation much higher and 147 young known to have been taken by Kestrels with possibly another 78; foxes and high tides also a problem. It is thought that the Winterton and probably the Eccles birds relocated to Yarmouth North Beach.

Largest midsummer counts in July: 166 Blakeney Hbr and 190 Scolt Head 15th, 153 offshore Cley 23rd, 102 north 12 south Winterton 24th, 158 west Holme and 63 north Gorleston 29th.

Other inland records: Barton Broad and Rockland Broad May 1st, Strumpshaw May 6th and July 30th, 3 Pentney GP June 10th.

A very striking near albino Yarmouth North Beach Aug 18th was also seen Winterton 19th and Blakeney Point on 25th. Interestingly it (or another?) was seen flying west passed Swalecliffe, north Kent Aug 22nd.

In Oct singles Hunstanton 6th and Titchwell 11th-19th with 3 at latter site 20th.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Regular double passage migrant in variable numbers; has bred

First west Scolt Head April 21st followed by Colney GP and Whitlingham CP 27th, Pentney GP 28th, Holme 29th and Holkham GM 30th. Light movement May 2nd/3rd of 2-3 at five sites totalling 12 birds, followed by further very light passage from 14th-30th of singles at just five localities.

In June singles Blakeney Point 3rd, Burnham Overy Staithe and Pentney GP 4th, 2 Lynford Arboretum 10th, Strumpshaw 12th, 6 Welney 20th, King's Lynn 26th, Cley and Titchwell 27th and Ouse Washes 30th. In July Breydon 10th-29th, Snettisham 19th, up to 3 Blakeney Point/Cley/Kelling WM 21st and one Yarmouth 29th.

Many more records in Aug with majority second half of month. Peak numbers 20th when 2 Titchwell, 14 Cley, singles Weybourne, Sheringham and Winterton, 20 north Breydon, 6 Hickling Broad, 10 Ormesby Broad and 11 Rollesby Broad. A further light movement Sept

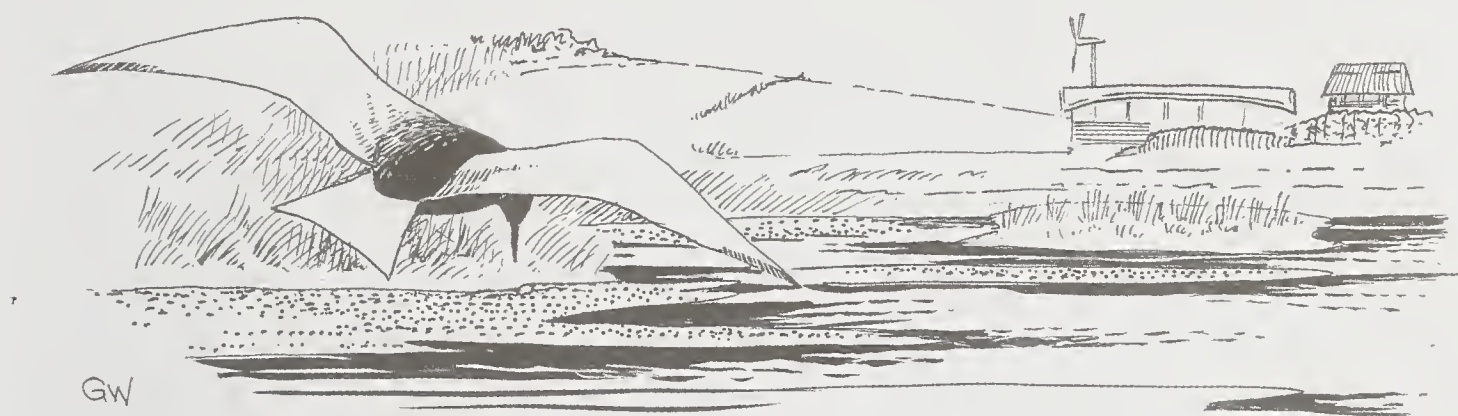
17th-28th when singles at five localities and 2 at two others. Last 2 west Titchwell Oct 3rd and 3 Sheringham 14th.

White-winged Black Tern (White-winged Tern)

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant from south-east Europe

Two midsummer adults: Welney June 25th/26th (JSm *et al*) and Blakeney Point/Cley 26th/27th (GSE MGa *et al*). Recorded in county for eleventh consecutive year.



White-winged Black Tern (*Gary Wright*)

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First arrivals 3 Cley March 27th followed by 3 Scolt Head on 29th with 12 there 30th. In April at Scolt Head 200 by 8th, 750 15th, 1000 16th, 1500 18th and 2500 on 22nd. Fox activity increased from 23rd and numbers fell to 1500 by 27th and 1000 by month end. It is unclear where the missing birds went as no increase noted at Blakeney Point at this time. There was a notable influx of new birds at Scolt Head in June with 3000 on 15th and 4000 by month end. At Blakeney Point 10 April 3rd, 100 on 4th, 250 5th, 1000 16th and 1100 by 19th. A late arrival in early June saw numbers dramatically increase to 3600.

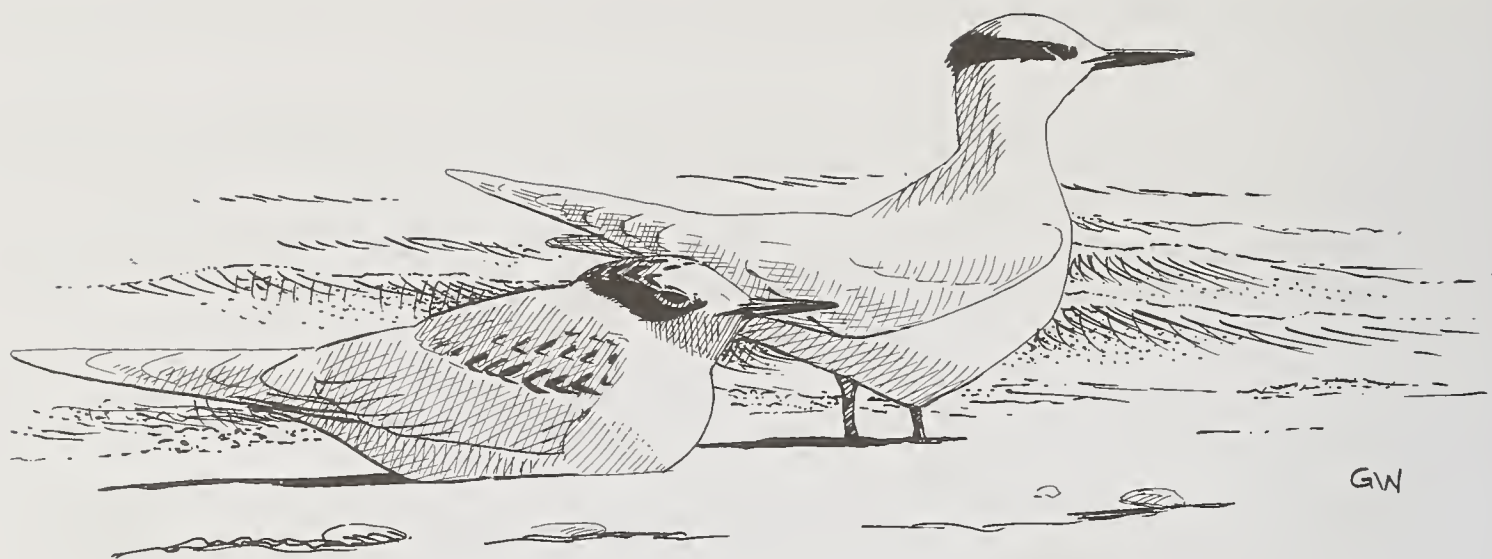
Most notable spring counts elsewhere 76 west Sheringham April 22nd, 450 Cley 29th with 750 there May 1st and 809 on 18th, and 1414 Blakeney Hbr 20th.

Breeding: 1800 pairs at Blakeney Point fledged at least 1400 young, almost twice the number of breeding pairs and fledged young compared with 2006. First chicks June 2nd and by July 15th all had fledged and the colony deserted. At Scolt Head 1800 pairs fledged no young, first total breeding failure on the island since 1998, due, it is thought, to a combination of very poor weather at end of May and at end of June, a possible food shortage and predation by Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and foxes.

Notable coastal movements/gatherings: 1100 Cley July 3rd, 278 Holme 9th, 311 east Mundesley 13th, 500 day-roosting Walcott 22nd (and Aug 20th), 185 Snettisham 23rd, 146 Breydon and 450 Wells Hbr Aug 5th, 200 east Sheringham Sept 26th.

Inland: Rockland Broad June 5th, 3 groups (each approx 1 hr apart on a day with northerly winds and thick low cloud cover) heard over Crostwight Common (Honing) Aug 21st, Strumpshaw and Rockland Broad 25th.

Last of year Blakeney Point Nov 3rd and Cley 6th.



Sandwich Terns (Richard Johnson)

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Migratory breeder and passage migrant at both coastal and inland sites

Earliest arrival Ranworth Broad April 7th followed by Scolt Head 9th, 2 Wroxham Broad 13th, 18 Barton Broad 14th with 20 on 16th, and Lyng 15th.

Spring counts of note: 80 Scolt Head April 26th and May 3rd, 215 May 20th and 450 by 31st, 63 Snettisham May 19th, 40 Pentney GP 25th and 34 26th, and 72 Cley 29th.

Breeding: at least 897 pairs fledged min of 338 young, a decrease of 113 by comparison with 2006, so a relatively poor season.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Snettisham	65	19
Titchwell	3	unknown
Scolt Head	240	60
Holkham NNR	74	23
(Stiffkey Binks	56	3)
(Wells New Ridge	18	20)
Blakeney Point	118	45
Cley	3	0
Salthouse	1	0
Yarmouth South Denes	1	0
Breydon	202	c185
Ranworth Broad	48	unknown
Martham Broad	20	unknown
Barton Broad	c35	unknown
Colney GP	1	1
Marlingford Mere	19	unknown
Sennowe Park	3	several
Pentney GP	42	unknown
Welney	22	unknown

Poor success at Snettisham, cause not known. At Titchwell 3 apparently occupied nests but success not known. Just 10 less pairs than 2006 at Scolt Head but 40 less young fledged. Similarly at Blakeney Point 17 less pairs than 2006 fledged 55 less young. No reason reported for poor success at either site. A single pair at the 2006 Yarmouth North Denes roof-nesting

site failed. The decrease in success at Breydon was due mainly to an increase in the number of Black-headed Gulls nesting on the platforms; 5 pairs nesting on the saltings there failed due mainly to a combination of high tides and probable predation by large gulls. These birds nest too far from the platforms to get the protection of the group; the sight of up to 400 birds getting up from the platforms at any sign of danger is too much for any predator approaching them. At Marlingford Mere 7 young seen but probably majority of young lost when nesting islands flooded. Breeding attempted at Sparham Pools but rafts flooded in extreme conditions early June.

1st-summer birds Breydon May 25th-27th, June 30th, July 5th and 4 on 18th; at Cley July 1st, 2nd (2) and 8th (2). Imms (1st/2nd-summer) 2 Scolt Head June 17th, 3 21st and 1-2 to mid-July, Breydon June 18th, 23rd and 2 on 30th, and Blakeney Point July 7th.

Large numbers recorded in July and Aug: at Scolt Head 555 July 15th increasing to 650 27th and 780 by 31st; 1052 offshore Cley July 23rd; 2536 at Breydon roost 25th, 5560 Aug 14th and 8729 (site record) on 23rd; 802 passed Eccles Aug 13th; 315 south Winterton plus roost movement of 1849 in evening Aug 14th and 1035 north there 28th.

Lastest Cley Nov 6th.

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Uncommon summer visitor; has bred

A good year with mainly 1-3 birds early May to early Sept, the earliest since 1981.

Records from all around coast (all adults unless otherwise stated): 2 Hunstanton July 16th; Holme July 20th and 29th; Titchwell July 28th and Aug 19th; east Scolt Head June 27th with 2 July 15th, 31st and Aug 6th; 2 (one juv) Stiffkey Sept 8th; Blakeney Hbr/Point May 9th with 2 July 2nd and Aug 5th, and one Aug 13th and 18th; Cley June 26th, 3 July 2nd and up to 2 numerous dates rest of month; Salhouse Aug 18th; offshore Kelling WM June 17th; Walcott July 30th; 3 Happisburgh July 25th; Sea Palling July 13th-15th; Waxham July 13th; 6 north Winterton May 17th and one Aug 19th; Breydon - numerous dates July 5th- Aug 5th with max 4 July 24th and 5 July 25th, one also Sept 1st, 2nd-summer present July 25th (2) with one July 26th-Aug 1st.



Roseate and Common Terns (Gary Wright)

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Double passage migrant; a few pairs breed

First of spring 12 east Scolt Head April 13th followed by a small movement of 3-4 at three localities to 18th totalling min of 11 birds. Main passage April 29th-May 29th with 4 east Breydon April 29th, 16 Holme, 12 north Winterton, 3 east Mundelsey, singles Cley and Sheringham and 12 east Breydon 30th, 6 Welney, 3 west Mundesley and 3 Rockland Broad May 1st, 2 west Mundesley 2nd, singles Rockland Broad 3rd and Blakeney Point 4th, 2 Cley 6th, 6 west Scolt Head and one Barton Broad 7th, singles Pentney GP 9th, Mundesley and Pentney GP 11th, 2 east Whitlingham CP 13th, 20 Blakeney Point and one Mundesley 14th, 2 Blakeney Hbr 15th and 19 there 20th, one west Cley 25th, 6 north Gorleston 28th and 2 west Mundesley 29th.

Breeding: 3 pairs Scolt Head and 1-2 Wells New Ridge failed, 12 pairs Blakeney Point fledged just 1-2 young. Six adults remained Scolt Head throughout June and five remained throughout July. Elsewhere in July single Gorleston 29th. In Aug 5 Blakeney Hbr 5th, 3 north Hopton and 4 north Gorleston 22nd.

1st-summer birds Blakeney Point (2) July 5th, Cley 6 dates June 23rd-July 11th with 2 July 2nd, and Breydon 10 dates June 25th-Aug 1st with 2 July 17th and latter date.

An excellent autumn passage commenced with 44 Cley July 23rd and 20 there Aug 23rd. Subsequently in Sept 429 west Holme, 702 west Scolt Head and 25 passed Sheringham 10th, 15 west Holme, 15 Blakeney Point and 6 south Hopton 23rd, 4 Titchwell, 25 west Holme, 68 west Scolt Head, 15 Blakeney Point, 10 Cley, 100 east Sheringham (0615-1830) and one Pentney GP 26th, 23 west Scolt Head, 11 Weybourne, 4 Overstrand, 10 east Mundesley, 4 Walcott, 2 Waxham and one Methwold Severals 27th.

In Oct 1-4 noted at eight localities totalling 23 birds, the exception being 6 juvs east Titchwell 23rd. In Nov singles Blakeney Point 2nd and 5th, west Cley and Terrington Marsh 3rd, south Hopton 4th and last Cley on 6th.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot)

Uria aalge

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional wrecks

In first winter period 34 Cley Jan 1st, 20 Titchwell Jan 5th, an exceptional 100 Holme Jan 6th and 7 Cley Feb 13th. Only spring record 3 Cley March 2nd.

Generally small numbers recorded during summer months, with 13 east Scolt Head May 21st, 30 Winterton May 27th with 15 there June 25th, and 10 Blakeney Point July 25th only double-figure counts.

Main autumn gatherings/movements noted from early Sept, although numbers of specifically identified birds also small: up to 200 feeding off Scolt Head Sept 7th-21st, and at Winterton 72 (41 south) Sept 10th, 76 (42 south) Oct 1st, 101 (84 north) Nov 25th and 73 south Dec 15th. Inland one Welney Sept 8th.

Razorbill

Alca torda

Passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period noteworthy counts of 40 Titchwell Jan 1st (still present on 14th) and 60 Holme Jan 6th. Only significant spring count of specifically identified birds 34 West Runton May 20th.

Typically small numbers, which included several records of juvs with parents, around north and east coasts during July and Aug, although 31 Cley July 18th.

Substantial assemblies of birds feeding or moving, mostly off north coast localities, noted from early Sept: 150 Scolt Head 7th progressively increasing to 1500 by month end, 600

Holme and 673 Titchwell 22nd, 76 Cley 23rd, 200 Blakeney Point and 500 east Sheringham 26th. In Oct numbers lower, but 130 north Winterton 1st, 73 Cley 3rd, 50 Holme 7th, 124 Titchwell 12th, 125 Holme and 96 Thornham 14th and 110 (incl 52 north 46 south) Winterton 17th. Single-figure counts recorded between Titchwell and Salthouse during first week Nov, and latest record 2 Blakeney Point Dec 3rd.



Razorbills (Gary Wright)

Guillemot/Razorbill

Large counts: in early summer 143 east Mundesley May 26th and 439 east there on 29th; during Sept at least 200 off Blakeney Point and Cley 10th, and 100 Blakeney Point and 720 east Sheringham 26th.

Black Guillemot

Cepphus grylle

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period, a winter-plumage adult Holme Feb 17th/18th.

Typical autumn records of singles east Scolt Head Sept 18th, Titchwell Oct 19th and west Cley Nov 3rd.

Little Auk

Alle alle

Passage migrant, most during northerly gales; occasional wrecks

The only spring record a breeding-plumaged bird which dropped onto sea off Cley beach March 21st before continuing west.

Autumn movements first noted during late Sept, when singles Titchwell 25th, Holme, Blakeney Point/Cley and Scratby 27th and Holme 29th. A further sequence of mostly singles seen around north coast between Oct 14th and month end, but 4 Titchwell 14th, 7 Holme 21st, and 4 Titchwell and 3 Cley 31st. Reports of 1-10 from several north and east coast sites continued during first week of Nov, but on 9th north-west gales forced large numbers southwards down the North Sea, when 91 east Holme, 100 Cley, 1175 east Sheringham (0700-1445), 124 east Mundesley, 109 south Winterton, with smaller numbers also moving west and north around the coast. By 10th most birds were trying to re-orientate with 50 west Holme, 75 west Sheringham, 48 north Horsey and 162 north Winterton. Movements, presumably still mostly re-orientation, continued on 11th with 30 Holme, 57 Titchwell, 41 Stiffkey (including one bird taking shelter between the observer's knees on beach), 250 Cley, 160 Kelling, 142 west Sheringham, 137 north Winterton and 51 Hopton. Good numbers continued to be



Little Auk (*Richard Johnson*)

recorded for next few days: 12th 50 Blakeney Point and Cley, 136 Sheringham, 58 (45 west) Cromer, 52 north 31 south Winterton; 13th 100 Sea Palling; 14th 93 Sheringham (0715-1245). Final movements recorded Stiffkey with 82 east on 25th, and 24 north Eccles 26th.

Inevitably with these large numbers of birds, some were driven inland: 2 Barton Broad, 3 Wroxham Broad and one dead Holt 11th, an intriguing record of one being rescued from a tree at Ormesby St Margaret and successfully released on a beach 12th, and one Wiggenshall St Germans 14th.

In Dec, singles Titchwell 1st, Eccles 3rd, and one Holme and 2 Sheringham 10th.

Puffin

Fratercula arctica

Passage migrant and winter visitor

In Jan, one Titchwell 1st and possibly same bird Holme on 2nd.

An unusually large number of summer records with 1-2 reported from north and east coasts on 8 dates June 8th-July 29th.

As usual, autumn passage most evident during Sept, with first 2 noted Winterton on 4th; 1-5 birds seen on many dates around coast between Holme and Eccles, but exceptional counts of 40 east logged at both Cley and Sheringham on 10th. In Oct, 1-2 reported from north coast seawatching sites on 9 dates. Nov produced more records with 1-3 at 10 sites between Titchwell and Winterton, and 6 Mundesley 6th and 14 Sheringham 11th. Latest one Sheringham Dec 10th.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Introduced/escaped resident in most urban areas

Only three counts received, all in Jan: 90 Cromer 1st, 200 Wells Hbr 7th, 80 King's Lynn 28th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 147 individuals of this species were recorded in 24 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Much scarcer than last year in first winter period with highest counts: Jan 80 Hickling 14th, 50 North Wootton 21st; Feb 68 Little Cressingham 1st, 80 Welney 4th, 40 Hickling Broad 24th; March 132 Eastmoor 16th.



Sabine's Gull - this lingering juvenile at Cley provided a rare opportunity for close views of this species.
(*Julian Bhalerao*)

Little Gull - this species attempted to breed in Norfolk for the second time. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





White-winged Black Tern - this superb adult was at Cley in June. (*Julian Bhalerao*)
Common Cuckoo - a fine portrait of this elusive summer visitor. (*Chris Knights*)

European Bee-eater - this obliging bird was seen by many observers at Morston. Both: (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Woodlark - this species is declining in the Brecks. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Shorelark - larger than average numbers were seen in the first winter period. (*Brian Macfarlane*)

Waxwing - this photogenic bird was at Burnham Thorpe. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Desert Wheatear - this rarity is seen almost annually in Norfolk. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Red-flanked Bluetail - this rare vagrant was ringed at Weybourne. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Ring Ousel - good numbers passed through the county in the spring. (*Bob Cobbold*)



Spring passage started with one east Overstrand Feb 12th but was generally in lower numbers than last year. Highest counts (all west): March 26 Cromer 11th, 31 Overstrand 12th; April 30 Overstrand 8th. At Winterton 291 noted March 8th-May 31st with peaks of 17 south 4 north March 12th and 26 north 6 south April 5th.

Breeding season reports came from Ringstead Courtyard Farm where 39 pairs bred. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 195 individuals of this species were recorded in 44 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 21% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 61% between 2006 and 2007.

Few reported in autumn with highest count 60 North Wootton Marsh Aug 30th.

At Winterton 32 south Oct 21st-Nov 18th with peak of 11 Nov 17th. Only reports in second winter period: Nov 30 Somerton Holmes 17th, 60 Fordham 26th; Dec 32 Hanworth 24th, 38 Ten Mile Bank 30th.

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Largest counts in first winter period: Jan 600 Mörston 1st, 800 Wacton 22nd; Feb 3000 Aylmerton area 1st, 1200 Morning Thorpe GP 9th, 2558 Kelling 21st, 1500 Horning Waterworks 26th; March 4000 South Pickenham 11th.

Spring passage first noted March 8th at Winterton where total of 5855 (4598 north 1257 south) March 8th-June 16th with peak 719 north 110 south May 9th. Numbers reported lower than last year, the only four-figure count 1978 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton March 10th. Elsewhere highest counts: 506 west Holme March 12th and 500 Caistor St Edmund April 25th.

Breeding records included 36 pairs Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 12 pairs Scolt Head. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 3874 individuals of this species were recorded in 82 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 52% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 20% between 2006 and 2007.

One reported Winterton Sept 29th swimming offshore.

Autumn passage lower than 2006, beginning Oct 4th, with highest counts: Oct 617 south 64 north Winterton 29th, 518 New Costessey 30th with 785 31st all moving between south and east; Nov 657 south Hunstanton 5th.

The only notable count in second winter period 1100 Docking Dec 18th.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

First bred in Britain at Cromer in 1955, now widespread and common resident

Max counts in first winter period: Jan 90 Wells, 88 Langham; Feb 73 Langham; March 71 Langham, 50 Colkirk. Newly fledged young also noted in last week March at both Fakenham and Little Walsingham.

Coastal movement noted at eight sites commencing March 8th at Winterton where 30 north 3 south to May 31st. Only one double-figure count 13 west West Runton May 13th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 510 individuals of this species were recorded in 49 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 259% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 32% between 2006 and 2007. Summer count of 83 Langham July 1st.

Autumn passage again noted at two sites, Hunstanton where 23 south Oct 3rd-Nov 3rd and Winterton where 49 north 30 south Oct 5th-Nov 25th.

Max counts in second winter period: Oct 90 Wells 26th; Nov 86 Langham 1st, 76 Beeston Bump 3rd, 98 Wighton 7th; Dec 107 Langham 1st, 60 Downham Market 22nd.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Migratory breeder and passage migrant; evidence of recent decline

Apart from a 1st-winter individual which wintered until Jan 21st at Ormesby St Margaret, first reported April 21st at Holme, with additional April reports from 12 sites with max 4 south Hunstanton 24th. Spring movements continued into May with double-figure counts from Hunstanton, where 11 south 18th and 26 south on 19th, and Holme where 20 on 30th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 35 individuals of this species were recorded in 19 BBS squares in Norfolk. June and July records again widespread, though in declining numbers, 12 at West Bilney June 10th being only notable count.

Autumn passage poor with only significant counts both Sept 9th, 21 Bodham on power lines between there and West Beckham and 6 Choseley. In second half of month only 3 records, Wootton Marsh 16th, Sea Palling 18th and latest Eccles 29th.

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First reported in song Guist April 8th. Thereafter increasingly more regular throughout April and May with max 10 west Stiffkey Fen May 13th but no more than 5 at any other site.

Again reported widely throughout summer with up to 6 at Holme and 4 at Calthorpe Broad in June. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 54 individuals of this species were recorded in 31 BBS squares in Norfolk. One in off sea Salhouse June 15th was presumably an early returning adult.

Juvs noted July/Aug at Blakeney GM and Point, Bintree, Breydon, Cley, Corpusty, Dersingham, Hickling Broad, Holme, Kelling WM, Mautby, North Wootton Marsh, Reedham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Salhouse, Scolt Head, Snettisham, Strumpshaw, Titchwell, Welney, Weybourne, Winterton and Wiveton. Late birds at Salhouse Sept 28th and Drayton Oct 1st.



Cuckoo (Robert Gillmor)

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Resident, continental race has appeared as a vagrant

Birds reported from 299 sites, slightly less than in 2006. Most were of singles but several reports related to multiple sightings, the most productive site being St Benet's Level where 7 Feb 12th, 4 Nov 27th and 6 Dec 25th. Elsewhere 5 Holme Feb 6th and Breydon south wall Feb 18th, 4 Burnham Overy Jan 21st, Haddiscoe Island Jan 31st, Holkham NNR March 18th,

North Wootton Marsh March 26th, Terrington Marsh Oct 1st and Titchwell Dec 19th, and 3 Hanworth Jan 15th and Snettisham Dec 16th.

During breeding season the North-west Norfolk Ringing Group ringed a total of 630 chicks, all from approx 200 pairs using nest boxes, spread throughout county. Most individual breeding reports related to single pairs but 3 found at Caister and Ringstead, with 2 at Haddiscoe Island, Oby and Wighton. In the combined parishes of Cockley Cley, Hilborough and Gooderstone 10-12 pairs bred and in Stanford TA 6 nests found with a total 15 chicks ringed at 5 of these, the remaining nest failing. At Yarmouth a pair nested on a church in middle of town.

Only report of road casualties related to two found on A1065 at East Raynham in Nov.

Two reports of dark-breasted birds: one of 3 young ringed at nest in Holt July 23rd and at St Benet's Level Dec 21st and again 25th. It is worth noting that records of the continental race guttata are now being dealt with by BBRC. All future reports will therefore require full descriptions.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Introduced resident

Noted at 173 sites, an increase of over 36 on 2006. One or 2 at most sites but 3 reported at Surlingham July 24th, Corpusty Aug 13th and Shipdham in Oct. In area bounded by A47 and R Yare, between Norwich and Acle, birds were present at 6 sites.

Confirmed breeding at 21 sites with min of 25 pairs. At a further 2 sites no confirmed breeding but up to 9 pairs present with 6 around Shotesham and 2-3 in area of Sparham. Young reported from only 3 sites with fledged birds seen at Leziat and Stanford TA, and young heard in nest at Reephams. In view of secretive nature of this species it is safe to assume that these figures are well below actual breeding total in county.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Widespread resident

Reported from 131 sites, virtually same as 2006. Majority of records relate to calling birds with one or two the norm. Higher counts noted at 3 sites with 6 Beechamwall Cockleycle Wood in Jan, 5 Dersingham Bog Jan 15th and 3 Necton Dec 25th.

Another slight reduction in number of confirmed breeding sites with reports from only 14 localities, plus a further 2 sites where breeding probably occurred. At four of these sites, however, total of 17 pairs bred with 6 at Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 4 Bayfield Hall and Swanton Novers NNR, and 3 in Hickling Broad area. Fledged young noted at 3 sites with juvs heard calling at another.

A disturbing increase in number of dead birds reported with 9 found during a 15-day spell in Sept alone. These were at Syderstone (3) 8th, Loddon (2) and Stockton 11th, Hellington 13th, and Little Ryburgh and Sparham 22nd. It is not clear whether these were road casualties but 2 on B1149 at Heydon July 25th within 100 yards of each other and other



Tawny Owl (Steve Cale)

singles Saxthorpe Oct 27th and Eastgate Nov 11th were certainly found on roads, the latter being found alive but dying following day.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Scarce and local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

As last year few reports during first 3 months with only 2 records during Jan, Great Moulton 18th and East Ruston 28th. Slight increase Feb with 2 found roosting in Broads 1st and singles Wells East Hills 9th, East Ruston 23rd and Great Moulton throughout month. Just 2 further reports March at Grime's Graves 12th and Drymere (Beechamwell) 14th. Spring produced only 2 records, migrant Blakeney Point April 2nd and Grimston Pott Row May 20th.

Breeding confirmed at 2 sites with young noted at both. At Brettenham Heath an adult and young heard calling June 5th and 9th, and at Thetford Warren 3 fledged juvs June 17th. At another site in east of county a bird present during breeding season for second consecutive year. At Acle a fully-fledged young in middle of marshes June 2nd an unusual record.

First autumn coastal records Sept 28th when singles Holkham Meals and Stiffkey with one Waxham following day. Further migrants Oct at Horsey 3rd, Salthouse 21st, in off sea Winterton 22nd and Burnham Overy Staithe 23rd. Also at this time up to 2 birds roosting at a coastal site in north of county Oct 25th-Nov 11th. The latter date also saw last reported migrant of autumn, one in off sea Sheringham.

In second winter period reports from Brettenham Heath Oct 31st, Sutton Fen Nov 25th and in Dec Brancaster Thompson Farms 9th and 11th, Strumpshaw (2) 9th, Little Snoring 23rd and Wacton Common on several dates at end of month.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Reports during first winter centred mainly in Broads and north-west of county. Most reliable site was Holme where one through Jan and 2 throughout Feb and March, with 3 noted March 3rd. Majority of other records related to singles but 3 Breydon Jan 14th and 16th, and Burgh Castle Jan 27th, with 2 Yarmouth Jan 23rd, Bradwell Gapton Marshes Jan 27th, Thornham Feb 3rd, and in March Breydon 3rd, Snettisham 6th and Bradwell 24th. Elsewhere during this period reported Cley, Dersingham Bog, Denver, Haddiscoe Island, Hempstead, Hilgay Fen, Lynn Point, Morston, North Wootton, Roydon Common, St Benet's Level, Scolt Head, Stokesby with Herringby, Terrington Marsh, Titchwell, Tunstall (Halvergate), Waxham and Welney.

Sightings continued through April at 2 sites with regular reports of singles at Holme and Snettisham where 2 noted on several dates. Elsewhere during month Winterton 5th, Breydon (2) 7th, Rockland Broad 10th, Blakeney Point 16th and 25th, Hempstead 19th and inland at Litcham 27th. May produced just 3 records at Waxham 6th, West Runton 12th and in off sea Weybourne 14th. Late spring birds reported Wells East Hills June 3rd and Scolt Head June 11th.

No records indicative of breeding but notable series of records from Yarmouth where June 22nd and 24th, and July 15th. Only other early autumn reports Cley July 28th, Thornham Aug 24th and Eccles 30th.

First migrant in off sea Scolt Head Sept 10th followed 3 days later by one at Eccles. A notable influx began third week Sept with birds in off sea Beeston Bump 23rd, Eccles 24th and Sheringham 26th, with total of 6 at Eccles 29th. Others along coast at this time Titchwell (2) 20th, Snettisham and Blakeney Point 27th, Titchwell, Blakeney Point and west offshore Cley 28th, Holkham Meals and Blakeney Point (2) 29th, and Holme 30th. Migration continued in

Oct with further arrivals in off sea Salthouse 2nd, Winterton 4th, Salthouse and West Runton 13th, Winterton 18th, Titchwell and Eccles (6) 20th, and Titchwell and Eccles 24th. In addition further coastal records during month at Scolt Head 4th, Holme 5th, Eccles 6th, Breydon 9th, Holme, west Cley and Waxham 13th, Breydon 14th, Terrington Marsh 17th, Cley, Weybourne and Sheringham GC 18th, East Runton 19th, Sheringham, Sea Palling and Horsey 20th, Salthouse 21st, Salthouse and Yarmouth 22nd, Titchwell 24th, Blakeney Point 27th and Thornham Marshes 29th. There was no let up in movement in Nov with birds in off sea Cley, Sheringham, Paston and Hopton 3rd, Walcott 4th, Sheringham and Hopton 11th, Blakeney Point 15th and Eccles 26th. Other records on coast from Titchwell and Breydon 1st, Trimmingham (2) 4th, Blakeney Point 5th, Mundesley 11th, Blakeney Point 14th/15th, Waxham 15th and Snettisham 21st.

During second winter period Breydon/Gapton Marshes area again favoured with reports from Bradwell Gapton Marshes of one Nov 22nd, 2 23rd and 3 Dec 1st with singles Breydon Dec 20th, 26th and 30th. Elsewhere noted in Dec at Roydon Common 1st, Salthouse 6th, Holkham Gap 13th, Warham Greens 14th and Blakeney Point (2) 21st.

Nightjar (European Nightjar)

Caprimulgus europaeus

Local migratory breeder and rare passage migrant

First bird of spring, at Dersingham April 25th, was earliest county record by 3 days. Further arrivals May with one West Bilney 6th followed by coastal migrants west Cley and Blakeney Point (3) 14th, and in off sea Winterton 20th

Birds well established at breeding sites by second half May with reports of churring males/pairs: *north* 21 at 7 sites; *east* 5 at one site; *west* 39 at 5 sites; *central* 8 at 3 sites; *Brecks* just a single report of 5 at one site. At two sites, one in north the other central, males heard churring during the day, the first for 10 seconds at 9.25 am, the second between 4.00 pm and 4.30 pm. At another site in north, where 3 churring males present, heavy rain flooded large parts of breeding area but a juv July 25th indicated that at least one nest survived. This was the only report of juvs.

One present on main track at Holme July 23rd was an unusual record. Autumn migrants Overstrand Aug 24th (in observer's garden for most of day) and Winterton Aug 27th-Sept 1st.

Swift (Common Swift)

Apus apus

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First spring arrivals mid-April when west Kelling WM and Winterton 15th, Scolt Head (3 west), Beeston Bump and West Runton 19th, and Colney GP (3) 20th. Notable arrival 21st when (all west unless stated) 16 south Hunstanton, 10 Holme, 5 Scolt Head, 9 Stiffkey Fen, 2 Blakeney Point, 8 Sheringham, 10 Beeston Bump and one West Runton, with inland records at Buckenham Marshes (4), Swanton Morley GP (4) and Thetford (2). Reported almost daily through rest of month with largest numbers 18 west Scolt Head 24th, 22 west Scolt Head and 20 north How Hill 25th, and 20 west Scolt Head and 50 Colney GP 27th.

Apart from 156 south in 2 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton 1st few counts of any note in early May. Main passage began 9th when 1200 west Mundesley (0600-1000) followed by large movements for next few days along coast of (all west unless stated) 2225 Holme, 2000 Titchwell, 4486 Scolt Head, 5400 Blakeney Point, 2909 in afternoon Cley, 400/hr Beeston Bump, 1300 Cromer (0600-1100), 1200 Mundesley (0600-1000) and 1022 north Winterton 10th, 1500 Holme and 6265 Scolt Head 11th, 6400 Holme and 513 Scolt Head 12th, and 503 Scolt Head 13th. Large numbers continued moving through rest of month with 322 north 121 south Winterton 15th, 326 south Winterton 16th, 750 Holme 18th, 1058 south in 3 hrs

Hunstanton, 1680 Scolt Head and 900 in 6 hrs Inceborough Hill 19th, and 378 Sheringham and 175 Beeston Bump (0640-0710) 20th. At end of month further large numbers with 750 feeding Holme 26th, and 1100 Holme, 1000 Cley and 400 Welney 30th. Totals recorded during spring of 13,971 west Scolt Head in May and 1657 north 710 south Winterton April 15th-June 16th. Much smaller numbers reported early June when 450 Holme 8th and 125 north Winterton (1040-1415) 10th only counts of note.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 438 individuals of this species were recorded in 54 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 35% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 12% between 2006 and 2007.

Westerly movements at Scolt Head in June much smaller than in recent years with total of only 1093; majority, 810, passed through on 24th. Elsewhere during month best counts 150 Waxham 19th, with 800 ahead of a weather front Sea Palling and 1000 Welney 26th. In July increased westerly passage at Scolt Head of 2704 with best day counts of 769 1st and 1282 14th. Feeding flocks of 500 Burnham Overy Dunes 1st and Terrington Marsh 2nd, and 1700 Welney 4th with 1500 on 6th. Largest movement of year occurred 26th when a massive 24,400 passed south-west between 0500 and 0900 at Caister. Large numbers still moving Caister 27th with 3250 south-west in 3 hrs early morning, with 1260 south-west Halvergate Marshes in 2 hrs same day.

Numbers much reduced Aug when movements at Scolt Head of (all west) 44 3rd, 54 6th, 12 18th and 12 23rd; elsewhere 60 south King's Lynn and 125 west Cromer GC 19th. Usual run of late records Sept at Scolt Head (4 west) 1st, Sparham Pools 2nd, Colney GP 5th, Attleborough (2 south) 9th, Heigham Holmes and Waxham 16th, Happisburgh (2 south) 25th and Eccles (2) 26th. Last report of year Eccles Oct 9th.

Alpine Swift

Apus melba

Vagrant from southern Europe

One Cromer (MGa *et al*) and then Sheringham May 15th with presumed same again Cromer 17th (D&JB MPL) and Waxham 19th (many obs). Another late evening Titchwell June 24th (WB *et al*) which roosted Hunstanton Cliffs 24th/25th and last seen early morning 26th; subsequently (same?) briefly Titchwell again July 1st (MBr *et al*).



Alpine Swift (John Geeson)

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)

Alcedo atthis

Resident, numbers fluctuating in response to severity of winters

Reported from 77 sites, a further reduction on 2006 figures. This follows on from the large reduction in number of sites reported last year and may indicate a worrying trend. Have numbers really dropped by this amount or are sightings just not being reported? Majority of records in first half of year refer to singles apart from 3 Catfield Fen Feb 21st and 2 Snettisham Jan 17th, Thornham Jan 21st and Barton Broad on both Feb 17th and March 18th. In addition 2 noted Cley but no date given.

Breeding confirmed at only 3 sites all of which produced young. At Hoveton a pair raised 2 broods whilst at Martham one brood was raised and at Bayfield Hall a pair fledged 2 young. At another site in Wensum Valley 2 pairs present but breeding not established. A presumed migrant flying south low over dunes Winterton Aug 24th.

Little sign of increase in numbers second half of year with all records of singles except for 2 Holkham NNR Sept 15th and Barton Broad Nov 11th.

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater)

Merops apiaster

Vagrant from southern Europe

In spring Kelling WM (AD *et al*) and subsequently Morston (GHo *et al*) May 12th; next day seen briefly at Stiffkey and then Gateley (CCo). Another north Winterton May 22nd (AGr TNi).

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Annual vagrant in very small numbers

Another reasonably good year with 8 records, 4 in spring, 3 midsummer and one in autumn. First seen briefly at Lopham Fen April 16th followed later in month by one at Watton 25th-27th. This latter bird was reported to have been present for a week prior to first date. May produced 2 records, in Norwich (no specific site given) 5th with another short stayer Kelling Heath 23rd. In July singles Ickburgh 8th, Fakenham 10th and Stacksford near Old Buckenham 16th. The final record of year between Rollesby and Ormesby Broads Sept 23rd/24th.

Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck)

Jynx torquilla

Former breeder; now scarce annual passage migrant, mostly in autumn

A very poor spring with just two records Eccles, April 19th and Sheringham May 4th.

Autumn passage reasonable with over 30 birds. All records: Aug Scolt Head 21st with 5 on 22nd, Blakeney Point 22nd-24th, 2-3 Burnham Overy Dunes/Holkham Meals (remaining until 25th), 2 Wells East Hills and singles Sheringham (until 24th) and West Runton all 23rd, 2 Scolt Head and singles Horsey and Winterton 24th, Thornham Point, Kelling Heath, Sea Palling and Waxham with 2 Winterton 25th (remaining until 29th), another inland Winterton at High Barns Farm 26th and Foxley Wood 27th; Sept Tibenham 13th, Horsey 15th, Holme 16th, Holkham Meals 29th, Eccles 30th; Oct Warham Greens 14th-19th.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Resident

Direct reports from 49 sites including Ringstead Courtyard Farm where 4 pairs bred and Shotesham where at least 3 pairs bred. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 71 individuals of this species were recorded in 39 BBS squares in Norfolk. Highest count from Winterton where 12 feeding in dunes March 17th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident; birds of the northern race occasional in autumn

Total of 6 spring coastal migrants: 5 Winterton where singles north March 25th and 27th, April 15th and 18th with one south also 18th; elsewhere west Overstrand 19th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 77 individuals of this species were recorded in 44 BBS squares in Norfolk. At Ringstead Courtyard Farm 7 pairs June 1st.

Majority of the 41 autumn coastal migrants reported from Winterton where 28 Aug 16th-Nov 2nd with peaks of 4 north Oct 7th and 5 north one south Oct 31st. Other migrants: Sept south Hunstanton and west along cliffs Cromer GC 23rd; Oct west Sheringham 13th, south Hunstanton and 2 west Sheringham 14th, in off sea Horsey 15th, north Sea Palling 16th, 2 south Hunstanton 22nd, singles west and east Beeston Bump 23rd, in off sea Stiffkey 25th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Declining local resident

Recorded at 24 sites throughout year (singles unless stated): Bayfield Estate/Wiveton, Beeston Regis, Blickling Park, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Cringleford, Fowl Mere, Holkham Park 2, Kettlestone, North Walsham, Runhall Welbourne Common 2, Santon Downham 4, Santon Warren, Sculthorpe, Sparham Pools, Stanford TA (6 separate sites), Strumpshaw 2, Thompson Water 2, Tottenhill, Weeting-with-Bromehill, Wiveton, Wolterton.

Best sites: Santon Downham 1-4 seen on ten occasions Jan 17th-Aug 18th, Holkham Park 1-2 Feb 13th-April 2nd and Strumpshaw 1-2 Jan 1st-March 28th.

Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla

Vagrant from southern Europe east to Afghanistan

One Blakeney Point May 29th (JRMc AMS), the favoured locality for this species.

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Uncommon migratory breeder, also scarce passage migrant

During Jan/Feb 13 West Toft Mere Jan 13th only report of a wintering flock. In same period a very early migrant noted in off sea Waxham Jan 23rd. Migrants at a more expected time west Overstrand March 5th, north Winterton April 7th, Mundesley April 8th and west Scolt Head April 17th and 21st.

First singing male on territory noted in north Brecks Jan 19th with widespread reports from Feb. In Thetford Forest the 33rd annual survey found 270 singing males/pairs of which 152 were in Norfolk. This total shows a decrease of 6% from 2006. Throughout the forest 61 nests found of which 25 (41%) failed with level of predation up on that of previous year. Elsewhere in county numbers of singing males/pairs: north 9, central 6, west 21. At one site in north 5 young from second brood were ringed in nest whilst at 3 sites in central fledged young were seen (3 at each).

In autumn male singing still in north of county Oct 8th whilst on coast migrants noted Happisburgh Sept 30th and Oct 2nd, and elsewhere in Oct Burnham Overy Dunes 5th, in off sea Horsey 13th with another 15th, south Hunstanton 21st and west Warham Greens 27th. Only report during last 2 months of year one on stubble Necton Dec 8th.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period highest counts (all Jan): 225 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 21st, 146 Gooderstone 3rd, 80 Paston 14th and 39 Salthouse 22nd. No significant counts received for

either Feb or March. Only report relating to spring migration 4 west Overstrand April 10th.

Breeding records of pairs/singing males (last year's figures in brackets): Scolt Head 81 (97), Blakeney Point at least 45 (57), Blakeney GM 43 (40), Winterton 21, Grimston 60, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 81, Sparham 42 (42) and Welney 22. Only indication of success rate from Blakeney Point where few young seen. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 545 individuals of this species were recorded in 74 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant decline of 39% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 6% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn migration noted from early Oct with 70 south Welney 4th followed by 42 south in 3 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton 11th, 66 in off sea Cley (1000-1300) 13th, 92 west Sheringham 21st and 10 west Beeston Bump 27th. Further movement Nov when 30 in off sea (1000-1100) Winterton 3rd. Other counts during same period, clearly relating to incoming migrants, 10 Blakeney Point Oct 10th and 71 Holme Oct 14th. Autumn migrant totals from 2 sites: 313 south Hunstanton Oct 3rd-Nov 5th and 162 south 52 north Winterton Oct 4th-Nov 22nd.

During last 2 months of year notable concentrations: Nov 107 Repps-with-Bastwick 8th with 125 there 15th, 102 Catfield 25th, 83 Wymondham 15th, 75 Holme 25th and 60 Little Cressingham 25th; Dec 210 Necton 8th and 150 Bacton 18th.

Shore Lark (Horned Lark)

Eremophila alpestris

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; exceptional in summer

Unlike recent years, at least 4 individual flocks present during first winter period centred at Snettisham, Holkham Bay, Blakeney Point/Cley/Salthouse and Winterton/Caister. Monthly totals at each site: Jan Snettisham 6 on 1st with 4 to month end apart from 9 on 10th and 5 15th, Holkham Bay 9 all month, Winterton/Caister 7 all month alternating between each site; Feb Snettisham 4 all month, Holkham Bay 9 all month, Blakeney Point/Cley 9 all month, Winterton/Caister 7 to 7th then 6 to month end; March Snettisham 6 on 10th with 4 still 24th, Holkham Bay 9 to 17th, Cley/Salthouse 9 all month, Caister 6 all month; April Snettisham 4 to 18th and one to 22nd, up to 12 Blakeney Point/Cley/Salthouse area reducing to 3 by month end, ranging as far east as Kelling Hard, and 6 Caister to 8th with one still present 12th. Away from these areas only reports one Blakeney Hbr Jan 21st, 2 Eccles March 30th/31st, and in April west Scolt Head 8th, Burnham Overy Dunes 9th and Holkham 11th. Last of spring 3 Cley May 4th.

First autumn reports Sept 30th when 4 in off sea Scolt Head and 7 Cley. Records increased Oct with singles west Blakeney Point and west Weybourne 3rd, 14 south Holme 6th and 8 in off sea 18th, 7 in off sea then east Titchwell 23rd and 2 south Holme 27th. Also in Oct noted Heacham 2nd, Holkham Gap 6th, Blakeney Point and Kelling 8th, Holme 14th, Winterton 17th, Yarmouth 18th (3) and 31st, Scolt Head 25th and Salthouse 29th.

Few present Nov/Dec with no site recording more than 3 birds. Most reports from Blakeney Point/Cley area with 2 Blakeney Point Nov 16th and 3 Cley 25th, and in Dec Cley 1st and 3 Blakeney Point 12th until 31st. Only other reports 3 Holme Dec 1st and 2 Scolt Head Dec 20th-31st.



Shore Lark (Richard Johnson)

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Local migratory breeder and common passage migrant

First arrivals March 11th when singles Titchwell, west Salthouse and east Sheringham. Further March reports Welney 13th, 3 west Holme and 2 Titchwell 16th, north Winterton and 3 Swanton Morley GP 17th, 4 Titchwell 18th, 4 Colney GP 22nd and 24th, west Overstrand and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 27th, 3 Titchwell 28th, 7 Buckenham, 15 Colney GP and 2 Hickling Broad 29th, and 10 Colney GP, 6 Swanton Morley GP and 6 Worthing GP 31st. Mostly single figures early April apart from 27 Titchwell 6th but 60 Colney GP 10th marked start of main passage. Counts from coastal sites increased with (all west) 43 Holme 11th, 26 Sheringham and 51 Cromer 19th, 102 Scolt Head 22nd, 91 Scolt Head and 24 Sheringham 24th, and 71 Scolt Head 25th. Inland best count 100 Pentney GP 13th. Reports from coast continued during first half May when 112 west Paston 6th, 30 Blakeney Point 10th, 48 west Scolt Head 11th, and 41 west Scolt Head and 125 Cley 12th. Inland counts at this time 50 Welney 10th and 130 roosting UEA Broad 18th-20th. Spring migrant totals from 2 sites: Scolt Head 375 April and 213 May (all west); Winterton 119 north 87 south March 18th-May 31st. The totals at Scolt Head well down on corresponding figures in 2006.

More breeding reports received than last year. At Stanford TA a new cliff face had 75 burrows by April 14th increasing to 300 by May 20th; of these an estimated 150 were in use. Elsewhere number of pairs/active burrows: Blakeney Point 1, Happisburgh 40, California 25-30, Scratby 20 and Pentney GP 18. At Nar Valley Fisheries no breeding took place due to disturbance.

Only midsummer records of any large numbers came from Cantley BF where 200 June 26th and also 200 Cley July 28th. First autumn migrants noted Scolt Head June 17th when 3 west. No more reports of movement until 2 north Gorleston July 8th and 8 west Blakeney Point 10th, then a further gap until Aug 1st when 28 west Scolt Head. Several reports from coast through Aug with 11 west Scolt Head 11th and 25 west there 12th, 146 north California 24th and 64 south Winterton 29th. Only notable record inland at this time 100 Cantley BF 9th. Largest counts in Sept of 10 Welney 1st and 10 Cley 29th. Last 2 birds of year Oct 1st at Salthouse and Earsham GP.

Swallow (Barn Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

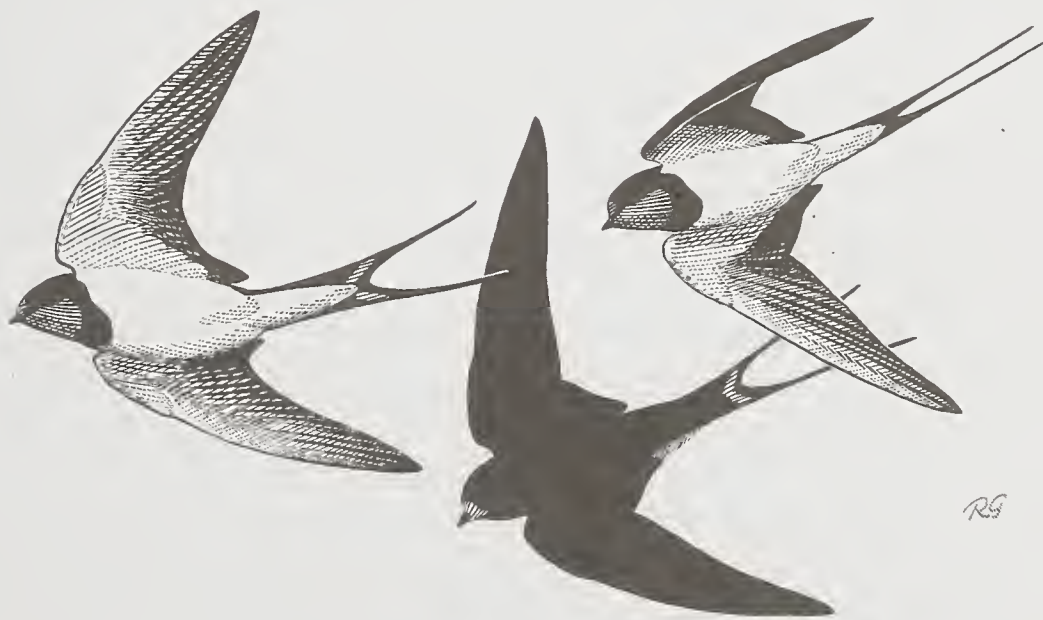
Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

An early spring arrival with 2 north Hickling Stubb Mill March 9th. There then followed a series of records at Thetford Nunnery Lakes with singles 14th, 21st/22nd, 27th and 29th. Elsewhere in March noted Salthouse 15th, Welney 16th, North Wootton 26th, Titchwell and Winterton 27th, Winterton 28th, Cley and Buckenham Marshes 29th, and Attleborough 30th/31st. First 10 days April produced only single-figure counts, best 5 west Overstrand 9th. Numbers picked up thereafter with 124 west Scolt Head 11th, 202 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton 12th and 35 Titchwell 13th. A brief lull ensued before main migration got under way 19th when 207 west Holme and 84 west Cromer, followed by counts at Scolt Head of (all west) 281 21st, 267 22nd, 173 23rd, 519 24th, 487 25th and 107 28th. Elsewhere on coast in April (all west) 150 Holme 21st, 66 Cromer 23rd and 236 Sheringham 24th. Passage increased into May with westerly counts at Scolt Head of 1529 6th, 373 9th, 991 10th, 528 11th, 2026 12th, 547 13th, 412 14th, 462 17th and 442 18th. Passage also recorded at other coastal sites with (all west unless stated) 207 in one hour Blakeney Point, 228 Sheringham, 670 Beeston Bump (0530-0730), 350 West Runton and 264 south 248 north Winterton 6th, 200 Sheringham 7th, 251 Holme 10th and 2000 (1600-1830) there 11th, 6200 Holme, 157 Sheringham and 1082 south 152 north Winterton 12th, 250 Holme 13th, 416 south 67 north Winterton 14th with 882

south 272 north there 15th and 321 south 112 north 18th. Very few counts from inland sites during month, best 30 Welney 10th. Late passage still Scolt Head in June where 42 west 9th and 12 west 10th. Spring totals of migrants 10,894 west Scolt Head with 2257 in April and 8583 in May, and 5867 south 2535 north March 28th-June 1st at Winterton.

Reports on breeding figures (pairs): Beeston Regis 4, Blakeney Point 6, Caister Stables 10, Haddiscoe Island 12, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 8 and Scolt Head 2. At Stanford TA totals were 10 pairs down on 2006 and breeders settled in late with many not having second broods. However at one site at Corpusty a pair produced 3 broods. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 284 individuals of this species were recorded in 56 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant decline of 32% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 33% between 2006 and 2007.

First evidence of autumn movement at Scolt Head July 15th when 11 west with small numbers until month end. Aug totals at Scolt Head (all west) 116 1st, 249 2nd, 1262 4th, 304 6th, 235 11th, 430 12th, 176 14th and 126 on 19th. Elsewhere on north coast 180 west Blakeney Point 19th and on east coast 244 north Winterton 23rd, 186 north California 24th, 224 south 146 north Winterton 29th and 112 north there 31st. Notable inland gatherings at this time 250 Berney 13th, 100 Cantley BF 20th, 100 Hickling Broad 26th and 150 Welney 31st. Good numbers still first half Sept with 500 feeding over Scolt Head 5th and a roost of 4500 Holme 6th. Passage continued at Scolt Head during month with best totals (all west) 177 1st, 191 10th and 342 23rd. Numbers much reduced Oct when 20 Holme, 37 Blakeney Point and 20 Weybourne 3rd were only double-figure counts. In second half of month all reports, except 2 at How Hill Reedham Water 17th, south Hunstanton 22nd and Salthouse 31st, were of singles. Nov produced the usual run of late records with reports from Cley and Salthouse 3rd, Cley and Kelling 8th, Salthouse 15th, Walsey Hills 29th and Eccles 30th. As in most recent years some stragglers still noted Dec with reports from Blakeney Point (2 west) and West Runton (2) 1st, Waxham 2nd and 6th, and last record of year, nearby to site of first record, Hickling Broad 15th.



Swallows (*Robert Gillmor*)

House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

A very early first record Castle Acre March 6th was followed by other early arrivals Titchwell 15th and 5 Swanton Morley GP 23rd. Single figures only first 10 days April, with 4 Blakeney

Point 8th and 4 Colney GP 10th highest totals. As with the other 2 hirundines migration picked up markedly from 11th when 11 west Scolt Head followed next day by 661 west at same site. Coastal migration then noted through to month end, with (all west) 48 Cromer 23rd, 248 Scolt Head and 96 in 3 hrs 15 mins Sheringham 24th, and 107 Scolt Head 28th. First three weeks May saw main bulk pass through with westerly counts at Scolt Head of 576 10th, 786 11th, 252 13th, 319 14th, 403 15th, 249 18th and 267 on 19th. During same period totals moving west at Holme of 500 (1600-1830) 11th, 1200 12th and 225 14th, whilst at Hunstanton (all south) 469 in 2 hrs 12th and 192 in 3 hrs 19th. Only inland count at this time 50 Welney 10th. Movement continued at Scolt Head into June with 53 west 9th and 44 west 10th, with 63 north Winterton (1040-1415) also on 10th. Migrant totals from regular sites, 4407 west Scolt Head and 735 south 396 north Winterton April 4th-June 1st.

Breeding totals of occupied nests/pairs: Hunstanton Ancient Mariner PH 13, Haddiscoe Island 8, Filby King's Head PH 8, and 15 on single house Oby; no indication of success rates. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 236 individuals of this species were recorded in 34 BBS squares in Norfolk.

First migrants of autumn noted Scolt Head Aug 3rd when 3 west followed by 17 west there 19th. On last day of month 100 Snettisham, 50 Titchwell and 150 Welney. Few records Sept of visible migration on coast with Scolt Head supplying only reports (all west) 55 10th, 530 15th and 1015 16th. Elsewhere during month gatherings of 50 Holkham Park prior to open-air concert 1st, 300 feeding over tide wrack Holkham Gap 9th, 150 Cantley BF 20th, 60 Swanton Morley 21st, and 200 Cantley BF and 100 Ranworth Broad 25th. Low numbers Oct with only reports of more than one being 12 Flitcham 3rd and 3 Hickling Broad 9th. Surprisingly few records Nov when just singles Beeston Regis 3rd and Langham 4th.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

Vagrant from southern Europe

Two spring records, south Winterton April 22nd (AGr) and West Runton May 13th (IP *et al*).

Richard's Pipit

Anthus novaeseelandiae

Virtually annual autumn migrant from western Siberia; rare in spring and winter

In first winter period one flew over from Lincs at Terrington Marsh Feb 21st; the first winter record since 1994/95. None in spring.

Autumn numbers poor with only 25 records Sept/Oct, the majority singles. Again mostly seen briefly or as flyovers, so some possibility of duplication. First 2 Walsey Hills Sept 28th then west over Stiffkey Campsite Wood and west Warham Greens 29th, Holkham Bay 30th, over Cockthorpe Oct 2nd, over Holkham, west Scolt Head, west Sheringham and Warham Greens 3rd, 2 south Hunstanton, west Stiffkey WM and west Weybourne 4th, Paston 6th, east Warham Greens and Warham SM 7th, Blakeney Point 8th/9th, Salthouse 11th, Holme and over Warham Greens 20th, Holkham NNR and south Hunstanton 21st, and Burnham Overy Staithe 25th. A further 6 in Nov: east Titchwell 1st, 2 Salthouse 3rd, 3 4th, 2 5th and one 6th-8th, Terrington Marsh 24th-26th and Horsey 25th-27th. In Dec Terrington Marsh 26th-31st considered to be the Nov bird.

Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni

Vagrant from Siberia

A multi-observed individual at Holkham Meals Oct 27th-29th (JGi *et al*).

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of spring Hickling Broad April 1st, Blakeney Point 8th and Sea Palling 9th followed by further migrants almost daily April 11th-May 1st at various coastal localities. A small movement noted May 6th and then almost daily 10th-22nd. Max counts: April 5 Blakeney Point 14th, 4 Dersingham Bog 16th, 26 south in 3 hrs Hunstanton, 4 west Holme and 3 Winterton 21st, 22 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 8 west Scolt Head, 4 Burnham Overy Dunes and 3 Holkham Meals 22nd, 4 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 6 west Scolt Head 23rd, 4 Titchwell and 10 west 2 present Scolt Head 25th; May 9 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 5 west Scolt Head 6th, 4 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 3 Holme and 5 west West Runton 13th, 3 west 4 present Scolt Head 14th and 5 west 2 present there 15th. Last migrant Holme 29th. Some duplication must be considered between Hunstanton, Holme, Scolt Head and Titchwell.

Singing males/territories during breeding season: Bodney, Cockley Cley, Croxton, Dersingham Bog (7), Kelling Heath, Middle Harling Common, Roydon Common (8), Salthouse Heath, Santon Downham, Stradsett and Thetford Warren.

Autumn passage commenced Holme Aug 10th followed by singles over Scolt Head 22nd, Burnham Overy Dunes and 2 California 24th, and 2 Winterton 25th. Light passage during Sept with 1-2 at only 6 localities totalling just 8 birds. In Oct west Weybourne 1st and Holme 6th. An exceptionally late bird East Barsham Nov 25th.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common migratory breeder and passage migrant with small numbers in winter

Only notable first winter period flocks 40 Holkham Bay Jan 4th and 56 Holme Feb 23rd.

First early migrant east through Overstrand Feb 12th but thereafter only in very small numbers during rest of month and fewer than usual noted there during March. Main return passage evident from second week in March with 10 Cley 9th, 128 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 96 west Holme 10th, 213 west Holme 11th, 76 west Beeston Bump 12th and 24 Holkham Bay 18th. In April total of 3778 west Scolt Head during month with peak counts of 429 8th, 1303 10th and 1199 on 11th. At Winterton total of 612 (543 north 69 south) March 10th-May 8th including peaks of 107 north April 11th and 119 north 16th. Elsewhere most notable counts included (all west): 297 Overstrand April 10th, 364 11th and 280 on 19th, 211 Cromer 11th and 302 19th, 285 Holme and 208 Paston 11th.

Singing males/breeding pairs during breeding season: 98 Scolt Head, 88 Blakeney Point, 22 Blakeney GM and 10 Winterton.

Largest post breeding flocks: July 90 Scolt Head, 46 Cley; Aug 150 Scolt Head, 45 Holme; Sept 250 Scolt Head, 156 Holme, 110 Blakeney Point, 100 Happisburgh, 80 Antingham; Oct 120 Hickling Stubb Mill, 106 Winterton, 100 Cley.

Overhead passage in autumn commenced early Sept, numbers increasing late in month. Best sites: Hunstanton 255 south Sept 23rd with total of 881 south by Nov 5th; Scolt Head (all west) 1218 Sept 23rd and 202 25th, 295 Oct 3rd; Winterton total of 395 (209 south 186 north) Oct 4th-Nov 27th. Other counts 250 west Holme (0800-1100) Sept 22nd, 229 west Sheringham and 300 east Paston Sept 30th.

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most probably of the Scandinavian race littoralis

Under-recorded during first winter period with highest counts: Jan 100 Scolt Head, 20 Holkham Bay, 16 Brancaster, 6 North Wootton; Feb 50 Scolt Head, 18 Holkham Bay, 12 Thornham, 11 Warham SM, 7 Holme, 6 Cley; March 6 Warham SM. Latest Holme April 14th

and a very late bird Cley May 22nd. Fewer than usual at Scolt Head during the winter.

First returning migrants in Sept with one Titchwell 9th and 2 28th, west Weybourne 10th and 5 west 18th, Breydon 12th, Warham SM 15th, Holme 22nd and 9 27th, 6 west 3 present Scolt Head 23rd and 32 west 50 present 27th, and 11 Blakeney Point 30th. During Oct/Nov other passage counts: 55 west 90 present Scolt Head Oct 2nd and 63 west 3rd, 70 south Hunstanton Oct 4th-Nov 5th and 20 west Sheringham Oct 14th.

Inland: singles Hickling Broad Oct 1st, Choseley 6th and Welney 29th.

Counts on coastal saltmarsh in second winter period: 20 Holme Oct 6th and 15 Nov 1st, 12 Blakeney Point 19th and 98 Dec 14th-16th, 11 Holkham Bay 30th, 30 Nov 18th and 50 Dec 11th, 20 Terrington Marsh Nov 17th and 25th.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Local winter visitor

In first winter period min of 45 birds at 13 localities, including monthly peak counts: Jan 6 Buckenham Marshes, 5 Haddiscoe Island, 3 Cley, 3 Strumpshaw, 2 Wissington BF, 2 Cantley BF, 2 Salthouse, one Horning Hall Marshes; Feb 8 Buckenham Marshes, 6 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 6 Strumpshaw, 4 Cley, 2 Horsey, singles Breydon, Horning Hall Marshes and Wissington BF; March 6 Buckenham Marshes, 3 Strumpshaw, 3 Haddiscoe Island, 3 Hickling Broad Rush Hills, 2 Salthouse, 2 Norwich Earlham Green Marsh, singles Cantley Marshes and Cantley BF.

In April noted at 3 sites, 3 Cley 3rd, 2 Strumpshaw 4th and one Blakeney Point 14th.

First arrival in autumn Haddiscoe Island Sept 23rd, followed by singles in Oct at 8 localities but 6 Strumpshaw 17th and 7 on 28th/29th, 3 Martham Broad 29th and 8 Belton Marshes 31st.

In Nov/Dec min of 48 birds at 12 localities, including monthly peak counts: Nov 16 Sutton Fen, 6 Cley, 4 Terrington Marsh, 3 Salthouse, 2 Titchwell, 2 Cantley BF, 2 Cantley Marshes, 2 Hickling Broad, singles Berney, Buckenham Marshes and Welney; Dec 11 Cley, 7 Sutton Fen, 4 Titchwell, 3 Sutton High Fen, 2 Cantley BF, singles Hickling Broad, Strumpshaw and Welney.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail M (f) flavissima

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First arrival Kelling Heath March 25th with no more until 2 west Holme and 2 Welney April 8th followed by a light passage with 9 west Scolt Head, 4 Hunstanton and singles Titchwell, Blakeney Point, Cley, Salthouse and Sea Palling on 11th, west Beeston Bump 12th, 2 Blakeney Point 14th and 23 west Cley 16th. Main spring passage: 19th 10 Snettisham CP, 20 west Scolt Head, 15 west Beeston Bump, 11 West Runton and 10 west Cromer; 21st 23 south in 3 hrs Hunstanton, 23 west Holme, 29 west Scolt Head, 11 west Beeston Bump and 10 west West Runton; 22nd 24 Holme, 73 west and 30 present Scolt Head, 16 west Sheringham, 14 Beeston Bump and 13 north Winterton; 23rd 129 west and 20 present Scolt Head, 50 Blakeney Point, 50 west Cley and 25 Kelling WM; 24th 52 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 217 west and 64 present Scolt Head, 10 Cley, 48 west in 3 hrs Sheringham, 16 west Beeston Bump 61 Beeston Regis and 15 Sea Palling; 25th 25 west Titchwell, 86 west Scolt Head and 18 Waxham; 28th 20 Welney; May 5th 20 Snettisham; 6th 27 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 60 west Holme, 218 west and 50 present in ternery Scolt Head, 53 Cley, 24 Salthouse, 69 west Sheringham, 58 west West Runton and 11 Winterton; 8th 32 west Scolt Head; 10th 33 west Scolt Head and 33 west

Cromer; 12th 171 west Holme, 69 west Scolt Head and 25 Blakeney Point; 13th 38 west Scolt Head, 10 Blakeney Point, 10 Salthouse and 12 West Runton; 14th 12 Cley; 18th 23 south in 2 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton; 19th 31 south in 3 hrs Hunstanton and 31 west Scolt Head.

At Scolt Head a dry April resulted in little vegetation growth but an abundance of flowering plants (ie birds foot trefoil), which in turn attracted feeding flocks of wagtails in much larger numbers than usually seen on the ground. Spring totals of 1092 west Scolt Head and 151 (103 north 48 south) Winterton April 18th-May 26th.

Confirmed breeding pairs reported from just 3 localities: 8 mid-Yare RSPB, one Stanford TA and 12 Welney where no young reared. Breeding suspected at Metton and Berney.

Only double-figure count in July 15 Welney 24th. In Aug max 15 Wissington BF 12th, 17 Berney and 10 Cley 13th, 40 Welney 24th and 19 Blakeney Point 27th. Light Sept passage with only double-figure counts: 40 Welney 1st, 20 How Hill Reedham Water 5th, 21 Berney 6th and 20 Buckenham Marshes 20th. In Oct 3 Welney 1st with singles Southrepps 9th and Titchwell 11th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M (f) flava*

Regular migrant from continental Europe, mainly in spring

A very light movement April 21st-May 13th associated as usual with main Yellow Wagtail passage. Singles at just 6 localities with 3 Cley April 23rd and 4 Scolt Head 24th. A male with a female Yellow Wagtail Methwold Hythe June 1st.

A 'Channel' Wagtail, a hybrid Yellow/Blue-headed Salthouse April 25th. All past published and claimed records of Sykes's Wagtail most likely refer to this distinctly-plumaged hybrid.

Grey-headed Wagtail *M (f) thunbergi*

Scarce spring migrant from north Fenno-Scandia

Only four singles in spring, an adult female or 1st-summer male Salthouse April 25th/26th and male May 12th, and males Cley 14th and Scolt Head 29th.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Local breeder, fairly common passage migrant, less common in winter

Mainly singles recorded at just 22 localities Jan/Feb. In March light spring passage of singles at just 6 coastal localities with 2 west Holme 10th and 17th, and 2 west Weybourne 13th.

Birds on territories from late March with at least 30 confirmed breeding pairs (12 up on 2006): Bayfield Hall, Bintree Mill, Buckenham Tofts (2), Buxton Mill, Costessey Mill, Costessey Point, Didlington Park, East Carleton, East Tuddenham, Ebridge Mill, Glandford, Honingham, Ickburgh Mill, Intwood Mill, Langford, Lynford, Lyng Bridge, Marlingford Mill, Narborough Mill, Nar Valley Fisheries, Norwich Carrow Road and R Wensum at City Centre, Sculthorpe Mill, Shotesham (2), Swanton Morley GP, Thetford Nunns Bridges, Wissington BF and Worthing GP. At least 4 more pairs at suitable localities where some may have bred.

Following singles west Paston July 8th and Holme Aug 25th, with 2 Snettisham Aug 30th, post breeding dispersal mainly from second week in Sept with a steady light passage throughout rest of month at mainly north and east coast localities; mainly singles with 2 west Weybourne 12th and 2 west 19th, 3 Hillington and 2 Horsey 22nd, 8 south Hunstanton and 13 west Scolt Head 23rd, 2 Kelling WM 27th and 2 over Weybourne 30th. The light passage continued throughout Oct, still mainly singles but 4 Holme and 3 west Scolt Head 1st, 5 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 9 passed Scolt Head and 4 Beeston Regis 3rd, 6 King's Lynn and 2 West

Runtun 6th, 12 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton 9th, 2 Titchwell 11th, 6 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton 13th, 2 Snettisham, 6 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 5 Holme, 3 west Weybourne and 2 north Sea Palling 14th, 2 west Weybourne 22nd and 3 Sheringham 29th.

In second winter period recorded at 22 widespread localities Nov/Dec.

White/Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail *M (a) yarrellii*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

At beginning of year 101 roosted Norwich Rampant Horse St Jan 19th with 163 25th, 75 Feb 2nd, 22 3rd and 17 15th. Roosts elsewhere: 265 Wroxham village centre Jan 26th, 940 Hoveton Riverside Shopping Centre Feb 15th and 240 March 16th, 64 Catfield Fen Feb 16th, 60 Upton Fen 19th, 50 Roughton 24th and 130 Strumpshaw March 9th. Other winter gatherings of note 60 at pre-roost Morston Jan 1st, 45 west to roost Warham 7th, 82 Horsey Mere Feb 24th and 60 Waxham March 25th.

Main fairly light westerly spring passage from early March with peaks 8 Overstrand 5th, 15 Beeston Bump 11th, and 16 Holme and 16 Overstrand 12th. Equivalent southerly movement at Hunstanton 13 in 2 hrs March 10th.

A male was watched repeatedly attacking corpse of a rival lying in road at Stalham March 25th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 101 individuals of this species were recorded in 47 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 21% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 18% between 2006 and 2007.

Only notable summer/autumn counts 31 Swanton Morley GP July 22nd, 80 Cantley BF July 29th, 60 at roost Wissington BF Sept 17th and 320 Guist Common 30th. Autumn movements: total of 57 south Hunstanton Sept 23rd-Nov 1st and 28 south 8 north Winterton Oct 4th-Nov 1st.

The Norwich Rampant Horse St roost remained unoccupied at end of year. Elsewhere 18 Strumpshaw Oct 1st, 18 Sutton Fen 18th, 60 Nov 10th, 349 11th and 24 Dec 1st, 126 Cley Oct 31st and 152 leaving roost in morning Nov 2nd, 85 Pentney GP Dec 7th and 105 Beeston Regis.



Pied Wagtail (Alan Burtenshaw)

30th. Other gatherings 48 Salthouse Nov 4th, 100 Sennowe Park Dec 7th and 30 Gayton Thorpe 28th. The Hoveton Riverside roost tree had been felled by Nov 15th.

White Wagtail *M(a) alba*

Regular passage migrant from continental Europe; has bred

First Paston March 9th followed by light passage of mainly singles 10th-17th of 20 birds but 2 Aylmerton 10th, Kelling WM 12th, Berney 13th and Cley 16th. Main spring passage March 25th-May 21st of up to 145 birds. Mainly 1-5 at 22 localities but 6 Cley April 17th, 6 Titchwell 22nd, 6 Titchwell and 7 west Scolt Head 23rd, 18 west Scolt Head 24th with 8 25th, 6 May 6th and 2 on 20th. Two further May occurrences, a male paired with a female Pied Wagtail at Dersingham Bog on 24th (seen feeding young, but young later predated) and Cley 30th. In June one Salthouse 4th.

In autumn a good series of records with singles Blakeney Point Aug 8th and 25th, Sept 1st and 29th, Cley Aug 13th, Pentney GP Sept 21st, Salthouse 23rd and Holme Oct 20th.

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing)

Bombycilla garrulus

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor

Numbers during first winter period unexceptional with Jan producing only one flock of double figures, 18 New Costessey 18th. Otherwise, largest gatherings during month 6 Sheringham Park 6th, 5 Cromer 1st/2nd and Hindringham 25th, and 4 Sheringham 6th. A few more reported Feb/March when best counts (Feb) 20 New Costessey 17th with 21 next day, 13 Bowthorpe 14th and 7 Dersingham 17th and (March) 18 Lenwade 15th increasing to 20 17th-19th and 20 Attlebridge 17th-24th with 19 still 27th. Last spring report 2 Holkham April 3rd (present since March 1st) Elsewhere during this time noted at Aylsham, Bradwell, Brancaster Staithe, Burnham Thorpe, Caister, Cley, Eaton, Holme, Kelling, Kelling Heath, King's Lynn, Norwich Chapelfield Road, Overstrand, Repps-with-Bastwick, Snettisham, South Wootton, Stalham, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Sutton, Swaffham, Thornham, Titchwell, Upton Fen, Warham, Wells and Wiveton.

First of autumn west Holkham Meals Oct 5th followed by singles Burnham Norton 7th and west Cley 13th. Small influx third week when 6 Holme and 4 west Titchwell 18th, one Holkham Meals 19th, 4 Holme and 3 Titchwell 20th, and one west Holme 21st. Single figures only noted through Nov with best totals 4 south Hunstanton 5th, 6 south Holme 14th and 7 Blakeney 17th. Very few Dec when one Tasburgh 1st/2nd and 4 south Strumpshaw 15th only reports. Other sites where reported in second winter period Aylmerton, Aylsham, Happisburgh, Hemsby, Morston, Repps-with-Bastwick, Sporle, Surlingham, Waxham, Weybourne and Winterton.

Wren (Winter Wren)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident and passage migrant in small numbers

Breeding records of pairs/territories/singing males (2006 figures in brackets): Blakeney GM 13 (26), Blakeney Point 8 (4), Calthorpe Broad 38, Dersingham Bog NNR 54 (69), Hickling Broad 61, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 58, Swanton Novers NNR 70 (66), Scolt Head 46 (47). During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 755 individuals of this species were recorded in 79 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 17% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 18% between 2006 and 2007.

Just a single count during autumn of 10 Holme Oct 2nd.

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

A single report from first winter period of 17 trapped and ringed in a garden in Ormesby St Margaret Feb 3rd. High-flying spring migrants noted March west Beeston Bump 10th, and east Beeston Bump and 2 east Overstrand 27th.

Breeding totals of pairs/singing males (2006 figures in brackets): Hickling Broad 22, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 45, Scolt Head 58 (60). During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 299 individuals of this species were recorded in 71 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 9% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 11% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn migration noted Scolt Head where 60 Aug 24th, 11 west Sept 22nd and 31 west with 40 present next day. Further migrants reported Winterton in Oct where 17 south 5th-29th with max 5 on 11th. Elsewhere during month 15 Holme 7th and 3 west Sheringham 13th further evidence of migration.

Robin (European Robin)

Erithacus rubecula

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

Very little evidence of spring passage with max 4 Scolt Head April 22nd.

In breeding season 36 territories Dersingham Bog NNR (42 in 2006), 60 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 94 Swanton Novers NNR (down from 102 in 2006 but same as in 2005) and 26 pairs Hickling Broad. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 434 individuals of this species were recorded in 76 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 7% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 9% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn passage Aug 22nd-Nov 3rd, notable influx in last days of Sept and first week of Oct with peaks of 42 Scolt Head, 20 Warham Greens and 20 Blakeney Point Sept 28th, 55 Scolt Head and 50 Winterton on 29th, and 47 Stiffkey-Warham Greens and 20 Hemsby on 30th. In first days of Oct peaks of 20 Eccles 1st, 25 Holkham Meals 3rd, 30 Holme and 15 Winterton on 6th. Later influx of 35 Holkham Meals and 25 Stiffkey-Warham Greens Oct 25th.

Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Local migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant

An extremely early individual Hempton Marsh March 26th was two days ahead of previous earliest record in county. Singles at Wissington BF and Wretton Fen April 1st at least two weeks ahead of next arrivals, when singles Holme and Salhouse Heath 16th and Barnhamcross Common and Pentney 17th. Passage birds Hunstanton GC (2) and Sheringham May 2nd; singing birds Weybourne May 22nd and Cley June 3rd may also have been late migrants.

Between end April and June 10th singing males on breeding territories: Boughton Fen (2), Fordham, Foulden Common, Grimston, Hockwold Fen, Marham, Methwold Hythe, Narborough (2), Norwich Harford Bridge, Pentney GP (3), Pentney Heath (2), Potter Heigham, Salhouse Heath (3), South Acre (3), Stanford TA, Stoke Ferry (2), Swanton Novers NNR, Thetford Warren.

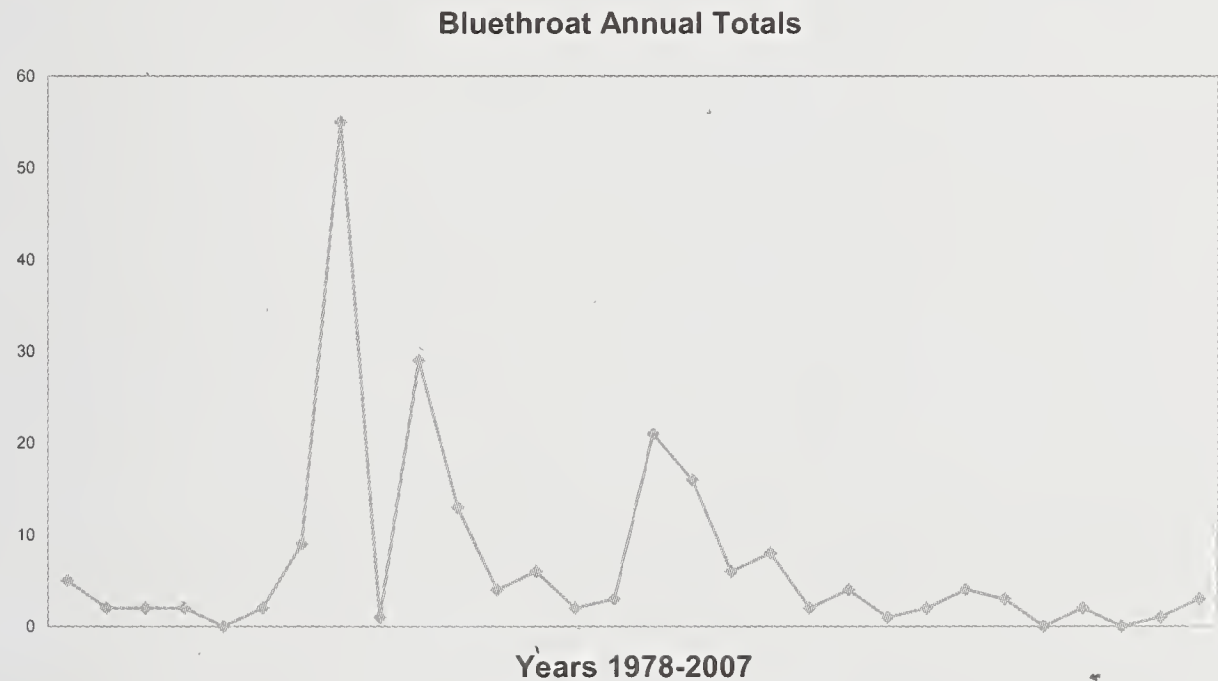
Bluethroat (Red-spotted Bluethroat)

Luscinia svecica

Scarce passage migrant

Two Blakeney Point May 29th (MAG JRMc AMS *et al*), one of which was a female, the first spring records since 2004. Single found dead same locality Sept 18th presumed to have been taken by a Merlin.

The number of Bluethroats over the last thirty years has declined significantly from a high of 107 between 1978-87 to a pitiful 20 between 1998-2007. The best years were 1985 when 54 were seen in spring and a single in autumn, 29 in the spring of 1987 and 21 in 1993 (17 spring and 4 autumn). In the most recent decade the best years have been 4 in both 1998 and 2001, with the only blank years in modern times 1982 and 2005. easons for this decrease are unclear, declining populations, changing weather patterns and migration movements have been all been blamed.



Red-flanked Bluetail

Tarsiger cyanurus

Rare vagrant from northern Russia/Siberia

A 1st-winter male trapped and ringed Weybourne Sept 29th (MPT *et al*), the earliest record and fourth for county.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

Rare migratory breeder, regular passage migrant and occasional in winter

During first winter period singles at 16 sites, with 2 Eccles March 27th, and a similar pattern in April with singles at 16 sites with 2 Heacham April 2nd/3rd; in May singles at five coastal sites with last of spring Blakeney Point June 5th.

A singing male on roof of Norwich Thorpe Station April 14th may have been on territory; elsewhere bred Gorleston where 1-2 juvs being fed May 30th and Yarmouth where 3 singing males in spring, one pair raising 3 young.

Autumn passage very late and almost entirely confined to Oct, total of 17 singles 4th-Nov 1st with max 3 Blakeney Point Oct 25th.

In second winter period singles Sheringham Nov 30th-Dec 7th, Cley Dec 19th and Sea Palling 24th to year end.

Redstart (Common Redstart)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Local migratory breeder (most in Brecks), common passage migrant

First returning bird Stiffkey April 13th, followed by singles Burnham Overy Dunes 14th/15th, Holme (2) 15th/16th, Scolt Head (2) 16th, Cley and Glandford 18th; by month end singles at five other sites and 2 East Wretham Heath 25th. Passage during May of singles at 6 sites and slight peak mid-month with 7 Blakeney Point and 4 Stiffkey 14th, and 5 Scolt Head 15th; in June late migrants at Blakeney Point 1st and 10th, Cley 1st and Holme 10th/11th.

In breeding season: singing males East Wretham Heath (2) and Sheringham Park, 3 territories Swanton Novers NNR, 2-3 pairs Brettenham Heath and min 15 singing males Stanford TA.

As in recent years autumn passage fairly light; early migrant Blakeney Point July 17th then up to 2 at 25 sites Aug 12th-Oct 16th, with 3 Blakeney Point Aug 21st and main passage in last days of Sept and first days of Oct, max 8 Wells East Hills, 3 Holkham GM and 3 Stiffkey 29th, and 4 Blakeney Point Oct 4th. Last of year single Stiffkey Oct 16th.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant; has bred in past

First of year singles Snettisham CP, Holme, Salthouse, Salthouse Heath and Beeston Bump April 21st, a fairly typical arrival date. Between then and end of May up to 3 at 22 sites, max 5 Titchwell April 23rd, 4 Scolt Head and Waxham 25th, 4 Sea Palling May 2nd, 4 West Runton 13th and 4 Scolt Head 14th. Late migrants in June Wells East Hills 2nd and Cley 20th.

Autumn passage Aug 6th-Oct 23rd; mostly up to 5 at 18 mainly coastal sites with notable influx Aug 24th when max 16 Scolt Head, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 22 Blakeney Point and 22 Brograve Level. On 25th 12 Warham Greens, 11 Morston-Blakeney, 7 Cley, 6 Cromer GC, 6 Winterton; also 8 Titchwell Sept 3rd. Very few recorded inland, 5 Reedham Sept 6th and single Marham 26th. Latest Weybourne Oct 23rd.

Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

European Stonechat *S (t) hibernans*

Small but increasing breeding population; regular passage migrant, local in winter

In first winter period pairs present at 23 mainly coastal sites, with max 6 Snettisham, Sheringham and Horsey, and singles at 4 other sites; inland present Buckenham, Dersingham Bog, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, King's Lynn BF, Nar Valley Fisheries, Walpole St Peter and Welney (5). Some passage evident late Feb and early March with peaks 9 Holme Feb 28th and 6 Overstrand March 5th.

Widely reported late March-May with a breeding population of at least 50 pairs, an increase over recent years and highest for over 100 years; peak numbers at Dersingham Bog (5), Grimston Warren/Roydon Common (3-4), Burnham Overy Dunes-Holkham Meals (3), Sea Palling-Hemsby (12) and Stanford TA (10).

Autumn records largely from, or adjacent to, breeding localities indicating short-distance dispersal, peaks in Sept of 6 Kelling Heath 13th, 8 Waxham 27th, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes and 9 Scolt Head 29th; also 10 Winterton Oct 8th and 10 Horsey Oct 11th. Possible indication of passage at coastal sites in Oct with 15 Cley 12th, 12 Sheringham, 10 Titchwell and 8 Holme 14th, 10 Blakeney GM 19th, 8 Salthouse 21st, 11 Holme 23rd and 12 Cley 25th-27th. In second winter period present at up to 30 sites including 12 inland, with peaks of 12 Scolt Head-Brancaster Hbr and 12 Breydon-Berney Nov 1st, 9 Cley Dec 20th, 8 Kelling Heath Nov 15th and Welney Dec 19th, and 7 Hemsby Nov 2nd.

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)

Oenanthe oenanthe

Increasingly rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant

Singles at Holme and Titchwell March 17th earliest records, slightly later than in some recent years, followed by singles Welney 20th and by month end others Blakeney Point and Paston 28th, Heigham Holmes and Scolt Head (2) 29th, Snettisham, Salhouse and Winterton 31st. Main spring passage continued to mid-May with mid-April peaks of 20 Weybourne 22nd, and 33 Paston, 31 Winterton and 22 Sea Palling 24th;. Highest passage on 25th when 44 Scolt Head, 20 Kelling, 18 Burnham Overy Dunes and Waxham, and 15 Holme and Cley. Second main influx mid-May with peaks on 13th of 34 Blakeney Point (increasing to 120 on 14th), 22 West Runton, 21 Scolt Head (increasing to 170 on 14th) and 19 Winterton; on 14th 80 arrived in afternoon Holkham Bay and 54 Warham Greens-Stiffkey. Late passage of singles at six sites in June with last Cley 21st.

In breeding season 2-3 pairs still Stanford TA.

July singles Cley 7th/8th and 23rd, Snettisham 19th/20th, Halvergate Marshes 27th and Blakeney Point 30th. Passage otherwise Aug 3rd-Nov 6th, up to 8 at 23 sites with peaks late Aug of 23 Blakeney Point and 12 Brograve Level 22nd, 16 Scolt Head 24th and 10 Blakeney Point 25th, and in Sept 19 Scolt Head and 15 Blakeney Point 27th. Passage declined steadily after early Oct with up to 3 at 16 sites; last of year single Wells Greens Nov 6th.



Wheatear and Sand Martins (Phil Jones)

Desert Wheatear

Oenanthe deserti

Vagrant from North Africa or Central Asia

A 1st-winter male at Horsey Nov 24th-Dec 10th (JHa *et al*). A fairly typical date for this vagrant, all of which have occurred in the period Oct 14th-Dec 12th.

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; exceptional in winter

First of spring Holme March 17th then 1-3 Brancaster Staithe, Lynn Point, Titchwell and Wretton Fen by month-end. Small-scale movement up to April 9th, when 1-2 at 16 widely scattered sites, was a precursor of a major influx which commenced 10th and continued unabated throughout month. Highest counts 40 Titchwell 11th (including flock of 32 west), 21 Beeston Bump (including 20 west) and at least 74 Sea Palling-Winterton 21st, and 29 Holme and 26 Winterton 24th. Double-figure counts also Burnham Overy Dunes, Heacham, Horsey, Hunstanton, Roydon Common, Salhouse Heath and Snettisham during this period. In early

May peak counts on east coast when 18 Winterton 2nd and 22 Sea Palling 4th but numbers dwindled quickly and last of month Wells East Hills 29th. Three stragglers in June with singles Scolt Head 2nd, and Burnham Overy Dunes and Wells East Hills following day. The influx reflected in high numbers of birds at inland sites: Bayfield, Belton, Billingford, Brettenham Heath, Buckenham Marshes, Burgh Castle, Catfield, Chedgrave, Colney, Croxton, Dersingham, Dickleburgh, East Ruston, Flitcham, Guist, Harford Bridges (Norwich), Hickling, Hilborough, Holt, Hoveton, Leziate (Ashwicken Fen), North Elmham, Norwich (Old Catton and Earlham Cemetery), Pentney GP, Ridlington, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Roydon Common, Sculthorpe, Sparham Pools, Stalham, Stanford TA, Stowbridge, Swanton Novers, Trunch, Welney and UEA.

An early autumn migrant Rockland Broad Sept 6th but no further records until 24th when single Yarmouth Cemetery, followed by 1-4 during rest of month at 15 mainly coastal sites with inland singles Bayfield Hall, Repps-with-Bastwick and Southrepps. Small-scale movement throughout Oct noted at 26 sites peaking at 4 Holkham Meals 13th, with further inland records Belton, Colney, Hickling Stubb Mill, Langham, Roydon Common and Shipdham. Final bird of autumn Morston 26th.

Blackbird (Common Blackbird)

Turdus merula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Only evidence of return passage Scolt Head when 5 March 30th and April 5th.

Breeding: 51 singing males Ringstead Courtyard Farm. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 1062 individuals of this species were recorded in 76 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 19% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 9% between 2006 and 2007.

In autumn, light passage from Sept 29th when 12 Blakeney Point and Scolt Head, and 50 Winterton. In Oct 50 Welney 8th but little evidence of coastal migrants until 19th when 40 Holme and 126 Winterton. Peak counts 24th-28th when 260 Holme and 150 Burnham Overy Dunes. Nov counts also disappointing with highest numbers 250 Stiffkey/Warham Greens 14th. Only other double-figure counts during month 77 Boughton Fen, 65 Sea Palling/Ridlington and 40 Holme. Evidence of cold weather movement in Dec when 3 Blakeney Point 14th and 26 Langham 26th.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period peak counts 450 Great Moulton, 400 Holme and Needham, with other three-figure counts from Carbrooke, Dickleburgh, Hickling, High Kelling, Horning, Sharrington, Snettisham, South Lopham, Stratton St Michael, Titchwell and Welney. Evidence of return movement in April when 150 Potter Heigham and 111 Winterton 21st. Singles lingered during May at Heacham, Paston, Sea Palling, Waxham and Winterton, with final birds of spring in June at Ingleborough Hill 1st, Sea Palling 11th and 2 Scolt Head same day.

Early autumn singles Scolt Head Aug 24th and Titchwell 27th followed by small numbers throughout Sept with highest count 5 Blakeney Point 29th. Main movement second half of Oct with peak numbers 450 Ranworth and 2927 west/south-west New Costessey 18th (665 over following day), 830 Welney 22nd and 500 Buckenham Marshes 24th. In Nov 500 Gayton Thorpe 3rd, 453 south Hunstanton in 3 hrs 30 mins 5th and 3-4000 estimated Choseley 16th. Smaller numbers by month end including 167 Boughton Fen 25th, 100 Ludham Bridge 27th and 200 Aylmerton 30th.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Common resident and passage migrant; recently decreasing

Towards end of Jan up to 9 singing males Wayland Wood. Small numbers of migrants Blakeney Point, Scolt Head and Winterton March-May but no count exceeded 6 birds.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 147 individuals of this species were recorded in 58 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 23% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 6% between 2006 and 2007.

Main autumn movement in last 4 days of Sept with peak counts 135 Scolt Head and 40 Blakeney Point 29th, with 30 Hemsby following day. Small numbers noted early Oct but only notable count 70 Welney 13th.



Song Thrush (Steve Cale)

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

In early part of year Feb counts of 350 Santon Downham 10th and 150 Sutton Fen 28th. Southerly movement noted March when 1000 Titchwell and 652 Hunstanton in 2 hrs 10th, with 300 Dersingham Bog following day. In April highest count 150 over Wayland Wood 1st with double-figure counts How Hill, Kelling Heath, Langham and Titchwell until 8th. Subsequently records of 1-2 rest of month with late May singles Winterton 2nd and Blakeney Point 14th.

At Weybourne one trapped in heavy wing moult July 10th, presumably an injured bird from previous winter; re-trapped Aug 22nd having completed its moult.

First of autumn Ormesby St Margaret Sept 17th with further singles following day How Hill and Scolt Head. Main movement towards month end when 275 Holme and 450 Blakeney Point 28th, and 235 Scolt Head 29th. Peak numbers from mid-Oct when 600 Welney (including 250 on reserve) 13th, 4532 west/south-west over New Costessey 18th (with 1048 over following day) and 1300 over Aylsham in 1 hr 30 mins 19th; three-figure counts noted from a further 8 sites. In Nov 111 Boughton Fen 25th and 250 Aylmerton 30th were last major gatherings of year.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common resident and partial migrant

Little evidence of spring passage with just 3 north Winterton March 17th.

Breeding season records from Ringstead Courtyard Farm where 6 singing males. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 76 individuals of this species were recorded in 40 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 28% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 1% between 2006 and 2007.

Only evidence of post-breeding gatherings 30 Cockley Cley June 4th and 30th, and 23 Felbrigg Park Aug 8th.

Autumn passage equally uneventful with records from only 4 coastal sites: only double-figure count 28 west Titchwell Oct 1st.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Broads breeding population established since 1974

Continues to thrive with yet another in a long run of mild winters. Countywide total of 230 singing males March-July. In Broads the 170 noted must represent only a small proportion of true number as few records from Trinity Broads/Muck Fleet or Bure, Chet, Waveney and upper Yare valleys.

Along north coast singing males at Holme (2), Thornham, Titchwell (7), Burnham Norton (3), Holkham (7), Wells (5), Wiveton, Blakeney GM (4), Cley (7) and Salthouse (2). Dispersing juv ringed Weybourne June. Singing males along Wensum Valley at Colney GP (4), Costessey Fish Farm Meadows, Lenwade Mill, Lenwade Station (2), Sparham, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GP (3).

Scattering of records from elsewhere around county suggest gradual consolidation of range with singing males in spring at Eccles, King's Lynn Gaywood River, Pentney GP, Sea Palling, Stowbridge, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Thompson Water (2). Additional non-breeding season records of roaming birds away from usual haunts from Marham Fen Feb 25th, Felbrigg Park Lake Aug 5th, Bayfield Hall Oct 3rd, Welney Oct 11th and Nov 12th, 3 Waxham Oct 13th and Hellesdon Dec 30th.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler)

Locustella naevia

Summer visitor and scarce passage migrant

First of spring Cley and Croxton April 8th, Holme 9th with 2 there 11th, Strumpshaw 11th and Barton Turf Fen, Holme and Rockland Broad 12th, after when increasingly widespread. Highest counts during rest of month 5 Catfield Fen 20th, 5 Snettisham CP 21st and 4 Dersingham Bog 25th. Birds thought to be passage migrants only Winterton April 21st/22nd and Blakeney Point May 14th/15th.

During spring/summer total of 146 singing males reported from 65 sites (117 at 67 sites 2006 and 113 at 53 in 2005). Though some of the reeling birds reported may have included migrants most probably went onto breed. Singing males: Acle, Barton Turf Fen, Boughton Fen 4, Buckenham Marshes, Buckenham Tofts, Burnham Overy Dunes, Calthorpe Broad, Castle Acre, Catfield Fen 5, Chedgrave Common 2, Cley 4, Costessey 2, Croxton, Dersingham Bog 4, East Ruston Common, Eccles, Foulden Common, Great Moulton, Grimston Warren, Guist Common, Heacham 3, Hickling Broad 14, Hockwold Washes, Holkham NNR 7, Holme 5, Horning Waterworks, How Hill Reedham Marshes 4, Hunstanton GC 2, Irstead Hall Fen, Kelling Heath, Kelling WM, King's Lynn BF 2, Langford, Long Stratton, Lopham Fen 4, Lynford Arboretum, Martham Broad, mid-Yare RSPB 20, Norwich Marston Marsh, Paston, Repps-with-Bastwick, Rockland Broad 3, Roydon Common 3, Scolt Head 5, Sea Palling,

Shotesham, Snettisham CP 5, Stanford TA, Stanford Water, Stiffkey Fen, Stowbridge, South Lopham, Sutton Fen 3, Sutton High Fen, Terrington Marsh, Thornham, Titchwell, UEA Broad, Upton Fen, Waxham, West Runton, Weybourne, Wheatfen 2 and Winterton.

An unusual number of autumn migrants: Eccles Aug 21st, 2 Scolt Head 22nd and singles Holme, Blakeney Point, Stiffkey and Weybourne all 24th, Winterton Sept 29th, Kelling WM 30th and Stiffkey Fen Oct 7th.

Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

Rare migrant and summer visitor

One singing Hickling Broad May 14th-27th (PJH DJH AJM *et al*).

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Slightly later than usual to arrive with first Cley April 3rd, Holme 7th, Colney GP 10th, and Holme and Salthouse 11th. Numbers remained relatively poor until final 10 days of month when 19 Snettisham CP 21st, 12 Holme, 17 Cley and 45 Strumpshaw 23rd, with most breeding birds back by end of first week in May. During rest of spring small numbers of more northerly bound migrants continued to be reported from coastal sites including 2 West Runton and singles Scolt Head and Southrepps May 13th, 7 Blakeney Point 14th, Scolt Head 29th, 2 Blakeney Point and one West Runton June 1st, and last Scolt Head 8th.

Counts of singing males received during breeding season: 136 Hickling Broad Complex, 135 mid-Yare RSPB, 59 Lopham Fen, 51 Blakeney GM, 20 Stow Bardolph and at least 16 Cley.

Return passage evident from at least early Aug, best demonstrated at Haddiscoe Island where 50 Aug 4th (34 ringed), 40 11th (28 ringed), 30 25th (22 ringed) and 15 on Sept 9th (10 ringed). Coastal passage almost non-existent with only records West Runton Aug 19th and 24th, and Blakeney Point 21st and 24th; last of year Welney Oct 6th.



Sedge Warbler (Richard Johnson)

Blyth's Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus dumetorum

A rare vagrant

One Blakeney Point June 11th (JRMc AMS *et al*), the second county record and first in spring (see article page 171). Another Gramborough Hill, Salthouse Sept 30th (JFu RGM IP *et al*).

Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

Rare in late spring and autumn

A singing male Wells East Hills May 29th (JGi RMa); the first record for two years.

Reed Warbler (Eurasian Reed Warbler)

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First Titchwell and Lopham Fen April 17th soon followed by others at Strumpshaw 18th, Breydon, Cley, Hickling Broad and Snettisham 21st, and Colney GP 22nd with most reed beds full of singing birds by mid-May. Usual scattering of migrants away from suitable breeding sites virtually all during second half of May when singles Blakeney Point 15th, 27th and 29th, Beeston Regis 19th and Hopton 24th.

Breeding bird surveys revealed good numbers of singing males around county's reedbeds: Hickling Broad Complex 333, mid-Yare RSPB 130, Lopham Fen 53, Blakeney GM 47, Blickling Park Lake 5: one Loddon in willowherb beside small pool.

Good numbers passed through Haddiscoe Island during Aug and early Sept where 80 Aug 4th (54 ringed), 45 18th (30 ringed), 45 on 25th (33 ringed) and 80 Sept 9th (51 ringed). Virtually no coastal migrants reported with last of year Strumpshaw Oct 1st, Rockland Broad 3rd, Holme 5th and Titchwell 13th.

Booted Warbler

Hippolais caligata

A rare vagrant

A singing male Blakeney Point June 2nd (JGi *et al*) and Scolt Head Aug 24th (NML MESR NW); the sixth and seventh county records.

Icterine Warbler

Hippolais icterina

A very scarce passage migrant

An excellent spring: singles Blakeney Point May 14th and 28th, Waxham 29th and Scolt Head June 8th and another 10th/11th; best spring 13 in 1992.

Three in autumn all Aug, Blakeney Point 21st, ringed Weybourne 24th and Winterton 25th.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Summer breeder and passage migrant; winters in small numbers

In first winter period up to four wintering along base of cliffs Cromer GC and 1-2 Blakeney, Brancaster Staithe, Cley, East Barsham, Frettenham, Hellesdon, Holme, Holt, Horstead Mill, Kelling, New Costessey, Norwich Dover Street, Wensum Park and Rosary Cemetery, Ormesby St Margaret, Repps-with-Bastwick, Roughton, Sharrington, Sheringham, Shotesham, Sutton, Wroxham and Wymondham.

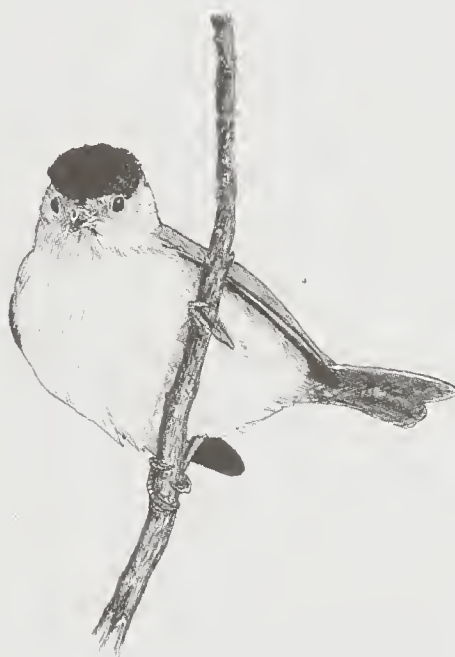
First spring migrants difficult to distinguish from over-wintering birds especially as many of these began to sing during March, but 4 Holme 25th clearly included some. Singing birds noted daily at new sites throughout April, best counts during second half of month when 6 Hopton 16th, 15 Holme 21st, 5 Scolt Head 25th and 9 Ringstead 28th. Numbers of coastal migrants low during May with 3 Blakeney Point 21st and 28th, and 5 Winterton 29th max counts.

Breeding birds appeared present in good numbers in all suitable habitat; counts of territories/singing males: Swanton Novers NNR 42, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 35, Calthorpe Broad 16, Dersingham Bog NNR 11. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 192 individuals of this species were recorded in 65 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 3% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 2% between 2006 and 2007. At Brancaster Thompson Farms only 85 new birds ringed during year, a substantial decline on the 253 in 2006 and 151 in 2005, perhaps reflecting

a downturn in breeding numbers or more likely reflecting the poor breeding success following an exceptionally wet spring and summer.

Autumn dispersal/migrants noted from second week Aug when 6 Winterton 11th; later in month only two double-figure counts 20 Titchwell 25th and 11 Holme 26th. Passage during rest of autumn very poor especially during Oct, only counts of note 13 Holme and 8 Titchwell Sept 22nd, and 3 Holme Oct 25th.

Very few reported during final 2 months of year, presumably due to under recording with 1-2 Aylmerton, Norwich Dickson Road, Kelling Heath, New Costessey, Sutton, Weybourne and Winterton.



Blackcap (*Alan Burtenshaw*)

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First arrivals slightly earlier than usual with singles Norwich Mousehold Heath and Hempton Marsh April 14th, Strumpshaw 17th, Scolt Head and Snettisham CP 19th, Pentney GP 20th and Wissington BF 21st. New arrivals appeared daily during rest of month, with records from a further 18 sites, including 5 singing Lenwade Common 23rd and 9 Reymerston GP 28th, excellent numbers for what is normally one of the later summer migrants to appear. Further birds appeared throughout first half of May at many sites, whilst coastal passage light until an unprecedented arrival of Scandinavian migrants in strong north-east winds and heavy rain 28th/29th when 22 Blakeney Point and 12 Scolt Head. Small numbers of migrants continued to be reported into early June when 4 Holme 2nd and last Blakeney Point 10th.

Singing males/territories thinly scattered around county during breeding season: 12 Swanton Novers, 9 Reymerston GP, 5 Lenwade Common, 4 Roydon Common, 4 Sheringham Park, 3 Blickling Park and 1-2 Hickling, Hoveton, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Salthouse Heath, Santon Downham, Surlingham Church Marsh, Thompson Water, Wissington BF, Wiveton. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 27 individuals of this species were recorded in 15 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Autumn passage from second half Aug until early Oct, but numbers very poor apart from 10 Blakeney Point Aug 21st with 8 22nd, 18 23rd and 11 on 24th, and 8 Holme, 18 Scolt Head and 9 Winterton also 24th. Last of year Oct when singles Holme 1st and 4th, Holkham Meals 3rd-5th, Warham Greens 3rd, Winterton 3rd and 8th, Yarmouth 4th, Cley 7th, Sheringham 10th and Stiffkey 22nd.

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Scarce autumn migrant recorded only once in spring

A good autumn with total of 21 reported: Blakeney Point Aug 21st-25th, Scolt Head 22nd/23rd and 2 on 24th, Waxham 24th/25th, 2 Winterton (one until 27th) and singles Burnham Overy Dunes, Warham Greens and Horsey all 25th, Holme 27th/28th, Winterton Sept 12th-17th, Waxham 23rd, 2 Wells East Hills 29th, Holme 29th-Oct 1st, Kelling WM Oct 2nd-4th and 2 5th-8th, and singles Wells East Hills 4th, Holme 17th-21st, Holkham Meals 19th and just inland of Thornham 23rd-26th.

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Early spring arrivals during April at East Barsham 11th, Titchwell 12th, Holme 13th, Blakeney Point, Holme, Hopton and Wissington BF 14th, and Burnham Overy Dunes, Felmingham, Great and Little Cressingham and Salthouse 15th, heralded start of an excellent spring passage. Recorded at an impressive 44 sites by end of April, double that by same time in previous 3 years; peak counts 6 Snettisham CP and 4 Hopton 16th, 7 Dersingham Bog, 5 Snettisham CP and 6 Holme 18th, 10 Snettisham CP, 6 Holme, 4 Eccles and 6 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 20th, and 8 Snettisham CP, 8 Holme, 8 Stiffkey and 3 West Runton 21st. Though passage had slowed by second week in May small numbers continued to pass through coastal sites for much of month with 3 Blakeney Point 14th, 2 Scolt Head 29th and last Blakeney Point June 1st.

The strong spring passage was reflected in good numbers of singing males reported during breeding season: 18 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 7 Dersingham Bog NNR, 6 Holme, 3 Castle Acre and 1-2 Bunwell, Cockley Cley, Cringleford, Eccles, Fornsett, Great Moulton, Hedenham, Hemsby, Hickling, Hoveton Hall, Kirby Bedon, Norwich Harford Bridge, Old Buckenham, Old Catton, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Tasburgh, Tharston, Tibenham, Wacton, West Runton, Winterton and Wiveton. Singing birds also noted at 7 sites around parish of Castle Acre and others no doubt present at many of sites which recorded birds earlier in spring. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 31 individuals of this species were recorded in 24 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Return passage from Aug 19th with max in month 11 Stiffkey and 9 Winterton 24th, and 6 Holme 29th. Apart from 6 Swanton Morley GP Sept 1st, few others reported until small influx to coastal sites during final few days of Sept and early Oct when 4 Holme 28th, 3 Blakeney Point 29th and Oct 3rd, and 1-2 at 15 other sites. During this time birds showing characteristics of eastern steppe-type birds trapped and ringed at Winterton Sept 30th and Sheringham Oct 3rd. Last of year Blakeney Point Oct 8th and Paston 14th/15th.

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

Sylvia communis

Summer breeder and passage migrant

As in previous years birds again arrived early with first Winterton April 11th, Kelling WM 12th-15th, Holme and Weybourne 14th, and 2 Hopton and singles New Costessey and Sea Palling 16th. hough passage continued daily during rest of month generally slower than in past springs with best counts just 5 Scolt Head 22nd, 6 Holme 25th, 10 Hopton 26th and 10 Kelling WM 30th. Peak counts of migrants in May 15 Scolt Head and 16 Blakeney Point 14th; late migrants Blakeney Point June 5th and 23rd.

Though breeding birds widespread many arrived at breeding sites several weeks later than usual, counts of singing males/territories included 30 between Holme Firs and Hunstanton GC, 15 Terrington Marsh, 10 Winterton and 8 Roydon Common. Several sites reported declines in breeding numbers with only 10 singing males Scolt Head (14 in 2006), 4 Sparham Pools (10 in

2006) and at East Tuddenham only a single pair when usually at least three. In contrast during the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 281 individuals of this species were recorded in 62 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 10% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 14% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn passage from early Aug when 12 Caister 6th; best counts of autumn Aug 24th/25th when 12 Scolt Head, 17 Stiffkey/Warham Greens, 12 California and 14 Winterton. Passage almost non-existent during Sept when 1-2 reported from 6 sites on just 6 dates. Only Oct record and last of year Strumpshaw 15th.

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia indata

New Breeding species with increasing number of wandering birds from Suffolk/southern England

Birds resident at Kelling Heath throughout year and for first time breeding was confirmed (see article page 175). Breeding also possibly occurred at a second site in east of county where pair, including a singing male, seen regularly throughout March and April, along with another male on several dates.

Many more records than usual in first winter period and spring when Titchwell Jan 20th and presumed same Thornham 24th, Horsey Feb 5th, Caister 15th-27th, Salthouse March 4th/5th, Waxham 7th/8th, 4 north of Yarmouth 8th, male Dersingham Bog 27th and female there April 6th-18th, Horsey April 5th and Hemsby 22nd.

In autumn/year end remarkably three different birds Blakeney Point Aug 25th, Sept 27th and Dec 12th-14th; elsewhere Blakeney GM Aug 24th (presumably same as Blakeney Point 25th), Warham Greens also 25th, male Salthouse Oct 21st and Horsey 22nd.

The spread of records at start of year and spring suggests that other breeding pairs may be discovered in the near future on heathland sites in north-west of county and along east coast.

Subalpine Warbler

Sylvia cantilans

Regular vagrant from the Mediterranean

A 1st-winter male Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 30th-Oct 5th (MAG *et al*); the first record since 2004.

Greenish Warbler

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Regular vagrant from eastern Europe and western Russia

An unprecedented fall of at least 30 birds in second half of Aug (see article page 178) where all records listed.

Subsequently 4 singles end Sept: Blakeney Point (JRMc *et al*) and Holkham Meals 27th (AR *et al*), the latter remaining until Oct 9th, Hemsby 29th (BJ) and Yarmouth Caister Road Cemetery 30th (SS).

Pallas's Warbler (Pallas's Leaf Warbler)

Phylloscopus proregulus

Rare autumn migrant from Siberia

A poor year with three records probably referring to just 2 birds, one moving south Waxham Oct 19th, possibly same Horsey/Winterton 20th and another Sheringham 20th.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia

Another outstanding year with around 133 recorded, only bettered by the exceptional numbers in 2005. First late Sept when Holme 23rd, 3 29th and one 30th, Titchwell 29th, Holkham Meals

27th/28th, 2 on 29th and one 30th, 2 Wells East Hills 29th, Stiffkey SM 29th/30th, Walsey Hills 28th, Sheringham 30th, 2 Sea Palling and one Eccles 29th, Horsey 30th and Yarmouth 29th/30th.

All remaining records during Oct when birds daily and new arrivals most days until third week of month. Monthly totals at coastal sites: Holme 8, Titchwell 3, Burnham Deepdale 3, Holkham GM 2, Holkham Meals 20, Wells East Hills 3, Warham Greens 2, Stiffkey Meals 3, Morston 2, Cley 2, Kelling WM 2, Weybourne 3, Sheringham 8, Beeston Common 2, East Runton 3, Cromer 2, Trimingham 2, Eccles/Sea Palling 4, Winterton 3, Caister 5, Yarmouth 5, and singles Scolt Head, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy Dunes, Blakeney Point, Blakeney Village, Walsey Hills, Salthouse, Kelling Village, Muckleburgh Hill, Happisburgh, Waxham, West Somerton, Horsey Gap, Horsey Village, Winterton Village, Gorleston and Hopton. Peak day counts at main sites: 4 Holme 3rd, 5 4th and 4 on 5th, 3 Titchwell 10th, 3 Burnham Deepdale 3rd-6th, 9 Holkham Meals 3rd, 10 6th, 7 8th, 16 10th, 5 on 14th and 17th, 3 Wells East Hills 3rd, 4 Sheringham 7th, 3 Caister 8th, and 4 Sea Palling 7th-9th.

Inland records in Oct at Bayfield Hall 3rd, Cockthorpe Airfield 4th, Kelling Heath and Aylmerton 6th, Hickling Broad 7th, and 3 8th, 2 9th/10th and one 11th, Crostwight Common (Honing) 9th/10th, Surlingham 19th, Breydon 24th and Strumpshaw 24th and 28th.



Pallas's Warbler (Steve Cale)

Hume's Warbler (Hume's Leaf Warbler)

Phylloscopus humei

Vagrant from Siberia

One Holkham Meals on relatively early date of Oct 6th-11th (AIB RGM AJLS *et al*).

Radde's Warbler

Phylloscopus schwarzi

Vagrant from Siberia

Two typical autumn records, Sea Palling Sept 30th (TA AJK TNi *et al*) and Holme (trapped) Oct 5th/6th (JAn SB *et al*).

Dusky Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus

Vagrant from Siberia

One Wells Lodge Marsh Oct 19th (JRMc).

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Passage migrant and rare breeder

No change in fortunes for this now scarce passage migrant, with six in spring and just two in autumn: singles Sheringham Pretty Corner April 22nd, Winterton 23rd, Gunton Park 27th, Calthorpe Broad May 3rd, Roydon Common and Scolt Head 13th, Blakeney Point Aug 22nd-24th and Yarmouth Sept 30th.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff)

Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer breeder, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor

Over-wintering numbers reported in first winter period similar to previous years with up to 4 Overstrand and 1-2 Beeston Common, Cantley BF, Cley, Gorleston, Holt, Holme, Letheringsett, Norwich Wensum Park and Castle Mound, Sheringham Park, Sparham Pools, Strumpshaw, Titchwell, Weybourne and Winterton.

First migrants soon appeared in March with singles Brettenham Heath 5th, Titchwell 6th, Holme 7th, and Horstead Mill and Winterton 8th, likely to have involved mostly migrants with birds widespread from 9th. Arrivals continued apace over next 10 days until cool weather and a change to northerly winds stalled new birds; peak counts in March 5 Swanton Morley GP, 4 Holme and Paston, and 3 Weybourne and Yarmouth 11th, 20 Titchwell and 10 Overstrand 12th, 8 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 16th and 10 Sparham Pools 17th. With a change to a warmer wind direction in April further influxes noted, peak counts 10 East Ruston 5th, 14 Holkham Meals 7th, 12 Swanton Morley 9th, 7 Holme and Hopton 11th, 6 Scolt Head and Blakeney Point 13th, and 17 Holkham Meals 17th. Smaller numbers continued to move through well-watched coastal sites during May with 4 Blakeney Point 2nd, and late birds Scolt Head 29th and Blakeney Point June 14th/15th.

Little direct breeding data received, singing males/territories: Swanton Novers NNR 37, Lopham Fen 19, Calthorpe Broad 18, Roydon Common 12, Dersingham Bog NNR 9. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 164 individuals of this species were recorded in 51 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 5% between 1994 and 2007, and a significant increase of 78% between 2006 and 2007.

Light autumn passage mid-Sept until early Nov, when highest counts 5 Salthouse Sept 21st, 4 Eccles Oct 1st, 11 Winterton 3rd and 10 Holkham Meals Oct 5th.

During final 2 months of year 1-2 Beeston Heath, East Barsham, Holme, Hoveton Park, North Wootton Marsh, Sheringham Park, Sparham Pools, Stiffkey WM, Strumpshaw, Sutton Fen, Swanton Morley GP, Titchwell, West Runton and Winterton.

Iberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus ibericus

Vagrant from Iberia

One singing at Colney Lane, Norwich April 21st-June 7th (DA OJR *et al*). An addition to the county list - see article page 170.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common summer breeder and passage migrant

First of spring late March when singles Norwich Carey's Meadow 28th and Snettisham 31st; with cold winds further new arrivals slow to appear with one Roydon Common April 1st, 2 Snettisham 3rd and singles Gayton Thorpe and Sparham Pools 5th, Blakeney Point and Ringstead Courtyard Farm 6th, and birds at many sites from 8th. In spring a number of good influxes/falls mid-April until late May when Snettisham CP, 10 Holme, 7 Scolt Head, 8 Blakeney Point and 10 Wells East Hills April 14th-16th, 19 Snettisham CP and 14 Holme 21st,

21 Scolt Head 22nd, 20 Holme, 18 Scolt Head and 35 Blakeney Point 23rd, 35 Holme, 29 Scolt Head and 10 Blakeney Point 25th, and in May 12 Scolt Head 1st, 15 Holme, 41 Scolt Head and 8 West Runton 13th, 13 Scolt Head and 49 Blakeney Point 14th, and 3 Scolt Head, 4 Blakeney Point and 12 Winterton 29th. Much smaller numbers noted well in to June, with last Scolt Head and 2 Blakeney Point 12th, and Scolt Head 13th. Also in spring an *acredula*-type bird Sheringham May 12th.

Counts of singing males/territories included: Hickling Broad Complex 104, mid-Yare RSPB 52, Dersingham Bog NNR 26, Lopham Fen 19, Swanton Novers 14, Cromer GC 5, Kelling Heath 3. Nationally numbers have declined alarmingly in recent years and this was also evident at Ringstead Courtyard Farm where just 3 singing males, a 78.6% decline since 2005 when 14 territories located. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 96 individuals of this species were recorded in 30 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Return passage from at least mid-Aug when 8 Holme 17th; best falls of autumn 21 Blakeney Point Aug 22nd, and on 24th/25th when 20 Holme, 47 Scolt Head, 25 Holkham Meals, 17 Stiffkey, 30 Blakeney Point and 22 Winterton. Passage during Sept very poor with records of 1-2 noted at just 7 sites on 8 dates. Late birds in Oct Sutton Fen 2nd, Holkham Meals 3rd, 5th, 10th and 18th, Weybourne 8th, and Winterton 13th and 27th.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Resident breeder and passage migrant

Spring passage from March 10th when 21 Holme and 20 Wells East Hills with peak count during month 55 Holme 29th.

Breeding counts (territories/singing males): 22 Dersingham Bog NNR, 15 Swanton Novers NNR and 12 Ringstead Courtyard Farm.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 71 individuals of this species were recorded in 35 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Autumn passage from Sept 19th when 100 Winterton but main movement towards month end when highest counts 76 Holme and 110 Blakeney Point 27th, 85 Scolt Head and 150 Holkham Meals 28th, and 100 Paston 29th. Smaller numbers in Oct when peak counts 38 well inland Sutton Fen 2nd, 58 Winterton 7th and 56 Holme 24th.

Firecrest

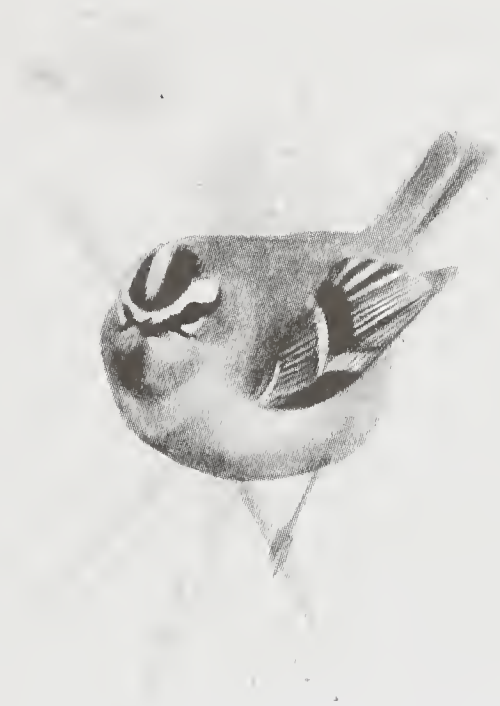
Regulus ignicapilla

Spring and autumn passage migrant; scarce in winter; increasing breeder

In Jan/Feb up to 8 Holt/Cromer ridge, 2 Brecks and singles Bodham, Holkham, Norwich, Overstrand and Yarmouth. Evidence of coastal movement in March when singles Titchwell 12th, Cley and Sidestrand 15th, Wells East Hills 21st, Winterton 26th-29th and Kelling WM 30th. Small-scale passage continued into April with singles Scolt Head 5th, Holme 11th with 2 20th-23rd, Weybourne 11th, Caister GC 12th, Blakeney Point 21st, Winterton 22nd/23rd and Cley 25th. Additional inland singles Kettlestone 10th, Swainsthorpe 22nd and Colney GP 23rd.

Breeding records again centred around two extensive areas with up to 24 singing males in Brecks and up to 19 pairs/singing males Holt/Cromer ridge. Additional singing males Wolferton May 6th, Dersingham 11th-17th, Roydon Common (2) 16th, Brooke 31st, Swanton Novers June 1st and Marsham Heath June 20th. Despite these impressive totals just one confirmed successful breeding record from Brecks.

In Sept 2 Holt 7th (one singing) but first migrant not until 29th when single Hopton. Protracted passage through Oct with peak counts 3 Winterton 3rd and 4 Holkham Meals 27th, plus 1-2 at a further 13 coastal sites. Also additional singles well inland at Hoveton Park (until



Firecrest (*Richard Johnson*)

year end), Thorpe St Andrew 24th and Pentney Heath 31st. In Nov 2-3 Brancaster (up to mid-month), 4 Holt-Cromer Ridge, 3 Brecks, plus 2 Winterton 1st and single Holkham Meals 3rd-11th. In Dec 4 Brecks, 2 West Runton and singles at a further 5 sites.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of spring 2 Ashill April 24th followed by singles Cley 25th, Hilborough 28th and Holkham Meals 30th. Protracted passage through May and June with highest counts just 4 Gooderstone and Santon Downham May 20th, and 3 Blakeney Point June 3rd and 11th.

A dramatic collapse in number of confirmed breeding pairs from last year's 68 to just 28, with 5 of those in Stanford TA. Possible breeding noted at a further 11 sites where 1-2 birds present. Excluding coastal migrants singles also noted at a further 27 sites.

Autumn passage from Aug 21st when Blakeney Point with 8 there next day; subsequently 1-3 at various coastal sites to month end. In Sept 1-2 at 8 coastal and 5 inland sites. In Oct 1-2 noted Eccles 1st, 2 Sutton Fen 2nd, Yarmouth Cemetery 4th and 8th, Rockland Broad 8th, Aylmerton 10th, 2 Titchwell 22nd and a 1st-summer Holkham Meals 25th-29th showing characteristics of the Siberian/western Asian form *neumanni*.

Red-breasted Flycatcher

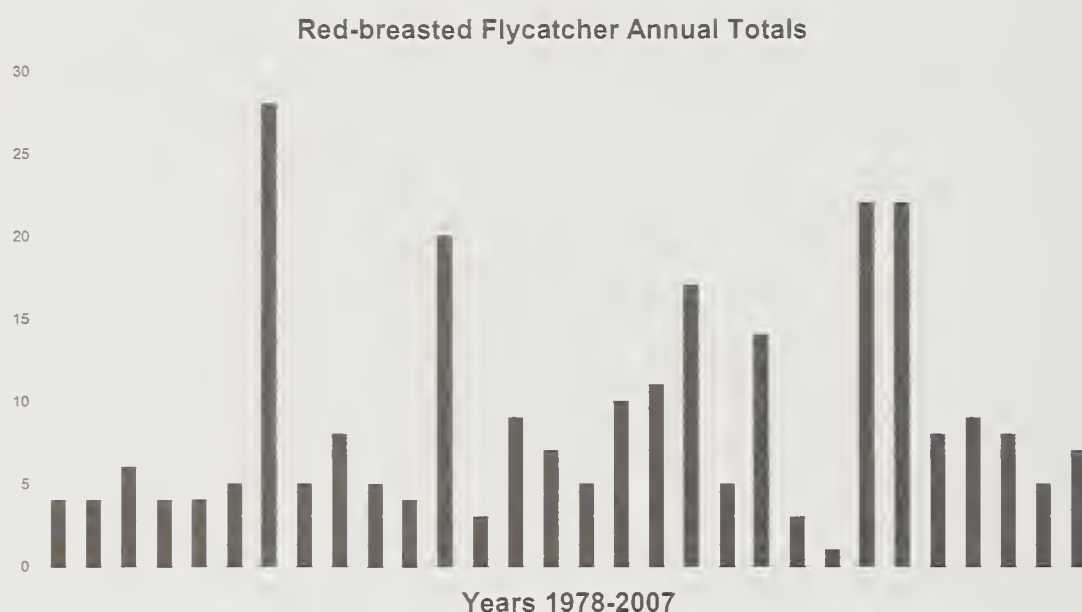
Ficedula parva

Scarce autumn migrant; rare in spring

A first summer male Scolt Head June 11th was first spring record since two in 2004.

An average autumn commenced with singles Sea Palling Sept 18th and Holkham Meals 29th. In Oct, 2 Wells East Hills 3rd (one remaining until 7th) with singles Holkham Meals 8th and 13th, and a very late bird Eccles Nov 13th. The latter is second latest county record, being beaten only by one present Sandringham Nov 23rd 1986.

A total of 263 Red-breasted Flycatchers has been recorded between 1978-2007 and show little change in pattern of occurrence, with best years 28 in 1984 and 22 in both 2001 and 2002. Only 12 have occurred in spring, mostly in the final few days of May and the first days of June.



Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Passage migrant, scarce in spring, abundant at times in autumn; has bred

First of spring May 14th when 2 Blakeney Point and single Holme. No further records until small fall at 5 coastal localities May 28th-31st, with max 4 Scolt Head and 5 Blakeney Point 29th. In June single Blakeney Point 9th-11th.

Autumn passage from Aug 12th when singles Scolt Head and Cley, with peak counts during month 7 Blakeney Point 21st, and 6 Scolt Head and Winterton both 24th. Peak count in Sept 4 Eccles 12th with 1-3 at a further 14 coastal sites. In Oct, one well inland Sutton Fen 2nd with 1-4 at a further 7 coastal sites, latest Holme 5th.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

Declining resident and partial migrant; periodic influxes from Low Countries

Widely recorded in first winter period along north coast and Broads but only in small numbers; max 10 Barton Turf Fen Feb 6th.

Breeding (pairs): *north coast* Titchwell 12, Burnham Overy GM (6 birds present all summer), Holkham NNR 14, Blakeney GM 4, Cley 6; *Broads* Catfield Fen 2, Haddiscoe Island 8, Hickling Broad complex 62 (most fledging broods), How Hill Reedham Marshes 3, Lopham Fen 3, mid-Yare RSPB 17, Sutton Fen 2.

Usual concentrations in autumn: 45 Cley Sept 22nd and Oct 20th, 20 Titchwell Sept 30th and 43 Oct 12th, and also in Oct 23 Strumpshaw 5th with 39 8th and 20 on 13th, 20 How Hill Reedham Marshes 10th, 20 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 12th, and 21 Belton Marshes and 25 Holkham GM 14th.

At Weybourne in Oct 10 high west 5th, 5 7th, 10 14th and 12 on 17th. Also in month 2 Yarmouth Cemetery 5th and singles New Costessey 21st and Dersingham Bog 25th.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident breeder; Scandinavian white-headed race very rare in autumn

Only evidence of migration 11 high north Winterton March 8th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 133 individuals of this species were recorded in 42 BBS squares in Norfolk. A count at Ringstead Courtyard Farm revealed 26 singing males.

Max counts: June 50 Pensthorpe; July 54 Necton, 30 Holme, 30 Roydon Common; Aug 45 Lenwade, 40 Rockland Broad; Sept 40 Beeston Regis; Oct 70 Holkham Meals, 30 Felbrigg

Park; Nov 40 Sparham Pools, 34 Thornham Farms; Dec 54 Sutton Broad, 53 Hickling Broad, 33 Beeston Regis, 30 Beeston Heath.

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

Spring migration: on north coast 11 west Sheringham March 10th, 2 high east Stiffkey Fen April 1st and 2 west Scolt Head April 22nd (first record for the island for at least 10 years); on east coast at Winterton 42 north 5 south March 10th-April 22nd with max 6 north March 10th.

Breeding territories/pairs: Swanton Novers NNR 45, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 35, Dersingham Bog 17. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 532 individuals of this species were recorded in 78 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 45% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 1% between 2006 and 2007. At Brancaster Thompson Farms outcome from nestboxes at both main sites disappointing, with loss of many broods of nestlings probably due to a lack of caterpillar prey linked to heavy and prolonged rain in breeding season.

Great Tit

Parus major

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

Spring migration: at Hunstanton 10 south March 10th and at Sheringham (all west) 23 also 10th, 6 11th and 2 April 9th; also single Blakeney Point April 5th and 3 high west Stiffkey Fen April 11th. Strong passage on east coast at Winterton with 120 north 2 south March 8th-April 24th with peaks (all north) 26 March 10th, 16 March 12th and 11 April 5th; also 19 south Horsey March 10th.

Breeding territories/pairs: Ringstead Courtyard Farm 46, Swanton Novers NNR 45, Dersingham Bog 17. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 405 individuals of this species were recorded in 72 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant decline of 32% between 1994 and 2007, with no change between 2006 and 2007. An observer at Kettlestone commented 'despite wet conditions during breeding season more nestlings appeared to survive than Blue Tits'.

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Breeding resident and passage migrant

Migrants noted both spring and autumn: high north Winterton April 6th, continental bird trapped Holme April 13th, south Hunstanton Oct 11th and south Winterton Oct 26th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 79 individuals of this species were recorded in 22 BBS squares in Norfolk. Breeding pairs/territories: Dersingham Bog 34, Swanton Novers NNR 22, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 10.

Willow Tit

Poecile montana

Breeding resident in decline

The County Records Committee has undertaken a detailed analysis of all records submitted for 2007 and in recent years. The Committee has arranged for specific continued visits to certain sites where the species has been claimed in the past, only for none to be found, but Marsh Tits present. The conclusion, albeit reluctant, is that many claims of Willow Tits are in fact mistaken. The Committee has taken the view that it would be inappropriate to publish all submitted sites at the present time until the true status has been determined.

This species has undoubtedly disappeared over large parts of the county, including the Broads, and is possibly verging on extinction. This reflects the 75% drop in numbers reported

nationally by BOU. Willow Tits still present at a number of sites to the west/south-west of the county but all observers are requested to take great care in identifying this species before submitting future records.

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

Breeding resident

Records received from 130 localities, a major increase compared with recent years.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 79 individuals of this species were recorded in 22 BBS squares in Norfolk. At Swanton Novers 13 territories with 7 pairs Calthorpe Broad.

At Kettlestone counts of 7 Feb, June and Nov; elsewhere 6 Ling Common, North Wootton and Beeston Regis April, and 5 Foulden Common and Sculthorpe Jan.

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch)

Sitta europaea

Breeding resident, possibly in decline

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 11 individuals of this species were recorded in 7 BBS squares in Norfolk. A survey at Swanton Novers NNR revealed 16 territories.

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper)

Certhia familiaris

Widespread woodland resident

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 13 individuals of this species were recorded in 9 BBS squares in Norfolk.

One showing characteristics of northern race *familiaris* at Gramborough Hill Oct 4th and 11th (MN).

Golden Oriole (Eurasian Golden Oriole)

Oriolus oriolus

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant in small numbers

No breeding attempts in the county - only records in summer of birds flying across the river at Lakenheath, only to return to Suffolk soon after (Golden Oriole Group).

No records received of any migrants.

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Passage migrant in small numbers; last bred 1988

First of spring female Blakeney Point May 6th followed by males Beeston Bump 14th and Weybourne 22nd. Small influx from 28th when male Wells (until 29th) while on 29th male Holme, female Wells East Hills (until 30th), female Weybourne (ringed), female Waxham and singing adult male Winterton (until 30th), followed by male Cley 30th (probably same Kelling Heath). In June a long-staying female Blakeney Friary Hills 1st-17th with further singles Salthouse (Gramborough Hill) 6th and Blakeney Point 9th-12th.

In autumn multiple arrival 3 days in Aug: 23rd juv Holme (until 27th), Warham Greens, juv Cley (until 25th), juv Trimmingham (until 24th), juv Sea Palling (until 25th); 24th Holkham Meals, Horsey (until 27th); 25th Waxham, Hemsby, 3 Winterton (juv until 27th). No further records until one Blakeney Point Sept 27th and adult female Sea Palling Sept 29th-Oct 17th. Latter considered by some observers to be of eastern race *pallidifrons*. In Oct others Ormesby 2nd-5th, Winterton 8th/9th and 19th.

Lesser Grey Shrike

Lanius collurio

Vagrant from south-east Europe

A 1st-winter Holkham GM Oct 1st-8th (EH D&JM *et al*); the first since 2003.



Red-backed Shrike and Marsh Harrier (Gary Wright)

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Scarce passage migrant and declining winter visitor

The overwintering bird from 2006 remained faithful to Santon Warren and Grime's Graves area Jan 1st-April 4th. No spring passage recorded in county for possibly first time ever.

Compared with just two autumn records in 2006 an exceptional influx commenced Sept 27th when singles Thornham Point, Blakeney Point (until 29th) and Happisburgh (same Whimpwell Green/Happisburgh Common until Oct 7th). A further 14 birds noted up to month end with some remaining into Oct: Antingham, East Runton, 2 Eccles, 2 Holme, North Wootton Marsh, Scolt Head, Sea Palling, Stiffkey Fen, Thornham Point (in off sea), Warham Greens, 2 Waxham and 2 Winterton. A further surge of new arrivals during first half of Oct when singles Burgh Common, Burnham Overy Dunes, Choseley, Cockthorpe, Dersingham Bog, Horsey, Kelling WM (and later Walsey Hills), Ludham (probably same Catfield 19th and Irstead 20th-31st) and Sea Palling. Fewer arrivals in second half of month: Snettisham 20th, Hunstanton GC 20th/21st, Burnham Norton 21st/22nd, Roydon Common 22nd (remaining into 2008) and Stiffkey/Warham Greens 25th. In Nov a single remained Catfield Fen 1st with new individuals Dersingham Bog and Snettisham also 1st; also in Dec Croxton 24th.

Despite difficulties in assessing the true number of arrivals for such a mobile species it is likely that in excess of 30 individuals passed through the county during autumn.

Woodchat Shrike

Lanius senator

Vagrant from southern Europe, mostly in spring

Three typical May records: female Beeston Bump 14th (LBe *et al*), female California 25th (AK) and male Holme 31st (many obs).

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Common resident; periodic influxes from the Continent following failure of acorn crop

Very few records submitted. Observers in Broads and Tuddenham comment on marked increase in recent years.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 74 individuals of this species were recorded in 33 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Limited autumn migration with 2 in of sea Warham Greens Oct 1st, 4 north and one in off sea Winterton 4th, 3 north Winterton 5th, 7 north Horsey 11th, 5 Holme 12th, 3 south

Hunstanton 13th and in off sea Sea Palling 16th. Concentrations 10 Holkham GM Oct 26th and 11 Hickling Dec 20th. All white bird Costessey Dec 16th.

Magpie

Pica pica

Common resident forming winter roosts

Roost counts at start of year: Jan 50 Colney; Feb 45 East Ruston Common, 33 Swanton Morley, 54 Whitlingham CP.

Along with other corvids, very large spring passage, chiefly noted on east coast where total 259 north 86 south Winterton March 11th-May 10th with smaller single-figure numbers along north coast. Peak counts at Winterton: 27 north 5 south March 27th, 21 north 2 south April 2nd, 39 north 2 south 5th, 21 north 4 south 6th, 27 north 9 south Winterton 8th, 16 north 10 south 10th, 13 south 9 north 11th and 13 north 18th; in Wash 8 south Snettisham CP April 8th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 127 individuals of this species were recorded in 52 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 15% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 1% between 2006 and 2007.

Moderate autumn movement, again chiefly detected on east coast where 40 north 5 south Winterton Oct 5th-20th. Peak counts 2 west Scolt Head Sept 23rd, 16 present Holme Oct 6th, 11 north Winterton 11th and 12 north there 14th, 6 south Hunstanton 21st and 10 present Holme Nov 10th.

Only roost counts received for end of year: Nov 45 Whitlingham CP; Dec 16 Ormesby St Margaret, 79 Whitlingham CP.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak concentrations/roosts reported in first winter period: Jan 16,000 (roost) Buckenham Carrs, 120 Croxton, 110 East Wretham, 600 Shotesham; Feb 500 (roost) Fleggburgh Burgh Common, 3000 (roost) Long Stratton, 250 Repps-with-Bastwick, 329 Roydon Common, 200 West Acre.

Particularly strong spring movement, principally noted on east coast where total 613 south 571 north Winterton March 8th-May 25th, with smaller numbers along north coast. Peak counts: 16 south Hunstanton and 108 south Horsey March 10th, 74 east Overstrand, 114 east Paston and 102 south Winterton 12th, 30 east Paston and 56 north 27 south Winterton 13th, 74 south 34 north Winterton and 28 south Caister 15th, 12 east Holme 26th, 75 east Paston and 61 south 38 north Winterton 27th, 81 east Paston and 38 south 26 north Winterton 28th, 13 east Paston April 2nd and 17 east there 5th, 13 west Paston, 35 north 23 south Winterton and 36 north Caister 6th, 46 east Paston 8th and 24 east there 9th, 48 north Sea Palling 18th, 12 west Scolt Head, 8 west 4 east Overstrand and 14 west Paston 19th, 34 south Hunstanton May 12th and 50 north 11 south Winterton 18th.

Breeding counts 48 pairs Hoveton Hall and 12 pairs Ringstead Courtyard Farm. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 742 individuals of this species were recorded in 57 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 158% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 14% between 2006 and 2007.

Moderate autumn movement principally on Wash where total 317 south Hunstanton Oct 7th-Nov 5th, with peak counts 110 Oct 14th, 36 on 21st and 96 Nov 1st. On east coast total only 18 south 4 north Winterton Oct 4th-Nov 5th. Autumn concentrations elsewhere 1500 Gateley

Sept 2nd, 100 Grimston Derby Fen Oct 14th and 120 Flitcham 31st. Sole winter count 700 Brettenham Dec 31st.

Birds showing characteristics of eastern race *monedula* Blackborough End Tip Jan 6th, Edgefield Feb 13th, Cley May 17th, Salthouse Nov 27th, at least 3 Edgefield Nov with single 10th, 3 16th/17th, one 18th/19th, 3 20th and one 21st, and Weybourne Dec 26th (also see Editorial).

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Only concentrations/roosts reported in first half of year: Jan 24,000 (roost) Buckenham Carrs, 300 Langham, 850 Ringland; Feb 2000 (roost) Fleggburgh Burgh Common, 3000 (roost) Long Stratton, 200 Nar Valley Fisheries.

Excellent spring movement, as with other corvids most noticeable along east coast. At Winterton total 387 south 314 north March 8th-May 18th. Peak counts: 11 west Beeston Bump March 11th, 20 east Paston 13th, 7 east Overstrand and 21 east Paston 26th, 24 east Paston 28th, 25 west Holme April 5th, 24 east Paston 8th and 16 east there 9th, 24 north 19 south Winterton 10th, 28 west Paston 18th, 15 west Overstrand, 38 west Paston and 68 south 48 north Winterton 19th, 18 west Paston and 36 south 4 north Winterton 22nd, 10 south Hunstanton and 41 south 14 north Winterton 23rd, 11 west Paston 24th with 11 west there 25th.

Only rookery counts received 3 Old Catton at new locality, 18 Potter Heigham and 41 Shotesham Common. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 1360 individuals of this species were recorded in 47 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 22% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 11% between 2006 and 2007.

Moderate autumn passage with total 150 south Hunstanton Sept 23rd-Nov 5th where peak 35 Sept 23rd and 18 Nov 2nd. On east coast total 53 south 7 north Winterton Oct 4th-Nov 3rd with peak 16 south Oct 4th.

Rarely observed behaviour of one hanging upside down from overhead cables Stalham Oct 13th until disturbed by farm vehicle when flew off.

Only roosts/concentrations reported in second winter period: 2000 (roost) mixed Rooks/Jackdaws Barningham Nov 11th, 650 south New Costessey 14th and 40,000 (roost) mixed Rooks/Jackdaws Buckenham Carrs 17th.



Rook (Richard Johnson)

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Increasing resident forming winter roosts; also a passage migrant

Only roost details received at start of year: at Barton Broad Heron's Carr 84 Jan, 250 Feb, 190 March; elsewhere 120 Crostwight Common Potters Grove in Feb.

One of main features of spring was the tremendous visible passage of corvids, principally up and down east coast, and this amply demonstrated by figures for Carrion Crow. Passage

noted from March 5th (Overstrand). At Winterton total 1292 north 1141 south March 8th-May 31st; at Scolt Head total 752 west during April and 279 west during May. Peak counts (west along north coast unless otherwise stated): 10 west 2 east Overstrand March 7th with 13 west one east there 8th, 16 south Horsey and 12 north Caister 10th, 11 east 5 west Overstrand 26th with 7 east 3 west there following day, 66 west 2 east Overstrand April 5th, 19 Sheringham 7th, 48 Holme, 63 Scolt Head and 74 Beeston Bump 8th, 29 Sheringham, 13 Beeston Bump, 25 Overstrand and 21 east Paston 9th, 11 Beeston Bump and 38 Overstrand 10th, 13 Cromer 11th, 53 Scolt Head 12th, 94 Scolt Head, 18 west 4 east Beeston Bump, 74 Cromer, 83 Overstrand, 48 north Happisburgh and 155 north 12 south Winterton all 16th, 13 Beeston Bump 17th, 10 Beeston Bump, 33 Cromer and 84 north Sea Palling 18th, 43 Titchwell, 231 Scolt Head, 65 west plus 22 out to sea Sheringham, 110 west 6 east Beeston Bump, 55 West Runton, 198 Cromer, 136 Overstrand, 168 Paston and 105 north 38 south Winterton all 19th, 63 Paston 21st, 52 Scolt Head, 33 east Weybourne, 36 east 28 west Beeston Bump, 32 Paston and 381 south 26 north Winterton all 22nd, 26 Cromer and 103 south 77 north Winterton 23rd, 41 Paston 25th, 78 north 39 south Winterton May 1st, 48 east 33 west Beeston Bump and 139 south 93 north Winterton 6th, 53 Scolt Head 7th, 38 Beeston Bump and 112 north 12 south Winterton 8th, 54 Scolt Head, 74 Blakeney Point and 35 Beeston Bump 9th, 21 south Hunstanton, 142 Holme, 33 Scolt Head, 19 Sheringham and 56 north 56 south Winterton all 12th, 47 Scolt Head 13th and 35 West Runton 16th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 574 individuals of this species were recorded in 74 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 43% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 2% between 2006 and 2007.

A leucistic bird Brettenham Aug 14th.

Indistinct autumn passage, with 1-5 birds present Blakeney Point on only 3 dates Sept 23rd-Nov 5th and only 8 south one north Winterton Oct 8th-29th, although 49 noted south Horsey Oct 27th.

Autumn concentrations 36 Paston Sept 6th and 200 Nar Valley Fisheries 30th. Only second winter period counts: Nov 215 Roydon Common and 259 (roost) Barton Broad Heron's Carr.

Hooded Crow

Corvus c cornix

A declining wintering and passage migrant.

Only birds reported as pure Fleggburgh April 7th, west Sheringham 9th, 2 Horsey 14th (though see below), north Winterton 16th, in off sea Holme 19th and 3 Gorleston Oct 14th.

Hybrid Burgh Castle Oct 27th presumed to relate to long-staying resident. Other resident hybrid remained in Winterton/Somerton Holmes area throughout year, breeding with Carrion Crow. Additional spring sightings of hybrids, possibly relating to just one bird, Horsey Jan 1st, Brograve Levels 30th and Horsey March 2nd-April 16th with presumed different bird south with Carrion Crows Winterton March 28th. In second winter period Hickling Broad Oct 21st.

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

At start of year only concentrations reported 7000 (roost) Colney GP Jan 3rd, 1500 Irstead Brownshill Marsh 19th, 1800 Bixley 20th, 1654 Great Cressingham 21st, 350 (roost) Horning Hall Marshes Feb 2nd with 700 (roost) there 23rd.

Marked return passage Feb 12th (Overstrand)-May 23rd (Winterton) peaking in March. At Winterton total 12,486 south 88 north March 8th-May 23rd. Max counts: 295 south

Hunstanton, 1000 present Titchwell and 3000 south Horsey all March 10th, 161 east Overstrand 12th, 244 east Overstrand, 2500 east Paston and 1547 south Winterton 13th, 1000 east Paston 14th, 1766 east Overstrand, 1623 east Paston and 2435 south Winterton 27th, 6428 east Paston and 5589 south Winterton 28th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 925 individuals of this species were recorded in 53 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant decline of 32% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 1% between 2006 and 2007.

Numbers undertaking once significant midsummer westerly movement continue to decline; only counts 400 feeding Scolt Head June 9th, with 2143 there 20th and 280 July 2nd, and 300 Blakeney Point 10th with 500 on 12th.

Protracted autumn arrival from Continent with peak numbers as usual Hunstanton where total 219,849 south Sept 23rd-Nov 5th. On east coast at Winterton total only 8086 (2318 south 824 north 4924 in off sea then west) Oct 4th-Nov 24th, while inland at New Costessey total 39,236 west along R Tudd valley Sept 28th-Nov 18th. Max counts (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast): 6871 Hunstanton Oct 11th, 8386 Hunstanton 13th, 4671 Holme and 25,000 Sheringham 14th, 34,769 Hunstanton 15th, 10,200 Brancaster Hbr 19th, 10,260 Hunstanton 20th, 37,693 Hunstanton and 2398 west New Costessey 21st, 10,000 south Snettisham and 2500 Cley 22nd, 23,693 Hunstanton and 15,000 Brancaster Hbr 23rd, 2050 west New Costessey 29th, 6000 present Titchwell 31st, 10,702 Hunstanton and 10,000 (roost) Titchwell Nov 1st, 3030 west New Costessey 4th, 25,151 Hunstanton 5th, 5000 present Holme 12th, 5164 Sheringham 14th, 26,000 west New Costessey 15th.

Usual peripatetic autumn roost in R Ant valley; initially 30,000 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh Oct 10th, with subsequent counts 30,000 How Hill Turf Fen 16th, 100,000 Sharp Street Fen 23rd, 80,000 Irstead Hall Fen 25th, 26,155 Sutton High Fen 30th, 30,000 Sutton Fen Nov 10th, 80,000 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 11th, 10,000 Sutton Fen 16th and 15,343 Sutton High Fen 17th. Other inland autumn counts 2850 Welney Oct 22nd, 5000 Grimston Warren 27th, 25,000 Boughton Fen and 2492 (roost) Strumpshaw 28th, while only winter report 1500 (roost) Acle St Edmunds Road Dec 25th/26th.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Common but declining resident

Largest flocks reported during year: Jan 40 Walpole Highway; April 200 Great Massingham, 48 Stow Bardolph Fen; June 119 Great Massingham, 55 Stow Bardolph Fen; Aug 50 Aylmerton; Sept 70 Tivetshall; Nov 51 roosting Norwich Drayton Road. Also 40 Ormesby St Margaret throughout year.

Only reports of spring passage birds singles north Winterton March 14th, in off sea Overstrand 29th and male Scolt Head May 13th. Autumn movement similarly almost non-existent with just 3 south Winterton Oct 13th and 2 south Hunstanton Nov 1st.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 560 individuals of this species were recorded in 46 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 23% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 15% between 2006 and 2007.

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Scarce resident; passage migrant and winter visitor

Usual scatter of records during first winter period chiefly from west (with principal counts in brackets): Ashill, Aylmerton, Beeston, Boyland Common (16), Cockley Cley, Croxton, East Barsham (10 Jan), East Somerton, Flitcham (10 Feb), Forncett (19 Feb), Fulmodeston (9 Feb,

12 March), Gooderstone Warren (20 Jan), Great Hockham, Harpley (12 March), Hockering, Irstead, Larling, Little Cressingham (45 Feb), Little Massingham, Merton, Narborough, Nar Valley Fisheries, Ringstead, Ringstead Courtyard Farm (10 Feb), Walpole Highway, Watton and Welney.



Tree Sparrows (*Steve Cale*)

Moderate spring passage with particularly good series of records from Holme (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast): 7 Hunstanton and 6 Holme March 10th, 4 present Holme 11th, 6 Holme and east Overstrand 12th, 4 Holme 15th with 3 April 1st and 6th, 5 7th and 2 there 8th, Hunstanton 9th, singles present Hunstanton and Titchwell 12th, 5 present Holme 14th, present Brancaster Staithe 20th-22nd, Hunstanton and Holme 21st, 4 Weybourne 22nd, north Sea Palling 23rd, north Winterton May 4th and 9th.

All breeding season records listed (with max counts/pairs): Bunwell (pair), Choseley (3), Cockley Cley (2), Egmore (pair raised 2 young), Fincham, Flitcham, Fulmodeston (20+ prs), Harpley (3), Old Buckenham (4), Ouse Washes (2), Ovington (8), Ringstead, Ringstead Courtyard Farm (17 prs), Shereford, Shipdham (20 after breeding), South Acre (4), Sporle Palgrave Hall (12), Stody, Syderstone (4 prs), Thornham Farms (5-6 prs), Wattlefield (pair), Waxham (several pairs in boxes), Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen RC (2). Additional late summer record from Themelthorpe. At Thornham Farms max count 30 May 25th but subsequent counts in July/Aug did not exceed 25, suggesting poor breeding success; during year 58 birds ringed there of which 46 juvs.

First autumn passage/dispersing birds Cley Aug 18th and west Sheringham 25th. Thereafter west Holme Sept 16th, 22nd/23rd and 4 Oct 1st, south Hunstanton 11th, 2 Warham Greens 13th, 10 Sea Palling 13th/14th with 3 still 15th, south Hunstanton 14th, Titchwell 15th, 2 east Weybourne and 3 north Winterton 19th, 3 Sheringham 21st, 2 Holme 22nd, Beeston Bump 23rd, 2 Sheringham Cemetery 25th, 3 Burnham Norton 27th and finally north Winterton 30th.

Autumn/second winter period records (with principal counts) from Barton Bendish (23 Sept), Beechamwell, Cley, East Barsham, Flitcham, Forncett Common Farm (17 Dec), Great Cressingham (15 Sept, 8 Dec), Great Walsingham, Hempton, Shipdham (60 Dec), Terrington Marsh (10 Sept), Themelthorpe, Titchwell, Waxham (20 Sept) and Welney.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Common resident; also passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers

Max counts in first winter period: Jan 130 Letheringsett, 100 East Wretham, 79 Foulden Common; March 150 Swaffham, 140 Somerton.

Spring passage underway March 7th when 15 west 3 east Overstrand with further passage at this site of (all east) 83 March 12th, 69 26th and 268 27th. Elsewhere 22 south Hunstanton March 10th, and (all east) 123 Paston 11th with 230 there 12th, 56 Beeston Bump 28th, 46 Paston April 2nd with 21 there 8th. At Winterton total of only 324 north 173 south March 8th-May 25th with max 93 south 10 north March 26th.

Breeding: Dersingham Bog NNR 28 territories, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 91 singing males, Swanton Novers NNR 80 territories. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 1098 individuals of this species were recorded in 82 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant decline of 3% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 2% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn passage dominated by some very impressive counts from Hunstanton where total of 54,271 (all south) Sept 23rd-Nov 5th with peak day counts of 8445 Oct 9th, 14,471 11th, 7607 14th, 7927 15th, 3411 21st, 2034 22nd, 1132 27th, 1675 31st, 1241 Nov 1st and 1476 5th.

At Winterton 1438 north 1141 south Oct 4th-Nov 27th with peaks 162 north 39 south Oct 4th, 195 north 140 south 11th, 161 north 47 south 21st and 142 north 64 south 30th. Only other notable counts from coastal sites during this period 120 Horsey Oct 9th, 350 west Titchwell and 250 west Brancaster Staithe 11th, 1768 west Sheringham 14th with 1388 west there 21st, and 150 west Beeston Bump 27th. Only inland site to record significant migration data was New Costessey in Tudd Valley where 1411 (most west) Oct 14th-Nov 25th with max counts of 92 Oct 15th, 100 21st and 110 27th. How many other inland sites have untapped potential to produce significant visible migration data?

Only two counts over 100 received during second winter period, 150 Salthouse Oct 28th and 300 Stanford TA Dec 17th.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

During first winter period recorded at many widely-scattered localities throughout county with highest counts: Jan 150 Santon Downham, 80 Great Walsingham, 50 Guist; Feb 150 Nar Valley Fisheries, 90 Little Cressingham, 65 Santon Downham; March 150 Santon Downham, 60 Grimes Graves. Numbers fell quickly during April with 1-5 at 13 sites apart from 25 Santon Downham 5th and 10 Kelling Heath 6th. Last record during April Holme 25th with no further records until Weybourne May 18th.

First arrivals in autumn Sept 18th when 9 Holkham Meals and singles Scolt Head and Eccles followed by a slow increase in numbers to month end. Totals continued to rise during Oct with highest counts 150 Bayfield Hall 6th, 60 Burnham Market 9th, 50 Snettisham 14th, 30 High Kelling 17th and 42 Sutton Fen 30th.

During this period a few coastal sites recorded visible migration, at Hunstanton (all south) 200 Oct 11th, 35 21st, 33 22nd, 39 31st, 67 Nov 1st, 46 2nd and 65 5th. In contrast at Winterton total of only 42 south 24 north Oct 3rd-Nov 25th.

Highest counts during second winter period: Nov 40 Sutton Bridge, 27 Nar Valley Fisheries; Dec 300 Stanford TA, 124 North Walsham, 100 North Wootton, 70 Bittering, 70 Illington.

Serin (European Serin)

Serinus serinus

Vagrant from southern Europe

A well-watched female Heacham April 2nd-4th (MBr *et al*).

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

Carduelis chloris

Common resident and passage migrant

Only two counts received for entire first winter period: 200 (roost) Hoveton Hall during Jan and 70 Fritton Feb 2nd.

Coastal movement commenced March 1st when 10 west Beeston Bump. Regularly submitted visible migration data received from only two sites. At Overstrand 20 west March 7th, 33 west 8th, 12 west 9 east 13th, 20 east 27th, 89 west 3 east April 5th and 56 west 10th. At Winterton total of 526 north 110 south March 8th-May 26th with peaks 39 north 8 south April 2nd and 45 north 6th. Elsewhere 203 south Hunstanton March 10th and total of only 22 west Scolt Head April 6th-22nd.

Breeding data from Ringstead Courtyard Farm where 16 singing males. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 630 individuals of this species were recorded in 69 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant increase of 167% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 22% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn coastal migration noted from Sept 23rd with two sites contributing most of data. At Hunstanton total of 2829 south Sept 23rd-Nov 5th with peaks of 500 Oct 11th, 308 14th, 398 21st, 311 22nd and 160 on 31st. At Winterton 3237 south 2026 north Oct 4th-Nov 27th with max counts 289 south 55 north Oct 9th, 318 north 10 south 12th, 555 south 70 north 14th, 172 north 132 south 21st and 378 south 11 north 27th. Only other data received (all west) 120 Sheringham Oct 14th with 259 there 21st, 100 Beeston Bump Oct 27th and 43 Holme Nov 3rd.

Highest counts in second winter period: Oct 280 Holme; Nov 150 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 150 Catfield; Dec 160 Cley.

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch)

Carduelis carduelis

Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor

Highest counts in first winter period: Jan 65 Lynford Arboretum, 40 West Acre; Feb 80 Gooderstone; March 80 North Wootton.

Main site to consistently record spring passage Winterton where 1054 north 599 south March 8th-June 10th with peak counts (all April) of 101 north 16th, 104 north 5 south 17th, 143 south 20 north 21st and 137 south 12 north 22nd. Peak counts elsewhere mostly occurred April; at Hunstanton (all south) 156 9th, 202 21st, 182 22nd, 132 23rd and 61 May 6th. At Scolt Head 1100 west April 1st-May 16th with max counts 255 April 8th, 63 24th and 103 May 6th. At Sheringham 59 west April 9th and 60 west 19th. At Overstrand 71 west 13 east April 16th, 255 west 19th and at Paston 168 west April 19th and 121 east 21st. Small-scale movement continued throughout May with highest counts 21 west Cromer 10th, 45 south Hunstanton 12th and 41 south there 18th.

Breeding data 11 pairs Ringstead Courtyard Farm. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 304 individuals of this species were recorded in 64 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 44% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 5% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn passage dominated by two sites on opposite sides of county. At Hunstanton 1587 south Sept 23rd-Nov 5th and at Winterton 433 south 233 north Oct 4th- Nov 25th with peaks (all Oct) 61 north 8th, 58 south 11th and 35 north 25 south 21st.

Highest Counts in second winter period: Sept 80 Holme, 50 Kelling WM; Oct 250 Sea Palling/Eccles, 66 Salthouse, 60 Holme; Nov 80 (roost) Beeston Regis, 70 Brancaster Thompson Farms.

Siskin (European Siskin)

Carduelis spinus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; small numbers breed

Average numbers present during first winter period with peak counts: Jan 150 Thetford, 90 Santon Downham, 50 Lynford Arboretum; Feb 50 Lynford, 50 Kettlestone, 30 Dersingham Bog; March 35 Lynford, 30 Dersingham Bog, 20 Santon Downham.

Insignificant spring passage underway March 7th with 5 west Beeston Bump followed by 54 south Hunstanton and 40 west Holme both 10th and 25 west Holme 13th. Max counts in April both from Sheringham where 13 west 12th and 54 west 13th.

Only definite breeding from Dersingham Bog where 3 territories and Weybourne where pair in garden on 8 dates in June with 3 unaccompanied juvs present July. However 10 Santon Downham May 20th and singles Aldborough, Gréat Plumstead, Langham and Repps-with-Bastwick in June no doubt refer to additional breeding sites, as well as 2 pairs present Roydon Common all summer. In July singles High Kelling 1st and Holt 8th, with 2 Stowbridge 21st.

Autumn migration noted widely along coast with peak numbers Winterton where total of 1543 south 751 north Oct 4th-Nov 27th with highest counts 139 south 9 north Oct 9th, 198 south 23rd, 312 south 6 north 27th and 233 north 32 south 30th. Highest counts elsewhere: 195 north Hemsby Sept 30th, 92 west Beeston Regis Oct 1st, 35 in off sea Scolt Head 3rd, 35 west Holme 6th, 100 south Hunstanton 9th with 67 south there 14th, 50 west Weybourne 19th, 170 west Holkham Meals 20th, 91 south Hunstanton 21st, 64 west Beeston Regis 22nd, 35 south Waxham 23rd, 149 south Hunstanton Nov 1st with (all south) 350 there 2nd and 317 5th.

Highest counts in second winter period: Nov 120 Roydon Common, 70 Narborough, 70 Horning, 55 Pensthorpe; Dec 176 Sutton Broad, 120 Bintree, 110 Lynford Arboretum.

Linnet (European Linnet)

Carduelis cannabina

Common resident and passage migrant

Largest flocks in first winter period: Jan 200 Brockdish, 176 Grimston, 100 Shotesham, 200 West Beckham, 200 Wighton; Feb 110 Attleborough, 220 East Tuddenham, 150 Fincham, 120 Grimston, 150 Wighton.

Spring passage recorded from first week of March but largest numbers in April. Max counts from Winterton where 6,967 (4566 north 2401 south) counted March 8th-May 31st, with peaks 311 north 227 south April 19th and 569 south 19 north 21st. Elsewhere, high April counts (all west) included 268 Paston and 270 Scolt Head 10th, 403 Paston and 445 Scolt Head 11th, 300 Paston 18th, and 845 Paston and 271 Scolt Head 19th; total of 2011 latter site all month. Passage much reduced by last week and even lighter in May, with only 218 west all month Scolt Head.

Breeding records sparse but 26 pairs Blakeney Point, 17 Sparham and 41 singing males Scolt Head. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 218 individuals of this species were recorded in 46 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a non-significant increase of 34% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant increase of 13% between 2006 and 2007.

In autumn/second winter period peak counts: 260 Scolt Head Aug 1st, 125 West Runton Aug 12th, 120 Salthouse Oct 7th, 130 Necton Dec 8th and 120 Repps-with-Bastwick Dec 26th.

Twite

Carduelis flavirostris

Declining local winter visitor

Max counts at main resorts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thornham-Titchwell	50	30	42	13	22	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	20	-	-	-	55	60-110
Blakeney-Salthouse	25	40	-	3	2	26
Terrington /Ongar/Lynn Point	40	60	87	12	35	175

Numbers show no signs of recovery from recent decline. Note range given for Scolt Head/Brancaster area allows for possibility that flocks of 50-60 birds at Brancaster Beach car park, in area of managed retreat, and at Brancaster Hbr were separate flocks. Latest spring record 42 Thornham Point March 12th.

Elsewhere, very few birds reported and all records given: 2 Snettisham Feb 4th with one there Dec 16th; 2 south Hunstanton March 10th; Breydon Oct 19th (earliest autumn record); over Wells Hbr Oct 25th and 22 Morston Nov 4th rising to 30 on 20th-23rd, 40 on 27th then falling to 28 on Nov 28th and 30 Dec 3rd.

Amongst many colour-ringed birds re-sighted was one found at Thornham Hbr Jan 5th which had been ringed 2 years and 215 days earlier on June 4th 2004 at Cant Clough Reservoir, near Burnley, Lancs (where it was re-sighted on 4 dates that Aug), before being seen at Thornham in Nov 2004, back at Cant Clough in April 2005, at Thornham in Nov 05 and Jan 06, and at Cant Clough again in April 06.

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

Passage migrant, winter visitor and declining resident

Scattered reports of small numbers in first winter period, largest flocks 20 Holt Jan 24th, 50 Kettlestone Feb 1st, 30 Barton Broad Feb 25th and 30 Stanford TA March 30th.

Light spring passage March 10th-April 24th, max 15 west Holme April 8th.

Only 2 reports of possible and one of confirmed breeding received.

Small numbers of mainly coastal migrants recorded from mid-Sept, with slightly increased passage from early Oct. At Hunstanton total 47 south Sept 23rd-Nov 5th; at Winterton total 179 (102 north 77 south) Oct 4th-Nov 5th with peaks 11 south 5 north Oct 11th, 11 south 7 north 21st and 13 south 8 north 27th. Other counts: Oct 15 in off sea then west Scolt Head 3rd, 20 Holkham 5th, 70 Waxham 14th, 20 south Welney 16th, 55 north Horsey 20th; Nov 50 Titchwell 1st and 30 there 5th. Inland, 30 Pensthorpe Oct 26th and 31 Beechamwell Nov 1st.

Late in year 30 Felthorpe Dec 23rd and 30th easily largest count.

Also several records of Redpoll sp submitted including 28 Holme Oct 26th, 10 west Sheringham Oct 27th and 25 Thornham Farms Nov 18th.

Common (ie Mealy) Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Scarce winter visitor

Very few reported in first winter period. All records: in Jan Strumpshaw 4th/5th, Costessey 11th, Pensthorpe 14th, Sheringham 29th; also Santon Warren March 27th.

A small late autumn arrival followed first record of 5 Stiffkey Fen Oct 11th, with a few small parties around coast until mid-Nov. Recorded most frequently at Winterton where max 7 north 2 south Oct 27th and 8 north Oct 29th.

During second winter period: Lynford Nov 28th, 2 Potter Heigham Dec 2nd and Titchwell Dec 16th, 20th and 27th with 4 19th, Felthorpe Dec 23rd and 3 Cantley BF 24th.

Arctic Redpoll

Carduelis hornemanni

Winter vagrant from Scandinavia and northern Russia

One in a garden in Langham Nov 18th (BBu DC D&PW). Whilst the County Records Committee has accepted this record as an Arctic Redpoll of some form the members considered that the submitted photographs did not rule out the possibility of it being of the north-west form of Common Redpoll *islandica*.

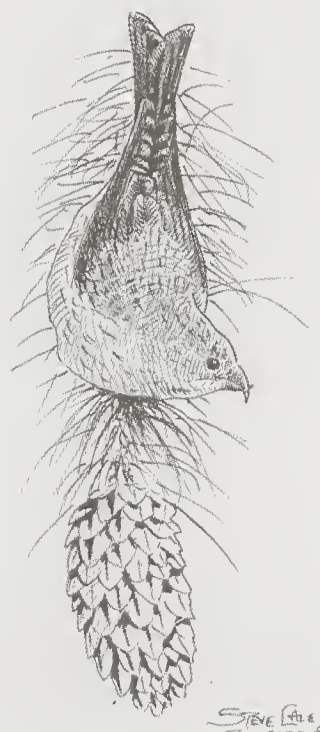
Crossbill (Common Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Breeding resident in fluctuating numbers with Thetford Forest the stronghold; immigrants arrive most years in late summer and autumn; major irruptions at irregular intervals

Few records in first half of year and mostly concentrated in Brecks where no flocks greater than 4 reported apart from 9 Santon Downham March 7th and 50 Grime's Graves March 23rd. Elsewhere, singles Holme March 26th, Dersingham April 6th, Hunstanton May 19th, Holme June 9th, Dersingham June 16th, High Kelling June 17th and Grimston Warren 25th.

In second half of year similarly scarce: July Kelling Heath 10th, 3 west Blakeney 22nd, Grimston Warren 23rd, East Wretham Heath 29th; Aug Sheringham Park 12th, 3 Cley 19th, Winterton 26th; Sept 5 Holt 7th, Holkham Meals 19th; Oct 2 Dersingham 4th, 7 Holkham Meals 11th, Sheringham 14th, Hoveton Park 15th, Dersingham 26th; Nov Grimston Warren 13th; Dec 9 Lynford 8th.



Crossbill (Steve Cale)

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

Rare passage migrant; potential colonist

In spring imm singing males Holme May 27th (GFH) and Winterton 29th (AGr TH TPh) with another Beeston Bump (ZH) next day. Two autumn records, Blakeney Point Sept 18th (JRMc AMS *et al*) and Warham Greens Sept 29th-Oct 11th (AJB CAH *et al*).

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident and occasional immigrant

Reported widely in small numbers in first winter period, with max counts of 12 all in Jan at Hethel 5th, Foulden Common 25th and Strumpshaw 26th.

During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 26 individuals of this species were recorded in 16 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Slightly more reports in autumn, with peak counts 13 Strumpshaw Oct 13th, 15 Sutton Nov 24th and Dec 9th, 11 Swanton Morley Nov 24th and 15 Grimston Dec 16th.



Bullfinch (*Andy Jarrett*)

'Northern Bullfinches' recorded at Ormesby St Margaret March 25th (trapped), Holme Oct 26th, Brancaster Nov 3rd (trapped) and Sutton Nov 24th.

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Elusive and very local resident; scarce migrant

As usual, most records in first part of year from Brecks, particularly Lynford Arboretum, where up to 30 Jan and 47 early Feb. Elsewhere Thetford Nunnery Lakes Jan 6th, Barnhamcross Common 30th, Wiveton 31st, East Wretham Feb 7th, 2 Barnhamcross Common 20th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes March 27th and Hilborough April 1st.

Three pairs recorded breeding in 'west of county'.

In second half of year a scatter of records including some coastal migrants: Overstrand Aug 29th, Honingham Sept 5th, Overstrand 7th, Holkham GM 29th, Bayfield Hall 30th, Cley Oct 1st, Hoveton Park and Sutton Broad 2nd, 5 Bayfield Hall 3rd, Hardwick 4th, Cley 9th, Sutton 18th, Holkham Meals 27th, Thorpe St Andrew Nov 11th, Norwich Dec 3rd, Barnhamcross Common 14th and 18th, and 12 'west Norfolk' 31st. In Brecks 12 again Lynford Arboretum Oct 16th with up to 6 early Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

Vagrant from North America

A simultaneous arrival of two on July 14th - the first appearing at lunchtime at Langham and remaining until the evening (D&AC *et al*), the second seen in early afternoon at Terrington St Clement and remaining until afternoon of the 17th (RM). The first records for Norfolk (see article page 168).



Blyth's Reed Warbler - the second county record was on Blakeney Point in June. (*Steve Gantlett*)
 Booted Warbler - the first spring record was also on Blakeney Point in June. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Barred Warbler - this extremely obliging juvenile was at Kelling. (*Glyn Herrieven*)





Icterine Warbler - this species has been scarce in recent years.
This bird was ringed at Denmark House, Weybourne. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Blackcap - a common summer visitor which also over-winters in small numbers. (*Chris Knights*)





Dartford Warbler - a new breeding species for Norfolk. Both: (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Iberian Chiffchaff - the first county record.

It sang for several weeks on the outskirts of Norwich. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Wood Warbler - a migrant visitor to Blakeney Point. (*Richard Porter*)





Greenish Warbler - a record influx occurred. One was trapped at Denmark House, Weybourne (top left), at least five others were on Blakeney Point. All pictures: *(Julian Bhalerao)*



Lapland Bunting
Regular but usually scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
Monthly max at most regularly favoured sites:

Calcarius lapponicus

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	12	7	1	1	2	4	1
Thornham Hbr	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Titchwell	-	-	-	2	3	-	1
Scolt Head	-	-	-	3	2	2	4
Holkham Bay	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Blakeney Point	-	-	-	2	3	2	2
Cley/Salthouse	-	-	6	1	7	40	15
Kelling/Weybourne	-	-	2	1	1	25	-
Sheringham	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
West Runton	-	-	2	1	3	-	-
Mundesley/Paston	-	-	-	-	22	15	11
Happisburgh/Eccles	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Breydon	-	-	1	1	-	-	9

Elsewhere in first winter period singles Lynn Point Jan 7th, Haddiscoe Island Jan 31st and March 14th, and Berney March 25th.

Spring migrants in April included singles west Holme 8th, Cley 9th and a further 2 west Cley 15th.

Earliest autumn arrivals Breydon Sept 10th and Blakeney Point 15th. Further migrants included inland records from Buckenham Marshes 2 west Oct 13th and Sutton Fen south Oct 30th.

Only notable records away from regular sites in second winter period an exceptional 50 Trimingham Nov 4th and single Catfield Nov 25th.

Snow Bunting
Winter visitor in declining numbers
Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

Plectrophenax nivalis

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham/Heacham	30	6	-	4	18	25
Holme	-	-	-	8	60	60
Thornham/Titchwell	23	-	1	16	78	84
Scolt Head	4	4	-	12	50	100
Burnham Overy	25	-	-	-	26	220
Holkham Bay	50	12	5	15	115	170
Blakeney Point	1	-	-	30	62	41
Cley/Salthouse	35	35	6	45	65	89
Walcott/Bacton/Paston	-	2	1	70	100	120
Happisburgh/Eccles	-	-	-	7	30	-
Winterton	-	-	-	2	65	-
Caister	104	88	-	-	58	78

Birds regularly move around coast, therefore clearly much duplication in above counts. Elsewhere in first winter period: 50 Lynn Point and 12 Sea Palling Jan 14th, 30 Choseley Jan 27th, 2 Kelling WM March 5th, singles West Runton March 10th and Kelling WM April 23rd.

First in autumn singles Winterton Sept 13th and Scolt Head 15th. Additional significant flocks in second winter period: Nov 30 Eccles 8th, 37 Horsey and 25 Sea Palling 9th, 55 Trimingham 11th, 25 west Sheringham 12th with 26 also west 26th, 24 Waxham 12th, 20 south Gorleston 13th, 80 Weybourne 18th, 20 Terrington Marsh 25th, 29 West Runton 29th; Dec 50 Weybourne 1st.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Once common resident, currently in decline

Flocks in first winter period included: Jan, 70 Nar Valley Fisheries, 47 Easton, 30 Kelling WM; Feb 100 Repps-with-Bastwick, 80 Choseley, 50 Nar Valley Fisheries, 40 Fincham.

A light spring passage included singles north Winterton March 13th and April 2nd, 6 Kelling WM April 9th, one west Overstrand also 9th, with 3 west there 16th.

Records of breeding pairs from Ringstead Courtyard Farm 36, Roydon Common/Grimston Warren 14, Sparham 12 and Winterton 16. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 264 individuals of this species were recorded in 62 BBS squares in Norfolk. BBS results indicate that this species showed a significant decline of 25% between 1994 and 2007, and a non-significant decline of 3% between 2006 and 2007.

Autumn passage birds included 6 south Hunstanton Oct 11th-27th, and at Winterton total of 18 south 2 north Oct 7th-Nov 7th. Flocks in second winter period included: Nov 70 Shipdham, 30 Potter Heigham; Dec 60 Shipdham, 25 High Kelling.

Little Bunting

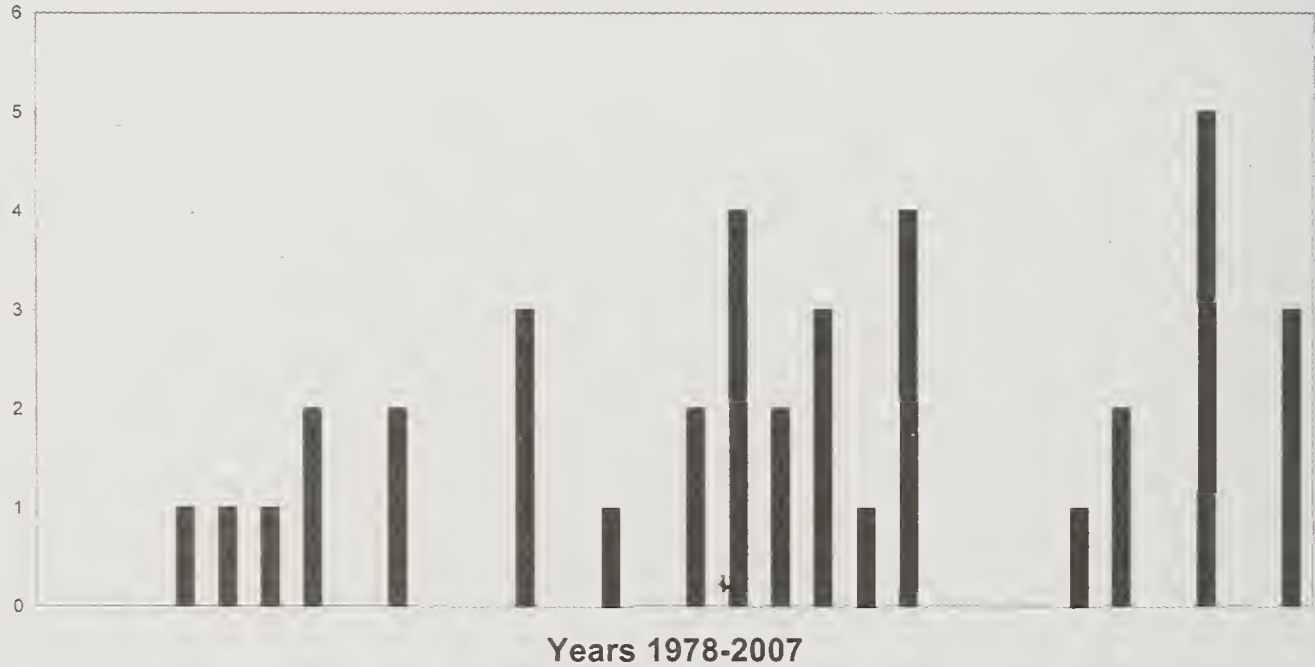
Emberiza pusilla

Vagrant from northern Scandinavia eastwards, mostly in autumn

Three typical autumn records: Wells campsite (RGM *et al*) and trapped Weybourne (MP *et al*) both Sept 27th, and Holkham Meals Oct 3rd-5th (CH *et al*).

A total of 45 Little Buntings (all but four in autumn) have been recorded in the county, 7 of these between 1978-87, 16 1988-1997 and 15 1998-2007, with the best years 5 in 2005, and 4 in both 1994 and 1998.

Little Bunting Annual Totals





Reed Bunting (Steve Cale)

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident and passage migrant

Flocks in first winter period included: Jan 61 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 25 Lynn Point, 20 Somerton; Feb 50 Nar Valley Fisheries, 24 Repps-with-Bastwick, 17 Gooderstone, 16 Little Cressingham.

Spring movements of singles west Beeston Bump March 7th, 10th and 27th, north Winterton March 8th with 2 north 10th and one south 26th, and one west Overstrand 14th. In April one north one south Winterton April 8th with 2 south next day.

Breeding territories/pairs included: Scolt Head 80, Lopham Fen 71, Hickling Broad 70, mid-Yare RSPB 56, Holkham NNR 51, Blakeney Point 21+, Roydon Common/Grimston Warren 14, Blakeney GM 8, Dersingham Bog NNR 5. During the 2007 Breeding Bird Survey, 76 individuals of this species were recorded in 23 BBS squares in Norfolk.

Autumn movements represented by 12 west Scolt Head Sept 23rd with 120 present there on 29th, 20 south Welney Oct 4th, total of 121 south 15 north Winterton Oct 4th-Nov 22nd with peak counts in Oct of: 21 south 9th, 21 south 14th and 17 south 2 north 27th, 7 west Sheringham Oct 14th with 3 west 27th, and 15 south Welney also 14th with further 10 present. Late migrants included 3 west Beeston Bump Oct 29th with 3 west Nov 2nd.

Flocks in second winter period included 30 Potter Heigham, 26 Blakeney Hbr, 20 Martham Broad and 20 Wormegay.

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Local and declining resident

Notable flocks Jan/Feb included 70 Choseley, 44 Walpole St Peter and 20 Snettisham. Only evidence of spring migration singles east Weybourne April 8th and south Hunstanton 22nd.

In spring, singing or breeding birds noted at 17 localities, although some of these relate to birds seen on only one date; largest concentration 10 singing males Feltwell. Noteworthy flocks included 30 Choseley, 14 Titchwell, 12 Ringstead and 6 Wissington Cut, all in April.

Few records submitted in second winter period, only flock 60 Feltwell Anchor Dec 25th.

Introductions, Escapes, Ferals and Hybrids

Appendix I - Categories A, B and C

Escapes or feral birds of species on the British List

Category A Species

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Northern Eurasia; winters southern Europe, India and China

Boughton Fen April 6th; Buckenham 3 on July 8th, Sept 8th/9th and 23rd, Oct 4th and 23rd; Harleston Jan 4th, Feb 23rd, April 6th, 17th (4), 26th-30th, May 5th and Aug 19th; Heigham Holmes Jan 22nd; Hickling March 27th and April 24th; Holkham GM Aug 30th, Sept 22nd, Oct 14th, 18th-29th and Nov 1st-12th; Martham Jan 21st, Feb 9th, Oct 10th, 17th, 29th and Dec 14th; Pentney GP Jan 14th and March 17th; Potter Heigham May 8th; Titchwell Sept 13th-Oct 19th; West Somerton Feb 25th and Feb 28th-March 6th.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Western Siberia; winters Black, Caspian and Aral Seas

Buckenham Marshes Jan 12th, 21st, 29th, 31st and Feb 12th; Cantley Marshes Jan 12th and 20th/21st; Gillingham Marshes Oct 26th; Rockland Broad Jan 2nd.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Chrysolophus amherstiae

Mountains of Tibet and China to north Burma

Attleborough March 14th/15th.

Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Free-flying colony at Great Witchingham, last bred 2003

One or two free-flying birds in Wensum Valley Feb 21st-May 26th.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Vagrant from the Continent

The free-flying bird from Thrigby seen at various localities in Broads Feb 9th-Dec 20th.

Category B/C Species

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Asia and North Africa

Bayfield Lake 2 Jan-June; Beetley 3 Aug 24th; Briningham pair Dec 7th; Cley max 6 during Jan, 4 during June and 6 during Oct; Earhsam GP pair Jan 12th and April 17th-30th, pair May 14th, pair with 7 young June 3rd, also 9 Sept 21st, 8 on 28th, 5 Oct 1st, 7 on 10th and 30th, 8 Dec 11th with one 29th; Glaven Pits pair Sept 18th-21st; Hethersett Park April 16th; Letheringsett south Jan 1st; Salthouse 3 Sept 2nd; Snettisham May 15th.

Appendix II - Category D

Species that would otherwise appear on the British List except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

Tundra of northern Canada, winters to southern United States

In north of county a ringed feral bird intermittently throughout year with Greylags. In east another known feral bird again with Greylags. Bird of unknown origin arrived with Pinkfeet Holkham Oct 1st also seen east at Hemsby Oct 3rd. At Wells 2 together Dec 25th/26th remaining into 2008.

Reeves's Pheasant*Syrnaticus reevesii**North-central China*

Ashill June 21st; Stanford TA 4 males and female Dec 30th; Buckenham 2 males and female April 8th-May 11th with male Oct 20th.

Appendix III - Category E

Escapes or feral birds of species not on the British List

Fulvous Whistling-duck*Dendrocygna bicolor**Southern US to Argentina, east Africa, Madagascar and southern Asia*

Cley Nov 18th.

Black Swan*Cygnus atratus**Australia and Tasmania*

Blakeney GM Jan 1st; Cley June 1st, Aug 31st, Nov 12th and Dec 20th; Gillingham Feb 21st, Hickling Broad 2 March 16th-Dec 30th with 3 May 1st; King's Lynn April 20th and May 23rd; Potter Heigham 2 June 1st-Dec 30th; Ranworth Marshes 2 Jan 24th; Salhouse Broad pair with one juv July 26th; Welney July 15th, 2 July 31st and Aug 14th, and 6 Nov 6th; Wroxham Broad Aug 23rd and 28th, and Sept 6th.

Bar-headed Goose*Anser indicus**Central Asia; winters in India and Burma*

Buckenham Marshes Sept 11th and 23rd, Oct 23rd, Nov 1st, 19th and 22nd, and Dec 18th; Cantley Nov 18th; Cley June 15th, Oct 11th-18th; Pentney GP July 25th.

Emperor Goose*Anser canagica**North-east Siberia to western Alaska; winters southern Alaska to northern California*

South Walsham Broad Sept 13th; Wroxham Broad Jan 20th and Sept 13th.

Blue-winged Goose*Cyanochen cyanopterus**Ethiopia*

Swanton Morley GP April 8th-May 9th, June 9th and 24th, July 14th and Aug 27th.

Wood Duck*Aix sponsa**Canada to northern Mexico, Cuba and Bahamas*

Ashby St Mary pair Nov 1st; Norwich Riverside June 8th; Ranworth Broad June 19th.

Falcated Duck*Anas falcate**Eastern Palearctic; winters Iran, India and Burma*

Buckenham May 20th-24th, June 4th, 10th/11th and 13th; Strumpshaw Jan 20th.

Chiloe Wigeon*Anas sibilatrix**Southern South America*

Swanton Morley GP March 31st.

White-cheeked Pintail*Anas bahamensis**South America, West Indies and Galapagos Islands*

Cley May 26th and June 15th (white variant); Wisington BF Nov 18th.

Silver Teal*Anas versicolor**Southern South America*

Cantley BF Aug 21st; Diss Mere July 20th.

Puna Teal*Anas puna**Andes*

Cantley BF Aug 26th.

- Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
Mediterranean to SW Asia
 Cantley BF Aug 19th-21st.
- Rosy-billed Pochard** *Netta pepasaea*
Southern South America
 Sparham Pools Dec 31st; Swanton Morley GP Oct 7th.
- Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Africa south of Sahara
 One roamed north coast Aug 14th-Nov 15th appearing Burnham Overy Staithe, Cley, Holkham GM, Holme, Stiffkey GM, Stiffkey WM and Titchwell; last seen elsewhere at Potter Heigham Nov 15th.
- Harris' Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*
USA and South America
 Calthorpe Oct 10th; Hickling/Horsey many dates June 21st-Oct 10th; Heacham June 21st; Thornham April 17th and 21st; Titchwell March 12th, April 17th and 22nd.
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*
North and Central America and West Indies
 Thetford Olly's Farm Feb 3rd, 12th and 15th, March 2nd, 6th and 8th; Barningham displaying May 9th.
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*
Savanna and deserts of western Palearctic and Africa
 Breydon May 7th; Heigham Holmes Feb 7th; Hopton north Oct 6th; Horsey Jan 26th; Somerton Holmes Jan 24th; Winterton March 31st.
- Saker Falcon** *Falco cherrug*
South-central Eurasia; winters Mediterranean to India
 Hickling Broad juv Nov 8th; Horsey Nov 16th; North Wootton Dec 16th; Roydon Common Nov 7th.
- Demoiselle Crane** *Grus virgo*
Palearctic; winters north Africa to southern Asia
 Erpingham Aug 25th, Sept 8th and 20th.
- Superb Parrot** *Polytelis surainsonii*
Australia
 Langham April 20th.
- Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala*
Central to South America
 Buxton Aug 24th.
- Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*
Australia
 Lynford Arboretum April 25th.
- Eurasian Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo*
Palearctic
 Rollesby Church March 3rd.
- Island Canary** *Serinus canaria*
Commonly kept cagebird
 Bittering April 12th; Tivershall St Margaret Sept 19th.

Appendix IV - Hybrids

As submitted by observers - parentage not necessarily confirmed

Pink-footed Goose x Ross's Goose

Brograve Level Jan 30th; Burnham Norton GM Feb 4th.

Greylag Goose x Canada Goose

Swanton Morley GP June 24th, July 14th, Aug 4th, 19th and 22nd.

Greylag Goose x Barnacle Goose

Holkham Park Dec 31st.

White-footed Goose x Barnacle Goose

Flitcham July 27th.

White-fronted Goose x 'Chinese' Goose

Cley Aug 29th.

Lesser White-fronted Goose x Barnacle Goose

Pentney GP Nov 24th.

Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose

Hickling Swim Coots 2 June 4th; Potter Heigham Marshes Feb 6th and 13th.

Ruddy Shelduck x Cape Shelduck

Cley Feb 2nd.

Mallard x Egyptian Goose

Swanton Morley GP 4 Aug 27th.

Tufted Duck x Scaup

Welney Feb 12th.

Tufted Duck x Pochard

Welney Feb 3rd and 12th.

Pochard x Tufted/Ferruginous Duck

Pentney GP Nov 24th.



Pied Flycatcher (*Phil Jones*)

Earliest and Latest Dates of Summer Migrants

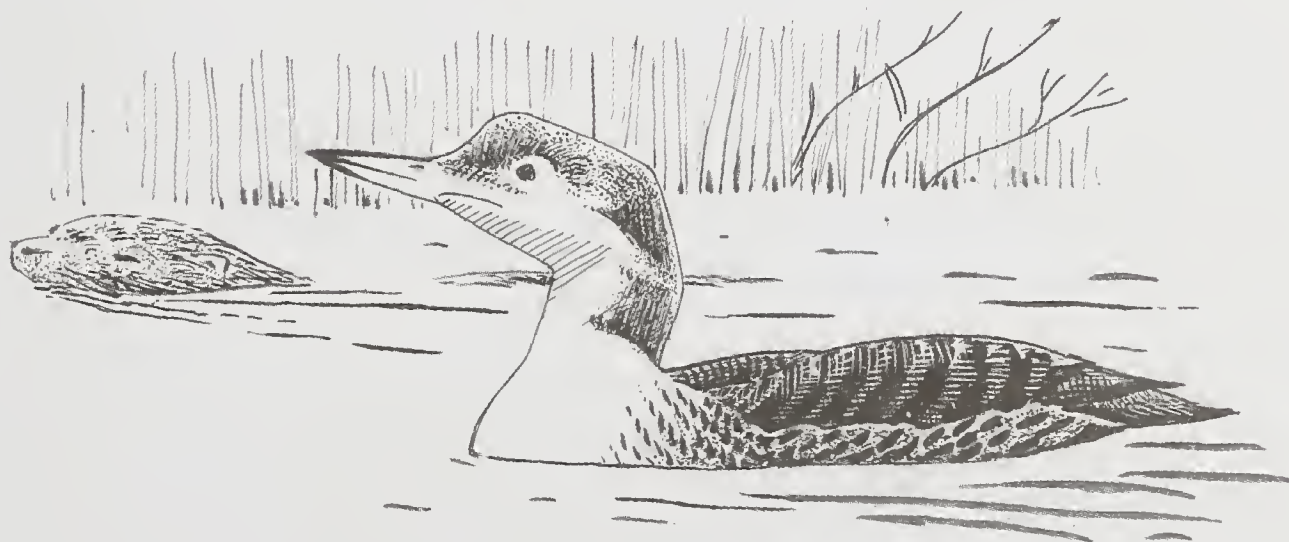
(excludes occasional winter records)

	<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>	
Spoonbill	April 7 th	Holkham GM	Sept 11 th	Holkham GM
Garganey	Mar 8 th	Heigham Holmes	Dec 22 nd	Buckenham
Honey Buzzard	May 2 nd	Burgh Castle	Oct 7 th	Hickling Broad
Montagu's Harrier	April 22 nd	North-west Norfolk	Sept 21 st	Snettisham
Osprey	April 15 th	Kelling Heath	Oct 9 th	Alderfen Broad
Hobby	April 6 th	Stowbridge	Oct 21 st	Weybourne
Quail	Mar 13 th	Salthouse	Aug 7 th	Choseley
Little-ringed Plover	Mar 23 rd	Salthouse/Buckenham	Sept 28 th	Pentney GP
Dotterel	May 8 th	Waxham	Sept 22 nd	Scolt Head
Little Stint	April 27 th	Hickling Broad	Oct 31 st	Titchwell
Temminck's Stint	April 15 th	Buckenham	Oct 5 th	Titchwell
Curlew Sandpiper	April 8 th	Cley	Nov 7 th	Cley
Whimbrel	Mar 14 th	Haddiscoe Island	Oct 14 th	Titchwell/Blakeney Hbr
Wood Sandpiper	April 22 nd	Holme/Buckenham	Nov 12 th	Welney
Common Sandpiper	April 11 th	Holme	Oct 23 rd	Titchwell
Little Tern	April 17 th	Scolt Head	Oct 20 th	Titchwell
Black Tern	April 21 st	Scolt Head	Oct 14 th	Sheringham
Sandwich Tern	Mar 27 th	Cley	Nov 6 th	Cley
Common Tern	April 7 th	Ranworth	Nov 6 th	Cley
Roseate Tern	May 9 th	Blakeney Point	Sept 8 th	Stiffkey
Arctic Tern	April 13 th	Scolt Head	Nov 6 th	Cley
Turtle Dove	April 21 st	Holme	Sept 29 th	Eccles
Cuckoo	April 8 th	Guist	Oct 1 st	Drayton
Nightjar	April 25 th	Dersingham	Sept 1 st	Winterton
Swift	April 15 th	Kelling/Winterton	Oct 9 th	Eccles
Wryneck	April 19 th	Eccles	Oct 19 th	Warham Greens
Sand Martin	Mar 11 th	3 sites	Oct 1 st	Salthouse/Earsham GP
Swallow	Mar 9 th	Hickling Stubbs Mill	Dec 15 th	Hickling Broad
House Martin	Mar 6 th	Castle Acre	Nov 4 th	Langham
Tree Pipit	April 1 st	Hickling Broad	Nov 25 th	East Barsham
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 25 th	Kelling Heath	Oct 11 th	Titchwell
White Wagtail	Mar 9 th	Paston	Oct 20 th	Holme
Nightingale	Mar 26 th	Hempton	-	
Redstart	April 13 th	Stiffkey	Oct 16 th	Stiffkey
Whinchat	April 21 st	5 sites	Oct 23 rd	Weybourne
Wheatear	Mar 17 th	Holme/Titchwell	Nov 6 th	Warham Greens
Ring Ouzel	Mar 17 th	Holme	Oct 26 th	Morston
Grasshopper Warbler	April 8 th	Cley/Croxton	Oct 7 th	Stiffkey Fen
Sedge Warbler	April 3 rd	Cley	Oct 6 th	Welney
Reed Warbler	April 17 th	Titchwell/Lopham Fen	Oct 13 th	Titchwell
Lesser Whitethroat	April 11 th	East Barsham	Oct 15 th	Paston
Whitethroat	April 11 th	Winterton	Oct 15 th	Strumpshaw
Garden Warbler	April 14 th	Hempton/Norwich	Oct 22 nd	Stiffkey
Wood Warbler	April 22 nd	Sheringham	Sept 30 th	Yarmouth
Willow Warbler	Mar 28 th	Norwich	Oct 27 th	Winterton
Spotted Flycatcher	April 24 th	Ashill	Oct 29 th	Holkham
Pied Flycatcher	May 14 th	Holme/Blakeney Point	Oct 5 th	Holme
Red-backed Shrike	May 6 th	Blakeney Point	Oct 19 th	Winterton

Latest and Earliest Dates of Winter Migrants

(excludes occasional summer records)

	<i>Departures</i>		<i>Arrivals</i>	
Black-throated Diver	Feb 27th	Salthouse/Kelling	Aug 27th	Sheringham
Great Northern Diver	May 8th	Holme	Sept 18th	Sheringham
Red-necked Grebe	May 8th	Happisburgh	Aug 18th	Scolt Head
Slavonian Grebe	Mar 15th	Holme	Sept 10th	Sheringham
Black-necked Grebe	Mar 13th	Pentney GP	Aug 12th	How Hill
Bewick's Swan	May 6th	Winterton	Oct 1st	Titchwell
Whooper Swan	May 6th	Sheringham	Sept 26th	Welney
Taiga Bean Goose	Feb 2nd	Yare Valley	Nov 5th	Yare Valley
Tundra Bean Goose	Mar 25th	Snettisham	Nov 25th	Brancaster/Docking
Pink-footed Goose	May 18th	Holme	Sept 7th	Scolt Head
White-fronted Goose	April 1st	Holkham GM	Oct 14th	Holkham GM
Long-tailed Duck	April 11th	Holme	Oct 10th	Cantley BF
Goldeneye	May 13th	Scolt Head	Aug 8th	Sheringham
Smew	Jan 28th	Tottenham GP	Dec 17th	Welney
Hen Harrier	May 30th	Waxham	July 24th	Aylmerton
Rough-legged Buzzard	May 14th	Harpley	Sept 27th	Yarmouth
Merlin	June 2nd	Blakeney Point	July 19th	Scolt Head
Purple Sandpiper	April 4th	Sea Palling	July 22nd	Breydon
Jack Snipe	April 14th	Beeston Common	Sept 27th	Scolt Head
Iceland Gull	April 18th	Titchwell	Nov 1st	Blakeney Point
Glaucous Gull	May 19th	Blackboro' End Tip	Nov 7th	Eccles/Yarmouth
Shore Lark	May 4th	Cley	Sept 30th	Scolt/Cley
Rock Pipit	May 22nd	Cley	Sept 9th	Titchwell
Water Pipit	April 14th	Blakeney Point	Sept 23rd	Haddiscoe Island
Waxwing	April 3rd	Holkham	Oct 5th	Holkham
Fieldfare	June 11th	Scolt Head/Eccles	Aug 24th	Scolt Head
Redwing	May 14th	Blakeney Point	Sept 17th	Ormesby St Margaret
Great Grey Shrike	April 4th	Grimes Graves	Sept 27th	three sites
Brambling	May 18th	Weybourne	Sept 18th	Scolt Head/Holkham
Twite	Mar 12th	Thornham	Oct 19th	Breydon
Lapland Bunting	April 15th	Cley	Sept 10th	Breydon
Snow Bunting	April 23rd	Kelling	Sept 13th	Winterton



Great Northern Diver and otter *(Gary Wright)*

Non-accepted Records

The following refer to records where a written description has not been accepted by either the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee.

2002 Savi's Warbler - Strumpshaw July 1st.

2005 Pallid Swift - Eccles Nov 2nd.

2006 Marsh Sandpiper - Stiffkey Fen Aug 8th; Savi's Warbler - Catfield Fen May 23rd; Blyth's Reed Warbler - Blakeney Point Sept 22nd; Black-headed Bunting - Holme Aug 17th and Sept 13th.

2007 Black-necked Grebe - Cley Nov 14th; Great Shearwater - Winterton Sept 11th; Cory's Shearwater - Winterton Aug 26th; Storm Petrel - Kelling Sept 28th; Squacco Heron - Welney July 11th; Black Stork - Martham June 5th; Red-footed Falcon - Hickling Broad May 20th; Corncrake - Winterton March 28th; Temmincks Stint (4) - Kelling Hospital Aug 23rd; White-rumped Sandpiper - Titchwell Sept 27th; Franklin's Gull - Wells Nov 1st; Forsters Tern - Blakeney Point Aug 24th; Gull-billed Tern - Salthouse Aug 20th; Brunnich's Guillemot - Holkham Bay Nov 11th and Cley Nov 12th; Chimney Swift - Holkham GM July 8th; Radde's Warbler - Waxham Oct 22nd; Raven - Rushall March 8th and Beeston Regis Aug 6th; Serin - Winterton April 22nd.

Non-submitted Records

The following records have been reported to Rare Bird Alert, Birdguides, Birdline East Anglia or Cley Bird Club but to date no details have been received. Descriptions of any of these records would be welcomed (for consideration either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee) so that hopefully they can be published as accepted records in due course.

Surf Scoter	Holme	Nov 10th
Cory's Shearwater	Blakeney Point	Sept 10th
Storm Petrel	Trimingham	Aug 2nd
	Blakeney Point	Aug 22nd
	Sheringham	Sept 11th
	Cley	Sept 18th and 29th
	Horsey	Nov 9th
	Eccles	Nov 9th
	Titchwell	Nov 11th
	Sheringham	Nov 12th
	Sea Palling	Nov 13th
Great White Egret	Waxham	June 24th
Glossy Ibis	Blakeney GM	June 21st
Black Kite	Burnham Overy Staithe	July 5th
Red-footed Falcon	Stanhoe	April 25th
Sabine's Gull	Cley	Aug 22nd
Corncrake	Wells East Hills	April 30th
	Holme	Sept 29th
Gull-billed Tern	Eccles	July 30th
	Snettisham	Aug 25th
	Blakeney Point	Aug 27th
	Cley	Aug 28th
Short-toed Lark	Snettisham	April 12th
Raven	Narborough	May 19th
	Nar Valley Fisheries	Nov 9th
Serin	Holkham Meals	Sept 29th
Common Rosefinch	Norwich	June 4th

List of Contributors to Systematic List

S Abbott	K J Brett	C Cross (CCo)	R Gillmor
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A Aberdeen	D & J Bridges	T Curl	T Girling
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P Adams	G N Brind	C Davies	P Gluth
C Alcock	H Bristol	P Davies	G Goffin
N Alford	BTO	T C & G Davies	J Goldsmith
P R Allard	I Brittain	R E Davis	M A Golley
J Allsop	C Brooker	L A Delve	A Goodall
T Allwood	G J Brooking	P J Dolton	C Goodie (CGo)
M Andrew	R Brooks	C Donner (CDo)	M & B Gough
D Andrews	A F Brown	D Dorling	S J Gough
J Andrews (JAn)	G Brownlow	I S Downie	M Grantham
D P Appleton	R Brownsword	C Draper	N Graves
G F Appleton	S H Bryan	A Drewitt	A Green
P C Arbery	A L & R M Bull	A Dunkley	J D G Greenwood
J Askew	A & S Burtenshaw	G E Dunmore	C Gregory
S J Aspinall	B Burton (BBu)	C Durdin	L Gregory
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R Baker	B Bye	T Earl	J Grundy
D Baldwin	C J & L G Cadbury	J Eaton	J Gudgeon
D E Balmer	N Calbrade	K & S Edwards	P Hadrill
A Banwell (ABa)	R Callf	P Eele	A J Hale
S Barbato	P Carr	R Elliston	J Hampshire (JHa)
S Barker	N Carter	N Elms	V J Hanlon
I Barton	J Cason	G S Elton	R I Harold
P E Beard	P Cawley (PCa)	G J Etherington	J Harris
A P Benson	A G Channer	L G R Evans	A Harriss
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L G Bentley	R H Chittenden	P C Feakes	C Heard
C Betts	M A Chipperfield	D Fell	P J Heath
S Betts	N A Clark	G W Fellows	T Hemmings
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P Birch	P Clement (PCl)	J Filowiat	K J & A Herber
Birdguides	Cley Bird Club	M Fisher	P Herkenrath
Birdline East Anglia	J Clifton	S Fishwick	R Heselden
Birdtrack	R Cobbold	M D Fiszer	C M Hewson
A Blackburn	A Cohen	L Free	G Hewson
C Blaxill	M P Collier	S N Freeman	G F Hibberd
A I Bloomfield	M Colman	D Fuller	J Hiles
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P Bonham	S Conner	J Furse (JFu)	Z Hinchcliffe
A D Boote	G Conway	J Gaffney	M Hines
R Borwick	C Cook	S J M Gantlett	D Hoare
I Boston	F Cooke	A J Gardiner	R Hoblyn
T E Boulton	R H Coombes	R W & H K Garner	G Hogan (GHo)
W Bowell	A Cotton (ACo)	J Gaskell	D J Holman
D Bowley	A Court	M Gatwood (MGa)	Holme Bird Observatory
N B Bowman	T Cowan	J D & J E Geeson	P Holness
C & D Boyd	H P Crawley	R G Gibbs	C A Holt
M Bradberry (MBr)	J Cricket	S Gillings	K Hook

A Horsfield	R Marsh	S & A Poole	E Stebbings
S Howell	L Marshall	R F Porter	J M Stenning
B Hudson	A Martin	A Prater	W Stewart
E Hunter	R Martin (RMa)	I Prentice	A M Stoddart
R A Image	C Mason	M Preston	T Strudwick
G Inman	R Mason	Rare Bird Alert	E Stubbings
A Irwin	T Mason	M J Raven	P Sutton
A & C Jackson	A Maynard	K Reeve	M Sweeney
D Jackson	J R McCallum	M M Rehfisch	L S Taylor
B Jarvis	J MacCallum-Stewart	B Richards	M Taylor
A Jenson	A McElwee	O J Richings	M P Taylor
S & J Jex	S McElwee	A Riley	P Taylor
R J Johns	R C & S McIntyre	P Riley	M Tefler (MTe)
A Johnson	E E McLernon	K Risely	R Thewlis
I G & K Johnson	P & G Meander	R Robinson	M Toms
S & M Johnson	H P Medhurst	C Robson	T Townsend
J Jones	P Merchant (PMe)	A Rodgers	N Urch
R Jones	J Middleton	M Rodgers	M Varney
R F Jones	D Miller	E V Rogers	A E Vine
A J Kane	R G Millington	N R Rogers	J Voaden
G I Kelly	C H Mills	M S Rooney	R B Votier
J B Kemp	D Mills	K Rosewarne	J Wagstaff
A Kettle (AKe)	N Montague	S Rowland	C Walker
I F & J Keymer	A Monteith	RSPB	D G Wall
R Kimber	D & J Moreton	G Ruffles	P Walton
V Kimmel	A Morgen (AMo)	D H Russell	M A Ward
C A E Kirtland	R Moores	D H Sadler	A Warren
P Kitchener	S & P Morrison	B Sage	M Webb
A Knight	J Moss	A J Saunders	Wensum Valley Bird
D R Knight	B J Murphy	D Saunt	Society
T Knight	A J Musgrove	M J Saunt	S C West
C R Knights	E T Myers	C Sayer	P Westley
M Knights	M Nash	L Scanlon	C E Wheeler
D A Lake	NARVOS	J Scott (JSc)	D White
J Lansdell (JLa)	P Newport	R E Scott	P Whittall
P Laurie	S E Newson	S Seago	J R Whitelegg (JRWh)
N M Lawton	P Nichols	J & R Secker	W Wilcox
R M Leaney	T Nicholson (TNi)	D Severn	D (DWi)& P Wileman
J LeCorney	B Nightingale	J Shailes	N Williams
M P Lee	T Nightingale	K Shepherd	J R Williamson
R Lee	NOA	Sheringham Bird	P M Wilson
D Leech	NW Norfolk Ringing	Observatory	P Wolsenholme
D P Lester	Group	G M Siriwardena	D Wood (DWo)
B Lewis	R Oakley-Martin	R Skeen	P J Woolnough
G Lewis	M Oates	R Skoulding	S Woolley
J Lines	S Offord	A J L & E Smith	S Wotton
P Lockwood	R Osborne	I N Smith	G Wright
P Lorber	N Packer	J Smith (JSm)	M Wright
K Lovatt	M Palles-Clark	S South	S A Wright
R Mabey	P Parker	S Spalding	T Wright
I Maclean	T Peach	B Stafford	H Young
J D Magee	S Perry	P Stancliffe	R Youngman
R C Mansfield	T Philips (TPh)	Stanta Bird Club	
J H Marchant	B Pleasance	I Starke	
M R & O R Marks	N Pomiankowski	C Stean	

Ringling Report

Allan Hale

A total of 39,697 birds of 137 species was reported as being ringed in Norfolk during 2007. The total number of birds ringed was similar to the average for the last decade. However the number of species handled was the highest since 1997.

Two new species were added to the County ringing list, Little Egret and Buzzard. No less than 18 Egrets and 2 Buzzards were ringed - all as nestlings. Other species not ringed during recent years included Shag (last in 2002), Shore Lark and Red-flanked Bluetail (both 1999), and Little Bunting (1998). The Bluetail was only the second ever ringed in Norfolk. The most-ringed species was Greenfinch with 5,080 followed by Blue Tit with 4,067, Great Tit with 3,472 and Blackbird with 3,015. A notable achievement was no less than 957 Barn Owls being ringed; this representing a remarkable 22% of the U.K. total.

As always there was much of interest amongst the recoveries with the highlight being a Norfolk-ringed Knot that was caught again in Northern Canada. It has long been known that the majority of Knot using The Wash in the winter are of the *islandica* race which breed in northern Greenland and the High Arctic islands of Northern Canada. Nevertheless it is still exciting to get a recovery from Canada; this being the first since 1988.

Thanks to all Norfolk ringers for access to their data, and especially to Steve and Alison Wakeham for the Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation. Thanks also to David and Pat Wileman for pulling together and summarising the many colour-ringed birds seen in the Cley area.

Selected Norfolk Recoveries Notified During 2007

Ringling details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second.

Age when ringed

- 1 Pullus (= nestling)
- 2 Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 Hatched during calendar year of ringling
- 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringling, but exact year unknown
- 5 Hatched during previous calendar year
- 6 Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown
- 7 Hatched two calendar years before ringling
- 8 Hatched more than two calendar years before ringling

M = male

F = female

J = distinctive juvenile plumage

Condition at Recovery

- X Found dead
- XF Found freshly dead or dying
- XL Found long dead
- + Shot or intentionally killed by man
- R Caught and released by a ringer
- B Caught and released by a ringer (nesting)
- RR Ring or colour marks read in the field

Pink-footed Goose

4F	30.07.99	Nautalda, Thjorsarver, Arness, Icaland
RR	31.01.00	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross, Scotland (until 03.03.00)
RR	24.10.00	Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
RR	16.12.00	Ardersier, Inverness, Scotland
RR	25.01.01	Rhynie, Loch Eye, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland (until 28.01.01)
RR	31.01.01	Greenland Mains, Castleton, Caithness, Scotland
RR	12.02.01	Earnside, Alves, Moray, Scotland
RR	13.03.01	Myres of Markinch, Fife. Scotland (until 07.04.01)
RR	20.04.01	Martin Mere, Lancashire
RR	02.02.02	Horsey/Somerton Holmes area (until 19.02.02)
RR	09.03.02	Starr Moss, Fife, Scotland
RR	28.09.02	Aberlady Bay, East Lothian, Scotland (until 03.10.02)
RR	26.09.03	Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
RR	04.10.03	Various sites in North and East Norfolk (until 24.01.04)
RR	25.10.04	Various sites in North and East Norfolk (until 21.01.05)
RR	11.02.05	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross, Scotland (until 14.02.05)
RR	25.02.05	Star Moss/Ladybank/Newburgh, Fife, Scotland (until 01.04.06)
RR	30.09.06	Horsey/Waxham/Holkham (until 19.01.07)

A fascinating and detailed history of this bird’s movements. During its earlier winters, this Icelandic-bred goose chose to winter in Scotland, not appearing in Norfolk until its third winter. It then “went missing” during its fourth winter (other than a short stay in Scotland during September and October), before Norfolk became its wintering ground of choice.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

The regularly returning bird from Siberia, ringed 09.08.95, spent its fifth winter at Cley-next-the-Sea. Previous years had seen it in The Channel Islands, Denmark and Germany.

Teal

5F	11.02.06	S Jacinto Dunes Nature Reserve, Portugal (until 12.03.06)
RR	15.01.07	Kelling Water Meadow (until 04.05.07)
4M	22.07.06	Kandalakshskiy, Murmansk, Russia
+	05.09.07	Salthouse Marshes (2,325km SW)

Two Teal recoveries from very different directions. In the case of the Russian bird, the ring was obtained from P&S Butchers in Holt!

Cormorant

1	28.06.07	Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire (until 19.08.07)
RR	14.10.07	Cley Marshes
RR	21.10.07	Cley Marshes

Scottish-ringed Cormorants are not often found in Norfolk. More often our Cormorants seem to originate from either those countries in Continental Europe with a North Sea coastline, or from Abberton Reservoir.

Shag

1	03.07.07	Isle of May, Fife, Scotland	
RR	03.12.07	Wells-next-the-Sea	(422 km SE)

Almost without exception, ringed Shag found in Norfolk originate from the Isle of May.

Great White Egret

A colour-ringed bird at Cley Marshes 18.10.07 was from the French ringing scheme. It was probably ringed at Grand-Lieu Lake, Loire-Atlantique.

Spoonbill

1	16.06.06	Oosterkwelder, Schiermonnikoog, The Netherlands (until 26.06.06)	
RR	09.07.06	Ezumakeeg, Lauwersmeer, The Netherlands (until 30.08.06)	
RR	14.10.06	Barnstaple, Devon (until 23.10.06)	
RR	19.11.06	Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania	
RR	16.04.07	Slimbridge, Gloucestershire (until 17.04.07)	
RR	24.04.07	Cley-next-the-Sea	
RR	13.05.07	Titchwell (until 14.05.07)	

A much-travelled Spoonbill. Having fledged in The Netherlands, it presumably spent most of the winter on the West African coast (in Mauretania), before using the UK as a stopover point again on its way back north.

Oystercatcher

3	29.08.69	Dawsmere	
R	07.09.86	Friskney, Lincolnshire	
XF	15.05.06	Olberg, Rogaland, Norway	(750 km NNE)
1	14.06.06	Grembergen, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
R	21.10.06	Heacham	(324 km NW)

The first shown, a bird which was re-ringed when recaptured in 1986, was found on its Norwegian breeding grounds. A first year bird when originally ringed in 1969, this bird was nearing 37 years old when killed by a predatory bird, and sets a new British longevity record for the species. Another Oystercatcher, ringed as a nestling at Sheringham during 1980, was caught again at Heacham during 2007, nearly 27 years later.

The second shown was only the second Belgian-ringed Oystercatcher to be found on The Wash, arriving here in its first autumn. The previous record, back in 1995, was also of a nestling-ringed individual from the relatively small population of Belgian Oystercatchers.

Ringed Plover

1	16.07.04	Snettisham Coastal Park	
RR	30.09.07	Cockersands, Glasson, Lancashire	(252 km WNW)

The longest movement of the year from the colour-ringing study in NW Norfolk is shown. The vast majority of the movements out of the county have traditionally shown a westerly component.

Grey Plover

3	26.09.05	Langenwerder, Rostock, Germany	
R	12.09.06	Terrington	(754 km W)

Only the second German-ringed Grey Plover to be found on The Wash. Both this, and the previous example back in 1985, were juveniles caught at the same German site, whilst passing through during late September, en route from their natal grounds in northern Russia. Note that, as an adult bird the following year, this bird had already reached The Wash by mid-September.

Knot

3	16.10.04	Terrington	
R	29.05.07	Alert, Ellesmere Island, Canada	(3,969 km NNW)

It has long been established that the majority of Knot using The Wash in the winter are of the *islandica* race which breed in northern Greenland and the High Arctic islands of northern Canada. Nevertheless it is still a notable event to get a recovery from Canada; this being our first since 1988. This individual now also bears colour-rings, so increasing the chance that it may be observed again in its long-distant migrations.

Sanderling

4	01.08.04	Snettisham	
R	18.05.07	Sandgerdi, Gullbringu, Iceland	(1,821 km NW)

Only the third Wash-ringed Sanderling to be found in Iceland. All three examples were recaptured at the same Icelandic site in mid to late May, and will have been en route to breeding grounds in Greenland. This population uses The Wash as a refuelling stop before heading on to wintering grounds in Africa.

Dunlin

3	02.08.00	Terrington	
R	24.08.00	Ilha de Murraceira, Beira Litoral, Portugal	(1,571 km SSW)

Being controlled in Portugal just 22 days after its capture on The Wash, the details of this recovery took rather longer than the bird took to make the journey! Most likely of the *schinzii* race, this population pass through The Wash en route to wintering grounds in Western Africa.

Woodcock

4	24.10.07	Holme Bird Observatory	
X	18.11.07	Saint-Meloir-des-Ondes, Ille-et-Vilaine, France	(511 km SSW)

Note the speed of movement; only 25 days. Presumably a migrant through Holme on it's way to its winter quarters.

Black-tailed Godwit

4	03.05.03	South-east Iceland (until 05.05.03)
RR	winter 03-04	Cley area
RR	winter 04-05	Cley area
RR	winter 05-06	Cley area (01.12.05 at Berney Marshes)
RR	winter 06-07	Cley area

An Icelandic breeding bird demonstrating winter site fidelity. It had been seen at Cley, Salthouse, Kelling and Stiffkey.

Bar-tailed Godwit

4	02.05.06	Vinkenbaan, Castricum
RR	01.05.07	Salthouse Marshes

The sighting at Salthouse was, perhaps surprisingly, the first of this colour-ringed bird since it was marked in The Netherlands.

Curlew

3	10.07.97	Seinajoki, Vaasa, Finland	
R	16.07.06	Ken Hill, Heacham	(1,709 km SW)
4	23.07.97	Terrington	
X	24.04.07	Ytterjeppovagen, Uusikaarlepyy, Finland	(1,757 km NE)
1	01.07.87	Seinajoki, Vaasa, Finland	
X	31.03.07	East Hall Farm, Sedgeford	(1,711 km SW)
6	16.02.02	Terrington	
X	05.05.06	Lake Kemscoe, Vologda, Russia	(2,401 km ENE)
4	31.08.81	Terrington	
+	01.06.04	Dourduff-en-mer, Finistere, France	(546 km SSW)

The majority of overseas Curlew movements involving Norfolk birds are individuals to and from the breeding stronghold in Finland; the first three shown being typical examples. Very few Wash Curlew recoveries come from beyond Finland: the third shown being only the sixth (and the tenth from the UK).

The last shown is only the seventh Wash-ringed Curlew to be recovered in France; sadly as is often the case, a victim of the shotgun. All the more unfortunate, as at nearly 23 years since ringing, this bird was well on the way to the Wash longevity record for Curlew which stands at 27 years 9 months.

Redshank

4	29.08.04	Terrington	
XF	19.02.07	La Rocque, Jersey, Channel Islands	(433 km SSW)

The first record of a Redshank on The Wash moving either to or from the Channel Islands.

Turnstone

6	28.05.01	Kopasker, Nupasveit, Nordur-Thingeyjar, Iceland	
R	13.08.06	Terrington	(1,765 km SSE)

The first Icelandic-ringed Turnstone to be found on The Wash, although there have been seven Wash-ringed birds found there. This bird will have still been on passage towards its breeding grounds in Greenland or Canada when first caught, and would have recently arrived back on The Wash to moult and spend the winter there.

Additionally, a bird colour-ringed bird near Alkmaar, The Netherlands 16.11.07 was seen at Salthouse 16.12.07 feeding on the seed put out for the Lapland Buntings. With such a well watched area of seed, it is surprising that it was only noted on the single occasion.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

1	27.06.04	Outer Bund, The Wash	
RR	04.11.06	Figueira da Foz, Beira Litoral, Portugal	(1,570km SSW)
1	25.06.06	Outer Bund, The Wash	
RR	12.08.07	Portimao, Algarve, Portugal	(1,874km SSW)
1	16.06.07	Outer Bund, The Wash	
RR	06.10.07	Quarteira, Algarve, Portugal	(1,869km SSW)

Three Lesser Black-Backed Gulls from the Outer Bund breeding colony found in Portugal; all having had their rings read in the field. These further illustrate the now established behaviour for immature British-bred Lesser Black-Backed Gulls to generally migrate southwards, with most wintering in Iberia.

More northerly-bred birds can move similarly. A Lesser Black-back, ringed 13.07.05 at Mandal in Norway was seen at Cley Marshes 12.06.07, having been noted in Portugal during the intervening period (date unknown). Since it was ringed as a nestling in 2005, it would not have reached breeding age when seen at Cley during the summer of 2007.

Herring Gull

1	26.05.06	Outer Bund, The Wash	
RR	18.05.07	Helgoland, Germany	(529km ENE)

The second overseas recovery of a Herring Gull from the Outer Bund breeding colony, and the first to Germany.

Great Black-backed Gull

A nestling, ringed in Norway (site unknown) 03.07.85, was found dead at Breydon Water 18.04.07. No less than ten other Great Black-backs, ringed as nestlings in South-western Norway, were seen at Cley during 2007, as well as a further two at Nar Valley Fisheries near King’s Lynn. The vast majority of the sightings were during April and May.

Little Tern

A bird ringed as a nestling at the North Denes colony in Great Yarmouth 14.07.07 was found “walking down the road” in Lowestoft 34 days later!

Common Tern

1	18.07.95	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	20.07.07	Minsmere, Suffolk	(43km S)

This only shows as a local movement, but it had done the return trip to West Africa no less than twelve times. Another from Breydon, ringed in 1995, had its ring read at Minsmere during May of 2007.

Woodpigeon

4	27.06.06	Pulham St Mary	
+	15.11.06	Saint Georges-du-Viere, Eure, France	(357km S)
4	17.07.06	Docking	
+	16.11.06	Moustoir-Remungol, Morbihan, France	(603km SSW)

Two exceptional movements. Only 42 British-ringed Woodpigeons have ever been recovered abroad, with all but one concerning France (the other was from Germany). Interestingly the median distance between ringing and recovery sites from birds ringed as adults in Britain is a mere 2km!

Barn Owl

1	06.07.06	Pudding Norton, Fakenham	
XF	06.12.06	Bridgewater, Somerset	(326km SW)

Of well over 60 Barn Owl movements concerning Norfolk, this was by far the most distant. Only 3% of British Barn Owls travel more than 100 km, let alone more than 300 km. As in this case, long-distance movements are normally a feature of birds in their first year. The longest lived bird of the year, a local movement, was in its 11th year.

Long-eared Owl

A Long-eared Owl, ringed at Wells-next-the-Sea 21.09.03 was found locally almost four years later. Only seven birds of this species have been ringed in Norfolk during the last 15 years, so any recovery is welcome.

Sand Martin

3	19.05.05	Plaisance, Saint Froult, Charente-Maritime, France	
R	10.06.06	Mill Farm, near Blackborough End	(757km N)
3	08.08.05	Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, France	
R	10.06.06	Mill Farm, near Blackborough End	(625km NNE)

These two birds (caught in France as spring and autumn migrants respectively) demonstrate the route southward for our breeding Sand Martins.

Swallow			
3	07.08.05	Guist Common, Fakenham	
R	08.05.06	Canton Magistris, Verbania, Italy	(937km SE)

This is an unusual movement as most British-bred Swallows go south through Iberia to Africa. Very few venture this far east and this one represents only the 20th British-ringed Swallow to be recovered in Italy out of more than 1.6 million ringed.

White Wagtail			
4M	18.09.06	Slapton Ley, Devon	
RR	18.04.07	Cley Marshes	

The ringing date in Devon is regarded as the peak time for passage migrant nominates from Iceland.

Wren			
5F	20.05.07	Snettisham Coastal Park	
R	30.09.07	Castricum Duinen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	(284 km E)

Presumably a breeding bird when trapped at Snettisham, why would it then want to cross the North Sea? This represents only the 15th British-ringed Wren to be recovered abroad.

Robin			
3	10.09.05	Weybourne	
R	17.04.06	Gedser Odde, Falster, Lolland, Denmark	(735km NE)
4	12.10.04	near Weybourne	
X	08.04.05	Bjorkavagen, Sula, Norway	(1,097km NNW)

A brace of passage migrants through Norfolk. The first was caught by a Danish ringer whilst the second met its end at the hands (or perhaps paws?) of a Norwegian cat!

Sedge Warbler			
3J	16.08.06	Boughton Fen, Stoke Ferry	
R	30.08.06	Mars-Ouest, Loire-Atlantique, France	(636km SSW)

Demonstrating both the route southward and its timing.

Reed Warbler			
3J	02.08.01	River Burn, Burnham Market	
R	17.07.07	Thornham	(11km W)

Approaching its seventh year when re-trapped, this Reed Warbler had reached an impressive age.

Blackcap

4M	28.03.04	Parque el Alamillo, Sevilla, Spain	
R	19.04.04	near Weybourne	(1,812km NNE)

A speedy movement from Spain, the information for which took several years to extract from the Spanish!

Lesser Whitethroat

3	11.09.06	near Wells-next-the-Sea	
R	28.09.06	Feldstation Radolfzell-Mettgau, Sudbaden, Germany	(818km SE)

Notable for both the speed of movement, but also for the fact that foreign recoveries from Norfolk-ringed Lesser Whitethroats are rare.

Goldcrest

4M	11.10.05	Moyklegard, Ostfold, Norway	
R	16.10.05	Winterton Holmes, nr East Somerton	(915km SW)

Note the speed of movement of this migrant.

Long-tailed Tit

4M	05.04.07	Whitstable, Kent	
R	30.12.07	Five Corner Piece, Brancaster	(180km N)

The longest movement of the year by far.

Starling

3M	05.12.96	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
X	04.01.07	Knotboom, Friesland, The Netherlands	(288km NE)
2	02.11.06	Holme Bird Observatory	
X	01.06.07	Koivusaarentie, Turku-Pori, Finland	(1589km NE)

The first shown, a first-winter bird in Norfolk during 1996 that presumably chose to winter closer to its natal area in subsequent years (note the age of this bird). The second, a Norfolk-wintering bird returning to its breeding grounds.

Brambling

5M	01.04.06	East Barsham	
R	07.05.06	Drevdalen, Trysil, Hedmark, Norway	(1,185km NE)

Norway is the breeding ground for many of Norfolk's wintering Brambling.

Greenfinch

5F	15.01.06	Sheringham	
XF	03.11.07	Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	(201km NW)
5F	22.02.06	Waasmunster, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
R	29.03.07	Ormesby St Margaret	(239 km NW)

Greenfinches from Norfolk are rarely found in Northern England. Also shown is the now expected Greenfinch movement involving Continental Europe.

Siskin

6M	12.02.04	Sheringham	
R	22.04.04	Krom, Vestby, Akershus, Norway	(946km NE)
2M	03.10.03	Jabekk, Mandal, Vest-Agder, Norway	
R	11.02.06	Sheringham	(692km SW)
5M	14.04.06	Sheringham	
R	07.05.06	near Kildary, Highland Region, Scotland	(631km NW)
5F	08.03.06	Garboldisham, Diss	
R	07.06.07	Balnain, Highland Region, Scotland	(654km NNW)

Interchanges between Norfolk and Scotland are many; Norway less so, but still regular. Note the speed of movement of the third shown. All recoveries were as a result of trapping by another ringer.

Prints of Photographs including those featured in this Report may be obtained from:

- Julian Bhalerao, 18 Brook Road, Sheringham NR26 8QE
- Neil Bowman, Clare Cottage, Eccles-on-Sea NR12 0SW
- Bob Cobbold, 11 Oaklands Park, North Walsham NR28 0AG
- Dave Curtis, 10 The Cornfield, Langham, Holt NR25 7DQ
- Steve Gantlett, Sea Lawn, Coast Road, Cley, Holt NR25 7RZ
- Glyn Herrieven, Wood Peckers, Sheringwood, Beeston Regis NR26 8TS
- Chris Knights, Crowhall Farmhouse, Gooderstone, King's Lynn PE33 9DA
- Rob Lee, 63 Mill Road, Cromer NR27 0AD
- Brian McFarlane, 10 Peregrine Road, Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8JP
- John Marchant, The Patch, Mill Road, Winfarthing, Diss IP22 2DZ
- John Miller, Reeds Cottage, The Street, Kelling NR25 7EL
- Chris Mills, Lilac Cottage, Foxley Road, Themelthorpe NR20 5PU
- Peter Morrison, 17 Greenways, Holt NR25 6RX
- Richard Porter, Kings Head Cottage, Cley, Holt NR25 7RX
- Murray Smith, 15 St Edmunds Road, Lingwood, Norwich NR13 4LU

Norfolk Ringing Totals - 2007

Mute Swan	3	Turtle Dove	7	Yellow-browed Warbler	23
Greylag Goose	3	Cuckoo	3	Radde's Warbler	1
Canada Goose	9	Barn Owl	957	Wood Warbler	1
Egyptian Goose	4	Little Owl	13	Chiffchaff	487
Shelduck	1	Tawny Owl	33	Willow Warbler	318
Teal	62	Long-eared Owl	1	Greenish Warbler	2
Mallard	3	Nightjar	3	Goldcrest	709
Shag	1	Swift	91	Firecrest	22
Little Egret	18	Kingfisher	32	Spotted Flycatcher	67
Grey Heron	1	Wryneck	1	Pied Flycatcher	9
Marsh Harrier	13	Green Woodpecker	28	Bearded Tit	96
Sparrowhawk	40	Great Sp Woodpecker	166	Long-tailed Tit	1285
Kestrel	93	Sand Martin	189	Marsh Tit	152
Hobby	9	Wood Lark	106	Willow Tit	12
Water Rail	3	Shore Lark	3	Coal Tit	527
Moorhen	110	Swallow	884	Blue Tit	4067
Coot	2	House Martin	75	Great Tit	3472
Oystercatcher	345	Tree Pipit	64	Nuthatch	43
Ringed Plover	20	Meadow Pipit	10	Treecreeper	64
Grey Plover	30	Grey Wagtail	5	Red-backed Shrike	1
Lapwing	53	Pied Wagtail	157	Jay	66
Knot	135	Wren	771	Magpie	3
Sanderling	735	Dunnock	1043	Jackdaw	65
Little Stint	3	Robin	1161	Rook	15
Curlew Sandpiper	3	Nightingale	1	Carrion Crow	1
Dunlin	1007	Red-flanked Bluetail	1	Starling	269
Common Snipe	2	Redstart	11	House Sparrow	585
Woodcock	8	Whinchat	1	Tree Sparrow	60
Black-tailed Godwit	1	Stonechat	47	Chaffinch	2441
Bar-tailed Godwit	47	Wheatear	4	Brambling	230
Whimbrel	1	Ring Ouzel	3	Greenfinch	5080
Curlew	124	Blackbird	3015	Goldfinch	1137
Redshank	183	Fieldfare	106	Siskin	682
Green Sandpiper	6	Song Thrush	380	Linnet	62
Common Sandpiper	1	Redwing	636	Common Redpoll	4
Turnstone	30	Mistle Thrush	16	Lesser Redpoll	42
Black-headed Gull	15	Cetti's Warbler	18	Redpoll sp	51
LBB Gull	358	Grasshopper Warbler	10	Bullfinch	169
Herring Gull	396	Sedge Warbler	289	Snow Bunting	86
Little Tern	223	Reed Warbler	594	Yellowhammer	287
Common Tern	195	Icterine Warbler	1	Little Bunting	1
Guillemot	1	Barred Warbler	1	Reed Bunting	186
Little Auk	1	Blackcap	773	Total Ringed	39697
Stock Dove	69	Garden Warbler	125		
Woodpigeon	119	Lesser Whitethroat	98		
Collared Dove	133	Whitethroat	261		

Dark-eyed Junco in Langham – the first for Norfolk

Dave Curtis

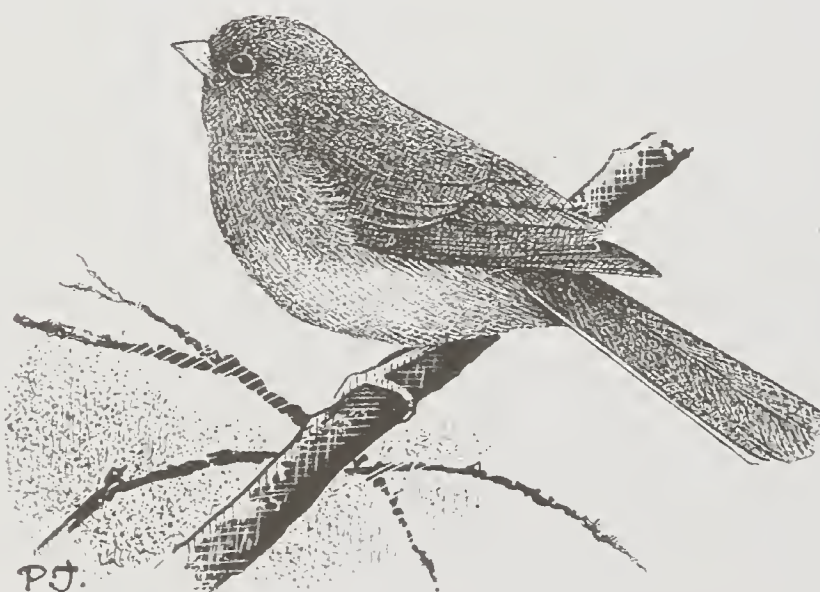
The summer months can be quiet on the birding front even in north Norfolk so I fill the time with running a moth trap. I had spent Saturday morning 14th July checking its contents, the wet weather of the past few weeks ensuring that even the moth catch was poor. Alison called me to lunch at 12:10 and we sat at the table on the patio to enjoy some welcome sunshine.

The view from the patio has a pear tree on the left and an apple tree further away on the right. At the time there were feeders in the pear tree and on a feeder stand between the 2 fruit trees. I was having trouble with Grey Squirrels so the feeders had been allowed to almost empty to try to discourage them. This meant that we had fewer birds than normal around the garden.

We had just started to eat when I saw a small grey bird fly into the apple tree; as we have Blackcap breeding close to the garden I was expecting a *Sylvia* warbler as I raised my binoculars. The view that met my eyes was a major surprise - a uniform grey bird with a slightly darker mask, white belly, pink bill and orange legs!

I let out an expletive then a shocked “We’ve got a Dark-eyed Junco in the apple tree”. I moved as slowly as I could to the door and then ran inside for my camera and did the headless chicken past it several times but finally found it and got back to the garden to see that the bird had moved. We soon relocated it at the left of the tree and I grabbed the first shots. One shot had the bird watching the sky, probably as one of the local Sparrowhawks went over - this could have been a very brief appearance! All the while I was muttering things like “This can’t be true” and trying to stop my hands from shaking. I use a Pentax *istDS body and my old Sigma 400 mm lens so internal stabilisation is not an option. Amazingly, the RAW files record that I was using manual focus and still managed to get sharp shots.

The Junco dropped down to the battered yew and then to the lawn and fed briefly on some spilled seed while I continued to take pictures. Then it lifted up into the beech hedge and disappeared. I reviewed the images to see if I was dreaming but no, as far as I could see it was a Junco and the last image gives the time as 12:16. A quick look at my copy of Sibley was enough to confirm the ID. Although my initial thoughts had been adult male, when the images



Dark-eyed Junco (*Phil Jones*)

were transferred to a PC a slight brown wash was evident on the back and this suggested it was a 1st-summer male.

I ran for the phone and called local birders Dave and Pat Wileman and then RBA. Alison and I agreed that we would allow access to our back garden although the 3-day old floor in the conservatory was to be deemed 'out of bounds' to the masses. So the pager message went out at about 12:27 as I ran to my birder neighbours Keith and Sheila Edwards, their feeders being another obvious target for the bird.

The first local birders arrived very quickly and some brief views were obtained in our garden. Then Keith and Sheila alerted us to the bird in their back garden and kindly agreed to let birders in. The bird initially spent time in the flower bed making forays towards the feeder spill but it was seen to fly between the two gardens several times, treating the neighbours to a wonderful spectacle as the birders followed at speed en masse. The Junco also went missing for periods and occasionally gave more distant views in the paddock over the 6ft wall at the bottom of the garden.

Through all this my part eaten sandwich stayed on the patio table and was eventually admired by lots of hungry birders. The local youngsters joined in the fun, asking visiting birders if they had seen their lost pet bird, "It's a Brunco".

Towards the evening the Junco spent much of its time in Keith's garden where it was prone to lurk under a peony and make brief forays out for food. I never saw it again in my garden although others were treated to a superb view on the lawn quite close to the house. It was last seen at about 20:40. Over the course of the afternoon and evening we had over 300 visitors - judging by the donations at £1 a time. Parking problems were kept a minimum by the sterling efforts of Pat and Dave.

I re-filled and re-sited the feeders near the right hand apple tree and, therefore, further away from the house and patio to give a better field of view from both sides of the house and hopefully to cause the bird less disturbance. I also cleared the patio furniture and plant containers to make room for the expected crowds. I slept very badly that night as I was continually dreaming of the Junco and surrounding events. I was up at 05:10 next morning and watching the garden intently. The local Woodpigeons seemed to be mocking me with their call

A Dark-eyed Junco?

A Dark-eyed Junco!

A Dark-eyed Junco!!

****!!!

The Blackcap family also put in an appearance, an adult male and 3 female/juvenile birds.

I watched the garden intently from 05:15 to 07:15 when my phone rang. Pat asked me if any birders were in the garden and I said no they appeared to be honouring the 08:00 opening time. She then asked me to look at the road in front of the house and there was a queue of birders waiting silently. I immediately revised opening time and got the crowd into the garden and off the street. Unfortunately there was no further sign of the bird. Spirits dropped even further with a tantalising report of a possible Dark-eyed Junco at Waxham. The last birders left the site just after lunch and we returned to some sort of normality.

This has to be the highlight of my 49 years of birdwatching and was like the dreams I have had many times over the years. We had a great time meeting everyone and the whole event was very good-natured and orderly. As I had seen the 1997 bird in Chester in a back garden it was nice to be able return the favour. The collection of £178.02 from our garden went to the RSPB and Keith donated his £171 to the NWT.

This was the first Dark-eyed Junco for mainland Norfolk, the previous off-shore record was of a bird caught near a gas platform on 24th May 1980. As both gardens are well-watched, our bird is unlikely to have been present for long before it was found.

Description

The head, upper-parts, and upper-breast were blue-grey with slightly darker forehead and lores producing a mask. The back had a slight brown wash. The belly and undertail coverts were white with blue grey edging to the belly and rear belly, the tibial feathers were blue grey. The flight feathers were slightly darker with a slightly browner tone, in certain lights there appeared to be very slightly paler tips to the greater and median coverts. The tail was blue grey with white edges although this was not very noticeable on the perched bird. The bill was pink and the legs orange.

Editor's Note: Amazingly another Junco appeared in a non-birder's garden at Terrington St Clement on the same date in the early afternoon. The owner could not identify the bird from his 'Book of British Birds' but from photographs a neighbour eventually identified it on the internet. The bird continued to visit his garden erratically and was last seen in the afternoon of 17th July. Unfortunately, by the time the birding fraternity was contacted (the BTO) it had disappeared, never to be seen again.

Iberian Chiffchaff in Norwich – an addition to the county list

Ollie Richings

On the afternoon of 21st April, Dave Andrews and myself decided to take a break from revising for our university finals and check the campus for migrants. We decided to be more thorough than usual and check the horse paddocks near Colney Lane, partly in the hope of a Ring Ouzel, but mainly to put off revision for a little longer. As we walked along Colney Lane heading back, we were stopped in our tracks by a song which we did not instantly recognise. We walked towards the singing bird and immediately picked up a small, fairly nondescript, chiffchaff-type *phylloscopus* in the top of an oak tree on the opposite side of the road. With no particularly striking features we turned to its song for identification. Fortunately, Dave had brought his ipod with him upon which he had put all of his bird recordings from various CDs. While I kept an eye on the bird, Dave scrolled rapidly looking for an answer as to what this bird was. The first track Dave played was Iberian Chiffchaff - a perfect match for our bird! After some disbelief, and further observation of the bird, we phoned fellow UEA birders Will Soar and James Bray to notify them of our find and recommending that they make their way 'with all haste'.

Dave ran back to his car to pick up Will, while I waited nervously for them to return. Typically, the bird remained until Dave and Will jumped out of their car only to fly off into the woods to the back of the campus. However, after a 20 minute wait in which we heard the bird sing on a couple of occasions, it returned to its favoured oak tree, where it performed for the rest of the evening. We played Iberian Chiffchaff song to the bird using Dave's ipod and speakers in the hope that it would respond. On each occasion, the bird sat in a tree above our heads, singing its heart out and shivering its wings, much like a Wood Warbler. The bird had no reaction to nominate Chiffchaff.

However, we still had a few doubts over the identification. At times the bird gave a series of calls that were most unusual, and not what we understood to be typical for Iberian Chiffchaff. After a couple of phone calls to Stu Piner at Rare Bird Alert, the decision was taken to put the news out as a 'possible'. In the meantime, Dave was able to make a series of sound recordings of the bird. As the light was beginning to fade, we decided to leave and put the recordings on BirdForum to allow others with more experience of the species to post their thoughts.

The following morning we returned to find a small crowd watching the bird. All present thought the bird was very promising for Iberian, and the identification was confirmed later that day courtesy of sonograms posted on BirdForum.

Description

The plumage tones of the bird were more reminiscent of nominate Chiffchaff than Iberian, although there was a hint of yellow around the bend in the wing and on the undertail coverts. Upon close observation, the following features were noted:

- the supercilium was longer than on nominate Chiffchaff, extending well beyond the eye
- longer-billed than nominate, with a pale base and dark tip
- appeared longer-tailed and longer-winged than nominate, with the primary projection approximately one third of the tertial length
- leg colour intermediate between Willow Warbler and nominate Chiffchaff.

The song was a series of 3-6 'chiff' notes followed by 2 'wheet' notes, ending with a warbling trill. It would occasionally omit the final trill.

The bird stayed in the same territory until at least early June allowing birders from across the country to see and hear it.

Editor's Note: Iberian Chiffchaff was split from Common Chiffchaff as recently as 1996. Following the one in London in 1972 there were 12 further records accepted by BBRC between 1992 and 2006.

Blyth's Reed Warbler – the second for Norfolk

Andy Stoddart

I was called by David Wood, the Blakeney Point National Trust senior warden, early on 8th June 2007 to say that he and his assistant warden, Paul Nichols, had briefly seen a small grey-brown warbler in and around the Plantation which they had struggled to identify and which had quickly been lost. The bird was refound in the early afternoon by James McCallum who called me to report it as 'definitely interesting' and now present in the Lupins.

I therefore made haste, arriving mid-afternoon, and despite intermittent heavy rain, the bird was immediately on view and showing well, allowing good telescope views at close range. I was quickly happy that the bird was a Blyth's Reed Warbler and pleased that James was of the same opinion. The news was put out and the bird was then watched more or less continuously until mid-evening in slowly improving conditions. The bird was seen by about eight other observers before dusk and a series of photographs was taken whilst James made some sketches. It had gone by next morning.

The immediate impression was of a small *Acrocephalus* warbler, although it was not compared directly with anything other than a Linnet. Structurally it was subtly but noticeably

different from a Reed Warbler, looking consistently small-bodied, frail and delicate. Its bill, although broad-based, was long and quite thin and fine-tipped, looking proportionally longer and thinner than Reed Warbler. The head looked small although the forehead shape varied from low and smooth to more abrupt depending on posture. The wing structure was particularly striking, the primary projection being very short and rounded, bunched at the tip, significantly shorter than the length of the exposed tertials (perhaps half their length) and obviously shorter than that of Reed Warbler. Despite the very short wing, however, the tail did not appear particularly long and, when spread, was seen to be well rounded.

The bird was very active and fed constantly on the outer and upper edges of the bramble, birch and elder bushes, flitting rapidly and confidently in the outer branches, often stretching up to feed and occasionally flycatching. It performed a number of tail spreads and also very slight tail quivers. These were not marked or habitual downward movements or 'flicks' and they were not accompanied by any call.

In terms of plumage the overall impression was of one of paleness. The whole upperparts were a uniform cold grey-brown, with subtle olive tones, with no warmth visible in the rump or indeed anywhere on the upperparts. The tail was spread on several occasions and, viewed from above, no white (or even pale tones) could be discerned on the inner or outer webs or tips of the outermost tail feathers. The loreal line was dark though narrow, below a prominent whitish supercilium which extended from just before the bill base to just behind the eye where it narrowed. It appeared to bulge before the eye on most views and was sharply demarcated from the crown sides. These were the persistent impressions of the face pattern though the strength of the loreal line and the shape (before the eye) and extent (behind the eye) of the supercilium varied of course according to the angle of the head. There was no suggestion on any view of dark 'eyebrow' shading above the supercilium. The dark eye (with a brown iris) was surrounded by a narrow whitish eye-ring. The ear-coverts were washed a very pale grey-brown, creating a rather pale face. Perhaps the bird's most obvious plumage character was the plainness of the wing. The tertials showed very softly-defined darker centres but the contrast was very weak, whilst the rest of the wing was essentially uniform and concolorous, with no individual primary tips discernable, no wing panel or pale secondary tips and no contrast at all in the primary coverts or alula. The underparts were pale and cold - white with very faint greyish flank/breast-side clouding and no hint of any warm rust or yellow tones. The bill was dark horn with an orangey lower mandible which had dark shading towards its tip. The legs and feet varied from greyish-pink to pinkish-grey according to the light. On one occasion the bird was heard to utter a single '*chek*' or '*chak*'.

The key features identifying the bird as Blyth's Reed Warbler were:

- Grey-brown upperparts with subtle olive tone
- Lack of rump warmth
- Whole upperparts of uniform tone
- Plain wings with no contrasting tertial centres or alula
- Short primary projection
- Underparts white with subtle grey in flanks and no warm rust or yellow tones
- Crisply-defined bulging fore-supercilium
- Supercilium extending weakly behind the eye
- Dark shading towards tip of lower mandible
- Long, thinly tipped bill
- Active arboreal feeding

This is only the second record of Blyth's Reed Warbler for Norfolk, and the first in spring. Its appearance coincided with an unusually prolonged spell of favourable weather for bird arrivals. High pressure became established over Scandinavia on 1st June and, remarkably, persisted until 9th. This produced for over a week a relatively slack though constant easterly flow out of the Baltic and a northeasterly flow across the southern North Sea. These were ideal conditions for Baltic-bound birds to overshoot to the west and it is therefore pertinent to note that southern Norway received an unprecedented influx of Blyth's Reed Warblers, involving at least fifteen singing males, during this period. Some reached northern Britain too, with singles recorded on Unst, Shetland on 1st June and Whalsay, also Shetland on 3rd.

At Blakeney Point the number of migrants was, as expected in early June, minimal but the arrival of a Booted Warbler on 2nd was ample proof that birds from the Baltic region were responding to the conditions. By 7th a small low pressure had developed over central Europe and by 8th it had moved northwest into Holland. As a consequence the weather in Norfolk became less clement, with a more northerly wind and spells of quite heavy rain both no doubt helping to ground the Blyth's Reed Warbler that morning.

Indeed the fact that it was present so early on 8th suggests that its immediate origin might have been closer than the eastern Baltic. Was it already as close as Norway?

Editor's Note: The first county record, a 1st-winter bird, was at Warham Greens for 3 days, 25th-27th September 1996.

Breeding Little Gulls at RSPB Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve - summer 2007

Paul Eele

As with many sites along the Norfolk coast, Titchwell has always been known as a good place to see Little Gulls on spring migration. Most of the birds tend to be 1st-summer but the occasional summer-plumaged adult can be seen. Small groups are usually found feeding over the lagoons and although over 50 birds have been recorded together, 20-30 is more usual. Winter passage can be spectacular with 750 recorded moving offshore in February 2000.

In 2008 though, things were slightly different.... In late May, a pair (adult male and 2nd-summer female) was seen displaying and pair-bonding around the islands on the brackish marsh close to the main path. Activity soon increased and the birds were seen courtship feeding, mating and then nest building. Although it is not unusual to see birds displaying here, it was a shock when on 5th June a reserve volunteer reported seeing one of the birds turning an egg, followed the next day with a second egg being seen. Being only the fifth breeding record for England, a 24-hour watch on the nest was set up to prevent any disturbance from egg collectors, with staff and volunteers staying overnight in the Parrinder Hide. Unfortunately, during the night of 6th June, the nest was predated and although it is not known by what, a Coot had been observed robbing Avocet nests on nearby islands during the previous few days.

The pair remained on the reserve for a few days but by the middle of June, most of the 20 birds that had been present had moved on.

This is the second breeding record for Norfolk, following an unsuccessful attempt at Hickling Broad in 1978.

Goosander breeding on River Little Ouse at Thetford

Dawn Balmer

In 2007 a pair of Goosanders bred on the River Little Ouse near Thetford and it is likely another pair bred nearby in Suffolk.

Small numbers of Goosander spend the winter on the BTO Nunnery Lakes and are occasionally seen on the River Little Ouse that runs alongside them. During March 2007 Nick Gibbons regularly saw at least one pair on the river on the west side of Thetford and possibly the same birds were on the river in the centre of Thetford on 4th April. There were no further records until the surprise sighting on 17th May when Iain Downie and Nick Carter independently saw a female Goosander and 8 young in the centre of Thetford. The young were described as being very small, perhaps just two or three days old.

Despite regular searching along the river there were no further sightings until 10th July when a female and 5 young were seen near the Nun's Bridges in Thetford. For the following 15 days they could occasionally be found on the River Little Ouse in the vicinity of the Nun's Bridges and after that they became much more elusive, perhaps dispersing further along the river.

Given the frequency of sightings on the western side of Thetford (in Norfolk) during March, the last sighting of the adults in April and the first sighting of the very young chicks in the centre of Thetford in May, it is reasonable to suggest the breeding locality was on the River Little Ouse in Norfolk. The incubation period for Goosander is 30-32 days so they must have settled down to breed 7-10 days after the last sighting in April, given that two/three-day old chicks were seen on 17th May. It is thought that the female Goosander leads her chicks away from the nest when they are one or two days old.

Goosanders breed in cavities in trees alongside rivers and there is plenty of suitable nesting habitat along the River Little Ouse in the Thetford area and beyond. As far as I am aware this is the first breeding record for East Anglia. The 1988-91 New Atlas of Breeding Birds (Gibbons *et al* 1993) showed the breeding range to cover northern England, Scotland, Wales, Devon and a small but expanding population in the Peak District.

The following artists may be able to provide copies of their work or take commissions

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Dartford Warbler – the first county breeding records

John Wagstaff

The story begins in the early evening of 24th May 2003 when I met a friend, a non-local birder, in Kelling Heath car park. He had been birding on the heath and in answer to my question said no, he had not seen much, then casually added that he had been watching a Dartford Warbler! When I told him I thought this was a new species for this heath he was surprised as he considered the habitat to be ideal. How right he was! He showed me where he had been watching but, although I watched and listened for 3 hours, I had no luck. The bird, a male, was however found the next day and seen by many people until 31st May, but not subsequently.

On 5th April 2004 my friend, and erudite birder, Roger Brownsword was walking his dog on the north end of the heath and had a brief glimpse of what he suspected was a Dartford but without his binoculars he could not be absolutely certain. This area is at least 300 metres from where the previous year's bird was seen. I spent a lot of time looking during the following week but could not see or hear it.

In 2005 I had better luck. On 20th February several motorcycles were being ridden all over the heath and the police were called. The following afternoon, although the weather was atrocious, I could not resist going for a walk to see if any major damage had been caused. In fading light, falling snow and a strong wind I accidentally flushed one from heather beside the footpath within 30 metres of Roger's 2004 sighting. I saw this female bird frequently during the next few weeks until one day I realised I was in fact looking at two females. On 20th April, in the same area, I saw and heard a male in full song but never saw a female anywhere near it. It is, of course, possible that breeding took place that year without my knowledge.

'To find a Dartford Warbler first find a Stonechat'. How helpful that advice has proved to be. I got very cold on 22nd January 2006 as full of hope I watched a pair of Stonechats for almost an hour before, sure enough, a female Dartford appeared as if by magic. I saw it many times up to the end of May and then, perhaps by magic again, it disappeared. On 15th October I found a male and in mid-November it was in the company of two females. This male sang on several occasions and in fact sang just for me on Christmas morning and again on 1st January 2007. This proved to be a good omen.

Although these three birds were seen throughout January and February 2007 it was not until 24th February that things at last began to look promising. On that day Paul Adams and I watched the male in song-flight displaying to a female which was in a patch of gorse and bramble some 30 metres from us. This was really good news. This pair was seen frequently for a couple of weeks and then another pair appeared. More good news. On 16th March there was yet more excitement. I was watching pair one (A) carrying nesting material to one part of the heath whilst Noel Elms, unbeknown to me, was watching another pair (B) doing the same some 400 metres away. During the next few days, after a lot of patient observation, I was able to determine the exact location of both nest sites. At last I had positive signs of potential breeding. Just to complicate matters I saw both pairs plus two additional males on 8th April. Paul Adams subsequently found a lone female and we now had at least seven Dartford Warblers on the heath.

Pair A was seen taking food to the nest on 1st May and on 8th May faecal sacks were being removed. On 10th May pair B was carrying food and taking faecal sacks on the 14th. I also watched one of the unpaired males taking food to the nest of pair A. On 15th May pair A was feeding young in the heather a few metres from the nest and on the 20th three fledglings were at the edge of the footpath. At that time pair B was still feeding in the nest but by the 25th feeding



Dartford Warbler (*John Wagstaff*)

took place in the heather about 50 metres from the nest. By the 27th I was able to confirm that pair B also fledged three young.

Could we be greedy and hope for second broods? Yes we could and we got them! On 2nd June Pair A were seen taking nest material to a new site 100 metres from the first one. I eventually saw food being taken to the nest until the end of June. Young were out of the nest by 5th July and on the 7th I counted three more fledglings. The male of pair B was in full song on 11th June but I saw no sign of this pair nest building and never located a second nest. I did however see the female feeding another three fledglings on 18th July - proof that they can indeed breed without being seen to do so.

With three fledged young from each of four broods our new residents did extremely well. The survival rate for nestlings in Britain is reported to be as low as 30% and on average less than three young from each nest will survive to maturity. I saw no predatory birds or evidence of foxes near the nests and stoat is a species I have never seen on the heath. Adders are common but, although they will take young birds, they do not appear to have been a problem so far.

When I first saw evidence of nest building I was worried because both chosen areas were less than 50 metres from footpaths. Pair A appeared more vulnerable near a couple of the main paths used regularly by local dog walkers and, especially in summer, by holidaymakers. I was also concerned because birdwatchers could not view the birds without making themselves conspicuous. My fears were totally unfounded as this pair ignored everyone.

Pair B chose a more secluded site near a narrow, rarely used path, but I thought they were also at risk and so, after obtaining permission, I blocked off the path by felling large gorse and birches in four places. The barriers lasted three days before someone moved them but I need not have worried as this pair also accepted the presence of occasional walkers. I deliberately told only half a dozen local birders about this nest site. Any other locals were directed to the general area where pair A were nesting. I felt this would ensure that at least one pair was successful. Without exception everyone I met watching these birds behaved sensibly and the birds obviously gave them a lot of pleasure.

During August, September and October I saw up to 9 Dartfords on each visit and they were invariably with, or close to, Stonechats - two pairs of which produced two broods. As some of the Stonechats moved off the heath in November and December it became more difficult to locate the Dartfords. They call less frequently during the winter and obviously need to spend more time deep amongst the heather and gorse looking for food.



Spotted Flycatcher - a very tame migrant on Blakeney Point. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Red-backed Shrike - a good number occurred in spring and autumn.
Left: (*Julian Bhalerao*), Right: (*Rob Lee*)





Great Grey Shrike - several were seen in the autumn, including this bird at Antingham. (*Rob Lee*)

Lesser Grey Shrike - a juvenile at Holkham Grazing Marshes. (*Rob Lee*)

Woodchat Shrike - a spring adult at Beeston Bump. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Hawfinch - a superb portrait of this shy species. (*Chris Knights*)

Common Rosefinch - a very obliging juvenile at Warham Greens. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Lapland Bunting - comparatively large numbers were seen at Salthouse. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Dark-eyed Junco - the first two county records appeared on the same day in gardens at Langham and Terrington St. Clement. Left: (*Dave Curtis*), Right: (*R. Marsh*)



From the records of all reported sightings in Norfolk during the last 20 years it can be seen that 80% were on either the east or north coasts and also that until 1998 something like 90% were seen in spring. Since breeding recommenced in Suffolk in 1996, after the species had been absent for many years, sightings in our county have been more equally divided between spring and autumn/winter. With the number of pairs reported from Suffolk reaching 113 in 2005 and again in 2006, it seems logical that this is where our birds came from. It is known that young Dartfords, especially males, will often move away from their natal area during their first autumn/winter. One writer asked in the 2002 Bird and Mammal Report 'When will this species spread from Suffolk?'

Although we cannot be sure where our birds originated, and it probably doesn't really matter anyway, I think we can be fairly certain that others will now turn up regularly. Good quality heathland is in short supply but the birds arriving here in recent years, especially the ones which have bred, have obviously found Kelling Heath to be a suitable habitat. Covering a total area of approximately one square kilometre the heath contains several large areas of mature heather interspersed with gorse, small birches and a few scots pines. Sloping gently from the 75 metre contour at the north end to 60 metres in the south-west corner, the south facing aspect, assisted by a few shelter belts of large trees, provides the heath with some protection against cold north and east winds. The centre is about two kilometres from the sea.

Dartford Warblers can, apparently, breed at a density of up to 25 pairs per square kilometre on extensive heathland which has been managed at optimum condition. On a small heath such as Kelling, which is being very well managed but without, as yet, this new species included in the management plans, perhaps a density of 10 or 12 pairs would be a more realistic figure. Not many people are aware that for historic reasons this heath has for many years been divided into two administrative areas under the auspices of two groups of trustees - a group from Kelling parish and one from Salthouse parish. Because of my interest in the heath and its wildlife I have, over the last few years, formed a good working relationship with the two people, one from each group of trustees, who are actively involved with the conservation management. They are both conscious of the need to now consider the requirements of Dartford Warblers in addition to the other wildlife species on this SSSI.

I think birders must now be alert to the possibility of finding this species on any suitable heathland within the county and should ensure that the people responsible for managing such sites are kept fully informed.

Greenish Warblers in August 2007

Andy Stoddart

Throughout most of August 2007, Norfolk's weather was dominated by Atlantic air, with the wind almost exclusively in the west or south-west. Between 6th and 11th August high pressure dominated over Scandinavia, but Britain lay just beyond its influence and no bird arrivals were triggered before Atlantic depressions broke through once more.

However, by Sunday 19th, high pressure was building strongly over western Russia and extending its influence west across Finland, Sweden and the Baltic states. By Monday 20th high pressure was also building across the central and north-east Atlantic, forcing the low pressure track to the south. During the morning a new area of low pressure entered the south-west approaches and moved into northern France. An interesting situation was clearly developing.

Tuesday 21st saw the low pressure positioned over northern Germany, throwing around its northern flank a strong easterly airflow which was, in turn, reinforced by the circulation around the high pressure. This very long range easterly airstream originated from well within Russia and strengthened as it funnelled through the Baltic and across Denmark before turning into a north-easterly across the southern North Sea and becoming a strong northerly in north Norfolk. These were classic conditions for an arrival. The morning of the 21st was cloudy and windy with a grey North Sea thumping heavily on the beach. It was also fairly birdless but a flighty Barred Warbler new in amongst the sparse beach-top *Suaeda* clumps of Blakeney Point was confirmation that an arrival was in the offing and early afternoon saw the near-simultaneous arrival there of at least three Greenish Warblers, an Icterine Warbler and a Great Snipe.

By Wednesday 22nd, the low pressure had retraced its steps and was now stationed over Holland, further strengthening the airflow. In Norfolk it was now violently windy, and conditions for seeing small birds could only be described as appalling. Nevertheless at least four Greenish Warblers were seen on Blakeney Point four on Scolt Head (also three other probables) and singles Weybourne (trapped next day) and California (until 25th).

'Favourable' conditions persisted on Thursday 23rd, with the low pressure now slipping south into north-east France. The strong winds in Norfolk continued, now accompanied by pulses of heavy, driving rain. Birding was at times even more difficult but arrivals were clearly still continuing and more Greenish Warblers were discovered at Holme (until 25th) and at the western end of Holkham Meals.

High pressure finally broke through from the west on Friday 24th, cutting off the supply of birds but giving a welcome day of light winds and, by afternoon, sunshine. It was now possible to find birds and also to sit down and enjoy them! Blakeney Point was suddenly a pleasant experience, with five Greenish Warblers now present and easy to see - a unique event in Britain for a single site. Elsewhere a flurry of previously undetected Greenish Warblers appeared to feed in the warm sunshine, new birds being found during the day at Thornham Point, Holkham Meals (east end), Warham Greens, Stiffkey, Sheringham (trapped), Eccles and Sea Palling.

Despite conditions being no longer suitable for new arrivals, the benign weather at the weekend inevitably led to further lingering birds being discovered, and additional individuals were found on Saturday 25th at Cley village, Walsey Hills (until 27th), Muckleburgh Hill, Kelling WM, Happisburgh, Waxham, Horsey, Winterton and Caister. Several birds also remained from the previous day, including three still on Blakeney Point. With the fine weather persisting, most birds moved on rapidly and no new discoveries were made on Sunday 26th, but a final bird was found inland at Rockland Broad on Monday 27th.

Although high numbers of Greenish Warblers were seen, this was no 'great fall'. Whilst the variety of accompanying migrants was excellent, comprising the expected Willow Warblers, Garden Warblers, Pied Flycatchers and Whinchats and a sprinkling of scarcer species including Wood Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler and Wryneck, overall numbers were low. The reasons for this may be sought in the calendar. It is likely that the anticyclonic conditions over western Russia, southern Finland and the Baltic states on the nights of 19th-21st August prompted a massive and widespread departure of Greenish Warblers, probably comprising a large proportion of the western population. Greenish Warblers have a particularly early migration to winter quarters in the Indian subcontinent and Cramp et al note that most have left the regions around Moscow and St Petersburg as early as mid-August. This is significantly earlier than the peak passage period for most other migrant passerines. The timing of this weather event therefore coincided precisely with the departure 'slot' for Greenish Warbler and it is likely that this species formed a high percentage of the small migrants aloft across the source area on those nights. The birds which arrived in Norfolk can therefore be seen as a brief 'snapshot' of the passerine migration then taking place over western Russia.

Whilst the date was highly favourable for an arrival of Greenish Warblers, it was ultimately of course the weather conditions in the source area and en route which caused it to occur. Conditions over the breeding grounds were fine and clear from 19th, perfect for a mass departure, but this alone cannot account for the large arrival in Norfolk. Any Greenish Warblers heading south from northwest Russia on those nights would, however, very quickly have found themselves in a strengthening easterly airflow. This would have carried them rapidly westwards across the Baltic and into the North Sea. Once out over water, the birds then would have had little choice over where they made landfall, and the precise orientation of the airflow ensured that they hit coasts with a wholly or partially northerly aspect. As a consequence of its geography, therefore, north Norfolk received almost all the Greenish Warblers recorded in Britain during this arrival. Extrapolating from the early afternoon arrival time in Norfolk on 21st, the thousand miles from the eastern Baltic to Norfolk may have taken around eighteen hours at an average ground speed of fifty to sixty miles per hour, a real 'white knuckle ride' in a gale force tail wind!

The absolute minimum of 30 Greenish Warblers recorded in the county in this period is unprecedented. Until August 2007 the county all-time total was 66, with the previous best annual scores being seven in 1987 and nine in 1995. This year's record arrival helped many to enjoy renewed contact with this delightful *Phylloscopus*. Their bright clean plumage tones, 'soft' face patterns, delicate wing-bars and cheery, ringing calls gave many a reason to smile and a day to remember.

It is doubtful, however, that 2007 represents a lasting change in the status of Greenish Warbler in the county. Despite the peak years, occurrences in Norfolk have remained steady at about three per year and most continue to occur in anticyclonic conditions rather than in such concentrated 'falls'. Whilst long-term population dynamics clearly underpin the sustained level of occurrences since the 1970s, it is likely only to be in years which see very specific combinations of weather events falling precisely within the critical migration 'window' that we see a repetition of the events of August 2007. If the high pressure had built over western Russia a few days earlier or later, or if the conditions across this region on those nights had been slightly different, the species composition of any arrival would doubtless have differed markedly. Similarly, if the airflow over the southern North Sea had been slightly different, a high proportion of any birds would no doubt have made landfall elsewhere.

Visible Passerine Migration in East Norfolk

Andrew Grieve

Introduction

Sustained daily counts of visible migrants appear never to have been undertaken in east Norfolk despite the large number of observers birding the area. Published casual observations have indicated that some substantial visible movements occur but annual totals and species composition of these movements is little known. The results of two spring and four autumn surveys are presented here for visible passerine movements along the coastal strip of east Norfolk between Caister-on-Sea and Horsey Dunes with a brief mention of migrating raptors.

Sites and periods covered

Spring observations were made at Winterton North Dunes in 2006 (22nd March-13th May) and 2007 (8th March-16th June). Autumn counts were undertaken at California Cliffs in 2004 (10th August-25th November), 2005 (11th September-23rd November) and 2006 (14th August-24th November) and at Winterton South Dunes in 2007 (4th October-27th November). Supplementary observations were also made at Caister-on-Sea (particularly in late July 2007) and Horsey Dunes (see Map). Counts were mainly carried out from just after dawn to between 0900-1000 hrs with occasional coverage to midday when strong movements continued. Daily coverage was never achieved for any of the count periods and together with birds that may have moved later in the day, higher totals than presented would have occurred but the trends and totals are considered a true reflection of the actual visible migrations (see Table). The following tentative conclusions drawn from these surveys must be treated with caution as they are based on only two spring and four autumn surveys. It is also clear that the strength of movement varies between species and years and more counts would be needed to fully document annual variations and the total number involved.

Weather and visible migration

For many passerines moving along the coast in east Norfolk, the wind direction governs the direction of movement and many species appear to prefer to fly into a head wind. This resulted in movements in both directions in spring and autumn with some substantial movements opposite to the expected seasonal direction. On calm days and with a westerly wind, movement can be in both directions but sunny, cloudless, windless days do not necessarily produce the heaviest passages except for some strong *corvid* movements. Very strong winds from any direction inhibit movement, particularly cold northerlies in spring, as does heavy rain and fog, not unnaturally. Showery weather and total cloud cover can be good for visible movements as long as the winds are not too strong. More surprisingly, there is little visible migration on easterly winds.

Results

The totals for spring and autumn in each of the years is presented in the Table with nearly 50,000 birds counted in both springs and about 25,000 in autumn except for autumn 2007 when an unprecedented movement of Swifts increased the total to over 50,000 birds. These totals are much lower than the total numbers counted at sites along the north coast of Norfolk (see Norfolk Bird Reports) and clearly indicate that visible migration appears less heavy on the east coast. This masks major differences between species and sites, the results of which are discussed later.

Species Accounts

Raptors

Not covered in the table with most species in very low numbers, particularly in the autumn when very few raptors recorded. In spring single Red Kite, Hen and Montagu's Harrier, one to two Common Buzzard, Merlin and Hobby were noted with occasional Rough-legged Buzzard and Osprey, usually in light south-westerly winds. Marsh Harriers occur in larger numbers with 21 north and 9 south in 2007 (22nd March-24th May). More substantial numbers of Sparrowhawks appear with 76 north and 55 south in spring 2006 and 101 north and 48 south in 2007 (8th March-25th May), the peak movement being 10 north and 12 south on 6th May 2007. Although some birds will be of British origin the spring passage is heavier at Winterton than along the north Norfolk coast. Ringing recoveries (Wernham *et al* 2002) indicate the presence of Scandinavian birds in east Norfolk and there may be departure points further north where birds fly out to cross the North Sea towards Scandinavia rather than continuing around the coast to north Norfolk. Surprisingly there is a negligible passage of Sparrowhawks in the autumn compared to the spring.

Pigeons and Doves

Widely fluctuating totals of Wood Pigeons and Stock Doves between years in the autumn (see Table) are perhaps related to food resources. Stronger movements occur in spring with over 16,000 Wood Pigeons and 800 Stock Doves in 2006 (26th March-13th May with peak of 2070 Wood Pigeons south on 28th March). Numbers of migrating Wood Pigeons appear similar to north Norfolk but Stock Dove passage is heavier on the east coast in both spring and autumn. Wood Pigeons also move both north and south in spring and on a much broader front with substantial numbers detected passing inland at Hickling (*pers obs*) and near Norwich (Norfolk Bird Reports). Wood Pigeons are early breeders and yet movements in spring continue in strength through April and May and there would appear to be a large non-breeding population moving at this time. Autumn passage is more concentrated into a three week period between the third week of October and mid-November and the majority of birds go in the 'correct' direction of south. The demise of the Turtle Dove is demonstrated with only 12 birds in spring 2007 compared to 569 counted passing Winterton on 1st June 1975 alone (Taylor *et al* 1999). Collared Doves move in both directions in spring and autumn and appear to involve mainly local movements.

Owls and Nightjar (and Woodcock)

The visible arrival in off the sea of Long-eared and Short-eared Owls is a feature of autumn (see Table) and is well documented in the Norfolk Bird Reports. In a good year, as in 2004, up to 9 Short-eared Owls arrived between 22nd October and 14th November at California Cliffs. A single Nightjar (not shown in table) was seen to arrive in off the sea at Winterton on 20th May 2007; diurnal arrivals of Nightjars have been noted previously in Norfolk (Taylor *et al* 1999). Not shown in the table but the visible autumn arrival of Woodcock is also similar to other Norfolk sites with 9 arriving at Winterton between 19th October and 24th November 2007 and one was also seen flying easterly out to sea at Horsey in March 2006.

Swift

Large scale movements of over 7,000 in mid-summer/early autumn in east Norfolk are detailed in the Norfolk Bird Reports but an unprecedented passage occurred at Caister-on-Sea on 26th July 2007 when a total of 21,400 flew south-west between 0500 and 0900 hrs when the movement abated. The next day movement was noted from 0445 hrs to about 1000 hrs and was

observed at Winterton, where birds were arriving in off the sea, then south-west inland between Caister-on-Sea and Ormesby St Margaret (total of 3,250), then across the grazing marshes between Acle and Breydon Water before moving south-west inland south of Reedham. This presumably coincided with the first major dispersal from breeding areas in northern Europe (Cramp 1985). Previously 6,250 had been recorded south over Caister-on-Sea between 1815-1915 hrs ahead of a large rain-bearing front on 16 August 2004.

Average spring passage in 2007 when the whole spring period was covered showed a total of 1,657 north and 710 south between 15th April and 16th June with peak movement of 1,022 north on 10th May. This is far less than the average movements along the north coast where the dominant direction is west.

Woodpeckers

Great Spotted Woodpeckers are known to move over large distances (Wernham *et al* 2002) and several have been recorded flying in off the sea in both spring and autumn (see Table). However it is difficult to separate local movements from genuine migration and identifying the nominate race *major* is difficult in flight. Surprisingly there have been no ringing recoveries from Scandinavia to prove that *major* occurs in the UK (Wernham *et al* 2002), though it has been identified in the field and is considered to occur when there are large autumn influxes. The fact that more birds moved north in the autumn at Winterton in 2007 (see Table) with a total of 20 north and 8 south between 6th October and 2nd November would indicate local movements in this particular autumn.

Larks

The few Woodlarks noted in spring are shown in the Table and there is also a negligible spring passage of Skylark as elsewhere in the county. There is only a slightly more noticeable autumn passage as there is at other Norfolk sites in recent years. Formerly higher numbers have been recorded in autumn in north Norfolk but the overall decline presumably relates to a reduction in the population as a whole and more Skylarks remaining in continental Europe in the winter rather than crossing the North Sea.

Hirundines

House Martins and particularly Swallows streaming along the coast through the day is a familiar and well documented feature of spring in Norfolk. House Martin passage was much lighter than other county sites in the average years of 2006 and 2007 though much larger numbers have previously been recorded at Winterton (Norfolk Bird Report). In 2007 there were slightly fewer Swallows than other sites with 2,535 north and 5,867 south at Winterton between 27th March and 1st June, with peak movement of 1,082 south on 12th May. The major difference between Winterton and sites on the north coast is that birds move in both directions whereas it is almost exclusively westerly at sites such as Scolt Head and southerly at Hunstanton. Twice as many House Martins and between 2 and 4 times as many Swallows flew south rather than north at Winterton in spring, which raises many questions about their origins and destination. Wind direction largely dictates the direction of movement but the birds must have evolved a migration strategy to deal with the dominant south-westerly winds in the UK. Ringing recoveries have shown that birds do move south later in the spring (Taylor *et al* 1999) and it is possible that many Swallows noted on the east coast are re-orientating after overshooting on spring migration. Swallows are also known to move further north with ringing recoveries from Norfolk in northern Britain (Taylor *et al* 1999). The autumn passage has not been investigated due to incomplete coverage during the peak periods of August and September.

Sand Martins seem to move in small numbers in spring but may move in larger numbers in autumn as exemplified by 10,800 flying south at Winterton on 19th August 1989 (Taylor *et al* 1999).

Pipits and Wagtails

Tree Pipits are scarce in east Norfolk and only small numbers of Meadow Pipits move north in spring (87 north and 73 south in 2006) in complete contrast to north Norfolk where numbers of the latter have included 11,807 south at Hunstanton in spring 2004 and 24,833 west at Scolt Head during April 2006. One wonders how these birds approach north Norfolk if so few are moving north along the east coast? In autumn the position is reversed with only 335 Meadow Pipits south at Hunstanton in 2006 when 3,331 counted south at California.

Grey Wagtail numbers are few in spring (total of 5 between 26th March and 6th May 2006) and autumn (total of 23 between 13th September and 19th November 2005) though the autumn totals are similar to other sites.

There is only a light spring passage of Yellow Wagtails with 103 north and 48 south at Winterton between 18th April and 26th May 2007 with even fewer birds on visible migration in autumn. The number moving west along the north coast in spring is much larger. Pied and White Wagtails occur in small numbers in spring and are not as numerous as in north Norfolk but the autumn passage of Pied Wagtails appears slightly heavier in east Norfolk, with 16 north and 171 south between 20th September and 20th November 2004.

Dunnock

High flying and excited calling by Dunnocks in the autumn would indicate migration although the majority of the British birds are considered sedentary (Wernham *et al* 2002). Nevertheless there is marked southerly movement with sightings between 11th September and 29th October with the peak being 11 south on 27th September 2006, and there have also been ringing recoveries on the east coast of Britain from Scandinavia (Wernham *et al* 2002).

Thrushes

Few Ring Ouzels are seen in active migration and it is difficult to determine if birds are migrating, seeking feeding areas or having been disturbed, as both northerly (29) and southerly (29) birds were seen between 16th April and 5th May 2007.

No large autumn passages of thrushes have occurred in east Norfolk in the survey years compared to large movements noted in north Norfolk and inland (Norfolk Bird Reports), sometimes involving several thousand birds in a day. It would seem that east Norfolk is largely by-passed by thrushes in spring and autumn unless exceptional weather conditions affect their movements or they pass over undetected at night.

Tits

Strong movements of Blue and Great Tits high flying (sometimes temporarily diving back into coastal bushes) have been noted in early spring in recent years but there is little ringing evidence to show that Scandinavian birds occur in the UK, despite occasional autumn influxes attributable to continental birds. There are, conversely, many recoveries showing small scale movements of British birds within the UK. A total of 120 Great Tits north between 8th March and 24th April 2007, with a peak of 26 north on 10th March, at Winterton typified these movements. Similar numbers seen flying west along the north Norfolk coast and south at Hunstanton add further credence to these birds being local movements.

Corvids

Another spectacular phenomenon is the high-flying spring movements of *corvids* up and down the east coast and along the north coast with, for example, 285 Jackdaws south at Winterton on 3rd April 1995 (Taylor *et al* 1999). These movements appear stronger on the east coast with large counts in 2007 of Magpie (259 north 86 south 11th March-10th May with maximum of 39 north on 5th April), Jackdaw (571 north 613 south 8th March-25th May), Rook (314 north 387 south 8th March-18th May with peak of 68 south on 19th April) and Carrion Crow (1,292 north 1,141 south 8th March-21st May with an amazing 381 south on 22nd April). Except for Magpie, which mainly moves north, the other species seem to move in similar numbers north and south depending on wind direction and some of the same birds may be moving up and down the coast. There also appears to be an element of communal display with much calling by some groups of Jackdaw and occasionally Rook. On the other hand Jackdaw and Rook are sometimes seen flying out to sea and there are ringing recoveries for both species in Scandinavia and around the Baltic. Perhaps some of these northerly and southerly movements are of birds searching for a crossing point of the North Sea.

Carrion Crows do not breed in Scandinavia and the passage occurs later in the spring with many showing moult, indicating non-breeding/immature birds (when immature Rooks also noted, lacking the bare flesh around the base of the bill). Perhaps population increases are fuelling some of these movements, particularly for Magpie which has increased substantially in recent years. Further evidence for Carrion Crow migration was provided by a sighting of a Hooded Crow migrating north at Winterton on 16th April 2007 with Carrion Crows but more interestingly a Hooded Crow was noted flying in off the sea with Carrion Crows just 3 days later at Holme and as they are now so rare in Norfolk, could have involved the same bird with some of the same Carrion Crows.

Rather remarkably, few corvids are seen on autumn migration (also in the rest of Norfolk during the survey period) in stark contrast to the spring, but there have been noticeable autumn movements of Jackdaw and Rook in previous years (Taylor *et al* 1999). Few Jays were recorded with no 'invasion' during the survey period.

Starling

This is one of the few species that is not affected by wind direction in the spring when there is a substantial daily southerly movement which peaks in late March (12,486 south 8th March-8th April, with 5,589 on 28th March 2007). The origin and destination of these birds is difficult to speculate on.

The autumn follows a more expected migration pattern with birds arriving in off the sea and others flying south (2,318 south and 4,929 west inland off the sea 4th October-22nd November 2007) but it is on a vastly reduced scale compared to north Norfolk (Lawton & Hibberd 2002).

Sparrows

Only a few Tree Sparrows were noted on spring and autumn migration compared to the hundreds recorded in the 1970s (Taylor *et al* 1999), a reflection of the large decrease in the British breeding population and evidence that most of the previous Norfolk movements related to local birds when they were more common (BTO 2008).

Finches

Chaffinch and Siskin are the only other species (together with Starling) that have a strong southerly movement in spring which appears not to be affected by wind direction. The spring Chaffinch movement was not mentioned in the Birds of Norfolk (Taylor *et al* 1999) and seems

not to have been detected until 2004 and has not so far been witnessed on the north Norfolk coast (Norfolk Bird Reports). At Winterton in 2006 a total of 5,217 moved south between 26th March and 2nd May, with a peak of 2,041 on 30th March. The origins and destination of these birds is unknown but it is possible that they are wintering birds returning to the continent and seeking a shorter crossing of the North Sea. However Brambling would be expected to be involved as well, and few are seen, and why is this movement not detected in north Norfolk?

The other finches show a more expected spring migration with more birds moving north than south but it is interesting to note that in spring there were more than twice as many Greenfinch and Goldfinch recorded at Hunstanton, whereas in the autumn the position is reversed with more Greenfinch and Goldfinch at California. There are more Linnets on spring and autumn migration in east Norfolk when compared to north Norfolk sites as has been the situation in the past (eg 5,000 north at Winterton on 25th April 1976).

Chaffinch and Brambling are scarce in autumn and the large numbers counted in north Norfolk (Lawton & Hibberd 2002) not reflected in east Norfolk. Numbers of Siskin and Lesser (also Common) Redpoll vary tremendously between spring and autumn and between years which is probably related to weather conditions and food sources (Wernham *et al* 2002). All the finches, except Goldfinch and Linnet, have ringing recoveries from Scandinavia and undoubtedly many birds are moving to and from breeding areas in northern Europe as well as the UK, whereas Goldfinches and Linnets are exclusively from the UK and winter in southern Europe (Wernham *et al* 2002). The few Bullfinches recorded are indicative of the sedentary nature of the British population.

Buntings

Small numbers of Yellowhammer were recorded in spring and autumn which is on a par with other county sites whilst Reed Bunting is largely an autumn bird in similar numbers to north Norfolk sites (2 north and 171 south 19th September-19th November with a peak of 51 south on 21st October 2006). Many of these birds have originated from Scandinavia as the many ringing recoveries show (Wernham *et al* 2002).

Conclusion

Further counts would undoubtedly show higher numbers for some species and further declines in others. These annual trends can be used, along with other studies, to assess population levels over longer periods of time. It would be nice to think that this short account will stimulate further contributions to this fascinating and important aspect of Norfolk's birds.

Acknowledgements

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Annual species totals of visible migrants on the east coast of Norfolk

		<i>SPRING</i>		<i>AUTUMN</i>			
		<i>Winterton</i>		<i>California</i>		<i>Winterton</i>	
		<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
Stock Dove	N	452	206	4	5	-	6
	S	370	85	15	320	36	32
Woodpigeon	N	8784	4598	-	-	72	456
	S	7292	1257	371	6042	779	1630
Collared Dove	N	50	30	-	30	117	49
	S	6	3	5	106	138	30
Turtle Dove	N	4	10	-	-	-	-
	S	-	2	-	-	1	-
Cuckoo	N	10	3	-	-	-	-
	S	-	3	-	-	1	-
Long-eared Owl (off sea)	-	-	-	3	-	1	1
Short-eared Owl (off sea)	-	-	-	9	5	3	2
Swift	N	22	1657	-	-	-	6
	S	24	710	7696	-	24	*26318
Kingfisher	S	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bea-eater	N	-	1	-	-	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker	N	-	4	2	4	-	20
	S	-	1	4	2	3	8
(Apparently off sea)	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Woodlark	N	2	1	-	-	-	-
	S	4	-	-	-	-	-
Skylark	N	3	8	21	6	5	53
	S	25	-	279	186	153	162
Shore Lark	N	-	-	-	-	2	-
	S	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sand Martin	N	147	120	-	-	1	-
	S	139	87	34	-	28	69
Swallow	N	922	2535	-	222	423	519
	S	4254	5867	92	15	*1584	267
House Martin	N	96	396	-	-	17	62
	S	216	735	*670	15	*523	112
Red-rumped Swallow	S	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tree Pipit	N	2	7	-	-	-	-
	S	-	3	-	1	-	-
Meadow Pipit	N	87	543	140	83	35	186
	S	73	69	1267	611	3331	209
Rock Pipit	N	-	1	-	-	5	2
	S	-	-	38	16	17	2
Yellow Wagtail	N	57	103	-	-	-	-
	S	28	48	3	-	2	4
Grey Wagtail	N	3	2	-	1	2	2
	S	2	-	11	22	14	6
White Wagtail	N	8	3	-	-	-	-
	S	10	1	-	-	-	-

		<i>SPRING</i>		<i>AUTUMN</i>		<i>Winterton</i>	
		<i>Winterton</i>		<i>California</i>			
		<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
Pied Wagtail	N	18	25	16	12	6	8
	S	59	1	171	63	127	29
Dunnock	N	-	1	-	-	5	1
	S	-	-	37	10	66	17
Ring Ouzel	N	4	29	-	-	-	1
	S	5	29	-	3	1	1
Blackbird	N	-	-	-	-	6	45
	S	1	8	7	70	73	95
Fieldfare	N	6	79	-	-	-	2
	S	16	-	14	23	10	35
Song Thrush	N	-	12	-	-	-	2
	S	11	3	12	20	56	12
Redwing	N	28	26	-	-	2	53
	S	13	2	26	4	53	83
Mistle Thrush	N	1	4	-	-	3	3
	S	1	-	5	3	5	8
Blue Tit	N	5	42	-	-	-	-
	S	16	5	12	-	-	-
Great Tit	N	15	120	-	-	-	-
	S	66	2	-	-	3	-
Jay	N	-	2	-	-	-	9
	S	-	-	-	1	1	1
Magpie	N	17	259	1	-	9	40
	S	29	86	10	33	-	5
Jackdaw	N	420	571	3	1	-	4
	S	311	613	4	3	1	18
Rook	N	275	314	2	-	-	7
	S	277	387	16	9	22	53
Carrion Crow	N	441	1292	2	-	8	1
	S	403	1141	10	-	15	8
Hooded Crow	N	-	1	-	-	-	-
Carrion/Hooded Crow hybrid	S	-	1	-	-	-	-
Starling	N	72	88	187	24	254	824
	S	5571	12486	2342	2315	4133	2318
(Off sea)	W	-	-	815	820	2132	4924
Tree Sparrow	N	2	2	7	-	5	4
	S	-	-	5	12	24	-
Chaffinch	N	117	234	43	95	85	1438
	S	5217	173	438	875	1006	1141
Brambling	N	20	1	-	-	3	24
	S	5	-	29	55	20	42
Greenfinch	N	557	526	918	956	676	2062
	S	512	110	6901	7140	6528	3237
Goldfinch	N	824	1044	44	26	62	233
	S	444	599	751	252	655	433
Siskin	N	32	6	-	639	-	751
	S	119	1	2	669	-	1543

		SPRING		AUTUMN			
		Winterton		California		Winterton	
		2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Linnet	N	6021	4566	41	25	59	65
	S	4094	2401	579	237	469	119
Twite	N	-	-	-	-	5	-
	S	-	-	5	-	6	-
Lesser Redpoll	N	4	1	3	20	18	102
	S	3	-	16	83	43	77
Common Redpoll	N	-	-	-	-	-	11
	S	-	-	1	35	1	14
Bullfinch	N	3	2	-	-	-	-
	S	-	-	-	1	-	2
Northern Bullfinch	N	-	-	1	-	-	-
Lapland Bunting	N	-	-	-	-	-	2
	S	-	-	-	2	1	6
Yellowhammer	N	15	2	2	-	3	2
	S	1	-	6	10	-	18
Reed Bunting	N	5	10	9	3	2	15
	S	11	4	109	99	171	121
TOTALS		49182	46428	24321	22352	24181	50304

* Counts are mainly for Caister-on-Sea

Norfolk Bird Atlas

Fieldwork for the Norfolk Bird Atlas (NBA), which started in December 1999, was completed during the summer of 2007. The results of the eight years of fieldwork will be published as a book entitled 'The Norfolk Bird Atlas – the summer & winter distribution 1999-2007'. The first drafts of all the 200+ full species texts have been written and work is well underway on the writing of the Introductory Chapters. Almost 200 vignettes have been received from over 20 contributing artists and the final format of the species' maps is currently being decided. Unlike many county bird atlases, abundance and distribution will be shown on the maps which will cover both the breeding season and winter period.

The book will be in A4 format with the species texts and maps on opposite pages. The recommended retail price is likely to be in the region of £45 and publication is expected in the autumn of 2009. There may well be a pre-publication offer (in addition to that offered to NBA fieldworkers) and in order to help decide on the print run, it would be extremely helpful to hear from anyone who is proposing to purchase a copy of the book.

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BTO Nest Record Scheme totals for Norfolk 2007

Dr Dave Leech, Head of the Nest Record Scheme

In order to be able to conserve species effectively, it is absolutely vital to understand why their numbers are changing. A fall in survival may lead to fewer individuals breeding or a fall in productivity could result in fewer offspring being produced. While changes in survival rate are monitored by the BTO's Ringing Scheme, it is the BTO's Nest Record Scheme (NRS) that collects data on productivity. In survey terms, the NRS is probably one of the best-kept secrets in the UK. Since 1939, volunteer nest recorders have been submitting data to the NRS, amassing an incredible total of over 1.3 million records of individual nesting attempts relating to 270 species. Each record details the species, location and the number of eggs and chicks counted on several visits during the nesting cycle, allowing us to monitor changes in clutch and brood sizes, laying dates and nest failure rates over time. The results are published on-line each year (www.bto.org/birdtrends) and used to investigate the impacts of potential threats such as climate change and habitat modification, feeding into analyses that ultimately inform conservation policy.

We are interested in records of any species anywhere in the country, from a Blackbird in your garden to an Oystercatcher on the shoreline, as long as you can see what's in the nest. Absolutely every record counts, so if you think you might be interested in joining the 500 nest recorders currently taking part in the NRS, why not visit our website at www.bto.org/goto/nrs.htm or email us at nest.records@bto.org?

2007 totals

The total numbers of nest records submitted for each species from Norfolk in 2007 are presented below, together with the equivalent national totals. In all, 1115 nests were monitored in the county last year, a fantastic effort by all concerned. As ever, Barn Owl topped the list thanks to the superbly co-ordinated efforts of several ringing groups across Norfolk, providing 15% of the national total. The efforts of a dedicated team of recorders in Thetford Forest are also reflected in the high totals for Hobby, Nightjar, Woodlark, Tree Pipit and Stonechat, and, while Little Egrets are currently poorly monitored on a national scale, it's a testament to Norfolk recorders that they provided 100% of the sample. Totals for Swallow and Blackbird are also very encouraging, accounting for 5% and 10% of the national totals respectively. It is vital that Norfolk's commoner species are well represented in the dataset, as this helps to identify regional variation in breeding success.

In the Norfolk dataset, as over the whole of Britain, it is the open nesting passerine species that are least well represented, particularly the finches, warblers and buntings. Numbers of records submitted for these species have been declining since the 1970s as the art of finding nests has begun to disappear. Unfortunately, this group is also amongst the most important in monitoring terms, as it contains many of our threatened farmland and woodland migrant birds. So if you are able to find the nests of any species, even if it's only a few per year, we would really love to talk to you about monitoring them for the Nest Record Scheme.

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Leighton, North West Norfolk Ringing Group, Bernard Pleasance, Charles Seagrave, John Secker, Neville Skinner, Andy Watson, Hans Watson.

The Nest Record Scheme has benefited greatly from the support given under the JNCC/BTO partnership that the JNCC undertakes on behalf of Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>National</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>National</i>
Mute Swan	3	160	Wren	5	280
Egyptian Goose	3	8	Dunnock	8	247
Tufted Duck	1	9	Robin	16	472
Little Grebe	1	51	Stonechat	13	190
Great-crested Grebe	1	129	Blackbird	127	1278
Little Egret	19	19	Song Thrush	12	410
Grey Heron	7	179	Mistle Thrush	2	68
Marsh Harrier	3	7	Grasshopper Warbler	2	7
Goshawk	2	102	Reed Warbler	27	241
Sparrowhawk	1	46	Blackcap	3	103
Common Buzzard	2	244	Lesser Whitethroat	2	12
Kestrel	24	373	Whitethroat	2	62
Hobby	6	62	Chiffchaff	1	127
Moorhen	6	281	Willow Warbler	3	138
Oystercatcher	1	354	Goldcrest	1	19
Ringed Plover	1	172	Spotted Flycatcher	7	117
Curlew	2	20	Long-tailed Tit	7	167
Herring Gull	2	128	Blue Tit	53	4729
Little Tern	5	204	Great Tit	91	4394
Stock Dove	31	652	Coal Tit	2	74
Woodpigeon	46	527	Marsh Tit	1	59
Collared Dove	18	160	Willow Tit	1	24
Turtle Dove	1	8	Nuthatch	5	185
Barn Owl	264	1808	Mágpie	1	61
Tawny Owl	5	475	Jackdaw	13	355
Nightjar	4	79	Carrion Crow	1	102
Swift	1	112	Starling	4	225
Great-spotted Woodpecker	1	135	House Sparrow	3	377
Woodlark	19	113	Chaffinch	12	271
Skylark	2	57	Greenfinch	9	135
Swallow	133	2421	Goldfinch	5	79
Tree Pipit	19	40	Linnet	7	155
Yellow Wagtail	3	11	Bullfinch	1	61
Grey Wagtail	2	124	Yellowhammer	3	121
Pied Wagtail	26	210			

Fifty years of Norfolk birding

Giles Dunmore

The early years

I first visited Norfolk (Cley) for the day as a thirteen year old in October 1956. My notebook at the time makes fascinating reading with 8 new birds underlined - Gannet, Shag, Gadwall, Water Rail, Sandwich Tern, Stonechat, Bearded Tit and Lapland Bunting. The Water Rails (3) started shrieking when my friend, Chris Ingram, walked into the reeds west of East Bank, fell into a hidden dyke and started (unsurprisingly) shouting. Why he ventured into the reeds I cannot recall. The Lapland Buntings were identified by Richard Richardson flying away at some range - my notebook says 'we did not get a proper view'. I would not count it as a new bird these days on such minimal views!

Following other day visits in November 1956 and May 1957 (seeing young Long-eared Owls on Salthouse Heath) I had my first holiday in July/August 1957, camping with other lads from Northampton adjacent to Cley West Bank. Highlights were breeding Red-backed Shrikes on the Heath, Roseate Tern and female Marsh Harrier (rare in those days) and two Collared Doves at Overstrand (they first bred there in 1956). The following year I stayed with Richard Richardson and his famous (or infamous) landlady Mrs Davison for two separate weeks in April and August, making my first trip to Blakeney Point in the latter week. I shall always remember Mrs Davison continually moaning at Richard, as well as her meals - most days we had to guess what the green vegetables were! The trip to the toilet at the bottom of the garden was an adventure - Richard always said he needed to light two Woodbines at once before venturing there! My other memory of those days was being frightened out of my life when riding pillion on Richard's motorbike as he road at breakneck speed from the village round the bends on the coast road to East Bank.

In 1959 I visited Norfolk on 11 occasions, mostly day trips particularly with my mentor Mick Goodman and friend Geof Douglas. The venues were mainly Wisbech SF, an exciting wader haunt at the time, and the Wash, especially Wolferton and Snettisham. The next year was particularly memorable with 9 day visits and a week at Cley in August. In April we went to the Brecks and somehow by accident drove into the Battle Area. We were travelling along a concrete road when we noticed a row of tanks pointing their guns in our direction with army personnel gesticulating at us; Mick accelerated and drove through the line of tanks only to find a few seconds later they all started firing. A frightening experience never to be forgotten or repeated. Another occasion vivid in my memory was a weekend trip in May; on the 22nd on Blakeney Point we saw a Woodchat Shrike (one of my first rarities) and two Black Redstarts, including a super black male. We left early to visit Wisbech SF on our way home but saw very little. Subsequently Mick had a telegram from Richard saying 'male Subalpine Warbler better than three Redshanks'. He had found the Warbler soon after we left. By way of compensation Mick painted one of the Black Redstarts, which still hangs on my wall.

By the early 1960s I was making fewer trips to Norfolk as I was away at University for 3 years. I spent two weeks at Cley in autumn 1964 seeing such species as Icterine Warbler, Wryneck and Ortolan Bunting (all new birds for me) but in my notebook wrote 'missed more than I saw' - typical! By 1965, working, studying and married, visits declined even further but on one unforgettable trip in late September 1967 we saw a Hoopoe at Holkham Gap. Then, having been informed of lots of migrants at the Wells end of the pines, we visited the birches in the Dell and in pouring rain found a Greenish Warbler and also saw at least two Red-breasted Flycatchers.

My Twitching period – 1968-1972

Now having my own car I started again to make regular visits, often to see rarities. This period started with a White Stork along the Acle Straight in January 1968, and later the same day seeing a so-called Yellow-browed Warbler in the pines adjoining Snipe's Marsh at Cley (many years later re-identified as a Hume's Warbler – the ??? British record). In August that year there was an invasion of Nutcrackers and the first one I saw was a freshly dead bird at Holkham Meals. It was still warm and one of the funniest moments of my birding life was watching Alan Greensmith giving it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in the hope of reviving it and adding it to his list! I managed to see a live one at Dersingham in September (still a Norfolk 'blocker' for many) as well as my first Radde's and Dusky Warblers at Holkham in October. One of the best birds that year was my first Little Auk - Judy and I often slept in the car overnight in East Bank car park and having returned from early morning birding to wake her up a Little Auk flew inland with a flock of Starlings over the car.

1969 was particularly memorable for rarities. In early May I was on East Bank with others watching a lot of visible migration when Richard rushed up to tell us in his endearing stuttering manner that there was a male Collared Flycatcher at Holme. I ran back like a lunatic to the car park where Judy had just prepared lunch. I literally stuffed my mouth with food and drove like a madman along the coast road - I was still chewing when I got to Wells! The bird was superb! Another twitch in early autumn was with Howard Medhurst to see a Sabine's Gull on the beach at Hunstanton - the A149 coast road has not improved in the last 40 years. In September I endured a frustrating two and half hour wait on Walsey Hills before seeing, albeit briefly, a Little Crake walk over a small open patch in Snipe's Marsh (another 'blocker'). The rarest bird of all that year involved a day trip in October to see the famous Cream-coloured Courser on a dug-up sugar beet field at Blakeney.

The period 1968-72 was not only spent twitching in Norfolk but also nationally. However my over-riding memories of this time are of spending weekends in Norfolk sleeping, often at Weybourne camp, in an old-fashioned Cortina estate car with a 3 foot mattress and self-tapping screws holding up curtains. Saturday evenings were invariably spent queuing for Sole and Chips at Cley fish and chip shop and then spending the evening in the George making half a pint last hours because of the problem of getting up in the night! These were the days long before pagers when the centre of the national grapevine was the public telephone in the George.

Move to Norwich – 1972

My move from Northampton was, like most people, work orientated with only a £200/year salary increase but with hopes for the future. I had always said previously that I would never move to Norfolk because of the potential conflict between work and birds - however I have never regretted it.

When I first settled in Norwich I somewhat inadvertently became the centre of the Norfolk grapevine, but with an increasing number of phone calls the 'mantle' was soon handed over to Dave Holman. For many years I used to spend more time in the early spring on the east coast rather than the north coast, joining Peter Allard and company at Winterton. I visited Yarmouth Cemetery regularly in the autumn as it was relatively easy to get to from my Norwich office. In the 1970s I gradually spent more and more time with Steve Joyner, Norman Williams and Pete Feakes, first of all birding Holkham Meals and subsequently Blakeney Point. The four of us, known for some reason as the 'Rat Pack', went out together for many years and were often accused of suppression - to put the record straight this in fact never occurred.

Owing to a couple of observers not wishing their local patches to be invaded by hordes of birders when they found a rarity, the County Records Committee in the 1970s agreed to keep the news of such birds to its members only - this situation, however, only lasted for a short time.

Looking back over the period 1972-1996, when I moved to the coast, I have listed below, as a matter of self-indulgence and hopefully of some interest, a highly selective list of birds seen, and the highs and lows over the years:

1972 – in October running like mad from the car park at Holme to the eastern end of the Broadwater to see a highly mobile, and my first, Pallas's Warbler. I was shaking so much I couldn't hold my binoculars properly.

1973 - hearing of a Rosefinch on Blakeney Point in August I drove from Norwich to the coastguards and then ran all the way to the plantation. The total journey only took an hour but I was in somewhat of a state even after 10 minutes when I saw the bird.

1975 - seeing up to 7,000 Bramblings going into roost at Brook Wood, south of Norwich in January.

- the frustration of watching a sleeping Greater Yellowlegs in September at Breydon at the high tide roost - Peter Allard had previously found the bird but it was 30 minutes or so before it woke up and moved so I could see it properly.

- experiencing the fabulous October which will go down in the annuals of Norfolk ornithology and which I wrote about in the 2000 Report.

1976 - having failed to see the Fan-tailed Warbler (now called Singing Cisticola) at Cley on 24th August (found by my friend Nick Dymond) the relief of seeing it at Holme a few days later.

1978 - a year of highlights including an Ivory Gull flying in to feed on a dead seal on Brancaster beach in January (we also saw it later in the day on Holkham beach), an Alpine Accentor on the cliffs at Sheringham in April and an amazing spring male Pied Wheatear at Winterton in May.

1979 - my interest in visual migration hit a peak at Winterton on 1st April when between 1130-1300 hours 8 Buzzards flew south but more particularly flocks of Starlings were not only moving north and south but also flying in off the sea as well as out to sea - ie all four points of the compass.

1982 - experiencing an amazing 5½ days in September seeing only three species of warbler on the north coast – Willow Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler (which I found in the Dell at Wells) and Booted Warbler at Titchwell, the first for the county which I also found with Steve Joyner.

1983/4 - watching Parrot Crossbills from Wells car park – this period also saw the demise of the old brass pull-out telescopes and the new range of scopes on tripods.

1985 - watching big flocks of Redpolls at Holkham Meals and Mousehold Heath in February/March and the frustrations of trying to sort out Arctic from Mealies.

- walking off Blakeney Point at the end of August only to see a line of birders looking at something on Blakeney Freshes. This was the days



Black and White Warbler (Steve Cale)

before pagers - what were they looking at? Arriving at the coastguards in somewhat of a rush we were informed it was a Little Whimbrel, only the second British record - we were on the bank at Blakeney in an instant.

- the frustrations of trying to see the Black and White Warbler at How Hill in December. I kept on missing it as it was very elusive and I had to keep returning to Norwich for meetings. As far as I recall I didn't see it until my fourth visit - I sat down on my own and eventually it moved through nearby trees with a flock of tits - sheer relief!

1986 - seeing my first King Eider off Scolt Head in September and watching the lines of birders walking out there and back, all cover in mud. I likened the scene to the Battle of the Somme.

- being on my own on Blakeney Point one day in late October with a strong west north-westerly wind and seeing a total of 49 Great Crested, 10 Red-necked and 33 Slavonian Grebes all flying west in 7½ hours. I have never seen anything like it before or since.

1987 - the year of mega rarities with two Great Bustards at Buckenham (unfortunately only seen in flight) in February and two Slender-billed Gulls in summer plumage at Cley in May.

1988 - a 'purple' patch in mid-May on Blakeney Point when having found a Bonelli's Warbler on a Saturday we delayed our walk there the next day until mid-morning waiting for the crowds, looking for the warbler, to depart. On the way Steve Joyner flushed a Nightingale sp from an isolated patch of sueada on top of the beach which flew into a thicker clump. We realised that it would be virtually impossible to flush so Norman Williams went back to Cley to collect a tape recorder. When he played a recording of Thrush Nightingale the actual bird immediately started to sing about 5 yards away. I shall never forget the expression on Steve's face! Fortunately it was a male!

1989 - the disbelief when Dave Holman phoned to say someone had claimed to see a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Holkham Meals in October. Highly sceptical I was there the next day hoping for the bird to appear. I had a very frustrating day, however, as I was one of the last of those hundreds present to see it in the tops of the pines viewed from the main path.

1991 - in April my friend Andy Stoddart found a Snowy Owl on Blakeney Point. I had hurt my back at the time but started to walk out and had completed about 100 yards in agony when I heard it had flown over the Harbour - fortunately I had superb views of it from the car at Stiffkey.

- seeing my first Ring-billed Gull for the county at UEA Broad in October. This was a 2nd-winter bird and had previously been identified without binoculars by Mark Eldridge - I was well impressed.

- to the consternation of my wife rushing to Walcott on Boxing Day to see a Laughing Gull - at least I took my father-in-law with me!

1992 - one of the highlights of my time in Norfolk was watching a mixed flock of wagtails and pipits at Happisburgh in May containing two Red-throated Pipits and at least 10 Grey-headed Wagtails.



Red-breasted Nuthatch (*John Geeson*)

- one of the strangest events ever was watching a Great Spotted Cuckoo in the plantation on Blakeney Point in July.

- this was shortly followed by one of the rarest and most frustrating birds ever in the county at Holme in early September. Originally thought to be a Subalpine and then re-identified as a Ruppell's Warbler it occurred in an area where only a small number of observers could view it at any one time. I stood in the queue for ages with Nick Dymond (visiting from Shetland) the first day but eventually gave up. The next day I saw it after a three hour wait. When a Yellow-breasted Bunting appeared only a short distance away in the NOA reserve three weeks later I was second in the queue to see it when the reserve opened!

1993 - when I heard of the Desert Warbler on Blakeney Point late in May in the early evening I decided, albeit reluctantly, not to try and see it because of the failing light. I was off on holiday the next day (to catch a pre-booked ferry) so got up early and saw the bird (an absolute gem) at 5.00 am. I was back home by 7.00 am to wake up my wife!

1994 - rushing to see a Siberian Thrush in the late afternoon near Gun Hill in the sand dunes. I didn't get to hear of the bird for sometime as my wife had been using the phone and when I arrived on the coast I had great difficulty in finding somewhere to park. When I reached the area of bushes containing the bird the warden was reluctant for it to be flushed again but eventually relented - I, like most, had only flight views but what a bird!

- having been on Blakeney Point on my own one day in late October I arrived back at the coastguards to find the area totally deserted. In the notebook in the café scrawled across the whole page was written 'Red-flanked Bluetail Yarmouth Cemetery'. Had I time to get there before dark? I stopped briefly at a phone box to call East Anglian Birdline to make sure it wasn't a cruel joke and then drove like a madman noticing my speedo reaching 90 mph on one occasion. Fortunately I had 10 minutes looking at it before dusk, a mythical bird at the time.

1995 - whilst at Titchwell news broke of a Pine Bunting just over the Suffolk border at Corton. After a somewhat long drive I saw the bird twice looking south from a farm track which was the county boundary. On both occasions the bird flew north only to hit a wall of sound from birders lined up along the track. On the third occasion when it flew I shouted to everyone to shut up. As a result the bird flew over our heads into Norfolk - a county tick. Even more amazing was that spontaneous applause broke out.

1996 - having superb views of two namesakes, both new birds for Norfolk - a Blyth's Reed Warbler at Warham Greens in September followed by a Blyth's Pipit at Sheringham in October.

1998 - seeing the Squacco Heron at Pensthorpe in April and being amazed at the number of people who left after only seeing the bird for a few seconds.

- seeing both Laughing and Franklin's Gulls on the same day at Titchwell in May; walking out along Blakeney Point daily at the beginning of October and witnessing the great Robin invasion.

Move to Sheringham October 1998

I eventually achieved my ambition to move to the coast 26 years after moving to Norfolk! Since I have lived at 'Beeston Bump' my birding habits have changed considerably with visual migration early mornings on the cliffs spring and autumn and more seawatching. Conversely my walks along Blakeney Point have gradually decreased over the years. I have also spent a lot more time with my grandchildren and abroad on holidays, which with my increased involvement in the Bird Report, has somewhat restricted my birdwatching.

I have thoroughly enjoyed starting a new house list (174 end 2007, compared to 85 in Norwich). Within a few days I had seen Ring Ouzel on the front lawn and had a Shorelark

flying over. The list has risen over the years, especially as I can watch the sea from my bedroom window, but new additions have been scarce in the past 2-3 years. Highlights have included a Bee Eater flying over in 2003 and surprisingly seeing an Alpine Swift over the Bump whilst washing up in 2004.

I spend much of my time on my local patch, comprising basically the Bump and rough land to the east. In April 1999 I had a Laughing Gull flying west but despite running at great speed I failed to add it to my house list. The same thing happened in May that year with a fly-over Red-throated Pipit. Even more frustrating was a singing Marsh Warbler in June of the same year which ended up adjacent to the rear garden of the bungalow opposite; due to the strong south-west wind I couldn't hear it from the house despite leaning out of the bedroom window for what seemed like hours. The spring of 2003 was particularly exciting with Sardinian Warbler and both Richard's and Tawny Pipits in May.

Whilst seawatching in the autumn of 2007 was probably the best ever in the county in terms of numbers and variety (I was abroad for 4 weeks), I shall always remember a huge westerly movement of Eiders (over 900 in 2 days) in November 1999. The highlight of vis mig must be the 3,200 Meadow Pipits west in 3½ hours on 1st April 2003.

Rarities, and in particular new 'county 'ticks', have continued to attract me. The highlights have been several Pallid Swifts (including one I found at Mundesley in 1999), 2 Slender-billed Gulls at Cley in 2000, in 2002 the Sykes's Warbler at Sheringham BO and the late December Pallied Harrier at Stiffkey/Warham (which delayed our Xmas dinner), and in particular the three 'goodies' of 2005 - Killdeer, Stilt Sandpiper and Little Swift (I nearly 'died' running to see the latter!).

Aspiration for the future

Hopefully with my declining role in the Bird Report (I anticipate helping in a more minor context in the future) I shall have more time for birding. My great loves are visual migration, seawatching and Blakeney Point, but overall my greatest enjoyment is going in the field **not** knowing what I am going to see. With the current changes in climate and weather patterns what is likely to happen? I shall continue no doubt to enjoy my early morning vis mig at Beeston Bump but I suspect the number of birds such as hirundines will continue to decline. Despite the worrying reports of poor seabird breeding successes in places like Shetland, the autumn of 2007 was the best I can recall so hopefully I can look forward to future autumns in this respect. I shall always associate Blakeney Point with falls of passerines but I suspect the number of birds involved on such occurrences in the past will not be repeated.

On the plus side the number of national vagrants occurring in the country seems to be increasing and in some years, but not all, Norfolk receives its share. One of my ambitions for many years has been to see 400 species in Norfolk before I eventually have to hang up my binoculars. At the time of writing (March 2008) I have seen 390 so hopefully I might make it with one or two 'splits' and species such as Lesser Scaup, Audoin's Gull, Isabelline Wheatear etc.

Whatever the future holds I shall continue to enjoy birding and especially the company of fellow birders out in the field.

NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT - 2007

Editorial

As a birder myself, I realise that most readers will, by now, have browsed the bird section of this report, keen to see how our breeding and wintering species fared last year and to learn which rare vagrants they caught up with and which were the ones that got away. Far fewer will have started reading here and this is not simply due to the order in which the taxa are featured. Compared to birds, mammals are an incredibly under-recorded group, and this situation is not unique to Norfolk - an audit of all biological records held for Britain, carried out in 1995, found that 65% of records related to birds, while only 0.5% were of mammals. Admittedly mammals are generally more difficult to see, but the fact that chances of unexpectedly finding a rare or unusual species in the county are slim (with the exception of the odd bat or cetacean) must also have a significant influence.

The relative lack of recording is a great shame as Norfolk is home to a huge variety of mammal species, many of increasing conservation concern, as is evident from the systematic list contained in this report. Brown Hare continues to thrive in our fields and Norfolk's barns and woodlands host a diverse range of bat species. The Broads hold nationally important populations of Water Vole that need to be carefully monitored and protected from the threat of development, undertakings that Steve Henson, Ben Raybould and Helen Markwell discuss in detail in this report. Numerous porpoises, dolphins and whales have been sighted off our coastline, yet recent records are few and far between – later in this report, Julie Curl tells us about the historic cetacean fauna of Norfolk, while Scott Perkin provides valuable information on how to record the species that are still present today. Mammals are an incredibly important part of the county's natural history and one that everyone can help to monitor - I hope that you enjoy reading this report and that it inspires those of you who don't already submit records to do so in future.

Dave Leech

Submitting your records

We're interested in receiving records of any species, no matter how common they might be. It is important to map the distribution of scarce mammals, but regular counts of species such as Grey Squirrel and Rabbit are also vital if we are to monitor their population trends. Records of all mammals should be sent to the County Mammal Recorder: Dave Leech, c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU (dave.leech@bto.org). You might find it helpful to use the Mammal Recording Form, which can be downloaded from the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society website at www.nnns.org.uk/recording/Norfolk_Records.xls or requested from the County Recorder.

The most important pieces of information to include in any mammal record are:

- Species name
- Site name
- Grid reference – if you don't have access to the relevant map, try using the Ordnance Survey Get-a-Map website (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getamap)
- Date
- Number of individuals
- Type of record, *e.g.* sighting, found dead, killed by cat, traffic casualty, field sign. This is particularly important for bats – please note if you've used a bat detector, including the type where possible.
- Observer contact details

Any records from 2008 submitted by the end of January 2009 will be included in next year's report. Records received after this date are still valuable, as are submissions of historical data, and all will be added to the Norfolk Mammal Database. The database is exchanged annually with the Norfolk Biological Records Centre (NBRC, www.nbrc.org.uk) to ensure that the information collected supports conservation efforts at a national scale. Please feel free to contact the County Mammal Recorder with any queries about mammals or how to record them. We're also keen to receive any articles for future reports, so if you think you could write a piece for us in future, please let us know.

If you'd like to discuss sightings or compare observations with fellow Norfolk naturalists, why not join the Norfolk Wildlife email forum, a fully moderated group (so no spam) of around 170 subscribers? Email norfolk-wildlife-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or contact the County Mammal Recorder for more details - but please make sure that any sightings reported via the group are also submitted as full records.

Norfolk totals for 2007

In total, 4,678 records were submitted in 2007, an increase of almost 20% on the 2006 total and an amazing effort by all concerned. The number of recorders also continues to rise, with over 150 individuals and groups contributing to last year's dataset. Figure 1 shows the distribution of records in 2007, with coverage generally highest around Norwich, the Broads and central North Norfolk. More records of any species from the south and the west of the county would be greatly appreciated.

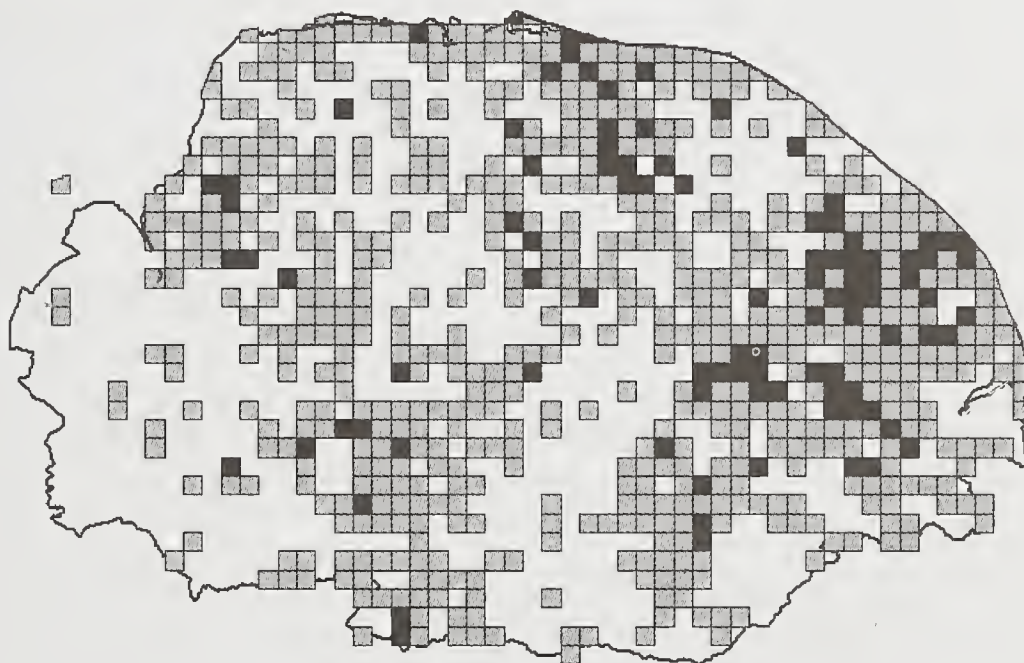


Figure 1. Distribution of mammal records received in 2007. Grey squares represent tetrads from which fewer than 10 records were received, while black squares represent tetrads from which 10 or more records were received.

While record totals for most species were higher than in previous years, it was particularly encouraging to see a four-fold increase in the number of bat records received in 2007 relative to 2006. This group has been poorly represented in the Norfolk Mammal report for some time and we would be extremely pleased to hear from any other bat recorders who do not yet submit their records. At the other end of the scale, cetaceans and seals are still poorly monitored, and records of mice, voles and shrews (other than those killed by cats) are scarce, so if you are a birder who does a lot of sea-watching or someone who regularly traps small mammals, please do get in touch.

New BAP list and Handbook of British Mammals

One recent development that has considerable implications for the conservation of mammals, and indeed of other taxa, is the revision of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) list, which identifies species and habitats of national conservation concern. Inclusion on the UK BAP list bestows a variety of benefits, including a higher probability of securing funding for conservation and monitoring work and an increased likelihood of impacts on the species being considered during planning applications. Detailed Species Action Plans are also produced for many species, highlighting potential threats and priority actions for conservationists. The revised UK BAP list includes 18 terrestrial mammals and 21 marine mammals – refer to the website at www.ukbap.org.uk/NewPriorityList.aspx for a full list. Local BAPs are also produced for those species of conservation concern that are particularly relevant in a given county. Four mammal species are listed under the Norfolk BAP; Water Vole, Brown Hare, Otter and Harbour Porpoise. Local BAPs for several bat species are also currently in preparation. More details can be found on the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership website at www.norfolkbiodiversity.org.

The more eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that the order of the systematic list presented here differs from that of previous reports, as do the vernacular and systematic names of some of the species. The classification used here is based on that published in the recent revision of the Handbook of the Mammals of the British Isles (Harris & Yalden 2008). While it's certainly not cheap, this book contains up-to-date information about nearly every aspect of the biology and ecology of the UK's mammals, including identification, distribution, population sizes, social behaviour, diet, breeding cycles, parasites and relationships with humans, and is highly recommended.

National recording schemes and reports

Increasing numbers of national mammal monitoring surveys and schemes are becoming established. Inevitably, this leads to a huge array of acronyms, some of which are used in the systematic list in this report. The following list is designed to help avoid confusion and to highlight some of the national projects that are currently underway.

BBS – BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. The primary scheme for monitoring annual population trends of the UK's widespread terrestrial birds, which has also collected mammal data since 1995.

EHCS - English House Condition Survey. Data concerning numbers of House Mouse and Common Rat have been collected annually since 2002.

NBMP – BCT National Bat Monitoring Programme. The Programme incorporates a number of annual surveys at maternity colonies, hibernation sites and field transects.

NGC – GWCT National Gamebag Census. Information from shooters and gamekeepers has been collected every year since 1961.

TMP - Tracking Mammals Partnership. A collaborative initiative involving 25 organisations that aims to collate and disseminate the UK monitoring results for terrestrial mammals.

To find out more about TMP and the above surveys, visit the website at www.trackingmammals.org.

Systematic List

The systematic list follows the classification used by Harris & Yalden (2008) and includes a summary of the information held on the Norfolk Mammal Database, both for 2007 and for the database as a whole. Two sets of figures are shown after the vernacular and systematic names.

The first set shows the number of records submitted in 2007, with the total number of records held in the database displayed in brackets. The second set indicates the number of tetrads (two by two kilometre squares) in which the species was recorded in 2007, followed in brackets by the total number of tetrads in the database as a whole in which the species has been recorded. Thus, 447 records of Grey Squirrel were received in 2007 and a total of 3,069 records of this species are held in the database (including those from 2007). Similarly, Grey Squirrels were recorded in 180 tetrads in 2007 and have been recorded in 683 tetrads in total. Please note that re-examination of historical records, in particular their grid reference details, has resulted in the removal of some records from the Norfolk component of the database, specifically those with grid references that show the observations to come from outside the Watsonian Vice Counties of East Norfolk and West Norfolk. A number of records from 2006 that were not received in time for inclusion in the previous report have been added to the totals presented here.

Acknowledgements

To begin with, I'd like to thank everybody who has submitted their data to us – the continuing increase in the number of records we receive is a testament to your hard work. I'm also very grateful to those who have supported me in my first full year as Norfolk Mammal Recorder and helped in the production of this report: Mike Toms, Pat Lorber, Steve Henson, Phil Parker, Kate Risely, Scott Perkin, Julie Curl, Julian Bhalerao, Giles & Judy Dunmore, Jeremy Halls and all authors and photographers.

Systematic List
RODENTIA

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
0 (791) records 0 (285) tetrads

No records of this species were received in 2007. Given the relatively high levels of human activity in the Thetford Forest area, the last recorded stronghold of the species in Norfolk, it seems unlikely that a self-sustaining population now exists there. While there have been occasional sightings of Red Squirrel in the county over the last decade, these almost certainly relate to individuals bred in captivity that have either been deliberately released or have escaped. The species has undergone a rapid range decline nationally and is on both the original and revised UK BAP lists. The decline is associated with the range expansion of the introduced Grey Squirrel, which is not only competitively superior but also acts as a carrier of the Squirrel Pox Virus, fatal to Red Squirrel. The government-funded Red Squirrel Protection Partnership has been undertaking extensive culls of Grey Squirrel in northern England since the beginning of 2007, particularly in Northumberland, and 16 Red Squirrel reserves have been established in which Grey Squirrel has been intensively targeted. Recent evidence from Anglesey suggests that the removal of 7,000 Grey Squirrel has led to a doubling of the Red Squirrel population.

Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*
447 (3,069) records 180 (683) tetrads

One of the most widely recorded species in the county, the introduced Grey Squirrel has been reported from more tetrads than any other mammal except Rabbit. Their adaptability has doubtless aided the rapid population expansion since their introduction to the UK in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 2007, records were received from virtually all regions and

habitat types, including gardens, where individuals have learned to take advantage of feeders erected for birds, and wetland areas such as Wheatfen (where one individual was spotted swimming across a dyke, DNO). Sightings peaked in May and again between September and October, possibly due to increased numbers of juveniles present following the production of first and second litters. Individuals were seen building dreys on 7th October at Mousehold Heath (DJH) and on 28th December in Hoveton (DST). Data from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), which also records mammals, suggest that the national population has increased by 18% since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2008), and the Tracking Mammals Partnership (TMP) Report, which gathers data from a range of surveys, suggests that the rate of increase over the last decade is the greatest since monitoring began (TMP 2008).

Hazel Dormouse

Muscardinus avellanarius

0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads

No records of this species were received in 2007, although there was one possible sighting in 2006. There are a small number of historical records from the county, suggesting that re-introduction might be feasible, although no such scheme is currently planned. Information from the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme, run by the People's Trust for Endangered Species in partnership with Natural England, suggests that the long-term national decline is continuing, with numbers falling by an additional 23% since 1995. Hazel Dormouse is included on both the original and revised UK BAP lists.

Bank Vole

Myodes glareolus

56 (782) records 28 (270) tetrads

While traditionally associated with woodlands and a good field layer, this common and widespread species also frequents gardens, especially in rural areas. Indeed, in Corpusty they are actively encouraged to do so by MAB, who places dustbin lids on the grass under which small mammals can shelter. In 2007, 60% of the records received were of voles killed by domestic cats, but sightings of live individuals were also reported, including a couple taking advantage of well-stocked bird tables at Glandford (AMO) and Corpusty (NEL).

Field Vole

Microtus agrestis

101 (1,788) records 28 (419) tetrads

As with Bank Vole, the primary source of information concerning this common and widespread species is the domestic cat. Records received in 2007 emphasised just how harsh life can be at the bottom end of the food chain, particularly in Potter Heigham where PTA recorded 36 cat kills in the surrounding area. Elsewhere, one individual was seen being carried off by a Barn Owl (PTA) and another was predated by a Grey Heron (PTA). Barn Owls are heavily reliant on Field Vole, particularly in England (Glue 1974), and remains were found in pellets at Corpusty (MAB), Itteringham (MAB), Shotesham (FMI) and Strumpshaw (RMA). The greater number of records received last year relative to 2006 may in part be due to observer effort, as totals for most species were higher in 2007. However, the Field Vole population does fluctuate on a three- to five-year cycle (Taylor 1994) and participants in the BTO's Barn Owl Monitoring Programme observed that Barn Owl breeding success was relatively high in 2007, suggesting that vole numbers may have reached a peak. Other interesting observations were of Field Vole swimming on two separate occasions, one at North Wooton (ROS) and the other at Ranworth Broad (GTA). Presumably these did not relate to the same individual!

Water Vole

Arvicola terrestris

78 (2,092) records 38 (439) tetrads

Records of this species for 2005 and 2006 have been substantially boosted by detailed information collected by the Broadlands Flood Alleviation Project – further details can be found in the article on page 235. This work was carried out by Broadland Environmental Services Ltd and we are very grateful to them for this information. The majority of records in 2007 originated in the east of the county, concentrated around Norwich and the Broads, but significant numbers of sightings were also reported from central North Norfolk. Only six records were submitted from West Norfolk, two relating to field signs observed at Dersingham Bog (AMU) and Hillborough (STA), two of voles taken by domestic cats at Hempton (MCA) and Shipdham (SRI), one of an animal killed by traffic at Hunstanton (PHA) and one sighting of a live individual near Thetford (KWR). In addition to threats posed by traffic and pets, a Water Vole was predated by a Stoat at How Hill (PHE) and remains of at least one other were found in a Barn Owl pellet at Strumpshaw (RMA). The species is known to be in long-term decline nationally; a survey carried out by the Vincent Wildlife Trust in 1989-90 found signs of Water Vole at only a third of sites where they were known to have occurred previously. A variety of factors have been implicated, including habitat destruction and predation by the introduced American Mink, and the species is on both the original and revised UK BAP listings. A Species Action Plan has been developed under the Norfolk BAP, emphasising the need for local studies of Water Vole distributions and those of their predators, such as the one detailed on page 225.

Harvest Mouse

Micromys minutus

26 (726) records 17 (241) tetrads

Over 50% of the records of this elusive species received in 2007 related to nests found in the herb layer during the winter, the majority spotted by MAB during searches of the area around Corpusty and Saxthorpe. Individuals killed by domestic cats were also reported from Edgefield (ACH), Potter Heigham (PTA) and Roughton (DMI), but sightings of live Harvest Mouse were few and far between. One individual was observed at Scoulton on 27th December (SRI), disturbed by agricultural machinery, and another was live-trapped in the grounds of UEA during an undergraduate course (DSH), the first record from the Norwich area in ten years. The species is very difficult to monitor due to its small size, secretive nature and the fact that its remains are seldom found in raptor pellets, although bones were identified in a Barn Owl pellet from Strumpshaw in 2007 (RMA). The conservation status of Harvest Mouse in the UK is therefore unclear; while a national survey carried out in the 1970s suggested that it was more widespread than previously thought, this species has nevertheless been added to the revised UK BAP list due to the potential detrimental effects of increased pesticide use and loss of arable margins.

Wood Mouse

Apodemus sylvaticus

86 (1,635) records 35 (417) tetrads

Individuals killed by cats accounted for nearly half (44%) of all records received for this widespread but under-recorded species in 2007. This observation suggests that Wood Mouse is adept at exploiting garden environments as well as their traditional woodland habitat, and they are often trapped in sheds and outbuildings - at Hoveton Hall, they were found to be “more commonly trapped inside than House Mouse” (SWG). Like many other mammals, the Wood Mouse has learned to take advantage of food provided for birds and one swift-footed individual

was regularly seen taking suet from a trap set to catch Blackbirds for a ringing project in Holt (DIL), often during daylight hours.

Yellow-necked Mouse

Apodemus flavicollis

2 (42) records 2 (18) tetrads

After a complete lack of records in 2006, two were received from different sites in 2007, both from the species' apparent Norfolk stronghold to the south-east of Norwich, one in Hellington (DLE) and the other at Wheatfen (DNO). Both individuals were unfortunately killed in traps, the former in the roof space of a house. A picture of the latter specimen can be found on the colour pages, showing the larger size and heavier tail of the species with respect to Wood Mouse. The collar is well defined and extensive, joining the brown fur at the neck – while Wood Mouse may display a spot or streak of yellow, it never forms a complete band.

House Mouse

Mus domesticus

9 (735) records 9 (334) tetrads

Again, only a handful of records were received for this species in 2007, the majority dispatched by either cats or traps, although in one case an individual was live-trapped and relocated (in this instance it seems unwise to reveal the name of the recorder, for fear of recriminations from the recipient!). This species must be severely under-recorded in the county and additional records of this generally unwelcome visitor would be gladly received by the County Mammal Recorder. National data collected by Defra as part of the English House Condition Survey (EHCS), which records sightings and signs of House Mouse in 12,000 households, suggest that the population in England is currently stable (TMP 2008).

Common Rat

Rattus norvegicus

201 (1,703) records 119 (572) tetrads

This species is common in Norfolk, with records received from across the county, but remains under-recorded. Sightings were reported in all months of the year, although there was a distinct lull during May-July, when adults generally move into fields to forage, taking advantage of clement weather conditions and plentiful food. Rats were observed using bird feeders and foraging under bird tables on several occasions (DST), including one juvenile seen hanging from a peanut feeder in Frettenham (GKE). Data from the EHCS, which also records Common Rat, suggests that the population in England has increased by over 80% in the last 25 years and by 90% over the last decade (TMP 2008).

Ship Rat

Rattus rattus

0 (8) records 0 (6) tetrads

No definite records of this species have been received for a number of years. Once widespread across Great Britain, numbers began to fall during the 18th Century, with the newly introduced Brown Rat gradually becoming the commoner species. By the mid 20th Century, records were very localised and the most recent records from most major cities date back to the 1980s.

Coypu

Myocastor coypus

0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads

Given the numbers of this introduced pest species that the county once held, it is surprising that it is so poorly represented in the database. The most recent sighting in the Norfolk Mammal Database refers to an individual killed on the road at Barton Bendish in 1988, although the last

individual trapped by MAFF (now Defra) in Norfolk was a male caught on 29th December 1989. A skull was found during the dredging of a dyke at How Hill in 1997.

LAGOMORPHA

Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

431 (3,444) records 182 (792) tetrads

A common and widespread species, recorded in all parts of the county. One notable record was from the Outer Bund (DIL), an artificial island in the Wash that can only be reached at low tide by walking several kilometres across saltmarsh and mudflats. Despite its inaccessibility and the presence of several thousand breeding pairs of Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls looking for their chicks' next meal, a Rabbit population manages to survive here, with many burrows, a few adults and one juvenile spotted during a bird ringing trip in June. Individuals displaying signs of Myxomatosis were reported from Beeston Common (SHO), Briston (BAB), Broom Green (SHO), Corpusty (MAB), Great Moulton (SHO), Horning (EGE), Hoveton Hall (SWG), Saxthorpe (BAB), Stanhoe (GBE), Tunstead (MPC), UEA Broad (SHO), Wacton Common (SHO) and Weybourne (SHO), but the sporadic nature of records received, particularly those of apparently healthy individuals, makes it difficult to identify annual variation in the prevalence of the disease. Records of melanistic Rabbit were also typically widespread, with black individuals noted at Beeston Regis (FJF), Caistor St Edmund (SHO), Ditchingham (SHO), Dunston (with black young, SHO), East Wretham (SHO), Repps-with-Bastwick (SWG), Saxthorpe (BAB) and Swainsthorpe (SHO). While Rabbit numbers nationally are believed to have more than doubled over the last 25 years (TMP 2008), results from the BBS suggest that the population has declined by 28% since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2008).

Brown Hare

Lepus europaeus

348 (3,978) records 177 (880) tetrads

A widespread and generally common species throughout the county, locally abundant. While never reaching the densities recorded for Rabbit, individuals do gather in loose groups, often stretching over several fields. A total of 52 hares was recorded on agricultural land around Rushall in February (SHO) and several counts of over 25 individuals were received from other parts of Norfolk, including Brockdish (SHO), Buckenham (AHA), Cockley Cley (GWF) and Ketteringham (CRO). A clear peak in the frequency of sightings was apparent in April and May, the main period of male fertility when activity levels are likely to be high, although only one record of boxing hares was received, at Cockley Cley in February (GWF). One unusual report was of an individual being chased by a particularly ambitious Stoat at Cley (PMO), although the outcome was not apparent. While Norfolk remains a stronghold for the species, the results of the Game Conservancy Trust's National Gamebag Census (NGC) indicate that numbers have increased nationally over the last 25 years, although BBS results suggest that this increase has stabilised in the last decade (TMP 2008). The species is on both the original and revised UK BAP lists and also on the Norfolk BAP list.

ERINACEOMORPHA

Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

220 (2,587) records 139 (700) tetrads

While the species typically emerges from hibernation in April, records of individuals active between January and March are received every year. Nineteen records, most relating to dead individuals, were received in the first three months of 2007, a much greater number than for the same period in the last few years (five and seven respectively in 2005 and 2006). While this may have been the result of an increase in observer effort, it is interesting to note that average temperatures between January and March during 2007 were the highest since 1990 and it is possible that the mild conditions resulted in an advancement of Hedgehog emergence dates. Unsurprisingly for this species, records of individuals killed on roads far outweighed sightings of live animals, accounting for over 66% of the data received. Relatively few young were reported during the summer months, the first spotted in Holt on 27th July (ARL), although at least one family party with three youngsters was observed in the Saxthorpe/Corpusty area in mid-October (KGI, MAB, RHA). The species is known to exhibit two peaks in offspring production, the first during May-July and the second in September. The Hedgehog population is thought to have declined significantly, possibly by as much as 45%, over the last 25 years (TMP 2008), resulting in its recent addition to the revised UK BAP list.

SORICOMORPHA

Mole

Talpa europaea

230 (3,494) records 140 (829) tetrads

Possibly the least exciting of our mammal species to record, as the animal itself is seldom seen, with molehill records accounting for 90% of data received in 2007. However, there were at least seven sightings of live Mole reported, including one unfortunate individual caught by a dog at Potter Heigham (PTA), and a further 13 dead Mole were recorded. Perhaps unsurprisingly, very little is known about the current status of the UK population, as it is so difficult to monitor directly. While numbers are thought to have increased over the last 10 years, there has been some concern amongst conservationists about the potential impact of the introduced New Zealand flatworm (*Arthurdendyus triangulatus*), first recorded here in the 1960s, on earthworm populations. Changing agricultural practices may also have influenced soil invertebrate densities and, therefore, food availability. In an attempt to provide a snapshot of the species' current distribution, the People's Trust for Endangered Species has launched Molewatch (www.molewatch.org.uk), an online survey that collects records of molehills anywhere in the country. The survey has received over 167,000 records, but there are still plenty of gaps in Norfolk where Mole must be present - why not visit the site and enter your own data?

Common Shrew

Sorex araneus

54 (1,171) records 31 (359) tetrads

An under-recorded species, common and widespread in Norfolk. While 12 sightings of live individuals were reported, at least half of the records in 2007 were of individuals dispatched by domestic cats. Common Shrew remains were also found in Barn Owl pellets collected at Corpusty (MAB), Itteringham (RTO), Strumpshaw (RMA) and Shotesham (FMI). Researchers tracking foraging Barn Owls in the north-east of England during the breeding

season observed that adults tended to eat any shrews they caught, while larger prey such as voles were taken back to the nest site to feed to the offspring (Nick Askew, pers comm.). Five drowned young were found together in a water butt at Stanhoe (GBE), demonstrating that they will climb in vegetation, if unwisely in this case.

Pygmy Shrew

Sorex minutes

20 (526) records 13 (203) tetrads

Occurring at lower densities than Common Shrew and recorded less frequently, the large geographic range and generalist nature of the Pygmy Shrew suggest that it is also likely to be common and widespread throughout the county. The two species are not easy to separate if glimpsed running through the undergrowth, as there is a considerable size overlap, but dead individuals can be readily identified using the ratio of tail length to body length. The tail of a Pygmy Shrew is thick, hairy and generally around 75% of the length of the body, while that of Common Shrew usually measures approximately 50% of its body length, is thinner and less hairy. Five records of live individuals were submitted in 2007, with an additional possible sighting of one halfway along Blakeney Point (BNT), while a further seven were killed by cats. Interestingly, another two specimens of this largely ground-dwelling species were trapped in an attic in Great Hockham (ERG).

Water Shrew

Neomys fodiens

10 (319) records 9 (161) tetrads

As the name suggests, the species is strongly associated with water in the UK and is generally sighted near rivers, streams, ponds, ditches, reed beds or boggy areas, although the other shrew species can also be found in these habitats. While one record was of an individual killed by a cat in Horning (EGE) and another was from a dissected Barn Owl pellet found at Strumpshaw (RMA), eight live individuals were spotted. Of these, five were seen in East Norfolk, two in North-west Norfolk and one in North Norfolk. The latter was photographed at Cley NWT Reserve heading down the walkway to Dauke's Hide at speed, possibly in pursuit of its next 'lifer' (NRO).

CHIROPTERA

Lesser Horseshoe Bat

Rhinolophus hipposideros

0 (2) records 0 (2) tetrads

While this species has not been recorded in the county for almost 50 years, there are two historical records in the database, one from North-east Norfolk in 1914 and another of an unspecified number of individuals recorded on the southern county boundary in 1959. Interestingly, a colony was also recorded in chalk caves just over the border in Suffolk in 1960. Data collected under the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) suggest that numbers at both maternal and winter roosts across England and Wales have risen significantly over the last seven years, on average by 42% (TMP 2008). Due to historic declines and the reliance of the wintering population on relatively few key hibernation sites (only 100 sites hold more than 10 individuals), the species remains on the UK BAP list.

Whiskered Bat

Myotis mystacinus

0 (10) records 0 (5) tetrads

This species is very difficult to distinguish from Brandt's Bat, and a further eight records exist in the database that cannot be resolved to species. No definite records of this species have been

received since 1997, when 15 individuals were found roosting near Snettisham. The NBMP suggests that the national population is currently stable (TMP 2008).

Brandt's Bat

Myotis brandtii

0 (10) records 0 (9) tetrads

No definite records of this species have been received since three individuals were recorded in the west of the county in 1997. The NBMP suggests that the national population is currently stable (TMP 2008).

Daubenton's Bat

Myotis daubentonii

29 (431) records 18 (107) tetrads

Behavioural characteristics are helpful in the identification of this bat, which can often be seen feeding over water bodies, flying steadily a few centimetres above the surface and grabbing prey items resting on it. However, it should be noted that other bats regularly feed over water and the species should therefore not be identified purely on the basis of location. The majority of records received in 2007 originated from the east of the county, around Norwich and the Broads. A few individuals were also recorded in North Norfolk, including one observed in front of Dauke's Hide at Cley NWT Reserve (JDU) on an unusually warm evening at the beginning of February. After feeding from the surface of the water for some time, the bat became grounded, crawled across a muddy area and then climbed 30cm up a reed stem, apparently to roost. The only record submitted from the west of Norfolk was a count of 25 individuals in December hibernating at a site within the Stanford Training Area near Thetford (STA). Data from the NBMP suggest that numbers have increased by 17% nationally over the last seven years (TMP 2008).

Natterer's Bat

Myotis nattererii

16 (310) records 9 (94) tetrads

The majority of records for this species originate from the south-west of the county around the Brecks, including regular sightings throughout the autumn in the Wretton area (PPA), a record of five juveniles observed at a roost in the Stanford Training Area in August (STA) and several reports from Griston during the summer (PPA). As in previous years, Natterer's Bat was recorded at Paston Great Barn (AMU, RMR), and records were also received from the Hingham area (PPA), Norwich (JEH), Ormesby Broad (DJH) and Swanton Novers (BGR). National counts at hibernation roosts under the NBMP suggest that wintering numbers have increased by as much as 64% over the last seven years, although a similar increase has not been observed at maternity roosts (TMP 2008).

Leisler's Bat

Nyctalus leisleri

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

This species first started to appear in bat boxes in the part of Thetford Forest across the border in West Suffolk during the 1980s, and is now regular there. Of the 11 records from the 1990s held in the database, all but one relate to sites in Suffolk, the exception being a record from July 1997 pertaining to an unspecified number of individuals found in a bat box, published in the 1997 Bird & Mammal Report. Two further records of this species have since been received, one in 2005 and one in 2006, but the grid references provided are not sufficient to identify the county in which the individuals were observed.

Noctule

Nyctalus noctula

49 (282) records 29 (134) tetrads

This is the largest British bat species, often seen flying high at dusk and sometimes even during the day, frequently performing characteristic dipping movements as it diverts from its flight path to catch prey. The 2007 submission was an impressive increase on the 2006 total of just three records, with only the *Pipistrellus* species complex recorded in greater numbers last year. The majority of records were from the south east of the county, with a handful in the Brecks and a scattering throughout North Norfolk. While this may to some extent reflect the distribution of recorders, it should be noted that the mix of pastoral and wetland habitat around Norwich and the Broads is of the type generally favoured by this species. The earliest record in 2007 was reported by a visitor to Strumpshaw Fen on 10th March, with another following soon after on 12th March near Thetford (IMC), while the latest sightings were at Dersingham Bog on 25th October (AMU) and Blickling Hall on 28th December (JCU). NBMP Field Survey results suggest that numbers across the UK have been stable over the last seven years (TMP 2008), but the species will be included in a Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan, currently in preparation, which will also cover Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat.

Common/Soprano Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus spp.

165 (1,277) records 72 (416) tetrads

As noted in previous reports, the relatively recent taxonomic split of Pipistrelle into two species – *P. pipistrellus*, the Common or 45kHz Pipistrelle, and *P. pygmaeus*, the Soprano or 55kHz Pipistrelle – means that many of the historical records in the database cannot now be identified to species. In 2007, 68 records of Common Pipistrelle and 44 records of Soprano Pipistrelle were submitted, and a further 53 records of undetermined *Pipistrellus sp.* were also received. The distribution of the two species throughout the county was generally very similar, although records of Common Pipistrelle were perhaps slightly more frequent than those of Soprano Pipistrelle towards the west of the county. The earliest flight record of an individual identified to species was of a Common Pipistrelle at Wiveton on 12th March (DJH), although a *Pipistrellus sp.* was sighted on 3rd March at Potter Heigham (PTA). The latest sighting was also of a Common Pipistrelle at Saham Toney on 22nd October (PPA), although bats identified only as *Pipistrellus sp.* were reported on 28th October at Stiffkey (SHO) and on 11th November at Potter Heigham (GTA). A *Pipistrellus sp.* was also seen hawking over a car park at Stoke Holy Cross on the 27th December (NJE), presumably having been disturbed during hibernation. While evidence from the NBMP Field Surveys suggests that Common Pipistrelle numbers have increased significantly, by up to 55%, over the last seven years, Soprano Pipistrelle trends over the same period are less clear and there is some evidence that the population is in decline (TMP 2008). Over the longer term, numbers of both species are thought to have fallen by as much as 70%, and therefore, despite being the commonest and most widespread British bat, the species complex remains on the revised UK BAP list. Soprano Pipistrelle will be included in a Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan, currently in preparation, which will also cover Noctule and Brown Long-eared Bat.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus nathusii

1 (8) records 1 (4) tetrads

One of the most exciting records received this year was of this scarce Norfolk species, believed to have been recorded in the county for the first time in 1998 but not observed since 2003. At least five individuals were identified using a bat detector at a location at which the species had not been previously been recorded, but which was close to Filby Broad, the site of the 1998

record (DJH). A second record of an individual that may possibly have been this species was submitted from a wood close to Paston Great Barn (BGR) where the species was recorded on several occasions in 2002 and 2003 (Parsons 2003).

Serotine

Eptesicus serotinus

9 (65) records 7 (47) tetrads

Norfolk represents the north-eastern limit of this species' current range in the UK. As noted in previous reports, the majority of Norfolk Serotine records originate either in the far east of the county or in the Brecks and over half of those submitted in 2007 were indeed from the area south of the Broads. However, the species was also recorded on several occasions at Swanton Novers in North Norfolk (BGR) and on Leziate Heath in the north-west last year (PPA), with a further probable sighting at Pigney's Wood in the north-east (BRG). NBMP data suggest that, while numbers have declined historically, the national population is currently stable or possibly increasing slightly (TMP 2008).

Particoloured Bat

Vespertilio murinus

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

The one Norfolk record of this Central and Northern European species, recorded on only 20 occasions in the UK to date but now observed almost annually, refers to an individual found in a timber yard in Great Yarmouth Docks on 28th August 1968. The timber in the yard at the time had recently been imported from one of the Baltic States, so it seems likely that this was the origin of the specimen.

Barbastelle

Barbastella barbastellus

13 (140) records 6 (45) tetrads

A scarce but widespread species in the UK, the Norfolk Barbastelle population has been well documented and rigorous monitoring is currently carried out annually by the Barbastelle Study Group. In 2007, the species was again recorded on several occasions in the Paston Great Barn area, the best-studied population in the county. In addition, at least five roosting individuals were observed at a colony inside the Stanford Training Area that was only discovered in 2006 (STA). The remaining records originated from new sites, two in North Norfolk, monitored by the Barbastelle Study Group, and a third in the south-west of the county (PPA). Very little is known about the population trajectory of the species, but its comparative rarity has assured it a place on both the old and revised UK BAP lists and a Norfolk Species Action Plan is currently in preparation.

Brown Long-eared Bat

Plecotus aruitus

27 (426) records 20 (191) tetrads

The relatively low record totals for this widespread bat species, which tends to favour woodland areas, may be partially explained by the difficulty in distinguishing it from several of the *Myotis* spp. when using a bat detector, and several of the records submitted in 2007 were marked as 'probable'. Along with *Pipistrellus* spp., the Brown Long-eared Bat is one of the more likely species to be found roosting in roof spaces and 12 were observed in a house in Middleton on 13th April (PPA). This may explain why most bats killed by domestic cats, including one last June at Hillington (ROS), tend to be of this species. Two other dead individuals were found during the summer of 2007, one at Corpusty (LPI) and the other at Hindringham (SWO), but in neither case was the cause of death apparent. NBMP data suggest that the population is currently stable after a historic decline (TMP 2008), but the species has

recently been added to the revised UK BAP list and will be included in a Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan, currently in preparation, that will also cover Noctule and Soprano Pipistrelle.

CARNIVORA

Fox

Vulpes vulpes

216 (2,025) records 136 (670) tetrads

The increase in the number of Fox records submitted for the third year in a row is probably the result of a very welcome increase in the number of recorders, but there seems little doubt that the Norfolk Fox population is still in good health. Road casualties accounted for 23% of the submitted data, while over 60% of records related to observations of live individuals. Sightings were distributed fairly evenly throughout both the county and the year, although there was a slight peak in the numbers recorded during August, coinciding with the beginning of the cub dispersal period. Cubs and family groups were sighted most frequently during May, with records from June, July and August generally referring to individuals killed on roads. One intriguing record of a family of young cubs spotted peeking out of a tree cavity on the outskirts of Norwich in January was posted on the Norfolk Wildlife email forum, but no further details were given. The discovery of an active den at Hoveton Hall (SWG) allowed a number of prey items to be recorded, including Rabbit, Brown Hare, Grey Squirrel, Pheasant, partridge, Woodpigeon and Jay, some possibly dispatched previously by the local gamekeeper. Urban Fox populations were reasonably well represented in 2007, with an individual spotted rummaging through dustbins (DJH) and another hoovering up spilt peanuts from a bird feeder (IMI), demonstrating how well this species has adapted to the human environment. While both these records were from Norwich, several reports referred to Fox seen regularly in towns such as Mundesley (JHP) and Cromer (BUR, DMI). National population trends for this species are currently unclear – while data from the NGC suggests a long-term increase, stabilising over the last decade, the results from the BBS imply that numbers have fallen significantly over the last decade (TMP 2008). The discrepancy between these findings may be caused by differences in sampling methodology or in habitat coverage and more work is needed to resolve this issue.

Badger

Meles meles

55 (669) records 47 (329) tetrads

Work on Norfolk’s expanding Badger population has been centred on the efforts of AEV, who very sadly passed away in August 2008 and whose obituary can be found on page 243, and also on the detailed studies carried out by JCR. Due to sensitivities over the location of active Badger setts, specific site details are not held on the Norfolk Mammal Database (and therefore not included in the totals above), although data are submitted to the Norfolk Biological Records Centre where they can be used to ensure that proposed developments do not interfere with known breeding sites. The most recent estimate of the number of setts in the county (including main, annexe, subsidiary and outlying setts) is 400, although it must be stressed that only a small proportion of these are occupied at any one time (JCR). West Norfolk, particularly the Fens, currently holds the highest density of Badgers, the population having become firmly established in the last five years. Over the same period, numbers have also increased in North, North-west and central Norfolk, remaining stable in the south and decreasing in the east of the county (JCR). The majority of the records received by the mammal recorder in 2007 referred to road casualties (58%), although there were 13 sightings of live individuals. Interestingly, observations of both live and dead individuals were generally more frequent from the centre,

north and east of the county, with relatively few reports from the extreme south, west and north-west – this does not mirror the distribution reported above and is likely to reflect a bias in detectability, possibly due to observer distribution. The TMP update reports a long-term increase in the national population that is currently continuing, although the data are not sufficient to be able to quantify this change (TMP 2008).

Otter

Lutra lutra

254 (1,549) records 77 (294) tetrads

The large increase in the number of recent Otter records in the Norfolk Mammal Database this year is in part due to the inclusion of new data from the Brecklands Otter Survey and from Broads Environmental Services Ltd., for which we are extremely grateful. While just over half of the records received in 2007 refer to the tell-tale tracks, spraints and fish remains that signal the presence of the species, 112 sightings of live individuals were also submitted. If the aforementioned information from specific surveys is omitted, the distribution of casual records is still suggestive of a population centred largely on the Brecks and Broads, although records from central North Norfolk also accounted for a significant proportion of data submitted. A number of individuals were observed swimming and fishing during daylight hours, one on the River Ant that completely ignored passing boats as it went about its business (PHE) and a family party at Barton Broad that were seemingly oblivious to people working on boats only a few metres away (PHE). Such behaviour is reminiscent of the coastal Otter on the Scottish Isles, which are generally more diurnal than their southern counterparts and can often be observed fishing in harbours and around jetties. Another interesting observation was of an adult emerging from a reed bed on The Nunnery Reserve in Thetford on 27th March (DIL), hotly pursued by two very vocal Moorhens, suggesting that it may well have helped itself to the contents of their nest. While the National Otter Surveys suggest that the population has increased since the 1980s (TMP 2008), numbers declined drastically prior to this and the species was all but lost from southeastern England and the Midlands. The species therefore remains on the revised UK BAP list and a Species Action Plan has been prepared under the Norfolk BAP.

Stoat

Mustela erminea

209 (3,197) records 143 (841) tetrads

The endearing nature and frequently fascinating behaviour of this small, yet vicious, predator probably help to explain the fact that it has now been recorded on more tetrads in Norfolk than Rabbit, Fox or Mole. Observations of live individuals accounted for 78% of records received in 2007, with the majority of the remaining reports relating to individuals killed by traffic. Records were received from most parts of the county, although sightings seemed to be particularly frequent in North-west Norfolk and the Broads, with very few in the south-west of the county. Monthly totals appeared to peak between July and November, the period during which young Stoat are actively dispersing. Three sightings of Stoat in ermine were reported, one at Matlaske in December (JDU) that was almost completely white, another at Briston in December (ABR) that was approximately 80% white, and a third at Hillborough in March (OMM) that was white with a sandy back. A partially leucistic individual, with a white rather than black tip to the tail, was spotted hunting on Weeting Heath at the end of April (PMO). Typically for this species, the data submitted last year included a variety of interesting behavioural observations. Many individuals were seen chasing or carrying prey items, mainly the traditional Rabbit, as at Dersingham Bog (DLO), East Winch (ROS), Flitcham (DAP), Hillington (ROS), Sparham Pools (DAP) and Sturston (STA), although one optimistic Stoat

was spotted chasing a Brown Hare at Cley (PMO). Small mammals also form an important part of the diet; a Stoat was observed carrying a vole at West Acre (ROS), another at Cley NWT reserve (SWO) had either a shrew or a mole in its mouth, a third at How Hill had caught a Water Vole (PHE) and four mice were found in an active Stoat nest under an abandoned dinghy on Blakeney Point (BNT). Stoats are good climbers and birds are therefore not immune from predation, as noted in Stanhoe (GBE) where an individual was observed in August rolling a Woodpigeon egg under a shrub and another, possibly the same animal was, spotted a month later struggling to carry a young Woodpigeon chick in its mouth. An individual was caught in the act of raiding a Blackbird nest at Hoveton Hall (SWG) and another seen swimming across a channel at Warham (CRO) proved that water does not necessarily present an obstacle to the species either. The tables are sometimes turned, however, with one Stoat in a garden in Ludham (EGE) witnessed making aggressive noises to try to scare away a domestic cat and a pair at the BTO's Nunnery Reserve in Thetford spending an uncomfortable five minutes being dive-bombed and mobbed by a pair of first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gulls (DAK). Data from the NGC suggest that the national population has increased by over a third in the last 25 years (TMP 2008).

Weasel

Mustela nivalis

100 (2,282) records 79 (774) tetrads

Less frequently observed than its larger relative the Stoat, although national populations are thought to be of a similar size, records of Weasel were evenly distributed across the county, with no obvious hot spots. As with Stoat, the peak in sightings occurred between August and October, when the young are dispersing. A large number of sightings involved individuals crossing roads or road casualties, presumably because this is one of the only occasions on which the species breaks cover, preferring to spend its time in the undergrowth hunting small mammals. Two Weasels were recorded as having been killed by domestic cats, one at Haddiscoe (CSM) and another at Potter Heigham (PTA). Individuals seen with prey included one dragging a juvenile Rabbit near Blakeney (AMO) and another with a young Brown Rat at Kelling Quags (PMO), and a pair of drowsy individuals were caught in a Longworth trap at Redgrave Fen by JCR, surrounded by Wood Mouse tails. The species is known to cache food to insure against sudden decreases in prey availability and one was seen to do just this in a garden at Hapton on 3rd November (SEN), carrying a Greenfinch up a drainpipe and into the roof space. Another interesting observation involved a parent, presumably the female, entering a stick pile and emerging carrying a kit, which it took to a nearby burrow (SAH). Data from the NGC suggests that the UK population has been relatively stable over the last 25 years, but has increased by 36% in the last decade (TMP 2008).

Ferret

Mustela putorius/fero

6 (35) records 5 (28) tetrads

Records of Ferret may relate to recent escapes or could possibly indicate the presence of feral populations. Several were seen in North Norfolk during April and May, one at Cawston (JBR), one at Corpusty (MAB) and one at Mannington (MAB) – the latter did not appear to be particularly worldly-wise as it allowed itself to be picked up and taken to a local farm in a bicycle pannier. Other sightings were of a single live individual at Neatishead (EGE) and two dead Ferrets found close together on the road at Stanford Training Area (STA).

American Mink

Mustela vison

15 (411) records 11 (168) tetrads

Much effort has been invested in reducing populations of the introduced American Mink across the country, both due to their impact on commercial fisheries and also the possible negative effects on threatened native species, including Water Vole. As such, several records refer to individuals that have either been trapped or shot. However, eight sightings of live individuals were reported, five in the Broads (PTA, SWG, MFI) and three in the Brecks (CGR, STA). Data published in the TMP report indicate that the national population has declined by 42% in the last 25 years (TMP 2008).

PINNIPEDIA

Common Seal

Phoca vitulina

32 (220) records 14 (49) tetrads

Considering the number of this species present in the county and the number of naturalists visiting the Norfolk coast, surprisingly few records of Common Seal are received each year. The majority of records relate to individuals or small groups seen along the north coast at Lynn Point (PPA), Holme (AMS, GHO), Titchwell (CSM), Brancaster (GHO), Brancaster Staithe (KRI) and Wells (GWF), and along the east coast at Walcott (SHO), Sea Palling (PTA, SHO), Waxham (AMS), Horsey (CSM) and Winterton (AMS). A fascinating record thought to relate to this species was submitted by CSH, who spotted a very confused individual swimming well inland in a relief channel by Magdalen Bridge, about halfway between King’s Lynn and Downham Market, in March. We are extremely grateful to the Blakeney Point National Trust team for supplying data from their monitoring counts (Table 1). For more information about Common Seal on Blakeney Point, see the article in the 2005 Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report (Wood, 2006). Common Seal is a recent addition to the revised UK BAP list.

Table 1. Monthly average counts for Common Seal on Blakeney Point in 2006 and 2007 (BNT).

	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>
2007	111	251	290	317	241	503	311	387
2006	126	310	198	262	250	357	488	530

Grey Seal

Halichoerus grypus

48 (248) records 18 (50) tetrads

As with Common Seal, the number of records received for this species is relatively low considering the potential for monitoring in the county. We are again very grateful to the Blakeney Point National Trust team who send us their monthly count data (Table 2). The increased publicity concerning the breeding colony at Holkham Gap has also led to a rise in the casual records from this site, which accounted for 11 of the records received in 2007, and more standardised count data would be very welcome. Records from other sites include individuals and small groups seen along the north coast at Titchwell (TBA), Scolt Head Island NNR (JHI), Stiffkey (TBA), Cley (TBA, SHO, DLO, DJH), Salthouse (SHO, AMS, DIL, JHI), Kelling (SHO), Sheringham (SHO) and West Runton (JCU), and on the east coast at Trimingham (RMR), Walcott (PHE), Winterton (SHO, AMS, DJH) and Scratby (SHO). There was one potential inland record of the species in 2007, an unconfirmed report of sighting in the River Yare by a visitor to Strumpshaw RSPB in February, but no further details are available.

Table 2. Monthly average counts for Grey Seal on Blakeney Point in 2006 and 2007 (BNT).

	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>
2007	184	336	357	225	346	253	546	386
2006	198	426	319	213	248	112	230	203

Harp Seal

Pagophilus groenlandica

0 (2) records 0 (1) tetrads

The Norfolk Mammal Database contains only two records of this vagrant species, typically found in the Arctic Atlantic, both pertaining to dead individuals. However, it should be noted that an additional record of an adult found at Holkham and taken to a rescue centre in 1994 has been published recently in the new Handbook of British Mammals (Harris & Yalden 2008).

Walrus

Odobenus rosmarus

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

The only record held on the database dates back to 1981 – wouldn't it be fantastic if there was another one?

ARTIODACTYLA

Reeves' Muntjac

Muntiacus reevesi

222 (2,096) records 118 (590) tetrads

The range expansion of both Reeves' Muntjac and Chinese Water Deer in Norfolk in recent years has greatly increased the potential for confusion between these superficially similar species. Neither should therefore be identified purely on the basis of location, the best distinguishing characteristics of the Reeves' Muntjac being the much longer tail, often held erect when running, short 'prong' antlers and black facial markings. While the Brecks were once the stronghold of this species, records from 2007 were evenly distributed across the whole of Norfolk, including the north coast and the Broads, only lacking in the extreme west, where all mammal species are under-recorded. Numbers of records submitted in 2007 peaked in April and May, dropping to almost nothing in July and August, then rising again in September. It is during this late summer period that the males shed their antlers and are generally less sexually active, which may reduce their visibility, although the species is able to breed throughout the year. Reeves' Muntjac does not form herds and the largest group seen together numbered just three individuals. The species often feeds at the side of roads on grass verges and almost 10% of the records for 2007 refer to road casualties. They can be incredibly tolerant of human presence and often feed in gardens, as witnessed at Glandford (AMO), Barford (IDO), Acle (PTA) and Hapton (SEN). Individuals can even be seen walking through the centre of Thetford at night, as DIL found one evening on his way back from work when he watched an individual standing on its hind legs for at least 30 seconds in order to browse the new growth on a low Horse Chestnut branch – it is easy to see where the myth of Pan may have come from. The national population has increased hugely over the past 25 years and continues to rise rapidly, more than doubling over the last decade (TMP 2008).

Red Deer

Cervus elaphus

125 (1,780) records 46 (415) tetrads

The majority of Red Deer records submitted in 2007 originate from three distinct areas, one in central North Norfolk, one in the Broads and one in Thetford Forest, although the species was also recorded at Stanfield Hall to the south-west of Norwich (CRO) and at Methwold in West Norfolk (SHE). Clear peaks in monthly observation totals were apparent, one in March-April prior to the period when hinds give birth and a second in October-November during the rut, with few sighted during the summer months. The species can form large herds and groups of around 50 individuals were reported near Holt in January (JHP) and at Stanfield Hall in March (CRO), while other notable counts included 26 at Hunworth in March (ADH) and 34 on Brettenham Heath, also in March (AMS). Red Deer numbers nationally have increased by 60% over the last 25 years (TMP 2008), but BBS data indicate that the population has stabilised over the last decade (Risely *et al.* 2008).

Sika Deer

Cervus nippon

0 (8) records 0 (5) tetrads

No records of this species were received in 2007 and the last sighting recorded in the Norfolk Mammal database dates back to 2002. Seven of the eight historic records refer to individuals in deer parks, the exception being an individual seen in Horsford Woods in 1969. The difficulties in distinguishing it from other large deer species and the paucity of records make it very difficult to determine the status of Sika Deer in Norfolk. The national population is thought to have almost doubled over the last 25 years (TMP 2008).

Fallow Deer

Dama dama

30 (524) records 14 (167) tetrads

Records of this species were fairly localised and most were submitted from sites at which Fallow Deer had been observed in recent years. Eighteen sightings were reported from the area of North-west Norfolk around Dersingham (AMU, JHI, VET), Sandringham (ROS) and Wolferton (SRO), with small groups of individuals also seen slightly further afield at Great Bircham (GBE), Houghton (MAA) and Soigne Wood (ROS). This population may be boosted sporadically by escapes from the captive herd at Holkham Hall. The other obvious cluster of records was centred on Thetford Forest, where individuals were observed at Warren Wood (AMS), Croxton (DEB, MPT) and on the outskirts of Thetford itself (NCA). Finally, two separate records were reported from the east of the county, one near Attlebridge (SHO) and one at Horstead (FJF). With the exception of that at Holkham Hall, herd sizes were relatively small, the maximum count reaching 12 individuals on two occasions at Dersingham Bog (AMU, JHI). Pure white colour morphs are not uncommon and were seen at Dersingham Bog (AMU), West Newton (ROS), Soigne Wood (ROS) and Croxton (MPT), but there were no records of the black colour morph in 2007. The national population is estimated to have more than doubled over the last 25 years, with an increase of 37% in the last decade (TMP 2008).

European Roe Deer

Capreolus capreolus

282 (2,728) records 131 (599) tetrads

A widespread species, with records distributed evenly across the county, including one on Blakeney Point where a lone individual was seen in May next to the lifeboat house (BNT). The Roe is currently the second most frequently recorded deer species after Chinese Water Deer, although this almost certainly represents recorder effort rather than relative population densities. As a potential pest, particularly in forested areas, it is important to monitor

populations closely and further records would be most welcome, even from areas where animals are commonly sighted. As with Reeves' Muntjac, monthly sighting totals peaked in April-May when males are becoming territorial and females are preparing to give birth, but numbers recorded during the rut in July-August were actually the lowest in the entire year. Roe Deer usually forms small groups in the summer, gathering into larger herds in winter, particularly in open farmland areas. The highest count recorded in 2007 was of 27 individuals in two separate groups at South Pickenham in February (PNE) and a herd of 17, including two juveniles, was observed at Dersingham Bog, also in February (AMU). The national population has doubled in size over the last 25 years (TMP 2008) and the BBS has identified a 27% increase since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2008).

Chinese Water Deer

Hydropotes inermis

432 (2,757) records 84 (216) tetrads

A real Norfolk speciality, public fascination with this introduced deer has led to it becoming the most frequently recorded mammal species in the county. The data collected thus far have allowed the species' range expansion outwards from the Broads to be tracked in great detail, so please keep sending in records, even from those areas in which you consider the species to be common. Increasing overlap in the distributions of Chinese Water Deer and Reeves' Muntjac means that care should be taken when identifying small deer species; the former has a short tail, no antlers or black facial markings, larger ears and, if male, possesses long upper canines which protrude from the mouth. While the majority of individuals were observed around Norwich and the Broads, sightings were also submitted from Bintree (DAP), Blakeney (SWG), Briston (BAB) and Saxthorpe (JBR) and a road casualty was spotted on the A47 to the south-west of Norwich (AMS). These records fall within the recently extended range of the species, but sightings at Choseley (SRO), Holme (NGI) and Titchwell (SRO) suggest that the population has begun to spread into the extreme north-west of the county, possibly along the coastal margin. Chinese Water Deer has only been recorded on two previous occasions in this part of Norfolk, once at Titchwell in 1990 and again at Thornham in 2005. An additional possible sighting was reported from Roydon Common in 2007 but the identity could not be confirmed. Observations were most frequent during the rut in December, with numbers reaching their lowest point during the mid-summer when females are giving birth.

CETACEA

Minke Whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

0 (10) records 0 (9) tetrads

Last recorded in 1997, when a series of three records on 2nd September suggested a single individual passing along the coast from Weybourne to Sheringham. On the east coast of the UK, this species is only rarely encountered south of Yorkshire. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for baleen whales.

Fin Whale

Balaenoptera physalus

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

Last recorded in 2003, when an upper jawbone found near a Sperm Whale carcass was identified as being from this species. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for baleen whales.

Sei Whale

Balaenoptera borealis

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

This occasional visitor to UK waters was last recorded from Norfolk in 1971, when an individual was stranded at Holkham Gap. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for baleen whales.

Sperm Whale

Physeter macrocephalus

0 (11) records 0 (7) tetrads

Last recorded in 2006 when an individual was washed ashore at Brancaster and what was assumed to be the same individual was reported on Scolt Head Island NNR (presumably moved by the tide). This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Northern Bottlenose Whale

Hyperoodon ampullatus

0 (6) records 0 (5) tetrads

Only recorded twice in the county since the 1960s, once in 1988 washed up on Scolt Head Island NNR and again in 2002, when the Eastern Daily Press reported a dead individual on the shore at Happisburgh. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Cuvier's Beaked Whale

Ziphius cavirostris

0 (3) records 0 (1) tetrads

All three records refer to the same individual found dead on the north-east coast in 2002. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Sowerby's Beaked Whale

Mesoplodon bidens

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

A single beached individual was recorded at Happisburgh in August 1952. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Harbour Porpoise

Phocoena phocoena

23 (338) records 17 (64) tetrads

A relatively common visitor, the number of records received is surprisingly low considering the amount of activity at the Norfolk coast. This may partly be due to concerns about identification and in order to encourage recording of cetaceans, a new leaflet had been produced. This can be downloaded from the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership website at www.norfolkbiodiversity.org (see the article on page 221 for more information) and additional records of this intriguing species would be greatly appreciated. Of the records submitted in 2007, the majority were sightings of live individuals at Blakeney (BNT), Cley (PHE), Salthouse (AMS, DIR), Kelling (SHO), Sheringham (GWF), Trimingham (DMI, RMR), Walcott (PHE), Waxham (PHE), Horsey (AMS), Winterton (AMS, SHO), Hemsby (AMS), Caister (PHE) and Great Yarmouth (DEB, JLA), while dead individuals were recorded at Hunstanton (PRU), Blakeney (BNT, CHE), Salthouse (PHE) and Waxham (RHE). There is some evidence of a decline in numbers of Harbour Porpoise in UK waters since the 1940s, especially in the southern North Sea and English Channel, which has led to the inclusion of the species on both the original and revised UK BAP lists, and a Species Action Plan has been

prepared under the Norfolk BAP. A review of archaeological evidence of Harbour Porpoise and other cetaceans from Norfolk can be found on page 222.

Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

0 (4) records 0 (4) tetrads

Most recent records refer to two possible sightings of live individuals in 1998. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

Common Dolphin

Delphinus delphis

0 (7) records 0 (5) tetrads

Most recent records refer to two dead individuals reported from the North Norfolk coast in 1996. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

White-beaked Dolphin

Lagenorhynchus albirostris

0 (22) records 0 (17) tetrads

The most frequently recorded dolphin species in Norfolk, the most recent record relates to an individual found dead on the beach at Holkham in 1999. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

Atlantic White-sided Dolphin

Leucopleurus acutus

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

An individual thought to be of this species was washed ashore at Blakeney in November 2006. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

Long-finned Pilot Whale

Globicephala melas

0 (6) records 0 (5) tetrads

Last recorded in the county in 1992, when one was found dead on Scolt Head Island NNR. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

False Killer Whale

Pseudorca crassidens

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

The only Norfolk record concerns the stranding of eight individuals in Wooton Creek in November 1935.

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New Recording Scheme for Cetaceans off the Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex Coasts

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The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) includes a number of dolphin, whale and porpoise species. Although cetaceans are not infrequently seen off the coast of our region, there is relatively little information available concerning their distribution and status, particularly when compared to terrestrial BAP species. According to Solandt *et al.* (2005), “The greatest problem in progressing the BAP in the marine environment is the lack of information on the status of the habitats and species (How many? Where? How healthy are populations?).”

To help address this information gap, the Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships and the Essex Biodiversity Project have recently developed an identification leaflet that describes the six cetacean species most frequently seen in our region. The leaflet includes original artwork by Tom Ashworth, depicting each species in detail as well as typical surfacing sequences. The leaflet also includes a survey card that can be used to record cetacean sightings and then cut out and sent to the Seawatch Foundation, which is compiling sightings from across the UK. Once a year, Seawatch will provide each of the three counties involved in the initiative with disaggregated data for local use.

The most common cetacean species seen off the Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex coast is the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*). At just one to two metres in length, this is the smallest porpoise to be found in UK waters. Unlike dolphins, with which they are sometimes confused, Harbour Porpoise has a rounded head, no beak, and a small triangular fin located halfway along the body. Individuals spend only brief moments at the surface, their appearance sometimes described as being similar to that of a ‘rolling wheel’, and typically occur alone or in twos and threes, rarely breaching.

Anyone who is lucky enough to spot a Harbour Porpoise or any other cetacean species can assist the scheme by sending in a record of their sighting - observations of live and dead strandings are also useful. The data will be particularly valuable in building up a picture of the distribution and relative abundance of cetacean species and will be used to help inform the local BAP process. The identification leaflet/survey card is now available from the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership and can be downloaded from the Norfolk biodiversity website (www.norfolkbiodiversity.org).

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The mammals that used to be fish - cetaceans and seals from archaeological sites in Norfolk

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Remains of cetaceans and seals are relatively rare in the archaeological record and are of great interest. Many of those found in Norfolk show evidence of butchery, attesting to their primary use for meat. Two vertebrae identified as dolphin (*Delphinus* sp.) were recovered from a flint shaft during excavations at the Castle Mall site in Norwich, one of which had been chopped through (Moreno-Garcia 1996). Although few butchered remains of dolphin are found, it is likely that they were commonly eaten, leading Muffet (1665) to comment that they “smell like violets, taste most pleasantly being salted and give competent nourishment”. Whale and porpoise were favoured meat and quite sought after. Salted whale was known as ‘craspois’ and was sometimes imported from France, especially during Lent, and porpoise may have been the ‘fat fish’ listed on the bills of lading of the wine ships coming from Rouen. There are many old recipes for porpoises and it was assumed they were a pleasantly flavoured delicacy, although recent consumers of porpoise have found the flesh to be “intolerably hard and rancid” (Hope 2005).



Harbour Porpoise - Julie Curl

Seals are a common sight on many Norfolk beaches, particularly during the breeding season when Common Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) come onto land to produce their pups; when ashore, they must have been relatively easy prey. In the 17th Century, Sir Thomas Browne wrote “vitulus marinus seaclaf or seale is often taken sleeping on the shoare. Five yeares agoe one was shot in the river of Norwich about Surlingham ferry having continued in the river for divers moneths before”.

Whales, dolphins and porpoises were harder to come by. Some were almost certainly found washed-up on a beach, as occasionally happens around the Norfolk coast, particularly in late winter. It is also possible that a few may have strayed into local rivers; elderly or sick cetaceans have been known to move into inland waters. All cetaceans were, for many centuries, considered ‘Royal Fishes’ under a statute of Edward II, passed around 1324. This ruling only changed in 1971, when the moving of a second reading of the Wild Creatures and Forest Laws Bill removed certain royal rights to wild creatures. The law regarding these ‘fish’ was not always enforced and the tenants of the land on which the animal appeared were

sometimes granted the carcass and could salt the meat and sell it, with exception of the tongue, which was regarded as a delicacy (Hammond 2005). Bones uncovered at coastal locations may therefore simply be the result of chance finds used by opportunistic locals for food and whale remains have been found at two Norfolk sites in close proximity to the sea. Worked cetacean bone was recorded at Caister-on-Sea (Harman 1993) and a whale vertebra from a late Roman phase was discovered at Brancaster (Jones *et al.* 1977).

During later periods, porpoises may have occasionally been landed with a catch of Herring (*Clupea harengus*) - the porpoise has been known as 'herring hog', reflecting their diet and the name porpoise alluding to a pig-like character (Buczacki 2002). The presence of fish predators such as seal, porpoise and whale would certainly have been used to locate fish shoals (Smylie 2004). In Saxon times, fish and birds would be caught for food on long sea voyages and there is one account of salvaging a dead whale, which provided meat for three months (Hagen 1995).

The relative scarcity of cetaceans certainly added to their value. Vertebrae from porpoises were found in two deposits at the Cathedral Refectory site in Norwich, one of the bones showing a clear chop mark. The Communar Rolls Of Norwich Cathedral Priory have records of porpoise being bought in this period for 16s and 17s, some of the most expensive items on the shopping list. In records for medieval Ipswich there are references to porpoise being sold as luxury items on the fish market, along with other sea-life such as sturgeon and even whale (Alsford 1999).

In urban contexts, the presence of cetacean remains therefore denotes sites of higher standing. A Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) vertebra was recovered from recent excavations at Fishergate in Norwich, suggesting that waste material from the cathedral or other place of similar status may have been dumped there. It is also interesting to note that, in previous excavations along Fishergate, bone tools and utensils found have included a needle and a pin, possibly made from "cetacean mammal bone" (Ayers 1994). There is a record of a porpoise bone included in the secular family treasure of St. Ninian's Isle dated to c.800, which otherwise consisted only of silver objects (Small *et al.* 1973). The presence of this bone remains an enigma, but it may have been included with the treasure a status indicator (Hagen 1995).

A juvenile porpoise vertebra was identified from a pit fill at Duke Street in Norwich, the site of the Dukes Palace, along with deer remains and those of a range of bird species, all certainly indicative of high status eating. Small cetacean (possibly porpoise), dolphin and whale vertebrae were also recovered from 15th Century deposits at a high status site at Launceston Castle in Cornwall. It was mentioned at the time that these small cetacean bones are rare in archaeological deposits (Albarella & Davis 1996).

Seals and porpoises featured on the menu at the enthronement of George Nevile as the Archbishop of York in 1465. The original description of the event survives in the Public Record Office and a printed version was published in 1645. Amongst the list of wildlife on the menu of what became known as 'The Nevile Feast' were 400 swan, 204 crane, 1000 egret, 504 deer, 200 Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and 12 seal and porpoise. The quantities mentioned for the feasting at York are suggestive of organised hunting or incidental captures of porpoise while fishing.

A Common Seal mandible was recovered from 17th Century rubbish pits during excavations at the former Nestle factory site in Norwich. This individual is very likely to have been presented as an unusual dish at one of the many political banquets held there by Sir John Hobart in the 1600s. Other bones recovered from the site included Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), Bittern, wader species, swan, fowl, Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and deer. The seal may

even have been one of the many creatures kept by Sir Thomas Browne in his garden in the centre of Norwich during the 17th Century, as he wrote that “some [seals] have been kept many moneths in ponds” and could “bee caryed about alive and kept long if it can bee brought to feed”.

A mandible from a Common Seal was also recovered from the Cathedral Refectory assemblage in Norwich. The use of cetacean or seal at monastic sites as a fish substitute is not only known in England; there is at least one record of butchered porpoise in a 15th Century deposit of the Dominican Abbey at Norden in Germany (Kuchelmann, pers. comm.) Seal was eaten by many who practised fasting, on the premise that, like cetaceans, otter and puffin, it was more like fish than flesh and therefore acceptable on Fridays or during Lent (Buczacki 2002) and porpoise is referred to as “fish for fasting purposes” in records for York (O’Connor, 1991), as is whale meat. Eventually the bishops ruled against this and the consumption of seal meat became confined to poorer folk who would salt them and hang them in their chimneys to be smoked (Thompson 1989). After 1595, meatless days were fewer and less strictly adhered to anyway around this time whales started to disappear from menus and porpoises were less frequently mentioned in the historic literature (Hope 2005). Seals did still have other uses, however. Their oil was collected by some in Northern Europe communities for use as lamp-fuel or kept in a bottle as a cure for rheumatic and other joint problems. Seal skin was also used in mainland Britain for the production of high-quality shoes and bags.

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Water Vole - East Anglia is thought to hold up to one third of the English Water Vole population and densities in the Broads are considered to be amongst the highest in Britain. (*John Miller*)

Yellow-necked Mouse - this species can be distinguished from the Wood Mouse by its larger size, relatively heavier tail and well-defined, extensive collar. (*David Nobbs*)





Rabbit - while the national population is larger than it was 25 years ago, Rabbit numbers are thought to have fallen by over 25% in the last decade. (*Chris Knights*)

Fox - the number of Fox records submitted continues to increase, although the national population trend is still unclear. (*Hans Watson*)





Weasel - the elusive Weasel is rarely seen, let alone photographed, and most records refer to individuals glimpsed breaking cover to cross roads. (*Richard Porter*)

Red Deer - are most frequently sighted around Thetford Forest, in parts of the Broads and in central North Norfolk. National trends suggest the UK population is now stable. (*John Miller*)





Reeve's Muntjac - the long tail of this species helps to distinguish it from the similarly sized Chinese Water Deer. (*Chris Knights*)

Chinese Water Deer - lack the black facial markings of Reeve's Muntjac and have larger ears, with long upper canines also protruding from the mouth in males. (*Hans Watson*)



Determining the status & pattern of distribution of the Water Vole in the Waveney & Little Ouse river valleys, 2004-05

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Background

In contrast to the terrestrial ecology of the Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) in continental Europe, the species occupies a predominantly semi-aquatic niche in Britain within a wide range of aquatic and wetland habitats, from lowland rivers, reedbed, fen and grazing marsh dyke networks, to small ponds, moats and upland moorland streams. It is dependent on dense herbaceous vegetation for food and concealment from predators and typically excavates and utilises a burrow system. In parts of its British range, the Water Vole has declined severely and as a consequence it has now been afforded full legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act. It is a priority species as part of the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (DoE 1995).

Once widespread and common in Britain, the Water Vole underwent a steady decline throughout the 20th Century that accelerated during the 1980s and 1990s, predominantly due to predation by the non-native American Mink (*Mustela vison*). National surveys undertaken by the Vincent Wildlife Trust in 1989-90 (Strachan & Jefferies 1993) and 1996-98 (Jefferies 2003) show that, since 1945, Water Vole had been lost from 89% of the sites surveyed. The drop in numbers appeared to have developed into a serious population crash, with an estimated decrease in the national population from 7.2 to 0.88 million individuals between the two surveys, a decline of 88%. Within the 109 surveyed sites located in Norfolk, numbers had fallen by 54%.



Water Vole - Julie Curl

The mechanisms of the decline in Water Vole are considered to be colony isolation and population fragmentation, thought to have been caused by habitat loss and the intensification of farming practices since 1945, exacerbated in recent decades by an expanding feral American Mink population (Strachan & Moorhouse 2006). The viability and persistence of individual colonies is dependent on the existence of a number of adjacent colonies within a cluster – the metapopulation, where there is frequent inter-colony interchange of individuals. As colonies become extinct, the remaining sub-populations become more widely spaced and individuals are less likely to move between them, reinforcing the isolation-fragmentation mechanisms and potentially resulting in the subsequent break-up of a whole metapopulation.

In lowland Britain, the remaining Water Vole strongholds are in southern and eastern England where the Environment Agency's Anglian Region supports 20% of Britain's and 37%

of England's remaining population (Strachan *et al.* 2000). East Anglia constitutes an important part of this eastern stronghold and, at the county scale, Norfolk supports widespread, extensive populations and high levels of occupancy in some areas, including parts of the Broads in the east and the Fens edge in the southwest of the county.

Introduction and survey rationale

A county Water Vole survey in 1997 (Yaxley 1997a, Yaxley 1997b) yielded, for the first time, a broad picture of the distribution of the species in Norfolk and identified strongholds such as the Broads and the North Norfolk coast. Although the data were invaluable, a large proportion of the sites selected were located on river and stream channels using a standard methodology for selecting Otter (*Lutra lutra*) survey sites at bridge sampling points. To a large extent, Water Vole distribution and status at the finer scale, including at area and sub-catchment levels, has remained undetermined and, at the river valley scale, patterns of distribution and differentiation in habitat usage have remained unclear. Subsequently, more targeted surveys of interconnected dyke networks in west Norfolk (*e.g.* Schofield 2001) hinted at the likely importance of these areas as Water Vole habitat and helped highlight the potential hit-and-miss nature and shortcomings of rivers-based surveys for detecting significant populations.

Quantitative evidence derived from the two national surveys, the county survey and more recent local surveys (*e.g.* Gillingham 2003), as well as from anecdotal information, indicated that Water Vole had declined or disappeared from extensive stretches of a number of Norfolk's main rivers including both the River Waveney and Little Ouse. Based on the limited information available, the predicted scenario was of an overall retraction in distribution and possible disappearance along extensive stretches of the main river channels, with colonies persisting in the floodplain wetlands and along smaller watercourses, including grazing marsh and other dyke networks.

In the late 1990s, a European Interreg project, the Transnational Ecological Network (TEN) III Project, promoting the principle of networks in wetland and aquatic systems in the North Sea region, selected Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils to participate together with a number of equivalent Dutch and German partners. Under the auspices of a newly-formed Waveney and Little Ouse Partnership, the availability of funding via the TEN Project presented an opportunity for Norfolk Wildlife Trust to undertake a comprehensive Water Vole survey within the TEN Project area in partnership with the Environment Agency, which provided matched funding. The aims of the survey were to provide the Waveney and Little Ouse Partnership with baseline information in relation to potential future wetland habitat creation and restoration, to inform on their up-to-date status relative to the 1997 county survey and reported national trends, and to provide a greater understanding of the species' distribution and habitat utilization at the whole river valley scale. This survey, undertaken in 2004-05, also included first-time coverage of the extensive network of ditches and dykes in the Fens area in South-west Norfolk adjacent to the boundary with Cambridgeshire.

Project survey area

The Water Vole survey corresponded to the trans-boundary TEN Project area, including the River Waveney valley downstream to St. Olaves (34.1km) and the whole River Little Ouse valley to its confluence with the River Great Ouse at Brandon Creek (36.2km). Within each valley, the project boundary extended to the edge of the floodplain and beyond the main valleys to include tributary rivers and streams and their associated floodplains, some of which support important fen sites. West of the Cut-off Channel and the B1112 road near Hockwold, the project area broadened into an approximately 10km wide corridor encompassing a segment

of the Fens north to Southery and south of the River Little Ouse to Daisy Hill Farm at the River Lark-Great Ouse confluence in Cambridgeshire.

Survey procedure and methodology

The survey was time-limited to 2004 and 2005, with the aim of achieving complete coverage of the TEN Project area, including the main Waveney and Little Ouse river channels, all wetlands, waterbodies and watercourses within the two valley floodplains and the ditch/dyke networks across the broader area of The Fens adjacent to the River Little Ouse, encompassed within the western end of the project area. The main river channels and tributary streams were divided into 500m sections, corresponding to Environment Agency river corridor survey sections. Due to time constraints, the extent of the survey, access restrictions and other factors, only one bank was surveyed on some sections of the main river channel. For dykes and ditches, each intersection between junctions was treated as a single survey section and, where possible, both banks were surveyed simultaneously. For waterbodies, the whole of the shoreline was surveyed. In any locations where complete coverage was not possible, a sampling approach was adopted utilising spot surveys every 5-10m or 10-20m.

The survey was based on the presence/absence principle, using the ‘stop at first sign’ approach. As the survey aimed to plot presence, patterns of distribution and habitat utilization, latrine counts were not undertaken. Sightings during surveys are very infrequent, and individuals were generally detected using field signs, which are regarded as reliable indicators of Water Vole presence (Strachan & Moorhouse 2006), including:

- Droppings – deposited randomly in both core and peripheral sites, away from latrines.
- Latrines – piles of droppings, scent-marked by males and females, established by females and indicating territorial activity in core sites used for breeding.
- Burrows.
- Feeding stations – found in both core and peripheral sites.
- Footprints – indicate recent activity in both core and peripheral sites.
- Worn pathways (runs) in vegetation at or near the water’s edge.
- Grazed Water Vole ‘lawn’ outside burrow entrance.

Records of Water Vole from wetland nature reserves and area surveys undertaken within the project area during 2004-05 by other organisations were incorporated into the dataset, including:

- Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) – records from SWT Oulton Marshes and SWT Redgrave & Lopham Fen.
- RSPB – records from a Water Vole, Otter and American Mink survey at RSPB Lakenheath Fen (Walker 2004).
- Broadland Environmental Services Limited – Water Vole records from several compartments of the Waveney Valley, surveyed as part of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project.
- The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough-records for the Fens area in Cambridgeshire, south of the River Little Ouse.

Field-signs of American Mink, predominantly droppings (scats) and footprints, were searched for concurrently and recorded. Sightings and records of any animals trapped by landowners within the project area during 2004-05 were also incorporated.

Results and discussion

Although the aim at the outset was to survey the entire TEN Project area, in practice this was not achievable due to demands on time and funding, which restricted the amount of dedicated survey time. As such, priority was given to achieving the most thorough coverage possible within the Norfolk part of the project area. At the end of the survey, a number of small gaps in coverage of the main River Waveney remained, with complete coverage of the main River Little Ouse. In relation to the river valley floodplains, coverage of the Waveney Valley was patchy, with more substantial coverage of the Little Ouse valley. None of the tributary rivers and streams radiating from the main project area was surveyed. Substantial coverage of the Fens area was achieved, the largest proportion being in Norfolk north of the River Little Ouse, with considerably reduced coverage south of the river, within Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. However, it is considered that survey coverage was sufficiently comprehensive to provide a picture of the overall distribution of Water Vole within the TEN Project area and to indicate their pattern of distribution and habitat utilisation relative to the main river channels, wetlands and watercourse networks. Water Vole colonies remain in pockets along both the main Waveney and Little Ouse river channels but there are long stretches where they are absent despite the presence of appropriate habitat, particularly along the Little Ouse (Figure 1).

There is a difference in the extent of Water Vole occupancy between the main Waveney and Little Ouse channels, with more extensive occupation of the River Waveney. The species remains present in the upper reach, adjacent to SWT Redgrave and Lopham Fen, although downstream (east) of this site there are considerable gaps in distribution, with complete absence from an 8.5km stretch of the river from Bressingham Fen (TM067800) downstream to Scole (TM152783). Further downstream, the stretch between Scole to Homersfield (TM284853) is almost contiguously occupied by Water Vole; in fact, this is the most extensively occupied section of the River Waveney. Downstream of Homersfield, as far as Geldeston Lock (TM388908), occupancy becomes sporadic, with complete absence of individuals from extensive stretches. Downstream, where the river becomes tidal, voles are present only at North Cove (TM462911) as far as the TEN Project boundary at St. Olaves.



Figure 1. Broad-scale map of Water Vole distribution in the Waveney and Little Ouse valleys within the TEN Project area.

Water Vole are absent from most of the main Little Ouse, with only in a small number of discrete pockets occupied, at Knettishall (TL955807), Nuns' Bridges, Thetford (TL873825), Thetford Priory (TL862831), Thetford Sewage Farm (TL855834), A11/Abbey Heath, Thetford (TL853834-TL852834), adjacent to RSPB Lakenheath Fen (TL716864-TL690862) and near Brandon Bank (TL637876-TL635877).

Adjacent to the headwaters of the River Waveney, the river valley floodplain at SWT Redgrave & Lopham Fen, a wetland reserve comprising tall fen vegetation, dykes and turf ponds, supports a substantial Water Vole population (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Schematic map showing pattern of distribution of Water Vole along the main River Waveney Channel, radiating across the valley floodplain at SWT Redgrave & Lopham Fen.

However, downstream of the fen, the species is absent from both the main river and the floodplain eastwards to Scole. East of Scole, soke dykes adjacent to, and parallel with, the main River Waveney channel and grazing marsh dyke networks across the floodplain, away from the main river channel, are occupied by a substantial, widely dispersed population. Along with SWT Redgrave and Lopham Fen, this constitutes the mainstay of Water Vole presence within the Waveney Valley as far as the TEN Project boundary at St. Olaves.

West of SWT Redgrave & Lopham Fen there is little occupation of the Little Ouse headwaters or on the upper- to mid-Little Ouse Valley floodplain, and voles appear to be absent from Hinderclay Fen, SWT Thelnetham Fen, SWT Hopton Fen and SWT Market Weston Fen (A. Excell *in litt.*). However, adjacent to the lower reaches of the main River Little Ouse, where the valley opens out west of the Cut-off Channel into the Fens area, there is a substantial but widely dispersed population within the ditch and dyke network draining intensively cultivated arable farmland (Figure 3). In this area, survey coverage was predominantly within Norfolk, north of the river, and this is reflected in the distribution of Water Vole shown. However, the species was also present south of the main river within Suffolk, with a substantial population in RSPB Lakenheath Fen (Walker 2004) and in Cambridgeshire, where further survey effort is likely to yield a similar distribution picture to that north of the main river. The population in the southwestern Norfolk Fens is a novel discovery, with coverage of this area during the 1997 county survey being largely restricted to

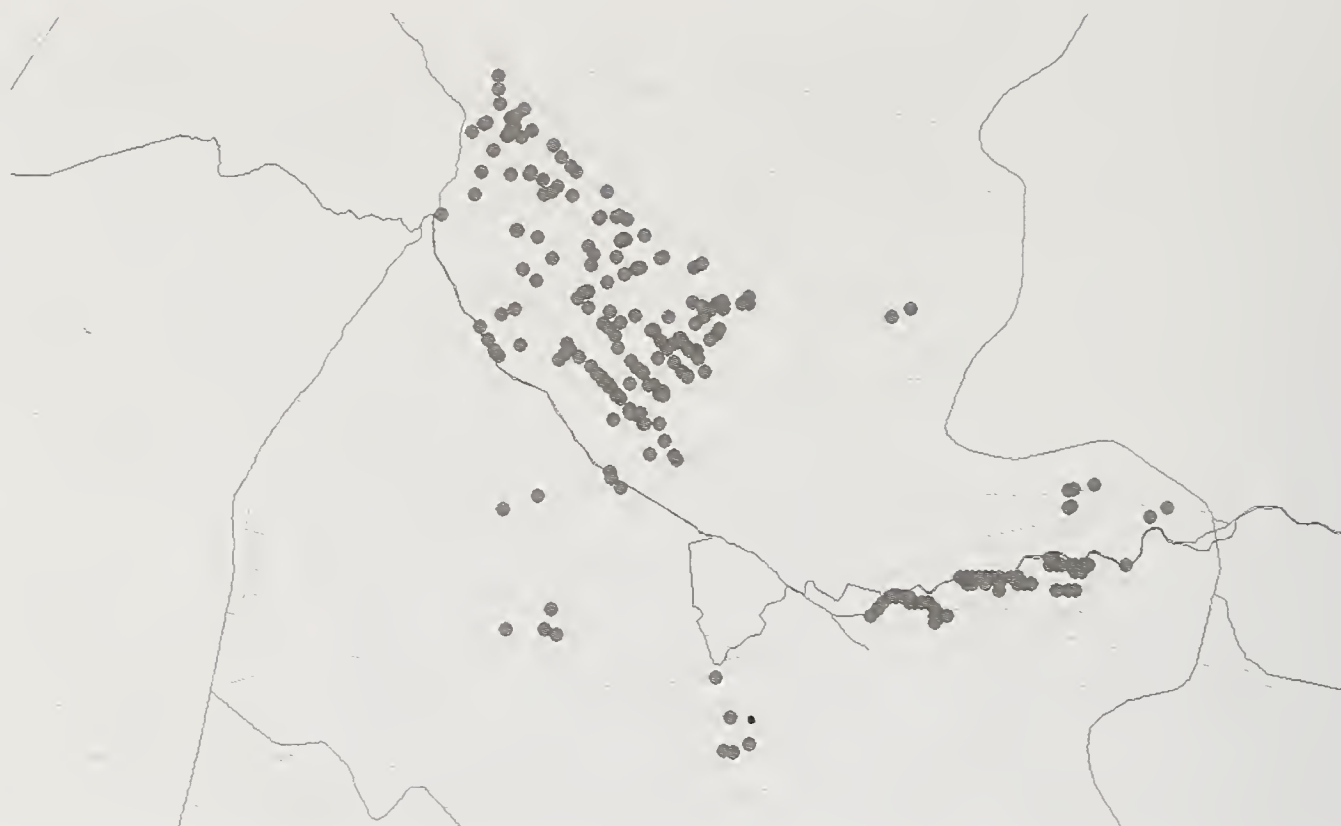


Figure 3. Schematic map showing distribution of Water Vole in the Fens area adjacent to the lower River Little Ouse. Individuals are widely dispersed throughout an extensive interconnected dyke network. The eastern cluster south of the main river is in RSPB Lakenheath Fen.

the main River Little Ouse channel (Yaxley 1997a). It appears to be part of what may constitute a wider stronghold extending north and west across the Fens area in Norfolk and in adjacent parts of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire and it is likely that this population is of significant importance at the national scale (Baker 2007).

American Mink occupy both the Waveney and Little Ouse valleys (Figure 4) and evidence of breeding, including den sites (J. Hall, S. Henson, P. Loosley pers. obs.) and young kits (P. Loosley, M. Prowse pers. obs.) were observed within both valleys during 2004-05. A total of 105 mink were recorded, through field-signs, sightings and records of 14 animals trapped and dispatched by two landowners in the Waveney Valley and one in the Little Ouse Valley. There were 31 records in the Waveney Valley and 74 in the Little Ouse Valley, with occurrence along both main river channels and in both valley floodplains. Mink are undoubtedly under-recorded (Henson 2002) and the totals presented here do not include individuals trapped at Suffolk Wildlife Trust sites or in the Fens area. Although there is a marked difference in the number of records for each of the two river valleys, it is difficult to ascertain whether this is significant. The collation of additional mink records from sites where trapping is undertaken may provide further evidence. Factors that could potentially influence these differences include availability of den sites, trapping effort, differences in field-sign detection due to variation in riparian vegetation structure, the availability of man-made structures for territory marking and surveyor effort and search skills. In addition, sites where mink deposit their scats may be some distance from the edge of main river channels (P. Gambling *in litt.*) and thus may go undetected during surveys of these features for Water Vole.

The extent of Water Vole occupancy along the two main river channels appears to be negatively correlated with the number of mink recorded in each of the two river valleys, but there could be other contributory factors. Differences in landform and land-use, relating to valley width and the presence or absence of wet floodplain grasslands with extensive interconnected drainage networks, may also play a part. The Waveney valley is generally wider and more open in comparison with the Little Ouse valley upstream (east) of the Cut-off

Channel, and it supports extensive floodplain wet grassland utilised for livestock grazing. The Waveney valley floodplain network of ditches and dykes is more extensive and provides a considerably larger carrying capacity for Water Vole. Within metapopulations, there may be augmentation of river channel colonies by individuals from source populations along dyke sites in the valley floodplain, the former to withstand predation by mink.



Figure 4. Broad-scale map of American Mink distribution in the Waveney and Little Ouse valleys within the TEN Project area.

Summary and concluding remarks

Contrary to the scenario predicted, Water Vole currently occupies extensive stretches of the main River Waveney, although large gaps exist in the population in areas where the habitats appear to be appropriate. As previous anecdotal information inferred, the species is largely absent from the Little Ouse, being restricted to as few as seven colonies in three widely spaced areas. This represents a greater frequency of occupancy than that detected during the county survey in 1997, when presence was detected only near the headwaters.

As predicted, an extensive, widely dispersed population occupies the Waveney Valley floodplain, predominantly in soke dykes adjacent to the river and in interconnected grazing marsh dykes, whilst at the western end of the TEN Project area in the Fens, an extensive dyke network draining arable farmland supports a similarly extensive and widely dispersed population north of the lower River Little Ouse. A number of wetland nature reserves within the project area include reedbed and tall-herb fen habitats and of these, SWT Redgrave & Lopham Fen and RSPB Lakenheath Fen both support substantial populations.

Augmentation from source populations in the extensive ditch and dyke networks on the floodplain and the close proximity of optimal habitat such as reedbed may enable adjacent colonies located on linear river channels to persist in the presence of mink, and further research in this area would be invaluable. The large scale and extent of these floodplain habitats may also help buffer their populations against the negative impacts of mink, which may partly explain the relatively smaller declines, compared to the national figure, seen for the Norfolk sites in the two national surveys.

The newly-discovered Norfolk population in the Fens arable farmland dyke network downstream of the Cut-off Channel may constitute part of a wider Fens stronghold for Water Vole in Norfolk and adjacent parts of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. It is likely that this population and that in the Broads, located to the north of the eastern end of the TEN Project area, are of importance at the national scale.

Next steps

A number of measures potentially form a follow-up phase of Water Vole conservation work within the Waveney and Little Ouse river valleys, utilising the distributional information now available. These include:

- Raising awareness of Water Vole conservation issues and disseminating information on distribution and status to landowners and TEN Project partners.
- Providing best practice habitat management advice and helping achieve habitat gains and enhancements by optimising management where colonies occur and creating new wetlands with beneficial features.
- Providing opportunities for colony expansion by reconnecting isolated pockets of appropriate habitat.
- Catchment-wide mink control in partnership with landowners and partner organisations including the Broads Authority, the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Data management, dissemination and use

Raw data from the TEN Project survey are stored and managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust in electronic format in an Access database with GIS distribution maps of Water Vole and American Mink created using *MapInfo*. These data are also held by the Environment Agency, the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, Suffolk Biological Records Centre and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The data have also been contributed to a national Water Vole mapping project currently in progress. Information on GIS maps showing vole and mink distribution and a directory of sites have been shared with TEN project partners, local authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, landowners and other relevant groups. Both electronic and hard copy formats are available.

The increased knowledge of the location of Water Vole colonies and the pattern of their distribution within the Waveney and Little Ouse river valleys will help inform:

- Routine river and watercourse maintenance.
- Ongoing SSSI, County Wildlife Site and nature reserve management.
- Habitat and site restoration.
- Flood prevention schemes.
- Wetland habitat creation schemes.
- Appropriate management for voles within agri-environment schemes.
- Catchment- and region-wide mink control.

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Jeremy Halls (Broadland Environmental Services Limited) and Jane Harris provided Water Vole records from several compartments of the Waveney Valley floodplain, surveyed as part of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project, and in the Fens area, Amanda Proud provided records for Cambridgeshire, south of the River Little Ouse (survey on behalf of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough). The survey was greatly augmented by the provision of Water Vole records from nature reserves within the TEN Project area: Sue Rendell-Read provided Water Vole records for Suffolk Wildlife Trust Oulton Marshes; Andrew Excell provided records for Suffolk Wildlife Trust Redgrave & Lopham Fen and Henry Walker undertook a Water Vole and American Mink survey at RSPB Lakenheath Fen. Martin Sanford at the Suffolk Biological Records Centre also provided additional records.

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The Broadland Flood Alleviation Project and Water Vole mitigation

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Introduction

The Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) is reputedly Britain's fastest declining mammal. It is a priority species within the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan (DoE 1995) and is classified as endangered (MacDonald & Strachan 1999). Causes of this decline are principally attributed to habitat fragmentation through agricultural management and local development (Henson 2006) and predation by feral American Mink (*Mustela vison*) (Carter & Bright 2003). In 1998, the Water Vole received limited protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and following a review this was amended in April 2008, giving full protection. It is illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take; possess, alive or dead; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct a place used for shelter or protection, or disturb a Water Vole occupying such a place.

Strachan *et al.* (2000) reported that the Environment Agency's Anglian Region supports one-fifth (20.5%) of Britain's Water Vole population and over one-third (36.9%) of England's remaining Water Vole. Within this region, East Anglia is considered to be a stronghold for the species. In Norfolk, increased recording effort since 1999 indicates that the population remains widespread, with the Broads area supporting one of the highest densities in Britain (Henson 2002) as a result of the complexity of wetland habitats, which offer individuals a potential refuge from the influence of mink predation (Halcrow Ltd. 2007a, Henson 2002). Evidence from several studies (*e.g.* Carter & Bright 2003) suggests that mink foraging activity tends to be concentrated on main watercourses and adjacent land diminishing with increasing distance from main river courses in complex wetland habitats.

This paper outlines the measures being taken by the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project (BFAP) to ensure that potential impacts on Water Vole in the Broads are taken into account and mitigated against during the implementation of its flood defence schemes.

Background: Water Voles in the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

The BFAP is a 20-year publicly funded project currently being undertaken by Broadland Environmental Services Ltd. (BESL), a joint venture between Edmund Nuttall Ltd. and Halcrow Group Ltd., on behalf of the Environment Agency. The project provides a range of flood defence improvement and maintenance services for more than 250km of floodbank in the lower tidal reaches of the Rivers Yare, Bure, Thurne, Ant and Waveney (see www.bfap.org). The nature of the Broads landscape means that the impacts on a wide range of environmental features including flora and fauna need to be considered as part of the implementation of individual flood defence schemes.

The main improvement works involve removal of vegetation and large-scale earthworks, including the in-filling of sections of existing dykes. Furthermore, the timing of works (April to October to benefit from suitable ground conditions) means that impacts on flora and fauna may be considerable without appropriate measures being taken to avoid or mitigate against potential impacts. The zones and habitats affected within the works corridor comprise the rond (area of reed/saltmarsh located between the main river and the floodbank), the floodbank, the folding (area of land between the floodbank and the soke dyke) and the soke dyke (Figure 1).

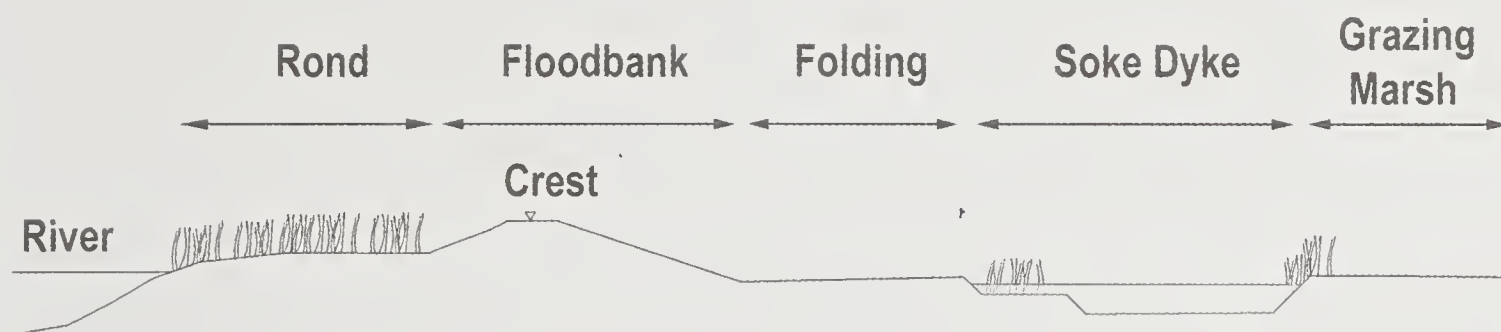


Figure 1 Works corridor

The soke dyke runs parallel to the floodbank and is the traditional source of local material for building and maintaining it. As part of the wider grazing marsh dyke system, soke dykes have the potential to provide important habitat for Water Vole. Soke dyke habitat can be particularly important in heavily grazed marshes, for example, affording shelter and food along the ungrazed folding edge. However, soke dykes may also become unsuitable where there is vegetational succession with little or no open water present. Whilst flood defence improvement works may necessitate the in-filling of lengths of soke dyke, these works are fundamentally important for the protection of the wildlife value of the wider marshes from inundation and flooding by river water. However, the design and implementation of the schemes also provides the opportunity to restore and enhance habitat for Water Vole and other wetland wildlife.

Best practice for Water Voles – the need for mitigation

Under the BFAP contract, the main flood defence improvement works are to be completed by 2012. Whilst Water Vole have been a material consideration within the BFAP since its commencement in 2001, in 2006 the species was present in high numbers within all the project scheme sites for the first time. Prior to 2006, Water Vole mitigation schemes were generally restricted to localised sections of only a few hundred metres, whereas in 2006 mitigation schemes were spread over more than 17km of soke dyke with some individual lengths exceeding 1km.

BESL has produced and updated a mitigation practice note for Water Vole. The focus of mitigation relates to the displacement of animals and, where necessary, trapping and relocation (translocation). Under current best practice guidance (Strachan & Moorhouse 2006), displacement is not recommended as a tool for mitigation along linear lengths of habitat exceeding 50m. Indeed, Strachan & Moorhouse (2006) consider that for works covering more extensive lengths or areas of habitat, such as those that could be applicable to the BFAP, there is no obvious mitigation solution and that, other than a re-appraisal of programme and design options, a combination of different mitigation techniques may offer the best solution.

Prior to 2006, the main technique for displacement of Water Vole utilised in the BFAP had been the use of vegetation stripping, with works permitted to proceed when subsequent checks during a defined time period failed to find signs of activity. Where signs of occupancy continued to be recorded, trapping ensued, followed by the relocation of any animals caught to similar marsh dyke habitat nearby. After discussions in 2006 with Steve Henson (Norfolk Wildlife Trust) and the Broads Authority, it was concluded that trapping should become standard practice, as the efficacy of vegetation stripping as a mitigation technique for the species had previously been questioned by Dean (2003).

As a result of the scale of the BFAP schemes, the displacement technique used by BESL is contrary to the guidelines given in Strachan & Moorhouse (2006), with vegetation removed by

mechanical cutting, generally by flail. The cut material is not raked away and burrows are not marked. Furthermore, mitigation including trapping is generally undertaken during April to October *i.e.* throughout the main Water Vole breeding season, as these are the months to which the major construction works are restricted. Trapped animals are relocated to suitable habitat nearby, generally within 1km; however, the species is already widely distributed within the Broads region, thus reducing options for translocation.

During 2006, 470 individuals were trapped and relocated from over 17km of linear habitat, despite the deployment of vegetation stripping as a mitigation technique aimed at displacing individuals. As a consequence, BESL committed to undertake a review of its mitigation strategy in consultation with the relevant statutory conservation authorities and other interested parties (Halcrow Ltd. 2007a). Based on its observations in 2006 and issues raised within the review process, BESL updated its Water Vole mitigation practice note for implementation in 2007 (Halcrow Ltd. 2007b). The consultation also identified potential research opportunities for investigating the efficacy of the mitigation techniques used. Parameters investigated during 2007 as a result of the review process included:

- Survey methodology: development of a Broads Water Vole habitat suitability index.
- Utilization of soke dyke and grazing marsh dyke habitat by Water Vole.
- Efficacy of displacement techniques, in particular water level management.
- Behaviour and movements of displaced voles during the mitigation process.
- Colonisation of new soke dyke habitat by Water Vole.

BESL employed a one-year undergraduate placement student from the University of East Anglia, whose dissertation project was based upon BFAP Water Vole mitigation techniques. The study site was Cantley Marshes SSSI, owned and managed by the RSPB, which was subject to flood defence improvement works during 2007. The project included the use of Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and radio collars for tracking movements of individuals.

Habitat suitability assessment

A need that became clear during the review was the requirement for up-to-date baseline data on the local presence of Water Vole prior to the commencement of flood defence works. Data generated as part of the BFAP indicate that the distribution of individuals within a wider habitat complex can vary between seasons, as well as annually. BFAP baseline surveys may be undertaken during summer, with Environmental Statements prepared in winter and works on the ground commencing in the following spring. In 2006, this resulted in animals being found on a site that a prior survey had indicated to be unoccupied.

In recognition of the dynamic nature of Water Vole populations, it was agreed that an assessment of habitat suitability, *i.e.* the ability of the available habitat to support the species, could be used to provide a more robust, precautionary approach to predicting the likely requirement for the need for mitigation. The methodology entails a number of validation checks to confirm if individuals are present where habitat is deemed suitable, thereby reducing the time required for undertaking surveys in the field. Where habitat is deemed unsuitable, a check of the site for field signs is undertaken in the weeks preceding commencement of works to confirm absence. This method can also provide an assessment of the suitability of the wider grazing marsh habitat for supporting Water Vole. This is an essential consideration when planning implementation of the displacement technique as a mitigation option (Halcrow Ltd. 2007a).

A Broads Water Vole Habitat Suitability Assessment (WVHSA) was subsequently developed for use during 2007 surveys. The method, developed from that of Harris (2002), evaluates eight features relevant to suitability for use by Water Voles and if present during a survey, these features are recorded:

- Presence of well-developed bankside & emergent vegetation (60%) for cover.
- Steep bank faces for burrowing.
- Nest-building opportunities in vegetation above general water levels.
- Absence of heavy grazing pressure/poached ground on at least one watercourse margin.
- Presence of a berm (ledge).
- Availability of refuge areas (*e.g.* tall sedge & rush tussocks) during flooding.
- Permanent open water throughout year.
- Availability of appropriate food sources throughout year.

A higher number of features present indicates greater suitability (Table 1). The WVHSA is a rapid method of assessing a large number of survey locations for their potential to support Water Vole and, combined with surveys, can provide an indication of the likely extent of the population within a given area.

Score	Suitability of habitat for Water Vole	Comment
1	Unsuitable	This type of waterbody will support very little, if any, vegetation, possess poor shallow or low banks, no berm and no rush/grass tussocks in close proximity to water body
2	Unsuitable	Lack of well developed vegetation cover
3	Sub-optimal	A small number of positive features; these waterbodies may not be of enhancement potential
4	Sub-optimal	This type of water body is quite frequent and often characterized by suitable open water, steep banks and appropriate vegetation cover. A score 4 water body may have good enhancement potential to render it optimal
5	Sub-optimal	A score 5 water body can often appear suitable for Water Vole and may have a number of field signs; enhancement potential to render it an optimal water body is almost certain
6, 7 & 8	Optimal	An optimal water body will often have dense and varied vegetation, high and structurally sound banks, permanent open water, a lack of disturbance (often due to the exclusion of cattle) and the presence of one or more berms, suitable refuge sites or nest building opportunities

Table 1: Scores and descriptions of Water Vole habitat suitability assessment (WVHSA)

Research methodology

As part of the study undertaken at Cantley Marshes, a full assessment of the grazing marsh dyke system was undertaken using the WVHSA. A field survey was also undertaken in order to validate the presence/absence of animals in relation to habitat assessments. The study area was a 1.7km length of soke dyke with Water Vole present, which would require in-filling as part of the BFAP works. Water Vole traps incorporating a covered chamber filled with straw were set at 20m intervals along the entire length, baited with apple and carrot and checked twice daily. All animals caught were PIT tagged, weighed and sexed. This continued until no new voles

were caught for three consecutive days. A total of 30 individuals were PIT tagged and of these 10 adults had radio collars fitted one week prior to the deployment of the displacement technique. Radio-tracking commenced immediately during the early morning period which, combined with the repeated trapping and monitoring of animals with PIT tags, provided information on territory patterns.

The mitigation measures were deployed a minimum of three weeks prior to the commencement of construction works. This entailed initial vegetation stripping of the soke dyke. Lengths of dyke up to 200m were bunded at both ends and de-watered using diesel pumps. Additional slubbing and vegetation removal was undertaken from the centre of the channel as deemed appropriate, to remove remaining potential food and cover and to aid water pumping. De-watering was maintained for a minimum two-week period. The final mitigation technique used was trapping to relocate any remaining animals from the works corridor. All radio collars were retrieved prior to battery failure (average battery life was six weeks). One radio collar was not recovered and was presumed to have been removed from site by a predator (signal lost).

A limited amount of post-mitigation trapping was also undertaken in order to determine if Water Vole had dispersed; this trapping was limited to 150m lengths of marsh dyke adjoining the main soke dyke and the release locations of relocated animals. It is possible that some animals may have dispersed further than this.

Results & discussion

Results of the WVHSA survey indicate that both marsh and soke dykes provide suitable habitat for Water Vole along at least part of their length. The primary constraint on habitat availability at Cantley Marshes relates to high water levels and moderate to heavy poaching by grazing livestock of some of the dyke edges in the grazing marsh. Additional constraints include dense reed growth and lack of open water along some lengths of the soke dyke. The distribution of field signs generally corresponded well with the WVHSA assessments (the mapped data can be seen in the 'Environmental issues – ecology & landscape' section at www.bfap.org). Water Vole activity was recorded along some lengths of unsuitable habitat (WVHSA scores 1 & 2), although this often adjoined better quality habitat and may reflect local sink habitat which may temporarily support dispersing juveniles until they can establish territories in more optimal habitat.

Radio-tracking and animal recaptures showed that, prior to the implementation of mitigation measures, female Water Vole maintained non-overlapping territories in the region of 20-60m in length. Males appeared to be less territorial with overlapping territories of 20-360m. These territories are comparable in length to those previously published (*e.g.* in Strachan & Moorhouse 2006), with shorter territories in good quality habitat yielding a higher density of individuals per unit length. Of the 30 PIT tagged (10 radio collared) animals, nine were known to have dispersed (five of which were radio collared, one of which subsequently died). Two were relocated (one of which was radio collared) and two were known to have died (both located due to their radio collars and assumed to have died prior to the commencement of mitigation measures). Eight were trapped within the soke dyke during early captures, but not subsequently (fate unknown – may have relocated or died; two of these were radio collared), and nine were not re-trapped after initial PIT tagging (fate unknown).

Displaced Water Vole fitted with radio collars moved to nearby suitable marsh dyke habitat, up to 300m away in some cases but mainly less than 100m. In a previous study, Telfer (2000) saw dispersal trends over similar short distances into directly adjacent and suitable habitat. At Cantley Marshes, only three females are known to have definitely dispersed,

compared to six males. This may indicate that females are less likely to disperse than males, possibly reflecting territoriality (Stoddart 1970) and/or seasonality, as females may have had litters of young in burrows. Males also generally moved further than females. A single Water Vole crossed over the floodbank and swam the main river to establish itself on a marsh dyke on the opposite side of the river; this was confirmed following detection of a faint signal from the rond in front of Cantley Marshes and the surveyor crossing over to Langley Marshes to search for the animal. A strong signal was found at Langley Marshes and the radio collar was successfully removed from this individual when it was re-trapped.

Effectiveness of displacement techniques as a mitigation tool

The results of the study demonstrate the importance of combining de-watering with vegetation removal to achieve successful Water Vole displacement, as animals largely remained *in situ* after initial vegetation removal alone. It is important to note that dispersal was delayed relative to the onset of the mitigation measures, therefore appropriate lead-in times should be incorporated into mitigation programmes. We conclude that maintained water draw-down is required for a minimum two weeks prior to commencement of works. Vegetation also needs to be kept low by repeat cutting. The re-capture of a single relocated Water Vole at the translocation site a number of weeks following the initial releases indicates that this individual had avoided predation and may have successfully established a new territory at the translocation site.

In addition to the work at Cantley Marshes, in 2007 similar mitigation measures were applied to a total of over 14km of soke dyke elsewhere, compared to over 17km in 2006. The density of Water Vole territories throughout these lengths in both years was considered to be similar. The principal difference in the application of measures between 2006 and 2007 relates to the implementation of de-watering. In comparison to the need to relocate 470 water voles in 2006, only 33 required relocation in 2007. These results indicate that vegetation stripping in combination with de-watering results in successful displacement of a higher percentage of individuals. In animal welfare terms, displacement is preferable to trapping and translocation, provided there is suitable habitat nearby for animals to move into.

Colonisation of new dyke habitat

In addition to successful displacement of individuals from flood defence works, an important consideration is to ensure that new soke dykes provide suitable habitat for Water Vole and other species as quickly as possible. In relation to the former, this involves the creation of berms (ledges) along at least one dyke edge and the translocation of marginal vegetation from the dyke to be in-filled to the new dyke edge. Providing local Water Vole colonies persist for the duration of the works, colonisation of the new dyke can be predicted. Whilst differences in ground conditions vary between sites, new habitat generally develops rapidly and is fully re-instated within two years of completion. On wet and peaty substrates, habitat is generally well established within the year of completion.

As part of a strategic monitoring commitment, regular post-works surveys are undertaken in relation to a range of environmental features; this includes assessments of habitat suitability and Water Vole colonisation of new soke dyke habitat. At the majority of sites, Water Vole distribution two years after completion of flood defence works is comparable with that preceding the works and in some cases the post-works distribution is considered to be greater. Results from August 2008 at Cantley Marshes (*i.e.* in the year following completion of the works) indicate that, in places, the new soke dykes provide optimal habitat for voles and signs of occupancy were recorded at numerous locations.

Conclusions

Data generated as part of the BFAP, and in particular its review during 2006, 2007 and 2008, have resulted in the development and refinement of mitigation practice for Water Vole as part of flood defence improvement works. The development of a WVHSA, a tool with which to rapidly assess the likelihood of individuals being present in an area, has helped inform the likely requirement for mitigation measures. It also helps identify if nearby marsh habitat is suitable for supporting the species, an important requirement as part of the displacement technique implemented within the BFAP.

The results of monitoring undertaken during 2006 and 2007 provide useful information regarding the efficacy of a widely used but undocumented Water Vole mitigation technique. In particular, the results of this study demonstrate the effectiveness of the combination of vegetation stripping and maintained water draw-down as a method with which to displace animals. The results also indicate that, under the right conditions, this displacement technique is effective when used on a very large scale. The experience gained from this study leads us to tentatively conclude within the context of the Broads that:

- It is possible to undertake effective and successful mitigation measures over linear areas greater than 50m
- The use of mechanical cutting equipment is acceptable, given that this is the only practical means of working at this scale
- Individual marking of burrow entrances is not necessary as burrows are clearly observable and not blocked after cutting
- It is possible to undertake mitigation measures from April to October
- The use of 'soft release' techniques for relocated voles is not necessary

Whilst the current recommended best practice guidance (see Strachan & Moorhouse 2006) advises a very precautionary approach to mitigation practices, the results of the BFAP studies suggest that large-scale mitigation measures are feasible and do not result in negative impacts upon local Water Vole populations. Post-works surveys indicate that the distribution of individuals has expanded in some areas where flood defence improvement works have been undertaken, although this may not necessarily be causal. The Broads Water Vole population as a whole appears to be thriving and it may be that a key factor is the context of any mitigation measures within a complex wetland system of connected habitats. The results presented here may be relevant to similar complex wetland systems such as in saltmarsh and managed re-alignment schemes and further study is required to assess the transferability of the vegetation stripping/de-watering technique to smaller Water Vole populations and smaller-scale habitats and sites.

Data dissemination

A benefit of the BFAP has been the generation of thousands of Water Vole records. As part of its wider data management, BESL disseminate all data from baseline and post-works surveys to the Norfolk and Suffolk Biological Records Centres, the relevant County Mammal Recorders and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) via the NBN Gateway. The data have also been contributed to a national Water Vole mapping project currently in progress.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are owed to Merryl Gelling, a Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) researcher from the University of Oxford, for her invaluable assistance in demonstrating the use of PIT tags and radio collars during spring 2007.

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Tony Vine – Norfolk Badger Recorder

Tony passed away mid-morning on 17th August 2008 at the Queen Elizabeth II, King's Lynn hospital after a series of illnesses, aged 78.

Starting out as an enthusiastic bird-watcher in the immediate post-war years, with time spent at Wisbech Sewerage Farm and the Ouse Washes, Tony was one of that, now mainly departed, group of bird-men who numbered Richard Richardson, Geoff Want and Michael Seago, in their ranks. The founding fathers of modern day, county-based, bird-watching activities, by effectively bridging the gap between scientific academic studies and general public interest, these individuals are perhaps even responsible for creating the niche of amateur bird-watcher.

During his working life, Tony was a farm manager at Littleport and later at Setch - a towering figure of a man who would tell a situation as he perceived it, a strong Norfolk characteristic that is sadly fading, as it is now more fashionable to tell half-truths and be 'politically correct' in the 21st century. Tony had more latterly devoted his retirement to an interest in bats and some aspects of industrial archaeology. He had an incredible familiarity with Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and the many farmers and landowners in the area that few people could ever rival, and was exceedingly well known in the natural history community, usually by his initials "AEV". His notebooks, maintained since 1947 in a spidery script, contain details of heronries, bats, Badgers and World War II dummy airfields, amongst other interests, representing an unrivalled record of changes to the natural world, locally, in the second half of the 20th Century.

He will, perhaps, be best remembered for his studies of Badgers, being familiar with most of the active setts around East Anglia and acting as the official Badger Recorder for Norfolk from the late 1960s. He had seen these animals expand their population from around 25 occupied setts in the late 1960s up to the current level of perhaps in excess of 300 occupied setts today, thanks primarily to a change in public perception of the species, along with their protected status in the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and the decline of old-fashioned game-keeping.

An icehouse in mid-Norfolk, which Tony was particularly fond of and wished to see restored to enable bats to hibernate in it successfully again, is going to be completed in the coming year and dedicated to the memory of Tony Vine, a very special Norfolk naturalist. I, for one, will miss his enthusiasm and detailed historical knowledge of the many sectors of the natural and man-made world locally, and the way he popped up at so many meetings - and at our houses around meal-times!

John Goldsmith

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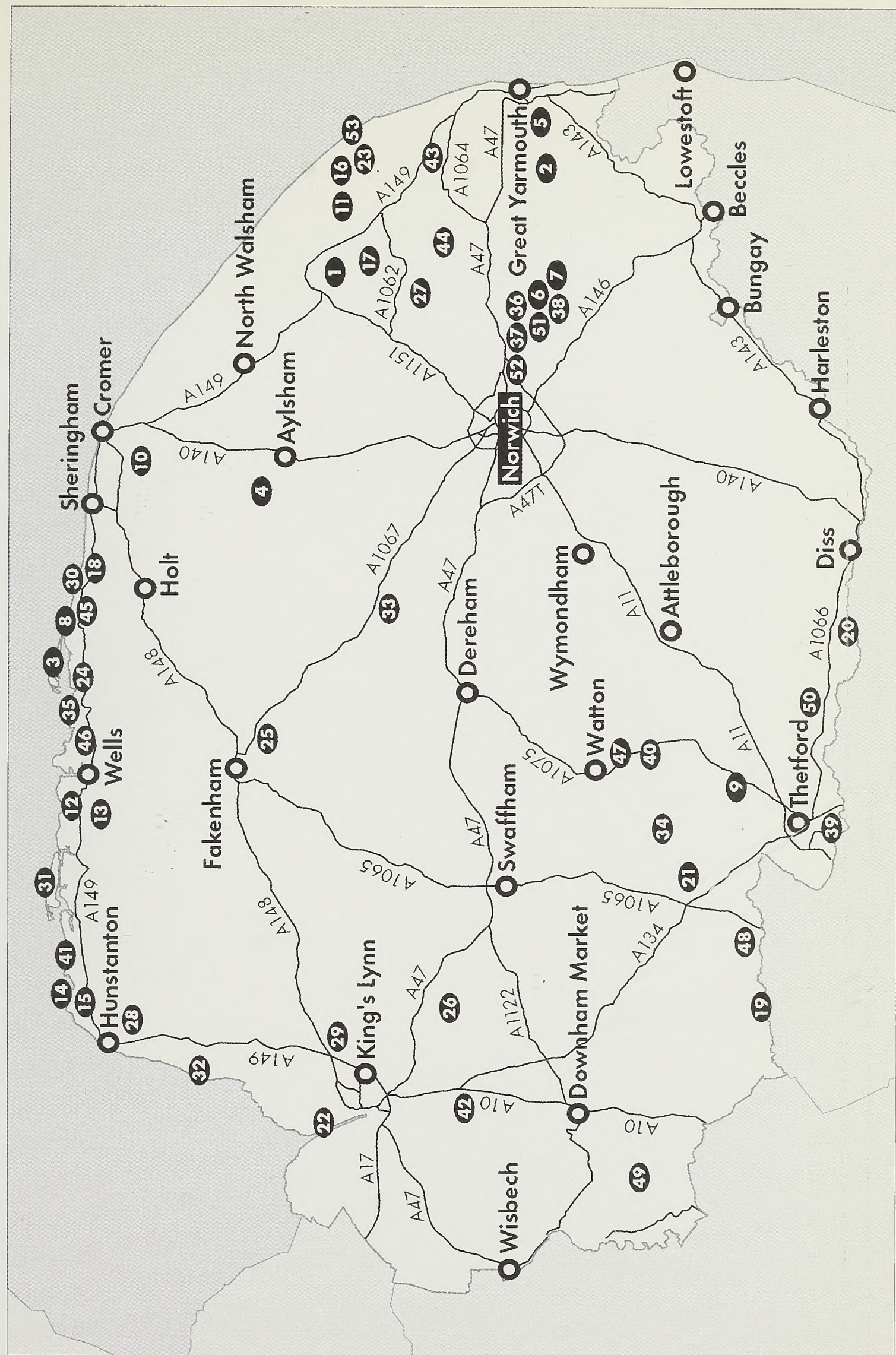
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Principal Sites and Reserves

1	Barton Broad	NWT	21	Lynford Arboretum		41	Titchwell Marsh	RSPB
2	Berney Marshes	RSPB	22	Lynn Point		42	Tottenhill	GP
3	Blakeney Point	NT	23	Martham Broad	NWT	43	Trinity Broads:	BA
4	Blickling Park	NT	24	Morston/Stiffkey Marshes	NT		Filby Broad	
5	Breydon Water	LNR	25	Pensthorpe	PWT		Lily Broad	
6	Buckenham/Cantley Marshes	RSPB	26	Pentney GP			Ormesby Broad	
7	Cantley Beet Factory	BS	27	Ranworth/Cockshott Broads	NWT		Ormesby Little Broad	
8	Cley Marsh	NWT	28	Ringstead Downs	NWT		Rollesby Broad	
9	East Wretham Heath	NWT	29	Roydon Common	NWT	44	Upton Fen	NWT
10	Felbrigg Park	NT	30	Salthouse Marshes	NWT	45	Walsey Hills	NOA
11	Hickling Broad	NWT	31	Scolt Head Island	EN	46	Warham Greens	EN
12	Holkham NNR	EN	32	Snettisham Pits	RSPB	47	Wayland Wood	NWT
13	Holkham Park	HE	33	Sparham Pools	NWT	48	Weeting Heath	NWT
14	Holme Bird Observatory	NOA	34	Stanford Training Area (TA)		49	Welney Washes	W&WT
15	Holme Dunes	NWT	35	Stiffkey Fen		50	West Harling	
16	Horsey Mere	NT	36	Strumpshaw Fen	RSPB	51	Wheatfen	TET
17	How Hill	BA	37	Surlingham Broad	NWT	52	Whitlingham CP	
18	Kelling WM		38	Surlingham/Rockland Marshes	RSPB	53	Winterton Dunes	EN
19	Hockwold Washes		39	Thetford Nunnery Lakes	BTO			
20	Lopham Fen	SWT	40	Thompson Water	NWT			
	BA	=	Broads Authority	NT	=		National Trust	
	BTO	=	British Trust for Ornithology	NWT	=		Norfolk Wildlife Trust	
	BS	=	British Sugar	PWT	=		Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust	
	EN	=	English Nature	RSPB	=		Royal Society for Protection of Birds	
	HE	=	Holkham Estate	SWT	=		Suffolk Wildlife Trust	
	LNR	=	Local Nature Reserve	TET	=		Ted Ellis Trust	
	NOA	=	Norfolk Ornithologists Association	W&WT	=		Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	





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