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# Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2008



Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society



# Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

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The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society is 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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# Norfolk Bird Report 2008

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# Editorial

On behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society I have great pleasure in presenting the annual report on the birds of Norfolk.

This year's Report marks a change in editorship and my first task is to pay tribute to the work undertaken by Giles and Judy Dunmore in their combined role of Editor and (with Neil Lawton) County Recorder. Under their stewardship the recording mechanism has developed and strengthened through computerisation and through the co-ordination of a host of record inputters, species text writers, records committee members, authors, artists and photographers. Fortunately, Giles has still found time to go birdwatching, and a picture of him 'in the field' appears in this Report. Thanks to his efforts the size, quality and reputation of the Report has continued to grow and this success has meant that, as in some other counties, the roles of Editor and County Recorder have now been split. This Report will be my first as Editor, while Dave and Jacquie Bridges continue in their new role as County Recorders.

A change in Editor provides an opportunity to reflect on how much has changed since 1953 when Michael Seago produced, in conjunction with the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust, the first Norfolk Bird Report. In some ways little has altered. Michael's 'Introduction' to this new, fifty-page publication could have been written today:-

*'The records are filed, so that they are available for purposes of research, and are reviewed by a small committee who hold themselves responsible for those included in the report. Contributors are reminded that in the case of a rare or unusual bird it is essential to submit a full field description and, if possible, to obtain the corroboration of at least one other observer.'*

However, this first Report provides ample evidence of how much else has changed. Within its pages are recorded only four Little Ringed Plovers, three 'Mediterranean Black-headed Gulls', two Common Buzzards, one Little Egret and not a single Collared Dove. Recorded in their place are a host of breeding Turtle Doves and Red-backed Shrikes, wintering Hooded Crows and a Tengmalm's Owl! For each of the intervening fifty-five years the Report has continued to document the changing fortunes of the county's birds.

Nor is it just the birds which have changed, for the Report has also reflected the growth and transformation of birdwatching. Giles's last Report, that for 2007, contains almost 250 pages and the contributions of hundreds of observers. It reflects modern revolutions in fields as diverse as bird identification and taxonomy, communication technology and photography as well as the growth of 'twitching'. Today's Report inhabits a very different world indeed from that of 1953.

It is therefore worth pausing to reflect for a moment on the role of the Report and on how it might best continue to document the county's birds and at the same time evolve to meet the needs of a new generation of birdwatchers.

Bird Reports are sometimes criticised for their lack of coverage of today's 'common' birds and less 'exciting' habitats. Where, it is sometimes asked, are details of population change in our Robins and Dunnocks? Why is there relatively little coverage of the county's agricultural hinterland? There is no easy answer to these questions. Bird Reports are, and always have been, reactive, reflecting the ornithological preoccupations of the day, where contributors live and where they choose to do their birdwatching. In Norfolk, the Report is inevitably dominated by the scarce and rare birds for which the county is so famous, and biased towards observations around the coast and in the Broads, Brecks and Fens. The Report does not provide a rigorous scientific methodology for gathering data on common birds or for surveying all corners of the county. However, thanks to projects such as the British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Birds Survey, Nest Record Scheme, Ringing Scheme, Wetland Bird Survey and Wetland Breeding Bird Survey and national and local Atlas projects, we have an ever more detailed understanding of the changing populations, distributions and movements of our commoner breeding, wintering and migratory birds. Over time, I hope increasingly to reflect the outputs of these studies in the pages of the Report.

However, the Report will still have an important role in documenting the occurrences of rarer species, whether rare breeding birds, scarce migrants or true rarities. This information is not captured at county level by any other publication and the records of these birds contained in the Report make a major contribution to the annual reviews in *British Birds* of rare breeding birds and scarce migrants, whilst national rarities occurring in Norfolk are detailed in the annual report of the *British Birds*



Rarities Committee.

I hope, however, that, as well as reporting on the latest survey results and the occurrences of scarce and rare birds, the Report can also be something just as valuable - a record of the surprises, excitements and pleasures of our annual contacts with the county's birds and a celebration in words and pictures of our year amongst them.

My priorities for the future direction of the Report are therefore:-

- Documenting the changing fortunes of common birds by reporting the results of professionally-organised surveys
- Documenting fully and accurately the occurrence of scarce and rare birds
- Celebrating each year's birds with the highest quality writing, artwork, photography and production standards

I have already sought ideas and suggestions as to how the Report might develop in the future and many people have kindly contributed their thoughts.

This year's Report sees some key changes to the Systematic List, notably the highlighting of species contained in the latest 'Red', 'Amber' and 'Green' lists of *'Birds of Conservation Concern'* and more precision in the recording of bird forms. Many species have two or more forms occurring in the county and these can have very different occurrence patterns and, very often, a different conservation status. More precise recording of these forms will enable the Report to respond more easily to future taxonomic change as well as support the latest *'Birds of Conservation Concern'* listings which have now also been produced to the level of form rather than species. In addition, a new section entitled *'Notes for Contributors'* provides additional clarity over record submission procedures.

A number of presentational improvements are also incorporated into this Report. Firstly, and most obviously, this year sees a change in format from A5 to B5 which will provide a less 'cluttered' look, give greater design flexibility, enable the use of a larger font size and provide space for more photographs. Secondly, it has been possible to upgrade the paper quality to a 'silk' finish which will enhance the Report's 'feel' and impact.

I would of course be very keen to receive feedback on these initial changes and also any further ideas and suggestions for the future, whether relating to content or production quality. I would also like to see the submission of more articles, photographs and artwork for future Reports.

In terms of birds, 2008 had no shortage of surprises, excitements and pleasures. A full summary is contained in the 'Review of the Year' but amongst the obvious highlights were no fewer than three county 'firsts' - the now-famous White-crowned Sparrow which graced Cley village from January to March, the Black Lark at Winterton in April and the Trumpeter Finch on Blakeney Point in June. Almost as rare in Norfolk was the Melodious Warbler on Blakeney Point in September, a species not recorded in the county since 1957. All these are the subject of short articles.

In terms of commoner species, the county's birdlife continues to show rapidly changing fortunes. Compare, for example, the increasing prominence of species such as Balearic Shearwater, Little Egret, Buzzard, Hobby, Mediterranean Gull, Stonechat, Cetti's Warbler, Dartford Warbler and Firecrest with the ongoing decline of Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Spotted Flycatcher, Twite and Corn Bunting.

Although the Report's main purpose is to document the events of 2008, we can also allow ourselves a glimpse into the future. In this context, the article on the proposed reintroduction of White-tailed Eagle to the county will help inform the ongoing debate over this project.

Finally, a couple of announcements. Firstly, with effect from 2009, the County Records Committee has removed Balearic Shearwater from the list of species requiring a description, and with effect from 2010 European Storm Petrel has also been removed from the list but Long-tailed Skua has been added.

Secondly, sharp-eyed readers of the 2007 Report will have noticed that the second part of the text for Whimbrel was inadvertently deleted and replaced with the corresponding text for Curlew. The missing section of text for Whimbrel can be found in this year's Systematic List.

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# Acknowledgements

The Report is of course a massive team effort. Many thanks go of course to all the observers who have contributed records. Special thanks, however, go to the following:-

## Report Production Team

Julian Bhalerao  
Dave and Jacquie Bridges  
Neil Lawton  
Tony Leech  
Peter Lindsley  
David and Pat Wileman

## Species Text Drafters

Tim Allwood, Greg Bond, Andy Brown, Peter Clement, Giles Dunmore, Keith Dye, Mick Fiszer, John and Judy Geeson, Vince Hanlon, Phil Heath, Gary Hibberd, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Peter Morrison, Ben Murphy, Mick Saunt and Peter Wilson.

## Members of the County Records Committee for 2008

Dave Bridges, Graham Etherington, Justin Lansdell, Richard Millington and Andy Stoddart.

## Authors and Contributors of Articles

Simon Aspinall, Allan Hale, Justin Lansdell, David Leech, Rob Lucking, Duncan McNiven, Paul Nichols, Sean Offord, Richard Porter, Richard Saunders and Chris Wheeler.

## Artists

Norman Arlott, Robert Gillmor, Richard Johnson, Phil Jones, Richard Thewlis, Martin Woodcock and Gary Wright.

## Photographers

Louise Arnold, Ashley Banwell, Julian Bhalerao, Kieran Bhalerao, Neil Bowman, Richard Campey, Bob Cobbold, Tony Howes, Mike Lawrence, Rob Lee, Ashley McElwee, John Miller, Richard Porter, Murray Smith and Julian Thomas.

## Contributors of Information

Kate Risely for the provision of British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Breeding Bird Survey data. The Breeding Bird Survey is the main survey monitoring population trends of the UK's breeding birds, and is run by the BTO, the charity dedicated to research on wild birds, in partnership with JNCC and RSPB. John Marchant also provided data from the BTO Heronries Survey. Steve Wakeham provided meteorological data.

## Others

All those who took time to offer suggestions about the future direction of the Report, notably Peter Allard, Tim Allwood, Peter and Sue Morrison, Connor Rand and David and Pat Wileman.



# Notes for Contributors

The Norfolk Bird Report is an annual publication of records, articles, artwork and photographs relating to all aspects of Norfolk ornithology.

## Submission of Records

In submitting records, observers should be guided by the content of this and previous Reports and should submit species in the same systematic order.

All observers are requested to **submit records on a monthly basis** as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the Report. If it is not possible to submit records until the end of the year, this should be done at the latest **by the end of February of the following year**. Late records cause considerable problems in drafting the Systematic List and their inclusion cannot be guaranteed if received after this deadline.

Receipt of records will not normally be acknowledged but the names of all contributors will be published.

All records and correspondence relating to recording issues should be sent to the County Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, at 27, Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt NR25 6DP or by email to [dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com](mailto:dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com)

## National Rarities

National rarities are dealt with by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC). A full list of species and forms considered by BBRC as well as full details of requirements, procedures and a downloadable reporting form are available on the BBRC website [www.bbrc.org.uk](http://www.bbrc.org.uk).

All national rarities should be submitted electronically in the BBRC format and sent to the County Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, at [dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com](mailto:dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com). Any accompanying sketches or photographs should be included as separate jpeg attachments.

All records of such rarities should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting and not left until the end of the year.

National rarities accepted by BBRC will be published in the Report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

The submission of descriptions of national rarities is important. Bird news providers do not assess records passed to them and without full submission to BBRC such records cannot be published and will be lost.

## County Rarities

Species or forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the County Records Committee. The Committee currently comprises Dave Bridges, Graham Etherington, Justin Lansdell, Richard Millington and Andy Stoddart. Jacquie Bridges acts as Secretary.

**Please note that with effect from 2009 Balearic Shearwater has been dropped from the list of species requiring description. With effect from 2010 European Storm Petrel has been dropped from the list but Long-tailed Skua has been added.**

The species or forms now requiring descriptions are:-

'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  
Wilson's Petrel  
Night-heron\*  
Great White Egret\*  
Purple Heron  
White Stork  
Black Kite\*



Red-footed Falcon  
 Spotted Crake  
 Corncrake  
 American Golden Plover  
 White-rumped Sandpiper  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
 Long-tailed Skua  
 'Kumlien's Gull'  
 Sabine's Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 White-winged Black Tern  
 Rose-ringed Parakeet  
 Alpine Swift  
 European Bee-eater  
 Short-toed Lark  
 Red-rumped Swallow  
 Tawny Pipit  
 Red-throated Pipit  
 Dipper\*  
 Bluethroat  
 Aquatic Warbler

Marsh Warbler  
 Melodious Warbler  
 Subalpine Warbler\*  
 Greenish Warbler\*  
 Radde's Warbler  
 Dusky Warbler  
 'Siberian Chiffchaff' (*tristis/fulvescens*)  
 'Continental Coal Tit' (*ater*)  
 Woodchat Shrike\*  
 Hooded Crow  
 Raven  
 Rose-coloured Starling  
 Serin  
 'Northwest Redpoll' (*rostrata/islandica*)  
 Arctic Redpoll\*  
 'Northern Bullfinch' (*pyrrhula*)  
 Common Rosefinch  
 Ortolan Bunting  
 Rustic Bunting  
 Little Bunting

\* NB A number of species listed here have rarer forms which still require submission to BBRC. These are 'Scopoli's Shearwater', 'American Night-heron', 'American Great White Egret', 'Black-eared Kite', 'Black-bellied Dipper', 'Eastern Subalpine Warbler', 'Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler', 'Two-barred Greenish Warbler', 'Balearic Woodchat Shrike', 'Eastern Woodchat Shrike' and 'Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll'.

All records of county rarities should be accompanied by written documentation incorporating wherever possible original field notes or sketches and/or photographic evidence. Records and relevant correspondence should be submitted to the County Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, at 27, Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt NR25 6DP or by email to [dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com](mailto:dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com)

All records of such rarities should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting and not left until the end of the year.

County rarities accepted by the County Records Committee will be published in the Report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

The submission of descriptions of county rarities is important. Bird news providers do not assess records passed to them and without full submission to the County Records Committee such records cannot be published and will be lost.

## Other Records

From time to time the County Recorders and the County Records Committee reserve the right to seek additional details of other records deemed exceptional by virtue of, for example, date, location or numbers. Only those records accepted by the County Records Committee will be published in the Report.

## Submission of Articles

Authors should carefully study this issue and follow the style of presentation. Where relevant, taxonomy, nomenclature and species order should follow the list published by the British Ornithologists' Union and which is available on their website at [www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk).

Articles for possible publication should be submitted to the Editor, preferably by email to [andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk). Alternatively, submissions on CD/DVD or typed manuscripts can be sent to 7, Elsdon Close, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6JW. Electronic submissions should be written in Microsoft Word and should be double-spaced, with wide margins. If typed, submissions should also



be double-spaced, with wide margins, and should be on one side of the paper only. All articles are accepted on the basis that further editing may be required. Final decisions on inclusion and content rest with the Editor.

## **Submission of Artwork**

Artwork for possible publication should be submitted to the Editor by email to [andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk). Alternatively, submissions on CD/DVD or as paper copy can be sent to 7, Elsdon Close, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6JW. Copyright remains with artists. Final decisions on inclusion rest with the Editor.

## **Submission of Photographs**

Digital photographs for possible publication should be submitted to the Photographic Editor by email to [JulianBhalerao@aol.com](mailto:JulianBhalerao@aol.com). Alternatively, digital submissions on CD/DVD or in print or slide format can be sent to 18, Brook Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8QE. Copyright remains with photographers. Final decisions on inclusion rest with the Editor.

## **General Issues**

Every possible effort will be made to take care of all submitted articles, artwork and photographs. However, authors, artists and photographers are advised that neither the Editor nor the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society can be held responsible for any loss or damage which may occur.

All articles, artwork and photographs for possible publication should be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

Any opinions expressed in articles are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society.



# Review of the Year

*Justin Lansdell*

**January** began with high pressure to the east yet relatively mild conditions. As usual, a number of rare birds lingered from the previous year. Two Snow Geese remained with the Pink-footed Goose flocks and two Rough-legged Buzzards included a lingering bird on the north coast, whilst a wintering Richard's Pipit on The Wash remained faithful to a stretch of seawall at Terrington Marsh. Nor should we forget the continued welcome presence of the Broadland Cranes and a small population of wintering Water Pipits.

An anticyclone over Scandinavia gathered strength, and colder air and a dusting of snow spread in by the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Great White Egret at Welney on 5<sup>th</sup> had wandered across the border from Cambridgeshire but this was much less newsworthy than the appearance of a White-crowned Sparrow in a small walled garden at Cley! Having already been present at least three days, the ingenuity of local birdwatchers meant that it could be viewed from the nearby roadside and during its subsequent two-month stay it became a hugely popular attraction and object of considerable media interest.

The weather remained generally mild and often wet with strong, westerly winds for the remainder of the month and little new was discovered except for a Green-winged Teal at Horsey Mere, present for its sixth winter. However, the huge flocks of Pink-footed Geese carried a range of scarcer species, with not only the two Snow Geese but also a few Barnacle Geese, several 'Tundra Bean Geese', 'Icelandic Greylag Geese' and a 'Greenland White-fronted Goose'.

A brief spell of high pressure for five days in the last week was an exception in a mild month with few air frosts and overnight temperatures as high as 14 degrees. The waters off north-west Norfolk once again attracted impressive congregations of birds including up to 50 Long-tailed Ducks, the most southerly regular wintering flock in Britain, but the mild conditions presumably accounted for the dearth of Slavonian Grebes, Smew, Scaup and perhaps even the paucity of Shorelarks that were restricted to just three wandering birds in the Cley area.

**February** was a largely unremarkable month with long-staying wintering birds still providing the major attractions and little new in a mild start to the month. Another Richard's Pipit showed up at Stiffkey on 9<sup>th</sup> and was to remain erratically for six weeks whilst a flock of Purple Sandpipers wintered on the man-made coastal defences in the north-east of the county. There was no reprieve for the fast-declining Twite, with numbers reaching an all-time low.

Despite a change to high pressure from 10<sup>th</sup> little stirred except a one-day 'Siberian Chiffchaff' in Holkham Park on 16<sup>th</sup>. The fine settled conditions finally gave way on 21<sup>st</sup> and strengthening westerly winds associated with Atlantic fronts enabled temperatures to climb once more, doubtless enjoyed by a Whimbrel which passed Sheringham, the first winter record for several years.

A change of month changed little and **March** was to deliver few hints of spring until the month end. A deep area of low pressure centred to the north swept westerly and north-westerly winds across the county and caused an influx of Glaucous Gulls. A brief spell of southerly winds mid-month tempted a few common migrants north but persistent and often heavy rain dropped temperatures and curtailed any thought of spring.

Nevertheless, a Great White Egret began an eight-week stay in mid-Norfolk. This species is 'on the march' across Europe and records in Norfolk and the UK are increasing as a result. By contrast, the once-regular Hooded Crows are now increasingly rare. Just four occurred in 2008, all in early spring. Strong north-westerlies continued the wintry feel, daytime temperatures struggled and a covering of snow on 23<sup>rd</sup> was the most significant of the winter. As these abated, so the first glimpse of spring shone through with a male 'White-spotted Bluethroat' at Winterton for two days and the first two of four spring Black-necked Grebes (still a rare bird in Norfolk) at Hickling and Titchwell.

The first week of **April** saw high pressure building over south-west England, daytime highs of 16 degrees and Norfolk finally sharing in the large nationwide Cattle Egret influx of 2007 with a single bird at Stiffkey on 4<sup>th</sup>, the start of a run of records through the spring and summer, though



possibly referring to just one wandering bird. Winter had one final surprise with outbreaks of snow two days later but thereafter milder conditions returned, spring passage accelerated and an early Red-rumped Swallow flew north on 9<sup>th</sup>. As well as common migrants, the continual presence of Black Kites from 8<sup>th</sup> (whatever their origin) undoubtedly added to the feeling that spring was on its way.

April is often productive for Nearctic wildfowl, perhaps a result of thinning flocks or perhaps more likely involving northbound migrants, and this year two Green-winged Teals continued the pattern. Large numbers of Ring Ouzels moved across the county mid-month and 'chacking' flocks were widespread across a broad front, peaking at 22 at Brancaster Staithe on 18<sup>th</sup>. If that sighting brought a smile to the observer's face then the finder of Norfolk's first and Britain's 3<sup>rd</sup> Black Lark at Winterton on 20<sup>th</sup> must still be smirking to this day. Present for just one evening and briefly next morning, it shook many from post-winter malaise and overshadowed the first Hoopoe of the year at the same site.

Warmer air and southerly winds characterised the final week and amongst common migrants returning to northern Europe, 'over-shooting' rarities came in the form of another Hoopoe, a Red-footed Falcon and finally a one-day Whiskered Tern at Holkham on 28<sup>th</sup>, bringing to a close a month of both interest and drama.

The first ten days of **May** saw high pressure to the east bringing a mix of southerly and easterly winds. From the south came a run of Bee-eaters and a Serin while arrivals from the east included a Richard's Pipit at Kelling from 1<sup>st</sup> and a Red-breasted Flycatcher at Holkham on 7<sup>th</sup>, the first of an amazing three during the spring. Temperatures topped 26 degrees by the 10<sup>th</sup> but by mid-month pressure began to fall and strengthening easterly winds saw cooler conditions, contributing to a good spring for Dotterel, Temminck's Stints and the best showing of 'Grey-headed Wagtails' for many years. At the same time an irruption of Common Crossbills occurred, presumably in response to a failure of the cone crop in their home range.

A shifting high pressure saw winds finally swing to the south-east and immediately a Red-footed Falcon, an almost predictable 'vagrant', materialised at Upton Broad whilst a Tawny Pipit, now significantly scarcer, began a sixteen-day stay at Waxham. A slow-moving front from the 24<sup>th</sup> deposited heavy rain and culminated in 20mm of precipitation overnight on the 27<sup>th</sup>. In the continuing easterly winds birds from that quarter responded - a male 'Red-spotted Bluethroat' at West Runton and another Red-breasted Flycatcher (this time at Scolt Head). Influxes of Common Rosefinches, Red-backed Shrikes, Ortolan Buntings and Icterine Warblers also occurred, the latter appearing in record numbers. An adult Long-tailed Skua heading north past Yarmouth on 25<sup>th</sup> was an incredibly rare spring sight in the county.

Late May is known as a time for major rarities, and the ninth county Citrine Wagtail at Titchwell on 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> further enhanced the reputation of this reserve. On 29<sup>th</sup> Subalpine Warblers were located at Warham Greens and Blakeney Point but were eclipsed at the latter site by the county's first Trumpeter Finch which remained for five days.

**June** began unsettled with slow-moving fronts bringing outbreaks of heavy rain and variable winds. The county's second spring Dusky Warbler was a highly unexpected find on Blakeney Point on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Less headline-grabbing but still notable was the last of three spring Red-breasted Flycatchers on Scolt Head and a Hoopoe at Stiffkey which stayed for four days.

Heavy rain and northerly winds on 7<sup>th</sup> kept temperatures down and grounded a Bee-eater at Northrepps and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Stiffkey. Non-breeding immature Little Gulls are a familiar feature of the summer months at favoured wetlands but a peak of 80 at Titchwell on the 9<sup>th</sup> was a strong showing.

The quiet days of summer offer an opportunity to reflect on the fortunes of our breeding birds. Bitterns continue to show signs of recovering lost numbers, Cranes again fledged young quietly and without publicity in Broadland, and Marsh Warblers continued to flirt with becoming a regular breeding species, with four more singing males following one in late May. Little Terns enjoyed an outstanding summer at Scolt Head. Norfolk is very important for this species, with the Scolt colony second only in size to that at Yarmouth. Sandwich Terns had their best year in the last five and Roseate Terns also showed up in good numbers. By contrast, families of auks with half-grown young loafed off our coasts in unusual numbers, possibly an indication of poor feeding near their breeding grounds.



Our breeding avifauna continues to evolve rapidly. Just a few years ago Little Egrets were rare birds in Britain but in 2008 a minimum of 75 pairs bred in Norfolk alone while Mediterranean Gulls numbered 11 pairs. Firecrests are well-established in two areas and Dartford Warblers now have a 'foothold', presumably a result of mild winters and burgeoning populations in neighbouring Suffolk. Montagu's Harriers enjoyed a productive season and the Hobby further consolidated its status as an increasing migrant and breeder. Common Buzzards also continue to increase, doubtless helped by sympathetic landowners and gamekeepers. Man's influence on our avifauna is also evident in the fate of two other species. After their introduction 110 years ago, Golden Pheasants seem to be on the verge of extinction whilst Red Kites look likely to gain a 'foothold' as a result of introductions elsewhere. Another dramatic raptor, the Peregrine, summered in the county and, having already established itself in lowland Britain, may also be a potential colonist.

Cool conditions brought by an area of low pressure dominated the second half of the month and unusually strong winds must have challenged breeding birds. Rarities were few but a Lesser Grey Shrike lingered at Hickling and a Rose-coloured Starling was seen in an Earsham garden. Unsettled conditions lasted until the month end by which time returning waders had begun their autumn passage. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Cley from the 24<sup>th</sup> was ample proof that even mid-summer can be a productive time for finding rare birds.

The unsettled theme continued into **July** and few scarce migrants appeared except for an adult Rose-coloured Starling at Great Bircham for a week. Spoonbills are an increasingly regular feature of summer and double-figure counts at Cley on 7<sup>th</sup> and at Breydon a fortnight later were this year's peak. After a brief respite, more unsettled north-westerlies on 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> delivered an unusual passage of Kittiwakes with four-figure counts culminating in 2400 off Walcott on 19<sup>th</sup>. The subsequent cool northerlies saw the now-expected arrival of a White-rumped Sandpiper at Cley and also the first of the autumn's Pectoral Sandpipers.

**August** was dominated by westerly winds and few birds. Another White-rumped Sandpiper at Cley on 4<sup>th</sup> was quickly followed by a Tawny Pipit on Blakeney Point for 21 days but little else captured the attention of birdwatchers, although impressive numbers of Mediterranean Gulls roosted at Breydon. The second half of the month was little better although a juvenile Marsh Sandpiper was at Hickling and at the same time Curlew Sandpipers reached their (albeit low) autumn peak.

**September** was to bring excitement but began slowly with a further White-rumped Sandpiper (at Titchwell) and the predicted southward passage over Yarmouth on 3<sup>rd</sup> of a Black Stork which had summered further north. More frontal systems advancing from the west brought fresh rain but as a low pressure system moved slowly into the North Sea, northerly winds in its wake brought the first productive seawatching of the year on 7<sup>th</sup> with several Cory's Shearwaters and Sabine's Gulls, small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters and an excellent passage of Manx Shearwaters and Arctic and Great Skuas, the first two in their best numbers of the year.

An Alpine Swift at Gimingham on 8<sup>th</sup> and at Holme next day was a surprise and was a precursor to exciting times as high pressure over Scandinavia brought a halt to Atlantic weather systems and delivered eight days of constant easterly winds. It produced an unprecedented displacement of Honey Buzzards from continental Europe on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> accompanied by good numbers of Ospreys, Marsh Harriers and Common Buzzards. On land, impressive 'falls' of Wheatears, Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers were augmented by smaller numbers of Whinchats, Spotted Flycatchers as well as a few Barred Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatchers, Red-backed Shrikes and most of the year's 25 Wrynecks. The 'cream' was provided by an Arctic Warbler at Scolt Head and a Thrush Nightingale trapped at Holme.

By the 23<sup>rd</sup> a new area of high pressure had developed to the west with winds from the north-east bringing a switch of emphasis to the sea and the best Sooty Shearwater, Leach's Petrel and Great Skua counts of the year and more Balearic Shearwaters in an excellent year for the species. Norfolk's first Melodious Warbler in over 50 years graced Blakeney Point on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> but departed overnight. By the last week the easterlies were back and along with good numbers of common migrants came rarer birds, amongst them an adult Lesser Grey Shrike along the clifftops of Sheringham, 2 Radde's Warblers and singles of Little Bunting, 'Siberian Stonechat', Woodchat Shrike and Greenish Warbler, the latter the only one of the year.



The month concluded with a return to unsettled Atlantic weather systems, a pattern which was to continue into **October**. A burst of north-westerly winds on 3<sup>rd</sup> brought a flurry of Great Skuas and smaller numbers of both Sooty Shearwaters and Pomarine Skuas but this was to be the last significant seabird movement of the year. A brief ridge of high pressure quickly produced a Radde's Warbler at Weybourne and a Hoopoe at Cromer but the first half of the month was otherwise quiet except for a mobile Wilson's Phalarope at Cley/Salthouse, the first for fourteen years. High pressure to the south-east left East Anglia warm and dry in mid-month and with a subsequent shift to Atlantic fronts and south-westerly winds little of interest was found except for a brief Red-rumped Swallow at Warham Greens on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The month ended with an American Golden Plover and a Dotterel sharing the same Golden Plover flock in Breckland and the first Waxwing of a widespread influx. The other month-end highlight was a Red-flanked Bluetail at Muckleburgh Hill, Weybourne, for five days from the 31<sup>st</sup> as well as 15 Pallas's Warblers, a late Barred Warbler and a Red-backed Shrike.

**November** began with a rush of Little Gulls and Kittiwakes in the continuing north-easterly blow whilst a 'Black-bellied Dipper' in the Glaven valley was to remain to overwinter. Winds stayed in the east for the first week and produced a final pulse of rarities including a Dusky Warbler, three 'Siberian Chiffchaffs' and, incredibly, two more Red-flanked Bluetails.

Thereafter, autumn drifted away with predominantly westerly weather, the only highlights being returning 'Black Brants' and a minor influx of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. A female Ring-necked Duck at Whitlingham was a good find on 11<sup>th</sup> and settled in for the rest of the year while the last Grey Phalarope of a poor autumn for this species was at Cley on 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

The first half of **December** was cold with low daytime temperatures but despite this no major influxes of birds occurred and only a single Smew record suggested no severe weather on the continent. Pink-footed Geese again provided the main interest with a record roost count at Snettisham and a decent influx of 'Tundra Bean Geese' hiding amongst the great goose flocks. From mid-month a return to mild Atlantic air brought a more familiar feel but Bewick's Swan numbers held up and the December count of Whooper Swans at Welney was a record.



# The Reintroduction of White-tailed Eagles to Eastern England

*Rob Lucking, RSPB Area Manager for north Norfolk and The Wash*

*Richard Saunders, Natural England Ornithologist*

*Duncan McNiven, Natural England White-tailed Eagle Project Manager*

Many birders living in Norfolk will be familiar with White-tailed Eagles as occasional winter visitors to the county from the continent and some will have seen them on trips to the Western Isles of Scotland or further afield. Fewer will probably be aware that the species has a wide global range from Iceland in the west to Japan in the east and occupies a broad ecological niche from remote northern sea cliffs to open expanses of lowland wetland habitats.

The species' irregular distribution in western Europe is thought to be the result of intense human persecution throughout the last millennium, and more latterly the effects of organo-chlorine pesticides, culminating in its eventual extinction as a breeding species in the UK by the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Populations in eastern Europe have since recovered significantly but it took the reintroduction of 140 young White-tailed Eagles in western Scotland between 1975 and 1998 to re-establish a UK breeding population, which currently stands at just 36 pairs.

Although no longer globally threatened, the White-tailed Eagle is still a species of high conservation concern in the UK due to its historical population decline and current small population size. It has therefore been a long-standing aim of the UK Sea Eagle Project Team (a group of statutory and voluntary nature conservation organisations) to restore the White-tailed Eagle to other areas within its former range, including England.

White-tailed Eagles, along with most large raptors, have a very slow reproductive rate. This, coupled with their largely sedentary nature, means that it would take a long time for them to naturally recolonise areas from which they have been extirpated. Even the expansion of the existing UK population from the west to the east coast of Scotland has necessitated a further reintroduction in 2007 - a very small distance compared with the location of suitable unoccupied habitat in England.

With the exception of a newly established pair of White-tailed Eagles in the Oostvaardersplassen in The Netherlands, the nearest sizeable populations of continental origin are in Germany and Denmark. Active intervention in the form of a reintroduction is therefore the only way in which White-tailed Eagles can be restored as an English breeding species within a reasonable timescale.

In 2007, Natural England (then English Nature) initiated a proposal to reintroduce White-tailed Eagles to England, and the RSPB was invited to join the project along with Anglian Water as a commercial sponsor with previous experience of raptor re-introductions through the Rutland Water Osprey project.

Throughout its global range the White-tailed Eagle is primarily a species of lowland wetland areas where they are most productive. Yet in a UK context the White-tailed Eagle is often incorrectly assumed to be a bird solely of northern upland habitats of the type found in north-west Scotland. Remoteness from man undoubtedly afforded a degree of protection from persecution and allowed White-tailed Eagles to persist in these areas for longer than they did in the lowlands. Their subsequent reintroduction has tended to reinforce the notion that White-tailed Eagles only belong in these less productive areas, a view disproven by the species' historic UK range and habitat use throughout much of its current global range.

It was therefore logical to find a suitable lowland site for the English reintroduction proposal. When we looked across all the key English lowland wetland areas, it was clear that East Anglia, particularly the north Norfolk and Suffolk coasts, and parts of north Kent contained the greatest expanse of high quality, lowland freshwater habitats in the country and therefore offered the best opportunity for a successful reintroduction project.

The identification of a possible release area is, however, only the start of a long process including licence applications, consultations with a broad cross-section of interested parties and identifying the



precise release locations with associated release aviaries and other infrastructure. We are currently firmly within the consultation phase and over the past two years we have solicited the views of a wide range of people, organisations and interest groups in north Norfolk and on the Suffolk Coast.

Whilst the broad cross-section of the general public are in favour of the proposal, with 91% of a sample of 500 people questioned in north Norfolk supporting the reintroduction of White-tailed Eagles, a number of concerns have also been expressed which have warranted further investigation. We would like to use this article to address some of these.

East Anglia is rightly famed for its rich birdlife and is the stronghold in the UK for rare breeding species such as Bitterns and Cranes. It also supports important tern colonies and large numbers of wintering waterfowl. A number of people have questioned the wisdom of reintroducing a large predator that could potentially have a negative impact on important breeding and wintering bird species.

We recognised this as an issue at an early stage and examined the potential for impacts on other bird species of nature conservation concern by carrying out an exhaustive review of the published literature on White-tailed Eagle feeding ecology and contacted many conservationists on mainland Europe who work on White-tailed Eagles.

With respect to Cranes and Bitterns, we found very little evidence of White-tailed Eagles predated these two species. There are records of White-tailed Eagles taking Cranes but these are unusual (a Common Crane is of a comparable size and weight to a White-tailed Eagle and far exceeds the typical weight of eagle prey) and involved Cranes that, following veterinary examination, were proved to be already sick or injured.

Despite extensive monitoring, White-tailed Eagles have never been observed taking Bitterns. A review of information gathered over a fifty-year period across a number of countries and incorporating the analysis of thousands of prey items revealed only three instances of a Bittern as White-tailed Eagle prey. These could represent predation, scavenging or theft from other predators, as Marsh Harriers and other eagle species were noted taking Bitterns.

We were unable to find any published information on interactions between tern colonies and eagles but information gleaned from conservationists in Germany and Estonia found no evidence of White-tailed Eagles having any impact on Sandwich Tern colonies on the Baltic coast. Similarly, biologists we contacted in the USA did not report any serious disturbance incidences caused by Bald Eagles (a closely related species) to their tern colonies.

Our review of the published literature on White-tailed Eagle feeding ecology has helped us speculate as to what we might expect White-tailed Eagles in East Anglia to feed on. White-tailed Eagles are generalist predators, scavengers and klepto-parasites (stealing food off other predators). Many European studies have suggested that they preferentially scavenge for food as their long-winged and short-tailed build means that they are less agile than, for example, Golden Eagle. As a result, live prey are typically taken from the ground and are often sick or injured birds, young birds or diving waterfowl.

We predict that there will be plenty of naturally available carrion throughout the year for White-tailed Eagles, ranging from roadkill to dead seals on the strandline. Unfledged chicks of feral geese and large gulls might also be popular during the summer. In the winter sick or injured geese might be taken and large concentrations of wintering waterfowl might be targeted.

The second major issue raised is the potential impact on livestock. East Anglia supports an important livestock industry with large outdoor pig and poultry units, and to a lesser extent sheep flocks. The potential for impacts on livestock through predation and disturbance clearly needs to be taken seriously and farmers reassured that their concerns are being listened to and addressed. At the time of writing this article (July 2009), work is underway to assess the potential impacts of White-tailed Eagles on livestock.

Finally, the issue of historical evidence has been considered at some length. The plain truth of the matter is that the written record of White-tailed Eagles breeding in England is very patchy as the species was largely eliminated before formal ornithological record-keeping began. Solid evidence is only available for the very last few White-tailed Eagle nests in Hampshire, Devon and Cumbria and there are no specific locations in southern England with a documented presence of



breeding birds that are considered suitable for a reintroduction now.

However, whilst incontrovertible evidence of White-tailed Eagle nests at specific locations is lacking, the archaeological, place name and literary evidence demonstrates that White-tailed Eagles were once widespread in England. Work carried out by Dr Derek Yalden on the history of birds in Britain makes it clear how widespread the species once was in lowland Britain through Roman and Anglo-Saxon times and concludes that historically, there is no reason to question the propriety of attempting to reintroduce the species to southern England.

So when could we anticipate seeing White-tailed Eagles reinstated as an English breeding species? Both Natural England and the RSPB are committed to the reintroduction of White-tailed Eagles to England. We genuinely feel that White-tailed Eagles could and should be a valued part of the English bird fauna and our wetland ecosystems, and that there is no better place for a reintroduction than East Anglia. However, a project of this nature and significance cannot be rushed. It is important that we listen closely to any concerns and resolve them before we proceed. The soonest any birds could be released is August 2010 but this is contingent upon licensing, funding and securing a suitable source of donor birds.



# White-crowned Sparrow - New to Norfolk

*Chris Wheeler and Richard Porter*



White-crowned Sparrow (*Gary Wright*)

What a difference a simple telephone call on a Friday afternoon in mid-winter made, bringing visitors from far and wide and raising over £6,000 for Cley Church restoration fund! The call came on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008 from the Rev'd Richard Bending who lives in Cley to tell me that he had a strange bird in his garden which was like a sparrow but with black and white over the head. It was mid-afternoon on a dull winter's day so I immediately drove over thinking that it was most likely a common bird with some aberrant plumage, but at the same time mulling over in my mind the possibility of an Asiatic bunting like Yellow-browed Bunting or one of the American sparrows with black and white on the head. I was there in a few minutes and was shown into an upstairs bedroom which gave the best view onto the small garden. After about ten minutes the bird appeared feeding on the ground and I immediately recognised it as one of the American sparrows, but which one? (It had been over twenty years since I last saw these birds in Canada). I could remember that the White-throated Sparrow should have, apart from the white throat, yellow on the white supercilium between the eye and the bill, but this bird had neither. Richard and his wife Sue had been to Norwich that morning and whilst there had borrowed a couple of identification books from the library, including an American one, and I was able to check straight away and see that it was a White-crowned Sparrow, thereby confirming their own thoughts on the bird's identity.

I had two short views in poor light but noted the broad white crown stripe with the black and white head pattern, pink bill and plain grey face and underparts, becoming browner towards the rear without any streaking. The light was fading fast and it was essential that someone else should confirm the identification in case the bird disappeared, so I rang Richard Porter and he arrived with Simon Aspinall. Unfortunately they only got a couple of views in the canopy of an overhanging *Ceanothus* bush in very poor light so we agreed to reconvene at 0900 the next morning hoping that it would still be there. It reappeared just before 1000 and gave good views in better light and we were able to take down plumage details and also take a few photos for the record. It was an adult and appeared to be in good condition with no obvious signs of wear or abrasion in the feathers. The bird fed mostly on the ground in company with Chaffinches, Greenfinches, House Sparrows, Dunnocks and Blackbirds but did occasionally feed from a suspended seed feeder. It seemed to prefer to come out and feed when other birds were present. It behaved very much like the Chaffinches except that it tended to keep in cover when not feeding rather than perching up in the bare branches. It was thought to be a male as it was reported to be singing late in its stay.

This record is the first for Norfolk and constitutes the fourth for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is also the first to stay around long enough for many people to see. It was last seen on 11<sup>th</sup>



March. The White-crowned Sparrow is a common bird in North America, breeding right across the Canadian Arctic and down through the Rocky Mountains to California. It winters in the southern parts of the United States and, outside the breeding season, it can be a regular garden bird. A number of races have been described but this bird was of the form *leucophrys* which breeds in northeast Canada. Most of the American sparrows found in Britain have occurred in spring or early summer, coinciding with their spring migration. In the case of White-crowned Sparrow the spring migration is described as a rapid northward surge with most birds passing through the northeastern United States within a fortnight. One bird has been recorded only 150 miles from the North Pole, 2,000 miles north of its normal breeding range (Scotland is only 1,980 miles from Labrador). In this respect, the timing of the Cley bird's arrival is therefore unexpected. It could be, however, that it came over in the spring, and spent the summer and autumn in Britain unnoticed. Interestingly, after our bird had disappeared in March there was a report of a White-crowned Sparrow in Leuchars, Fife on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Could this have been the same bird making its way northward?

Whatever the bird's origin and ultimate destination, I am most grateful to the Rev'd Richard Bending for drawing my attention to the 'strange sparrow-like' bird in his garden!

### *Chris Wheeler*

*With the bird identified, came the issue of how best to handle the inevitable huge interest. Richard Porter takes up the story ...*

As soon as I saw this bird I knew we had a potential nightmare on our hands or consciences. The faint-hearted would certainly have suppressed it. The sparrow was in a small garden with no easy access. It could only be viewed from the Bendings' bedroom and there was no way the news could be put out. Chris, Simon and I therefore scouted the environs and realised that if we could get the bird to feed on the gravel driveway we might be in with a sporting chance. Here it would be viewable from the Holt - Cley road, although for only about twenty people comfortably at a time.

At this stage I phoned Richard Millington to discuss this idea and tactics. We all agreed it was the only possible solution, so we set to work. First we had to have the Bendings' full support and agreement. They had never experienced the commotion of a full twitch so we explained everything carefully and honestly. They were up for it. We then discussed it with the next door neighbours who were also supportive and assured us that their cat, 'Hooligan', had never caught a bird.

We then had to get the sparrow to change its habits. All the feeders in the gardens were taken down, the seed scooped up from the lawn and everything moved to the gravel driveway which lay beyond their garden fence and caravan. More seed was put down and Christmas tree branches were grouped along the wall so the bird could have a retreat - we knew from watching it in the garden that it was very shy and nervous. Then a long wait. Nothing happened that day (Saturday) but late on the Sunday morning it put in an appearance on the drive. We decided to wait just a little longer to make sure it was settling in to its new feeding station so it would tolerate the spying throngs just a few yards away.

The next step was to put up notices - notably on the five-bar gate across the driveway to advise viewing from the other side of the road. A collecting bucket was organised. Being a retired man of the cloth, it was only right that Richard Bending had first call on the fund and so 'in aid of Cley Church restoration' was decided upon. Then the news went out.

Flowers were arranged for the couple whose house overlooked the road and the 'Three Swallows' pub (fifty yards away) was advised to increase their stocks. During the following hours, days and weeks the twitch went well. Despite the limited viewing space and up to three hundred birders gathering at a time on the peak days, not too many tempers were frayed, nearly everyone behaved well and all said what a great little bird it was - 'jaunty' seemed a popular description. Birders came from the four corners of Britain as well as many European countries, including Sweden, Spain and Poland. Voluntary donations for the church surprised us all and by the time the bird was last seen on 11<sup>th</sup> March we had reached £6,374. Surely this must be a record for a twitch



anywhere in the world?

There were, inevitably, problems with managing the initial crowds, which tended to surge across the road each time the bird put in an a hesitant appearance. Luckily, traffic warden Andy Barker was great at reading the mood, and he managed both the twitchers and motorists with tact.

Some local people were uncomfortable about the presence of so many birdwatchers, and the verges around the village green became churned up - made worse by several days of unrelenting rain - but the fact that Cley birders agreed to restore and re-seed the affected areas (whether caused by birders or not) and the terrific collection for the church successfully blunted the barbs.

Looking back on the whole two months, thanks must go first to Richard and Sue Bending for finding the bird and allowing the event to unfold. Their next door neighbours also showed amazing tolerance and even provided tea for those manning the bucket. Thank you also Paul Laurie and Steve Gantlett for supplying the initial seed (even though Steve was in Dorset at the time!). We apologise to the farmer whose fence we broke - but we did repair it - and we did re-seed the trampled grass verges with the help of Steve Beal and Trevor Poyser.

The media did the occasion and twitchers proud. There was constant newspaper, TV and radio coverage at both local and national level. They told the story well and didn't send us up - well, only slightly.

Mention must be made of the team that manned the site and the collecting bucket come wind and high water - Richard Millington, Chris Wheeler, Roger and Margot Brownsword, Trevor Davies, Martin Woodcock and John Threadgold. Because much more was raised than expected, the church wardens decided it should go to restoring the large West Window - which overlooked the sparrow scene and was in urgent need of repair - and to commemorate the event by having an engraving of the sparrow in one of the panes.

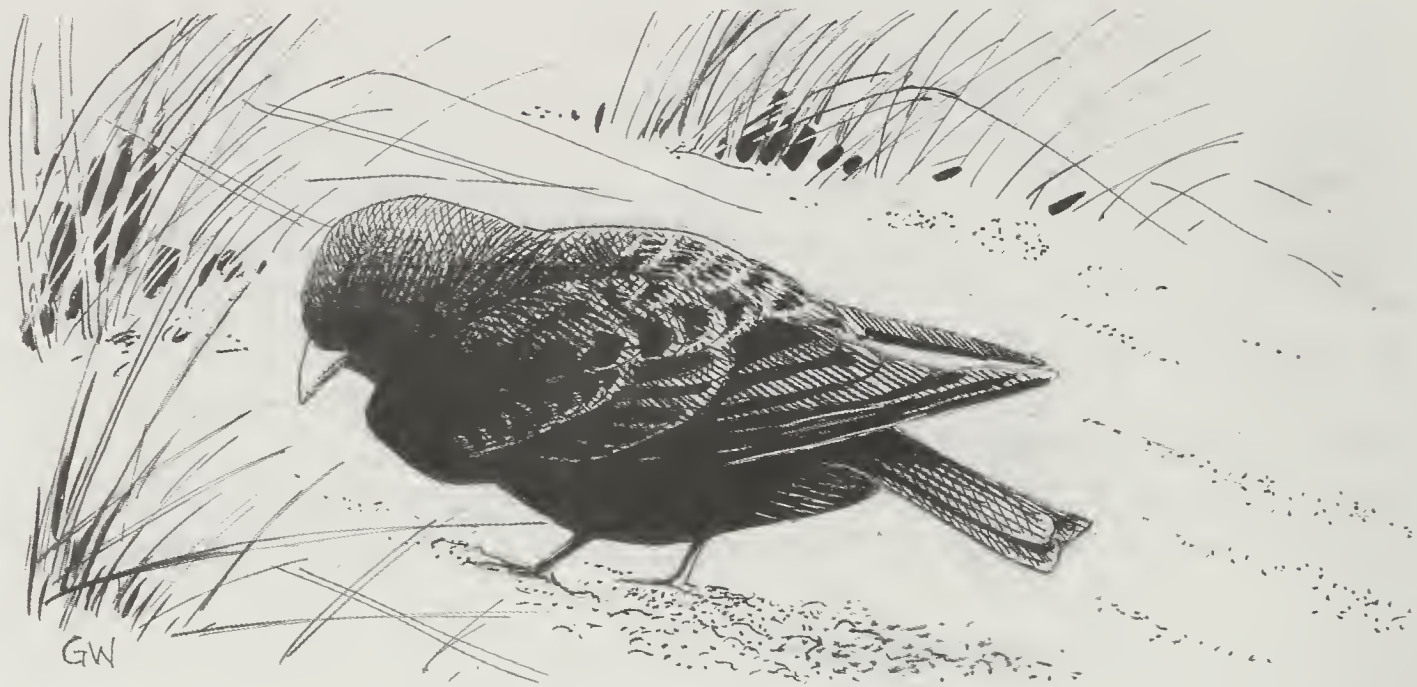
Finally I'd like to say that my involvement in helping manage this mass twitch was because I wanted to see this super little bird shared by lots of birdwatchers. But the reality was that living in Cley (of all places) makes any thought of suppression a very foolish thing!

***Richard Porter***



# Black Lark - New to Norfolk

*Sean Offord*



Black Lark (*Gary Wright*)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008 was the day after my youngest son's third birthday party. The morning was drizzly and overcast and the easterly wind which had been blowing for three days was still persisting. Over the last few days I'd been watching the wind maps with mounting excitement as the little arrows all steadfastly marched due west, right across the continent. But Winterton Dunes, my local patch, had remained cold and quiet with hardly any signs of migration. We were putting it down to poor weather in Europe stopping anything from moving.

After a day of family outings it was nearly 4pm when I finally made it into the North Dunes, just as the wind appeared to have dropped a little and the sun had come out. I figured that if anything *had* got through from Europe then now was the best time to look for it. I began to search in all the usual nooks and crannies. I saw nothing (except a rather nice Adder). The dunes are often like that and normally in these conditions my enthusiasm dwindles and I begin to dawdle and daydream, ignoring all the potential bird cover around me, wandering uselessly along the main paths until it's time to go home and resume family duties. This is probably why in the four years I've been living here I've yet to find anything rarer than a Firecrest or a Ring Ouzel (a fact which my birding friends in the village seem to relish pointing out to me whenever they manage to get it into conversation). So this spring I had decided I would try to keep my concentration level higher, even on seemingly birdless days.

I did a big scan round with my bins. Right off in the distance, flying south along the last dune ridge before the sea, I saw a Sand Martin. Given how terrible the spring had been so far in terms of common migrants, this was pretty exciting stuff. I decided to make my way across to the ridge, where I would be able to see any other hirundines moving through, and have views of both the sea, in case any terns were moving past, and the dunes, where I might perhaps pick up a flying Ring Ouzel if I was lucky. I set off in that direction. Within about ten minutes I had broken my new rule and drifted off into another dawdling daydream...

The tail-end of a Wheatear, disappearing over the brow of the dune ahead of me, reminded me of what I was supposed to be doing. I walked up the slope to see if I could get a better look at it. What happened next is etched vividly into my memory. I got to the top expecting to see the Wheatear close by. Instead a significantly larger, all black bird took off from a little hollow about 15 metres in front of me and flew a very short way, landing out of sight behind the next small hillock. For a moment I was completely confused. I just couldn't work out what I had seen. This will seem a bizarre analogy but at the time I thought it was like a sort of pygmy Jackdaw, flying as though it was pretending to be injured. I moved carefully until I had a view into the next hollow and there it was. Close and clear in



the short grass, walking quickly and easily, then standing still in glorious profile, only a few metres away - thickset, all black with lovely irregular mottled whitish scalloping on its back and a large, stout pale bill. Suddenly the flight pattern 'clicked'. Of course! It was a lark! I was looking at the third ever British Black Lark! And yes, it did have the build of a mini-Jackdaw! (I bet that's not in the field guides!)

By now I was shaking with excitement. I'd found a massive rarity, which was completely easy to identify, and was walking about in the open on short grass instead of skulking in thick undergrowth. My type of bird! But my elation was instantly mixed with anxiety. I had my mobile phone on me, yet I knew I had hardly any battery power left. When I'd set out I'd seen that there were two bars of power. Normally when I try to make a call with the battery at that level it just goes dead. I wrestled in my coat pocket to get the phone out whilst trying to keep the bird in view. With heart in mouth I dialled my good birding friend and next door neighbour Peter Cawley, who was at Hickling Broad doing conservation work. Heroically, my phone made it through and soon I was shout-whispering down the line like a stage villain - 'I'm in the dunes and I've got a Black Lark and no battery power and I'm not kidding! Call everyone!'

I managed to phone two more local birders but in the meantime the bird had flown a little further away. I relocated it and then told myself to keep calm and take a careful description, starting with the bare parts then moving carefully through all the feather tracts. The trouble was, I was too amazed and excited and the bird was too obvious for this to seem important. It was a lark. It was black. What else do you want? However, for those who prefer a more thorough approach, here are my 'notes':-

*'Seen very well down to about 10m through 10x42 bins. Starling-sized but thicker set, stocky. Immediate impression sort of like pygmy Jackdaw(!). Walking and running at varying speeds, always on the short grass, stopping every few seconds to look around or feed. Occasionally flying low to another area - slightly undulating flight - classic lark flight action with short tail and 'triangular' wings. Large, stout, pale creamy horn coloured bill, with cutting edge and lower mandible curving downwards back into the head, giving it a sort of aloof, glum expression. Dark legs and dark eye. All plumage sooty black except for irregular mottled scalloping effect on feather edges of upper and lower back, scapulars and wing coverts, seemingly varying in visibility depending on angle of viewing and the angle of the bird to the wind, sometimes looking mostly black and sometimes very pale-fringed and scalloped, particularly in an area on the lower central back'.*

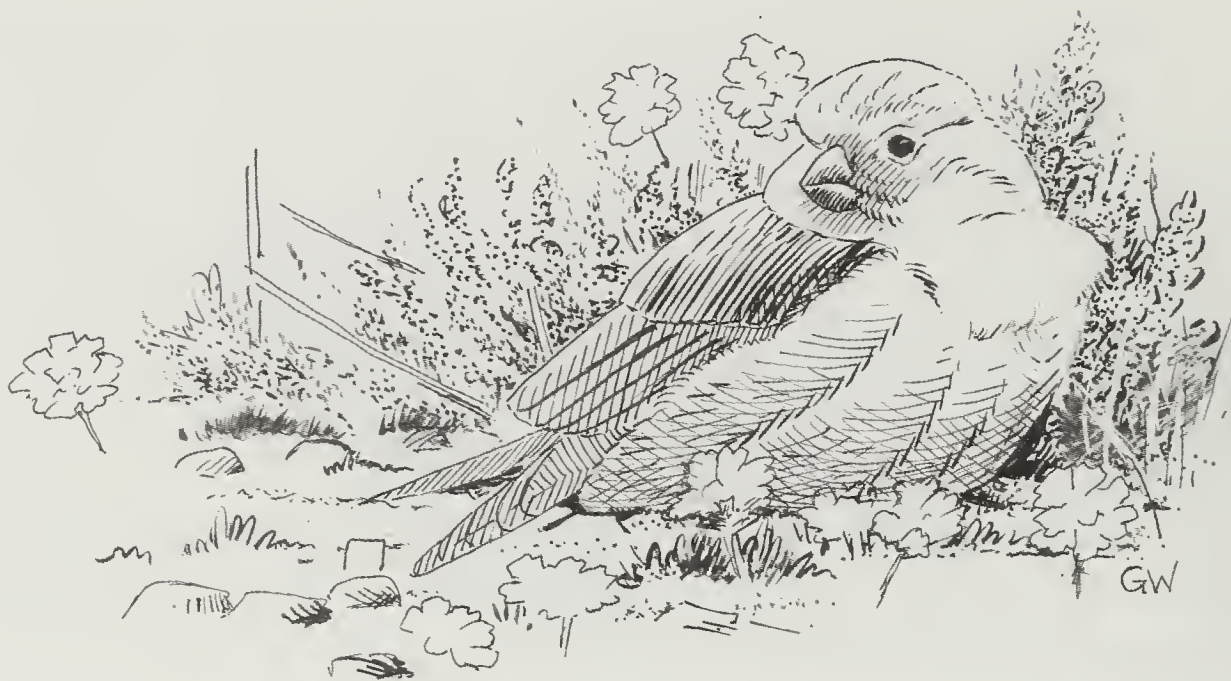
That was as far as I got with my mental description because I was getting increasingly worried that the bird was going to disappear, as it had definitely got slightly warier and was beginning to range further each time it flew. I was beginning to imagine the nightmare of claiming to be the sole observer of a 'first for Norfolk', and the gentle, patronising looks I'd get from my birding friends as they concluded amongst themselves that I'd made a dreadful mistake. So thank the Lord that it wasn't long before local birders arrived, toting various pieces of photographic equipment, and managed to get the bird on film. When Andrew Grieve showed me his first shot - a rear view with the bird looking off to the side with all the diagnostic features visible - I felt a wave of relief sweep over me.

During all this time the bird had not called but as more people arrived it began to do so in flight, a lovely, warm, rippling note which carried resonantly across the dunes. My final memory of it, calling loudly and bounding across a sea of appreciative faces, will live with me for a very long time indeed.



# Trumpeter Finch - New to Norfolk

*Paul Nichols*



Trumpeter Finch (*Gary Wright*)

Blakeney Point has an impressive track record for rare and scarce birds during mid to late May, and 2008 was no exception. The ball was set rolling on 27<sup>th</sup> when strong winds from the northeast combined with mist to produce ideal conditions for a small 'fall'. This featured singles of Red-backed Shrike and Icterine Warbler, two Grey-headed Wagtails, 16 Spotted Flycatchers, 12 Common Redstarts and a good variety of other migrants. Most of these birds remained through the 28<sup>th</sup> and were joined on 29<sup>th</sup> by a male Subalpine Warbler singing in the Lupins. During that day the wind swung through several directions, eventually settling into a light northwesterly for the rest of the month. By 31<sup>st</sup> most migrants had departed and the weather had improved, giving myself and my fellow wardens (Jason Moss and Edward Stubbings) the chance to finish our wader surveys. It was late in the evening by the time we were able to walk back through the 'Beachway' to the Lifeboat House, discussing what we would have for tea. It was then that Jason drew our attention to a finch sitting on the top of a *Suaeda* bush. As I focused on the bird my words were (in a Norfolk accent) 'Thass a Trumpeter finch bor'. Tea was going to have to wait!

Eddie ran back to the Lifeboat House for a telescope while Jason and I remained with the bird. It was then watched feeding on thrift in 'Beachway' where it gave good views. The overall impression was of a uniformly sandy-grey bird with contrasting dark alula and primary tips, a slight pink wash on the rump and faint pink edges to the primaries, secondaries and greater coverts. The most striking feature, however, was the bill - very bulky and somewhere between orange and red in colour. In flight the bird was similar in size but 'fatter' or 'chubbier'-looking than the Linnets with which it loosely associated. Twice, whilst in flight, it was heard to give a single, sharp, nasal call. After discussing the salient features with Simon Aspinall, who has experience of this species in the Middle East, it was decided that it was a young male, probably in its first year.

The news was put out the next morning by local birdwatchers along with detailed on-site instructions. To minimise disturbance to ground-nesting birds, some extra precautions were taken, including the fencing of two nests of Oystercatcher and one of Skylark. The Trumpeter Finch remained on 'Beachway' for a total of five days during which time it was seen by many birdwatchers. Those lucky enough to come on 4<sup>th</sup> June were also treated to an unseasonal Dusky Warbler (only the second spring record of this species in Norfolk).



# Melodious Warbler on Blakeney Point

*Simon Aspinall and Richard Porter*

After two days of northeasterly winds, dawn on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 ushered in a third consecutive day of similar weather with the prospect of rain squalls. An arrival of common migrants was soon evident on the walk out to Blakeney Point. Robins totalled 25, Wheatears 45 and Redstarts 12. There were also over 30 Goldcrests, 2 Bramblings, 40 Redwings and 25 Song Thrushes. During one heavy squall on Far Point, many migrants, mainly thrushes, fell from the sky all around us.

On the way back to Cley coastguards we realised that the 'fall' was continuing and that migrants were still arriving. Other observers passed *en route* confirmed this to be the case, with many more birds now present than had been noted on the way out along the beach-top in the morning. A male Blackcap suddenly appeared on the beach, a little further on at the Marrams a Spotted Flycatcher sat perched on a spike of curled dock and more Wheatears and the odd Redstart were dotted about on the shingle. It was while on high alert that, at 1630, we flushed an 'interesting' warbler from the *Suaeda* on the edge of Blakeney Harbour, some six hundred meters west of Cley coastguards. It was rather flighty at first but after a reasonable view we realised that it was a Melodious Warbler. Our utterances went some thing like: 'Looks like a *Hippolais* with no 'wing-panel'. With wings as short as that it has to be Melodious. You know how good that would be?' RFP took a few record shots before the bird was left alone and the news was put out. Shortly afterwards it suddenly flew up of its own accord and went off across the saltings, disappearing into a clump of *Halimione* some two hundred meters away.

Andy Stoddart, Steve Joyner and Giles Dunmore soon arrived. We all thought that the bird may have gone for good but they went across the marsh and discovered it on the edge of the old Blakeney Freshes bank. Fortunately, it then returned to the spot where originally found. Here the bird showed until dusk and at least thirty birders got to see it, but by next morning it had gone.

For the first time ever on such an occasion we didn't take a field description but relied on the photographs taken - a (necessary) sign of the times? Luckily two showed all the important identification features. It was 51 years earlier, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1957, that one of us (RFP) had missed the last confirmed Norfolk Melodious Warbler. His notebook for that day reads:-

*'Went along to the East Bank to the trap and were told by Richard Richardson that a Melodious Warbler had just been ringed there. He still thought it was about in the bushes. It had only one tail feather and the ring was on its left leg.'*

This was one of two trapped by Richard Richardson that year so it is remarkable just how long we have had to wait for its next occurrence in the county.



# BTO Nest Record Scheme Totals for Norfolk 2008

*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, while a fall in productivity could result in fewer offspring being produced. In order to monitor the latter, volunteer nest recorders have been collecting data for the BTO's Nest Record Scheme (NRS) since 1939, amassing 1.3 million summaries of individual nesting attempts.

The NRS methodology is extremely simple and accessible. All that observers are asked to do is to make regular visits to any nest that they find and count the numbers of eggs and/or chicks inside. We've recently produced a new Quickstart Guide, which gives details of what to record and how to send the information to us, together with tips on where to look and a Code of Conduct for minimising disturbance. Have a look for yourself at [www.bto.org/survey/nest\\_records/nrs\\_quickstart\\_guide.pdf](http://www.bto.org/survey/nest_records/nrs_quickstart_guide.pdf) or contact us at BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU for a paper copy.

Nest recording is a great way to hone your birding skills whilst also providing information that can be used by conservationists and policy makers. It's perfectly suited to the 'patch birder' in all of us - knowing which species are breeding on your local site is great, but knowing how many eggs they laid and how many chicks they managed to fledge is even better! Absolutely every record counts, so if you think you might be interested in taking part yourself, why not visit [www.bto.org/goto/nrs.htm](http://www.bto.org/goto/nrs.htm) or drop us a line at [nest.records@bto.org](mailto:nest.records@bto.org)?

## 2008 totals

The total numbers of nest records submitted for each species from Norfolk in 2008 are presented in the table below, together with the equivalent national totals. I'm delighted to announce that this year was a fantastic year for the NRS in Norfolk, with the number of records submitted increasing by almost 50% to over 1,600, placing us third on the nest recording league table after Northumberland and Lancashire!

As in previous years, Barn Owl is Norfolk's most recorded species, beating Great Tit by some margin, a testament to the time and effort spent by the many nest recorders and ringers in the region who monitor this iconic species. Norfolk's contribution to the Little Egret, Tree Pipit and Ringed Plover totals is also impressive, providing 82%, 78% and 49% of the national datasets for these species respectively. Following my comments last year concerning the declining number of records submitted for open-nesting species, it is also very encouraging to see that nest recorders in the county are making such a significant contribution to the Dunnock, Stonechat, Blackbird, Willow Warbler, Long-tailed Tit and Greenfinch totals. We are even leading the way on Woodpigeons, which may not be the most exciting or challenging species to find the nests of, but are just as important to monitor as all the others! Finally, top marks go to Greg Conway for his Woodcock nest - one of the most difficult to find of all British species.



Species	Total for Norfolk	Total for UK	Species	Total for Norfolk	Total for UK
Little Grebe	1	49	Grey Wagtail	1	154
Great Crested Grebe	1	116	Pied Wagtail	32	218
Little Egret	28	34	Wren	14	288
Grey Heron	10	137	Duncock	26	280
Mute Swan	2	150	Robin	28	410
Canada Goose	5	109	Stonechat	25	156
Egyptian Goose	2	7	Blackbird	129	1290
Mallard	1	141	Song Thrush	32	482
Marsh Harrier	6	10	Mistle Thrush	2	71
Goshawk	2	71	Sedge Warbler	1	45
Sparrowhawk	1	56	Reed Warbler	8	286
Buzzard	6	209	Lesser Whitethroat	1	18
Kestrel	28	400	Whitethroat	9	76
Hobby	6	61	Garden Warbler	1	28
Red-legged Partridge	3	4	Blackcap	2	80
Moorhen	17	360	Chiffchaff	8	142
Coot	3	717	Willow Warbler	11	119
Oystercatcher	2	234	Goldcrest	3	16
Ringed Plover	60	123	Spotted Flycatcher	5	131
Woodcock	1	4	Long-tailed Tit	27	236
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	11	Willow Tit	1	24
Herring Gull	1	86	Coal Tit	3	98
Little Tern	1	35	Blue Tit	99	4851
Feral Pigeon	18	36	Great Tit	150	4360
Stock Dove	66	861	Nuthatch	4	190
Woodpigeon	130	531	Magpie	1	66
Collared Dove	36	188	Jackdaw	21	268
Cuckoo	1	17	Rook	1	248
Barn Owl	214	1668	Carrion Crow	2	113
Little Owl	4	121	Starling	13	254
Tawny Owl	9	371	House Sparrow	8	347
Nightjar	1	74	Chaffinch	22	278
Swift	3	126	Greenfinch	34	145
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	133	Goldfinch	6	73
Woodlark	18	96	Linnet	14	151
Skylark	2	53	Yellowhammer	7	68
Swallow	145	2344	Reed Bunting	3	61
Tree Pipit	31	40			
Meadow Pipit	1	90	TOTAL		1624

## Acknowledgements

Very many thanks to the following for submitting nest records from Norfolk in 2008:

Sid Batty, David Bax, Jez Blackburn, Kevan Brett, BTO Nunnery Ringing Group, Niall Burton, Greg Conway, Noel Elms, Ray Gribble, Alec Hiller, Ron Hoblyn, Paul Holness, Mr and Mrs S. Johnson, Mr J. Kirk, Tony Langstaff, Kev Leighton, NW Norfolk Ringing Group, Bernard Pleasance, Charles Seagrave, John Secker, Neville Skinner, UEA Ringing Group, Andy Watson and 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.



# Norfolk Ringing Report 2008

*Allan Hale*

A total of 44,684 birds of 134 species were reported as being ringed in Norfolk during 2008. The total number of birds ringed was the second highest ever (beaten only by 2005) and the number of species handled was also the second highest ever (this time beaten only by 2007).

Unusually, Greenfinch was not the ‘most-ringed’ bird; the total of 3931 being the lowest for 16 years. This was doubtless as a result of outbreaks of the trichomoniasis parasite, which is currently wreaking havoc with finches (especially Greenfinches) over much of the country. The most-ringed species for 2008 was Siskin (which had a remarkable year) with 4272 birds ringed. Second was Greenfinch, followed by Blue Tit (3891), Great Tit (3339) and then Blackbird (2794).

The Siskin total of 4272 (the highest annual total since 1998 and the second highest ever) was remarkable in that 1422 of the birds were ringed in one Thetford garden whilst another 920 were ringed in a single Grimston garden! The breakdown of the catches by month was fascinating in that only in May did one of the ringers draw a blank.

	<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>
Thetford	65	347	312	10	0	2	31	47	66	7	10	23
Grimston	34	268	313	74	76	117	101	35	283	83	25	13

Other interesting birds ringed during the year included 2 Montagu’s Harriers, 2 Eiders, 53 Little Egrets, 6 Goshawks, 12 Common Buzzards, 12 Hobbies, 4 Long-eared Owls, a Thrush Nightingale and 3 Pallas’s Warblers. Lowest-ever totals were received for Turtle Dove (4) and Willow Tit (9) although 117 Tree Sparrows hopefully demonstrates a welcome change of fortune for this species, representing the highest total for 20 years.

As always, there was much of interest amongst the recoveries that came from a record total of 22 different countries. Geographically, the extremes were movements of 3388 km to the east (a Wigeon to Russia), 2151 km to the north-north-east (an Oystercatcher to Norway) and 4846km to the south-south-west (a Bar-tailed Godwit to Guinea Bissau). The most elderly bird of the year was an Oystercatcher which was over 36 years of age followed by a Bar-tailed Godwit which was approaching 34.

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. Special 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 2008

Ringing 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 ringing
- 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringing, 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 ringing
- 8 Hatched more than two calendar years before ringing

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**

- 5 Mar 05 Western Denmark
- + 04.11.08 North Wootton, King’s Lynn

This was a neck-collared bird from the Spitsbergen population which would normally migrate through northern Norway to winter in Denmark. The vast majority of Norfolk’s Pink-feet originate from Iceland and it is very unusual for the two populations to interchange. This is therefore both an unusual movement and a rare bird for Norfolk.

**Dark-bellied Brent Goose**

- 5F 17.05.06 Terschelling, The Netherlands
- RR 07.02.07 (until 23.02.07) Cley-next-the-Sea
- RR 15.03.07 Terschelling, The Netherlands
- RR 04.12.07 Salthouse Marshes
- RR 14.01.08 (until 07.02.08) Cley Marshes

Additionally, the regularly returning bird from Siberia, ringed 09.08.95, spent its seventh winter at Cley-next-the-Sea. Previous years had seen it in the Channel Islands, Denmark and Germany.

**Wigeon**

- 3F 01.11.02 Winterton Holmes, East Somerton
- + 11.10.08 Tyukovo, Menzelinskiy, Russia (3388km E)

A very long movement, but perfectly normal for a wintering Wigeon from Norfolk.

**Teal**

- 3M 11.12.05 Rollesby Broad, Rollesby
- + 20.08.08 Soson Pellot, Muhos, Oulu, Finland (1932km NE)
- 5F 11.02.06 S. Jacinto Dunes Nature Reserve, Portugal (until 12.03.06)
- RR 14.01.07 Kelling Water Meadow (until 04.05.07)
- RR 11.02.08 Kelling Water Meadow (until 01.05.08)
- RR 27.12.08 Kelling Water Meadow

The first-shown demonstrates the origin of some of our wintering Teal. In cases of cold weather, Norfolk’s Teal can be displaced southward as far as Iberia, such as probably happened with the second shown.

**Little Egret**

- 1 22.07.07 near King’s Kynn
- RR 29.05.08 Wanlip, Leicestershire (97km W)
- RR 13.07.08 Purl’s Bridge, Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire (ca 40km SSW)



1	22.07.07	near King's Kynn
RR	13.02.08	Coln Rogers, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (186km SW)
RR	08.07.08	Port Meadow, Oxford (157km SW)
1	10.06.08	near King's Kynn
RR	16.08.08	Potteric Carr N.R., South Yorkshire (123km NW)
1	19.06.08	near King's Kynn
RR	17.09.08	Pywipe, East Yorkshire (93km NNW)
1	08.06.08	near King's Kynn
RR	19.08.08	Eyebrook Reservoir, near Corby, Rutland (76km WSW)

The initial results from colour-ringing the nestlings of this Little Egret colony are fascinating as well as confusing, although all of the movements shown do include a westerly component. Work at this colony is ongoing so doubtless the picture will become clearer with the passage of time.

### Spoonbill

1	10.06.07	Oosterkwelder, Schiermonnikoog, The Netherlands
RR	24.07.07	Jaap Deensgat, The Netherlands (until 12.08.07)
RR	11.07.08	Three sites in Devon (until 22.03.08)
RR	25.04.08	Dungeness, Kent
RR	02.05.08	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth
RR	04.05.08	Berney Reserve, Great Yarmouth
RR	07.05.08	Breydon Marshes, Great Yarmouth
RR	15.05.08	Two sites in The Netherlands (until 01.06.08)
RR	13.06.08	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth
RR	15.06.08	Minsmere, Suffolk
RR	01.07.08	Trimley Marshes, Suffolk
RR	02.08.08	Havergate Island, Great Yarmouth
RR	30.08.08	Breydon Marshes

A Dutch-ringed nestling spending its first winter in Devon before migrating via Kent to Norfolk for the early part of the following summer. Seemingly not content with Norfolk life it returned to its natal area in The Netherlands for just a couple of weeks before returning to wander the East Anglian coast until late August.

### Oystercatcher

4	30.08.68	Snettisham
R	04.01.87	Heacham
+	30.09.00	Caestre, Nord, France (279km SE)
8	02.03.02	Outer Bund, Terrington
X	29.04.07	Hasnes, Troms, Norway (2151km NNE)
8	20.08.05	Wainfleet, Lincolnshire
X	14.07.08	Hethel, Norwich (85km SE)
5	28.05.72	Heacham
R	26.09.80	Holme-next-the-Sea
R	23.07.05	Heacham
R	08.03.08	Heacham



X	18.09.08	Snettisham
7	08.03.08	Heacham
X	12.08.08	Vidareidi, Vidoy, The Faeroes (1130km NNW)
1	10.06.04	Dyce, Aberdeen, Scotland
R	14.12.08	Snettisham (509km SSE)

The first shown was the victim of a French shotgun, having reached the age of 32 years 1 month. The second represents both the northernmost and longest distant recovery of a Norfolk-ringed Oystercatcher notified during the year. The third shows one of the more unusual causes of death; this hapless individual, probably a local inland breeder, was found dead by the Hethel test track at Lotus cars. It would be interesting to hear the fate of the Lotus!

The fourth was found dead 36 years and 2 months after ringing, and just short of the national record of 36 years 8 months. Note, however, that longevity records pertain to the time elapsed between ringing and recovery - the current record holder was approximately 4 months old when ringed, whereas this individual was around 12 months old, so from hatching was actually marginally longer-lived.

The fifth shows one of the small percentage of Oystercatchers occurring on The Wash that are from the Faeroes breeding population, this individual being the first to be reported from there since 2003. Lastly, one of three nestling-ringed Oystercatchers controlled in Norfolk. The others were from Humberside and North Creak.

### **Avocet**

On 18.06.93 a nestling (one of a brood of 4 ringed with the same colour combination) was ringed at Holme-next-the-Sea. Presumably the same individual was seen at Cley Marshes 24.05.96, 25.02.08, 28.03.98, 03.03.99, 11-14.07.02, 02-14.03.03, 24.05.03 (when seen mating - subsequently seen once on a nest on Pat's Pool so presumed to have failed), 21.03.04-05.07.04 (when it nested on Pat's Pool raising at least one chick that failed to fledge), 12.03.05-02.05.05 (when thought to have first attempted to nest on Pat's Pool but failed almost immediately and then might have attempted to nest again close to Cley Marshes but not on the reserve) and 01.07.05 to 19.07.05. Returned to Cley Marshes 10-20.03.06 but did not attempt to nest on the reserve. Seen again at Cley Marshes 18.06.06, 12.07.06 and then on 13.07.06 at Sea Pool, Salthouse with a single chick that it sheltered while its mate flew up to attack a marauding adult pale phase Arctic Skua. Seen back on Pat's Pool 19-23.07.06 so must have lost its chick. Returned to Cley Marshes again 05.03.07 and seen until 18.06.07 (nested by the Serpentine but site abandoned before eggs could have hatched).

During 2008 it was seen at Cley Marshes 18-19.03.08 by the Serpentine with its mate but then no further sightings until 13.05.08 when seen by the Serpentine with its mate again so presumed to have attempted to nest further east and failed, 16-17.05.08 (Serpentine and Arnold's Marsh) then it went missing until the end of the breeding season when seen again on three dates in July and finally 01.08.08.

### **Ringed Plover (nominate form)**

1	29.07.06	Snettisham
RR	31.08.07	Beg al Lann, Ile-de-Sein, Finistere, France (655 km SW)
1	13.06.04	Snettisham
RR	17.09.07	Portnafrankagh Beach, Mayo, Eire (710km NNE)
1	14.06.06	Snettisham
RR	02.09.07	Rostrevor, Down, Northern Ireland (462km WNW)
1	14.06.06	Snettisham



RR	19.08.07	Wagejot, Texel, The Netherlands (300km E)
1	03.07.06	Snettisham
RR	15.12.07	Balcomie Bay, Fife, Scotland (428km NNW)
1	28.06.99	Snettisham, King's Lynn
RR	21.04.03	The Marrams, Blakeney Point (until 06.07.03 - breeding)
RR	16.05.04	The Marrams, Blakeney Point (breeding)
RR	29.05.05	The Marrams, Blakeney Point (breeding)
RR	05.05.06	The Marrams, Blakeney Point (breeding)
RR	12.03.07	near Cley Coastguards
RR	03.04.09	Cley Marshes

Another nestling from Snettisham, ringed 19.07.99, had a similar history to the last shown, breeding at the Marrams, Blakeney Point during 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. During 2008 it was seen at the Marrams 23.02.08 and east of the Hood, Blakeney Point 23.07.08. There were further recoveries from both France and Eire - the most distant to those countries are shown. An additional recovery came from Lancashire.

There seems to be little logic behind the seemingly random dispersal of the nestling Ringed Plovers from Snettisham, although it is tempting to think that the birds that settled down to breed at Blakeney Point might have got more peace and quiet there than if they had remained in their natal area.

### Golden Plover

4	23.04.04	Anna Paulowna, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands
XL	02.12.07	near Garboldisham, Diss (269km W)
4	17.03.06	Invaso Conca, San Giovanni in Marignano, Italy
XL	01.08.07	Shelfanger, Diss (1274km NW)

The latter bird represents only the second ever interchange of a Golden Plover between Britain and Italy - the first was in the opposite direction. Indeed, any movement of a Golden Plover that includes a south-easterly component from Britain is very unusual.

### Knot

3	10.06.06	Terrington
R	10.12.07	Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania (3930km SSW)
6	28.02.87	Snettisham
R	30.08.08	Oosterkwelder, Schiermonnikoog, The Netherlands (393km E)

The majority of Knot occurring on The Wash are of the form *islandica*. However, it is known that a small number of Knot of the nominate form sometimes occur in eastern England during the autumn *en route* from northern Russia to their west African wintering grounds. The first shown, only the third British-ringed Knot to be found in Mauritania, is one such example.

The second is a more typical *islandica* recovery; this individual still going strong 21 years 6 months after being ringed.

### Sanderling

3	04.12.04	Banc d'Arguin, Baie d-Aouatif, Mauritania
R	02.08.07	Heacham (3930km NNE)



4 03.08.07 Snettisham  
 V 13.06.08 Ain Sebaa, Casablanca, Morocco (2239km SSW)

It is known that Sanderling from the NE Greenland population migrate through NW Europe, continuing south to wintering grounds in West Africa. However, this is the first exchange between The Wash and Mauritania, and only the second from there to be found in Britain.

The second shows a more typical African recovery - this representing the twelfth Wash-ringed Sanderling to Morocco. It was reported as being found alive 'in a natural hole' and released.

### Dunlin

3 04.08.80 Fellsholl, Myvatn, Sudur-Thingeyjar, Iceland  
 R 03.08.07 Snettisham (1714km SE)

4 30.10.04 Terrington  
 R 12.07.08 Sappi, Luvia, Turku-Pori, Finland (1588km NE)

Only the seventh Icelandic-ringed Dunlin to be found on The Wash. This individual, probably of the form *schinzii* which breeds in Iceland and SE Greenland will have been on passage to western Africa when caught on The Wash. Note that, when ringed as a juvenile, it was still in Iceland in early August, whilst as an adult it was already on The Wash when controlled at the same time of the year. Adults depart their breeding grounds earlier than their offspring.

The second shown is the only overseas Dunlin recovery reported during the year - this individual will have been of the form *alpina* which breeds from northern Fennoscandia westwards into Siberia, and spends the winter in NW Europe.

### Ruff

4 14.04.08 Molkwerum, Noorderpolder, The Netherlands  
 RR 04.09.08 Cley-next-the-Sea (until the end of the year at least)

5M 13.04.07 Hindeloopen, Grote Wiskepolder, The Netherlands  
 RR 14.12.07 Cley/Salthouse/Saxlingham area (until 14.03.08)

4M 03.04.04 Weakens, Oosterlittens, The Netherlands  
 RR 08.04.04 Iens, Wommels, The Netherlands  
 RR 19.04.08 Dijkvaart, Workum, The Netherlands  
 RR 27.04.08 Noordermeerpolder, Starvoren, The Netherlands  
 RR 29.04.08 Podder Kooihuizen, Gaast, The Netherlands  
 RR 30.06.08 Cley Marshes

Ringed as spring migrants in The Netherlands, the first two shown presumably made the return journey to the Arctic before settling down in Norfolk during the return passage of the same year. The last shown strangely disappeared in between multiple sightings in both 2004 and 2008

### Woodcock

4 03.11.04 Weybourne  
 + 14.04.08 Gorki, Leningrad, Russia (1843km ENE)

Most of our winter Woodcock originate from Russia, the Baltic States and Finland, yet this represents only the 15<sup>th</sup> British-ringed Woodcock to be recovered in Russia. Even so, only Sweden and France have more.

### Black-tailed Godwit (form *islandica*)

6 12.08.98 Terrington



R	19.02.07	Salinas de Alhos Vedros, Setubal, Portugal (1729km SSW)
4M	18.04.03	Vogalaekur, Myrar, Iceland (until 28.04.03)
RR	29.09.03	Langstone harbour, Hampshire (until 03.10.03)
RR	05.10.03	Portsmouth Harbour
RR	07.12.03	Baie du Mont St Michel, Manche, France
RR	17.10.05	Portsmouth Harbour
RR	02.02.06	Tagus Estuary, Portugal
RR	10.08.06	Colne Estuary, Essex (until 20/9/06)
RR	08.10.06	Fobbing Marsh, Essex
RR	20.12.06	Baie du Mont St Michel
RR	05.02.07	Avon Valley, Hampshire
RR	30.07.07	Medway Estuary, Kent
RR	03.08.07	Langstone Harbour (until 19.08.07)
RR	03.09.07	Portsmouth Harbour (until 30.10.07)
RR	12.02.08	Cley Marshes
4M	19.02.07	Tagus Estuary, Setubal, Portugal (until 15.03.07)
RR	09.04.07	Welney, Cambridgeshire
RR	16.07.07	Cley Marshes (and 09.08.07 – 17.10.07)
RR	03.11.07	Tagus Estuary, Setubal, Portugal (until 03.03.08)
RR	24.03.08	Earith, Cambridgeshire
RR	30.04.08	Altafjordur, Hofn, Iceland (until 01.05.08)
RR	03.08.08	Cley/Kelling/Blakeney (until 01.09.08)
4	03.05.03	Altafjordur, Iceland (until 05.05.03)
RR	14.07.03	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth
RR	19.07.03	Stiffkey Fen
RR	22.09.03	Ribble Estuary, Lancashire
RR	19.10.03	Clonakilty, Co. Cork, Eire
RR	23.03.04	Breydon Water
RR	30.03.04	Cley Marshes (until 24.04.04)
RR	14.07.04	Titchwell, Hunstanton
RR	13.08.04	Breydon Water (and 26.08.04
RR	29.08.04	Snettisham, Hunstanton
RR	17.03.05	Cley Marshes (until 29.04.05)
RR	01.05.05	Altafjordur (staging site), Iceland
RR	29.08.05	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth
RR	09.02.06	Cley Marshes / Blakeney Harbour (until 30.04.06)
RR	11.10.06	Killingholme, Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire
RR	09.01.07	Cley / Salthouse / Blakeney (until 24.04.07)
RR	13.07.07	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth (until 12.08.07)
RR	08.09.07	Killingholme, Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire (until 23.01.08)
RR	02.05.08	Altafjordur, Iceland
RR	11.02.08	Cley Marshes (until 26.04.08)
RR	08.10.08	Killingholme, Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire (also 24.10.08)
RR	21.11.08	Cley Marshes (until at least the year end)

Colour ringing of Black-Tailed Godwits has demonstrated that those occurring on The Wash are of the form *islandica*, migrating from Iceland to spend the winter. It is also known that some continue south as far as Spain and Portugal, these joining birds of the nominate form which breed in western Europe (from The Netherlands eastwards) and generally winter from Iberia southwards.

Also printed is a small selection of the many colour-ringed birds seen at Cley that generally



show the same migration pattern.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

3	21.09.01	Terrington
+	30.11.06	Ile de Bubaque, Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea Bissau (4846km SSW)
6	01.04.87	Bupheverkoog Pellworm, Nordfriesische Inseln, Germany
R	14.08.06	Ken Hill, Snettisham (571km WSW).
6M	22.08.74	Wolferton
R	04.08.08	Terrington
4M	05.03.03	Moeze Nature Reserve, SW France
RR	11.03.03	Bree-les-Bains, SW France (until 31.03.03)
RR	04.05.08	Cley Marshes

The first three shown are ‘Wash birds’. The first shows the second Wash-ringed Bar-tailed Godwit to be found in Guinea Bissau (and only the fifth from the UK); this is from well south within the known wintering areas for this species. The second is the ninth German-ringed Bar-tailed Godwit to be found on The Wash, and the only overseas control notified during the year, and the third is still going strong nearly 34 years after being ringed, when it was already an adult. This bird sets a new British, and European, longevity record for the species. Lastly, a wintering French-ringed bird showing up at Cley as a spring migrant.

**Curlew**

4	31.08.00	Terrington
X	14.06.08	Alvkarhed, Viksjofors, Gavleborg, Sweden (1333km NE)
1	01.07.87	Seinajoki, Vaasa, Finland
X	31.03.07	East Hall Farm, Sedgeford, Norfolk

The first shown is only the sixth Wash-ringed Curlew to be recovered in Sweden, although twice as many have been recorded making the reverse journey. The second is particularly interesting since it was ringed as a nestling in Finland.

**Redshank**

1	25.05.05	Snettisham Saltmarsh
RR	19.06.08	Cley Marshes
3	12.09.06	Terrington
R	13.07.08	Sappi, Luvia, Turku-Pori, Finland (1588km NE)

Surprising that the colour-ringed nestling from Snettisham apparently went unseen for over three years until it appeared at Cley. The Terrington bird represents only the second British-ringed Redshank to be found in Finland, and the first recorded interchange between The Wash and anywhere around the Baltic. Redshank breeding in this area are thought to mostly winter in southern Europe or Africa, so this individual is likely to have been on passage when caught at Terrington.

**Black-headed Gull**

6	26.01.07	Swinoujscie Beach, Szezecin, Poland
RR	03.12.07	The Mere, Diss (892km WSW)



RR	18.02.08	The Mere, Diss
4F	21.05.07	Ostvorpommern, Neubrandenburg, Germany
RR	19.11.07	The Mere, Diss (880km W)
6	26.01.07	Swinoujscie Plaza, Szczecin, Poland
RR	19.11.07	The Mere, Diss (895km W)
1	20.06.08	Cerney Wick, Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire
RR	24.11.08	Salthouse duck pond (until the year end at least - 248km NE)

As always, The Mere at Diss comes up with some long-distance Black-headed Gull movements. The Gloucestershire bird is an interesting record as most young Black-headed Gulls ringed in this project have dispersed west or south.

### **Common Gull**

1	30.06.04	Walfisch, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany
RR	29.03.05	Barton (695km W)
RR	11.10.05	Salthouse (and 20.10.05)
RR	10.11.05	Cley Marshes (and 02.01.06)
RR	02.02.08	Salthouse Beach car park (until 13.03.08)

A regularly returning bird that was ringed as a nestling on the Baltic coast of Eastern Germany.

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

1	05.07.06	Storøy, Mandal, Vest-Agder, Norway
RR	25.08.06	Brennevinsmyra, Mandal, Vest Agder, Norway (5km NE)
RR	06.07.08	Nar Valley Fisheries, King's Lynn (732km SW)
1	01.07.07	Norddorf, Amrum Island, Germany
RR	26.07.08	Cley Marshes
1	21.06.03	Outer Bund, Terrington
X	20.09.06	Plage Blanche, Guelmim, Morocco (2742km SSW)
1	25.06.08	Outer Bund, Terrington
X	31.08.07	Arenal de Penagos, Cantabria, Santander, Spain (1095km SSW)
1	25.06.08	Outer Bund, Terrington
VV	06.08.08	Praia de Mira, Beira Litoral, Portugal (1537km SSW)

The first two shown were ringed as nestlings and were winter visitors from the north-east. Note that such birds can arrive in Norfolk as early as the first week in July.

The last three, nestlings from the Outer Bund, near Terrington, further illustrate the now-established behaviour for immature British-bred Lesser Black-backed Gulls to generally migrate southwards, with most wintering in Iberia. Others move on into northwest Africa, the Moroccan recovery being the first such example from the Outer Bund breeding colony.

### **Herring Gull**

1	01.07.07	Outer Bund, Terrington
RR	11.12.08	Zeedijk, Zeeland, The Netherlands (262km SE)

The third overseas recovery of a Herring Gull from the Outer Bund breeding colony, and the second to be reported in The Netherlands.





*Top; Pink-footed Geese at dusk. (Mike Lawrence)*

*Left; Tundra Bean Geese - a regular winter visitor in small numbers. (Bob Cobbold)*

*Right; drake Red-crested Pochard at Titchwell. (Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top; this Red-throated Diver recuperated at Snettisham after being found inland. (Julian Bhalerao)*  
*Middle; Great Northern Diver at Blickling Hall Lake. (Mike Lawrence)*  
*Bottom; juvenile Gannet. (Mike Lawrence)*





*Top left; this very obliging Bittern spent several weeks on a small pond on Beeston Common. (Kieran Bhalerao - aged 8)*

*Top right; one of several Spoonbills at Cley. (John Miller)*

*Bottom; a long-staying Osprey near North Walsham. (Bob Cobbold)*





*Top left; Black Kite at Sea Palling in April. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Top right; one of several Montagu's Harriers fledged in North Norfolk. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom; Common Cranes over Horsey - a classic Norfolk image. (Neil Bowman)*

*Inset; adult and juvenile Common Crane. (Murray Smith)*



**Caspian Gull**

- 1     01.06.07    Przykona Reservoir, Radyczyny, Turek, Poland
- RR   30.07.08    Cley Marshes (and 01.08.08)

This was the first sighting since being ringed. The bird came from a mixed colony of Herring and Caspian Gulls. The bird was identified in the field as a first-summer Caspian Gull but the ringer did not know if its parents were pure *cachinnans*.

**Great Black-backed Gull**

- 1     30.06.07    Ryvingen, Rogaland, Karmøy, Norway
- RR   11.04.08    (until 05.07.08) Blackborough End area (787km SSW)
  
- 1     23.06.06    Storøy, Mandal, Vest-Agder, Norway
- RR   29.05.08    (until 05.07.08) Blackborough End area (735km SW)
  
- 1     25.06.06    Mandal, Vest Agder, Norway
- RR   06.07.08    Cley Marshes
  
- 1     28.06.06    Mandal, Vest Agder, Norway
- RR   28.04.07    Cley Marshes (and 10.05.07)
- RR   23.06.08    Cley Marshes (until 11.07.08)

Ringed Great Black-backs from Norway (and especially Vest Agder) have become a regular feature in Norfolk during the winter months.

**Little Tern**

- 1     05.07.03    Winterton Holmes, Great Yarmouth
- X     09.06.08    Blakeney Point (52km NW)
  
- 1     29.06.01    North Beach, Great Yarmouth
- R     06.06.08    Heist, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium (175km SE)
  
- 1     01.07.06    North Beach, Great Yarmouth
- XF   23.06.08    Port du Collet, Loire-Atlantique, France (674km SSW)

The first shown was taken by a bird predator (probably a Kestrel). The second was the most long-lived of four Norfolk-ringed Little Terns caught again in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. The third was the longest Little Tern movement of the year.

**Common Tern**

- 1     2005        Willington, Bedfordshire
- RR   22.06.07    Cley Marshes
- RR   22.06.08    Cley Marshes

Presumably the sightings at Cley were of the same bird - 30 birds were ringed at Willingham during 2005 with the same colour-ring combination. There was exactly a year between the two sightings at Cley!

**Barn Owl**

- 5F   08.07.06    near Holkham
- XF   16.02.08    Llanddulas, Clwydd, Wales (302km W)



4F 20.06.01 Horning Hall, Ludham  
XF 17.03.08 Acle (8km ENE)

The first shown represents the longest movement of the year by far. It is unusual on two counts; firstly the distance travelled (only around 4% of British Barn Owls travel in excess of 100km) and secondly the fact that long movements like this are invariably by birds in their first months of life. The second shown is the oldest of the year.

### **Sand Martin**

4 12.09.04 Las Minas, Madrid, Spain  
R 18.06.05 Leziate, King's Lynn (1421km NNE)

An adult on autumn migration when trapped in Spain. As can be seen from the dates, it can take a long time to get details from the Spanish ringing scheme!

### **Swallow**

3J 05.08.05 Boughton Fen, Stoke Ferry  
R 18.04.08 Estany d'Ivars, Lerida, Spain (1212km S)

This juvenile bird was originally trapped at a reedbed roost, and then caught again by Spanish ringers on its return passage northward, some two and a half years later. It was sexed as a male on re-capture in Spain.

### **House Martin**

3 22.09.07 Dungeness, Kent  
R 26.06.08 Shereford, Fakenham (212km N)

Only 1 in 250 ringed House Martins are ever heard of again so all information is valuable. Interestingly, the equivalent figure for Sand Martins (which are easier to catch!) is better than 1 in 60.

### **Robin**

3 09.10.04 Valkeveen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands  
R 13.10.07 Snettisham Coastal Park (328km W)

Doubtless still on migration when trapped at Snettisham. October is the peak month for east coast falls of Robins; the birds originate mainly from Fennoscandia and are *en route* to wintering grounds as far south as Iberia or even North Africa.

### **Redstart**

3M 11.09.99 Winterton Holmes, East Somerton  
XF 19.09.07 Bromailles, Loiret, France (509km S)

Found exhausted in a chicken pen, this constitutes a new longevity record for a British-ringed Redstart at just over eight years.

### **Blackbird**

3M 11.11.97 Ormesby St Margaret, Great Yarmouth  
X 23.02.08 Ormesby St Margaret, Great Yarmouth  
  
3F 14.10.06 Vlieland Barakkenkamp, The Netherlands  
R 19.10.07 near Wells-next-the-Sea (275km W)



3F	27.11.07	Shimpling, Diss
R	02.11.08	Vinkenbaad, Vlieland, The Netherlands (271km ENE)
3M	29.10.05	Snettisham Coastal Park
X	08.03.07	Oosterland, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands (308km E)
3M	12.11.06	Titchwell Village, Norfolk
R	05.04.08	Mesnali, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway (1091 km NW)

The first shown was taken by a Sparrowhawk after reaching the grand old age (for a Blackbird) of over ten years. The remainder illustrate the route taken and the destination country for some of our wintering birds.

### Fieldfare

4M	19.12.07	Terrington St John, King's Lynn
X	28.05.08	Nordlokkja, Sor-Trondelag, Norway (1250km NNE)

Sadly, after successfully crossing the North Sea on return passage to its breeding grounds, this bird flew into a window in Norway.

### Song Thrush

3J	08.07.07	Shimpling, Diss
XF	02.03.08	Langeraar, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands

Since most British-bred Song Thrushes are thought to be sedentary, this recovery is notable.

### Sedge Warbler

3J	04.08.04	Weybourne
R	06.08.05	Massereau, Loire-Atlantique, France (670km SSW)
3	25.08.07	Haddiscoe Island
X	07.09.07	Trunvel, Finistere, France (670km (SSW)

Note that the first bird was already in France by early August yet the second was still in Norfolk at the end of the month. The second shown was 'taken by a wild animal'. Additionally, there were three movements reported from Norfolk to Icklesham, Sussex.

### Reed Warbler

1	02.07.06	near Pentney, King's Lynn
R	23.08.08	Titchfield Haven, Fareham, Hampshire (241km SSW)

It is particularly satisfying to get a recovery from a warbler ringed as a nestling. Particularly so when the bird is trapped and released by another ringer.

### Goldcrest

3M	29.09.07	North Dunes, Winterton
R	29.03.08	Lista Fyr, Vest-Agder, Norway (673km NNW)

Large numbers of Goldcrests arrive on the Norfolk coast each autumn, many of which come from Norway.



### **Firecrest**

5M 28.03.07 Dunwich, Suffolk  
R 29.03.08 Sussex Farm, nr Burnham Market (99 km NW)

There are few recoveries of Firecrests. It is not known whether British breeding birds are purely summer visitors, or whether they remain in this country during the winter

### **Long-tailed Tit**

4M 05.04.07 Whitstable, Kent  
R 30.12.07 Five Corner Piece, near Brancaster Hall (180km N)

The British and Irish population of Long-tailed Tits are reported as generally sedentary. This was one of only two movements of birds reported in 2007 that exceeded 100km.

### **Chaffinch**

3M 04.11.03 Five Corner Piece, near Brancaster Hall  
R 03.10.07 Krakedalen, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway (688km NE)  
  
3M 01.09.07 Myrvang, Karmoy, Rogaland, Norway  
R 27.03.08 Five Corner Piece, near Brancaster Hall (762km SSW)

A couple of our winter birds which originated in Norway. Additionally, a Chaffinch ringed at Shimpling 22.11.97 was still going strong when re-captured 04.05.08, some 10 years and 5 months later. The national longevity record stands at 11 years 7 months.

### **Brambling**

5M 13.02.08 Five Corner Piece, near Brancaster Hall  
R 13.04.08 Pandrup, Bronderslev, Jylland, Denmark (745km NE)  
  
5M 24.03.08 Sheringham  
R 24.04.08 Ana-Sira, Rogaland, Norway (681km NE)  
  
5M 01.04.06 East Barsham  
R 07.05.06 Drevdalen, Trysil, Hedmark, Norway (1185km NE)  
  
5M 22.04.06 near Sheringham  
XF 19.05.08 Lappi, Finland (2024 km NE)

The first shown was doubtless still migrating northward when caught in Norway, and the second shown was probably doing likewise in Norway. The last shown was a road casualty, found freshly dead 100km north of the Arctic Circle. Considering the amount of traffic that might be expected at this latitude, the bird could perhaps be described as 'unfortunate'.

### **Greenfinch**

6F 15.10.07 Kvassasen, Rogaland, Norway  
R 08.03.08 Ormesby St Margaret (695km SSW)

The only foreign Greenfinch recovery reported during the year. Many of the immigrants that we get in winter seem to originate from Norway.

### **Siskin**

5F 09.04.06 Chasewater, Staffordshire  
R 30.01.08 Manor House Farm, Grimston, King's Lynn (166km E)



5F	08.03.06	Garboldisham, Diss
XF	14.04.08	Lairg, Highland Region, Scotland (708km NW)
5F	06.05.07	Drumla, Kildonan, Ayshire, Scotland
R	29.03.08	Manor House Farm, Grimston, King's Lynn (472km SE)
5F	27.02.07	Ae Village, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland
R	08.02.08	Manor House Farm, Grimston, King's Lynn (380km SE)
4M	21.01.08	West Tofts, Thetford
R	24.01.08	West Tofts, Thetford
R	29.02.08	West Tofts, Thetford
R	21.04.08	Tarbet, Stirlingshire, Scotland (541km NW)
R	01.05.08	Tarbet, Stirlingshire, Scotland
R	07.05.08	Tarbet, Stirlingshire, Scotland
R	21.05.08	Tarbet, Stirlingshire, Scotland
6M	14.03.08	Sheringham
R	06.04.08	Wassenberg, Köln, Germany (395km ESE)
4M	30.09.07	Skivarp, Malmohus, Sweden
R	07.03.08	North Wootton, King's Lynn (907km WSW)
5M	22.03.08	Manor House Farm, Grimston, King's Lynn
R	26.03.08	Manor House Farm, Grimston, King's Lynn
R	27.04.08	Sofiemyr, Oppegard, Norway, Norway (1005km NE)
4M	03.04.06	West Tofts, Thetford
X	27.03.08	Mierlo, The Netherlands (357km ENE)

A splendid selection of Siskin movements, though all reflecting established migration patterns. Note the speed of movement of the bird to Germany.

### Twite

4	spring 07	Warley Reservoir, Halifax, Yorkshire
RR	07.03.08	Morston Quay
2	autumn 07	Cant Clough, South Pennines
RR	07.03.08	Morston Quay

Two examples of the now regular sightings in north Norfolk from the colour-ringing programme in the South Pennines. The first shown was presumably the same individual as that seen previously at Morston Quay 03.12.07.

### Lesser Redpoll

3	14.10.07	Warren Farm, Waxham
4M	08.11.08	Kilnsea, Humberside (139km NW)
3	15.10.07	Spurn Point, Humberside
R	21.10.07	Snettisham Coastal Park (81km SSE)
3	29.10.07	Sandwich Bay, Kent
R	03.11.07	Snettisham Coastal Park ( 190km NNW)



Both the Humberside birds were trapped by Spurn Point Bird Observatory. Note the speed of movement of the second and third shown.

**Snow Bunting**

5F 14.01.08 Oosterbierum, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands  
RR 19.03.08 Eye Field, Cley-next-the-Sea  
  
4F 04.03.06 Lauwersoog Haven, Friesland, The Netherlands  
R 15.12.07 Caister-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth (311km WSW)

Snow Bunting interchanges between Norfolk and The Netherlands are regular.

**Norfolk Ringing Totals - 2008**

Mute Swan	12	Common Sandpiper	3	Robin	1506
Greylag Goose	27	Redshank	151	Thrush Nightingale	1
Canada Goose	41	Turnstone	16	Nightingale	2
Egyptian Goose	3	Black-headed Gull	22	Black Redstart	1
Shelduck	1	Lesser Black-backed Gull	376	Redstart	54
Teal	6	Herring Gull	231	Stonechat	32
Mallard	12	Little Tern	201	Wheatear	3
Eider	2	Common Tern	176	Blackbird	2794
Little Egret	53	Stock Dove	83	Fieldfare	180
Grey Heron	18	Woodpigeon	192	Song Thrush	481
Marsh Harrier	25	Collared Dove	129	Redwing	427
Montagu's Harrier	2	Turtle Dove	4	Mistle Thrush	7
Goshawk	6	Cuckoo	1	Cetti's Warbler	22
Sparrowhawk	47	Barn Owl	556	Grasshopper Warbler	7
Common Buzzard	12	Little Owl	22	Sedge Warbler	350
Kestrel	117	Tawny Owl	30	Reed Warbler	803
Hobby	12	Long-eared Owl	4	Blackcap	1022
Water Rail	2	Nightjar	10	Garden Warbler	102
Moorhen	15	Swift	30	Lesser Whitethroat	75
Coot	1	Kingfisher	33	Whitethroat	291
Oystercatcher	322	Wryneck	1	Pallas's Warbler	3
Avocet	1	Green Woodpecker	14	Yellow-browed Warbler	6
Little Ringed Plover	3	Great Spotted Woodpecker	130	Radde's Warbler	1
Ringed Plover	90	Woodlark	5	Chiffchaff	677
Grey Plover	2	Skylark	1	Willow Warbler	301
Lapwing	273	Sand Martin	668	Goldcrest	1622
Knot	426	Swallow	1290	Firecrest	31
Sanderling	124	House Martin	46	Spotted Flycatcher	35
Curlew Sandpiper	2	Tree Pipit	85	Pied Flycatcher	44
Dunlin	546	Meadow Pipit	54	Bearded Tit	69
Ruff	2	Rock Pipit	1	Long-tailed Tit	1408
Jack Snipe	1	Yellow Wagtail	23	Blue Tit	3891
Woodcock	18	Grey Wagtail	4	Great Tit	3339
Black-tailed Godwit	25	Pied Wagtail	59	Coal Tit	838
Bar-tailed Godwit	30	Waxwing	1	Willow Tit	9
Whimbrel	1	Wren	892	Marsh Tit	165
Curlew	109	Dunnock	1190	Nuthatch	55
				Treecreeper	129



Jay	53	Greenfinch	3931	Yellowhammer	82
Magpie	10	Goldfinch	1390	Reed Bunting	192
Jackdaw	101	Siskin	4272	Corn Bunting	1
Rook	47	Linnet	78		
Starling	191	Lesser Redpoll	91		
House Sparrow	432	Crossbill	3		
Tree Sparrow	117	Bullfinch	200		
Chaffinch	2479	Hawfinch	1		
Brambling	1041	Snow Bunting	66		



# Introduction to the Systematic List

The Systematic List contains records from the county of Norfolk for 2008, with occasional additional records or corrections to earlier Reports.

It incorporates records from coordinated surveys but most records are *ad hoc* observations. As such, the Report is unsystematic, reflecting observer interests, distribution, weather and other factors. Records have been submitted directly by observers and have also been obtained from other sources, including Birdline, Birdline East Anglia, Rare Bird Alert and The British Trust for Ornithology's 'BirdTrack'. For details of submission arrangements for all records see '*Notes for Contributors*'.

Records have been input to the county's records database by a team of record inputters and species texts have been drafted by a team of volunteer writers. The Systematic List has then been compiled by the Editor.

Unless otherwise stated, all records are of single birds and relate to 2008. All records of rare and scarce birds have been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee or the County Records Committee respectively. Observers' initials are given for all national and county rarities and for a few other exceptional records. Normally the initials of the finder(s) and/or identifier(s) are given (where known).

To minimise any potential threats, some records of rare breeding birds are published under a vague site descriptor. This approach is only taken in a few instances, however, and the presumption is always to publish locations wherever it is considered safe to do so.

The Systematic List follows '*The British List: a checklist of the birds of Britain*' (7th edition, July 2006), published by the British Ornithologists' Union. This categorises species as follows:-

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Category A | Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.  |
| Category B | Species which would otherwise be in Category A but which have not been recorded since 31st December 1949.  |
| Category C | Species which, although originally introduced by man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established self-sustaining breeding populations.                |
| Category D | Species which would otherwise appear in Categories A or B except that there is doubt that they have ever occurred in a wild state.                               |
| Category E | Species which have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapes from captivity, and whose breeding populations are not thought to be self-sustaining. |

Included in the Systematic List are all relevant species categorised by BOU as A or C and which are not proven or near-proven escapes. Those categorised D or E, and those in categories A, B or C which are proven or near-proven escapes, are treated in an Appendix.

The BOU 'official list' is followed in respect of nomenclature, species order and taxonomy. All BOU updates published at the time of going to press are incorporated. To avoid confusion, the English vernacular name is given first, followed by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) international English name (where different) and the current scientific name. For full details see the BOU website at [www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk). A number of forms are popularly known by a vernacular name which is also given where appropriate.

Particular attention is given to the form(s) which occur(s) in the county. Avian taxonomy is in a state of constant flux and such treatment will enable occurrence patterns to be documented for all forms should their future taxonomic status change. Conservation priorities are also increasingly being identified on the basis of forms rather than species. It is hoped that this new emphasis on forms will enable more precise recording and so maximise the contribution to conservation monitoring efforts.

For monotypic species, of course, no racial distinctions are necessary but for polytypic species with only one form occurring in Norfolk, the form involved is indicated by its scientific name trinomial.



For polytypic species with two or more poorly-defined or clinal forms occurring in the county, where field identification may be unreliable, the forms involved are simply identified in the species header text.

However, several forms which are well-defined, non-clinal, which can generally be identified in the field and which may be the subject of future taxonomic adjustments (for example ‘Tundra’ and ‘Taiga Bean Geese’, ‘European’ and ‘Greenland White-fronted Geese’, ‘Dark’ and ‘Pale-bellied Brent Geese’, ‘Black Brant’, ‘Pied’ and ‘White Wagtails’, ‘Yellow’, ‘Blue-headed’ and ‘Grey-headed Wagtails’, Stonechat and ‘Siberian Stonechat’ and Chiffchaff and ‘Siberian Chiffchaff’) are dealt with separately in order to more precisely document their often very different occurrence patterns and conservation status.

The following occurrence descriptors are used in the headers to the species texts:-

Vagrant	A bird well outside its usual range
Irruptive Visitor	Occurs erratically in response to food shortage in the home range
Passage Migrant	Mainly a migrant in spring and/or autumn
Resident	Species breeds and present all year
Winter Visitor	Mainly occurs in winter
Summer Visitor	Mainly occurs as a breeding visitor in summer
Feral	A species originating from a domestic source
Naturalised	An introduced species now breeding in the wild

The following abundance descriptors are used in the headers to the species texts. These follow the categories used in ‘*A Checklist of the Birds of Norfolk*’ (Dye and Fiszer, 2009):-

Abundant	60,000+ per year
Very Common	10,001-60,000 per year
Common	2,001-10,000 per year
Fairly Common	201-2,000 per year
Scarce	21-200 per year
Very Scarce	2-20 per year
Rare	Annual or near-annual
Very Rare	Less than annual

Each species header also indicates whether the species/form is included in the ‘Red’, ‘Amber’ or ‘Green’ List of ‘*Birds of Conservation Concern 3 - The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man*’ (British Birds, 102: 296-341).

‘Red List’ species/forms are those which are ‘Globally Threatened’ according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria, those whose population or range has declined rapidly over a twenty-five year period and those which have suffered a historical decline in breeding population.

‘Amber List’ species/forms are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe, those whose population or range has declined moderately over a twenty-five year period, those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery, rare breeders and those with internationally important or localised populations.

‘Green List’ species/forms are those which meet none of the above criteria.

Abbreviations used in the Report may be found in the following list:-

Ad.	Adult	BOU	British Ornithologists’ Union
BB	<i>British Birds</i>	BOURC	British Ornithologists’ Union Records Committee
BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee	BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BeBS	Beached Bird Survey	BWP	<i>Birds of the Western Palearctic</i>
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey	Ca.	Approximately
BF	Beet Factory	Cf.	Compared with
BO	Bird Observatory		



CRC	County Records Committee	NT	National Trust
CP	Coastal/Country Park	NWT	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
E	East	Per	Via
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area	Prs	Pairs
<i>et al</i>	and others	RC	Relief Channel
FM	Fresh Marsh	Res	Reservoir
GC	Golf Course	RBBP	Rare Breeding Birds Panel
GM	Grazing Marsh	RSPB	Royal Society for the
GP	Gravel Pit		Protection of Birds
Imm.	Immature	S	South
Ind Est	Industrial Estate	SM	Saltmarsh
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Council	STW	Sewage Treatment Works
Juv	Juvenile	TA	Training Area
N	North	W	West
NBA	Norfolk Bird Atlas	WBS	Waterways Birds Survey
NBR	Norfolk Bird Report	WeBS	Wetland Birds Survey
NRC	Norfolk Records Committee	WM	Water Meadow
NNR	National Nature Reserve	WP	Water Park
NNNS	Norfolk and Norwich	WR	Wildfowl Reserve
	Naturalists' Society	WWT	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
NR	Nature Reserve	Yr/Yrs	Year/Years
NRS	Nest Record Scheme		

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 no birds were present. For wildfowl and waders the data generally derives 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.

Updated WeBS thresholds for International/National importance have been inserted for all relevant species.

Many records to the west of Sheringham, although properly in Weybourne, fall within the area covered by Sheringham Bird Observatory and are for the sake of simplicity referred to 'Sheringham'.

The area previously referred to as 'Lakenheath Washes' is now called 'Hockwold Washes' to avoid confusion with the adjacent Lakenheath Fen RSPB reserve which is situated in Suffolk.

The area referred to as 'Mid-Yare RSPB' includes the reserve at Strumpshaw as well as adjoining land under the Society's ownership or control.

Where details of breeding birds are given as 'Holkham NNR' these refer to the grazing marshes at Holkham, Burnham Overy and Burnham Norton.

Although much of the county's coast is aligned north-west to south-east, for the sake of simplicity coastal movements north and west of Happisburgh are referred to as east or west, whilst those to the south and east of Happisburgh are referred to as north or south.



# Systematic List

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*  
**Fairly common resident. Green List.**

Highest numbers at regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holkham NNR	-	-	16	27	35	-	25	-	22	14	-	-
Blakeney GM	8	27	27	19	18	8	6	7	5	-	9	16
Cley	22	-	-	-	15	10	5	7	11	-	8	12
Ouse Washes	40	118	62	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	75
Breydon/Berney	55	182	110	116	77	79	28	28	29	51	50	72
Welney	106	91	82	46	-	30	-	-	-	130	108	69

Other concentrations: *Jan* 118 Halvergate; *Feb* 141 Halvergate; *March* 112 Rockland Broad, 60 South Walsham Marshes; *April* 95 South Walsham Marshes; *May* 54 Stanford TA; *Aug* 64 Hockwold Washes, 60 Potter Heigham; *Sept* 53 Sennowe Park; *Nov* 56 Wortwell.

Records of 59 nests/broods: Barton Broad, 4 Blakeney GM, 3 Burnham Norton, 3 Burnham Overy, 5 Chedgrave, 2 Cley, Felbrigg, 2 Hickling Broad, 5 Holkham, Horning, Hoveton Park, Kelling WM, Morningthorpe GP, Norwich (Carrow Bridge), Norwich (Harford Bridges), Potter Heigham Marshes, Salhouse, 5 Stanford TA, 2 Titchwell, 15 Welney, 3 Whitingham CP.

Coastal movements: 4 east Cromer GC April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 north Horsey Gap May 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Snettisham Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 west Cley Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1 south Paston Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 juvs west Sheringham Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**BEWICK’S SWAN (Tundra Swan)** *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*  
**Common winter visitor, most wintering on Ouse Washes. Amber List.**

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 13th</i>	<i>Feb 10th</i>	<i>Nov 18th</i>	<i>Dec 1st</i>
3639	1494	462	2860

*International importance (winter): 170*

Numbers visiting Norfolk are holding up but most birds are arriving later and departing earlier.

Peak counts in Broads: *Jan* 221 Hickling Swim Coots 1<sup>st</sup>, 224 Repps-with-Bastwick 4<sup>th</sup>, 190 Hickling Broad 5<sup>th</sup>, 156 How Hill 12<sup>th</sup>, 120 Thurne 16<sup>th</sup>, 183 Catfield 23<sup>rd</sup>, 254 Ludham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 155 Ludham Bridge 24<sup>th</sup>; *Feb* 103 Upton Marshes 7<sup>th</sup>; *Dec* 70 Ludham Bridge 30<sup>th</sup>, 92 Horning Upper 31<sup>st</sup>.

Reports of birds moving east in late winter: *Feb* 29 Shipdham 16<sup>th</sup>, 80 Watton 21<sup>st</sup>, 30 Cringleford 22<sup>nd</sup>, 69 Ringland 23<sup>rd</sup>; *March* 4 Overstrand 7<sup>th</sup>.

Earliest reported arrivals: 22 Welney Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. Subsequently migrating flocks: *Nov* 2 Hopton 17<sup>th</sup> in off, 3 Titchwell 25<sup>th</sup>; *Dec* 2 Attleborough 7<sup>th</sup>, 3 Cley 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Holme 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Holme 16<sup>th</sup> in off sea, 9 Cley 17<sup>th</sup>, 14 Halvergate 31<sup>st</sup>.

**WHOOPE SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus*  
**Fairly common winter visitor, most wintering on Ouse Washes. Amber List.**

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 3rd</i>	<i>Feb 25th</i>	<i>Oct 18th</i>	<i>Nov 4th</i>	<i>Dec 15th</i>
2130	1774	785	2454	3396

*International importance (winter): 160*

Numbers down on 2007 but the Dec count was the highest ever for that month.

Latest in spring 1 Stiffkey Fen May 1<sup>st</sup>. Two birds summered at Welney.  
Peak counts in Broads: *Jan* 16 Ludham Bridge 11<sup>th</sup>; *Feb* 150 Southery Fen 6<sup>th</sup>; *March* 331 Hilgay Fen 5<sup>th</sup>; *Nov* 8 Hickling Stubb Mill 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 Horning Upper 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 How Hill Reedham Water 28<sup>th</sup>; *Dec*



7 Catfield 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Earliest report in autumn: 5 Welney Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were no double-figure counts away from the Fens/Broads in second winter period.

Movements recorded in second winter period as follows: Oct 2 west Morston 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 south-east New Costessey 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 west East Ruston 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 west Titchwell 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 west Holme 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 south Hunstanton 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 west Breydon 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Mundesley 27<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Cley 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 west Brancaster Thompson Farms 27<sup>th</sup>; Nov 2 west Hunstanton 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 west Titchwell 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 south Titchwell 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 south Denver 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Holme 26<sup>th</sup>; Dec 9 north-east Buckenham 30<sup>th</sup>.

**BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis*  
Nominate Scandinavian form ('Taiga Bean Goose') a scarce winter visitor to the Yare Valley. Siberian form *rossicus* ('Tundra Bean Goose') a very scarce winter visitor. Red List (*fabalis*) and Amber List (*rossicus*).

**'Taiga Bean Goose'** *Anser (fabalis) fabalis*  
Peak counts in first winter period from Yare Valley: 125 Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. Departure typically early, with falling counts from mid-Jan: 98 20<sup>th</sup>, 40 29<sup>th</sup>, 32 Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and last 10 22<sup>nd</sup>. In autumn first returning birds 5 Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, with 50 22<sup>nd</sup>, 127 23<sup>rd</sup> and similar numbers until year end.  
Only records away from main wintering area were 19 east out to sea early afternoon Winterton Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and 29 Thorpe Marshes Haddiscoe Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, both relating to Yare Valley birds departing and arriving.

**'Tundra Bean Goose'** *Anser (fabalis) rossicus*  
As usual small numbers identified amongst Pink-footed Geese around the county. In first winter period, up to 7 in north/north-west of county: Brancaster Staithe Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Anmer 6<sup>th</sup>, Fritcham 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, Cockthorpe 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and Holkham GM March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 3<sup>rd</sup>. Four Saxlingham Jan 18<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> may have been additional birds. In north-east of county/Broads up to 4 East Ruston Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and Cart Gap 19<sup>th</sup>, Winterton Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 Happisburgh, Heigham Holmes and How Hill Jan-Feb. Up to 5 Thrigby Jan 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> probably additional to those in the north-east. Small flock once again wintered Welney where 3 Jan 8<sup>th</sup>-March 12<sup>th</sup>, with same Southery Fen Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. These included a distinctive orange-billed bird which has returned to Welney for 10 consecutive winters.  
First returning birds in autumn Waxham Oct 27<sup>th</sup> and two Blakeney GM and two east Overstrand Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. Influx of birds into north/north-west of county Dec, with perhaps all records relating to one mobile flock: 14 Kelling Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11 Cley 7<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, up to 16 Langham 1<sup>st</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and 21 Anmer 28<sup>th</sup>. Seven east Titchwell Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 Shernborne 28<sup>th</sup> may have been different. Elsewhere 3 Clippesby Hill Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, up to 3 Walcott, Horsey and Waxham Nov 12<sup>th</sup> till year end and small flock again Welney where 4 Dec 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 5 5<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and 7 till year end.

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*  
Abundant winter visitor in internationally important numbers. Amber List.  
First winter period roost counts:

	Jan 3rd	Jan 14th	Jan 28th
Snettisham	35980	22250	2795
Holme/Thornham	-	3865	300
Scolt Head	7870	-	2705
Burnham Norton	400	4850	1093
Holkham	7680	14790	22095
Wells	8633	13035	12600
Horsey	-	11160	3245
Berney	3900	8600	20920
Total	64463	78550	65753



Second winter period roost counts:

	<i>Oct 6th</i>	<i>Nov 3rd</i>	<i>Nov 24th</i>	<i>Dec 8th</i>	<i>Dec 22nd</i>
Snettisham	8515	12300	39100	51995	11200
Holme/Thornham	216	0	0	4170	0
Scolt Head	4644	6752	430	1058	23000
Burnham Norton	1996	400	2720	1770	1355
Holkham GM	15318	12610	19510	15354	15330
Wells	5685	18407	4915	22145	16815
Horsey	-	-	-	3500	-
Berney	1400	24300	5160	8730	16000
Total	37558	74765	71835	108722	83700

Peak numbers in the county during first half Dec, but by month end birds had already begun to depart. Record numbers roosted Snettisham in Dec and birds continued to roost on grazing marshes rather than flight out to intertidal sites. The early Nov count at Berney was a new site record.

Additional roost counts: 8580 Holme Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and 1235 Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 7300 Thornham Hbr Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 15000 Scolt Head Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7000 Hickling Stubb Mill Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3000 Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and 10000 Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.

Largest inland feeding flocks: *Jan* 18000 Brancaster Thompson Farms 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 17000 Acle 26<sup>th</sup>, 14200 Thrigby 24<sup>th</sup>, 10000 Docking Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 10000 Saxlingham Jan 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 6500 Wighton 12<sup>th</sup>, 5500 North Wootton Marsh 19<sup>th</sup>; *Nov* 7000 Bacton 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>; *Dec* 15000 Brancaster Thompson Farms 16<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 12000 Acle 28<sup>th</sup>, 10000 Langham 13<sup>th</sup>, 8500 East Ruston 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8000 Walcott 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6500 Clippesby Hill 21<sup>st</sup> and 6000 North Creake 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Records away from main areas: 150 west New Costessey Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 270 south Sustead 23<sup>rd</sup>, 500 east West Beckham Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 27 Welney Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 north Thetford Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, 280 Cantley Marshes 24<sup>th</sup> and 220 Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 750 south east Frettenham Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 80 north Wereham 15<sup>th</sup>, 200 east Hanworth Common and 70 west Strumpshaw 17<sup>th</sup>, 800 west Themelthorpe 22<sup>nd</sup> and 500 over Swanton Morley 27<sup>th</sup>.

As usual most had left by mid-Feb, though some remained throughout April and into May, with 502 Snettisham and 801 Holkham April 6<sup>th</sup>, 300 Heigham Holmes 16<sup>th</sup>, 400 Horsey 26<sup>th</sup>, 27 Berney 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 Cley 27<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>, 380 Hickling 30<sup>th</sup> and in May 277 Holkham GM 1<sup>st</sup> and 8 24<sup>th</sup>, 35 Holme 4<sup>th</sup>, 250 Burnham Overy Dunes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 850 Burnham Norton 5<sup>th</sup> and 20 15<sup>th</sup>.

Up to 4 injured/feral birds reported from 8 sites during the summer.  
First returning birds 18 Holme and 15 Scolt Head Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 15 Scolt Head and 11 Cley 13<sup>th</sup> and 63 Holme and 46 Holkham 18<sup>th</sup>.

Various leucistic and partial albino birds reported during the year. A neck-collared bird shot North Wootton Marsh Nov 4<sup>th</sup> had been ringed in Denmark in March 2005 and was from the Spitsbergen breeding population.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons***  
**Nominate Siberian form ('European White-fronted Goose') a fairly common winter visitor.**  
**Greenland form *flavirostris* ('Greenland White-fronted Goose') a very scarce winter visitor.**  
**Red List (both forms).**

**'European White-fronted Goose' *Anser (albifrons) albifrons***

Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holkham GM	255	350	220	18	17
Hickling/Heigham Holmes	41	800	450	24	200
Buckenham/Cantley	145	129	69	35	50
Breydon/Berney	10	104	-	3	3

Additional records in first winter period mostly amongst feeding Pink-footed Geese flocks: 7



Cockthorpe and 3 west Titchwell Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Anmer 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Docking and one Flitcham 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 east Mundesley 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 east Titchwell, 4 Ringstead and 9 Horsey 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Tottenhill GP 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 Cart Gap 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Halvergate Marshes 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Acle Marshes 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 Nar Valley Fisheries Feb 6<sup>th</sup>-March 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 Stiffkey Fen Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 Paston and 24 Shipdham 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 Blakeney GM 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holme March 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 Titchwell 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>.

Last in spring 69 Buckenham Marshes March 28<sup>th</sup>, singles Titchwell April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Holkham 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Pentney GP 9<sup>th</sup> and one Holkham May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Feral /injured birds included 5 Holkham Aug 17<sup>th</sup> and singles at 3 other sites.

First autumn returners 13 Buckenham Marshes Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and 36 west Southrepps 11<sup>th</sup>.

Few away from main sites in second winter period apart from Welney where up to 39 Nov 6<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and 21 Dec. Elsewhere one Thornham Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 4 Clippesby Hill 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**‘Greenland White-fronted Goose’ *Anser (albifrons) flavirostris***

In first winter period one with Pink-footed Geese Flitcham Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and probably same Holkham GM Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

In autumn and second winter period one west Cley and Kelling WM Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, juv Holkham GM Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, one Cley Nov 13<sup>th</sup> and an adult with Pink-footed Geese North Creake/South Creake Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sharrington (Brinton) 6<sup>th</sup>.

**GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser***

**Nominate form a common feral resident but wild individuals from the Icelandic population may also occur. Birds of unknown origin showing characters of the Russian form *rubirostris* (‘Eastern Greylag Goose’) have been noted on a few occasions. Amber List (nominate).**

Highest counts at most regularly counted and important sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	550	509	458	261	240	1122	1004	464	1013	762	764	903
Holme	44	37	40	15	39	21	45	41	110	90	65	40
Titchwell	-	5	10	4	20	26	125	196	738	50	-	-
Holkham NNR	389	650	325	272	324	24	460	415	310	558	279	471
Holkham Park Lake	16	29	71	17	28	92	37	27	-	21	-	-
Stiffkey Fen	360	179	-	-	208	98	838	1162	971	463	480	445
Blakeney GM	-	24	39	39	25	67	25	32	33	40	-	-
Cley	431	150	203	191	200	108	213	554	303	300	-	440
Hickling/Heigham	420	-	-	-	150	-	-	450	-	-	-	150
Breydon/Berney	76	33	10	5	20	19	24	97	158	356	210	176
Barton Broad	103	12	17	13	14	47	34	27	313	112	149	234
Marlingford Mere	310	116	2	7	10	170	88	160	33	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	81	41	19	48	4	140	12	158	57	273	23	24
Welney	282	27	18	14	-	-	-	-	-	435	411	683

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 220 Martham Broad and 173 Blickling Park; *May* 150 Buckenham Marshes and 100 Warham; *Aug* 675 Strumpshaw; *Sept* 779 Strumpshaw and 300 Swanton Morley; *Oct* 520 Pentney GP, 519 Buckenham Marshes, 213 Kelling, 210 Raynham, 200 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 180 Sennowe Park and 135 Bittering GP; *Nov* 470 Filby Broad and 210 Sennowe Park; *Dec* 270 Wroxham Broad, 260 Hardley Flood, 210 Pentney GP, 200 Hoveton Great Broad and 160 Wighton.

Few breeding pairs reported: 8 Hoveton Park, 6 Blakeney GM (48 young fledged), 5 Hickling Broad, 3 Wighton and single pairs Blakeney Point, Pentney Heath, Pentney GP, Stanford TA and Welney, with 86 goslings Cley June.

Possible Icelandic birds with Pink-footed Geese Flitcham Jan 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Market Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, two Fleggburgh Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and one Fring/Sherborne 28<sup>th</sup>. Two colour-ringed birds Cantley Marshes had been ringed in Orkney and 8 Cart Gap Jan 19<sup>th</sup> may also have been wild.



**SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens*  
**Nominate Canadian form ('Lesser Snow Goose') a rare vagrant. North-east Canadian form atlanticus ('Greater Snow Goose') a very rare vagrant.**

The adult white 'Lesser Snow Goose' morph present in the Berney/Acle area in late winter 2007 remained into 2008 in same area staying until April 12<sup>th</sup> while a different white morph bird remained in north-west of county at various locations amongst the hordes of Pink-footed Geese. This bird was seen until Jan 27<sup>th</sup> before relocating to east Norfolk where it joined the Berney/Acle bird Jan 27<sup>th</sup>-Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> before departing the county. An adult white morph unidentified goose WNW with Pink-footed Geese Southrepps, then west past Overstrand, Cromer and Cley March 31<sup>st</sup> was either a Snow Goose or, more likely, a Ross's Goose, one of which was present in Broadland until early morning of 31<sup>st</sup>.

Presumed feral birds recorded Heacham April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Burnham Norton May 11<sup>th</sup>, a blue morph with Barnacle Geese Buckenham Marshes Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 Cley Dec 11<sup>th</sup>.

Only two records relating to potentially wild birds in second winter period: Brancaster Thompson Farms Oct 6<sup>th</sup> with same or another with Pink-footed Geese Repps-with-Bastwick Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.

**CANADA GOOSE (Greater Canada Goose)** *Branta canadensis*  
**Nominate form a common naturalised resident. Birds showing characters of the Nearctic forms interior ('Todd's Canada Goose') and parvipes ('Lesser Canada Goose') noted on a few occasions.**

Regularly counted at following sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	178	45	63	42	28	46	7	20	212	-	41	47
HolkhamNNR	63	-	52	54	21	-	-	-	82	-	105	68
Breydon/Berney	-	15	2	8	10	26	36	56	17	49	17	-
Titchwell	-	7	12	15	24	80	127	127	117	-	31	-
Pentney GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	-	150

Highest counts elsewhere: Jan 105 Buckenham Marshes, 100 Heacham and 100 Martham Broad; Feb 120 Potter Heigham and 62 Buckenham Marshes; March 25 Blakeney GM; May 17 Warham and 14 Holme; June 67 Barton Broad and 24 Blakeney Hbr; Aug 128 Cley and 106 Earsham; Sept 230 Langmere (Wretham), 205 Marlingford Mere, 147 Bylaugh and 119 Cley; Nov 160 Ken Hill Marshes and 122 Wortwell; Dec 109 Welney, 100 Claxton Marsh and 100 Ditchlingham.

Breeding records: Blakeney GM (2 pairs), Hickling Broad (2 broods, 7 young raised), Marlingford Mere (3 broods), Welney (1 pair) and Wissington BF (2-3 broods).

Usual mid-summer coastal movements much reduced this year with only records received 4 west Scolt Head June 4<sup>th</sup> and 72 west Weybourne 17<sup>th</sup>. By contrast, autumn movement, usually non-existent, was far more pronounced with 60 west Brancaster Hbr Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 122 west Snettisham Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 131 west Cley and 108 west Blakeney Hbr 24<sup>th</sup>, 18 west Holme 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 south Hunstanton 29<sup>th</sup>.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis*  
**Scarce or very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor and scarce feral resident. Amber List.**

As in previous years many records of 1-4 birds amongst the Pink-footed Goose flocks in both east and north-west of county. The high mobility of these flocks makes it impossible to know exactly how many birds are involved. Only counts higher than 4 from east coast where 10 Horsey Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 17<sup>th</sup> and 8 28<sup>th</sup>. These presumably account for the 8 in Cart Gap/Happisburgh area Jan 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>.

Coastal movement noted sporadically during year with 5 in off sea Salthouse Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 east Beeston Bump April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 31 Scolt Head May 12<sup>th</sup> where 4 east early morning plus 27 in off sea and east in afternoon and 16 west Holme Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Presumed feral birds present in county all year with highest counts: Jan 60 Buckenham Marshes; Feb 43 Buckenham Marshes; Aug 20 Hickling Swim Coots; Oct 30 Buckenham Marshes and Dec 43 Heigham Holmes.



**BRENT GOOSE (Brant Goose)** *Branta bernicla*

Nominate Siberian form ('Dark-bellied Brent Goose') a common winter visitor. East Siberian form *nigricans* ('Black Brant') a very scarce winter visitor. Birds from the Spitsbergen population of the form *hrota* ('Pale-bellied Brent Goose') a very scarce, sometimes scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor. Individuals from the Canadian population of *hrota* may also occur. Red List (nominate) and Amber List (*hrota*).

**'Dark-bellied Brent Goose'** *Branta (bernicla) bernicla*

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>
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	675	836	1678	2458	22	-	1270	1857
Snettisham	151	430	-	407	172	-	10	18
Holme/Thornham/Titchwell	1420	600	359	197	206	364	462	428
Scolt/Brancaster	1350	1420	945	772	650	640	1100	1300
Holkham/Wells	828	772	1039	362	11	141	425	400
Stiffkey/Cockthorpe/Langham	571	965	635	540	-	329	681	2300
Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse	1153	2379	1383	1000	600	357	1646	2500

As usual birds began to depart as spring progressed, leaving very few by late May. Most then departed in last few days of month with numbers at Scolt Head falling from 300 on 28<sup>th</sup> to 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> while at Blakeney on 28<sup>th</sup> 600 flew NE in flocks of varying sizes, with last birds departing by 1330. A very few summered with perhaps one or two wandering individuals responsible for most sightings between Breydon and Snettisham.

Birds began to return from mid-September and numbers gradually increased as autumn progressed. Unfortunately it soon became apparent that 2008 had not been a good breeding season as the flocks contained very few juv birds, for example at Cley on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> a flock of 266 held only 3 juvs and on 30<sup>th</sup> a flock of 382 contained only 5 young birds.

**'Pale-bellied Brent Goose'** *Branta (bernicla) hrota*

In first winter period (Jan-April) 1-4 at following locations: Babingley, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy Staithe, Castle Rising, Cley, Cockthorpe, East Rudham, Great Bircham, Morston, Saxlingham, Scolt Head/Brancaster, Snettisham, Terrington Marsh, Wells and Wighton. Very scarce after April with only May records singles Snettisham 5<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney GM 10<sup>th</sup> followed by very unusual June record of 3 west Titchwell 23<sup>rd</sup>.

First record of second winter period Sept 7<sup>th</sup> when one lingered on beach at Sheringham before flying west past Cley next day. Next record 9 west Cley Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter situation similar to first winter period with mostly singles at Beeston Bump, Blakeney Hbr, Blakeney Point, Brancaster, Cley, Cockthorpe, Horsey, Langham, Mundesley (5 west Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>), Salthouse, Scolt, Stiffkey, Walcott, Wells and Weybourne.

**'Black Brant'** *Branta (bernicla) nigricans*

In first winter period recorded as follows: *Jan* Snettisham 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, ad Titchwell all month, Holkham GM on 5 dates, 2 Wells 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with singles on numerous other dates plus 2 presumed hybrids 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Stiffkey 6<sup>th</sup> with one there 12<sup>th</sup>, Morston 16<sup>th</sup> with 2 25<sup>th</sup>, singles Cley on at least 7 dates with 2 14<sup>th</sup>. Birds feeding inland with Dark-bellied Brents at Cockthorpe airfield 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Hempstead 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Saxlingham 18<sup>th</sup> with one 30<sup>th</sup>; *Feb* ad Titchwell all month, Burnham Norton 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holkham 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> with one on several other dates, Wells 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Cley on various dates with 2 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Also inland Saxlingham 3<sup>rd</sup>; *March* Snettisham 30<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell all month, Holkham 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wells 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, Morston 17<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cley intermittently 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>; *April* Titchwell all month, Morston 5<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Staithe 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 Cley 15<sup>th</sup> with singles to 25<sup>th</sup> and Lynn Point 27<sup>th</sup>; *May* Titchwell to 10<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 4<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney GM 10<sup>th</sup> and Stiffkey 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. At least 7 present in county during this period.



In second winter period no records until Nov when the regular returning bird appeared at Titchwell and remained to year end. Elsewhere during month singles Burnham Overy Staithe 9<sup>th</sup> and Cley 21<sup>st</sup>. More records in Dec with one Holkham GM for most of month with 2 13<sup>th</sup> plus an adult hybrid there 7<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at least. At least 2 present in Wells area all month caused some confusion as at least one showed itself to be an obvious hybrid, finally presumably same Langham and Stiffkey 10<sup>th</sup> and Langham again 28<sup>th</sup>. At least 3-4 present in county in latter winter period.

**EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

**Fairly common naturalised resident.**

Highest counts: *Jan* 122 Pentney; *Feb* 16 Holkham Park Lake; *April* 24 Holkham Park Lake; *May* 45 Holkham Park Lake; *June* 78 Pentney, 54 Holkham Park Lake, 47 Breydon/Berney and 44 Marlingford Mere; *July* 58 Breydon/Berney, 47 Holkham Park Lake and 46 Pentney; *Aug* 156 Pentney, 58 Cley and 42 Sennowe Park; *Sept* 93 Cley, 83 Breydon/Berney, 70 Kelling WM and 55 Marlingford Mere; *Oct* 123 Pentney GP, 70 Kelling WM and 53 Breydon/Berney; *Dec* 52 Horning Upper Street, 42 Ludham and 30 Snettisham.

Small-scale coastal movement noted at only 2 sites: north Winterton Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> and 4 south July 8<sup>th</sup> and south Hopton Oct 19<sup>th</sup> with 7 south there Nov 16<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding records from Ashmanhaugh, Bintree, Blackborough, Blakeney GM, Buckenham Marshes, Cley, Earsham GP, Hapton, Hickling Broad, Holkham Park, Holme, Hoveton Park, Kelling WM, Marlingford Mere, Martham, Merton, Oby, Pentney GP, Postwick, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Stanford TA, Thetford Nunnery and Thurne.

**SHELDUCK (Common Shelduck)** *Tadorna tadorna*

**Common breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

	<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	839	2097	351	240	131	-	2	130	543	933	-	-
Ongar Hill	-	890	-	132	98	-	875	-	543	405	-	-
Ousemouth	61	444	209	391	566	925	230	323	410	220	897	125
Snettisham	1182	1482	757	354	172	480	212	275	1246	1336	1620	717
Holme	65	50	49	40	14	20	-	-	-	-	-	19
Titchwell	31	57	70	43	60	-	3	7	9	31	38	38
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	331	385	194	181	124	91	66	25	11	170	180	190
Holkham NNR	83	81	126	137	104	22	37	-	-	-	42	41
Wells Hbr	85	121	26	-	-	27	-	-	23	33	-	54
Stiffkey Fen/SM	44	51	29	16	19	63	-	26	-	27	131	141
Blakeney Hbr/GM	351	258	308	228	56	153	21	7	21	73	253	303
Cley	150	55	36	84	70	89	5	30	48	-	67	125
Breydon/Berney	148	126	156	163	132	334	107	36	107	48	74	29
Welney	28	39	36	19	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	9

*International importance (winter): 3000; National importance (winter): 750*

Only significant counts elsewhere: *Feb* 140 Hardley Flood; *May* 40 Buckenham Marshes, 42 Hickling Broad, 84 Wissington BF; *Dec* 60 Thornham Hbr.

Breeding records (single broods unless otherwise stated): Burnham Norton (3), Cantley BF (7 broods totalling 54 young), Cley (3), Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR (11), Holme (13 prs – 5 broods totalling 36 young), King’s Lynn, Scolt Head (30 prs - 12 broods), Shadwell, Titchwell (14 young) and Wissington BF (5).

Reasonable numbers over-summered and presumably moulted in The Wash but also evidence of usual easterly midsummer departure to traditional moulting grounds off Heligoland, Germany. Peak counts: 23 Blakeney Point June 28<sup>th</sup> and 26 30<sup>th</sup>, 132 Scolt Head July 1<sup>st</sup>, 59 Scolt Head and 26 Blakeney Point 12<sup>th</sup>, 47 Scolt Head 14<sup>th</sup> and 39 there following day and 68 25<sup>th</sup>.



Westerly movement of returning birds from Aug 28<sup>th</sup>. Peak movements: 17 Sheringham Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, 42 Holme 30<sup>th</sup>, 17 Scolt Head Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 96 12<sup>th</sup> and 26 14<sup>th</sup>, 112 Cley Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 19 Sheringham 18<sup>th</sup>, 80 Holme and 86 Sheringham 28<sup>th</sup>, 13 Scolt Head, 36 Sheringham and 20 north Eccles 30<sup>th</sup>, 72 Cley Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 206 Holme and 269 Weybourne 24<sup>th</sup>, 78 Holme and 18 Salthouse 25<sup>th</sup>. Unusual site record of 5 Lyng-Easthaugh GP Nov 24<sup>th</sup> correlates with large coastal movement that day.

**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*  
**Very scarce naturalised resident.**

Recorded regularly only at Felbrigg where peak monthly counts:

	<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>
Felbrigg Park Lake	13	13	10	2	1	1	3	1	-	2	13	15

Elsewhere records from Stalham Staithe Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>, leucistic bird Mundesley Mill Pond Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, South Creake Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Jan 30<sup>th</sup>-Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Lynford Arboretum March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Guist River Wensum April 6<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2 hand-tame Rollesby Broad 14<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> with one till 28<sup>th</sup>, south past Walcott 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 East Ruston and one Strumpshaw Fen May 15<sup>th</sup>, Holme/Titchwell June 12<sup>th</sup>-Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 Sennowe Park Sept with 5 Oct, South Creake Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, Barton Broad 10<sup>th</sup>, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Dec 15<sup>th</sup> and Swanton Morley GP 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

Confirmed breeding at or near Felbrigg Hall Lake where female with 2 juvs July 12<sup>th</sup> and suspected breeding at a mid-Norfolk locality where female with 2 full grown juvs in Aug.

**WIGEON (Eurasian Wigeon)** *Anas penelope*  
**Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Amber List.**

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>		<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	2127	751	320	-		450	-	1448	1268
Holme	1483	1270	690	130		170	180	324	1041
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	314	1010	170	6		1448	2500	800	850
Holkham NNR	6559	3995	5133	186		665	412	1956	2000
Stiffkey Fen/SM	605	207	-	-		169	37	195	351
Blakeney Hbr/GM	800	950	430	4		811	1727	784	1320
Cley/Salthouse	1285	1013	563	30		765	1193	589	1005
Breydon/Berney	21,400	12,884	6118	164		624	1740	13,106	21,074
Ranworth Broad	1820	985	76	1		-	109	1220	2361
Cantley/Buckenham	8000	-	-	-		-	-	2500	500
Ouse Washes	788	1511	1334	227		-	-	703	1810
Welney	5906	3954	1780	628		350	2499	5077	5709

*International importance (winter): 12,500; National importance (winter): 2800*

Significant counts elsewhere: *Jan* 1250 Burnham Overy GM, 300 Heacham, 280 How Hill Reedham Water; *Feb* 270 Algarsthorpe, 612 Heacham, 307 Pentney GP; *March* 200 Algarsthorpe, 513 Heacham, 206 Pentney GP; *Sept* 300 Strumpshaw Fen; *Oct* 330 Titchwell; *Nov* 956 Ousemouth, 850 Titchwell; *Dec* 200 Heacham, 400 Martham Broad, 3565 Ousemouth, 290 Pentney GP.

Regular largely nocturnal spring departure in late March/April exemplified by flocks heard at night moving over Calthorpe March 31<sup>st</sup>. Single-figure numbers lingered into May and as usual small numbers, principally drakes, over-summered at various sites with June/early July records (max): Cley (12), Hickling Broad (5), Holme (3), Ken Hill Marsh (4), Snettisham (2) and Titchwell (7). No indication of breeding.

Returning birds from mid-July until late Nov. Numbers generally poor with peak counts (west along north coast and north along east coast): 207 Scolt Head Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 412 Scolt Head 11<sup>th</sup>, 325 Holme, 2174 Scolt Head, 490 Blakeney Point and 632 Sheringham all 12<sup>th</sup>, 1017 Scolt Head, 618 Sheringham, 181 Mundesley and 235 Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>, 554 Holme 15<sup>th</sup>, 269 Holme and 813 Scolt Head



22<sup>nd</sup>, 287 Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1193 Cley 27<sup>th</sup>, 190 Holme 29<sup>th</sup>, 130 Eccles 30<sup>th</sup>, 431 Holme and 684 Sheringham 31<sup>st</sup>, 130 Sheringham Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 473 Holme, 439 Sheringham and 369 Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup>, 218 Sheringham 9<sup>th</sup>, 259 Holme 13<sup>th</sup>, 370 Holme 14<sup>th</sup>, 210 Holme 15<sup>th</sup>, 155 Holme and 134 Sheringham 24<sup>th</sup> and 156 Mundesley 30<sup>th</sup>. Late movement 38 south Yarmouth Dec 27<sup>th</sup>.

**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*  
Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.  
Peak monthly counts at principal localities:

	<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>
Snettisham	80	51	15	11	-	-	-	13	33	17	17	32
Holme	92	78	17	22	20	25	10	32	38	20	43	40
Titchwell	41	50	18	16	43	68	23	45	31	20	61	23
Holkham NNR	11	22	32	75	126	14	48	31	21	-	44	24
Cley	63	35	-	45	80	139	11	75	43	45	69	58
Breydon/Berney	88	67	69	82	21	23	-	9	-	9	19	55
Whitlingham CP	-	25	-	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	125
Bittering Creaking Gate	70	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117	-
Welney	251	217	78	94	-	-	-	-	-	136	134	91

*International importance (winter): 300; National importance (winter): 80*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 46 Ouse Washes, 45 Sparham Pools; *Feb* 43 Lakenheath Flashes, 83 Ouse Washes; *June* 75 How Hill NNR; *Aug* 56 Strumpshaw Fen; *Sept* 40 Burnham Deepdale, 45 Cockshoot Broad, 150 Stanford TA, 44 Strumpshaw Fen; *Oct* 55 How Hill Crome's Broad, 54 Strumpshaw Fen; *Nov* 75 How Hill Crome's Broad, 79 Nar Valley Fisheries, 74 Ranworth Broad, 95 Strumpshaw Fen; *Dec* 58 Barton Broad, 87 Cantley BF, 68 East Ruston Mown Fen, 40 Holkham Park Lake, 65 Hoveton Great Broad, 50 Hoveton Park Lake, 42 Nar Valley Fisheries, 186 Ouse Washes, 51 Ranworth Broad, 58 St Benet's Levels, 110 Sparham Pools, 44 Stanford TA, 41 Wretton. Note high numbers present in county at year end.

Winter movement 2 west Sheringham Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Successful breeding at following sites: Blakeney GM, Burnham Norton (5 broods), Burnham Overy (5 broods), Cantley BF (4 broods), Cley (2 broods), Holkham (11 broods), Holkham Park Lake (7 broods), How Hill Reedham Water, Swanton Morley GP, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Titchwell. Varying numbers also present over summer at following additional localities and may have bred: Bayfield Hall, Blakeney Point, Chedgrave Marshes, Scolt Head and Welney.

Usual light late summer/autumn passage, with all records given (west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): 2 Sheringham and 7 Winterton July 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 east Sheringham Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Walcott 30<sup>th</sup>, 5 Scolt Head Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> where single 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 Scolt Head and 4 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 Hopton Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 Walcott Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Cromer 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 Sheringham, 3 Cromer and 6 Walcott 18<sup>th</sup>.



Teal (*Richard Thewlis*)



**TEAL (Eurasian Teal) *Anas crecca crecca***

**Very common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Amber List.**

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	898	620	56	21	22	387	410	414	1174
Holme	160	109	82	77	98	100	89	227	525
Titchwell	150	166	72	53	54	308	253	317	427
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	325	760	177	11	25	452	380	280	410
Holkham NNR	785	268	339	205	77	634	374	548	583
Stiffkey Fen/SM	263	344	-	-	-	583	830	995	579
Blakeney Hbr/GM	735	75	120	21	181	360	43	307	382
Cley	630	84	-	29	451	1223	-	435	572
Salhouse	188	72	32	41	47	67	89	188	237
Breydon/Berney	5612	2360	1687	707	195	357	624	2286	3216
Hickling Broad	1200	-	45	95	610	1650	350	-	664
How Hill Reedham Water	500	80	88	44	35	610	350	30	800
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	125	152	164	189	23	202	129	940	1200
Buckenham Marshes	-	-	208	54	-	-	-	200	-
Welney	1790	505	149	204	-	450	974	850	437

*International importance (winter): 4000; National importance (winter): 1400*

Other significant counts: *Jan* 350 Frettenham, 1600 Horsey Mere, 200 Marlingford Mere, 166 Terrington Marsh, 282 Tottenhill GP; *Feb* 100 Gayton Thorpe Common, 147 Lakenheath Flashes, 109 Ouse Washes, 140 Terrington Marsh; *March* 273 Ouse Washes; *April* 101 Ouse Washes; *Aug* 100 Hardley Flood; *Sept* 370 Strumpshaw Fen; *Oct* 115 Barton Broad, 667 Strumpshaw Fen; 100 Wissington BF; *Nov* 115 Barton Broad, 500 Stiffkey WM, 413 Strumpshaw Fen, 128 West Acre, 450 Wissington BF; *Dec* 280 Barton Broad, 1500 Cantley BF, 120 Frettenham/Crostwick, 810 Horsey Mere, 500 Martham Broad, 850 Wissington BF.

Winter movement 147 west Mundesley Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. Sandy-coloured leucistic bird How Hill Reedham Water from 2007 to April 7<sup>th</sup>.

As usual small numbers summered at various sites around county. Only confirmed breeding Cantley BF (brood of 7), Roydon Common (nest with 8 eggs but later predated) and Welney (brood of 7).

Usual steady build-up of birds during June with visible passage from June 9<sup>th</sup> when 6 west Scolt Head. Peak counts during protracted passage late summer/autumn (west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): 165 Mundesley July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 221 Scolt Head and 278 Sheringham Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 425 Sheringham 17<sup>th</sup>, 25 north 137 south Walcott 18<sup>th</sup>, 167 Sheringham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 98 Holme, 203 Scolt Head, 171 Sheringham, 395 Mundesley and 251 north and 35 south Walcott (where many flocks coming in off sea and then turning to follow coast) all 30<sup>th</sup>, 116 Scolt Head and 107 Sheringham 31<sup>st</sup>, 113 Scolt Head, 164 Kelling and 372 Sheringham Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 364 Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup> where 396 11<sup>th</sup>, 128 Holme, 924 Scolt Head and 1006 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 297 Scolt Head, 158 Sheringham, 167 Mundesley and 125 north and 117 south Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>, 95 Holme, 234 Scolt Head and 217 Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1299 Cley Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 89 Holme, and 77 Kelling 18<sup>th</sup>, 171 Walcott 31<sup>st</sup>, 276 Holme, 143 Sheringham, 113 Cromer and 174 west and 94 east Mundesley all Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 130 Sheringham 9<sup>th</sup>, 91 Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup> and 210 Mundesley 30<sup>th</sup>.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis***

**Rare vagrant.**

The drake spending its sixth winter in the Upper Thurne noted Horsey Mere Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. It or another briefly at Martham Broad April 14<sup>th</sup> relocated at Martham Ferry 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>. Further drakes Berney April 28<sup>th</sup> and Salhouse Iron Road May 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> on which date also noted at Cley.

A possible hybrid drake Teal x Green-winged Teal Salhouse Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.



**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*  
**Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**  
 Peak counts at selected sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	938	619	327	99	137	87	109	224	378	835	711	656
Holme	122	91	77	73	54	92	34	67	58	145	75	82
Titchwell	91	111	61	19	73	99	78	112	150	58	56	85
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	187	105	167	53	30	32	-	75	304	130	90	70
Holkham NNR	255	215	146	260	305	-	213	254	215	237	470	202
Blakeney Hbr/GM	212	-	36	63	-	45	6	50	212	108	174	240
Cley	103	63	30	28	68	60	65	207	101	-	118	126
Breydon/Berney	259	184	81	46	63	41	45	671	348	199	313	315
Cantley BF	115	105	-	-	-	108	220	460	-	-	-	250
Barton Broad	225	122	39	24	38	130	156	75	254	63	151	158
Ranworth Broad	390	95	87	52	48	81	33	87	112	150	241	308
Welney	803	358	117	219	-	54	-	-	-	534	537	550

**International importance (winter): 5000**

Significant counts elsewhere: *Jan* 126 Holkham Park Lake, 200 Horsey Mere, 135 Marlingford Mere, 166 Terrington Marsh, 180 Wissington BF; *Feb* 171 Holkham Park Lake, 102 How Hill Reedham Water, 116 Marlingford Mere, 140 Ousemouth, 456 Terrington Marsh; *March* 280 Ouse Washes; *May* 96 Hickling Broad; *July* 115 How Hill Reedham Water, 147 Marlingford Mere, 105 Stiffkey Fen; *Aug* 600 Hardley Flood, 175 Marlingford Mere, 300 Ormesby Little Broad, 200 Stiffkey Fen, 187 Strumpshaw Fen, 230 Tibbenham; *Sept* 143 Cockshoot Broad, 99 Saddlebow RC, 153 Stiffkey Fen, 283 Strumpshaw Fen, 104 Terrington Marsh; *Oct* 160 Bittering GP, 257 Terrington Marsh, 100 Wissington BF; *Nov* 124 Holkham Park Lake, 290 Ousemouth, 97 Ouse Washes, 121 Strumpshaw Fen; *Dec* 195 Hardley Flood, 187 Holkham Park Lake, 1000 Ousemouth, 120 Wissington BF.

Confirmed breeding counts from Blakeney GM (ca 44 young), Burnham Norton (32 broods), Burnham Overy (35 broods), Cantley BF (7 broods), Cley (2+ broods), Hickling Broad (2 broods), Holkham (64 broods), Holme (5 broods), Pentney Heath (one brood), Thetford (2 broods), Titchwell (60 young), Warham (4 broods). Late broods Harleston Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 18<sup>th</sup>. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 236.81% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 93.68% between 2007 and 2008. 252 individuals were counted in 40 of 63 surveyed squares.

Small-scale visible autumn migration commenced with single Scolt Head Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, then further records (west unless otherwise stated) 2 Scolt Head and 2 south Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup> and single there 30<sup>th</sup>. Major movement Oct 17<sup>th</sup> when 110 Holme and 122 Cley, followed by more usual numbers: 12 Sheringham 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 north (including one domestic type) Walcott 31<sup>st</sup>, 4 Sheringham Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 16 Sheringham and 2 Cromer 22<sup>nd</sup> and 5 Cromer 24<sup>th</sup>.



**PINTAIL (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta acuta***  
**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Amber List.**  
 Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marshes	147	330	5	3	30	-	-
Ousemouth	29	29	73	-	-	460	43
Snettisham	28	49	26	243	200	350	200
Titchwell	220	115	35	38	52	160	180
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	321	170	-	55	55	105	125
Holkham NNR	48	70	-	2	22	17	21
Stiffkey/Fen	50	34	-	60	50	20	52
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	171	113	18	130	67	232	99
Breydon/Berney	110	179	65	31	126	162	120
Ouse Washes	-	200	167	-	-	-	10
Welney	123	392	87	-	97	274	141

*International importance (winter): 600; National importance (winter): 280*

Usual scatter of records elsewhere: *Jan* one Hilborough, one Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 174 Tottenhill GP; *Feb* 10 Cantley BF, 95 Hardley Flood (including several released leucistic drakes, some bearing yellow rings); *Aug* one Wissington BF; *Sept* one Colney GP, 12 Nar Valley Fisheries, 4 Strumpshaw Fen; *Dec* 28 Hardley Flood, 3 Nar Valley Fisheries, 26 Tottenhill GP.

Winter movement 4 south Caister Jan 14<sup>th</sup>. Usual rapid nocturnal departure early March with only double-figure counts in April 10 Holkham NNR and 29 Welney. Summering records, principally drakes, May-June: Breydon/Berney (3), Hickling Rush Hills (2), Salthouse (2), Titchwell (2), Welney (2) and Wissington BF (2). No indication of breeding.

First returning birds from late July when 4 Cantley BF 22<sup>nd</sup> with further records of small numbers at several sites, though visible coastal passage not noted until Aug 30<sup>th</sup> when 7 west Scolt Head. Subsequent double-figure counts (birds moving west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): 11 Holme 31<sup>st</sup>, 13 Sheringham Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 23 Holme, 126 Scolt Head and 12 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 39 Scolt Head and 8 north and 5 south Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>, 18 Holme, 23 Scolt Head and 15 Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup>, 101 Cley Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 Holme 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 Cromer 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 Holme Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 24 Cromer 24<sup>th</sup>, 13 Holme 25<sup>th</sup>, with final movement 3 Holme Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

**GARGANEY *Anas querquedula***  
**Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

First returning birds Catfield Fen March 7<sup>th</sup>, Buckenham Marshes 17<sup>th</sup> and Stanford TA 26<sup>th</sup>. Further spring records April/May from 24 sites (with highest counts): Barton Broad, Bintree Mill (2), Blakeney GM, Breydon/Berney (6 April), Buckenham Marshes (2), Burnham Overy GM, Cantley BF, Cley (2), Colney GP, Filby Broad, Hickling Rush Hills, Hardley Flood (2), Holme Redwell Marsh (2), How Hill Reedham Water (2), Kelling WM (2), Ken Hill Marsh (2), Lakenheath Flashes (4), Lynn Point (2), Ouse Washes (2), Pensthorpe (2), Snettisham CP (2 ), Titchwell (2), Welney (3) and Wheatfen (2).

In June confirmed breeding Welney where adult with 9 young, otherwise occasional records of 1-2 from Berney, Ken Hill Marsh, Titchwell and Cley.

Interesting visible summer movements of singles south Yarmouth July 3<sup>rd</sup> and west Scolt Head 19<sup>th</sup>. Typical series of records late July-Sept, chiefly 1-3 birds, from Cantley BF, Cley, Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR (8 Aug), Kelling WM, Langmere, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw Fen, Titchwell and Welney (up to 14 Aug, 9 Sept). No Oct records but two in Nov from Welney 12<sup>th</sup> and Strumpshaw Fen 15<sup>th</sup>.



**SHOVELER (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata***  
**Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**  
Peak monthly counts at selected localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	8	37	52	53	11	18	20	25	31
Titchwell	129	96	71	41	72	141	146	57	98
Holkham NNR	33	58	77	103	-	36	-	41	21
Cley	18	18	-	10	24	38	-	67	71
Breydon/Berney	746	754	457	124	13	13	160	472	556
Cantley BF	-	-	-	-	105	100	165	-	-
Strumpshaw Fen	-	-	-	-	68	321	242	105	-
Ouse Washes	24	95	124	73	-	-	-	51	81
Welney	57	242	101	166	-	-	221	320	83

*National importance (winter): 148*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 153 Hickling Rush Hills, 174 Holkham Park Lake, 74 Ranworth Broad; *Feb* 45 Blakeney GM, 110 Holkham Park Lake; *March* 43 Cockshoot Broad, 115 Ormesby Broad; *April* 45 Rollesby Broad; *May* 48 Holkham NNR; *June* 44 Titchwell; *July* 100 Cantley BF, *Aug* 300 Hardley Flood; 40 Wissington BF; *Oct* 40 How Hill Crome's Broad; *Nov* 50 Ranworth Broad; *Dec* 134 Hickling Rush Hills, 43 Holkham Park Lake, 68 Ranworth Broad.

Series of small-scale winter movements Scolt Head where total 21 west on six dates Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. In spring 4 north Horsey Gap April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Birds present over summer at many wetland sites but only confirmed breeding records: Blakeney GM (10 young), Burnham Norton (6 broods), Burnham Overy (6 broods), Cantley BF (one brood), Cley (2 broods), Holkham (5 broods) and Titchwell (24 young).

First visible autumn passage 3 west Sheringham July 12<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter usual light autumn passage with all records given (birds moving west along north coast and north up east coast unless otherwise stated): single Walcott Aug 18<sup>th</sup> with 3 28<sup>th</sup> and 7 north and 6 south there Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 Scolt Head 5<sup>th</sup> with 7 next day, 4 Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 Walcott 8<sup>th</sup>, 13 Scolt Head and 6 Walcott 10<sup>th</sup>, impressive 63 Scolt Head and 10 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 Scolt Head and 4 Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 north and 2 south Walcott 14<sup>th</sup>, single Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup> with significant late movement 24 Holme and 68 Cley Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.

Leucistic drake Holkham GM April 28<sup>th</sup> and leucistic female Wissington BF Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina***  
**Mostly feral but probably also very scarce visitor.**

A pair was at Holme on various dates in April, with presumably the same birds reported from Thornham Farm, Thornham Harbour, Thornham Marshes and Titchwell in the period May 1<sup>st</sup>-Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. They may have attempted to breed.

Other breeding season records: 12 Winterton May 14<sup>th</sup>, and singles (possibly from this flock) Heigham Holmes and Ormesby Broad May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The only other record was of a female Blackborough End Tip Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>-Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**POCHARD (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina***  
**Scarce breeder and fairly common winter visitor. Amber List.**  
Peak counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	19	16	5	-	-	-	-	15
Holme	25	20	13	11	2	9	13	40
Titchwell	50	11	8	7	-	-	13	7
Ranworth Broad	18	28	18	-	-	16	13	20
Pentney GP	80	55	16	-	-	-	-	22
Welney	962	946	59	11	6	39	630	667
Ouse Washes	173	195	45	25	-	-	24	115

*National importance (winter): 440*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 61 Swanton Morley 27<sup>th</sup>; *Feb* 65 Swanton Morley 2<sup>nd</sup>, 157 Cantley BF 14<sup>th</sup>, 82 Hardley Flood 22<sup>nd</sup>; *Dec* 54 Breydon/Berney 1<sup>st</sup>, 80 Salhouse Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, 80 Woodbastwick 20<sup>th</sup>, 80 Whitlingham CP 25<sup>th</sup>.

Records of 33 pairs/broods in breeding season: Blakeney GM, 4 Burnham Norton, 8 Burnham Overy, 4 Cantley BF, 6 Cantley Marshes, 3 Cley, 7 Holkham, Holme, Titchwell, Welney, Whitlingham CP.

Coastal movements (all anti-clockwise) in second winter period: *Sept* 3 Scolt Head; *Oct* 1 Snettisham, 4 Titchwell; *Nov* 4 Walcott; *Dec* 14 Stiffkey and 9 Sheringham. A Furech-marked female was at Whitlingham CP Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.

**RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris***  
**Very rare vagrant.**

A female with Pochard at Whitlingham CP Nov 11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, then relocated on River Bure near Wroxham Dec 20<sup>th</sup> and commuting between here and Hoveton Little Broad into 2009 (TA *et al*).

**TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula***  
**Scarce breeder and fairly common winter visitor. Amber List.**  
Peak counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	56	76	25	56	10	17	15	32
Holme	35	35	16	16	8	7	52	49
Holkham NNR	22	39	50	-	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	30	54	22	14	3	39	86	88
Ouse Washes	227	375		25	-	-	131	115
Welney	406	430	202	192	-	119	343	310
Marlingford Mere	53	80	26	13	-	-	-	3
Nar Valley Fisheries	37	60	49	-	104	130	120	97

*National importance (winter): 600*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Dec* 160 Wroxham Broad 13<sup>th</sup>, 145 Hoveton Little Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, 100 Salhouse Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, 120 Whitlingham CP 25<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding records (pairs/broods): Blackborough End Tip, Blakeney GM, 9 Burnham Norton, 4 Burnham Overy, Cantley BF, Cantley Marshes, 2 Cley, Corpusty, 2 Earsham GP, Felbrigg, 5 Holkham, 6 Holkham Park Lake, 15 Holme, 3 How Hill Reedham Water, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, Ken Hill Marsh, Wretham Lang Mere, 2 Morningthorpe GP, Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney Heath, Salhouse, 5 Welney, Wissington BF.

Notable coastal movements: 5 west Holme May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 west Sheringham Jul 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 west Scolt Head Jul 19<sup>th</sup>, 11 north Hopton Jul 21<sup>st</sup>, 4 south Walcott Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Sheringham Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> and 5 west Overstrand Nov 17<sup>th</sup>.



**SCAUP (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila marila***

**Scarce winter visitor. Red List.**

In first winter period over 30 reported from 15 sites, with up to 8 present Holme/ Hunstanton Jan 12<sup>th</sup>-March 9<sup>th</sup>. Only summer record 2 males east Sheringham Jul 8<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn coastal movements (all anti-clockwise): 2 Scolt Head Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 in Oct (including 6 Snettisham 21<sup>st</sup>), 17 in Nov (including 8 Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup>).

In second winter period 35 recorded at 20 sites including 6 Snettisham Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 there Dec 7<sup>th</sup>.

**EIDER (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima mollissima***

**Fairly common winter visitor, very scarce at other times. Red List.**

Max counts at regularly visited sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	9	27	34	19	17	4	1	16	13	21	145	11
Titchwell	6	35	12	14	7	6	6	10	10	7	16	55
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	2	4	2	37	5	5	3	1	17	3	6	6
Blakeney Hbr/Point	-	4	-	6	9	5	1	3	42	89	-	47
Cley	6	36	-	-	-	5	-	3	36	-	-	51

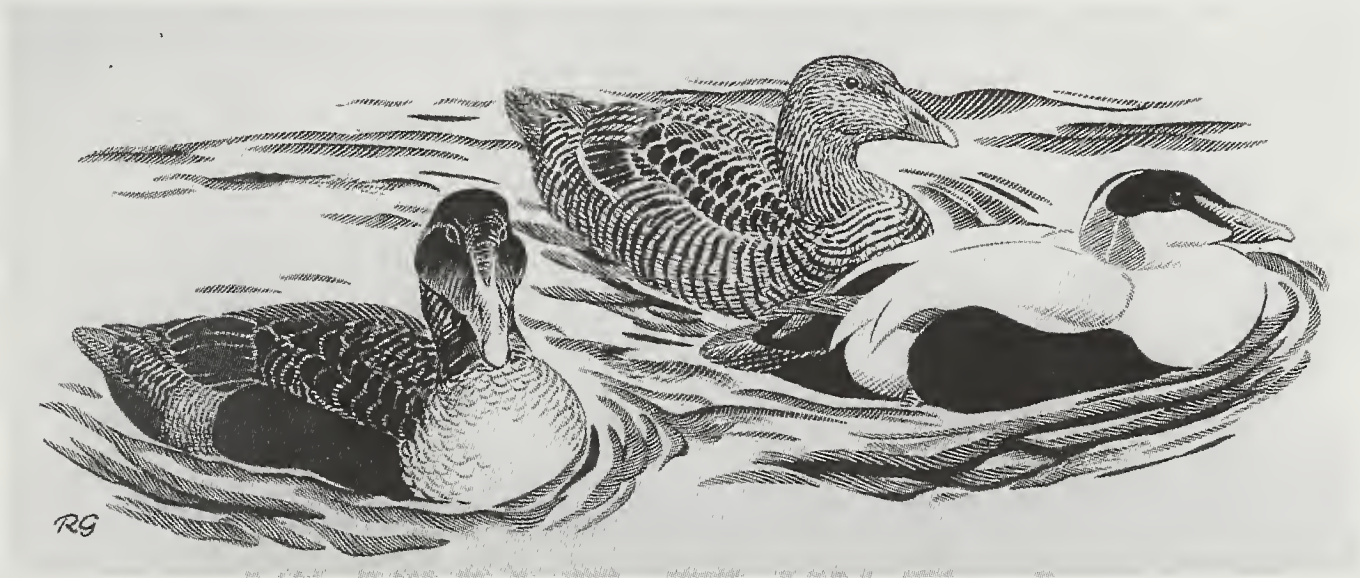
*National importance (winter): 750*

*Note that Blakeney Hbr/Point and Cley counts may be duplicates.*

High counts elsewhere: 50 Hunstanton Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 20 Sea Palling Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 30 Hunstanton March 29<sup>th</sup>, 24 Thornham Harbour Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 50 Hunstanton Dec 30<sup>th</sup>.

Coastal movements in first half of the year: *Jan* east Stiffkey 4<sup>th</sup>; *March* 11 east Sheringham 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 east Stiffkey 21<sup>st</sup>, 39 east Cley 24<sup>th</sup>.

In second half of the year 47 reports of coastal movements (all anti-clockwise) with 21 in the period Oct 29<sup>th</sup> -Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. Possibly the same flock west Walcott, Mundesley and Scolt Head Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, counted as 131, 119 and 110 respectively. Heavy movement Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: 144 Eccles, 58 Overstrand, 138 Cromer, 175 Sheringham, 88 Kelling Hard. Large Nov counts: 81 Gorleston, 51 Hopton, 180 Cromer, 39 Weybourne, 300 Cley, all 24<sup>th</sup>, 207 Sheringham Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, 213 Mundesley Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.



Eiders (Robert Gillmor)

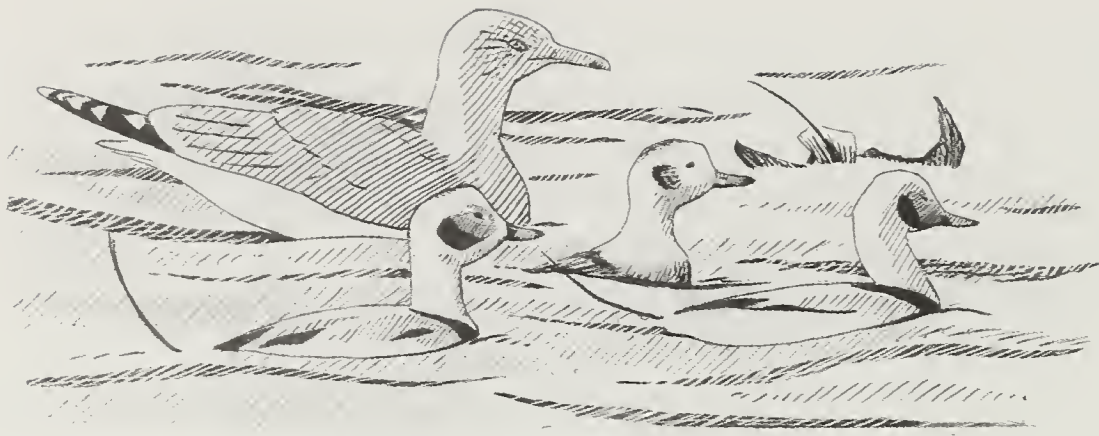
**LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis***

**Scarce winter visitor, mostly to north-west Norfolk. Green List.**

In first winter period mainly recorded Holme with peak counts as follows: Jan 50, Feb 31, March 20. Also 6 Titchwell Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 31 Hunstanton March 15<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 at other north coast sites. Latest Blakeney Point May 6<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period first Cromer Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter 24 reports of singles in the north-west of the county but higher counts of up to 6 Titchwell Nov 15<sup>th</sup> to year end and 16 Holme Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere a single Walcott Nov 17<sup>th</sup>.





Long-tailed Ducks (Gary Wright)

**COMMON SCOTER (Black Scoter) *Melanitta nigra***

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant, fairly common in summer. Red List.**

Max monthly counts at principal north coast sites:

	<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>
Holme	2585	1000	210	600	1760	40	690	1000	1000	600	880	1800
Titchwell	2000	4	200	1000	3434	70	372	-	200	30	1200	3000
Scolt Head	3000	-	3000	3000	3000	1000	1000	400	1500	18	-	-
Holkham Bay	4000	-	-	-	-	1250	-	-	-	-	-	103

***National importance (winter): 350***

Other notable counts in first winter period: 100 Blakeney Point Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and 100 Horsey Gap Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spring coastal movements: 678 west Sheringham March 6<sup>th</sup> and 200 west Beeston Bump 31<sup>st</sup>.

Coastal movements reported July-Nov, virtually all north and west around the coast. The most notable (all north or west unless otherwise stated) were: *July* 310 east Sheringham 2<sup>nd</sup> and 365 7<sup>th</sup>, 205 Scolt Head 19<sup>th</sup>, 344 Mundesley 21<sup>st</sup> and 714 22<sup>nd</sup> when also 452 Scolt Head and 990 Sheringham; *Aug* 208 Mundesley 8<sup>th</sup>, 292 Scolt Head 16<sup>th</sup>, 83 Cley and 147 Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup> and 57 Scolt Head 30<sup>th</sup>; *Sept* Notable movement 12<sup>th</sup> when 900 Sheringham, 101 Salthouse and 137 Scolt Head and 13<sup>th</sup> when 194 Mundesley and 206 Walcott. Another notable movement 22<sup>nd</sup> when 463 Sheringham, 281 Scolt Head and 252 Cley; *Oct* only major movements towards the month end when 600 Holme BO 25<sup>th</sup>, 162 Sheringham 28<sup>th</sup> and 177 Walcott, 150 Cley and 147 Sheringham 31<sup>st</sup>; *Nov* 317 Sheringham and 148 Walcott 1<sup>st</sup> and 156 Mundesley and 201 Cromer 2<sup>nd</sup>, 50 Hopton, 90 Overstrand and 766 Mundesley 17<sup>th</sup>, 293 Sheringham, 185 Cromer and 120 Overstrand 22<sup>nd</sup> and 154 Cromer 24<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period other notable counts: 250 Eccles Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 434 Blakeney Hbr Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and 600 Hunstanton Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. An inland influx March 27<sup>th</sup> with 9 Barton Broad, 5 Rockland Broad and 4 Whitlingham CP. Only other inland record 3 Whitlingham CP Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.

**VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca fusca***

**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, very scarce in summer. Amber List.**

Max counts from principal sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	-	1	1	2	4	4	3
Titchwell	1	1	1	13	2	3	2
Holkham Bay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere in first winter period: Horsey Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 east Sheringham Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, east Sheringham and Mundesley March 17<sup>th</sup> and south Eccles 18<sup>th</sup>.

Summer records: Titchwell 1-7 to May 10<sup>th</sup>, Holme 4<sup>th</sup> with 4 5<sup>th</sup> and 5 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 Scolt Head 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 Blakeney Point 11<sup>th</sup>, west Sheringham 11<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell July 6<sup>th</sup> with 4 22<sup>nd</sup> and 5 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> west Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 13<sup>th</sup> with a single 20<sup>th</sup>. In Aug 4 Titchwell 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 21<sup>st</sup>.

First of autumn west Sheringham Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Further records Blakeney Point 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 Titchwell 10<sup>th</sup>,



Cley 20<sup>th</sup> and west Holme 28<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers in Oct included single Salthouse 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 east Cley 31<sup>st</sup>. In Nov west Sheringham 1<sup>st</sup> with 2 2<sup>nd</sup>, single 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4 5<sup>th</sup>, east 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 west 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 west and one east 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 west 24<sup>th</sup> and east 25<sup>th</sup>. Other records: west Holkham Bay 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Cley 16<sup>th</sup> with 3 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 east Kelling WM 17<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne 1<sup>st</sup> with another 17<sup>th</sup> and 3 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Cromer 2<sup>nd</sup> with single east 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2 west 24<sup>th</sup>, east Overstrand 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 west Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Walcott 16<sup>th</sup> with singles east there 19<sup>th</sup> and west 22<sup>nd</sup> and 5 north Hopton 16<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period Blakeney Point 2 Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 21<sup>st</sup>, 4 Brancaster Hbr 15<sup>th</sup> with 3 remaining to 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 Salthouse 17<sup>th</sup> and 3 Cley 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Away from Holme and Titchwell only recorded in Dec at Sheringham where 6 west 23<sup>rd</sup> and a single west 31<sup>st</sup>.

**GOLDENEYE (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula clangula***  
**Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	48	37	15	4	4	26	28
Titchwell	78	49	6	-	1	12	55
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	38	48	21	13	2	18	23
Tottenham GP	21	12	13	-	-	4	4
Barton Broad	24	15	14	-	1	6	38
Hickling Broad	-	21	-	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere in first winter period: 13 Blakeney Point Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 Filby Broad 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 Blakeney Hbr 12<sup>th</sup> and 6 Holme 30<sup>th</sup>. In Feb 13 Wells Hbr 10<sup>th</sup>, 18 Nar Valley Fisheries 16<sup>th</sup> and 12 Martham Broad April 3<sup>rd</sup> with smaller numbers elsewhere. Only coastal movement in first winter period 4 west Sheringham Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Last noted Nar Valley Fisheries Apr 27<sup>th</sup> although a single west Mundesley June 6<sup>th</sup>.

First of autumn west Scolt Head Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by a single Holme 24<sup>th</sup>. Passage noted from mid-Oct to mid-Nov with 1-10 at several sites and 15 (14 south 1 north) Walcott Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Larger movement Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> with 44 west Holme, 16 west Salthouse, 52 west Sheringham, 36 Cromer, 31 west Overstrand, 11 Trimingham and 27 west Mundesley.

Other max counts in second winter period included 18 Martham Broad Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, 16 Thornham Hbr Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 11 Nar Valley Fisheries Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 Wells Hbr Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 Pentney GP Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, 5 Blakeney Point Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, 5 Woodbastwick Decoy Broad Dec 20<sup>th</sup> and 4 Blakeney Hbr Nov 18<sup>th</sup> with 1-3 at several other locations. Coastal movement noted Sheringham with 3 west Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**SMEW *Mergellus albellus***  
**Very scarce winter visitor. Amber List.**

A poor year. In first winter period a first-winter male Holkham Park Lake Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, male Pentney GP 17<sup>th</sup>, male Tottenham GP 17<sup>th</sup>, Welney Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. In second winter period a male Tottenham GP Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator***  
**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, very scarce in summer. Green List.**

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	15	25	16	3	33	2	17
Titchwell	12	38	37	30	5	9	38
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	25	48	32	28	28	30	31
Blakeney Hbr	30	17	18	5	2	42	19

*National importance (winter): 100*

Other double-figure counts from first winter period: 18 Stiffkey Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 18 Terrington Marsh Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 16 Wells Hbr Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 13 Blakeney Point April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11 Holkham Bay Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and 10 Snettisham Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.



Late spring and summer records: west Mundesley June 4<sup>th</sup>, Cley 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Holme July 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Hbr July 20<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney Point 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> and Aug 14<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage noted from Sept 4<sup>th</sup> when 4 Titchwell then minor movement Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> with 9 west Scolt Head, 5 west Sheringham and 4 Cley. Oct/Nov movements most prominent on north coast with max 17 west Sheringham Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and and 10 west Cromer Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. Away from the north coast 13 west Walcott Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

In second winter period double-figure counts: 27 Blakeney Point Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 23 Stiffkey and 14 Wells Hbr Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and 12 Hunstanton Dec 30<sup>th</sup>.

**GOOSANDER (Common Merganser) *Mergus merganser merganser***

**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

Max counts from favoured sites:

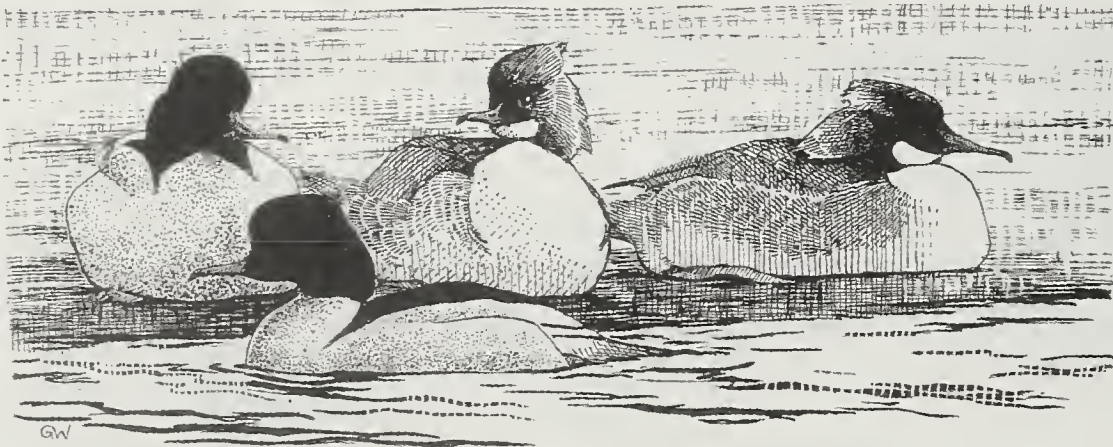
	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
UEA Broad	5	1	-	1	2
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	7	7	11	-	9
Denver Sluice	3	4	-	13	15

Max counts elsewhere in first winter period: 14 Wretton, 12 Sparham Pools, 7 Costessey Pits, 6 Fordham, 6 Pentney GP, 6 Stowbridge, 5 Cranwich GP, 5 Heigham Sound, 5 Lynford Water, 3 Blakeney Hbr, 3 Nar Valley Fisheries, 3 Thetford Little Ouse, 2 Antingham and 2 Terrington Marsh. Only coastal sightings in this period 2 south Gorleston Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, single east, 3 west Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup> and west Titchwell 15<sup>th</sup>.

Following the first breeding in the county in 2007 there was no repetition in 2008.

Autumn movements: west Scolt Head Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 south Hunstanton Oct 27<sup>th</sup> with a single south Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and singles west at 4 other sites. In Nov 1-7 birds recorded moving west at 10 coastal sites with larger movements including 9 north Walcott 17<sup>th</sup> with 6 north 18<sup>th</sup> and 19 west and one east Cley 20<sup>th</sup>. In Dec singles west Holme 5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, singles west Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Mundesley 14<sup>th</sup> and 3 west Brancaster and Titchwell 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In second winter period max 18 Holme, 18 Stowbridge, 13 Wretton, 10 Blakeney Hbr, 7 Blakeney Point, 4 Swanton Morley GP with 1-3 at Broome, Colney GP, Earsham GP, Hockwold Washes, Kelling WM, Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Salthouse, Sparham Pools, Stiffkey Fen, Welney, Whitlingham GP, Wiggenhall St Germans and Wissington Cut.



Goosanders (Gary Wright)

**RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis jamaicensis***

**Scarce naturalised resident.**

Max monthly counts from principal sites:

	<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>
Holme	-	1	2	6	3	5	5	2	1	-	-	-
Cley	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stiffkey Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Titchwell	1	-	-	4	2	2	5	1	-	-	-	-
Tottenham GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Only regularly seen at three sites but in similar numbers to the previous year. Away from these locations the decline in numbers and distribution appears to continue with 1-2 birds reported from 14 sites although 1-3 at East Wretham Heath from May to Dec was noteworthy. Breeding noted Holme, Lopham Fen and Titchwell, with a total of seven young fledged. There was no report of breeding from Holkham NNR where six pairs bred in 2007.

### **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa rufa*

**Very common naturalised resident.**

Counts in first winter period: *Jan* 50 Grimston Heath, 41 Hillington, 37 Ringstead; *Feb* 45 Hanworth, 32 Holme Hale, 30 Little Cressingham; *March* 20 Grimston Heath.

Breeding pairs: 2 Blakeney GM, 1 Blakeney Point, 29 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 6 Scolt Head. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant increase of 16.67% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 27.17% between 2007 and 2008. 259 individuals were counted in 41 of 63 surveyed squares.

Counts in second winter period: *Sept* 28 Hanworth, 60 Strumpshaw; *Oct* 28 Aylmerton, 12 Blakeney GM, 15 East Barsham, 78 Ringstead, 438 Strumpshaw; *Nov* 32 Beeston, 73 Hunworth, 350 Sall, 40 Sustead; *Dec* 167 Ashby St Mary, 15 Cley, 20 Sustead. Several observers noted local releases.

### **GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix perdix*

**Common resident. Red List.**

The only double-figure count in the first winter period was of 21 Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding pairs: Blakeney GM, Blakeney Point 14 young fledged, 2 Burnham Deepdale 12 and 9 young, Furzeffield Airfield 3 young, North Creak 9 young, 2 Roydon, 6 Scolt Head 3 broods, 2 Snettisham 10 young, Terrington 5 young.

High counts in the second winter period: *Sept* 35 Warham; *Oct* 32 East Harling Heath, 20 Holme BO, 40 Quidenham, 37 Ringstead, 27 Warham; *Nov* 20 Anmer, 20 Wells.

### **QUAIL (Common Quail)** *Coturnix coturnix coturnix*

**Very scarce summer visitor in erratic numbers. Amber List.**

First reports from North Wootton Marsh May 10<sup>th</sup> and Welney 11<sup>th</sup>.

Subsequently reports, mostly of singing birds, from: Babingley River (flew across Sandringham cycle track), Brettenham Heath, Breydon, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy GM, Burnham Thorpe (flushed by raptor), Castle Rising (flushed by cyclist), Choseley, Cley, Foxley, Grimston Heath, Kelling, North Creak, 2 Ringstead Common, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Sheringham BO, Themelthorpe.

Latest Scolt Head Sep 16<sup>th</sup> flushed from dunes.

### **PHEASANT (Common Pheasant)** *Phasianus colchicus torquatus*

**Abundant naturalised resident.**

Breeding reported from: Blakeney GM where 4 pairs fledged 9 young, Scolt Head where 33 territorial males responsible for 8 broods and Ringstead Courtyard Farm where 15 territories represented a 15% increase on 2007. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant increase of 0.17% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 11.11% between 2007 and 2008. 426 individuals were counted in 60 of 63 surveyed squares.

Albino or all-white birds reported from Holme, Rockland Marsh and Stanford TA. 2 male Green Pheasant types at Horning Waterworks throughout March.

### **GOLDEN PHEASANT** *Chrysolophus pictus*

**Very scarce naturalised resident.**

In first half of year reported from: Babingley, where a male found dead beside the A149 April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Binham, 3 Dersingham, East Wretham Heath, 2 Great Hockham, West Harling Heath, 2 Wolferton.



In second half of year only reports from: Sculthorpe Moor, where 2 males of unknown origin first seen Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Fairhaven Gardens (South Walsham), where a male of unknown origin present from mid-Nov, and Wolferton.

**RED-THROATED DIVER (Red-throated Loon) *Gavia stellata***  
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, very scarce in summer. Amber List.  
Recorded all months. Monthly max (including birds in flight and on sea):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hunstanton -												
Scolt Head	18	40	1	-	1	-	-	1	25	11	1	15
B.Overy -												
Blakeney Hbr	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	8	4	-
B. Point -												
Happisburgh	300	187	73	-	3	1	1	4	59	47	47	240
Eccles - Hopton	180	21	169	-	1	-	-	2	8	30	28	30

*National importance (winter): 50*

The usual pattern of distribution clearly evident from table, with birds relatively much more numerous in coastal waters eastwards from Blakeney Point. Three-figure counts in first winter period all from this area: 112 east, 26 west Sheringham Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 180 north Waxham 27<sup>th</sup>, 283 Cley (with 231 west 1340-1440 including 113 west in just three minutes) and 300 west Overstrand 28<sup>th</sup>, 168 west Mundesley 29<sup>th</sup>, 181 east, 6 west Sheringham Feb 8<sup>th</sup> with 107 west, 28 east 22<sup>nd</sup>, 112 Cley 9<sup>th</sup>, 157 east Mundesley 14<sup>th</sup> with 116 east March 17<sup>th</sup> and 169 Winterton 26<sup>th</sup>, this also the last count of winter to exceed single figures.

Just one bird reported in April but there were 8 records involving about 12 birds, 2 records involving 2 birds in June and 6 records involving 4-6 birds.

In second winter period, first double-figure counts Sept 12<sup>th</sup> when 7 west, 3 east Sheringham and 6 on sea, 3 east and 3 west Scolt Head. Just 3 three-figure counts in second winter period, all off Sheringham in Dec: 80 west, 64 east 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 west, 156 east 28<sup>th</sup> and 48 west, 192 east 31<sup>st</sup>.

There were no inland records, nor any from The Wash.

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER (Black-throated Loon) *Gavia arctica arctica***  
Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Scarce in first winter period: Hunstanton-Holme Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with 2 Holme Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Scolt Head Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Cley Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, West Runton and Mundesley Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and Overstrand Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.

First of autumn Yarmouth July 16<sup>th</sup>. More numerous in second winter period: Holme on 14 dates Sep 17<sup>th</sup>-Dec 16<sup>th</sup> with possibly same also Titchwell on last date, Scolt Head/Brancaster Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> (where 2 Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>), Burnham Overy Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Further east, 2 Holkham Bay Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, Cley-Kelling-Weybourne Sep 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (2), 17<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> peaking at 3 Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> then singles Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, no doubt with one or more of the Cley-Sheringham birds also Cromer Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov 24<sup>th</sup> with 3 Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and Overstrand Sep 28<sup>th</sup>, Mundesley Nov 30<sup>th</sup> and Eccles Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (Great Northern Loon) *Gavia immer***  
Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

In west of county, a single individual may have accounted for all records in first winter period: Hunstanton Jan 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>, Holme 8 dates Jan 27<sup>th</sup>-Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head Jan 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and possibly also Burnham Overy Hbr Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. Elsewhere West Runton Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Hbr Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cley Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, Winterton April 13<sup>th</sup> and last of spring west Sheringham May 14<sup>th</sup>. Summer reports Walcott June 29<sup>th</sup> and Mundesley July 2<sup>nd</sup> possibly refer to same bird. First of autumn Cley Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. In west



of county, Hunstanton Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, Holme Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 13 dates Nov 14<sup>th</sup>-Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, with 2 Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell Sept 15<sup>th</sup> then 1-2 on 14 dates Oct 17<sup>th</sup>-Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, Brancaster Nov 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and Burnham Overy Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.

A lack of coincidence in sightings suggests that perhaps no more than 2 individuals were involved. Elsewhere Wells Hbr Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> and Holkham Bay Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and more numerous to east where 2 Blakeney Point Nov 18<sup>th</sup> (with one in Hbr Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>), 1-2 Cley-Salthouse-Kelling on 8 dates Oct 28<sup>th</sup>-Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 Weybourne Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 Sheringham on 12 dates Sep 24<sup>th</sup>-Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 1 east 2 west Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 3 east, 2 west Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 east, 3 west Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and 4 past Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 west Cromer Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Overstrand Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Trimingham Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, Happisburgh Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, Walcott Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Eccles Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and Caister Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

A single Snettisham Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and Nov 24<sup>th</sup> was found dead Dec 18<sup>th</sup> and was the sole report from The Wash.

Inland: Blickling Park Lake juv Feb 16<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, Wroxham Broad Dec 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and possibly same Hoveton Little Broad Dec 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*  
**Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Found throughout county with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	15	22	10	7	-	-	-	-	12	11	17	15
Holme	11	13	10	4	2	3	7	2	6	5	7	8
Titchwell	5	14	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	11	23	12
Holkham NNR	-	13	8	25	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	8
Cley-Salthouse	-	9	9	5	3	3	3	4	10	11	12	11
Breydon/Berney	4	4	5	10	6	5	7	10	8	3	4	2

Counts of 10 or more birds from elsewhere: 10 Wells Hbr Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 25 Burnham Overy Staithe 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 Fowlmere March 15<sup>th</sup> with 43 there June 13<sup>th</sup>, 15 Wissington BF Aug 7<sup>th</sup> with 21 there 10<sup>th</sup>, 29 East Wretham Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 12 Wissington BF Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 12 Blakeney GM Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and 11 Swanton Morley GP Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 74-75 pairs reported breeding from 14 sites: Bittering (3), Breydon, Burnham Norton (5), Burnham Overy (20), Chedgrave Marsges (7), Cley (2), East Wretham (3), Holkham (20), Holme (3), Morningthorpe GP, Stanford TA (4+ pairs), Thetford Nunnery Lake, Weybourne and Wissington BF (3-4).

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*  
**Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

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	31	30	16	-	5	3	6	15	13	19	12	43
Titchwell	12	77	4	12	3	-	5	4	8	8	13	22
Scolt Head	3	31	2	-	10	10	2	5	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	7	13	19	22	14	28	14	19	25	23	20	9
Barton Broad	-	15	31	38	14	40	41	40	28	21	12	11
Rockland Broad	-	-	15	-	11	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Nar Valley Fisheries	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Welney	14	34	28	26	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	-
Swanton Morley GP	19	17	18	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	12	20
Breydon/Berney	3	6	9	8	1	2	2	7	7	11	5	-

Counts of 20 or more birds from other sites: 21 Hickling Broad May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 50 Snettisham Sept 18<sup>th</sup> and 24 Wroxham Broad Dec 30<sup>th</sup>.



A total of 42 breeding pairs reported from 15 sites, down even on the low counts of 2007: Bittering, Denver Sluice to Ten-Mile Bank (5), Diss, Hickling Broad (7), Hockwold Washes (3), Holkham Park Lake, Nar Valley Fisheries (2), Pentney GP (2), River Ant at Sutton, Rockland Broad (4), Sparham Pools/Sparham GP/Lyng GP (5), Swanton Morley GP (5), Thetford Nunnery Lakes, UEA Broad (2) and Wissington Cut (2).



Great Crested Grebes (Phil Jones)

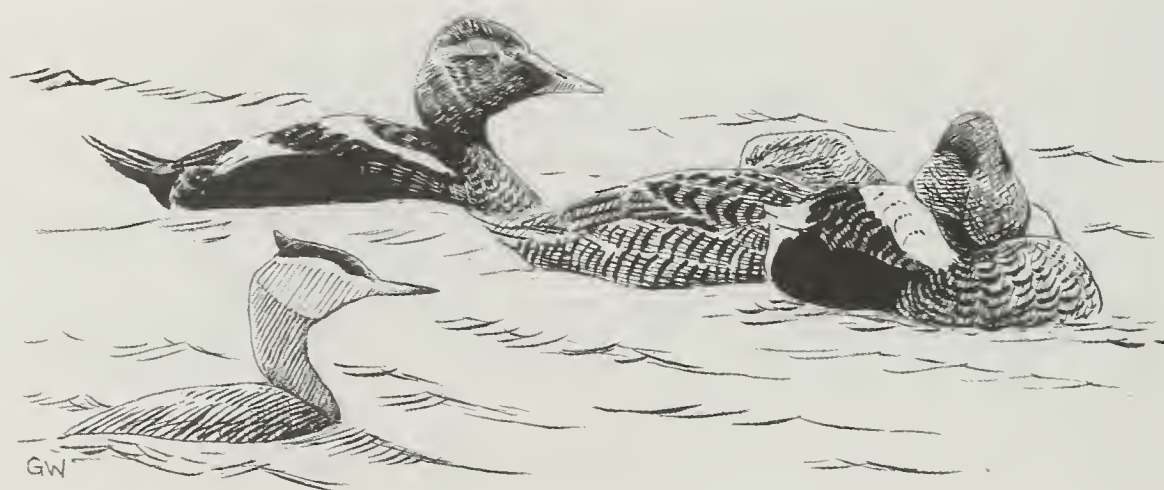
**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena grisegena*

**Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

1-2 Titchwell on 12 dates Jan 19<sup>th</sup>-March 27<sup>th</sup>, with these birds also possibly responsible for reports Hunstanton Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Holme Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in first winter period Burnham Norton March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 Holkham Bay Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and west Sheringham May 20<sup>th</sup>. First in autumn Titchwell July 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> where also present Aug 4<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and then 1-2 on at least 10 dates to Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.

These birds possibly responsible for some of those at nearby Scolt Head where 5 Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> and one Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> and at Holme where singles on 6 dates Sept 7<sup>th</sup>-Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and Hunstanton Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere Cley/Blakeney Point Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Sheringham Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, Cromer Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mundesley Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and Eccles Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

The only inland record: Wroxham Broad Dec 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>.



Red-necked Grebe (Gary Wright)

**SLAVONIAN GREBE (Horned Grebe)** *Podiceps auritus auritus*

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

A typical run of coastal reports, with 1-2 Titchwell on 9 dates Jan 5<sup>th</sup>-April 13<sup>th</sup>, these possibly accounting for records Hunstanton Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 1-2 Holme Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head/ Brancaster Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere Holkham Bay Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey from start of year to at least end Feb, Blakeney Hbr Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and Feb 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Cley Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, Sheringham Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and Winterton Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>.





*Top; shorebird spectacular at Snettisham. (Mike Lawrence)*

*Middle; Oystercatcher along the tide line. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom; Curlew. (Rob Lee)*





*Top left; juvenile Dotterel at Cley.*

*Top right; juvenile Little Ringed Plover at Cley.*

*Middle left; Spotted Redshank at Titchwell.*

*Middle right; Lesser Yellowlegs at Cley.*

*Bottom left; Purple Sandpiper at Titchwell.*

*Bottom right; Wilson's Phalarope at Cley.*

*(Spotted Redshank by Mike Lawrence, others by Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top; juvenile Red-necked Phalarope at Titchwell. (Julian Thomas)*

*Bottom; this Grey Phalarope lingered on a small puddle at Waxham in February. (Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top; Arctic Skua off Holme. (Mike Lawrence)*

*Middle left; an urban Lesser Black-backed Gull on an office window ledge in Norwich. (Louise Arnold)*

*Middle right; Mediterranean Gulls at Snettisham. (Mike Lawrence)*

*Bottom left; adult Roseate Tern on Sheringham seafront. (John Miller)*

*Bottom right; Black Tern at Kelling Water Meadows. (Julian Bhalerao)*



First of autumn Titchwell Sept 4<sup>th</sup> followed by 1-2 there on a further 15 dates to Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, these probably same as 1-2 Holme on 13 dates Sept 11<sup>th</sup>-Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 Thornham Hbr Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. Very scarce elsewhere with singles Sheringham Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, Cromer Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, Eccles Oct 28<sup>th</sup> and Breydon Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.

The only inland record: Hickling Broad April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*

**Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Just seven birds recorded: Hickling Broad March 27<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell March 29<sup>th</sup>, Ranworth and 2 Hardley Flood April 26<sup>th</sup>, Hopton Aug 18<sup>th</sup> and Holkham GM Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **FULMAR (Northern Fulmar)** *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*

**Scarce breeder and fairly common passage migrant. Amber List.**

During first winter period most notable movements: 30 Hunstanton Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 46 east Kelling Hard, 390 east Sheringham and 403 east Mundesley March 16<sup>th</sup> and 167 east Mundesley March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In spring 81 east Mundesley April 18<sup>th</sup>, 135 south Walcott May 24<sup>th</sup> and 90 Blakeney Point and 308 east 119 west Mundesley May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Early return to nest sites with 16 Beeston/West Runton Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. In breeding season 9 pairs West Runton/Cromer and 110 pairs Hunstanton rearing only 13 young (131 pairs, 26 juvs 2007).

Another poor autumn with best movements: 27 west, 6 east Holme Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 35 west Scolt Head Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 54 east Sheringham Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and 16 west, 14 east Holme Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

Best showing of blue phase birds since 2003 with 6 Eccles March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Sea Palling May 24<sup>th</sup> and singles Sheringham, Mundesley, Walcott, Eccles May 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> and singles Salthouse June 1<sup>st</sup>, Mundesley June 5<sup>th</sup> and Sheringham June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris diomedea borealis*

**Very scarce passage migrant in autumn.**

An excellent year for this species with one Sheringham May 18<sup>th</sup> (PV) followed by another west Sheringham July 13<sup>th</sup> (JMc-S). Aug produced another at Waxham 9<sup>th</sup> (TA) followed by a rash of records Sept 7<sup>th</sup> when 2 east Sheringham (NR et al), one east Cromer (D and JB), 3 east Mundesley (MF) and one Sea Palling (TA). Also 2 reported east Cley on same day, almost certainly involving the same birds. Final record was of one east Holme Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis*

**Vagrant. Green List.**

**CORRECTION:** The record of 4 east Overstrand Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 was included in the 2007 Report in error and should be discounted.

### **SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

**Scarce passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.**

First report single west Mundesley July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Peak counts Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>: 17 west Scolt Head, 36 west, 1 east Cley (4hrs), 31 west Cromer, 25 west Overstrand, 6 north Hopton and 54 Winterton. Other notable Aug counts included 13 north Winterton 30<sup>th</sup> and 6 north there 31<sup>st</sup>.

In Sept best counts 7 west Sheringham 5<sup>th</sup>, 11 Scolt Head, 8 west Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 Blakeney Point and 4 Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup>. Best counts 23<sup>rd</sup>: 6 west 4 east Scolt Head, 10 Blakeney Point, 15 Cley, 21 east 2 west Sheringham, 3 west 1 east Cromer and 6 west 9 east Mundesley. In Oct only noteworthy movement 3<sup>rd</sup> when 10 Cley, 17 east 11 west Sheringham, 13 Cromer, 13 Mundesley and 12 Eccles. Last report of single Mundesley and Walcott Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

**Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Amber List.**

Early reports single Overstrand March 8<sup>th</sup> and Sheringham April 18<sup>th</sup>. In May peak counts 10 Overstrand, 12 Mundesley, 14 Walcott 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup> and 14 east 5 west Mundesley



26<sup>th</sup>. Most notable June records 15 west 6 east Mundesley 13<sup>th</sup>, 35 east 5 west Sheringham, 17 east 1 west Mundesley and 36 south Walcott (1hr) 19<sup>th</sup>. In July 15 Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup>, 76 east Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>, 21 west Mundesley and 20 west (2hrs) Sheringham 21<sup>st</sup>. Elsewhere single figure counts from 12 east coast sites.

In Aug highest counts 8<sup>th</sup> when 14 Holme, 10 Titchwell, 18 west Scolt Head and 23 east Salthouse. Sept peaks 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> when 100 east Cley, 104 Salthouse and 17 Sea Palling 6<sup>th</sup> and 105 Scolt Head, 127 Cley, 42 east Cromer and 24 Mundesley 7<sup>th</sup>. In Oct 5 Cromer 3<sup>rd</sup>, 20 Titchwell 17<sup>th</sup> and up to 4 at 6 other sites. Last report Sheringham Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

**Very scarce, though increasing, passage migrant in autumn. Red List.**

Early reports of singles Mundesley and Eccles June 12<sup>th</sup> and Titchwell July 19<sup>th</sup>. A good series of records in Aug: Scolt Head and Cley 8<sup>th</sup>, Cley 13<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point and Sheringham 15<sup>th</sup>, Cley 17<sup>th</sup>, Walcott 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 Mundesley 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Blakeney Point, 6 Cley, 4 east Sheringham, 2 or 3 Scolt Head, Weybourne and Overstrand 23<sup>rd</sup>, Blakeney Point/Kelling 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 Cley, 3 west 1 east Mundesley and singles Sea Palling and Winterton 30<sup>th</sup> and 3 east Sheringham 31<sup>st</sup>. Peak Sept counts: 3 Sheringham 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 Scolt Head 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 south Walcott 13<sup>th</sup> and 8 Sheringham 23<sup>rd</sup>. Elsewhere singles at 4 sites Titchwell to Walcott. In Oct singles Eccles 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 west Scolt Head 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cley 3<sup>rd</sup>, Waxham 16<sup>th</sup>, Mundesley 17<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham and Eccles 28<sup>th</sup> and east Sheringham 31<sup>st</sup>. Only 3 records Nov: Sheringham and Eccles 1<sup>st</sup> and Sheringham and Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **STORM PETREL (European Storm Petrel)** *Hydrobates pelagicus pelagicus*

**Very scarce passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.**

A poor year with just two records of single birds: Blakeney Point Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> (AMS) and Sheringham Nov 1<sup>st</sup> (DJH *et al*).

**ADDITIONAL RECORD:** Kelling Hard Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 2007 (MN).

### **LEACH'S PETREL (Leach's Storm Petrel)** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*

**Scarce passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.**

First north Waxham Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent Sept records: west Scolt Head, Cley, Salthouse 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Holme, 2 west 1 east Scolt Head, 4 Blakeney Point, 4 Cley, 1 Weybourne and 5 east Sheringham 23<sup>rd</sup> and Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>. In Oct Holme, Cley, Weybourne, Sheringham, Sea Palling 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sea Palling 5<sup>th</sup>. Last record Waxham Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **GANNET (Northern Gannet)** *Morus bassanus*

**Common passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Amber List.**

In first winter period highest counts 69 east Mundesley Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 318 Eccles March 11<sup>th</sup>, 220 east Mundesley 16<sup>th</sup>, 156 adults north (3hrs) Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>, 271 west Sheringham 28<sup>th</sup> and 264 east Mundesley April 18<sup>th</sup>. Further spring movements 140 Blakeney Point May 5<sup>th</sup>, 155 east Scolt Head 7<sup>th</sup> and 285 south (4hrs) Walcott 25<sup>th</sup>. Only significant June count 366 east Mundesley 12<sup>th</sup>.

Best July counts 450 Walcott 19<sup>th</sup>, 109 east 35 west Scolt Head and 100 Weybourne 20<sup>th</sup>, 172 Cley 25<sup>th</sup> and 130 Cley 28<sup>th</sup>. In Aug notable movement 8<sup>th</sup> when 167 Holme, 100 Titchwell, 185 west 23 east Scolt Head, 152 Cley and 139 east 6 west Sheringham BO. Other notable Aug movements 250 Walcott 20<sup>th</sup> and 177 west Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sept peaks included 1040 Sheringham, 405 east Cromer and 800 Walcott 7<sup>th</sup>, 1100 Scolt Head, 2237 east Mundesley, 2000 south Walcott (7hrs), 580 Winterton 13<sup>th</sup> and 688 Holme, 311 west 390 east Scolt Head and 500 east Overstrand 23<sup>rd</sup>. Oct peaks included 650 west Scolt Head 2<sup>nd</sup>, 309 Cromer 3<sup>rd</sup>, 348 Sheringham 18<sup>th</sup>, 469 west Sheringham 26<sup>th</sup>, 250 north Paston (1hr) 29<sup>th</sup> and 200 Eccles 30<sup>th</sup>. Last major movement Nov when 604 east Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup> and 500 west Cley 17<sup>th</sup>. Inland, a single south up River Ouse Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.



**CORMORANT (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo***  
European and south-east British form *sinensis* ('Continental Cormorant') a fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and scarce breeder. Atlantic form *carbo* ('Atlantic Cormorant') a scarce visitor. Amber List (both forms).

Monthly counts from roost sites:

	<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>
Breydon	19	28	18	40	19	19	34	49	25	22	35	22
Scolt/Brancaster	20	31	27	45	88	85	123	-	70	47	35	25
Cley	-	-	-	-	-	18	39	57	77	17	6	2
Holme	4	-	-	-	-	26	51	73	65	12	27	13
Barton Broad	30	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	35	35	23
Snettisham	83	38	-	14	32	25	89	155	133	55	25	52
Titchwell	-	-	-	-	18	-	26	68	91	70	-	-
Holkham GM	47	36	84	105	149	78	80	48	185	199	113	59
Ranworth Broad	265	192	162	-	-	-	-	-	-51	235	236	206
Nar Valley Fisheries	45	36	40	-	12	9	-	7	21	37	39	43
Welney	159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107	-	114

*National importance (winter): 130*

Highest counts elsewhere: 45 Marlingford Mere Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 80 Thornham Point 6<sup>th</sup>, 33 Sparham Pools 27<sup>th</sup>, 357 to roost Fritton Lake and 65 Swanton Morley GP Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 40 Lynn Point March 16<sup>th</sup>, 62 west Kelling WM Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, 62 Ousemouth 16<sup>th</sup>, 65 Terrington Marsh, 44 Blakeney Harbour and 47 north 20 south Winterton 17<sup>th</sup>, 68 Hoveton Great Broad 26<sup>th</sup>, 94 Blakeney Point Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, 72 Overstrand Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 180 roosting Scroby Sands Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and 48 roosting Whitlingham CP 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SHAG (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis***  
Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn, and winter visitor. Amber List.

In first winter period 2 Sheringham Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 Gun Hill 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 Scolt Head 22<sup>nd</sup>. Otherwise singles at 10 coastal sites Hunstanton to Yarmouth and a single inland Denver Sluice Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. One reported Wells Jan 6<sup>th</sup> had been ringed as a nestling on the Isle of May, Fife July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007.

In summer 2 Cart Gap July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 Happisburgh 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 Eccles 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 Sheringham Aug 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> and singles at 6 coastal sites. Best Sept counts 9 Sheringham 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 Eccles 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Gorleston 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 Weybourne 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 Burnham Overy Harbour 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney Point and 11 Walcott 23<sup>rd</sup> and 7 Sea Palling 30<sup>th</sup> with singles noted at 6 other sites. Oct highs included 35 Mundesley 1<sup>st</sup>, 27 Walcott 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30 Eccles 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 north (1hr) Walcott 4<sup>th</sup> and 5 roosting Sea Palling 25<sup>th</sup>. In Nov 6 north Walcott 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 south Happisburgh 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 Denver Sluice 28<sup>th</sup>. Three lingering in Dec Scolt Head/Brancaster Harbour with singles at 4 coastal sites and one Denver Sluice 9<sup>th</sup>.

**BITTERN (Eurasian Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris stellaris***  
Scarce resident and winter visitor. Red List.

Numbers relatively poor in first winter period with 3 Holme Jan and 4 Feb and singles at just 15 other sites. Away from main areas: Beeston Common Jan 13<sup>th</sup>-Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and Thompson Water Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.

Booming birds reported from mid-March. There was a welcome increase in breeding numbers in the county with 25-29 booming males, 21-25 from 13 Broadland localities and 4 from 4 north coast sites. Eleven nests were found at 8 sites in the Broads and 2 at 2 sites along the north coast. This increase was at least partly attributed to increased water levels following a wet winter in the Broads and Fens.

Nationally, a total of 76 booming males represented a 49% increase on previous year, whilst the number of occupied sites also increased to 42, a 24% increase on 2007, and 39 nests were found, up 44% on 2007. Levels nationally were up to or even greater than the highest numbers reached in the 1950s.

Dispersal away from breeding sites in July and Aug when records Cockshoot Broad July 10<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Welney 18<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, south-east out to sea Yarmouth July



30<sup>th</sup>, Dilham Broad Fen Aug 13<sup>th</sup> and Sparham Pools Aug 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>.

In autumn and second winter period records from 14 sites including, away from main areas, singles Kelling WM Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, Ingworth 23<sup>rd</sup>, East Ruston King’s Fen 25<sup>th</sup>, Welney Oct 27<sup>th</sup> and Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, Belton Marsh Nov 19<sup>th</sup> and Thetford Nunnery Lakes Dec 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Bittern (Gary Wright)

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

**Very rare vagrant.**

Following the large influx into Britain in autumn 2007, three records: adult Stiffkey April 4<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> (AMcE, SJMG), Burnham Norton May 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, moving to Holkham GM 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> (D and JB, AIB, PJH) and Cley and Blakeney GM Aug 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> (per D and JB).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

**Fairly common and increasing resident. Amber List.**

Monthly maxima at main sites and most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	11	16	14	4	16	47	38	42	90	107	-	-
Ousemouth	6	9	13	-	10	10	33	18	22	15	11	13
Snettisham	6	5	4	4	-	5	17	33	42	37	3	1
Holme	3	3	4	2	8	4	7	8	9	7	4	3
Thornham Hbr	5	-	12	-	-	-	7	-	-	12	7	-
Titchwell	12	-	8	-	-	-	15	37	93	7	10	10
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	25	32	18	24	16	20	69	112	88	59	47	30
Burnham Overy Hbr	7	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	15	9	8
Holkham GM	125	41	68	38	137	60	18	15	169	187	187	110
Wells Hbr	5	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	41	16	-	9
Warham Greens	18	21	13	16	6	-	8	12	-	19	25	14
Stiffkey Greens	13	18	13	-	-	-	8	-	50	42	94	39
Blakeney GM	8	46	37	1	-	4	5	2	11	36	48	49
Blakeney Hbr	-	-	-	1	-	7	21	34	40	22	50	24
Cley	-	-	-	5	7	15	12	20	18	20	10	9
Breydon/Berney	49	59	59	27	61	54	113	114	83	80	80	62
Buckenham/Cantley	-	5	-	-	5	3	15	4	3	3	3	-
Welney	4	17	12	17	13	-	56	4	-	2	3	3

Roost sites included Blakeney GM, Hardley Flood, Holkham GM, Stiffkey, Thornham, Titchwell, Upton Fen and Welney.



Continues to increase not only at main sites but elsewhere as well, with many records away from main areas, including 14 Lynford Water Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 Kelling WM July 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 How Hill Reedham Marshes July 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 Denton Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, Nar Valley Fisheries Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sennowe Park Aug 21<sup>st</sup> and Strumpshaw Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> and Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 Grimston Warren Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, Lynn Point July 6<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse Jan 27<sup>th</sup> and Wighton April 25<sup>th</sup> and 1-4 Acle Marshes, Aylmerton, Barton Turf Fen, Bawdeswell, Beeston Regis, Bintree Mill, Bittering, Blackborough End Tip, Blickling Park, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Brandiston, Briston, Burnham Thorpe, Bylaugh, Caistor St Edmund, Chedgrave Marshes, Cockley Cley, Cockshoot Broad, Colney Pits, Corpusty, Dereham, Earsham GP, Edgefield, Fakenham, Felbrigg, Felthorpe, Flitcham, Frettenham, Glandford, Great Ryburgh, Gressenhall, Guist, Halvergate Marshes, Hardley Food, Heckingham, Heigham Holmes, Hempstead Marshes, Hempton Marsh, Hickling Broad, Hickling Rush Hills, High Kelling, Horning Waterworks, Horsey, Horsey Mill, Hoveton Park, How Hill, Hunworth, Itteringham, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, Kenninghall, Langham, Leziate Fen, Marham Fen, Martham Broad, Metton, Mundford, North Wootton, Northwold, Norwich, Ongar Hill, Ouse Washes, Pentney GP, Postwick Marshes, Potter Heigham, Ranworth Broad, Raynham, Rockland Broad, Rockland Marsh, Roydon Common, Rundham, Saxthorpe, Sculthorpe, Smallburgh, South Walsham, Sparham Pools, St Benet's Level, Stanford TA, Stoke Holy Cross, Surlingham Church Fen, Sutton Fen, Swanton Morley GP, Syderstone, Tatterford, Terrington St John, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thorpe Abbots, Thurlton Marshes, Thursford, Tunstall, Upton Fen, Upton Marshes, Walcott, Walpole Highway, West Raynham, West Walton, Wheatacre Marshes, Whitlingham CP, Wissington BF and Worthing GP (North Elmham).

Light spring passage noted at a number of sites including south Hunstanton March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 south Hunstanton and one west Cromer April 11<sup>th</sup>, west Weybourne 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 west Inceborough Hill 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Beeston Bump 27<sup>th</sup>, south Hunstanton and east Paston 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 east Paston and 2 south Sea Palling May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Total of 75-80 breeding pairs reported from 3 sites, with 55-60, 15 and 5 pairs respectively.

Autumn migrants included one in off sea Hopton July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Sheringham 10<sup>th</sup>, west Beeston Bump and north Hopton 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Mundesley 15<sup>th</sup>, west Weybourne and south Hopton 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 west Sheringham and 9 west Mundesley 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 in off Horsey 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 north Yarmouth Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, north Eccles 13<sup>th</sup>, west 2km off shore Scolt Head and south Sea Palling 16<sup>th</sup>, in off sea Scolt Head Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 south Hunstanton Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 west Sheringham and Mundesley 18<sup>th</sup>.

At Scolt Head one eating blackberries in the dunes Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.



Little Egret (*Phil Jones*)



**GREAT WHITE EGRET (Great Egret) *Ardea alba alba***

**Rare vagrant.**

One Welney Jan 5<sup>th</sup> (RB, JS) followed by one Bintree Mill March 17<sup>th</sup> which remained in the area to at least May 10<sup>th</sup>, also seen Guist and Sennowe Park (CM *et al*). In autumn one east Beeston Regis Nov 4<sup>th</sup> (GED) with last of year west Titchwell Nov 12<sup>th</sup> (GB).

**GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea cinerea***

**Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

Largest concentrations during year 38 Holkham April 6<sup>th</sup> and 26 May 24<sup>th</sup>, 17 Welney April 8<sup>th</sup> and 15 Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 Titchwell Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 Cley Aug 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 Banham Zoo Aug 25<sup>th</sup>.

Light spring passage, March 7<sup>th</sup>-April 28<sup>th</sup>, when 2 east Weybourne April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 south Eccles 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 east Beeston Bump 24<sup>th</sup> and 5 south Horsey 28<sup>th</sup>.

Reports of breeding birds, including those recorded by the BTO Heronries Survey, totalled 119 pairs, with heronries noted at Acle, Barton Broad, Burgh Castle, Colney, Cockshoot Broad, Earsham, Holkham, Loddon, Quidenham, Reedham and Stanford TA.

Breeding data incomplete with total of 82 breeding pairs reported at 12 sites, including 14 Quidenham, 13 Holkham, 12 Barton Broad and 10 Stanford TA.

Autumn passage from mid-June until late Oct, when totals mostly west at main sites:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Holme	-	7	10	11	2
Scolt Head	-	17	19	91	-
Sheringham	-	-	7	24	2

Main passage mid-Sept when good numbers west including 9 Titchwell, 33 Scolt Head, 7 Sheringham, 7 Cromer, 7 Overstrand, and 21 Winterton 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 Titchwell, 11 Holme, 18 Scolt Head, 3 Sheringham, 5 Overstrand and 7 Walcott 14<sup>th</sup>, 17 Scolt Head and 6 south Catfield Fen 15<sup>th</sup> and 15 Titchwell 19<sup>th</sup>. Also during the autumn (west unless stated): 7 Scolt Head July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 7 Holme 24<sup>th</sup> and in Aug 8 Holme 16<sup>th</sup>, 20 Blakeney Point and 15 Cley 17<sup>th</sup>, 4 east Sheringham 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 in off sea Hopton 23<sup>rd</sup> and 6 Scolt Head 30<sup>th</sup>.

**BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra***

**Very rare vagrant.**

One over Yarmouth Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> (KRD, BJ).

**WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia ciconia***

**Rare vagrant though status clouded by free-flying collection birds.**

Only records relate to a free-flying individual seen regularly in the Filby/Thrigby/ Fleggburgh area during March, and in April at Rollesby 6<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 8<sup>th</sup> and Acle 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SPOONBILL (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia***

**Very scarce non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>
Titchwell	5	4	1	3	3
Holkham	1	4	1	-	1
Cley	-	6	10	4	-
Breydon/Berney	2	4	11	3	1

Only record in first winter period was one south Runcton Holme Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.

First in spring an adult Breydon March 15<sup>th</sup>, but no others until April when Holkham GM 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Welney 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, south Hopton 11<sup>th</sup>, Cley 16<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Rush Hills/Swim Coots 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, Acle and Berney 17<sup>th</sup>, Martham Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, south Hunstanton and west Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup> and Horsey 26<sup>th</sup>. With no overlaps in dates it seems likely that just one or two birds could account for



all these sightings.

Recorded daily for much of spring/summer, with best counts: *May* 8 west Sutton Fen 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 south-east 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 north Lynn Point 13<sup>th</sup>, and 5 east Scolt Head 28<sup>th</sup>; *June* up to 6 daily Cley, 3 Yarmouth 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 Breydon 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 Holkham GM 18<sup>th</sup> and 4 Titchwell 24<sup>th</sup>; *July* up to 10 Cley, 5 Buckenham 3<sup>rd</sup> and one still 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 there 7<sup>th</sup> and 4 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Kelling WM 22<sup>nd</sup> and 11 Breydon 23<sup>rd</sup>; *Aug* 4 Cley 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Stiffkey Fen 9<sup>th</sup> and 3 Titchwell 11<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 Burnham Norton, Blakeney Point, Eccles, Hickling Broad, Hickling Rush Hills, Horsey Mere, Morston, Pentney GP, Salhouse, Welney and Weybourne.

Few in autumn. In Sept 3 Titchwell 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, one Breydon 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 south Snettisham 13<sup>th</sup> and one 14<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 3 north-east Sculthorpe 15<sup>th</sup> and Holme 19<sup>th</sup> and in Oct singles Snettisham and Titchwell 1<sup>st</sup>, Holme 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, 2 west 13<sup>th</sup> and one 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 Titchwell 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and one 23<sup>rd</sup> and last of year Lynn Point Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **HONEY-BUZZARD (European Honey-buzzard) *Pernis apivorus***

**Very scarce summer visitor and very scarce, occasionally scarce, passage migrant. Amber List.**

Very few noted on spring passage this year. The first at Winterton April 27<sup>th</sup> was followed by singles Hickling Broad and Pentney GP May 4<sup>th</sup> and Kelling 15<sup>th</sup>. In June one Ringstead Common 1<sup>st</sup> was the only record away from former breeding sites. At these sites again no evidence of breeding despite the presence of 2 birds May-Aug with a third bird intermittently in July and a fourth bird July 19<sup>th</sup>. Wing-clapping was noted frequently but yet again no attempt at nesting was made.

If the events of spring were disappointing, those of Sept were to prove the opposite. Over Sept 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> a major displacement of Honey Buzzards from continental Europe occurred, with many recorded from across the county. Estimating numbers is virtually impossible due to the mobility of the birds, the high risk of duplicate counts and an inevitable degree of misidentification of Common Buzzards, Ospreys and Marsh Harriers, all of which were obvious at the time. On 13<sup>th</sup> approx 73 were reported, with 105 on 14<sup>th</sup>. Many were still in the county on 15<sup>th</sup> with 28 reported. After this numbers slowly dwindled as birds began to re-orientate but most days to the month end saw reports of birds still moving through. If all sightings are counted individually, an amazing 267 passed through the county, a total far in excess of the estimated 60 recorded in the last great Honey Buzzard displacement of Sept 2000.

All records are listed. *Sept 13<sup>th</sup>* 2 Attleborough, 2 Beeston Bump, 2 Beeston Regis, Belton, 3 Blakeney Point, 2 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 7 Breydon, 2 Caister, 3 Cley, Cromer, East Runton, 2 Happisburgh, Holme, Hopton, Horsey, 2 Kelling WM, Lenwade, Lynford, Norwich, Overstrand, 7 Scolt Head, 2 Sea Palling, Sheringham BO, 2 Snettisham CP, Stiffkey, 2 Swanton Morley, 6 Titchwell, Trimingham, Warham Greens, 2 Waxham, Wells, 8 Welney and 2 Winterton; *Sept 14<sup>th</sup>* 7 Aylmerton, 3 Beeston Regis, Bircham Newton, Blakeney GM, 4 Blakeney Point, 9 Burnham Overy Dunes, 3 Cantley BF, 3 Castle Acre, Cley, Colney Pits, 3 Cringleford, 5 Cromer, 2 Cromer GC, 2 Diss, Gimingham, Heacham, Holkham, 3 Holme, 5 Hunstanton, 6 Lyng, Mundesley, 4 Nar Valley Fisheries, 6 Northrepps, Rollesby, 4 Titchwell, 3 Salhouse, 3 Scolt Head, 2 Sheringham BO, 8 Sidestrand, 3 Thetford, 2 Thornham, Thornham Farms, Upton Fen, Warham Greens, Wells, 2 Winfarthing and Winterton; *Sept 15<sup>th</sup>* 2 Blakeney GM, Brancaster Staithe, 3 Briston, Cley, Kelling WM, 3 Lenwade, Morston, Muckleburgh Hill, Sheringham, 3 Sheringham BO, 4 Sheringham Park, Thetford Nunnery, Thornham Farms, Titchwell, Warham Greens, 2 Weybourne and Wiveton; *Sept 16<sup>th</sup>* Brundall, Holkham and Titchwell; *Sept 17<sup>th</sup>* Holkham, Rockland Broad, Titchwell, Welney and Wortwell; *Sept 18<sup>th</sup>* 5 Beetley, 2 Cley, Cromer, Rockland St Mary, Stiffkey, Strumpshaw, Thornham Farms (east with 11 Common Buzzards), Titchwell, Walsey Hills and 2 Warham Greens; *Sept 19<sup>th</sup>* Cley, Methwold, 3 North Wootton, Scolt Head, Strumpshaw, 2 Welney and Winterton; *Sept 20<sup>th</sup>* Holme and Titchwell; *Sept 21<sup>st</sup>* Brancaster, Holme, South Wootton, Strumpshaw, Sutton, Titchwell and 2 Welney. Thereafter singles Hevingham 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Cley and Hopton 26<sup>th</sup>, Holt and Stanhoe 27<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 28<sup>th</sup> and finally Boughton Fen Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>.

An indication that some of these birds were very tired when they initially arrived came from Northrepps on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> when a dark phase juv was found by the roadside, allowing approach to within 3 feet by an observer using a car as a hide. It eventually flew off into woodland when another car came along from the opposite direction.



**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*  
**Nominate form a rare vagrant. Asian form *lineatus* ('Black-eared Kite') has occurred on one occasion.**

One of the events that the spring will be remembered for was the spate of Black Kite sightings around the county. The first inkling that something unusual was taking place came April 8<sup>th</sup> when one was seen circling over Sidestrand, soon followed by 2 west Cley and one Burnham Overy. Further reports followed from Breydon and Scratby April 12<sup>th</sup> and Sea Palling 24<sup>th</sup> followed on May 3<sup>rd</sup> by one over Docking. Many other reports appeared via the various bird news services. It was reported in early April that four hybrid Black Kite x Cape Verde Kites had escaped from London Zoo and it therefore seems likely that most, though possibly not all, records in Norfolk involved these birds. Most of the escapees were indistinguishable in the field from 'warm-coloured' examples of nominate Black Kite though one showed plumage characters not associated with this form. As it was impossible to distinguish between these individuals and genuine vagrant Black Kites, it has been decided that none of the above records will be treated as referring to birds of wild origin.

**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus milvus*  
**Scarce, though increasing, passage migrant. Amber List.**

In first two months of year recorded at following sites: *Jan* Brancaster Thompson Farms, Castle Acre, East Barsham, Hilborough, Narborough, North Barsham, Swaffham, Titchwell and 2 Wellingham (at least one with green wing tags); *Feb* Beeston and Dersingham.

Increasingly more widespread in spring with 1-3 recorded from 26 sites in March, 1-3 from 27 sites in April and 1-2 from 30 sites in May. Numbers remained high into summer with 1-4 recorded from 32 sites in June but then slowly dwindled with singles at 13 sites in July and 9 sites in August.

With such numbers of birds seemingly semi-resident during this period it was perhaps inevitable that some would show signs of breeding and, although not proven, it may indeed be that 2008 saw the first breeding in the county. At one site 2 birds were present regularly in June-July and in Aug 2 tame juvs were located in hedge-tops, strongly suggesting that they were locally-fledged. At another site a pair attempted to breed, using an old Crow's nest, but failed. It was not long ago that Red Kites were very scarce within the county and it is interesting to note that they may be on the brink of colonising.

In second winter period very few remained with records as follows: *Sept* Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Warham; *Oct* Holkham, Holme, Saxthorpe and Wymondham; *Nov* Stiffkey; *Dec* Thetford Two Mile Bank.

**MARSH HARRIER (Western Marsh Harrier)** *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*  
**Fairly common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Increasingly common throughout the county. A minimum of 10 roost sites in use Jan-March with the main roost at Horsey/Hickling recording highest numbers. Roost counts Jan-March:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Jan	4	13	40	1	7	3	113	5	6	3	195
Feb	-	11	10	-	7	-	32	9	13	5	87
Mar	-	12	-	-	7	-	15	-	5	3	42

Single birds west Sheringham Jan 18<sup>th</sup> , Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> were either early migrants or local wanderers but definite spring passage underway by end March when 4 west 1 east Inleborough Hill 29<sup>th</sup> and singles west Aylmerton and Beeston Bump same day. Passage increased steadily in April with 1-2 noted at 17 sites. At Hunstanton 6 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Scolt Head singles west on 5 dates in April with 2 west there 24<sup>th</sup>. Last movement noted late May-early June when one north Bodham May 31<sup>st</sup> and 2 west Cley June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding data very incomplete with records received of only 61 pairs - no doubt well below the true total.

Autumn dispersal began July with Scolt Head recording 11 juvs west 14<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> and continued into August with same site recording 14 juvs west during month. Small-scale movement continued



Sept-Oct and included birds in off sea Cley Sept 14<sup>th</sup> and Cromer Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. Last movement of autumn 5 west Blakeney Point Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In second winter period at least 8 roost sites used, with the main Horsey/Hickling site again recording the highest numbers. Roost counts Sept-Dec:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Sept	-	7	-	11	25	12	-	-	55
Oct	-	19	-	15	45	16	-	-	95
Nov	-	11	-	9	60	11	-	3	94
Dec	2	16	14	-	60	-	7	-	99

**HEN HARRIER (Northern Harrier) *Circus cyaneus cyaneus***

**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

In first winter period (Jan-March) a minimum of 6 roost sites used. Roost counts Jan-March:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Jan	5	6	5	4	1	5	26
Feb	5	4	3	3	2	10	27
March	1	5	-	-	-	11	17

Due to the high mobility of birds as they feed during the day, the exact numbers away from roost sites are impossible to ascertain but 1-2 reported from many sites to mid-April. Thereafter most had departed, leaving only a handful lingering into May, including male Salthouse and ringtail west Scolt, both 8<sup>th</sup>, one east Cley and Stiffkey 9<sup>th</sup>, male Winterton 11<sup>th</sup>, female Hanworth 15<sup>th</sup> and, last of spring, female north Trimingham 20<sup>th</sup>. Of interest, a ringtail at Titchwell from Feb 21<sup>st</sup> showed virtually unmarked orange underparts coupled with very dark secondaries.

A juv Holme and Scolt Aug 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> was the first of the second winter period, followed by one Stiffkey and perhaps same Titchwell Sept 14<sup>th</sup> and an adult male Upton Marshes 16<sup>th</sup>. Numbers slowly increased as autumn progressed with the regularly-counted roost sites gradually hosting more birds. A minimum of 7 roost sites in use Sept-Dec. Roost counts Sept-Dec:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Sept	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Oct	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	5
Nov	4	4	-	-	1	4	4	17
Dec	3	3	-	4	-	-	7	17

**MONTAGU’S HARRIER *Circus pygargus***

**Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

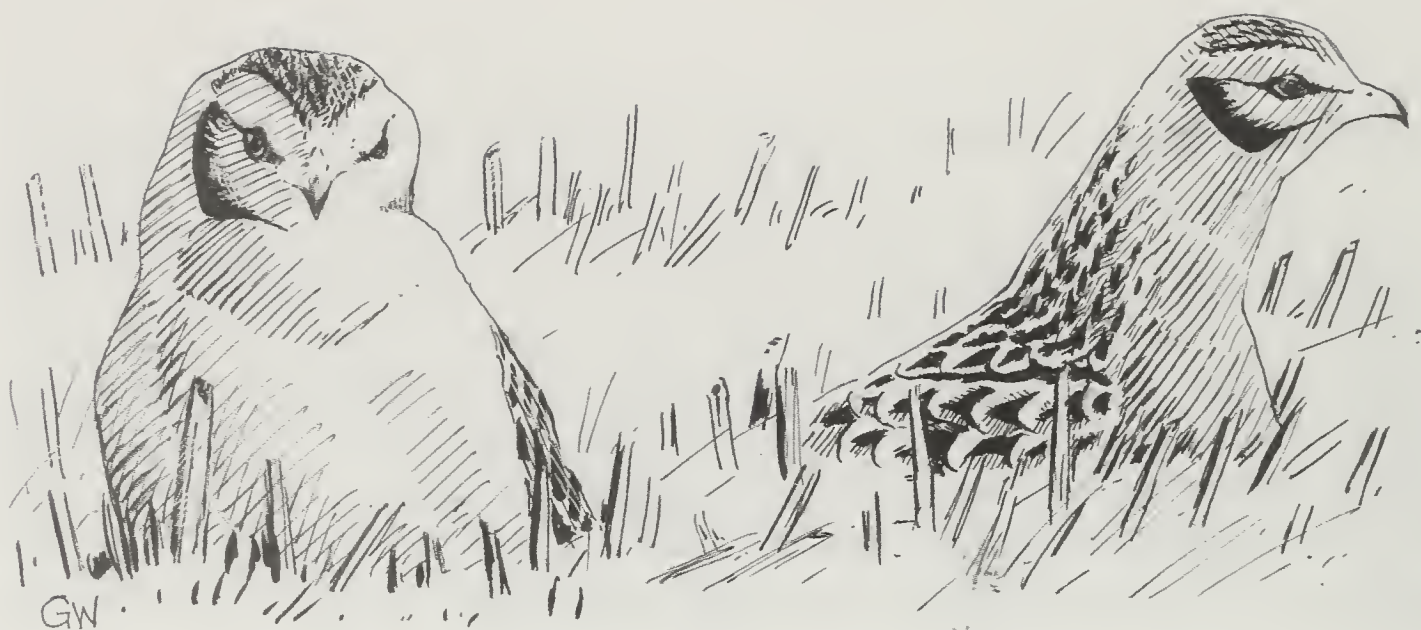
First returning birds noted from the breeding area in the north-west of the county from April 18<sup>th</sup> with 3 present by 21<sup>st</sup>. Birds then routinely recorded from the area with one or two coastal locations being used on a daily basis by hunting birds. At one of these sites a male was watched taking Sand Hoppers along the strand line.

Away from the breeding area occasional birds noted on passage. In April north Horsey 27<sup>th</sup> with a different bird there next day and one Bircham Newton 29<sup>th</sup>. In May singles Burlingham 8<sup>th</sup>, north Horsey 9<sup>th</sup>, west Inceborough Hill 10<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 19<sup>th</sup>, Lynn Point 25<sup>th</sup> and south Waxham 31<sup>st</sup>.

Once again a successful breeding season. A total of 4 males and 5 females nested or attempted to nest in the county and 6 young were fledged. Two nests were predated during the incubation period, presumably by foxes, but both females re-nested successfully while at a further nest the young died from a disease common to game birds.

Most birds dispersed rather rapidly in Aug, leaving very few remaining by month end. The only Sept records involved a juv Titchwell 9<sup>th</sup> with a male there 16<sup>th</sup> and, last of the year, one south Horsey 18<sup>th</sup>.





Juvenile Montagu's Harriers (Gary Wright)

**GOSHAWK (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis gentilis***

**Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

In spring displaying birds noted at 3 sites in north-west of county, and in Brecks up to 3 birds displaying at one site, with other displaying birds noted from 3 further sites in April.

Only isolated sightings away from potential breeding areas: Blakeney GM March 26<sup>th</sup> considered a possible escape due to its behaviour, male east Salthouse April 9<sup>th</sup> and Swanton Novers July 25<sup>th</sup>. At a site in west Norfolk a juv Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and a male was seen to take a Grey Plover Sept 20<sup>th</sup>.

**SPARROWHAWK (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus nisus***

**Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

Spring movement noted Overstrand where 2 west March 5<sup>th</sup> and Horsey where 4 south April 10<sup>th</sup> with 6 south there 12<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere only single birds recorded at very few sites.

Breeding season data as follows: 5 males and 7 females nesting in June at Cley with 5 juvs flying by month end, 3-4 pairs Inceborough Hill, 3 pairs Hoveton Park, at least 2 juvs fledged How Hill and 2 pairs Sparham Parish.

Autumn migrants recorded from a few scattered coastal sites, mostly involving single birds apart from 3 high west Scolt Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 south and one west Titchwell 13<sup>th</sup> with 2 west there 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 west Welney 20<sup>th</sup>. 4 at Holme BO Oct 9<sup>th</sup> might also have been migrants.

In second winter period a roost at Langham contained a max of 16 birds Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BUZZARD (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo buteo***

**Fairly common and increasing resident and passage migrant. Green List.**

Numbers continue to increase around the county, with reports from just over 200 localities, including up to 16 Hilborough/Cockley Cley Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14-17 Kelling Triangle March 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 Guist April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 Swanton Novers Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 North Creak Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 8 High Kelling May 5<sup>th</sup>, Raynham March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roydon Common Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and West Acre Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 Bayfield Hall March 7<sup>th</sup>, Boughton Fen Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, Glandford Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, Great Cressingham Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and Ringland Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5-6 Brancaster Thompson Farm, Cley, Great Ryburgh, Holt, Houghton, Kelling Heath, Little Snoring, Necton, Rackheath, Sennowe Park, Snettisham, Stanford TA, Swanton Morley and Warham Greens.

The large numbers resident around the county made it difficult to discern any spring migrants but passage clearly light with 2 east Paston March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 high south-west Ranworth Broad April 25<sup>th</sup> and 2 north Horsey 26<sup>th</sup>, probably migrants.

Breeding data far from complete but numbers clearly continue to increase with around 33 confirmed pairs including 4 Brancaster Thompson Farms, Hindringham area and Holkham Park, 3 Houghton, Little Snoring, Ringstead and Sennowe Park, 2 Northrepps, Old Hunstanton and Ringland and single pairs Bayfield Hall, Grimston, Heckingham, Hoveton Park, King's Lynn Golf Club and Warham. The true total breeding around the county is clearly significantly higher, judging by the



number of reports during May-Aug. It would not be unreasonable to assume that breeding numbers must be close to or even exceeding 100 pairs.

Good numbers of passage of migrants mid-Sept associated with strong movement of Honey Buzzards, all moving east unless stated: 3 Titchwell, 8 Burnham Overy Dunes/Holkham, 6 Warham Greens, 5 Sidestrand and 2 west Paston 14<sup>th</sup>, 5 Brancaster Staithe, 3 Walsey Hills, 3 Kelling, 2 Weybourne and 3 Sheringham 15<sup>th</sup>, 11 Thornham 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 Blakeney Point 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 Titchwell, 5 in off sea then east Burnham Overy Dunes/ Holkham and 3 Burnham Market 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 west Holme and 6 south Welney 21<sup>st</sup> and 5 Brancaster Staithe 28<sup>th</sup>. Other records possibly relating to migrants included 3 west Blakeney Point Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Burnham Overy Dunes, 7 west Burnham Market and 3 west North Creake Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 west east Ruston 19<sup>th</sup> and 3 west Bacton 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (Roughleg) *Buteo lagopus lagopus***

**Very scarce irruptive passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Two present in the county in the first winter period, one in the Holkham-Scolt Head area Jan 27<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>, wandering to Wells, Warham and Stiffkey, and a second around Bittering Feb 8<sup>th</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup> when also recorded Gressenhall, Longham, Mileham and Scarning. Only records away from these areas: west Ridlington Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, north-west Great Ryburgh March 17<sup>th</sup> and West Rudham 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Small numbers of migrants in spring: west Stiffkey Fen April 14<sup>th</sup>, west Abel Heath 24<sup>th</sup>, south Horsey Gap 25<sup>th</sup>, west Horsey/Waxham 26<sup>th</sup>, west Titchwell and Stiffkey May 3<sup>rd</sup>, east Aylmerton 4<sup>th</sup>, north Hickling Broad 5<sup>th</sup> and last of spring Great Ryburgh 12<sup>th</sup>.

An early bird in off sea and south Scolt Head Sept 20<sup>th</sup> was the start of a light autumn movement with others Holkham GM Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, north Brancaster 26<sup>th</sup>, juv north Horsey Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, west Holkham 29<sup>th</sup>, juv Hickling Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, south-west Brumstead 8<sup>th</sup>, Kelling Heath 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, north Docking and Stanhoe 11<sup>th</sup>, Wighton 14<sup>th</sup> and Barwick 23<sup>rd</sup>. These probably all relate to just three individuals including a wide-ranging juv Nov-Dec.

## **OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus***

**Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

Total of around 30-32 migrants during the spring, first west Stiffkey March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Costessey 29<sup>th</sup> and in April west Holme 6<sup>th</sup>, west Scolt Head and Burnham Norton 12<sup>th</sup>, Hickling, Cley, Blakeney Point, Scolt Head and Titchwell 20<sup>th</sup>, east Thornham, Titchwell and Blakeney Point 21<sup>st</sup>, east Trimmingham, Paston, Happisburgh and Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>, Winterton and Rockland Broad 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ranworth Broad 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Hardley Flood 26<sup>th</sup>, east Overstrand 28<sup>th</sup> and Downham Market 29<sup>th</sup>.

As usual most spring records in May when Sculthorpe Moor 1<sup>st</sup>, west Scolt Head, Malthouse Broad, Ranworth Broad and Rockland Broad 2<sup>nd</sup>, west Blakeney Point, Scolt Head, Titchwell, Holme, East Ruston and Ranworth Broad 4<sup>th</sup>, Lyng 6<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell and Catfield 7<sup>th</sup>, east Titchwell 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney and Weybourne 9<sup>th</sup>, Ranworth Broad 10<sup>th</sup>, north-west Marsham 15<sup>th</sup>, Nar Valley Fisheries 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, north-east Paston 20<sup>th</sup>, Great Ryburgh 21<sup>st</sup>, west Fakenham 23<sup>rd</sup>, east Scolt Head, Blakeney Point, Cromer and Overstrand 28<sup>th</sup> and Hickling Broad 29<sup>th</sup>. Far fewer June when east Whitlingham CP 1<sup>st</sup>, Welney 3<sup>rd</sup>, north East Raynham, Great Ryburgh and Sennowe Park 8<sup>th</sup> and last of spring Great Ryburgh 17<sup>th</sup>.

No over-summering birds with first returners second half of July with one Horning Ferry 16<sup>th</sup>, presumed same Hickling Broad 18<sup>th</sup> and Ranworth Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, Gunton Park 22<sup>nd</sup> and south Hickling Broad 26<sup>th</sup>. Passage remained light during first half of Aug when only record Hickling Broad 2<sup>nd</sup>, more during second half of month when Woodbastwick 15<sup>th</sup>, Ormesby Broad and Terrington Marsh 17<sup>th</sup>, Hardley Flood 20<sup>th</sup>, south-east Buckenham 23<sup>rd</sup>, one lingering along the North Coast 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> when recorded Holme-Cley, and others south-east North Creake 25<sup>th</sup> and West Newton 27<sup>th</sup>.

Excellent numbers in Sept, with total of around 40-50 reported from 70 sites, including lingering birds Cockshoot Broad 2<sup>nd</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, Strumpshaw 3<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, Holkham GM 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and East Ruston Mown Fen 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Main passage mid-month when weather conditions which displaced large numbers of Honey Buzzards and Common Buzzards also displaced many Ospreys. Influx of birds began 13<sup>th</sup> when 3 Cley, 2 Blakeney Point, Breydon and singles Aylsham, Blickling Park, Earsham GP, Happisburgh, Hickling Broad, Horsey, Kelling, Sheringham, Thetford, Waxham,



Welney, Weybourne and Winterton. New arrivals continued to appear over the next few days when 2 West Runton and singles Attleborough, Aylmerton, Admiralty Point, Blakeney Point, Brundall, Cantley Marshes, Colney Pits, Cringleford, Cromer, East Ruston South Fen, Hickling, Holkham, How Hills Crome's Broad, Kelling Heath, Kelling WM, Sheringham BO, Thorpe St Andrew, Wells East Hills, Weybourne and Winfarthing 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 Ranworth Broad and Thetford Nunnery Lakes and singles Blakeney Point, Holkham GM and Repps-with-Bastwick 15<sup>th</sup> with numerous records thereafter until the end of the month.

More than usual during Oct including a long-staying bird East Ruston Mown Fen 1<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> which may have also accounted for many of the following records during the month at Barton Broad 3<sup>rd</sup>, Strumpshaw 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Breydon and Ormesby Broad 6<sup>th</sup>, Barton Turf and Sutton Fen 11<sup>th</sup>, East Ruston and Strumpshaw 12<sup>th</sup>, Gunton Park 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, Holme 13<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 14<sup>th</sup>, Hoveton Park 15<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 16<sup>th</sup>, west Thetford 18<sup>th</sup>, south-west Thetford Nunnery Lakes 22<sup>nd</sup> and last of year Woodbastwick Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **KESTREL (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus***

**Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Largest concentrations during the year included an obvious influx at Waxham April 22<sup>nd</sup> when at least 20 noted, all others from around The Wash where 24 Terrington Marsh July 17<sup>th</sup>, 25 Aug 14<sup>th</sup> and 13 Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 19 Ousemouth Aug 8<sup>th</sup> and 8 Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, and 20 Snettisham Aug 27<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers of migrants spring when east half a mile offshore Sheringham March 17<sup>th</sup> and in April west Scolt Head 11<sup>th</sup>, west over sea 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 east Beeston Bump 23<sup>rd</sup> and singles west 24<sup>th</sup> and east May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Little breeding information received but 3 pairs Brancaster Thompson Farms, Hoveton Park and Sparham, 2 Oby, Roydon Common, Sennowe Park, and singles Burnham Deepdale, East Tuddenham, Guist Common, Kelling Heath and Ludham. At Stanford TA productivity very poor due to a poor small mammal year with only 23 ringable-sized chicks from 10 sites.

One in off sea Happisburgh June 22<sup>nd</sup> was slightly early for an autumn migrant. No other migrants until Oct when in off sea Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Blakeney 18<sup>th</sup>, 5 west Snettisham 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Welney 20<sup>th</sup>, in off sea Hopton 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 west Cley 22<sup>nd</sup> and last of autumn in off sea Hopton 24<sup>th</sup>.

At Cromer a partially melanistic sooty grey bird east Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. Food items noted during the year including Common Lizard, Moorhen, Ringed Plover, young Common and Little Terns and Swallow.

### **RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus***

**Very scarce passage migrant in spring.**

A first-summer female east Cley and Langham April 26<sup>th</sup> (DC *et al*) followed by a male Upton Broad May 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and again 28<sup>th</sup> (GB).



Red-footed Falcon (*Richard Thewlis*)



**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**British form *aesalon* a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Icelandic form *subaesalon* ('Icelandic Merlin') may also occur. Amber List (both forms).**

In the first winter period small numbers wintering around The Wash where up to 5 Terrington Marsh Feb 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 April 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 Snettisham Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. Most records from the north coast where up to 2 Thornham, Titchwell, Scolt Head/Brancaster Harbour, Stiffkey and Blakeney Point and singles at many other localities. Far fewer along the east coast west of Sheringham where only records Paston Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, Trimingham and Winterton 17<sup>th</sup>, Hopton 19<sup>th</sup> and Horsey 23<sup>rd</sup>. Inland reports widespread with singles reported Beeston, Briston, Castle Acre, Catfield, Cockthorpe Airfield, Edgefield, Fersfield Airfield, Guist, Hanworth Common, Hickling Stubb Mill, Kelling Heath, Ludham, Lynford Arboretum, Narborough, Nar Valley Fisheries, Norton Subcourse, Pentney, Poringland, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Roydon Common, Saddlebow, Sculthorpe Mill, Setchey, Strumpshaw, Surlingham Church Marsh, Sutton Broad, Upper Sheringham, Wacton Common and Welney. Only roost reports in first winter period from Hickling Stubb Mill where single out of roost on odd dates in Jan-Feb.

Fewer after mid-April with up to 2 till month end Scolt Head and singles east Paston 16<sup>th</sup>, Hanworth Common 18<sup>th</sup>, Guist 19<sup>th</sup>, Roydon Common 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, Cley 24<sup>th</sup>, Paston 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, Waxham 25<sup>th</sup> and Horsey and west West Runton 27<sup>th</sup>. All May records coastal with 2 Scolt Head 1<sup>st</sup> and a single here on 11 dates to month end with others west Sheringham 1<sup>st</sup>, west Paston 3<sup>rd</sup>, Holme and Titchwell 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse and Winterton 4<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey and West Runton 5<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 6<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey and Cley 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 17<sup>th</sup>, Dersingham 18<sup>th</sup>, east Kelling WM 19<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 19<sup>th</sup> and last of spring Scolt Head June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

First returning birds Breydon July 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and records on 9 other dates there to month end involving 3 different birds, Blakeney Point 8<sup>th</sup> and on 3 other dates there, Brancaster Thompson Farms 15<sup>th</sup>, Terrington Marsh 18<sup>th</sup>, Holme 23<sup>rd</sup> and Paston 28<sup>th</sup>. Daily in Sept with up to 3 Scolt Head, 2 Happisburgh 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and records from a further 13 sites by the month end including one in off sea Walcott 14<sup>th</sup> and inland at Wicklewood 16<sup>th</sup>. During Oct-Dec up to 2 Scolt Head and 2 Blakeney Point Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Terrington Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes 18<sup>th</sup>, Warham Greens 29<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Stubb Mill 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Blakeney Harbour Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 17<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, Barwick 11<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, Warham 21<sup>st</sup> and North Creak 22<sup>nd</sup> and singles at 17 additional coastal and 16 inland sites.

**HOBBY (Eurasian Hobby)** *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*

**Scarce, though increasing, summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

First of spring Pentney GP April 6<sup>th</sup>, Holme, Cley and Sennowe Park 8<sup>th</sup>, Sennowe Park 12<sup>th</sup>, Holme 16<sup>th</sup> and Roydon Common 17<sup>th</sup>, with records from a total of 28 sites by month end and a further 44 sites by end of May, when largest counts 8 Buckenham Marshes May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Boughton Fen 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 Welney 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 Great Ryburgh 4<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 17 Sutton Fen 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 Upton Broad 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 Sparham 27<sup>th</sup> and 6 Upton Fen 31<sup>st</sup>. Birds at many sites in June, but no big concentrations as in recent years, max only 6 Upton Fen 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and 4 Hockwold Fen 17<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 27 breeding pairs reported including a total of 29 Thetford Forest (21 in Norfolk and 8 Suffolk) fledging a minimum of 22 young. Elsewhere 3 pairs Stanford TA and singles at 4 other sites, though judging by the number of birds reported during June-Aug other breeding pairs no doubt went unreported. The county breeding population is perhaps now as high as 40-50 pairs. Minimum breeding numbers in county over last decade:

99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
13	16	10	11	13	20	26	27	27	27

Widespread reports in July and Aug but few counts above 2: up to 5 Great Ryburgh July 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and 3 Cley Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Hickling Broad 16<sup>th</sup>, Winterton 17<sup>th</sup>, Potter Heigham 18<sup>th</sup> and 6 Buckenham 21<sup>st</sup> and 4 Sennowe Park 28<sup>th</sup>.

Noted daily in Sept when up to 4 Colney Pits 1<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Hickling Rush Hills 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Titchwell and 3 Sennowe Park 8<sup>th</sup> and 4 Cley 8<sup>th</sup>, with a widespread influx 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, including up to 5 Holkham GM and several in off sea including 3 Sheringham and singles Kelling WM and Walcott 14<sup>th</sup> with 1-2 at



around 30 sites. In Oct 1-3 till mid-month at 12 sites, after which up to 2 Holkham GM 15<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and singles Weybourne 18<sup>th</sup> and Titchwell 21<sup>st</sup>, Weybourne 23<sup>rd</sup> and last of year Paston 29<sup>th</sup>.

Food items during the year included Ringed Plover, Little Tern, Swift, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, and Wheatear.

**PEREGRINE (Peregrine Falcon) *Falco peregrinus peregrinus***

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Total of around 13-14 wintering birds in first winter period with up to 2 around The Wash, up to five along the north coast, 2 in the Broads and 4-5 others at inland and east coast sites, though the mobile nature of birds makes it almost impossible to be sure. During this time 3 reported Warham Greens March 5<sup>th</sup> and up to 2 on many dates Blakeney Hbr, Buckenham Marshes, Cantley Marshes, Holkham, King's Lynn, North Lopham, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Shipdham and Stiffkey. Records away from main wintering areas Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, Swanton Morley 12<sup>th</sup>, Forncett 29<sup>th</sup>, Welney Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Barford 23<sup>rd</sup> and Stanford TA March 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Most wintering birds had departed by mid-April after which singles Scolt Head and Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 Scolt Head and one Beeston Regis 26<sup>th</sup>, Aylmerton and Sutton Fen 27<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 28<sup>th</sup> and Burnham Overy 30<sup>th</sup>. Fewer still May when singles Blakeney Point and Trimingham 1<sup>st</sup>, Blakeney GM 8<sup>th</sup>, Holme and Cley 10<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 16<sup>th</sup>, Lynn Point 25<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>.

Up to 2 birds summered in the Wells/Warham area and another King's Lynn. These birds may have accounted for sightings at Scolt Head June 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 10<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and Cley 17<sup>th</sup>. Others at Welney 27<sup>th</sup> and Norwich 30<sup>th</sup> presumably referred to different birds. Over-summering birds reported throughout July from both sites and nearby ones, first new birds one in off sea Sheringham July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Yarmouth 18<sup>th</sup> and an adult Burnham Norton/Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reported from 14 sites Aug including 2 Blakeney Point 23<sup>rd</sup> and singles inland Cantley Marshes 17<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Broad 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and Hempnall 30<sup>th</sup>. Migrants in off sea in autumn Cley Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, Kelling WM Sept 4<sup>th</sup> and Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>.

Similar number of wintering birds to start of year in Sept-Dec, when numerous records, mostly involving singles, but 4 Blakeney Point Sept 4<sup>th</sup> and up to 2 Terrington Marsh, Snettisham, Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head, Holkham GM, Warham, Blakeney Hbr, Buckenham Marshes and South Creak. Records away from core wintering areas at this time Earsham GP Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, Stanford TA 13<sup>th</sup>, Welney 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 Boughton Fen 29<sup>th</sup>, singles Welney Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, Tivetshall 6<sup>th</sup>, Stanford TA 18<sup>th</sup>, Norwich 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nar Valley Fisheries Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roydon Common 7<sup>th</sup>, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 30<sup>th</sup>, Pentney GP Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, Brettenham Heath 10<sup>th</sup>, Brumstead 12<sup>th</sup>, Binham 14<sup>th</sup> and Dersingham Bog 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus***

**Fairly common winter visitor and scarce breeder. Green List.**

Peak numbers at regularly counted sites:

	<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>
Holme	2	3	2	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	4	2
Titchwell	-	-	9	2	-	1	1	3	3	4	3	1
Cley	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	14	2	3	2
How Hill	2	3	1		-	-	1	1	-	1	4	1
Strumpshaw	-	-	27	5	-	-	-	11	19	18	11	-
Hickling	-	-	7	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
Sutton Fen	6	29	16	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other localities with at least 3: *Jan* 4 Boughton Fen, 3 Ranworth Flood, 3 Thurne; *Feb* 3 Boughton Fen, 3 Irstead Hall Fen; *March* 3 Barton Broad, 3 Sculthorpe Moor; *Sept* 10 Burgh Castle; *Nov* 3 Holkham NNR, 3 Horsey Mere, 4 Surlingham Marsh; *Dec* 5 Barton Broad, 3 Blakeney GM, 6 Boughton Fen, 4 Stiffkey.

Breeding pairs/calling birds/broods included: 8 Barton Turf, Burnham Deepdale, Catfield Fen, Chedgrave Marshes, Cley, 2 Hickling Whiteslea, Hickling Swim Coots, How Hill, 3 Roydon



Common, 9 Titchwell, Upton Broad, Upton Fen.  
Autumn migrants: 1 freshly dead in dunes Scolt Head Sep 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Holme BO Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 west Overstrand Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, in off sea Eccles Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana*  
**Very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

In spring a singing male Strumpshaw Fen April 24<sup>th</sup> and again May 4<sup>th</sup> (PJH) and in autumn one Berney Marshes Sept 14<sup>th</sup> (PRA) and one Earsham GP Nov 7<sup>th</sup> (AG).

**MOORHEN (Common Moorhen)** *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*  
**Common resident, some evidence of autumn immigration. Green List.**  
Peak monthly counts at the most regularly monitored sites:

	<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>
Holme	22	18	28	13	14	26	15	40	20	32	30	39
Titchwell	8	12	10	3	6	5	7	5	18	10	6	5
Holkham NNR	3	45	62	69	52	5	-	38	-	-	86	57
Blakeney GM	-	34	-	19	5	7	3	3	-	-	12	20
Cley	34	24	-	17	13	12	6	7	15	-	6	51
Salthouse	31	-	24	19	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23
Welney	49	34	25	39	-	8	-	-	-	16	18	29
Marlingford Mere	7	10	14	9	4	8	13	13	17	-	-	-

Other counts exceeding 20: *Jan* 30 Holme Redwell Marsh; *Feb* 32 Ouse Washes; March 22 Ouse Washes; *April* 29 Ouse Washes; *June* 21 Burnham Norton, 33 Burnham Overy, 42 Holkham; *Aug* 20 Holme Redwell Marsh; *Sept* 20 Holme Redwell Marsh, 22 Hoveton Park; *Oct* 20 Holme Redwell Marsh, 27 Hoveton Park; *Nov* 29 Stiffkey Fen, 23 Salthouse/Kelling; *Dec* 23 Salthouse/Kelling.  
Breeding pairs included: Blakeney GM, Corpusty, 2 High Kelling, 13 Holme, 8 UEA Broad, 4 Welney, Wighton.  
Migrants: 4 west Cley Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 20 west Welney Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.

**COOT (Common Coot)** *Fulica atra atra*  
**Common resident and winter visitor. Green List.**

Monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	38	19	15	-	-	-	12	24	26	23	14	17
Holme	124	73	61	-	-	35	61	79	55	116	40	75
Titchwell	84	71	72	-	-	-	63	113	123	-	-	50
Holkham NNR	-	90	153	136	91	-	80	125	57	124	-	79
Blakeney GM	53	-	-	10	-	32	4	11	1	-	9	2
Cley	-	25	37	25	11	27	47	58	12	10	10	5
Barton Broad	49	56	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	100	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	119	94
Welney	2143	1961	965	659	300	76	-	-	-	1259	1691	1425
Ouse Washes	546	419	105	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	209	506
Marlingford Mere	122	58	28	14	6	11	33	75	55	-	-	-

Other counts exceeding 100: *Jan* 220 Woodbastwick; *Feb* 128 Breydon/Berney; *Aug* 130 Hockwold Washes, 240 Rollesby Broad; *Sept* 130 Fowlmere; *Oct* 200 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Nov* 420 Ormesby Little Broad, 165 Wroxham Broad; *Dec* 220 Horning, 200 Woodbastwick.  
Breeding pairs included: 16 Blakeney GM, 2 Hoveton Park, 3 Morningthorpe GP, 3 UEA Broad, 38 Welney.  
A leucistic bird Cley in Sept.



**CRANE (Common Crane) *Grus grus grus***  
**Scarce resident in Broads but some records may relate to continental passage migrants. Amber List.**

In first winter period maximum reported 31 Stubb Mill March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Prior to breeding season immatures reported from Calthorpe Street and Ingham March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Holkham April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kelling Heath May 28<sup>th</sup>.  
The first breeding activity was a pair displaying at a Broads site March 26<sup>th</sup>. Altogether 5 pairs made 6 breeding attempts, all in the Broads, fledging 5 young. Post breeding, juv/imm birds reported from Hickling Broad Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 Horsey Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Waxham Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2+ Hickling Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and Brograve Level Dec 30<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period highest count 34 Stubb Mill Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Annual spring wanderings from April 2<sup>nd</sup> when 3 adults and 2 imm Holkham, Titchwell and Holme. Thereafter, a single west Burnham Overy Dunes to Choseley 19<sup>th</sup> then east Cley and Felbrigg where continued southeast, and one east High Kelling, Aylmerton and Incleborough Hill April 26<sup>th</sup>. In May a single east Titchwell and Scolt Head/Brancaster 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 east Langham, Salthouse Heath and Beeston Regis 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Incleborough Hill, Sheringham, Weybourne, Cley, Blakeney Point and Holme 11<sup>th</sup> before heading north-west across The Wash and a single west Cromer, Salthouse, Kelling Heath (where it landed and was identified as an imm) and Hempstead 28<sup>th</sup>.

A bird from Lakenheath Fen RSPB moved the few yards across the county border to Hockwold Washes May 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Three free-flying birds reported Pensthorpe May 9<sup>th</sup> and 3 apparently unringed birds flew into Sennowe Park from the north May 17<sup>th</sup> and departed north after 15 minutes.  
One to two present Welney WWT on numerous dates Jan 4<sup>th</sup> to Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

**OYSTERCATCHER (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus***  
**Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Most important and consistently counted sites:

	<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	285	-	252	55	342	-	262	392	446	-	-	-
Ousemouth	730	-	32	26	83	-	22	-	20	-	-	-
Snettisham	5230	5416	3526	1090	1387	918	1895	7536	5114	5682	2676	577
Heacham	48	29	53	300	-	130	-	-	-	253	-	-
Holme	674	1375	866	217	219	222	396	224	1394	1587	1489	1079
Titchwell	303	252	596	348	292	154	199	389	300	474	724	729
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	650	510	610	512	445	284	541	699	603	720	470	420
Wells Hbr	700	361	97	108	296	167	261	131	464	463	-	414
Warham SM	760	487	-	-	212	-	53	325	593	410	-	235
Stiffkey SM	392	445	306	336	-	216	467	-	1051	408	349	211
Blakeney Hbr	323	493	369	547	412	415	739	817	696	1062	519	367
Breydon/Berney	5	35	92	132	59	37	90	19	8	5	1	-

*National importance (winter): 3600*

Additional counts elsewhere: Thornham Hbr 225 Sept and 139 Nov, Burnham Overy Harbour 100 March, Holkham Bay 142 March and 174 April and Morston 128 July, 146 Aug and 295 Nov.  
In spring birds noted departing eastwards on a number of dates, best count 37 east Scolt Head April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding data from 14 coastal/near-coastal sites (both grazing marsh and beach) totalling 392 pairs, including 35 Snettisham, 7 Holme, one Thornham Hbr, 21 Titchwell, 105 Scolt Head (30 young fledged), 4 Burnham Norton, 5 Burnham Overy, 32 Wells, 14 Stiffkey Binks, 19 Blakeney GM (4 young fledged), 124 Blakeney Point (35 young fledged), 7 Cley 7, 2 Kelling WM and 16 Berney (no young reared). Inland a total of 42 breeding pairs reported from 27 sites: 3 Chedgrave Marshes, 3 Dereham, Hanworth Common, 4 Hickling Broad, Hoveton Hall, Langham, Lynford Water, 2 Lyng/Sparham, Marlingford Mere, 2 Mautby, Nar Valley Fisheries, Oby, 2 Pentney GP,



Pentney Heath, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Roydon Common, Saxthorpe, Sculthorpe Airfield, Snetterton, 2 Sparham Pools, Stanford TA, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thurne, 2 Welney and 5 Wighton.

Westerly passage past coastal sites from mid-July to end Oct, best counts 140 Scolt Head, 171 Cley, 88 Sheringham and 136 Mundesley July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 60 Sheringham Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 64 Sheringham 8<sup>th</sup>, 26 Holme and 67 Scolt Head 30<sup>th</sup>, 45 Scolt Head Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 48 Holme 29<sup>th</sup> and 90 Holme Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

**AVOCET (Pied Avocet) *Recurvirostra avosetta***  
**Fairly common resident and summer visitor. Amber List.**

Monthly max at main sites:

	<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>
Ousemouth	-	50	-	48	106	100	-	30	-	-	-	-
Snettisham	-	30	98	236	118	161	172	202	22	2	-	2
Holme	-	9	38	27	28	31	11	6	6	1	-	-
Titchwell	11	110	138	132	138	192	269*	168	101	-	10	16
Holkham NNR	-	-	66	100	125	13	9	47	-	2	-	-
Stiffkey Fen	-	-	2	29	52	60	21	-	-	-	-	-
Blakeney GM	-	-	-	30	16	49	25	3	-	-	-	-
Cley	39	110	197	184	-	160	-	71	14	24	34	38
Salhouse	-	-	37	83	29	38	6	-	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	190	343	242	299	121	161	441	837	897	377	139	142
Welney	-	8	41	76	73	2	3	3	-	-	-	2

Peak counts elsewhere: *Feb* Lynn Point 30; *March* 53 Lynn Point; *April* 37 Stiffkey WM; *June* 56 Blakeney Hbr; *June* 17 Wissington BF; *July* 124 Terrington Marsh and 125 Lynn Point; *Aug* 147 Terrington Marsh and 146 Lynn Point.

Breeding data very incomplete with only 279 pairs reported from 9 sites: 67 Snettisham (25 fledged), 13 Holme (18 fledged), 30 Blakeney GM (6 fledged), 65 Holkham NNR, 20 Salhouse (2 broods fledged), 51 Berney (3 fledged), 1 Hardley Flood (flooded) and 32 Welney. Due to incomplete data, trends difficult to discern, however predation by Grey Herons continues at Cley. Trends since 1996 are shown below:

	<i>96</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>08</i>
Pairs	203	181	267	186	309	364	383	397	482	405	335	465	???
Sites	11	13	16	11	14	16	14	14	18	14	12	17	??

Small numbers reported inland away from breeding sites: Pentney GP April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 Ranworth Broad May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 13 Wissington BF 30<sup>th</sup>, 17 June 6<sup>th</sup> and 4 Aug 20<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers noted moving offshore: 2 south Eccles April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 south Hunstanton 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 west Sheringham May 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 west West Runton June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 west Scolt Head July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 west Sheringham Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 west Sheringham Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and 11 west Titchwell Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.



Avocet (Martin Woodcock)



**STONE-CURLEW (Eurasian Stone-curlew) *Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus***

**Fairly common summer visitor, almost exclusively to Brecks. Red List.**

At Hilborough seven over-wintering birds Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. In March early migrants Brettenham Heath 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 Great Cressingham 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 14<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> and Hilborough 30<sup>th</sup>.

In Norfolk Brecks 127 pairs fledged 71 young (0.55 young per pair), 11 pairs up on last year but fledging success slightly down though enough to maintain population. Away from Brecks 13 pairs fledged 6 young.

Elsewhere: Sutton Fen April 21<sup>st</sup>, Horsey 26<sup>th</sup>, Roydon Common May 1<sup>st</sup>, Salthouse 17<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne July 8<sup>th</sup> and Felthorpe heard shortly after dusk 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Autumn gatherings: 28 Great Cressingham Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, 31 Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 32 21<sup>st</sup>, 40 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30 23<sup>rd</sup> and 42 29<sup>th</sup>, 50 Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 23 13<sup>th</sup>, 45 24<sup>th</sup> and 23 25<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius curonicus***

**Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

First arrival as last year at Tottenhill GP March 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by singles Catfield Fen 26<sup>th</sup>, Cley, Earsham GP, Lyng-Easthaugh GP and Wissington BF 30<sup>th</sup> and Lynford Water 31<sup>st</sup>. In spring recorded at 29 sites (23 in 2007) including 4 Welney April 15<sup>th</sup>, 5 Pentney GP 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 Hardley Flood May 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 Swanton Morley 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Lynford Water 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 Costessey 19<sup>th</sup>. Visible migration recorded Paston April 9<sup>th</sup> and south Kelling WM May 12<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 18 breeding reports received from 10 sites: Blakeney Point, Costessey (1 fledged), 3 Lynford Water, 3 Marlingford Mere (1 chick June 1<sup>st</sup>), Nar Valley Fisheries, 3 Pentney GP (broods of 2 and 3, only 2 fledged), Sparham (none in area, the first time in 20 years), Stanford TA, 2 Stiffkey Fen (4 fledged), Swanton Morley GP and 2 Wissington BF. The Blakeney Point pair was a surprise return. As last year, these are low numbers though doubtless there is a degree of under-recording.

Post-breeding dispersal/autumn passage from early June, peak counts (3 or more birds): 8 Cley June 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 Breydon/Berney July 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 Cley 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 Cantley BF Aug 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 31<sup>st</sup>, 10 Cley 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 Hickling Broad 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 Holme 18<sup>th</sup> and 4 Titchwell 30<sup>th</sup>. Ones and twos remained to Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, with the last Cantley BF 27<sup>th</sup>. Migrants west Scolt Head June 28<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham 13<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>, south Hopton Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> and west Mundesley Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RINGED PLOVER (Common Ringed Plover) *Charadrius hiaticula***

**Nominate British, southern Scandinavian, Iceland and Greenland form a fairly common summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Northern Scandinavian and Russian form *tundrae* ('Tundra Ringed Plover') a fairly common passage migrant. Amber List (nominate) and Green List (*tundrae*).**

Most regularly counted sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	-	6	40	30	43	22	19	1532	154	8	-	-
Holme	42	30	81	46	64	49	30	259	222	176	76	20
Titchwell	42	37	9	9	-	14	19	27	132	77	75	31
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	57	122	117	151	368	320	145	925	885	220	60	35
Stiffkey	-	16	-	-	-	62	78	-	150	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr	125	-	110	77	133	58	62	265	214	202	85	70
Breydon/Berney	66	91	26	73	126	26	16	147	165	117	55	66
Cley	-	51	35	7	-	-	10	143	46	4	15	18

*National importance: 290 (winter), 300 (passage)*

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 64 Wells Hbr; *Feb* 41 Burnham Overy Hbr, 61 Wells Hbr; *Aug* 97 Warham; *Sept* 238 Wells Hbr; *Nov* 41 Beeston Regis (in clifftop fields); *Dec* 68 Burnham Overy Hbr.

Spring passage of smaller and darker birds from late May to mid-June, highest counts in May when 5 Ouse Washes 5<sup>th</sup>, 27 Welney 14<sup>th</sup>, 12 Buckenham 17<sup>th</sup>, 380 Scolt Head 16<sup>th</sup>, 21 Hickling Rush Hills 24<sup>th</sup>, 37 Wissington BF 27<sup>th</sup>, 79 Cley 28<sup>th</sup> and 34 Holme 31<sup>st</sup>.

Total of 160 breeding pairs reported from 11 sites, all coastal, including 17 Snettisham (5



young fledged), 20 Holme (5-10 young fledged), 7 Titchwell (8 young fledged), 70 Scolt Head (70 young fledged), 11 Holkham NNR, 11 Wells (6-8 young fledged), Stiffkey Binks, Blakeney GM, 13 Blakeney Point (6 young fledged), 7 Cley and 2 Weybourne. Also bred Eccles but poor success due to heavy predation by Magpies. Success at many sites was poor. At Holme early nests failed due to strong winds and sand blow as well as predation. Re-lays here had better hatching success but number of young surviving to fledging poor. At Scolt Head breeding numbers down 12% on past year as was success. As usual all suitable nests were caged but a number were still predated by Common Gulls. More worrying was the predation of 15-20 nesting adults by a single non-breeding Sparrowhawk from both caged and uncaged nests. A national survey in 2007 found an estimated 5291 pairs in Britain, with 1184 of these in England. With a current population of around 200-220 pairs, Norfolk therefore supports just over 4% of the British population and just under 20% of the English.

Largest westerly movements in autumn: 12 Hopton July 29<sup>th</sup>, 24 south Walcott Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, 11 Sheringham Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 15 Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup>, 16 Holme 29<sup>th</sup> and 87 Blakeney Point Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.

More inland than usual in autumn with 24 Hickling Broad Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, up to 34 Wissington BF Aug 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and 10 Sept 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 18 Hickling Rush Hills Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and 12 28<sup>th</sup>, 19 Welney Sept 6<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 Cantley BF, East Wretham Heath, Earsham GP and Pentney GP.

### **DOTTEREL (Eurasian Dotterel) *Charadrius morinellus***

**Scarce or very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

A good year. In spring 13 Acle Marshes April 26<sup>th</sup> and 5 Choseley same day, numbers at the latter site increasing to 15 27<sup>th</sup> (also 7 north), 8 28<sup>th</sup>, 11 29<sup>th</sup>, and 13 30<sup>th</sup>. In May 15 here 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 7 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and one 16<sup>th</sup>. In June a female Yarmouth North Denes 12<sup>th</sup>.

In autumn Scolt Head July 29<sup>th</sup>-Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, Holme Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 20<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy 13<sup>th</sup> and west 28<sup>th</sup>, Yarmouth 17<sup>th</sup>, Cley 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Salhouse Heath 2 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, west Titchwell Oct 19<sup>th</sup> and East Harling Heath 29<sup>th</sup>-Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.



Dotterel (*Richard Thewlis*)

### **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica***

**Very rare vagrant.**

A juv with Golden Plovers East Harling Oct 28<sup>th</sup>-Nov 13<sup>th</sup> (DEB, PMW *et al*). Not long ago this was a major rarity in the county with only two records prior to 2000. This is the fifth record since the turn of the century.



**GOLDEN PLOVER (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria***

**Common passage migrant and very common winter visitor. Amber List.**

Most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	2000	1250	800	-	2	960	1300	1270	1650	2000
Holme	640	1500	400	-	-	744	951	60	1800	700
Titchwell	5000	1290	-	-	56	530	648	-	620	2500
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	750	500	350	250	260	1100	1500	2500	200	1100
Blakeney GM/Hbr/Pt	1000	397	1000	-	60	150	600	1400	750	185
Cley	2500	1200	800	40	18	325	69	-	2000	2000
Breydon	15790	10137	1121	-	347	2300	2400	4200	13600	30800

*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.*

Elsewhere counts over 1000 in first winter period: 6275 Buckenham Marshes, 4400 Burnham Overy GM, 1800 East Ruston, 1500 Hoe, 1000 King’s Lynn, Stanford TA and Thornham Hbr, 2050 Ousemouth, 1500 Sculthorpe, 2000 St Benet’s Level and Welney and 2735 Terrington Marsh.

Counts over 1000 elsewhere in second winter period: 2000 Cantley and East Harling Heath, 4000 Hoe, 1835 Holkham NNR, 4000 Ousemouth, 1120 Swanton Morley and 1200 Welney.

Last of spring Holkham NNR May 24<sup>th</sup>. First returning birds 7 Titchwell June 21<sup>st</sup>. Highest counts in autumn: *July* 130 Terrington Marsh, 400 North Wootton, 48 Titchwell, 157 west Scolt Head 22<sup>nd</sup>, 60 Blakeney Hbr and 347 Breydon; *Aug* 2845 Terrington 17<sup>th</sup> and 53 west Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup>; *Sept* 3390 Wells Hbr 20<sup>th</sup>; *Oct* 507 west Titchwell 19<sup>th</sup>, 750 west Cley 24<sup>th</sup> and 419 west Sheringham Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. At Cley a ‘runt’ Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 2/3 size of others present, showing dark plumage but white underwings and a broken right leg.

**GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola***

**Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Most consistently counted sites:

	<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	90	603	103	810	583	28	240	489	-	-	-	-
Snettisham	1450	1500	-	23	1200	200	2530	-	1650	-	2016	196
Holme	146	238	379	377	119	2	50	60	560	545	236	151
Titchwell	11	247	104	70	65	-	1	239	492	140	57	92
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	364	245	235	248	445	21	30	288	400	310	205	160
Stiffkey SM	380	197	328	-	-	212	61	-	763	634	256	88
Blakeney Hbr/Pt	60	-	-	54	142	8	37	18	400	34	48	83
Breydon/Berney	53	82	47	11	31	1	1	5	4	3	16	26

*International importance (winter): 1500; National importance (winter): 430*

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 101 Thornham Hbr and 37 Beeston Regis; *Feb* 111 Wells Hbr; *Aug* 220 Ousemouth, 120 Brancaster Staithe and 83 Blakeney GM; *Sept* 223 Thornham Hbr and 70 Burnham Overy Staithe; *Oct* 43 Wells Hbr; *Nov* 357 Ousemouth; *Dec* 200 Heacham.

Visible spring movement May with 6 east Sheringham 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 south Hopton same day and 4 east Sheringham 26<sup>th</sup>. In June 200 Snettisham 8<sup>th</sup> and 212 Stiffkey also 8<sup>th</sup>. Visible autumn migration included: *Aug* 14 south Hopton 18<sup>th</sup> and 52 west Sheringham, 87 west Mundesley, 24 west Overstrand and 72 west Scolt Head, all 23<sup>rd</sup>; *Sept* 5 north Walcott 8<sup>th</sup>, 28 west and 27 west Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively; *Oct* 7 west Morston 17<sup>th</sup> and 17 west Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>.

Inland, a single winter record at Tibenham Feb16<sup>th</sup>. In spring Welney April 19<sup>th</sup>, Wissington BF 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, Welney May 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 4 8<sup>th</sup>, Rush Hills 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 22<sup>nd</sup> and 1 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Autumn records from Aylmerton Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 Wissington BF Sept 21<sup>st</sup> and Pentney GP Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.



**LAPWING (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus***  
**Fairly common, though declining, resident and very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.**

Most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Ousemouth	273	599	-	-	95	43	256	697	7153	122
Snettisham	1950	380	15	-	-	12	170	350	370	1018
Holme	1170	250	-	60	20	46	-	43	21	773
Titchwell	5000	420	8	-	-	79	319	-	444	1840
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr 8000	4050	62	11	465	-	545	-	60	450	4500
Holkham NNR	869	779	367	290	-	149	372	648	-	324
Blakeney GM/Hbr/Pt 400	212	111	78	7	26	17	145	875	-	110
Cley	2150	600	-	36	139	324	316	-	-	1500
Breydon/Berney	19050	16395	560	254	210	467	449	1395	8560	38700
Welney	3654	981	88	76	350	160	400	1198	643	265

***International and National importance (winter): 20,000***

Other counts over 1000: *Jan* 2000 Buckenham Marshes, 1200 Burnham Overy GM, 2000 East Ruston, 8000 North Wootton Marsh and 1020 Terrington Marsh; *Feb* 2000 Bittering, 1465 Cantley BF, 5000 Sculthorpe Airfield and 1800 St Benet’s Level; *Nov* 1000 Cantley; *Dec* 1200 Denver, 1800 East Harling Heath, 1500 East Ruston, 1000 Morston and 1400 St Benet’s Level.

Early spring movement 29 south Hunstanton Cliffs March 15<sup>th</sup> and 40 west Holme same day.  
In breeding season total of 532-535 pairs reported from 19 sites: *Wash* Snettisham, 19 Ken Hill; *North Coast* 30 Holme (min 9 fledged), 6-9 Burnham Deepdale, 210 Holkham NNR, 39 Blakeney GM, 7 Cley (21 fledged); *Broads* 4 Hickling Broad, 3 Stubb Mill, 8 Oby, 127 Berney; *Brecks* 5 Brettenham Heath, 18 Stanford TA (4 sites), Thetford; *Inland* Bittering, Courtyard Farm, 3 Heckingham, 7 Wighton, 3 Whey Curd Farm; *Fens* 39 Welney. Numbers slightly up at Holkham but down considerably at Welney, no doubt due to spring flooding.

In summer post-breeding movements; 12 Scolt Head June 4<sup>th</sup>, 117 17<sup>th</sup> and 27 18<sup>th</sup>, 33 west Holme 14<sup>th</sup> and 636 Scolt Head July 1<sup>st</sup> and 237 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Main autumn passage better than last year, all counts of 300+ included: *Oct* 804 west Cley 17<sup>th</sup>, 796 west (70 min) Titchwell and 354 south (2hrs) Hunstanton 30<sup>th</sup>; *Nov* 689 south (2hrs) Hunstanton 2<sup>nd</sup>, 330 south (2.5hrs) Hunstanton 7<sup>th</sup>, 482 west Holme and 400 west Blakeney GM 17<sup>th</sup>, 604 west Holme 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2200 west Holme 27<sup>th</sup>; *Dec* 407 west Holme 2<sup>nd</sup>, 345 west Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>, 609 west there 14<sup>th</sup> and 1010 west 18<sup>th</sup>.

**KNOT (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus***  
**Greenland and Canadian form *islandica* (‘Greenland Knot’) a very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Nominate Siberian form (‘Siberian Knot’) may also occur. Amber List.**

Monthly max at main sites:

	<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	4120	1260	4925	1253	1830	-	15	60	25	88	-	-
Snettisham	7050	18864	8710	12545	1500	1500	5000	30000	30625	31750	82000	3170
Holme	81	50	145	627	133	103	30	20000	58892	83400	80770	60
Titchwell	136	-	180	3	280	4	1	15	1521	50	30	20
Scolt/Brancaster H	1070	1000	240	85	500	550	107	125	465	120	85	200
Warham SM	108	-	-	-	-	45	196	26	-	70	-	1103
Wells Hbr	2700	1585	-	-	-	14	12	231	515	890	-	3625
Stiffkey SM	980	250	296	160	-	31	232	-	267	153	-	394
Blakeney Hbr	359	250	280	59	33	32	34	14	500	42	87	81
Breydon	187	285	109	31	25	14	15	22	34	7	38	143

***International importance (winter): 3500; National importance (winter): 2900***



Counts at Holme the highest for nearly two decades, the birds being forced out of The Wash by high spring tides.

Highest counts elsewhere: Ousemouth 150 Feb, 850 March and 500 Dec, North Wootton Marsh 2000 Jan, Thornham Hbr 103 Sept, Holkham Bay 252 March, 85 April and 91 Oct and Cley 49 June.

Inland records in spring Buckenham May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 16<sup>th</sup>, singles 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Rush Hills April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and Hickling Swim Coots May 2<sup>nd</sup>. In autumn inland records Cantley BF Sept 6<sup>th</sup> and Hickling Rush Hills Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and 5 18<sup>th</sup>.

Westerly coastal passage in autumn included at Scolt Head 45 July 18<sup>th</sup>, 191 19<sup>th</sup>, 138 20<sup>th</sup>, 167 22<sup>nd</sup>, 156 Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> and 83 14<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 84 Cley Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 42 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 50 Sheringham Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 108 Sheringham Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 40 Cley 14<sup>th</sup>, 332 Sheringham and 76 Cromer 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

Monthly max at main sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	140	45	10	33	1400	608	1040	832	183	83	56	8
Holme	71	62	172	204	220	23	439	116	155	111	71	15
Thornham	59	42	220	143	870	20	61	199	257	66	10	77
Titchwell	175	76	431	97	6	3	61	199	85	352	450	528
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	64	103	126	48	263	85	203	297	556	70	40	25
Holkham Bay	-	614	154	125	20	1	-	22	-	56	40	249
Wells Hbr	501	155	-	-	10	57	15	-	15	320	-	30
Blakeney Hbr	-	-	-	20	30	35	116	83	37	30	33	12
Breydon	5	4	3	7	8	-	1	6	1	-	-	2

*International importance: 1000 (winter); National importance: 230*

No improvement in numbers at Breydon, but strong spring passage through the north-west of county, especially at Snettisham and Thornham.

Best counts elsewhere: Heacham 70 June, Bunrham Overy Hbr 150 Sept and 150 Oct, Warham 39 Feb and Stiffkey 35 Aug.

Few records along the coast east of Cley with 14 Gorleston Jan 14<sup>th</sup> the best count.

Inland records few with singles Hickling Rush Hills May 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hickling Swim Coots May 18<sup>th</sup>, Pentney GP May 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Wissington BF May 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, one June 7<sup>th</sup>, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, and Cantley BF Aug 6<sup>th</sup>.

Westerly passage along coast stronger or better recorded than normal with 12 Sheringham July 16<sup>th</sup>, 41 Holme 17<sup>th</sup>, 95 Holme and 57 Scolt Head 18<sup>th</sup>, 68 Scolt Head 19<sup>th</sup> and 81 22<sup>nd</sup>, 64 Holme Sept 25<sup>th</sup> and 28 29<sup>th</sup>.

One at Thornham May 4<sup>th</sup> had been ringed in Ghana and was only the fourth recovery in Europe from here.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

**Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Green List.**

The recent over-wintering trend continued with one Cantley BF Feb 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> and presumed same Buckenham Marshes Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and Breydon March 1<sup>st</sup>.

First spring migrants Breydon April 20<sup>th</sup> and Welney 25<sup>th</sup>. Passage in May very light with total of just 20, including 3 Titchwell 21<sup>st</sup> and Cley 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, with 2 Salhouse 15<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hickling Rush Hills 22<sup>nd</sup> and Welney 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and singles Snettisham, Holkham GM and Buckenham Marshes. Last of spring 2 Cley June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 Titchwell 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and one Cley 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

Autumn passage underway from mid-July, when Titchwell 16<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Cley 17<sup>th</sup> building up to 7 by 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 Cantley BF 25<sup>th</sup> and one 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 Hickling Swim Coots 29<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased a little in Aug especially early in the month when 3 Snettisham, 3 Holme, 4 Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney Hbr, 12 Cley and singles Hickling Rush Hills and Wissington BF 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Apart from 12 Titchwell 20<sup>th</sup> and 5 west Weybourne 22<sup>nd</sup> few others during the rest of the month. Little change in numbers during



first half of Sept when 5 Cley 8<sup>th</sup> and 7 10<sup>th</sup> and 3 west Salhouse 7<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased from 12<sup>th</sup>, when during second half of month 8 Snettisham 18<sup>th</sup> and 18 20<sup>th</sup>, 12 Titchwell 14<sup>th</sup>, 13 16<sup>th</sup>, 14 20<sup>th</sup> and 12 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 Scolt Head 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 14 Cley 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and 12 29<sup>th</sup>, 12 Hickling Rush Hills 21<sup>st</sup>, 14 28<sup>th</sup> and 11 30<sup>th</sup> and 1-3 Terrington, Holme, Blakeney Point, Salhouse, Kelling WM, Breydon, Cantley BF, Strumpshaw and Welney. Numbers declined in Oct with 8 Snettisham 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 Hickling Rush Hills 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 Cley 17<sup>th</sup> and 5 Titchwell 28<sup>th</sup> and singles at 7 other sites. Late birds Welney Nov 12<sup>th</sup> and 3 Titchwell 30<sup>th</sup> and singles Salhouse Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cley 10<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

### TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

**Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring. Red List.**

Best spring passage since 2004 with total of around 38 birds in May: Titchwell 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 3 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Burnham Norton 5<sup>th</sup> and one 28<sup>th</sup>, 4 Holkham GM 7<sup>th</sup>, one Stiffkey Fen 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 3 8<sup>th</sup>, singles 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney GM 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 Cley 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 7<sup>th</sup>, up to 4 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and one 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 Salhouse 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and one 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, 2 Hickling Rush Hills 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, one Hickling Swim Coots 21<sup>st</sup> and 2 Buckenham Marshes 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

As usual very few in autumn: 2 Wissington BF Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 3<sup>rd</sup> and one Hickling Rush Hills 30<sup>th</sup>.

### WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

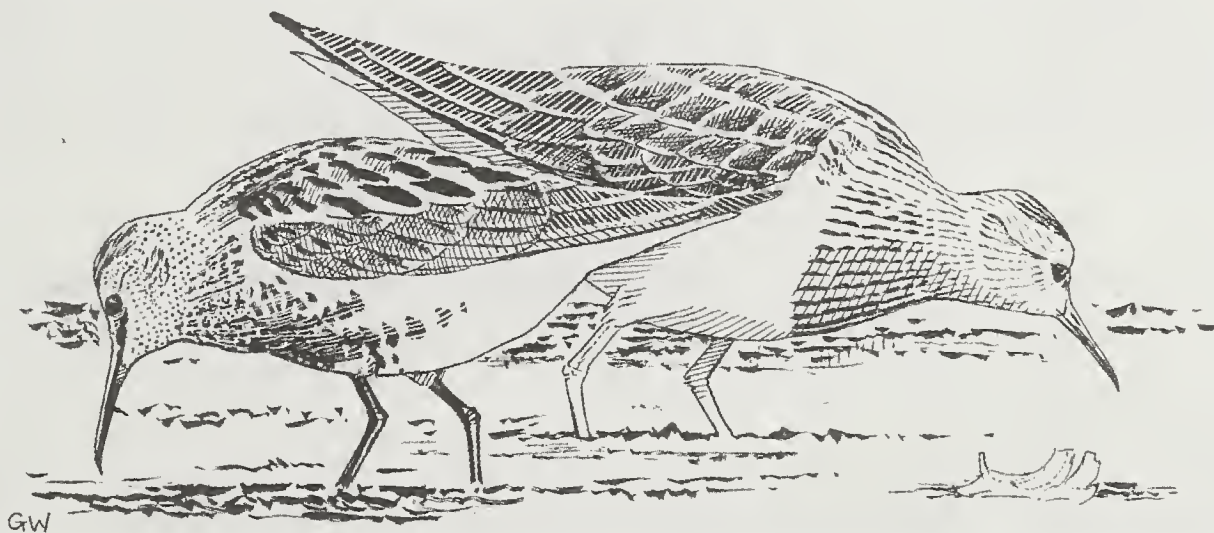
**Rare vagrant.**

Three records, all of adults. Cley July 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> (MO) with another there Aug 4<sup>th</sup> (JMcC) and another Titchwell Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> (DB).

### PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

**Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn.**

All 8-9 records in autumn: adult Cley July 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Hbr 24<sup>th</sup> (presumed same), Titchwell 28<sup>th</sup>-Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Yarmouth Beach 1<sup>st</sup>, juv Hickling Rush Hills Sept 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, with 2 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and one 14<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, juv Titchwell 12<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, Berney 14<sup>th</sup> and Snettisham 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.



Pectoral Sandpiper (Gary Wright)

### CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

**Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Green List.**

Spring passage very light totalling just a dozen individuals, most in May when up to 3 Titchwell on many dates, 3 Cley 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and singles Snettisham 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney GM 8<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Swim Coots 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and Breydon (no date). Last of spring Cley June 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage also very poor. First Cley 19<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 21<sup>st</sup> and 2 Breydon 23<sup>rd</sup>, with peak numbers during month 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> when 7 Titchwell, 8 Scolt Head, 6 Cley, 9 Breydon, 3 Wissington BF and single Hickling Swim Coots. Numbers only slightly higher Aug with first juvs appearing second half of month, best counts 9 Snettisham 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 Titchwell 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 Scolt Head 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Stiffkey 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Blakeney Hbr 1<sup>st</sup>, 21 Cley 1<sup>st</sup> (including flock of 18 in off sea), 10 Breydon 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12 3<sup>rd</sup> and up to 2 Brancaster



Hbr, Blakeney Point, Hickling Rush Hills, Welney and Wissington BF. Passage very poor Sept when best counts 4 Snettisham 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 4 Holme 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 Titchwell 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 Scolt Head 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 6 Blakeney Point 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 Cley 18<sup>th</sup>, 17 Breydon 15<sup>th</sup> and 1-3 Hickling Rush Hills and Welney. Few Oct when 4 Titchwell 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 Snettisham, Holme, Blakeney Point, Cley, Kelling WM, Weybourne and Hickling Rush Hills. Last of year up to 4 Titchwell Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

As usual main wintering sites along the north-east coast where in first winter period 5 Walcott Jan and one Feb-March, up to 16 Eccles Jan, 9 Feb, 9 March and 13 still late April, 9 Waxham Jan and 3 Feb, 2 Horsey and Winterton Feb and 3 Yarmouth Harbour mouth March. Elsewhere 1-2 Snettisham, Titchwell, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Morston and Sheringham Jan-April. Last of spring Snettisham May 4<sup>th</sup> and an injured bird with fishing line around legs Titchwell May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Four south Walcott Aug 20<sup>th</sup> were first of autumn, followed by singles Titchwell 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and Snettisham 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Very few Sept when only records singles Blakeney Point, Overstrand, Eccles and Walcott all 23<sup>rd</sup>. Slight improvement in numbers Oct when 3 Titchwell 21<sup>st</sup>, 4 west Cley 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 Sheringham 26<sup>th</sup> and 6 west 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Cromer 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 south Eccles 30<sup>th</sup> and singles Scolt Head and Salhouse. Noted almost daily Nov when 2 Snettisham and 3 Titchwell 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Cley 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 Sheringham 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 2 west 21<sup>st</sup>, 4 east Cromer 22<sup>nd</sup> and singles at four other sites. Few Dec when up to 4 Eccles and 2 Snettisham throughout, 2 east Mundesley 4<sup>th</sup> and singles Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and Horsey.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

**British, southern Norwegian, Icelandic and south-east Greenland form *schinzii* ('Southern Dunlin') a common passage migrant, north-east Greenland form *arctica* ('Greenland Dunlin') a passage migrant in unknown numbers. Scandinavian and Russian form *alpina* ('Northern Dunlin') a very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List (*arctica*), Amber List (*schinzii*) and Red List (*alpina*).**

Peak counts at main sites:

	<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	1960	3670	3245	-	1025	-	2466	540	699	7570	-	-
Ousemouth	80	-	230	-	750	-	80	400	101	70	600	4610
Snettisham	4260	2705	973	81	200	133	1018	10156	5419	5563	4014	172
Holme	217	425	411	80	13	-	58	93	74	1367	228	324
Titchwell	436	106	101	-	62	20	159	196	174	180	142	206
Scolt/Brancaster H	1800	890	844	450	435	45	265	641	556	460	620	580
Wells Hbr	634	1600	20	-	45	-	-	56	-	110	-	215
Warham SM	128	75	-	-	139	-	-	133	-	113	-	245
Stiffkey SM	480	464	227	-	-	32	199	-	188	294	415	119
Blakeney Hbr	325	213	-	72	80	16	271	363	67	150	243	~400
Cley	215	129	245	116	90	25	693	730	930	350	297	330
Breydon/Berney	3125	3870	2970	1222	810	4	420	189	391	773	2270	3960

***International importance (winter): 14,000; National importance (winter): 5300***

Elsewhere best coastal counts: Thornham 436 Jan and 202 Dec, Holkham GM 149 Jan and Burnham Overy Hbr 100 Sept, 120 Oct and 163 Dec.

Largest inland counts 35 Buckenham Marsh Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 56 Hickling Broad Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 35 Welney March 5<sup>th</sup>, 83 May 5<sup>th</sup> and 17 Oct 20<sup>th</sup> and 12 Wissington BF June 3<sup>rd</sup> with much smaller numbers at around a dozen additional sites.

Westerly passage over sea on many dates in autumn. Notable counts: 169 Holme July 15<sup>th</sup> and 100 Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 76 Scolt Head July 16<sup>th</sup>, 104 18<sup>th</sup>, 257 22<sup>nd</sup>, 69 Sept 10<sup>th</sup> and 67 12<sup>th</sup>, 80 Sheringham Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, 50 Eccles 30<sup>th</sup> and 74 Sheringham and 101 Cromer Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

An aberrant bird Breydon with all-white head, breast and flanks and black and grey-flecked upperparts Jan and at Titchwell a creamy leucistic bird Sept.



**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis*

Very rare vagrant.

One Stiffkey June 8<sup>th</sup> (RR) was the only record.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Red List.

Monthly peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	15	15	2	7	20	1	10	3	21	-	40	39
Titchwell	80	72	64	10	1	5	46	100	100	128	86	112
Holkham NNR	2	2	2	-	23	-	9	-	9	-	-	-
Stiffkey	-	-	-	4	4	-	20	20	3	-	-	-
Blakeney GM	2	15	12	8	2	-	-	7	5	11	6	19
Cley	51	41	36	9	6	5	37	80	88	40	45	62
Salthouse	4	13	7	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	12	-
Breydon/Berney	89	27	16	24	3	3	34	47	41	6	11	62
Buckenham/Cantley	6	30	19	-	-	-	25	35	36	21	10	7
Hickling Broad	1	7	9	7	-	66	47	93	84	46	-	-
Welney	2	2	9	42	18	1	16	24	45	20	8	8

*National importance (winter): 50*

Core wintering areas Titchwell, Cley/Salthouse, Breydon/Berney and Buckenham/Cantley.

Wandering birds from these sites probably accounted for most other winter records and most of the following additional winter counts: Thornham Farms 6 Jan and 15 Feb, Brancaster Hbr 25 Nov and 20 Dec, Kelling WM 4 Feb, Potter Heigham 8 March and Ten Mile Bank 3 Jan.

Spring passage poor, with only counts away from tabulated sites 11 Kelling WM April 9<sup>th</sup> and 4 Horsey 20<sup>th</sup>. Last in spring Titchwell June 12<sup>th</sup> with returning birds a couple of weeks later at Titchwell and Welney 24<sup>th</sup> and at 3 other sites by the month end.

Strong autumn passage when elsewhere 4 Brancaster Hbr Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 Kelling WM Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 51 Waxham Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 62 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 14 Wissington BF July 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 15 Aug 7<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and 4 Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and 1-3 Terrington Marsh, Ousemouth, Snettisham, Scolt Head, Felbrigg and Pentney GP. Also in autumn 2 north Walcott Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Scolt Head Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and 23 east Overstrand Sept 20<sup>th</sup>.

**JACK SNIBE** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Very few in first winter period: up to 4 Boughton Fen Feb 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 3 Buxton Heath Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 Algarsthorpe, Blakeney GM, Brancaster Thomspn Farms, Breydon, Buckenham Marshes, Burnham Overy Harbour, Colney Pits, Foulden, Hickling Broad, Hickling Rush Hills, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, Kelling WM, Lynford Water, Stanford TA, Sparham, Sutton Fen, Thetford Nunnery Flood, Walcott, Wells SM, Weybourne and Wissington BF.

Virtually all had departed by the end of March with last of spring Winterton March 24<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Rush Hills 27<sup>th</sup>, Fleggburgh Burgh Common 30<sup>th</sup> and Gooderstone April 3<sup>rd</sup>. One observer commented that the winter of 2007/08 had been the poorest he could remember for this species, with none seen at several localities that had regularly held birds in recent winters.

First returning birds Blakeney Point Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Rush Hills Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, Sutton Fen 11<sup>th</sup> and Strumpshaw 12<sup>th</sup>. Birds continued to arrive throughout Oct but only in very small numbers with 4 Strumpshaw 17<sup>th</sup> and singles Blakeney Point, Earsham GP, Holkham, Holme, Paston and Wissington BF during rest of month. The very poor year continued during the final two months with 3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and Roydon Common Dec 13<sup>th</sup> and singles Breydon/Berney, Burnham Deepdale, Buxton Heath, Claxton Marshes, Earsham GP, Hoe Rough, Salthouse, Sprowston, Strumpshaw, Titchwell, Warham Greens, Whitlingham CP, Welney and Wolterton.





Jack Snipe (*Gary Wright*)

**SNIFE (Common Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago gallinago***

**Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant and scarce and declining breeder. Amber List.**

A very poor year with very few counts above 30 in either of the winter periods or the autumn. In first winter period/early spring counts above 30 from just 9 sites: *Jan* 33 Algarsthorpe, 150 Burnham Overy Hbr and 85 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr; *Feb* 54 Algarsthorpe, 34 Blakeney GM, 40 Nar Valley Fisheries, 67 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 30 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; *March* 81 Hickling Rush Hills and 57 Martham Ferry; *April* 59 Holkham GM.

Drumming birds reported from 11 sites, including 20 Welney, 5 Berney, 3 Holkham GM, Buckenham Marshes and Roydon Common and singles Holme, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy GM, Blakeney GM, Cley and Grimston Warren. Low numbers at Welney probably due to incomplete survey but note the low number elsewhere especially along the north Norfolk Coast.

Westerly/southerly passage over coastal sites in autumn mid-July-mid Nov, best sites Holme where 25 Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 25 Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 36 Oct 26<sup>th</sup> and 26 Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head where 99 Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 41 17<sup>th</sup>, 35 31<sup>st</sup>, 63 Sept 10<sup>th</sup> and 63 12<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 19 west Titchwell Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 west Sheringham 20<sup>th</sup> and 11 Blakeney GM Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.

Counts of over 30 in autumn/second winter period: *Aug* Cley 36 and Holme 50; *Sept* Cantley BF 50, Hickling Broad 35 and Welney 70; *Nov* 30 Sparham, 50 Titchwell and 30 Welney; *Dec* 31 Breydon, 61 Holme, 74 Titchwell and 33 Wells Hbr.

**WOODCOCK (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola***

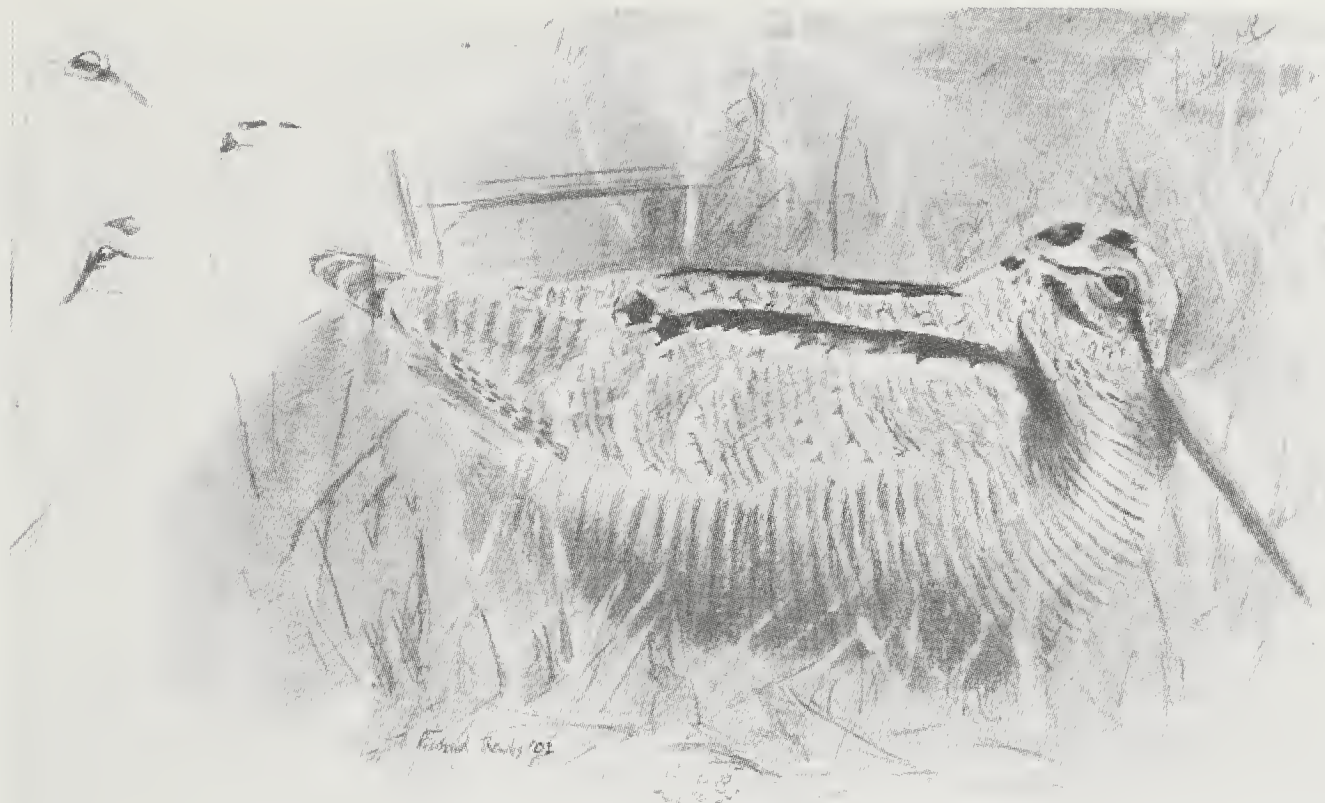
**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and scarce breeder. Amber List.**

Widespread in both winter periods, peak counts Brancaster Thompson Farms where 44 Jan, 40 Nov 24<sup>th</sup> and 60 Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. Elsewhere 14 Sparham Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 Holkham GM Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 8 Calthorpe Broad Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and Castle Rising Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Wolferton Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 Ringstead Courtyard Farm Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, Blakeney GM Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and Grimston Sugar Fen Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4 Felbrigg Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tivetshall Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Roding birds reported from total of 26 sites, with spring/summer records from a further 18 sites which no doubt also held breeding birds. Roding birds: 2 Barton Broad, Barton Turf Fen, 2 Buxton Heath, 2 Catfield Fen, 7 Cockley Cley Wood (Beechamwell), Congham, East Winch Common, 5 Great Hockham, Grimston Warren, 2 Hilborough, 3 Holt Lowes, Honing Lock, Hoveton Broad, 3 Ken Hill Wood, Potter Heigham, Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh, Repps-with-Bastwick, Sculthorpe, Smallburgh, Snettisham, South Walsham, Sutton Fen, 2 Syderstone Common/Coxford Heath, Thursford, Upton Fen and Woodbastwick.

Autumn passage mid-Oct to mid-Nov, with small influx mid-Oct and much larger arrival early Nov. In Oct 1-2 Brancaster, Holkham, Blakeney Point, Cley, Salhouse, Sheringham and Waxham 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> with several in off sea. Main arrival Oct 31<sup>st</sup>-Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> when 10 Holme, 5 Scolt Head, 2 Burnham Deepdale, 2 Burnham Norton, 3 Burnham Overy Dunes, 3 Holkham, 15 Wells East Hills, 9 Warham, 7 Stiffkey, 15 Blakeney Point, 3 Weybourne, 3 Beeston Regis, 5 Trimingham, 4 Eccles, 3 Waxham, 5 Winterton, 3 Hemsby, 2 Yarmouth and singles at 8 other coastal sites.





Woodcock (*Richard Thewlis*)

### BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Icelandic form *islandica* ('Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit') a fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Nominate European and British form a very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List (*islandica*) and Red List (*limosa*).

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	-	-	-	93	-	45	520	701	45	1	-	-
Holme	2	6	8	13	22	14	11	42	22	36	11	5
Titchwell	18	13	24	18	51	321	140	175	139	109	40	9
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	70	100	55	180	126	52	250	355	260	85	40	25
Burnham Overy Hbr	-	-	7	-	30	60	30	19	-	25	-	-
Holkham NNR	-	19	7	49	110	84	48	109	-	-	-	168
Stiffkey Fen/SM	-	3	-	47	47	-	2	4	-	-	134	98
Blakeney Hbr/GM	80	110	37	52	74	27	21	59	22	350	210	20
Cley	177	151	131	65	34	109	160	348	350	462	450	253
Salthouse/Kelling	-	5	-	13	30	18	4	74	-	-	10	-
Hickling Broad	1	36	-	9	29	-	27	34	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	2283	602	421	412	88	79	457	692	1190	421	1623	2677
Buckenham/Cantley	19	112	144	-	14	6	62	57	-	-	-	-
Welney	300	700	87	427	40	43	20	23	-	10	6	529

*International importance (winter): 700; National importance (winter): 70*

Dec count at Breydon/Berney yet another site record. Elsewhere highest counts: Terrington Marsh 37 July, Ousemouth 84 Aug, Brancaster Thompson Farms 30 Sept, Wells Hbr 31 Nov, Claxton Marshes 600 Feb and Ouse Washes 25 Feb. Additional inland records: 7 Pentney GP May 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 June 22<sup>nd</sup> and one Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 South Walsham Marsh June 22<sup>nd</sup>, up to 58 Wissington BF Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and 8 west Langham during snow storm Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Movement between many sites, especially on north coast, clouded any more long distance movements, but more noteworthy ones 41 west Holme June 27<sup>th</sup>, 150 south Hunstanton Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 80 west Weybourne and 28 west Overstrand 4<sup>th</sup> and 18 high west Whitlingham CP 15<sup>th</sup>.

As usual the vast majority of records referred to the form *islandica*, however small numbers of nominate birds also reported, notably at Cley June 6<sup>th</sup>-Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, where 9 individuals June and 7 July including 2 juvs from 10<sup>th</sup> and one juv until Aug 8<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 10 Holme May 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 4<sup>th</sup> and juvs Scolt Head July 27<sup>th</sup>, Aug 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 Aug 28<sup>th</sup>. Three pairs of the nominate form bred at the usual site, with at least one brood of young seen late May.



**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica lapponica*

**Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Monthly max at main sites:

	<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>
Snettisham	1480	2330	2104	84	-	150	150	2000	2500	1812	2200	2300
Holme	305	350	714	252	7	-	50	137	1000	1060	635	311
Titchwell	670	295	462	-	14	3	40	372	1243	713	209	243
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	485	400	220	130	34	25	97	235	181	170	120	220
Stiffkey SM	506	147	279	113	-	1	4	73	116	230	375	205
Blakeney Hbr	-	90	30	80	13	14	8	14	400	13	107	163
Breydon	72	75	47	54	26	-	14	14	6	3	19	62

*International importance (winter): 1000; National importance (winter): 530*

Additional counts elsewhere: Terrington Marsh 360 Jan, 243 March and 174 Oct, Ousemouth 830 Jan, 200 April and 210 Dec, Heacham 40 April and 30 Oct, Thornham Hbr 130 Jan, 22 Sept and 220 Dec, Burnham Overy Hbr 46 Oct, Wells 400 Jan, 299 Feb and 220 Dec and Hopton 14 July.

Coastal movement in spring: 15 west Scolt Head May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24 east 4<sup>th</sup>. Autumn movements west past coastal sites on many dates July-Nov, including 5 Scolt Head June 29<sup>th</sup>, 33 Cley July 16<sup>th</sup>, 24 Holme 19<sup>th</sup>, 11 Sheringham 21<sup>st</sup>, 101 Scolt Head and 47 Cley 22<sup>nd</sup>, 28 Scolt Head Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 23 Cley Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 112 Scolt Head and 24 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 20 Holme 25<sup>th</sup> and 30 Sheringham and 64 Mundesley Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Tidal movement at Holme during Sept and Oct peaked at 2629 Sept 17<sup>th</sup> and 4700 Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, all birds leaving or returning to The Wash from roosts at Titchwell/Thornham.

Most inland records April 20<sup>th</sup> when 30 east Choseley, 180 Hickling Rush Hills (30 on scrape and 150 east in two groups) and 31 north-east Wicklewood. Only other inland birds 8 north Langham Mar 27<sup>th</sup>, Brograve Level April 15<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Swim Coots May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 Buckenham Marshes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3 6<sup>th</sup> and one Welney 8<sup>th</sup>.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

**Fairly common passage migrant. Red List.**

Peak counts of grounded/feeding flocks at main sites:

	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Snettisham	5	-	1	6	1
Holme	10	19	19	25	6
Titchwell	7	20	16	15	2
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	27	39	51	28	2
Holkham NNR	24	33	10	-	-
Stiffkey	11	1	1	3	-
Blakeney Hbr/Point	50	18	44	76	13
Cley	7	9	2	8	2
Hickling Rush Hill/Broad	75	77	3	15	-
Breydon/Berney	60	8	20	8	5

*National importance (passage): 50*

One east Sheringham Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> was the only winter record and the first for some time.

First of spring west Kelling WM March 26<sup>th</sup>, Ingoldisthorpe 29<sup>th</sup>, Breydon April 6<sup>th</sup>, Welney 8<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Swim Coots 9<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup> and Holme and Scolt Head 11<sup>th</sup>.

Records of feeding groups from many other coastal/near coastal sites in April including 18 Brograve Level 15<sup>th</sup>, 40 Somerton Holmes 24<sup>th</sup>, 32 Horsey 26<sup>th</sup>, 12 Sea Palling 27<sup>th</sup> and smaller numbers at a dozen other sites.

Inland records from many sites in spring, best counts in April 6 east Ormesby and Rollesby 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 Feltwell Anchor 25<sup>th</sup> and 8 Colney Pits, 7 Leziate Ashwicken Heath, 6 Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 5 Welney 26<sup>th</sup>. Similar numbers May when 6 north-west Barton Broad 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Nar Valley Fisheries



and 13 Wormegay 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 Potter Heigham 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 Wissington BF and 16 Wormegay 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 Cantley 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 north Sutton Fen 7<sup>th</sup> and smaller numbers at 6 other sites.

Best overhead movements in spring 19 west Titchwell 16<sup>th</sup>, 34 west Scolt Head and 7 west Cromer 24<sup>th</sup>, 16 west 5 east Scolt Head and 8 north Winterton 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 north Horsey 28<sup>th</sup> and 5 north Yarmouth May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Records from 8 sites June, with spring and autumn movements overlapping, best counts 9 Blakeney Point 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 Cley 26<sup>th</sup> and 7 west Scolt Head 29<sup>th</sup>.

Additional feeding flocks in autumn 10 Cantley BF July 18<sup>th</sup>, 35 Terrington Marsh 19<sup>th</sup>, 34 Ousemouth and 7 Warham 20<sup>th</sup>, 17 Ousemouth Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and 11 Warham 13<sup>th</sup>.

As usual good numbers overhead during autumn, highest counts (west unless stated): *July* 60 Cley 8<sup>th</sup>, 14 Sheringham 19<sup>th</sup>, 35 Scolt Head, 58 Cley, 40 Sheringham and 49 Mundesley 22<sup>nd</sup>, 15 Holme 26<sup>th</sup>, 14 Weybourne 27<sup>th</sup> and 39 Scolt Head 28<sup>th</sup>; *Aug* 17 south Yarmouth 1<sup>st</sup>, 82 Scolt Head 14<sup>th</sup>, 61 15<sup>th</sup> and 36 23<sup>rd</sup> and 32 Holme and 15 Blakeney 28<sup>th</sup>.

Very few inland in autumn with one over East Barsham July 26<sup>th</sup> and 4 Kelling Heath 29<sup>th</sup>, and in Aug singles Welney 8<sup>th</sup>, Repps-with-Bastwick 10<sup>th</sup>, Hardley Flood 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cantley BF 23<sup>rd</sup> and 9 over Kelling Heath 28<sup>th</sup>, and in Sept 2 north Welney 14<sup>th</sup> and one Brancaster Thompson Farms 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Few remained in Oct when 1-2 Scolt Head, Blakeney Point and Terrington Marsh until mid-month, after which 4 Scolt Head and one Blakeney Point 18<sup>th</sup> and last of year Holme 19<sup>th</sup>.

**CORRECTION:** The Whimbrel text for 2007 should read as follows:-

*'First of year Haddiscoe Island March 14<sup>th</sup>, but no others for nearly a month until Holme April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 Titchwell 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 Blakeney Point 13<sup>th</sup> and 3 Scolt Head and singles Titchwell, Winterton and Leziate Ashwick Fen 14<sup>th</sup>.*

*Additional feeding flocks in spring included 68 Brograve Levels and 60 Hickling Rush Hills April 25<sup>th</sup>, 20 Horsey May 6<sup>th</sup>, 16 Wells East Hills May 4<sup>th</sup> and 8 Winterton 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*Best overhead counts in spring: 59 north 29 south Winterton April 14<sup>th</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup> including 12 north May 10<sup>th</sup>, 24 west 5 east Scolt Head and 10 west Kelling WM 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 west Sheringham 27<sup>th</sup>, 25 north Scolt Head May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12 west 10<sup>th</sup> and 14 northeast Blakeney Point 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*Inland records during spring Stowbridge April 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 27<sup>th</sup>, Buckenham and south Felbrigg 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 Ludham Bridge 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 west East Barsham and 2 Colney 30<sup>th</sup>, one Colney May 1<sup>st</sup>, one Buckenham, 12 Nar Valley Fisheries, one over Norwich and 12 Wormegay 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Kelling Heath 6<sup>th</sup>, 5 Roydon Common 10<sup>th</sup> with 12 north there 9<sup>th</sup> and 4 west Ringstead Courtyard Farm 26<sup>th</sup>.*

*Spring passage in June until 17<sup>th</sup> with best counts 7 west Holme 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 Blakeney Point 8<sup>th</sup>, 4 Scolt Head 12<sup>th</sup> and 1-3 Titchwell and Breydon. First returning birds west Holme 23<sup>rd</sup>, Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Sheringham 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 Cley 27<sup>th</sup> and one Breydon 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*Peak westerly movements in autumn: 16 Holme, 35 Scolt Head and 26 Cley July 21<sup>st</sup>, 56 Titchwell 25<sup>th</sup>, 18 Holme and 43 Scolt Head Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 60 Titchwell 7<sup>th</sup>, 50 Holme and 52 Scolt Head 9<sup>th</sup>, 19 Holme, 27 Titchwell, an exceptional 263 Scolt Head and 170 Cley 10<sup>th</sup>, 55 Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup>, 64 24<sup>th</sup> and 53 Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. Also 28 south Hopton Aug 19<sup>th</sup> and total of 122 south 10 north Winterton July 10<sup>th</sup>-Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, with peaks of 39 July 21<sup>st</sup>, 24 Aug 21<sup>st</sup> and 21 Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> (all south). Inland records during autumn Swanton Morley Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, Norwich Airport 20<sup>th</sup> and Sharrington 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Small numbers Oct when singles Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup>, Holme and Burnham Overy Dunes 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 6<sup>th</sup> and one 10<sup>th</sup>, and last Blakeney Hbr and Titchwell 14<sup>th</sup>.*



**CURLEW (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata arquata***

**Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Monthly max at main sites:

	<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	133	527	65	150	-	-	2100	1500	707	800	-	-
Ousemouth	53	56	18	30	-	-	599	180	324	164	111	143
Snettisham	930	390	232	24	35	30	251	455	1560	390	250	510
Holme	280	168	130	180	25	23	80	217	365	115	145	78
Thornham	61	71	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Titchwell	156	137	137	190	-	-	85	36	87	85	101	105
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	760	1213	535	579	60	250	1713	955	1109	665	610	660
Holkham NNR	281	254	169	-	-	-	30	23	74	113	-	168
Warham SM	45	113	-	24	-	-	73	20	78	81	30	35
Wells Hbr	226	184	-	-	-	-	82	50	111	54	-	50
Stiffkey SM	44	72	81	56	-	33	18	124	140	109	109	-
Blakeney GM	56	100	150	18	-	-	-	16	47	30	55	83
Blakeney Hbr	108	-	193	44	34	102	368	350	186	366	86	45
Cley	85	-	-	4	-	1	9	42	9	5	55	-
Breydon/Berney	1031	819	799	208	12	32	371	798	919	657	432	913

*International importance (winter): 3500; National importance (winter): 1200*

Highest counts elsewhere: Heacham 190 Jan, 363 Feb, 125 March and 90 Oct, Morston 132 Sept, Kelling 60 March, Hickling Rush Hills 26 Jan, Buckenham 120 Marshes Feb and 37 March, Cantley BF 125 Jan and 87 Feb.

Noisy flocks noted departing north-east on fine days during the spring, with 20 Hunstanton April 24<sup>th</sup>, 85 Holme 23<sup>rd</sup>, 123 Scolt Head 20<sup>th</sup>, 263 21<sup>st</sup>, 160 22<sup>nd</sup>, 74 23<sup>rd</sup> and 35 May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Return passage west along coast from mid-June, with best counts: *June* 33 Scolt Head 17<sup>th</sup>, 126 Cley 25<sup>th</sup>, 171 Scolt Head, 181 Sheringham and 30 south Hopton 29<sup>th</sup> and 114 Sheringham 30<sup>th</sup>; *July* 365 Scolt Head 1<sup>st</sup> and 169 2<sup>nd</sup>, 48 Hopton 5<sup>th</sup> and 199 Scolt Head and 71 Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup>; *Aug* 60 Holme 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Flocks once again reported regularly from inland feeding sites, mostly on stubble and set-aside, all returning to the coast to roost, though on nights of full moons many remaining inland to feed. Best counts: Baconsthorpe 16 Feb, Brancaster Thompson Farms 50 Jan, 100 Feb, 80 March, 60 April, 40 Aug, 60 Oct and 70 Dec, East Winch 65 April, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 39 April and 48 Nov, Roydon Common 61 Nov, Sandringham 50 Nov and Dec, West Walton 52 March and Wolferton 80 April.

Breeding pairs: 18 Stanford TA, 4-5 Brettenham Heath, 2 Roydon Common and another on land to north of there.

**COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos***

**Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

First of the year Pentney GP April 13<sup>th</sup> followed by reports from 50 localities until end of May (24 sites in both 2007 and 2006). Daily sightings of 1-5 with two larger influxes evident in larger counts: First May 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> produced 15 Sheringham (east) 7<sup>th</sup>, 11 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 10 Stiffkey Fen 8<sup>th</sup> (10 still 9<sup>th</sup>) with second influx May 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> with 8 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 Yarmouth (north) 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Holkham NNR 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 25<sup>th</sup> and 17 Titchwell 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition peak count of 12 Breydon/Berney on unspecified date in May.

Passage trickled into early June with singles at both Breydon and Heigham Sound 11<sup>th</sup> possibly the last but erratic sightings at Titchwell throughout June suggest oversummering.

Autumn commenced with an additional bird at Titchwell and one How Hill June 24<sup>th</sup> before gradual build up in July with frequent sightings from both coastal and inland localities. As usual larger return passage with many double-figure counts: *July* 14 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 20<sup>th</sup>, 23 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 25<sup>th</sup>, 19 Felbrigg and 11 Holme 28<sup>th</sup> and 10 Stiffkey Fen 31<sup>st</sup>; *Aug* 11 Cley



1<sup>st</sup> and Wissington BF 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and Overstrand 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 Cley 15<sup>th</sup>, 15 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 17<sup>th</sup> and 11 Breydon/Berney on unspecified date.

Still widespread in first half of Sept and sightings through to month end but Oct produced just singles at Titchwell 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Two reports in second winter period, typically on isolated dates: Nar Valley Fisheries Dec 11<sup>th</sup> and King's Lynn Docks 25<sup>th</sup>.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*  
**Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

Further increase in wintering numbers with records from 36 localities in first winter period (21 in 2007, 22 in 2006). As usual most wintered singly on discrete freshwater streams/ponds and recorded on isolated dates with 2 Hempstead, Sustead and Cantley BF and max 3 Burnham Thorpe Jan 8<sup>th</sup>.

Light spring passage may have begun with single Blackborough End Tip March 29<sup>th</sup> and peaked at 3 Wissington BF April 16<sup>th</sup> and 4 Hickling 22<sup>nd</sup> but all other sightings of 1-2 birds. As always an early migrant, the last Holme May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Single Cley May 28<sup>th</sup> likely to be first returning bird but no others until June 8<sup>th</sup> when present at both Stiffkey Fen and Cantley BF. The settling pools of the latter site remain the premier site for this species on autumn migration. Monthly peaks at most frequently counted localities:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Holme	-	10	11	4	-
Holkham NNR	7	16	14	2	-
Cley	2	23	15	1	-
Hickling	2	7	25	10	-
Cantley BF	4	53	44	8	3
Wissington BF	11	23	20	8	1

Elsewhere widespread reports of small numbers and just one double-figure count: 12 Stiffkey WM July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Swift withdrawal in late Sept-Oct with peak count of 3 Cantley BF Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> preparing to winter on site. Nov/Dec reports from 23 mostly inland sites, most solitary individuals as usual but 2 at both Cantley BF and Cantley Marshes plus peaks of 3 Earsham GP Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and Whitlingham STW Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*  
**Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

Numbers again present in first winter period at traditional localities of Holme-Burnham Norton (14 Jan, 10 Feb, 15 March), Cley-Kelling WM (4 Jan, 2 Feb/March) and Breydon/Berney (3 Jan, 5 Feb, 3 March).

Light spring passage commenced Stiffkey WM March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Winterton 30<sup>th</sup> with peaks of 20 Titchwell April 6<sup>th</sup> and 6 Breydon/Berney on unspecified date in April the only counts of more than 3 birds. As usual coastal sites dominated with only Hickling, Barton Broad, Welney and Wissington BF hosting inland birds. Passage continued into early May with 5 Titchwell 1<sup>st</sup> the last notable count. As always, the end of spring migration season difficult to ascertain but a single Blakeney GM May 8<sup>th</sup> was perhaps the last.

A newly-arrived bird Hickling May 18<sup>th</sup> was followed by 3 others before month end. Monthly peak counts at favoured localities during autumn passage:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	4	8	46	43	12
Thornham/Titchwell	12	27	28	27	26
Blakeney-Salthouse	3	13	15	12	11
Breydon/Berney	1	1	5	6	8

Elsewhere scarcer with 1-4 at Terrington Marsh, Holme, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Burnham



Overy Hbr, Holkham NNR, Stiffkey SM, Kelling WM, Weybourne, West Runton, Eccles, Hickling, Yarmouth, Cantley BF and Welney.

No sightings away from traditional areas after Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, but small winter population back at Holme-Titchwell (15 Nov, 11 Dec), Cley/Salthouse (3 Nov/Dec) and Breydon/Berney (3 Nov, 2 Dec)

**GREENSHANK (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia***

**Scarce passage migrant. Green List.**

Present in the county throughout the year with wintering now well-established. Records in first winter period from Holme-Burnham Deepdale (3 Jan-March), Morston/Blakeney (1 Jan and March) and Breydon/Berney (2 Jan/Feb, 1 March) with an additional report from Holkham Park Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.

A slight increase in sightings in early April the first indication of spring but one Sutton Fen April 8<sup>th</sup> the first bird at a ‘new’ site. Numerous reports of 1-5 birds at both coastal and inland sites during protracted spring passage and peak counts suggesting three influxes: 8 Welney April 26<sup>th</sup> and 6 both Hickling and Cley 28<sup>th</sup>; 10 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 8 Titchwell May 8<sup>th</sup> with 10 Titchwell (west) and 6 Stiffkey Fen next day; 8 Holme May 24<sup>th</sup> and still 7 there 26<sup>th</sup> plus max of 10 Breydon/Berney on unspecified date in May. Passage dropped away in late May with few birds lingering into early June.

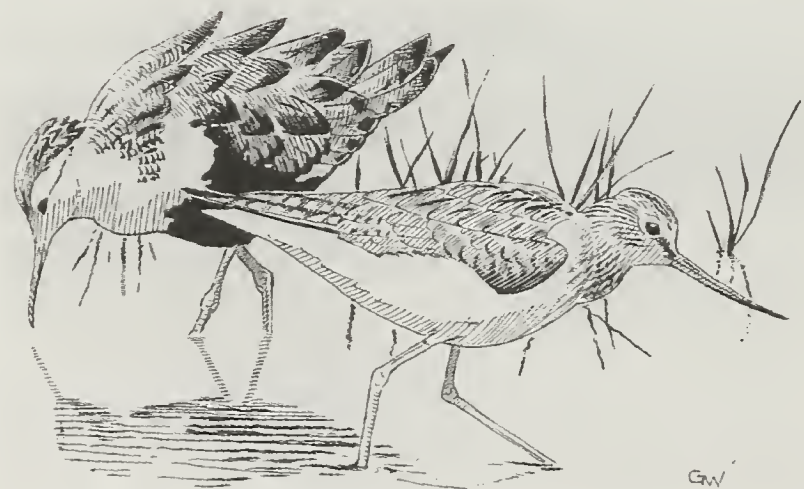
Continued presence at Holme throughout June makes beginning of autumn passage difficult to determine but 3 Titchwell June 15<sup>th</sup> likely to be first returning birds.

Monthly peaks at most frequently counted key sites:

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Terrington/Ousemouth	24	25	9	2
Snettisham	31	25	25	3
Holme	2	7	15	1
Thornham/Titchwell	21	12	16	5
Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr	49	20	23	10
Warham/Stiffkey	3	20	4	2
Blakeney	10	5	7	2
Cley/Salthouse	12	14	15	12
Hickling	3	6	6	-
Breydon/Berney	10	9	5	1
Cantley BF	6	6	1	-
Buckenham/Strumpshaw	6	-	5	-
Welney	2	7	5	1
Wissington BF	-	11	2	-

Small numbers widespread elsewhere but no other double-figure counts and largest movement 9 Sea Palling Aug 17<sup>th</sup>.

Obvious drop in numbers during second half of Oct and lingering birds included 1 Breydon Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> not seen subsequently. During Nov/Dec wintering population re-established at Holme-Brancaster (3 Nov, 1 Dec), Warham/Stiffkey (Nov) and Blakeney/Cley (3 Nov, 1 Dec).



Greenshank (*Gary Wright*)





*Top; Green Woodpecker - a common resident. (Neil Bowman)*

*Bottom; an exhausted migrant Long-eared Owl at Stiffkey. (Ashley McElwee)*





*Top left; Barn Owl at Wacton Common. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Top right; Short-eared Owl. (Tony Howes)*

*Middle left; Stock Dove. (Neil Bowman)*

*Middle right; Hoopoe at Stiffkey. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom; European Bee-eater at Northrepps. (left; Rob Lee, right; Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top; Black Lark at Winterton - the first county record. (both; Mike Lawrence)*

*Middle; Shore Larks at Cley. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom left; this Grey Wagtail nested at Selbrigg Pond. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom right; Water Pipit at Cley. (Bob Cobbold)*





*Top; this Richard's Pipit over-wintered at Terrington St Clement. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom left; a Spring Tawny Pipit at Waxham. (Julian Thomas)*

*Bottom right; Tree Pipit on Kelling Heath. (John Miller)*



**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** *Tringa flavipes*

**Very rare vagrant.**

Adult Cley June 24<sup>th</sup>-July 7<sup>th</sup> (JM, AJLS *et al*). This, the sixth since 2001, continues the good run of this species in the new century.

**MARSH SANDPIPER** *Tringa stagnatilis*

**Very rare vagrant.**

A juv Hickling Rush Hills Aug 18<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> (AJK). This is the first record in the county since two occurred at the same site in 1996.

**ADDITIONAL RECORD:** Blakeney Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1964 (THB). Although this record was accepted by BBRC it had not previously been recognised by the county and had never appeared in the Norfolk Bird Report. It becomes the first record of the species in Norfolk.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*

**Very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.**

First of year 3 Breydon April 26<sup>th</sup>, the harbingers of a widespread spring passage noted at 18 localities until end of May (12 in 2007, 14 in 2006). As usual at this time recorded mostly from north coast and Broadland but also at Welney, Wissington BF and Pentney GP. All observations of 1-5 apart from a clear influx May 8<sup>th</sup> when 11 Holkham GM (including a bird in song flight), 8 Salthouse and 6 Stiffkey and further notable counts 6 Holme Redwell Marsh May 10<sup>th</sup> and Salthouse 15<sup>th</sup>.

One at Buckenham June 5<sup>th</sup> perhaps the last of spring but further June sightings (Cley 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) may relate to northbound or returning migrants.

First certain autumn birds 3 Buckenham July 6<sup>th</sup> and numbers low thereafter with most counts of 1-4 and higher numbers restricted to 6 Cley July 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 Cley Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> and 10 Breydon/Berney on unspecified date in Aug. Gradual withdrawal during Sept with lingering birds at Holme until 16<sup>th</sup>, Welney 18<sup>th</sup> and last of year at Hickling until Sept 21<sup>st</sup>.

**REDSHANK (Common Redshank)** *Tringa totanus*

**Nominate British and continental form a common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

**Icelandic form *robusta* ('Icelandic Redshank') a common passage migrant and winter visitor.**

**Amber List (both forms).**

Monthly max at main and most regularly counted sites:

	<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	83	412	25	160	63	-	661	176	1304	893	-	-
Ousemouth	34	151	113	230	42	94	75	14	23	1142	204	234
Snettisham	110	105	42	189	103	100	341	766	890	-	53	87
Holme	39	129	60	99	17	13	60	82	156	182	121	95
Titchwell	38	71	47	16	18	-	60	62	55	89	89	84
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	570	476	459	357	130	165	1250	996	1048	340	270	260
Burnham Overy Hbr	26	71	31	-	-	-	23	28	60	55	40	83
Wells Hbr	241	80	28	-	-	-	35	-	92	67	-	49
Warham SM	101	46	-	15	18	-	-	-	-	33	20	26
Stiffkey SM	74	81	91	90	-	50	71	91	263	141	110	36
Blakeney GM	46	-	26	42	8	27	60	80	43	-	2	10
Blakeney Hbr	185	109	117	177	9	71	230	110	276	137	275	84
Cley	52	37	32	50	44	92	48	183	150	-	58	48
Breydon/Berney	890	1194	1298	1362	222	153	992	1051	1040	814	851	1097

**National importance (winter): 1200**

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 68 Holkham NNR and 30 Salthouse; *March* 66 Welney; *April* 107 Holkham NNR, 84 Welney and 34 Ouse Washes; *July* 187 Morston; *Sept* 245 Morston; *Nov* 46 Morston; *Dec* 50 Holkham Bay.



Only passage in spring a flock of 48 high north out to sea Scolt Head in evening April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding data incomplete but included the following numbers of pairs: 116 Snettisham, 16 Ken Hill GM, 43 Titchwell, 57 Scolt Head (good success), 28 Burnham Norton, 54 Burnham Overy GM, 33 Holkham GM, 5 Blakeney Point, 7 Cley, 25 Welney, 4 Chedgrave Marshes and single pairs Mautby and Stanford TA.

Coastal movements began July when 41 south Hopton 20<sup>th</sup> and 15 west Scolt Head 22<sup>nd</sup>. Numbers peaked Aug when 40 west Scolt Head 16<sup>th</sup>, 55 east Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup>, 168 east 57 west Mundesley and 105 east 22 west Walcott 28<sup>th</sup> and 150 east Weybourne 29<sup>th</sup>. Only other movements of note 16 west Kelling 3<sup>rd</sup>, 71 west Morston Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and 50 west Cley 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**TURNSTONE (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres interpres***  
**Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Monthly peaks at most regularly counted key sites:

	<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	-	-	45		13	-	13	98	47	86	-	-
Snettisham	48	39	28	78	16	-	240	-	75	38	19	5
Holme	50	50	35	78	25	-	1	33	56	162	79	72
Thornham Hbr	48	-	97	-	-	-	6	38	-	26	36	19
Titchwell	79	47	101	161	32	5	10	42	62	116	164	127
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	137	200	178	231	266	80	205	369	470	280	180	-
Holkham/Well Hbr	15	22	15	-	-	1	-	27	-	44	-	53
Warham/Stiffkey SM	31	29	37	24	-	28	41	43	102	45	81	19
Blakeney Hbr	156	115	77	113	33	32	239	187	119	146	79	40
Salthouse	27	46	35	3	-	-	-	-	-	32	39	40
Walcott	63	106	74	78	11	11	10	23	33	51	66	-

Some overlap possible between counts at adjacent sites.

All other counts over 20 individuals: *Jan* 29 Heacham and 63 Mundesley; *March* 160 King’s Lynn Docks, 33 Sheringham and 24 Gorleston; *July* 24 Eccles; *Oct* 30 West Runton; *Nov* 40 West Runton; *Dec* 24 Heacham.

Large increase in inland sightings, particularly during peak wader passage seasons (mid May and early autumn). All are listed (singles unless stated): East Ruston Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, Hickling May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Aug 6<sup>th</sup> (2), Aug 9<sup>th</sup> (5), Aug 15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, Hoveton Great Broad May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cantley BF May 21<sup>st</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> (2), July 29<sup>th</sup>, Aug 21<sup>st</sup> and Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Buckenham May 8<sup>th</sup>, Welney June 1<sup>st</sup> (3), Wissington BF May 21<sup>st</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, Pentney GP May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> (2), 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> (2), 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> and Nar Valley Fisheries May 9<sup>th</sup> (2) and May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**WILSON’S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor***  
**Very rare vagrant.**

A juv Cley and Salthouse Oct 7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> (MO) was the fourteenth county record but the first since 1994.



Wilson’s Phalarope (Gary Wright)



## **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus*

**Very scarce passage migrant. Red List.**

A single spring record, a female at Heacham May 26<sup>th</sup>, was on a typical date for this traditionally late spring migrant.

A quiet autumn with a long-staying and well-watched juv Titchwell Sept 14<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> probably initially seen Burnham Overy Hbr 14<sup>th</sup> and also briefly Holme 15<sup>th</sup>. Another juv Snettisham Sept 20<sup>th</sup> presumably different.

## **GREY PHALAROPE (Red Phalarope)** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Very scarce passage migrant.**

A poor year for this species began with a tame mid-winter bird on small puddles at Waxham Jan 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

An early autumn bird Scolt Head Sept 10<sup>th</sup> but very few recorded subsequently. Singles Cley Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, Kelling WM Oct 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and Cromer Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> perhaps relate to the same lingering individual with another at Cley Nov 12<sup>th</sup> possibly one of 2 feeding offshore at Kelling WM the same day. Last of year Cley Nov 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and 2 west Cromer Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition a phalarope sp. west at Cley Oct 28<sup>th</sup> was most likely this species.

## **POMARINE SKUA (Pomarine Jaeger)** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Scarce, occasionally fairly common, passage migrant in autumn. Green List.**

A series of records in first winter period confirms a continued presence in the North Sea at this season. Ten reports of singles Jan-March with 2 Titchwell Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and Eccles March 11<sup>th</sup>. Single spring record Sheringham May 26<sup>th</sup> is still unusual. First of autumn Blakeney Point July 7<sup>th</sup> and a further 3 reports by month end. A single early Aug followed by gradual build-up during second half of month culminating in 5 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>. Numerous reports thereafter of 1-4 mainly from north coast with larger counts: 5 Titchwell Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and 28 Scolt Head Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> (west). Next day brought 19 Titchwell, 6 Blakeney Point, Cley and Cromer while on the same day at least 4 (amongst a movement of all 4 skuas) entering Cambridgeshire along the River Nene. These were picked up in Lincolnshire airspace but are noted here as the majority must have passed through Norfolk between Foul Anchor and Walpole Marsh. Later records included 7 Holme Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and finally 10 Cley and 5 Sheringham 16<sup>th</sup>.

The year finished with scattered reports in Nov-Dec, all singles except 3 Holme Nov 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **ARCTIC SKUA (Parasitic Jaeger)** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**Fairly common passage migrant in autumn. Red List.**

Just a single report in first winter period at Mundesley Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. The usual trickle of northbound spring migrants commenced Sheringham April 30<sup>th</sup> and peaked at just 3 Mundesley May 26<sup>th</sup>. With birds recorded throughout June it is impossible to accurately ascertain start of autumn passage but 3 Eccles June 13<sup>th</sup>, Cley 24<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 29<sup>th</sup> are notable.

Many reports of small numbers throughout autumn with counts of 20+ individuals during July: 30 Sheringham 9<sup>th</sup>, 54 Mundesley and 40 Eccles (2 hrs) 15<sup>th</sup>, 25 Waxham 17<sup>th</sup>, 30 Sheringham, 27 Mundesley, 28 Walcott, 28 Waxham and 20 Winterton (3.4 hrs) 19<sup>th</sup>, 25 Blakeney Point and 24 Mundesley 20<sup>th</sup>, 32 Mundesley 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25 Cley 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seawatching in Aug yielded 74 Sheringham (4.25 hrs), 34 Cley (5.5 hrs) 4<sup>th</sup>, 70 Sheringham 7<sup>th</sup>, 30 Cley (5 hrs) and 50 Sheringham 8<sup>th</sup>, 34 Blakeney Harbour 17<sup>th</sup>, 27 Sheringham and 30 Blakeney Point next day and 20 Sheringham (3 hrs) 20<sup>th</sup>.

In Sept 22 Mundesley 6<sup>th</sup> followed by best day of the year on 7<sup>th</sup> when 31 Holme, 70 Scolt Head, 26 Blakeney Point, 89 Cley, 68 Sheringham, 68 Cromer (4 hrs), 123 Mundesley, 126 Walcott (8 hrs) and 30 Winterton. Further notable counts (of 20+) during rest of autumn: 33 Mundesley, 35 Walcott (7 hrs) and 25 Waxham Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 21 Cley (8 hrs) Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30 Scolt Head Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by last sizeable movement of year Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> with 27 Holme, 53 Sheringham (11 hrs), 53 Cromer, 43 Mundesley and 58 Eccles plus about 30 recorded entering Cambridgeshire following the River Nene,



most of which passed through Norfolk airspace (see note under Pomarine Skua).

Passage quick to drop away in Oct with only reports late in the month: Sheringham 26<sup>th</sup> and 6 Holme, 1 Sheringham and 3 Eccles 28<sup>th</sup>. Reports from 6 sites Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> with peak of 3 Titchwell Nov 1<sup>st</sup> but only one sighting thereafter: Overstrand Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

**LONG-TAILED SKUA (Long-tailed Jaeger) *Stercorarius longicaudus longicaudus***  
**Very scarce or scarce passage migrant in autumn. Green List.**

For the second successive year a spring record: an adult north Yarmouth May 25<sup>th</sup>.

First of unremarkable autumn passage Sheringham Aug 7<sup>th</sup> after which scattered records of 1-2 for next two months with peaks on 2 dates: 4 Scolt Head and 19 Sheringham Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and 7 Holme and 10 Cley Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As usual well-watched north coast localities dominated but several reports from east coast south to Winterton and in The Wash a juv Terrington Marsh Aug 17<sup>th</sup>. Inland 2 juvs entered Cambridgeshire following the River Nene in a movement of all 4 skuas on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> (see note under Pomarine Skua). Last of year single(s) at Blakeney Oct 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua***

**Fairly common passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.**

A slow start to the year with just 4 records in first 6 months: Eccles March 16<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr April 12<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 20<sup>th</sup> and, unusually, heading inland over Burnham Overy Staithe Mill May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage commenced Sheringham July 9<sup>th</sup> but only one further record (Trimingham July 22<sup>nd</sup>) by month end. More sightings in Aug but only one double-figure count of 15 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sept produced numerous records and many double-figure counts starting 7<sup>th</sup> when 90 Holme, 85 Titchwell, 122 Scolt Head, 32 Blakeney Point, 131 Cley, 129 Sheringham, 145 Cromer (4 hrs), 45 Mundesley and 19 Walcott (4 hrs) and also in first half of the month 45 Mundesley and 44 Walcott (9 hrs) 13<sup>th</sup>.

Counts of 15 Holme, 11 Scolt Head and 46 Sheringham Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> were a precursor to a very large passage next day with peaks of 30 Holme, 97 Titchwell (7hrs), 143 Scolt Head, 92 Blakeney Point, 234 Cley (8 hrs), 22 Weybourne, 402 Sheringham, 90 Cromer (1.5 hrs), 97 Overstrand (2 hrs), 332 Mundesley (a site record), 81 Walcott (1.5 hrs) and 237 Eccles (6 hrs). Rest of month proved an anticlimax with just 24 Mundesley 24<sup>th</sup> and 12 Holme 29<sup>th</sup> of note.

Further notable counts of 28 Mundesley Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and 37 Holme, 135 Scolt Head and 11 Sheringham next day heralded a further significant movement Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> with large counts: 241 Holme, 74 Titchwell, 10 Holkham Bay, 72 Blakeney Point, 60 Cley, 181 Sheringham (1 hr), 68 Cromer, 62 Mundesley and 49 Eccles. Also on this date 19 watched entering Cambridgeshire from Lincolnshire following the River Nene (in a movement of all 4 skuas at the site). They are noted here as the majority must have flown through Norfolk between Foul Anchor and Walpole Marsh. This was to prove the last influx with the last counts of autumn 12 Cromer Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 30 Holme 10<sup>th</sup>, 25 Titchwell 17<sup>th</sup> and 18 Holme 28<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers recorded in Nov during onshore winds before the year concluded quietly with 7 reports during Dec, all singles except 3 Sheringham Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini***

**Very scarce passage migrant in autumn.**

Another excellent autumn began Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> with 2 adults west Cley (JMcC). Sept 7<sup>th</sup> produced records at several sites: 3 Holme (CDR), 4 Sheringham (DJH *et al*) and Mundesley (MDF), all juvs. Further Sept records followed with juvs Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup> (PG), Blakeney Point 13<sup>th</sup> (PD) and Gorleston 24<sup>th</sup> (PRA). Sightings continued in Oct with adult and juv east Sheringham 3<sup>rd</sup> (PJH) and juv west West Runton 31<sup>st</sup> (IP). Final records of autumn early November with further juvs south Eccles 1<sup>st</sup> (TA) and feeding with Black-headed Gulls Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup> (MDF).



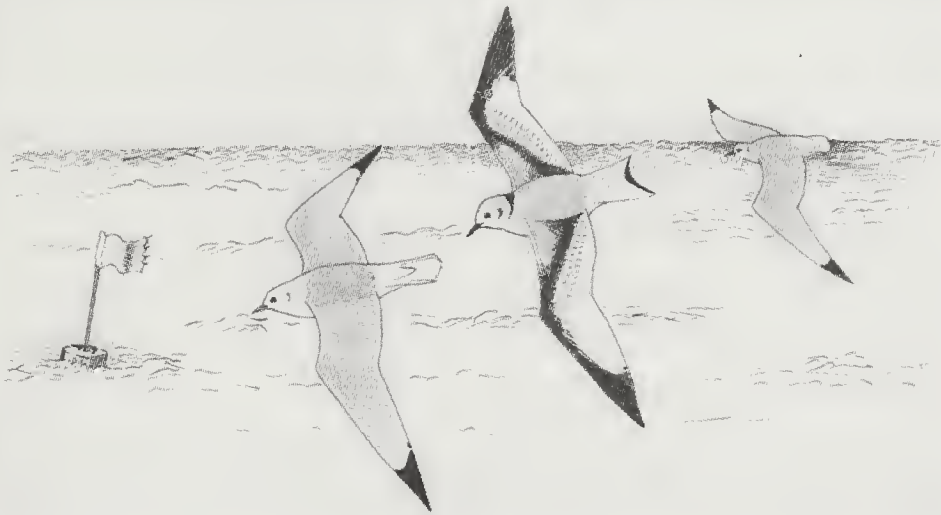
**KITTIWAKE (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla***

**Common passage migrant. Amber List.**

Small numbers offshore Jan-Feb including 9 Cley Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and 50 following trawlers Titchwell Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. Spring migration March 16<sup>th</sup> produced 486 east Sheringham, 960 east Mundesley and 451 Eccles. Later movement in May involved 42 east (2 hours) Sheringham 15<sup>th</sup>, 27 Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup> and 17 west Cley 30<sup>th</sup>.

A quiet spell followed until 28 south Hopton June 29<sup>th</sup>, the forerunners of a fairly heavy passage in July when a few thousand passed offshore: 1070 west Mundesley and 585 Hopton 13<sup>th</sup>, 1100 Horsey Gap 14<sup>th</sup>, 1420 Mundesley and 1210 Eccles 15<sup>th</sup>, 790 Eccles 16<sup>th</sup>, 2400 Walcott 19<sup>th</sup>, 114 Hopton 20<sup>th</sup>, 50 Hopton 25<sup>th</sup> and 41 Hopton 29<sup>th</sup>.

An Aug peak of 170 south Winterton 17<sup>th</sup> was followed by a relatively quiet Sept/Oct period when highest numbers 48 east (2 hrs) Sheringham Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, 51 Blakeney Point Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and 71 Sheringham 31<sup>st</sup>. As with Little Gull, a rush of birds early Nov involving on 1<sup>st</sup> 40 Blakeney Point, 200 east Weybourne, 1000 east Sheringham and 1000 Eccles. Also in Nov 126 east Sheringham and 721 east Mundesley 2<sup>nd</sup>, 123 Holme 21<sup>st</sup>, 187 Holme 22<sup>nd</sup>, 100 east (6 hrs) Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup> and 96 Holme and 58 Titchwell 24<sup>th</sup>. Few remained into Dec when a max of 7 Sheringham 1<sup>st</sup>.



Kittiwakes (*John Geeson*)

**BLACK-HEADED GULL (Common Black-headed Gull) *Chroicocephalus ridibundus ridibundus***

**Very common resident and winter visitor. Amber List.**

Data on breeding numbers received from 21 sites (giving a total of 6061 pairs) as follows: 101 Welney, 1811 Snettisham, 328 Holme (20 young fledged), 370 Scolt Head, 200 Burnham Norton, 41 Burnham Overy, 335 Burnham Overy Dunes, 3 Holkham, 276 Wells, 61 Wells Harbour, 157 Stiffkey, 2250 Blakeney Point, 8 Blakeney GM, 7 Cley, 12 Hickling Rush Hills, 36 Heigham Sound, 12 How Hill, 27 mid-Yare RSPB, 20 Marlingford Mere and 6 Nar Valley Fisheries. Also 60 pulli seen Wissington BF. Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	-	1860	-	-	-	-	1507	3888	452	1807	-	-
Scolt Head	-	18000	4050	3030	740	755	1322	3500	1313	4000	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	3000	2000	1500	130	-	-	150	-	-	50	200	1000

The huge roost on Wroxham Broad contained an estimated 50000 Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and 36000 Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. Further concentrations: 1400 Ranworth Broad Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 1200 Holme Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 1050 Hockwold Washes Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 1381 Titchwell March 17<sup>th</sup>, 5000 offshore Cley/Weybourne March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1000 Fritton Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and 3500 Titchwell Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A poor year in terms of visible passage along the coast but Holme saw westerly movements July 14<sup>th</sup>-Sept 25<sup>th</sup> totalling 3455 birds: 205 July 14<sup>th</sup>, 239 July 17<sup>th</sup>, 109 July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1652 Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, 666 Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, 206 Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> and 378 Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. Similar observations at Scolt Head were concentrated in Sept: 347 11<sup>th</sup>, 175 13<sup>th</sup>, 203 19<sup>th</sup>, 451 22<sup>nd</sup> and 185 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A leucistic bird was at Blackborough End Tip Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

**Fairly common passage migrant. Amber List.**

Evident offshore Jan 4<sup>th</sup> when 13 east Stiffkey, 44 east Mundesley and 30 south Sea Palling but near-absence thereafter until an increase in sightings in April. Inland a single adult Ranworth Broad Jan 20<sup>th</sup> was of note.

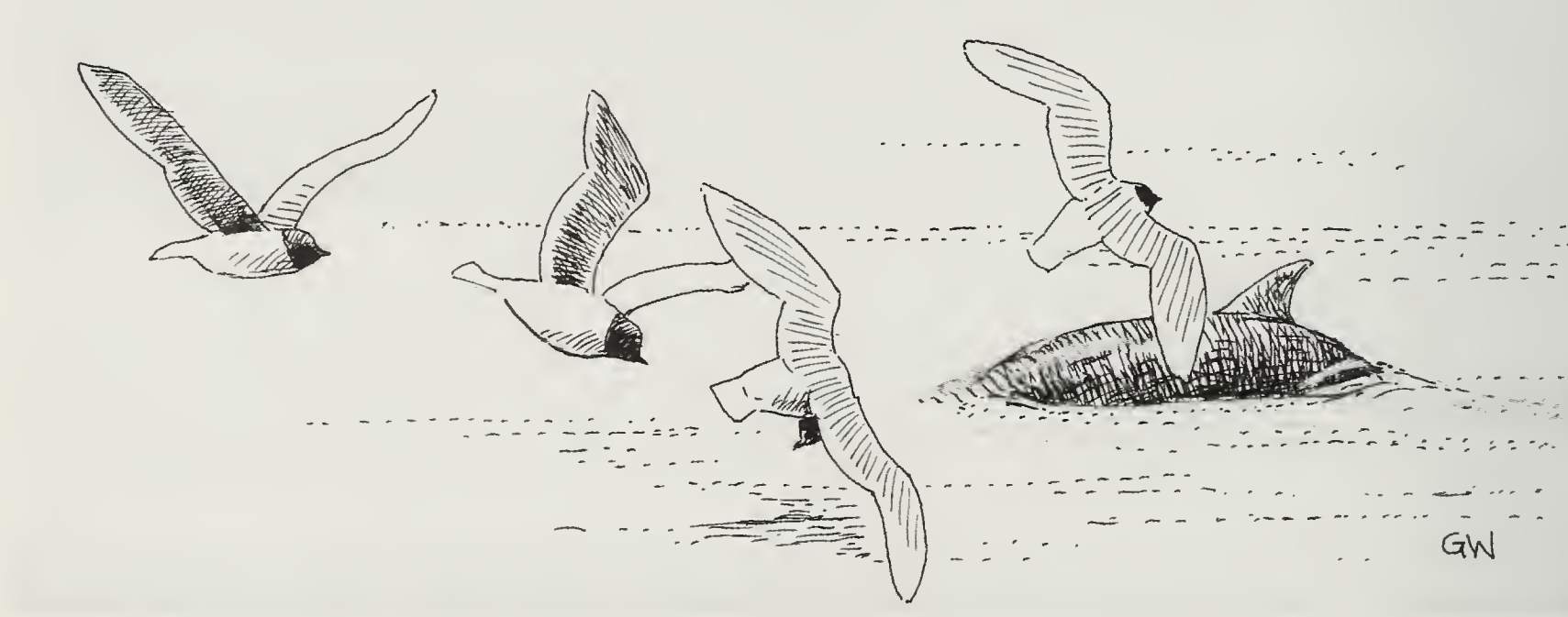
Birds passed through 25 sites (13 inland) April/May with peaks around April 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> and from May 18<sup>th</sup>. Largest flocks included 5 Cantley and 9 Breydon April 20<sup>th</sup>, 19 Sheringham April 21<sup>st</sup>, 41 Titchwell May 18<sup>th</sup>, 17 Blakeney Point May 21<sup>st</sup> and 15 west Holme May 31<sup>st</sup>. A strong showing of 2cy birds in June involved up to 80 Titchwell (9<sup>th</sup>), 12 Holkham 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 Cley 24<sup>th</sup> and 25 Breydon 21<sup>st</sup>. Also small numbers inland at this time.

Early July saw the continued presence of immature birds and small-scale post-breeding dispersal mid-month when first (5) adults Breydon 16<sup>th</sup>. Larger numbers involved 22 Holme and 32 Titchwell 1<sup>st</sup>, 18 Cley 15<sup>th</sup> and 34 (min 16 adults) Mundesley 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Autumn passage was generally uneventful, peaks in Aug being 36 Hopton 8<sup>th</sup> and 30 Sea Palling 17<sup>th</sup>. Sept saw the earliest recorded juv Salthouse 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24 Gorleston 9<sup>th</sup>, 16 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, 23 Cley 13<sup>th</sup>, 130 east Mundesley 13<sup>th</sup> and 20 Titchwell 14<sup>th</sup>. Often the peak month for numbers passing offshore, Oct's highest numbers were a mere 15 west Holme, 24 west Burnham Overy Dunes and 24 Sheringham, all 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers picked up Nov with 20 west Overstrand and 188 (185 south) Walcott 1<sup>st</sup>, 21 east Sheringham 2<sup>nd</sup>, 13 south Cley 16<sup>th</sup> and 52 east Sheringham 18<sup>th</sup>. Mostly singles occurred inland from Aug onwards ending with a notable winter bird at Ranworth Broad Dec 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>. Dec coastal records few though 5 Blakeney Point 29<sup>th</sup>.

Peak numbers at any one site per month as follows:

<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>
44	1	6	19	41	80	34	30	130	24	188	5



Little Gulls (*Gary Wright*)

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

**Scarce all-year visitor and very scarce breeder. Amber List.**

Up to 11 pairs located in 4 coastal Black-headed Gull colonies, though one of these may not have made a breeding attempt. Countywide at least 7 birds fledged, the 5 pairs at one site having poor success judging by the single young raised.

A substantial number of records received. As expected, more frequently observed on the coast though also recorded from no fewer than 38 inland sites, most notable being 6 (in pig fields) Harpley Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 Hickling June 23<sup>rd</sup> and a bird coming to bread in a Langham garden.

^ About 25 juvs recorded with one Hopton July 13<sup>th</sup> perhaps the first arrival from the continent. A single juv was inland at Houghton Aug 5<sup>th</sup> and the largest gathering of birds of this age was 11 in the



Breydon roost Aug 26<sup>th</sup>. Estimates of county totals per month as follows:

	<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>
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	16	-	-	-	-
1st-year	4	1	8	3	4	13	5	1	5	-	1	2
2nd-year	3	4	19	8	3	8	7	4	2	-	-	1
Adult	13	9	24	24	22	29	36	7	7	2	5	4
Unaged	67	61	9	11	18	1	45	113	37	121	110	85
Total	87	74	60	46	47	51	105	141	51	123	116	92

The Yarmouth flock reached three figures for the first time and highest counts included: 65 Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 60 Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 34 March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25 July 15<sup>th</sup>, 19 Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 35 Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 77 Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, 104 Nov 25<sup>th</sup> and 82 Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Nearby, Breydon monthly max: 63 Jan, 14 April, 17 May, 9 June, 57 July, 118 Aug, 102 Oct and 92 Nov. California saw a notable 30 Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, while 21 Snettisham April 28<sup>th</sup>, 8 Blakeney Harbour June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9 Hopton July 5<sup>th</sup> were the largest numbers elsewhere.

**COMMON GULL (Mew Gull) *Larus canus***

**Nominate form a very common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder.**

**Russian form *heinei* may also occur. Amber List.**

The small breeding population has shown a slight increase in recent years with Wells/Stiffkey saltmarshes currently proving particularly attractive to the species. The total of 18 pairs was spread as follows: 6 Wells Harbour, 11 Stiffkey Binks and 1 Blakeney Point.

Birds using the Wroxham Broad roost were well outnumbered by Black-headed Gulls but counts included 2000 Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and 770 Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Gatherings elsewhere: 500 Felbrigg Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 880 west Costessey Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000 Holkham Park Lake Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 4010 Titchwell March 17<sup>th</sup>, 500 offshore Cley March 19<sup>th</sup>, 400 Marlingford Mere April 1<sup>st</sup> and 500 Brancaster Thompson Farms Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. Monthly maxima at Holme and Scolt Head as follows:

	<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>
Holme	500	1400	650	-	-	-	700	-	-	-	-	14
Scolt Head	-	5600	1500	-	555	520	780	555	-	3000	-	-

Little westerly passage observed but 98 west Scolt Head Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by 198 west 23<sup>rd</sup> and 130 west Sheringham Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus***

**Western European form *graellsii* ('Western Lesser Black-backed Gull') a common summer visitor and scarce breeder. Danish and southern Scandinavian form *intermedius* ('Continental Lesser Black-backed Gull') a fairly common passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the northern Scandinavian form *fuscus* ('Baltic Gull') noted on a few occasions. Amber List (*graellsii*) and Green List (*intermedius*).**

Incomplete breeding information but 157 pairs nested Stiffkey Binks and perhaps 50 pairs in Norwich at various sites. No breeding attempts were made on Blakeney Point.

Monthly max at some regular sites:

	<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	-	820	-	-	-	-	320	-	110	250	-	-
Scolt Head	-	-	-	14	45	37	51	-	-	-	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip 3		5	380	375	450	225	200	300	350	15	2	1

Records of flocks suggest a general countywide peak in numbers late summer though the south-west of the county, in particular, continues to attract large numbers through the winter. Largest numbers away from the tabled sites: 125 Fersfield Airfield Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 1500 Hockwold Washes Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and 332 March 30<sup>th</sup>, 149 Pentney GP July 5<sup>th</sup>, 110 Cley 8<sup>th</sup>, 200 Saddlebow 19<sup>th</sup>, 365 East Ruston Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, 440 Ludham Airfield Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 650 Stanford TA 3<sup>rd</sup>, 200 Potter Heigham 7<sup>th</sup>, 160 Clippesby Hill 17<sup>th</sup>, 400 Barnham Broom 20<sup>th</sup>, 320 Fersfield Airfield 26<sup>th</sup>, 438 over New Costessy Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 72 Blakeney



Harbour Dec 14<sup>th</sup> (a high winter count for the north coast) and 150 Fersfield Airfield Dec 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Rather modest coastal movement recorded off Scolt Head where 10 west April 13<sup>th</sup>, 21 west 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 west 26<sup>th</sup>, 38 east May 7<sup>th</sup>, 169 east 8<sup>th</sup>, 14 west July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 11 west July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*  
**British form *argenteus* a common passage migrant and winter visitor and fairly common breeder. Nominate northern European form ('Scandinavian Herring Gull') a fairly common winter visitor. Red List (*argenteus*) and Amber List (*argentatus*).**

Scant breeding information received though Wells Saltmarsh supported 350 pairs. In contrast only 2 pairs nested Scolt Head and no breeding attempted on Blakeney Point. Roof-nesting took place Hunstanton where 3 pairs each raised 2 chicks, nesting first occurring here in 2007. Remaining breeding records involved single pairs Snettisham and Titchwell and possible breeding Norwich and North Walsham. Monthly peaks at four sites as follows:

	<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	530	645	400	548	-	-	470	100	245	450	-	-
Titchwell	-	-	1153	-	-	-	462	-	-	-	2761	744
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	-	-	-	450	-	-	400	1700	-	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	1500	950	1100	700	500	1300	400	700	800	1300	1000	1000

Further notable flocks included 540 offshore Cley Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 541 Wells Harbour March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1000 Saddlebow Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and 328 Holkham Bay Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Heavy movement of birds west off Scolt Head including counts of 3650 April 8<sup>th</sup> and 4250 21<sup>st</sup>. Also at this time 350 moved north Winterton 19<sup>th</sup>. Later 133 west Scolt Head July 20<sup>th</sup>, 850 west Snettisham Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and 170 west Sheringham Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis michahellis*  
**Scarce all-year visitor, most common in summer. Amber List.**

The usual post-breeding summer influx is obvious from the table below but wintering numbers also remain high. Aside from the normal drop in numbers in spring and very early summer this is clearly now an all-year-round gull in the county. Juvs were rather scarce, though regular Blackborough End Tip from July 19<sup>th</sup> with peaks of 3 that date and again Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>. Away from this site 2 noted Cley in Aug. Estimates of numbers present month by month including age breakdown:

	<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>
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-
1st-year	6	4	5	1	6	2	6	3	1	-	3	8
2nd-year	9	17	7	-	5	4	9	5	4	-	-	4
3rd-year	-	1	2	-	1	-	2	3	9	2	-	4
4th-year/Adult	10	7	5	2	-	2	17	21	20	5	2	8
Unaged	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	4	12	7	-	-
Total	26	31	19	3	12	9	37	41	46	14	7	24

Unusually, the largest gathering was in Feb when 23 (including 17 3cy birds) Hockwold Washes 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elsewhere high counts included 9 Fersfield Airfield Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 Blackborough End Tip May 10<sup>th</sup>, 15 Saddlebow July 19<sup>th</sup>, 11 Earsham GP Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 Blackborough End Tip Sept 6<sup>th</sup> and 9 Fersfield Airfield Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CASPIAN GULL** *Larus cachinnans*  
**Scarce all-year visitor.**

Up to 44 individuals documented, and recorded every month with peaks mid-winter and late spring through summer. Records from 13 sites, of which only 4 were coastal. Numbers per month estimated as follows:



	<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>
All localities	7	7	2	1	4	6	4	7	2	2	1	4

Peak counts were 5 Hockwold Washes Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3 Blackborough End Tip Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>. Several individuals recorded at a few favoured sites: 23 Blackborough End Tip, 5 Cley and 5 Hockwold Washes. Also records of 1-2 from Saddlebow, Titchwell, Edgefield Tip, Holt, Salthouse, Repps-with-Bastwick, Breydon, Aldeby Tip, Earsham GP and Pentney GP.

Again first-year birds were most frequently observed, making up 45% of the total, with 2nd year birds 18%, 3rd year birds 7% and adults or near adults 30%. Only one juv seen this year, at Blackborough End Tip Aug 9<sup>th</sup>.

A Polish colour-ringed 2cy bird Cley July 30<sup>th</sup>/Aug 1<sup>st</sup> relocated to Blackborough End Tip Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sept 6<sup>th</sup> and was then seen Pitsea Tip (Essex) Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoides glaucoides*

**Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

As many as 15 individuals was a good showing, the total boosted by a relatively strong arrival Nov/Dec. Of those aged, 9 were birds in their first year and 2 were adult-types. All records listed: west Holme Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 24<sup>th</sup>, 2cy Hockwold Washes 27<sup>th</sup>, 2cy west Wacton Common Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2cy west Cley 8<sup>th</sup>, Blackborough End Tip 12<sup>th</sup>, 2cy west Trimingham/Overstrand April 19<sup>th</sup> and probably same Hickling Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, 2cy west Scolt Head May 10<sup>th</sup>, adult west Holme Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, Wells Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 1cy Blackborough End Tip from Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, adult east Overstrand Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1cy Cley Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 1cy Aldeby Tip from 10<sup>th</sup> and 1cy Colney GP 25<sup>th</sup>.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus hyerboreus*

**Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Greenland form *leuceretes* ('Greenland Glaucous Gull') may also occur. Amber List.**

Like the previous species a good year, evidenced by about 20 individuals recorded from 18 localities. A peak in numbers in March was followed by a notable influx in Nov. The spread of individuals recorded per month as follows:

	<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>
All localities	2	2	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	4

All sightings listed: 2cy Blackborough End Tip Jan 5<sup>th</sup>-Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, same Nar Valley Fisheries and Pentney GP 5<sup>th</sup>, Wormegay Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 3cy west Cley Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 2cy Cley March 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 4cy Kelling Water Meadows 7<sup>th</sup> and presumed same Salthouse 8<sup>th</sup>, 2cy east Overstrand 12<sup>th</sup>, 2cy Yarmouth March 13<sup>th</sup>-April 19<sup>th</sup> with probably same Breydon March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2cy Hockwold Washes 26<sup>th</sup>, 2cy Blackborough End Tip March 29<sup>th</sup>-April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2cy west Weybourne and Scolt Head April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2cy east Beeston Bump May 5<sup>th</sup>, imm west Sheringham Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 1cy Blackborough End Tip Nov 8<sup>th</sup>-Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 2cy Breydon Nov 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, 1cy west Cley Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> and possibly same bird (or another 1cy initially seen Cley Nov 25<sup>th</sup>) commuting between here and Weybourne/Sheringham to year end, 1cy Cromer Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 (2 east/1 west) Overstrand Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2cy west Cley Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, 1cy north Bayfield Natural Surroundings Dec 11<sup>th</sup> and 1cy Aldeby Tip from Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

Three hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gulls recorded: first-winter Edgefield Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, Blackborough End Tip (age unknown) Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and first-winter Hockwold Washes Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

**Fairly common all-year visitor. Amber List.**

Largest gatherings at selected sites:

	<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>
Holme	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	72	140	142	121	-
Scolt Head	-	-	69	72	125	28	-	-	73	85	-	-
Cley	44	40	-	-	-	110	135	126	84	16	64	39
Blackboro' End Tip	90	46	130	-	59	75	21	67	100	-	56	25



Flocks elsewhere: 200 Blakeney Point July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 135 Terrington Marsh 24<sup>th</sup>, 90 Snettisham and 105 Blakeney Harbour Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 219 North Wootton Marsh 21<sup>st</sup> and 100 Ousemouth Nov 16<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE TERN** *Sternula albifrons albifrons*

**Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

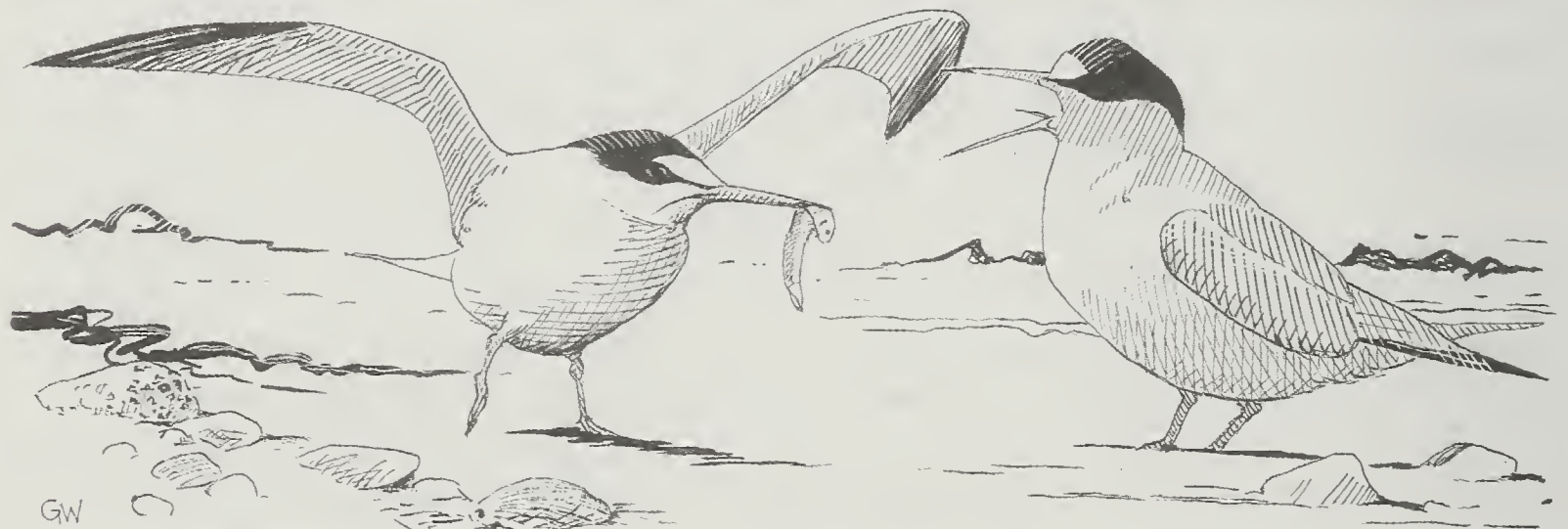
First Scolt Head April 19<sup>th</sup>, with 2 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and 10 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in April Holme 21<sup>st</sup> with 3 26<sup>th</sup> and 5 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 23<sup>rd</sup> and 6 28<sup>th</sup>, 6 Titchwell 26<sup>th</sup> with 15 there 28<sup>th</sup>.

715 breeding pairs fledged min of 431 young, well up on last season. Scolt Head had an outstanding season with record numbers of pairs and fledged young, making it the second largest UK colony (to Yarmouth North Beach) and the most successful in 2008.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Holme	6	0
Scolt Head	160	200
Holkham NNR	98	16
(Burnham Overy	28	0)
(Wells Hbr	54	10)
(Wells East Hills	9	0)
(Stiffkey Binks	7	6)
Blakeney Point	101	50+
Yarmouth North Beach	350	164

At Yarmouth North Beach low success was due to predation by Long-eared Owl(s), Kestrels, Foxes and Hedgehogs.

A first-summer bird at Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr July 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Largest midsummer counts in July: 123 Holme and 30 Titchwell 19<sup>th</sup> and 61 south Hopton 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Inland: Lyng-Easthaugh GP May 7<sup>th</sup> and 2 South Walsham Broad Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. Latest Blakeney Point Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.



Little Terns (*Gary Wright*)

**WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*

**Very rare vagrant.**

Adult Holkham GM April 28<sup>th</sup> (AIB, I and JM).

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger niger*

**Scarce passage migrant. Has bred. Amber List.**

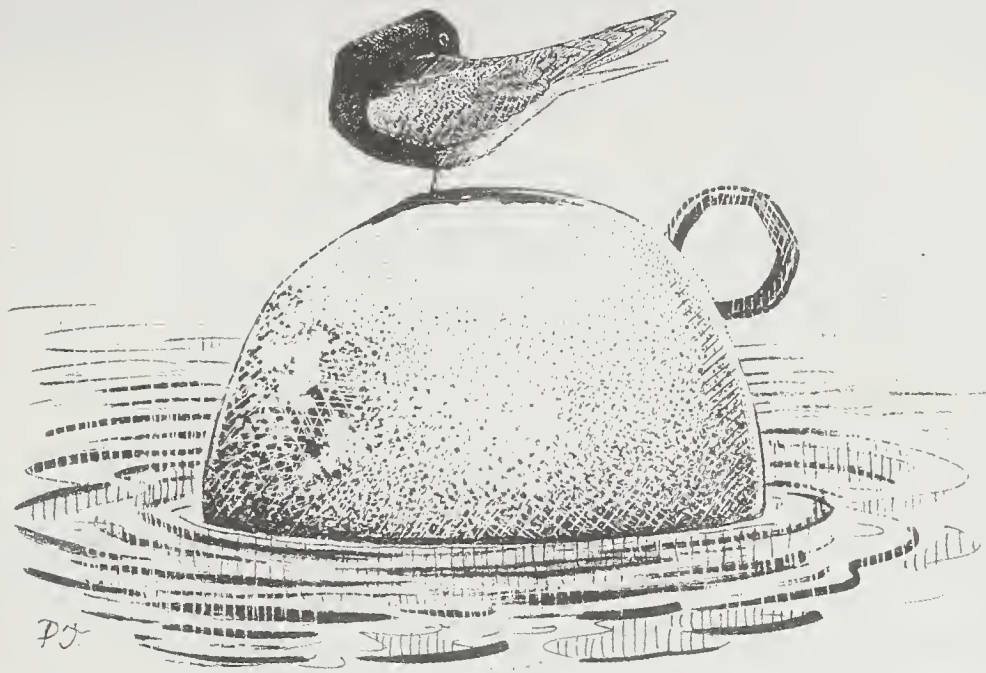
First Barton Broad, Martham Broad and Stiffkey Fen April 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by Ranworth Broad and 2 Cantley BF 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>, 3 Stiffkey Fen, 2 Burnham Overy GM and 2 Welney 30<sup>th</sup>, 3 Breydon/Berney, Hickling Broad and Stifkey Fen May 1<sup>st</sup>. The best spring passage since 2000 from May 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> with a min of 239 birds. 1-8 birds recorded at 26 localities but higher numbers as follows: 12 Fenney GP 3<sup>rd</sup> with 16 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 Cley, 12 Holme, 15 Ranworth Broad, 15 Sparham GP and 20 Swanton Morley GP 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 Lyng-Easthaugh GP 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 10 Rockland Broad and 25 Welney 7<sup>th</sup>, with 22 there



and 9 Blakeney GM 8<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter just 1-2 at 4 localities totalling 5 birds to the month end.

In June Snettisham 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Rockland Broad 6<sup>th</sup> and Cley 24<sup>th</sup>. In July 2 west Holme 1<sup>st</sup>, Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 west Titchwell 7<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, Yarmouth 14<sup>th</sup> and 3 Terrington Marsh 19<sup>th</sup>.

A light autumn passage July 24<sup>th</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup> with a min of 293 birds at 25 localities, mainly 1-9 but with double-figure counts as follows: 10 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr July 29<sup>th</sup> and 18 east 1 west 31<sup>st</sup>, 15 Ousemouth, 22 east 1 west Sheringham and 17 east Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, 47 west Sheringham and 10 Eccles Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and 8 north 2 south Walcott 13<sup>th</sup>. In Oct Sheringham 19<sup>th</sup> and Titchwell 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Black Tern (*Phil Jones*)

### **SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

First of spring 7 Cley and 3 west Sheringham March 28<sup>th</sup> followed by 2 Holme and 2 Scolt Head 31<sup>st</sup>. Few notable counts in April with 167 Blakeney Point 6<sup>th</sup> increasing to 1500 by 20<sup>th</sup>, 350 Cley 13<sup>th</sup>, 200 Scolt Head/Brancaster 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> increasing to 350 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. In May highest counts 350 Cley 1<sup>st</sup> and 5000 Blakeney Point on 6<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding: 2400 pairs at Blakeney Point fledged 1529 young, the best figures since 2003. Conversely, at Scolt Head the worst breeding season since 1997 with only 280 pairs fledging just 2 young, the eggs being predated by Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Oystercatchers. 100 non-breeding birds present there June/July. A large influx at Cley June 19<sup>th</sup> June until the month end is thought likely to have come from Scolt Head.

Coastal movements/gatherings of note: 1220 offshore Cley and 330 Breydon July 8<sup>th</sup> and 390 Breydon 9<sup>th</sup>, 268 Holme 17<sup>th</sup>, 300 east Sheringham (0955-1135) Aug 8<sup>th</sup> and 1000 east Mundesley Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Inland: 2 Rockland Broad Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.

Last of autumn Caister Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, east Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup> and Holme 18<sup>th</sup> and in winter one east Sheringham Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

**Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Earliest arrivals 2 Stiffkey, 2 Filby Broad and 2 Ranworth Broad April 6<sup>th</sup> then Wroxham Broad 8<sup>th</sup>, Rollesby Broad 11<sup>th</sup>, Welney 14<sup>th</sup> and Sparham and 4 Blakeney Point 15<sup>th</sup>.

Spring counts of note 20 Barton Broad April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 33 May 19<sup>th</sup>, 35 Welney April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 50 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr April 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> with 200 there 8<sup>th</sup>, 500 15<sup>th</sup> and 600 28<sup>th</sup>, 114 Blakeney Point May 19<sup>th</sup> and 35 Snettisham 29<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding: A min of 863 pairs fledged a min of 398 young, an increase of 60 over 2007 but still a relatively poor season.



	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Snettisham	51	3
Scolt Head	290	150
Holkham NNR	44	19
(Stiffkey Bink	24	10)
(Wells Hbr	20	9)
Blakeney Point	103	33
Cley	5-7	5
Breydon	181	c181
Ranworth Broad	43	unknown
Barton Broad	32	unknown
Marlingford Mere	21	7+
Hoveton Great Broad	25	unknown
Pentney GP	28-30	unknown
Stowbridge	1+	unknown
Welney	22	unknown
Martham Broad	17	0

At Snettisham the RSPB installed a camera to overlook the colony following a run of poor breeding success. All went well until the camera failed and within a few days most adults had deserted from an unknown cause. At Scolt Head an increase of 50 pairs over 2007 fledged 90 more young and at Blakeney Point 15 fewer pairs fledged 12 fewer young. The number of Black-headed Gulls nesting on the Breydon platforms increased again to 33 pairs, resulting in lower Common Tern numbers nesting in the limited space available. Seven pairs attempted nesting on the Breydon saltings but as usual all failed due to high tides and probable predation by large gulls. At Martham Broad predation by Carrion Crows was the reason for failure.

First-summer birds: 10 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr June 24<sup>th</sup> with 11 25<sup>th</sup> and 9 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 July 21<sup>st</sup>, singles Breydon June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and Weybourne July 9<sup>th</sup>.

‘Immature’ (first or second-summer) birds: Breydon June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 3 July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 8<sup>th</sup>, Sea Palling June 28<sup>th</sup>. Note: The accurate ageing of first-summer Common Terns is unsafe unless a dark secondary bar can be seen in flight. It is therefore perhaps better to age all early-mid summer non-adult Common Terns as ‘immature’.

Large influx Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr from July 25<sup>th</sup> with 600 26<sup>th</sup>, 1000 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>, 1500 30<sup>th</sup>, 2420 31<sup>st</sup>, 800 Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 550 2<sup>nd</sup> and 360 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elsewhere in autumn 397 Cley and 2500 east Sheringham July 25<sup>th</sup>, 651 offshore Cley (0845-1450) 26<sup>th</sup>, 500 offshore Titchwell Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 760 southwest over Winterton village in 30 mins evening 9<sup>th</sup> and 250 south (1830-1930) 30<sup>th</sup>, 1670 west Mundesley 11<sup>th</sup>, 1000 Eccles 13<sup>th</sup> with 963 13<sup>th</sup>, 400 in a feeding frenzy offshore Cley 19<sup>th</sup>, 800 Walcott 20<sup>th</sup>, 450 28<sup>th</sup>, 360 29<sup>th</sup> and 350 south (0630-0730) 30<sup>th</sup>, 1535 offshore Cley and 27 on reserve 27<sup>th</sup> and 397 west Scolt Head Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Latest 2 west Cley Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Two adults were noted klepto-parasitising 2 adult Razorbills Cley July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii dougallii*

**Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Has bred. Red List.**

Another good year with records from late May to early Sept. Records from all around the coast (all adults unless otherwise stated): 2 Holme June 28<sup>th</sup> with one 29<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Aug 5<sup>th</sup> and one 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>; Titchwell June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and Sept 5<sup>th</sup>; 2 west Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 west 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>, 4 July 3<sup>rd</sup>, first-summer 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2 west 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 31<sup>st</sup>, 3 Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, one on 25<sup>th</sup>; Scolt Head Sept 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; Blakeney Point June 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, one July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 10<sup>th</sup>, one 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and Aug 28<sup>th</sup>; east Cley May 26<sup>th</sup>, up to 6 June 19<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> and on many dates in July and Aug; Kelling June 26<sup>th</sup>; Sheringham May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>; Overstrand July 4<sup>th</sup>; Mundesley July 2<sup>nd</sup>; Walcott July 24<sup>th</sup>; Happisburgh July 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and south 20<sup>th</sup>; Eccles Aug 1<sup>st</sup>; south Winterton July 29<sup>th</sup>; Yarmouth June 23<sup>rd</sup> with 2 on 27<sup>th</sup>; Breydon June 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, 3 July 8<sup>th</sup> and one Aug 4<sup>th</sup>.



## **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

### **Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Spring passage commenced with 2 northeast Buckenham Marshes and 2 east Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr April 21<sup>st</sup> and continued until late May. Migrants noted as follows: 8 Barton Broad, 2 Pentney GP and one Rockland Broad April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 Barton Broad, 2 Colney GP, Lyng-Easthaugh GP, 37 north Welney, 175 west Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (including a flock of 120) and 4 Ranworth Broad 24<sup>th</sup>, singles Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Broad 26<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell and 2 east Mundesley 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 Stiffkey Fen and 2 Titchwell May 1<sup>st</sup>, Holme and Titchwell 4<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Swanton Morley and 4 Titchwell 7<sup>th</sup>, Ormesby Broad 9<sup>th</sup>, 4 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 11<sup>th</sup> to month end, 4 Titchwell 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 east Sheringham and 2 east Salthouse 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 north Hopton 21<sup>st</sup>, Sea Palling and 11 east Mundesley 24<sup>th</sup> with 17 east there and 14 Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>, Overstrand, 11 south Walcott and 17 East Mundesley 26<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding: At Blakeney Point 17 pairs fledged just one young. At Scolt Head 2 pairs fledged one young. At Wells Hbr one pair failed. A pair was noted prospecting at Stiffkey Binks June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Adults elsewhere in June: 3 Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 14<sup>th</sup>, Happisburgh 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sea Palling 27<sup>th</sup> and Holme 29<sup>th</sup>. In July adults Breydon 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 4<sup>th</sup> and singles 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 east Sheringham 5<sup>th</sup>, one 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 west 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 west 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 16<sup>th</sup> and 5 20<sup>th</sup>, Terrington Marsh-Ousemouth 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 south Hopton 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 20<sup>th</sup> and 22 21<sup>st</sup>, Titchwell 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 13<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

First-summer-type birds Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr June 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> and 2 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Sheringham 12<sup>th</sup>, south Hopton 13<sup>th</sup>, Breydon 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, 2 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and one on 20<sup>th</sup>, Cley June 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>.

Second-summer type birds: 3 Breydon June 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2, 21<sup>st</sup> one 30<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and Cley June 24<sup>th</sup>.

A mainly light autumn passage commenced with 28 east Mundesley July 21<sup>st</sup> and 20 west on 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by mainly 1-6 at 22 localities to Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, higher counts being 8 south Hopton Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 30<sup>th</sup> with 11 west Sept 5<sup>th</sup> and 20 west on 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 west Sheringham 8<sup>th</sup> and 7 Blakeney Point 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In Oct 1-5 noted at 9 localities totalling 28 birds, higher counts being 15 Cromer 1<sup>st</sup> and 8 Holme 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Last Holme Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **GUILLEMOT (Common Murre)** *Uria aalge*

**Southern form *albionis* ('Southern Guillemot') and nominate northern form ('Northern Guillemot') fairly common passage migrants and scarce winter visitors. Arctic form *hyperborea* ('Arctic Guillemot') may also occur. Amber List (*albionis* and *aalge*).**

Presumably under-recorded early in the year, the only notable count received for the first winter period being 20 Cley Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and similarly in spring just one record: 4 Sheringham March 4<sup>th</sup>.

As in 2007 a continual presence offshore during the summer, primarily family parties, presumably wanderers from colonies further north. Peak numbers: 30 Walcott July 19<sup>th</sup>, 40 Mundesley 22<sup>nd</sup>, 50 Horsey Gap 30<sup>th</sup>, 35 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 51 Cley 3<sup>rd</sup>, 25 Eccles 13<sup>th</sup> and 20 Winterton 17<sup>th</sup>.

Also a dearth of records later in the year with peaks of 12 Scolt Head Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 80 Sheringham Oct 28<sup>th</sup> and 12 Cley Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

A number of notable counts of unidentified large auks (either this species or Razorbill): 70 Cley Jan 30<sup>th</sup> and 45 there Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 12 Blakeney Point May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26 Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

**Western European form *islandica* a fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Nominate Scandinavian form ('Northern Razorbill') presumably also occurs. Amber List (*islandica*) and Green List (nominate).**

Records mirror those of Guillemot with a dearth of sightings in the first winter period; just 4 reports of singletons in Feb and 2 Holme Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

After no early spring sightings, mid-summer produced a glut of records, with adults bringing



fledged but still dependent juvs to Norfolk waters from colonies further north. Peaks included 15 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr May 25<sup>th</sup>, 22 Blakeney Point July 13<sup>th</sup>, 30 Walcott 19<sup>th</sup>, 20 Horsey Gap 22<sup>nd</sup> and 15 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Aug 29<sup>th</sup>.

Similar numbers remained through the autumn with no dramatic movements noted and peaks of just 17 Blakeney Point Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> and 32 Sheringham Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (with 10 there Oct 28<sup>th</sup>) the only double-figure counts. The year ended as it had begun, with few reports, just 1 Holme Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 Cley Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cepphus grylle arcticus*

**A very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

An unusual mid-summer sighting at Mundesley June 12<sup>th</sup> (west) was followed by a typical series of autumn records: Sheringham Sept 24<sup>th</sup> (east), Mundesley Sept 30<sup>th</sup>-Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and both Cromer and Sheringham again Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> potentially relate to the same individual but no further reports for 6 weeks when presumably the same bird Cley/Blakeney Point Nov 16<sup>th</sup> before flying east past Weybourne next day. The final bird of the year, a first-winter at Titchwell Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, was later found dead.

### **LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle alle*

**Nominate Arctic form a scarce, occasionally fairly common, late autumn/early winter visitor.**

**Franz Josef Land form *polaris* ('Franz Josef Land Little Auk') may also occur. Green List.**

A return to modest numbers this year. In the first winter period a single off Mundesley and Waxham Jan 12<sup>th</sup> was the only record while a corpse Cley April 24<sup>th</sup> was perhaps a legacy from the influx of 2007.

First of the autumn Cley Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by singles Holme, Weybourne, Mundesley and Walcott Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Sheringham 3<sup>rd</sup> and one Kelling 14<sup>th</sup>. Largest influx of year Nov 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> peaking at 6 Sheringham (5 west, 1 east) and 8 west Walcott 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Little Auk (*John Geeson*)

### **PUFFIN (Atlantic Puffin)** *Fratercula arctica*

**Western European form *grabae* a very scarce passage migrant. Nominate northern form ('Northern Puffin') may also occur. Amber List.**

A run of late spring and summer records assumed to be wanderers from colonies further north in North Sea. All records relate to singles: May Blakeney Point 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sheringham and Eccles 26<sup>th</sup>; June Mundesley 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>; July Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 15<sup>th</sup> and Sheringham 22<sup>nd</sup>.

First of autumn Sheringham Sept 7<sup>th</sup> followed by influx Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> when reported Blakeney Point, Cley, Salthouse, Sheringham, Overstrand and Eccles. Although numbers tiny and clear overlap between adjacent sites a maximum of 5 Sheringham 23<sup>rd</sup> (east). No more reports until Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> when 1-2 offshore at 5 localities between Holme and Eccles.

In Nov just a single Cromer 2<sup>nd</sup> and two west Mundesley 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> followed by last of year at latter locality Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.



## **ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON (Common Pigeon) *Columba livia livia***

**Common feral resident. Green List.**

Max counts King's Lynn Docks where 150 Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 300 Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and 500 Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 66 Beeston Cliffs Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and 200 Norwich city centre Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas oenas***

**Fairly common resident. Amber List.**

In first winter period highest counts: *Jan* 75 Cockthorpe; *Feb* 120 Horsey Mill, 37 Ten Mile Bank; *March* 65 Saxlingham, 54 Great Cressingham; *April* 230 Feltwell Anchor.

An unusual record of 3 in off sea Waxham Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. Spring movement commenced March 7<sup>th</sup> with 12 east Overstrand and 18 west there next day. No other daily counts on north/east coasts exceeded 8. Latest migrant south Hunstanton April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding records included 36 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm and a pair Blakeney Point, where young being fed Sept. Mid-summer concentrations in June of 16 Wighton and 35 Reedham 5<sup>th</sup> and 21 Burnham Deepdale 11<sup>th</sup>. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 14.59% between 1994 and 2008 and no change between 2007 and 2008. 111 individuals were counted in 37 of 63 surveyed squares.

Usual small-scale autumn passage with 9 in off sea Warham Greens Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and a single west Sheringham Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. At Hunstanton 17 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> with max 11 Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 11 west Blakeney GM Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 13 south Horsey Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 west Home and 18 south Caister Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

In Nov 32 Weybourne 2<sup>nd</sup> with only 2 flocks noted in Dec: 20 North Elmham 4<sup>th</sup> and 49 Hickling 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **WOODPIGEON (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus palumbus***

**Abundant resident. Green List.**

In first winter period largest counts: *Jan* 1200 Ashmanhaugh, 1200 Limpenhoe, 1000 Thornham Farms; *Feb* 2000 Aldeby Tip, 600 Blofield, 700 Cockthorpe, 1435 Holme, 750 North Tuddenham; *March* 1000 Hanworth, 1000 Holme, 600 Postwick Marshes.

Spring passage from March 8<sup>th</sup> with max Hunstanton where total 4568 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> with peak counts 981 March 31<sup>st</sup> (2 hrs), 357 April 9<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs 30 mins) and 389 April 29<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs). Also regularly recorded Beeston Bump where 116 west March 30<sup>th</sup>, and in April 155 west 9<sup>th</sup>, 100 west 11<sup>th</sup> and 162 west 128 east 24<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere on north coast 108 east 18 west Overstrand March 28<sup>th</sup>, 207 Titchwell April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 141 28<sup>th</sup> (all west), and at Holme 100 April 4<sup>th</sup>, 300 15<sup>th</sup> and 200 22<sup>nd</sup> (all west). On east coast 200 south Horsey March 31<sup>st</sup>, 195 south 55 north Horsey April 10<sup>th</sup> and 214 north 71 south Waxham April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding records included 44 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm (12% increase on 2007), 14 pairs Scolt Head (highest number ever) and 4 pairs Blakeney Point. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 114.19% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 43.62% between 2007 and 2008. 4085 individuals were counted in 63 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn movement particularly evident again Hunstanton where total of 4022 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> with max counts in Nov of 546 8<sup>th</sup>, 532 9<sup>th</sup> and 1015 13<sup>th</sup> (all in 2 hrs). At Holme 398 Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 841 31<sup>st</sup>, 900 Nov 24<sup>th</sup> and 500 25<sup>th</sup> (all west). At New Costessey total 2222 moving through Tudd Valley Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-Nov 17<sup>th</sup> with 1605 Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Other counts: 400 west Titchwell Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 514 west Overstrand 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1500 west Paston 25<sup>th</sup>, 600 south Felthorpe 30<sup>th</sup>, 1000 south Trimmingham Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and 410 south Caister 12<sup>th</sup>. A late presumed hard-weather movement of 900 west Holme Dec 14<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs 30 mins).

Flocks in second winter period included: *Sept* 1000 Stanford TA; *Oct* 2000 Sheringham; *Nov* 4500 Longham, 1462 Holme, 1200 Weybourne; *Dec* 2000 Gateley.

A leucistic bird Beeston Priory March 2<sup>nd</sup> and a pure albino West Acre May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## **COLLARED DOVE (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto***

**Common resident. Green List.**

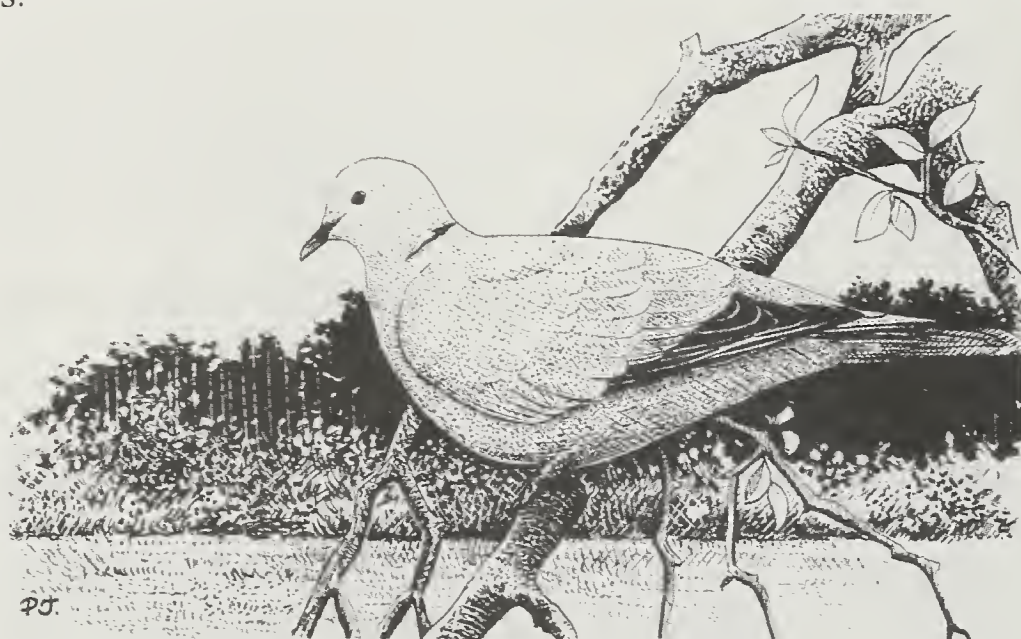
At Langham large numbers throughout year with peak monthly counts: Jan 129; Feb 101; May 66; June 70; July 77; Nov 97; Dec 108. Other notable counts in first winter period: Jan 51 Frettenham, 46 Rockland St Mary, 38 Repps-with-Bastwick; Feb 33 Wighton; March 30 Ormesby St Mary.

At Hunstanton total 129 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> with max 16 April 4<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs) and 17 April 28<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs 30 mins). Elsewhere only very small numbers noted moving along north/east coasts: 3 Overstrand March 7<sup>th</sup> with 3 13<sup>th</sup> and a single 14<sup>th</sup> (all west), and in April 4 south Horsey 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Beeston Bump 12<sup>th</sup> and 4 west Holme 24<sup>th</sup>.

2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 204.39% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 15.56% between 2007 and 2008. 376 individuals were counted in 39 of 63 surveyed squares.

Apart from 10 west Beeston Bump Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, only other autumn movement Hunstanton where total 30 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.

In second half of year max counts: July 40 Low Tharston; Oct 44 Elsing; Nov 270 King's Lynn Docks; Dec 54 Wells.



Collared Dove (*Phil Jones*)

## **TURTLE DOVE (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur turtur***

**Fairly common, though declining, summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

First noted Choseley April 20<sup>th</sup> with records from 18 other localities by month end.

Number of passage birds moving west along north coast and then south along Wash continues to diminish. All records listed: 3 Titchwell April 24<sup>th</sup> with subsequent singles in May at Hunstanton 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Beeston Bump 2<sup>nd</sup> and Cromer and Sheringham 3<sup>rd</sup>. At Snettisham in 1985 and 1986 max daily counts were 1300 and 950 respectively.

During summer noted at just over 100 localities but successful breeding only recorded at 7 sites. Only double-figure count 10 Burnham Market July 5<sup>th</sup>. At Bayfield Hall absent from estate for second successive year, noted as very scarce at Sparham and none seen at West Walton for the first time ever.

In Sept regularly recorded Holme until 17<sup>th</sup> with max 7 7<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 1-4 at 9 localities with latest Pentney GP 21<sup>st</sup>. At Langham a single Nov 17<sup>th</sup>-Dec 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **RING-NECKED PARAKEET (Rose-ringed Parakeet) *Psittacula krameri* subsp.**

**Rare naturalised species.**

Two Raynham Park Jan 27<sup>th</sup> (JRW) followed by a well-watched individual Long Stratton July 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> (SH *et al*).

## **CUCKOO (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus canorus***

**Fairly common, though declining, summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

First Thetford April 10<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent records from 102 localities in spring/summer. None recorded



Brancaster Thompson Farms and Wighton (for the first time ever) and severe decline noted Ditchingham area in recent years. Only 3 records of more than two birds, all in May: 3 Welney 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 Roydon Common 11<sup>th</sup> and total of 8 Hickling Broad 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rufous-phase females Kelling WM May 11<sup>th</sup> and Snettisham May 20<sup>th</sup>. Latest adult Home July 11<sup>th</sup>.

In autumn total of 25 juvs noted including a single in off sea Overstrand July 11<sup>th</sup>. Latest records in Sept: Stiffkey 14<sup>th</sup>, Holme 16<sup>th</sup> and Titchwell 18<sup>th</sup>.

**CORRECTION:** The record of 10 west Stiffkey May 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 should have referred to Collared Dove.

### **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba alba*

**Nominate British form a fairly common resident. Continental form *guttata* ('Dark-breasted Barn Owl') a very rare vagrant. Amber List.**

Records from throughout the county from 346 sites, continuing the steady and welcome increase over recent years. In first part of year largest multiple sightings: 9 St.Benet's Level Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, 6 Burnham Overy Mill Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and South Walsham Jan 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>; 5 Breydon Marshes Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, Potter Heigham Marshes Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and up to 5 Holme Jan/Feb; 4 Buxton Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, Claxton Marshes March 13<sup>th</sup>, Itteringham April 24<sup>th</sup>, Martham Broad Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, and Themelthorpe March 22<sup>nd</sup>; records of 3 birds from Burnham Deepdale, Hardley Marshes, Holkham GM, Ludham Bridge, Sculthorpe Moor and Swanton Morley.

Relatively few reports of successful breeding received, although a total of 53 pulli were ringed from 26 sites in the east of the county. Also in this area young were heard calling from nests at East Somerton and Winterton. Elsewhere, successful pairs reported Barningham, Blakeney GM (at least one nest), Colkirk, Holme (where 3 pairs thought to have bred), Kelling (2 pairs), Little Walsingham, Sparham (2 pairs), Stanford TA (where 3 pairs reared 4 chicks and a further 2 nests failed) and West Walton (where 2 pairs bred in nestboxes).

At year end multiple sightings of up to 7 St.Benet's Level Dec 5<sup>th</sup>; 4 Buxton Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and Hickling Dec 7<sup>th</sup> and 3 Denver Sluice Nov 28<sup>th</sup> and Terrington Marsh Dec 27<sup>th</sup>.

Road casualties reported from the A11 Attleborough bypass, the A17 between Clenchwarton and Terrington, and from Croxton.

Two records of the dark-breasted continental form *guttata*, both unfortunately found dead: an adult female found dead beside the A10 near Southery July 12<sup>th</sup> (VK). This bird had been ringed as a nestling, with 5 others, in The Netherlands in June 2007. A few weeks prior to it being found, it was trapped at a nest site in East Anglia where it was incubating 3 eggs. Another found dead Hopton Sept 16<sup>th</sup> (JB per PA).

### **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua vidalii*

**Fairly common naturalised resident.**

Records received from only 112 sites, a decrease from the 123-173 sites in previous 4 years, but this may be due to incomplete reporting of this sedentary though secretive species. Most records relate to single individuals or pairs but 2 pairs present Repps-with-Bastwick, Sparham and Wacton and 8 sites occupied Stanford TA.

Evidence of breeding often difficult to find, though successful pairs confirmed at Burgh Castle, Flitcham (2 juvs), North Pickenham (2 juvs), Stanford TA and Thornham Farms (2 or 3 juvs). Pairs also reported to have bred Brettenham and West Walton.

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco sylvatica*

**Common resident. Green List.**

Records received from only 95 sites, substantially down on the numbers (113-131) recorded in previous 4 years, though this may reflect observer reporting. A calling bird Beeston Bump represented only the second record in 10 years.

Breeding was confirmed, usually by the presence of calling young, from only 16 sites, again fewer than in recent years: Brancaster Thompson Farms (where 3 young calling, though up to



6 territories), Brettenham Heath, Fritton, Grimston Warren, Martham, Hoveton Park (3 pairs), Morningthorpe GP, Oby, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead Courtyard Farms (young seen at one of 7 occupied territories), Southrepps, Thetford Nunnery, Thurne, Titchwell and West Barsham.

Presumed road casualties Beeston, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Corpusty and Hellington.

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus otus*

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Very scarce breeder. Green List.**

In first winter period recorded from 10 sites: Brettenham Heath March 31<sup>st</sup>, East Ruston Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, Great Moulton Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-Feb 10<sup>th</sup> (with 2 Jan 21<sup>st</sup>), 3 Hempton Jan 8<sup>th</sup> with 1-2 on several dates to 27<sup>th</sup>, Hempton Marsh March 3<sup>rd</sup>, heard Hoe Common Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, North Tuddenham Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, heard Reepham throughout winter (to March 18<sup>th</sup>), Thetford Olley's Farm Jan 27<sup>th</sup> and roosting Wacton March 13<sup>th</sup>. Only coastal spring records Winterton April 12<sup>th</sup> and west Sheringham May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Successful breeding confirmed at 3 sites in Breckland: 2 juvs food-begging Brettenham Heath May 14<sup>th</sup>, young calling Thetford Warren June 4<sup>th</sup> and an adult carrying food Croxton June 5<sup>th</sup>. In the east a pair regularly hunted the Yarmouth Little Tern colony June 6<sup>th</sup>-Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by 2 young towards the end of this period. Elsewhere summer records from Ludham, South Walsham, Terrington Marsh and Upton Fen.

First autumn records 2 Barwick Oct 11<sup>th</sup> and Terrington Marsh 12<sup>th</sup>. Obvious arrival from late October: 29<sup>th</sup> in off sea Paston; 30<sup>th</sup> East Runton, Scolt Head and Stiffkey; 31<sup>st</sup> Burnham Overy Dunes, Eccles and possibly same Horsey Gap and Sea Palling, and 3 Wells East Hills. In Nov: 1<sup>st</sup> 2 Blakeney Point, Sheringham and Stiffkey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Blakeney Point, in off sea Happisburgh, Holme and Titchwell; 3<sup>rd</sup> Warham Greens and 4<sup>th</sup> Dunton. A roosting bird Caister Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and in Dec 2 Barwick 10<sup>th</sup> and a single Hellesdon 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus flammeus*

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Very scarce breeder. Amber List.**

In first 3 months regular sightings of up to 3 Blakeney Point (where pellets contained remains of Dunlin, Knot and Redshank), Breydon/Bradwell Garton Marshes (2 Jan 16<sup>th</sup>), Holme, Morston (2 Jan 26<sup>th</sup>), Roydon Common (2 Feb 5<sup>th</sup> increasing to 4 18<sup>th</sup>) and Wacton Common where 2 Feb/March (with 3 22<sup>nd</sup>). Elsewhere singles Burnham Overy Dunes, Horsey, Warham Greens and Winterton.

Sightings, mostly of singles, continued through April and May but 2 Breydon April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 Hempstead Marshes May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 Snettisham April 14<sup>th</sup> and 3 Somerton Holmes April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>. Birds seen flying out to sea Cley April 6<sup>th</sup> and Paston April 23<sup>rd</sup>, whilst incoming birds noted Eccles April 11<sup>th</sup> and Salthouse 27<sup>th</sup>. Other spring records additional to winter sites: Beeston Bump, Brograve Levels, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy GM, Caister, Choseley, Cley, Cromer GC, Hickling, Hunstanton, North Wootton Marshes, Ridlington, Salthouse, Scolt Head, Sea Palling, Snettisham, South Walsham Marshes, St. Benet's Level, Terrington Marsh, Titchwell, Waxham, West Runton, West Walton and Weybourne.

In June singles recorded Burnham Overy GM, Holme, Scolt Head, St. Benet's Level, Weybourne and, at Yarmouth, birds in off sea 20<sup>th</sup> and east 30<sup>th</sup>. None reported July.

First autumn records: Titchwell Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holme 5<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup> and one west 25<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 21<sup>st</sup> and in off sea 27<sup>th</sup>. Other incoming migrants Kelling WM Sept 9<sup>th</sup> and, later in month, 2 Cromer and a single Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup>. Further off sea arrivals: 2 Eccles Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 Walcott 31<sup>st</sup> and a single Overstrand Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, though many other coastal records doubtless also referred to incoming migrants. Most regularly seen Blakeney Point (max 3 Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>), up to 3 Holkham GM Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>-Dec 5<sup>th</sup>), Holme (max 3 Oct 11<sup>th</sup>) and Warham Greens (up to 3 late Oct-early Dec). Other multiple coastal records: 3 Titchwell Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney GM Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, Hempstead Marsh Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, Horsey/Waxham Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey/Morston Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and Terrington Marsh Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. Away from the coast, singles Acle Oct 26<sup>th</sup> and Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, Briston Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, Loddon Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, Roydon Common Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to year end, St. Benet's Level Nov 30<sup>th</sup>-Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and Welney Sept 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## **NIGHTJAR (European Nightjar) *Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus***

### **Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

First records Shouldham May 7<sup>th</sup> followed by Roydon Common and Thetford Warren 8<sup>th</sup>, High Kelling 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 Kelling Heath 10<sup>th</sup>.

Counts of churring males in early summer: *north* 12 at 4 sites; *east* 5 at a single site; *west* 36 at 5 sites, with reports of good numbers of fledged young from the main site; *central* 22 in a co-ordinated count at 3 sites representing a substantial increase; *Brecks* 17 from 5 sites reported, with negative returns from Brettenham Heath.

Probable migrants Scolt Head May 27<sup>th</sup> and Holme July 26<sup>th</sup>. A single primary feather found Holkham Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **SWIFT (Common Swift) *Apus apus apus***

### **Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

First Titchwell April 23<sup>rd</sup> with further singles Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup> and Colney GP 25<sup>th</sup>. More widely noted 26<sup>th</sup> when 13 south Hunstanton, 55 west Scolt Head, 18 Blakeney Point, 12 Cley, 13 Swanton Morley and single figure counts from 7 other localities. On 27<sup>th</sup> counts included 55 in 3hrs 30mins Hunstanton, 17 Holme and 24 west Beeston Bump. Larger arrival 28<sup>th</sup>, when 35 Hunstanton, 35 Holme, 20 Titchwell, 23 Scolt Head, 100 Holkham, 50 Buckenham Marsh and 129 Welney. Largest numbers during the rest of the month included 100 Thetford Nunnery Lakes and 40 How Hill 29<sup>th</sup> and 50 Holme 30<sup>th</sup>.

No major gatherings or coastal movements noted in May. Only significant counts: 1<sup>st</sup> 54 Holme, 105 in 2hrs 30mins Hunstanton, 198 west Holme, 97 Scolt Head, and 150 Filby Broad; 14<sup>th</sup> 200 Titchwell; 18<sup>th</sup> 200 Buckenham Marsh and 100 Nar Valley.

Many comments received on low breeding numbers although 10-15 pairs Felthorpe, 12 pairs in one house Martham and 6 pairs Thornham Farms. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 31.95% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 51.77% between 2007 and 2008. 301 individuals were counted in 39 of 63 surveyed squares.

Westerly coastal movements in June were very small, even smaller than in 2007. At Scolt Head only 556 were logged during the month including 162 29<sup>th</sup> and 129 30<sup>th</sup>, at Blakeney Point 290 20<sup>th</sup> and 170 28<sup>th</sup>, and 162 west Cley on 26<sup>th</sup>. Inland gatherings included 400 Welney 17<sup>th</sup> with 250 there 26<sup>th</sup>. Westerly passage remained poor in July though 700 Burnham Deepdale 8<sup>th</sup> (0900-0945) was an exception. Only 1200 passed Scolt during the month including 327 1<sup>st</sup>, 184 2<sup>nd</sup> and 294 10<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 279 Holme 15<sup>th</sup> and 11 in off sea Hopton 21<sup>st</sup>. Inland feeding flocks included 350 Burnham Market 5<sup>th</sup> and 60 West Acre 14<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers decreased in Aug though 238 Blakeney Point 3<sup>rd</sup> and an exceptional 5000 were moving ahead of a thunderstorm at Thorpe St. Andrew 7<sup>th</sup>, the only 4-figure count of the year. Southward movements noted on east coast with 20 Eccles 13<sup>th</sup>, 220 Walcott 19<sup>th</sup> (0600-0800) and 45 20<sup>th</sup> (0600-0800) and 5 Sea Palling 31<sup>st</sup>. Small numbers still widespread in Sept with some westerly passage along north coast, max 42 west Scolt Head 12<sup>th</sup> and 20 Blakeney Point 20<sup>th</sup>. Only Oct records singles Welney 5<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 10<sup>th</sup> and Sheringham 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba melba***

### **Rare vagrant.**

One Gimingham Sept 8<sup>th</sup> (MDF, SH) with almost certainly the same Holme Sept 9<sup>th</sup> (GB, ME).

## **KINGFISHER (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis ispida***

### **Fairly common resident. Amber List.**

Records from at least 125 localities represent an increase over the previous 2 years, possibly due in part to more diligent reporting following recent requests for sightings.

Reports from the first winter period mostly of singles but 4 Belaugh, 3 Catfield and 2 Blakeney, Brancaster Harbour/Scolt Head, Earsham, Gooderstone, Hoveton, Swanton Morley, Thetford, Titchwell, UEA Broad and Wroxham.



Pairs present in breeding season at 22 sites, including 6 territories in the Stanford TA, though successful breeding proved only Hoveton Park, Stanford and Thetford Nunnery Lakes.

In second half of year 2 seen at 7 sites, but records of 3 or more birds, therefore indicating possible breeding success, only from Barton Broad, Rougham and Scolt Head. Possible migrants west along the clifftop Sheringham BO Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, in off sea West Runton Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and Overstrand Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **BEE-EATER (European Bee-eater) *Merops apiaster***

**Very scarce passage migrant in spring.**

Six spring records: Scolt Head May 2<sup>nd</sup> (NML), east Titchwell 3<sup>rd</sup> (CAEK), probably different individuals Beeston Bump 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (GED), 'heard-only' Blakeney Point 10<sup>th</sup> (JMcC) and a very well-watched bird Northrepps June 7<sup>th</sup> (MO).

### **HOOPOE (Eurasian Hoopoe) *Upupa epops epops***

**Very scarce passage migrant.**

A typical year with up to 8 records. In spring Winterton April 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, possibly same Waxham 26<sup>th</sup>, and Burnham Overy Dunes May 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. In summer, Stiffkey June 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, Heydon June 4<sup>th</sup>, High Kelling June 5<sup>th</sup> and Yarmouth July 4<sup>th</sup>. In autumn Cromer Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.



Hoopoe (Gary Wright)

### **WRYNECK (Eurasian Wryneck) *Jynx torquilla torquilla***

**Red-listed. Scarce or very scarce passage migrant in autumn, very scarce in spring. Red List.**

At least 8 recorded in spring: Burnham Overy Dunes and Winterton April 21<sup>st</sup>, Horsey/Waxham April 26<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne April 27<sup>th</sup>, Spixworth May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes May 8<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point May 17<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head May 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage involved around 25 birds: Aug Sea Palling 20<sup>th</sup>, Kelling Heath 23<sup>rd</sup>, Holme 30<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 31<sup>st</sup>; Sept Gorleston 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, Castle Acre 10<sup>th</sup> (found freshly dead), Thetford Nunnery Lakes 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 3 Winterton 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, Blakeney Point 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham BO 14<sup>th</sup>, Wells East Hills 14<sup>th</sup>, Holme 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, Waxham 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, Strumpshaw 18<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 19<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes 20<sup>th</sup>, Bunwell 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

### **GREEN WOODPECKER (European Green Woodpecker) *Picus viridis viridis***

**Fairly common resident. Amber List.**

Reports from 89 sites. Breeding pairs: 2 Beeston, Frettenham, Gayton, Grimston Pott Row, Horning Waterworks, 2 Old Catton, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, South Wootton.





Green Woodpecker (*John Geeson*)

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

**British form *anglicus* a common resident. Nominate continental form ('Northern Great Spotted Woodpecker') a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*anglicus*).**

Spring coastal migrants south Hunstanton April 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding noted: Catton Park 4 prs, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 6 territories, Roydon Common, Southrepps.

Autumn coastal migrants perhaps of this form (singles unless stated): *Sept* Weybourne 16<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes 20<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>, 5 Holme 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 Holme 28<sup>th</sup>; *Oct* Holme BO 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hunstanton 4<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney GM 18<sup>th</sup>, Hunstanton 19<sup>th</sup>.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor comminutus*

**Scarce and declining resident. Red List.**

Recorded at 17 sites (singles unless stated): Beechamwell, Cranwick, Croxton Heath, Felbrigg, Filby Broad, Frettenham, Great Ryburgh, Grime's Graves, 2 Holkham Park, Lynford Arboretum, Nar Valley Fisheries, Ringland, 5 Santon Downham, 2 Sheringham Park, Strumpshaw, 2 Thetford, Tottenhill GP, West Tofts Mere.

The most consistently occupied sites were Santon Downham, where seen on 11 occasions and copulation and nest excavation observed, and Holkham Park, where reported throughout Jan-March. The table shows the number of sites where this species was recorded each year since 2000.

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
51	34	37	50	32	31	23	24	17

**WOODLARK (Wood Lark)** *Lullula arborea arborea*

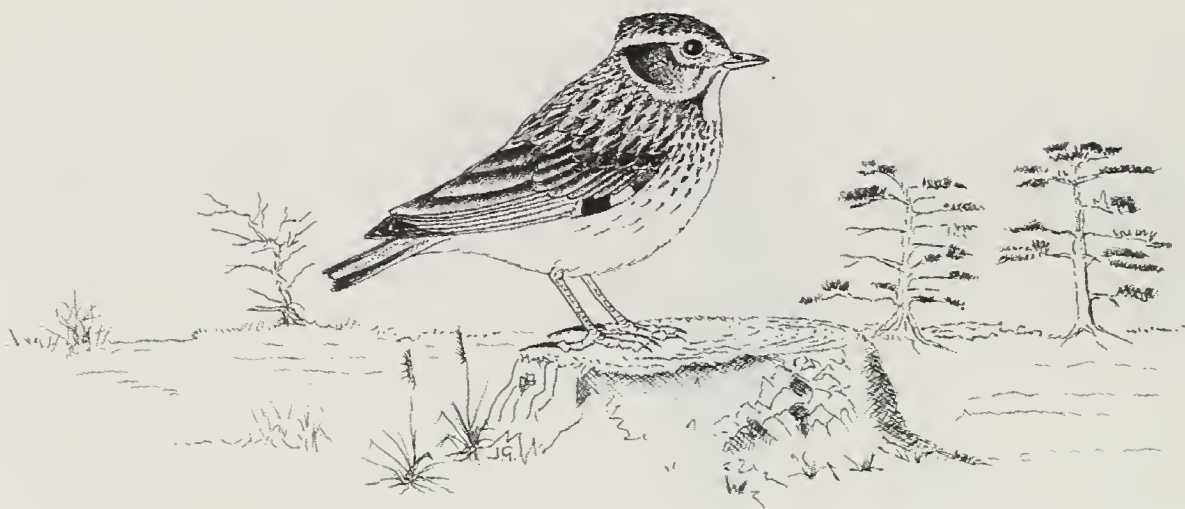
**Scarce resident and passage migrant. Amber List.**

In Jan/Feb 4 West Tofts and 9 South Wootton Common the only flocks. Away from known breeding areas singles Cley Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, Shouldham Feb 16<sup>th</sup> and Walsey Hills Feb 18<sup>th</sup> may all have been early migrants. March migrants Holme 9<sup>th</sup>, Walsey Hills 14<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes 15<sup>th</sup>, Overstrand 2 east 28<sup>th</sup>, Winterton, Mundesley, Paston and Thornham Point 29<sup>th</sup> and Little Snoring 30<sup>th</sup>. No reports in April but one east Warham Greens May 10<sup>th</sup> is late.

First singing male noted at the end Jan with widespread reports from Feb onwards. In Thetford Forest the 34<sup>th</sup> annual survey found 269 singing males of which 163 were in Norfolk, an increase of 9 on 2007. Almost 30% were in newly-felled areas, forest heathland or permanent open space. Elsewhere numbers of singing males/pairs: north 3, central 1, west 23.

In autumn late singing males noted at 2 sites in the Brecks Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct 12<sup>th</sup> while migrants were noted Trimingham Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes and Horsey Gap Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, west Sennowe Park 24<sup>th</sup>, east Sheringham GC Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sheringham BO 4<sup>th</sup> and south Horning Waterworks 12<sup>th</sup>. Dec reports from Stanford with flocks of 15 5<sup>th</sup> and 12 28<sup>th</sup> and one Cley 24<sup>th</sup>.





Woodlark (*John Geeson*)

### **SKYLARK (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis arvensis***

**Nominate form a common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Birds showing characters of the western Siberian and Central Asian form *dulcivox* noted on a couple of occasions. Red List (nominate).**

In first winter period highest counts 75 Hockering Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 50 Cockthorpe 4<sup>th</sup>, 158 Little Snoring airfield and 196 Terrington Marsh 12<sup>th</sup> with 287 there Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 150 Marham Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and 136 Catfield 12<sup>th</sup>. Only migrants 2 west Beeston Bump March 30<sup>th</sup> with 3 west there 31<sup>st</sup>, 3 west Sheringham BO 30<sup>th</sup> and 8 south Hunstanton March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Breeding records of singing males/pairs (last year in brackets): Scolt Head 107 (81), Blakeney Point 36 (45), Blakeney GM 22 (43), Cley 5, Holkham 18, Kelling 6, Langham 7, Roydon Common 1 or 2, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 77 (81), Sparham 38 (42), Thornham Farms 15, Welney 8 (22). Apart from Scolt Head all sites noted a continuing decline. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 33.82% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 10% between 2007 and 2008. 425 individuals were counted in 56 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn migration noted throughout Oct with 56 west Blakeney GM 18<sup>th</sup>, 150 west Burnham Overy Dunes 18<sup>th</sup> and 20 in off sea Eccles 30<sup>th</sup>. At Holme (all west) 36 1<sup>st</sup>, 73 8<sup>th</sup>, 45 11<sup>th</sup>, 176 18<sup>th</sup>, 90 28<sup>th</sup>, 105 30<sup>th</sup> and 67 31<sup>st</sup>. Elsewhere 17 west Overstrand 18<sup>th</sup>, 25 west Paston 29<sup>th</sup>, 14 west Sheringham 18<sup>th</sup> and 27 west 28<sup>th</sup>, 200 Sheringham BO 9<sup>th</sup>, 163 Terrington Marsh 17<sup>th</sup> and 35 in off sea Waxham 25<sup>th</sup>. At Hunstanton 628 counted south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> including 43 in 2.5 hours Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 69 in 3.5 hours Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 52 in 3.75 hours Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 54 in 5.75 hours Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and 50 in 2.5 hrs Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

Significant flocks in second winter period (all Dec): 120 Brancaster Thompson Farms 2<sup>nd</sup> with 70 8<sup>th</sup>, 60 Fornsett 28<sup>th</sup>, 80 Quidenham 26<sup>th</sup>, 60 Scarning 31<sup>st</sup> and 200 Stanford TA 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **SHORE LARK (Horned Lark) *Eremophila alpestris flava***

**Scarce or very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

In first winter period 3 between Cley and Blakeney Point Jan 11<sup>th</sup>-April 4<sup>th</sup>, declining to 1 or 2 to April 25<sup>th</sup>, and 2 Scolt Head Feb 5<sup>th</sup>-April 13<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 2 Burnham Overy Dunes March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Titchwell 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 West Runton April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Only autumn reports: 8 west Salthouse Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and one Breydon Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. No reports for the second winter period.

### **BLACK LARK *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis***

**Very rare vagrant.**

Adult male Winterton North Dunes April 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> (SO *et al*), though only present in the early morning of 21<sup>st</sup>. This constitutes the third record for Britain but the first for Norfolk. See article for a full account of this occurrence.





Black Lark (*Richard Thewlis*)

### **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia riparia*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

First reports early March when 2 Thetford Power Station 1<sup>st</sup> and one Dersingham Bog 2<sup>nd</sup>. Small numbers then reported from 20 locations from 10<sup>th</sup> until the month end, all single figures except for 10 Nar Valley Fisheries 29<sup>th</sup> and 12 Lynford Water 31<sup>st</sup>. Single figure reports continued into early April but with exceptional counts of 100 Titchwell 4<sup>th</sup> and Lynford Water 6<sup>th</sup>. Main passage started 12<sup>th</sup>, with peak counts 40 Pentney GP 12<sup>th</sup>, 22 Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup> and 35 Barton Broad 14<sup>th</sup>, 314 Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>, 168 26<sup>th</sup> and 99 28<sup>th</sup> and 150 Barton Broad 29<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued into early May with peak of 121 Scolt Head 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding reported from 2 sites: Paston where 2 sites on cliffs had 145 and 41 burrows respectively, young still being present Aug 9<sup>th</sup>, and Stanford TA where 4 sites had 100, 110, 10 and 10 burrows respectively.

Large numbers reported in late June with 141 north Sea Palling 18<sup>th</sup> and 139 28<sup>th</sup>, 430 west Walcott 27<sup>th</sup> and 237 west 29<sup>th</sup>, 45 Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>, 138 north Winterton 28<sup>th</sup> and 50 Cley 30<sup>th</sup>. This movement continued into July where Scolt Head reported a good month with (all west) 171 1<sup>st</sup>, 192 10<sup>th</sup>, 249 11<sup>th</sup>, 277 15<sup>th</sup>, 165 18<sup>th</sup> and 90 30<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 30 south Welney 10<sup>th</sup>, 36 Cley 12<sup>th</sup>, 130 Blakeney Point 15<sup>th</sup>, 47 Holme 15<sup>th</sup> and 823 west Mundesley (the largest count of the year) 15<sup>th</sup> and 40 Holme Redwell Marsh 27<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage continued into Aug with the largest counts 40 Holme Redwell Marsh 9<sup>th</sup>, 29 Scolt Head 9<sup>th</sup> and 49 25<sup>th</sup>, 11 Blakeney Point 10<sup>th</sup> and 10 Blakeney GM 25<sup>th</sup>. A small number reported in Sept with peak counts 19 west Scolt Head 2<sup>nd</sup> and 22 west 11<sup>th</sup>, 40 Langham 8<sup>th</sup> and 52 Blakeney Point 16<sup>th</sup>. In Oct 2 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Wissington BF 5<sup>th</sup> and singles Nar Valley Fisheries 4<sup>th</sup> and Cromer GC 9<sup>th</sup>. Last of the year Eccles and Titchwell Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **SWALLOW (Barn Swallow)** *Hirundo rustica rustica*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

First of the year at Rockland Broad March 19<sup>th</sup>, after which a long gap until March 28<sup>th</sup> when singles Panworth Broad and Salthouse. Singletons reported from 12 further locations by the month end, numbers picking up slightly in early April with between 1-3 at 21 locations with 21 Titchwell and 16 Welney 4<sup>th</sup> and 12 Guist and 10 Pentney GP 6<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter numbers increased with significant counts: 25 Holme 13<sup>th</sup>, 193 24<sup>th</sup>, 239 25<sup>th</sup>, 440 26<sup>th</sup> and 437 27<sup>th</sup>, 701 south Hunstanton April 1<sup>st</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> including 82 April 24<sup>th</sup>, 54 26<sup>th</sup>, 114 27<sup>th</sup> and 241 28<sup>th</sup>, 193 Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>, 239 25<sup>th</sup>, 440 26<sup>th</sup> and 437 27<sup>th</sup>, 40 Filby Broad 19<sup>th</sup>, 29 Titchwell 21<sup>st</sup>, 200 Barton Broad 22<sup>nd</sup>, 58 Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>, 42 Walsey Hills and 320 west, 50 east Beeston Bump 27<sup>th</sup>, 300 south Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup>, 91 west Kelling Hard 28<sup>th</sup> and 155 west Sheringham BO 30<sup>th</sup>.

Peak spring passage again in May with peak counts: 200 west Titchwell and 400 south Winterton 3<sup>rd</sup>, 400 south Sea Palling and 135 (mostly east) Sheringham 4<sup>th</sup>, 1243 east Paston 7<sup>th</sup> with 2468 east 8<sup>th</sup>, 140 south Horsey/Waxham 7<sup>th</sup>, 100 east Blakeney GM 9<sup>th</sup> and 130 Blakeney Point 18<sup>th</sup>.



Scolt Head reported a poor month with only 17709 west with max 215 1<sup>st</sup>, 383 2<sup>nd</sup>, 269 4<sup>th</sup> and 281 18<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued into June with peak counts: 60 Ranworth Broad 6<sup>th</sup>, 21 Scolt Head and 52 Blakeney Point 8<sup>th</sup> and 70 Holme 29<sup>th</sup>.

Reports of breeding pairs: 2 Thornham Farms, Warham in a bus shelter, 5+ Blakeney Point with 15+ young raised, 5+ Cley with 5 young raised, High Kelling, 4 Beeston Regis, 10 Caister Stables, 11 Chedgrave Marshes, 5 Ormesby St Margaret, 5 Potter Heigham, 5 Ringstead Courtyard Farm (17% down on 2007), 6-8 Brancaster Thompson Farms, Morningthorpe in a mini-chandelier in a house porch, Wighton and 6 Welney. Numbers reported down at Great Hockham and Stanford TA. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 36.95% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 7.35% between 2007 and 2008. 239 individuals were counted in 45 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn passage began July 4<sup>th</sup> with 20 Blakeney GM and noted Scolt Head from 12<sup>th</sup> with 1748 west in the month including 190 14<sup>th</sup>, 233 29<sup>th</sup> and 882 30<sup>th</sup>. At Holme 30 13<sup>th</sup>, 33 west 22<sup>nd</sup>, 33 east 24<sup>th</sup>, 43 east 25<sup>th</sup>, 50 west 26<sup>th</sup> and 50 29<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 155 Blakeney Point and 150 Horsey Gap 30<sup>th</sup>. In Aug passage noted most days with 2199 west Scolt Head in the month with peaks of 132 16<sup>th</sup>, 815 25<sup>th</sup> and 541 26<sup>th</sup>. At Holme peak numbers (all west): '100's' 25<sup>th</sup>, 107 26<sup>th</sup> and 150 30<sup>th</sup>. Also there, 170 Holme Redwell Marsh 18<sup>th</sup>, 150 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and 300+ at roost there 31<sup>st</sup>. Elsewhere 2500 Wacton and 397 west Sheringham BO 25<sup>th</sup>, 160 west Burnham Deepdale in 30 mins and 500 west Warham Greens in 2 hours 27<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued into Sept with good numbers reported to 16<sup>th</sup>. Peak numbers: 500 west Holme Redwell Marsh 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scolt Head (all west) 528 2<sup>nd</sup>, 210 3<sup>rd</sup>, 689 10<sup>th</sup>, 1924 11<sup>th</sup> and 530 12<sup>th</sup>, 120 Thornham 5<sup>th</sup>, 160 Cley 6<sup>th</sup> with 50 west 13<sup>th</sup> and 100 16<sup>th</sup>, 69 Holme 8<sup>th</sup> with 70 9<sup>th</sup>, 128 at roost 11<sup>th</sup> and 40 13<sup>th</sup>. Inland 50 Welney 8<sup>th</sup> and 80 Hanworth Common 11<sup>th</sup>. From 17<sup>th</sup> reported in single figures from 15 locations but also 32 Scolt Head 20<sup>th</sup>, 20 Welney 17<sup>th</sup> with 50 south 30<sup>th</sup>, 23 Blakeney Point 20<sup>th</sup> and 20 Holkham Bay 26<sup>th</sup>. Oct max 10 Stowbridge 4<sup>th</sup> and single figure counts from a further 13 coastal and 7 inland sites with no more than 8 at any one. In Nov no more than 3 reported from 15 coastal and 3 inland sites, the last of the year Ringstead 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **HOUSE MARTIN (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum urbicum***

### **Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

First report on the late date of March 29<sup>th</sup>, after which up to 3 at 17 locations in March and early April. Passage more noticeable 13<sup>th</sup> with 9 Hunstanton and 15 Brancaster Staithe but then few until 24<sup>th</sup> when 13 Hunstanton. Thereafter 10 Hunstanton 27<sup>th</sup> and 65 28<sup>th</sup> and 11 Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup> with 39 26<sup>th</sup> and 135 28<sup>th</sup> (all west). April poor at both Scolt Head and Hunstanton and this continued into May when 76 Scolt Head 1<sup>st</sup>, 67 2<sup>nd</sup> and 55 28<sup>th</sup>, 14 Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15 Holme 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13 Hunstanton 3<sup>rd</sup>. Inland at Wighton the first returning birds on 7<sup>th</sup> were 2 weeks later than normal. Passage continued into early June with 25 Holme 7<sup>th</sup> and 31 north Winterton 8<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding pairs reported from 14 localities: 5 Cley, 8 Chedgrave, 5 Filby King's Head PH (8 in 2007), 20 Horning Hall, 15 Welney and 6 Wighton. Numbers reported down at Stanford TA. A late-fledging nest reported Sculthorpe Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers reported moving July with peak counts 20 Holme Redwell Marsh 17<sup>th</sup> and 40 west Holme 27<sup>th</sup>. Passage more obvious from Aug 16<sup>th</sup> when 75 west Scolt Head and 25 Holme, then 50 Gayton Thorpe and 130 Holme Redgrave Marsh 18<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers reported in late Aug and the first half of Sept with peaks: Aug 50 Holme Redgrave Marsh 24<sup>th</sup> with 100 26<sup>th</sup>, 117 west Scolt Head 25<sup>th</sup> and 127 west 26<sup>th</sup>, 118 west Sheringham BO 25<sup>th</sup> and 100 Castle Acre 27<sup>th</sup>; Sept 50 Thornham 4<sup>th</sup>, 100 Holme Redwell Marsh 5<sup>th</sup>, 227 west Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup> with 215 west 12<sup>th</sup>, 129 west Holme 11<sup>th</sup> with 80 17<sup>th</sup>, 100 Titchwell 12<sup>th</sup>, 50 Cley 13<sup>th</sup>, 126 west Sheringham BO 13<sup>th</sup> and 108 Blakeney Point 16<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter reported in single figures from only 7 locations until 120 south Welney 30<sup>th</sup>. In Oct 250 Welney 1<sup>st</sup> and 40 5<sup>th</sup> with other notable counts 20 Boughton Fen 2<sup>nd</sup>, 18 Threxton and 21 Wissington BF 5<sup>th</sup> but otherwise reported in single figures from 6 inland and 8 coastal locations with 1 west Titchwell 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 Waxham 27<sup>th</sup> the last.



## **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Cecropis daurica rufula*

**Very scarce passage migrant.**

One west Salthouse and Blakeney Point April 9<sup>th</sup> (AMS) and one east Warham Greens Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> (RGM).

## **RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus richardi richardi*

**Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn, very scarce in spring and winter.**

In first winter period Terrington Marsh to Jan 16<sup>th</sup> (from 2007) and Stiffkey Fen Feb 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. In spring Kelling WM May 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn numbers very poor with just 10 records Sept/Oct, all singles. First west Scolt Head Sept 18<sup>th</sup> then Kelling WM and Rockland Broad 25<sup>th</sup>, West Runton 26<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, Buckenham Marshes 30<sup>th</sup>, west Cley Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, west Titchwell and Thornham Point 18<sup>th</sup>, Holme 19<sup>th</sup> and West Runton 30<sup>th</sup>.

One winter record Morston Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **TAWNY PIPIT** *Anthus campestris campestris*

**Very scarce passage migrant.**

Two records, both adults and both long-staying birds, one in spring and one in autumn: Waxham May 22<sup>nd</sup>-June 6<sup>th</sup> (TA, RC) and Blakeney Point Aug 8<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> (AMS *et al*)

## **TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis trivialis*

**Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

First of spring 2 Thetford Warren Wood March 29<sup>th</sup>, Sea Palling April 1<sup>st</sup>, Winterton 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hunstanton 8<sup>th</sup>, Cromer GC 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 Holme 13<sup>th</sup> followed by coastal migrants almost daily 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Max counts April 3 Burnham Overy 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Scolt Head and 14 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton 23<sup>rd</sup> with 10 south in 4.5 hrs 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 Eccles and 4 west Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 Horsey/Waxham, 10 south in 3.5 hrs Hunstanton and 4 Holme 27<sup>th</sup> with 3 28<sup>th</sup>; May 12 south in 2.5 hrs Hunstanton and 3 south Winterton 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 Dersingham Bog 11<sup>th</sup> and 4 Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup>.

Singing males/territories during breeding season: Cranwich (2), Dersingham Bog (2), Grimston Warren, Kelling Heath, Roydon Common (8), Santon Downham and Thetford Warren, six localities down on 2007.

Autumn passage commenced Holme Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by singles Blakeney Point and Scolt Head 30<sup>th</sup>, Happisburgh, Blakeney Point and 6 West Runton 31<sup>st</sup>. Fairly good passage during Sept with 1-2 at 19 coastal localities but 4 Blakeney Point 13<sup>th</sup> with 3 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 Scolt Head 14<sup>th</sup> with 8 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, 6 Sidestrand 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 Cromer GC 17<sup>th</sup>. 12 Stanford TA 28<sup>th</sup> although no singing males/territorial records received from there.

In Oct Hellesdon 2<sup>nd</sup>, west Weybourne 6<sup>th</sup> and 2 Holme 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

**Nominate form a common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the Western Scotland and Northern Ireland form *whistleri* ('Hebridean Meadow Pipit') noted occasionally in early spring. Amber List (both forms).**

Largest flocks in first winter period: 20 Blakeney GM, 35 Brettenham Heath, 20 Burnham Deepdale, 37 Cley, 45 Drymere (Beechamwell), 35 Holme, 20-30 roosted regularly Roydon Common, 43 Terrington Marsh, 30 Thornham Farms, 52 Warham and 27 Wells.

First migrants 12 west Beeston Bump Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. Return passage noted from second week in March with 26 west Holme 13<sup>th</sup> and 33 west 14<sup>th</sup>. At Hunstanton 4420 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> including peaks of 280 March 15<sup>th</sup>, 745 28<sup>th</sup>, 258 30<sup>th</sup>, 312 April 1<sup>st</sup>, 415 2<sup>nd</sup>, 521 8<sup>th</sup>, 474 9<sup>th</sup>, 216 11<sup>th</sup> and 311 27<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in March best counts 185 west Beeston Bump 29<sup>th</sup> and 473 west Sheringham 30<sup>th</sup>. In April westerly movements at Beeston Bump 1015 in 2.5 hrs 1<sup>st</sup>, 148 4<sup>th</sup>, 318 9<sup>th</sup> and 125 10<sup>th</sup>; Holme 85 2<sup>nd</sup>, 58 9<sup>th</sup>, 100 26<sup>th</sup> and 50 (1030-1130) 27<sup>th</sup>; Scolt Head total of only 1720 April 9<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> with best counts 315 9<sup>th</sup>, 762 13<sup>th</sup> and 287 24<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in April 131 west Cromer 4<sup>th</sup>, 60 north (0630-0900) Horsey Gap and 284 west Sheringham BO 13<sup>th</sup>, 200 Horsey 16<sup>th</sup>, 175 south (0600-0800)



Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup> and 482 south (0600-0810) Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Singing males/territories during breeding season: ca.14 Blakeney GM, 107 Blakeney Point, 5-7 Cley, 7 Roydon Common, 102 Scolt Head, 50-60 Stanford TA, 5 Wacton Common and 11 Welney.

Largest post breeding flocks July 59 Holme, 46 Terrington Marsh; Aug 31 Holme, 200 Scolt Head; Sept 90 Blakeney Point, 73 Cley, 42 Holkham Bay, 100 Holme, 35 Horsey Gap, 50 Kelling WM, 315 Scolt Head, 50 Stanford TA, 119 Terrington Marsh, 40 Trimingham, 70 West Runton and 40 Winterton.

Overhead westerly passage in autumn commenced mid Sept. Best counts 186 Scolt Head Sept 10<sup>th</sup> with 434 11<sup>th</sup>, 165 12<sup>th</sup> and 142 13<sup>th</sup>, 53 Sheringham BO 20<sup>th</sup> with 40 25<sup>th</sup>, 250 Holme Oct 11<sup>th</sup> with 388 18<sup>th</sup>, 100 26<sup>th</sup> and 65 28<sup>th</sup>. At Hunstanton 1045 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> including 82 Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 107 7<sup>th</sup>, 84 12<sup>th</sup> and 49 21<sup>st</sup>. Elsewhere 34 west Cley Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and 225 west Terrington Marsh 18<sup>th</sup>.

A bird showing the buff underparts associated with the form *whistleri* Cley March 26<sup>th</sup> with 2 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **ROCK PIPIT (Eurasian Rock Pipit) *Anthus petrosus***

**Scandinavian form *littoralis* ('Scandinavian Rock Pipit') a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Nominate British and Irish form may be a very scarce winter visitor. Green List *littoralis* and Amber List (nominate).**

Under-recorded during first winter period with highest counts: Jan 10 Snettisham; Feb 57 Blakeney Point, 12 Holkham Bay, 61 Scolt Head, 10 Terrington Marsh, 18 Warham; March 10 Breydon, 14 Warham. Latest Buckenham Marshes 15<sup>th</sup> and Hickling Broad Rush Hills 20<sup>th</sup>.

First returning migrant Salthouse Aug 19<sup>th</sup>. No further records until 2 Thornham Sept 4<sup>th</sup> with one 5<sup>th</sup>, Holme 12<sup>th</sup> and west 20<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup> with 5 15<sup>th</sup>, 40 19<sup>th</sup> and similar numbers to month end, Sidestrand 15<sup>th</sup>, Happisburgh 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Blakeney Point 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Eccles and Weybourne 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 Horsey 27<sup>th</sup>, west Sheringham BO 28<sup>th</sup> and Hickling Broad Rush Hills 30<sup>th</sup>. Other late autumn passage counts: 47 Blakeney Point Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 25 north Eccles Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 20 west Holme 18<sup>th</sup> with 15 west 26<sup>th</sup>, 308 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 16 Terrington Marsh 17<sup>th</sup>.

Inland: One at Thetford Nunnery Flood Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> was the first record for the site.

Counts on coastal saltmarsh in second winter period: 27 Blakeney Point Nov 17<sup>th</sup> with 16 Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 Holkham Bay Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 Morston Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, min 45 Nov Scolt Head and min 40 Dec, 12 Thornham Hbr Nov 15<sup>th</sup> and 14 Warham Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

Reported to be noticeably scarcer at Breydon, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and Terrington Marsh than in recent years.

### **WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta spinoletta***

**Scarce winter visitor. Amber List.**

In first winter period none recorded Jan and min of just 15 at only 5 localities in Feb: 5 Buckenham Marshes, 6 Hickling Broad, 2 Cley and singles Hockwold Washes and Strumpshaw; March 10 Sutton Fen, 3 Catfield, 3 Hickling Broad, 3 Strumpshaw, 2 Burnham Norton and singles Berney, Catfield Sharp St Fen, Cley, Denver, Hockwold Washes, Martham, Stiffkey WM, Sutton High Fen, Titchwell and Welney.

In April noted at 7 sites: 5 Buckenham Marshes and one Cley 1<sup>st</sup>, singles Sutton Fen 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Waxham 14<sup>th</sup>, Welney 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 Barton Broad 19<sup>th</sup> and 5 Hunsett Marshes 21<sup>st</sup>.

In Nov/Dec min of 67 birds at 16 localities including monthly peaks: Nov 26 Sutton Fen, 10 Hunsett Marshes, 7 Strumpshaw, 3 Buckenham Marshes, 2 Titchwell and singles Cantley BF, Cley, Hickling Broad, Rockland Marsh and Wissington BF; Dec 6 Potter Heigham Marshes, 4 Cantley Marshes, 2 Titchwell and singles Horsey Mill, Hickling Broad, Ouse Washes and Trowse Whitlingham STW.



## **YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

**British form** *flavissima* ('Yellow Wagtail') a fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. **North-central European form** *flava* ('Blue-headed Wagtail') and **Scandinavian form** *thunbergi* ('Grey-headed Wagtail') scarce passage migrants, mostly in spring. **South-east European form** *feldegg* ('Black-headed Wagtail') a very rare vagrant. Birds showing characters of the **Italian form** *cinereocapilla* ('Ashy-headed Wagtail') and the **Spanish form** *iberiae* ('Spanish Wagtail') noted occasionally in spring. **Red List** (*flavissima*), **Amber List** (*flava* and *thunbergi*).

### **'Yellow Wagtail'** *Motacilla (flava) flavissima*

First arrivals Cley March 27<sup>th</sup>, Holme 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Cley 30<sup>th</sup> and Welney 31<sup>st</sup>. Further singles at Beeston Bump April 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head and west Titchwell 4<sup>th</sup>, Pentney GP 8<sup>th</sup>, west Cley 9<sup>th</sup> and Colney GP 10<sup>th</sup> were followed by light passage of 1-3 at 18 localities totalling max of 36 birds to 22<sup>nd</sup>, with higher counts as follows: 25 Welney 14<sup>th</sup> with 35 there and 6 west Holme 16<sup>th</sup> and 4 Nar Valley Fisheries 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Main spring passage: 23<sup>rd</sup> 12 south Hunstanton, 30 Holme GM, 11 Blakeney Point and 4 south Waxham; 24<sup>th</sup> 27 south in 4.5 hrs Hunstanton, 27 Holme GM, 52 Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney, 5 Blakeney FM, 5 west Weybourne, 2 Cromer, 10 Trimmingham, 2 Waxham and 6 Somerton Holmes; 25<sup>th</sup> 13 south in 3 hrs Hunstanton, 30 Holme GM, 25 Blakeney GM and 4 Horsey/Waxham; 26<sup>th</sup> 19 south in 3.5 hrs Hunstanton, 21 west Holme, 34 Scolt Head, 43 Blakeney Point, 20 Beeston Regis, 10 West Runton, Cromer GC, 5 present 4 south Horsey/Waxham, 2 Winterton, 7 Breydon, Pentney GP and Stowbridge; 27<sup>th</sup> 48 south in 4 hrs Hunstanton, 7 west Holme, 25 Scolt Head, 19 West Runton, 9 Cromer GC and 3 Breydon; 28<sup>th</sup> 14 south in 2.5 hrs Hunstanton, 25 Holkham GM, 10 Blakeney GM and 8 Horsey Gap; 29<sup>th</sup> 13 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 4 Holme, 4 north 2 south Horsey Gap, 2 Cantley BF and Pentney GP; 30<sup>th</sup> Southrepps; May 1<sup>st</sup> Buckenham Marshes and 2 Hardley Flood; 2<sup>nd</sup> 21 south in 2.5 hrs Hunstanton, 56 Holme, 34 Scolt Head, 23 Blakeney Point, 3 south 2 north Horsey Gap and 2 Pentney GP; 3<sup>rd</sup> 17 south in 2.5 hrs Hunstanton, 40 west Holme, 2 Titchwell, 29 Scolt Head, 13 Blakeney Point, 16 west Stiffkey and Saham Toney; 4<sup>th</sup> 2 Holme, 4 Blakeney Point, 3 east Sheringham, 10 West Runton, Paston, 2 east Happisburgh, 5 Sea Palling and Pentney GP; 5<sup>th</sup> Holme, 2 west Titchwell, west Stiffkey, 2 Salthouse, 4 (until 17<sup>th</sup>) Kelling WM and Pentney GP; 6<sup>th</sup> Bawdswell and 2 Pentney GP; 8<sup>th</sup> 8 west Holme, 2 Titchwell, 7 Blakeney GM and Kelling GM; 9<sup>th</sup> 10 Blakeney GM, Horsey and Marham; 10<sup>th</sup> 3 North Wootton Marsh, 8 Beeston, Cantley and Chedgrave Marshes.

Breeding pairs confirmed at just 4 localities; one Oby, one Repps-with-Bastwick, 13 Welney and one Wissington BF. Breeding also suspected at Stanford TA and Tunstall.

No double-figure counts in July. In Aug 186 roosted Burgh Castle Glebe Marsh 7<sup>th</sup> with 67 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 Titchwell 18<sup>th</sup> and 20 Chedgrave Marshes 23<sup>rd</sup>. In Sept 14 Wissington BF 2<sup>nd</sup>, 50 Welney 13<sup>th</sup>, 15 14<sup>th</sup> and 45 Burgh Castle Glebe Marsh roost 17<sup>th</sup>.

Very light Sept passage with no coastal double-figure counts. In Oct one Titchwell 1<sup>st</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, Cromer and 2 Kelling WM 6<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne 11<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse 12<sup>th</sup> and latest Weybourne 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **'Blue-headed Wagtail'** *Motacilla (flava) flava*

A fairly light spring movement April 20<sup>th</sup>-May 8<sup>th</sup> associated as usual with main Yellow Wagtail passage. One to three at 11 localities with max 5 Sea Palling May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additional singles Potter Heigham May 22<sup>nd</sup> and West Runton 29<sup>th</sup>.

Single 'Channel Wagtails' (hybrid *flava* x *flavissima*) Horsey/Waxham May 6<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney GM 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **'Grey-headed Wagtail'** *Motacilla (flava) thunbergi*

The best spring passage since at least 1990, excluding the bumper spring of 1992, totalling up to 23 birds. All records: female Beeston Regis April 26<sup>th</sup>, male and 2 females May 10<sup>th</sup> and female 11<sup>th</sup>; West Runton May 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 males and a female 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 Sea Palling 5<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney GM 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 males 14<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 10<sup>th</sup> and 2 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 Waxham 11<sup>th</sup>, Kelling WM 12<sup>th</sup>, male Titchwell 22<sup>nd</sup>, male Yarmouth North Denes 27<sup>th</sup> and male Holme 28<sup>th</sup>.



## **CITRINE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla citreola citreola*

**Very rare vagrant.**

A female, probably first-summer, Titchwell May 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> (PE) was the eighth county record but the first for this site.

## **GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

**Scarce resident and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Mainly singles recorded at 38 localities Jan/Feb with 2 at 8 localities and 3 Cantley BF Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. In March barely noticeable spring passage of singles at 8 coastal localities with 2 south Hunstanton 15<sup>th</sup>.

Birds on territories from mid-March with at least 19 confirmed breeding pairs, 11 down on 2007: Bawburgh Mill, Bayfield Hall, Bintree Mill, Corpusty Mill, Dereham, Ebridge Mill, Gunton Sawmills, Marlingford Mill, Nar Valley Fisheries, Santon Downham, Sculthorpe Mill, Selbrigg Pond, Sparham, Stanford TA (3-5), Sustead STW, Thetford and Thorpe End. At least 4 more pairs at suitable localities where some may have bred.

Following singles south Kelling WM July 28<sup>th</sup> and west Inceborough Hill 30<sup>th</sup>, post-breeding dispersal mainly from second week in Sept with steady light passage throughout rest of month at mainly north and east coast localities; mainly singles but 2 Holme 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 east Kelling WM and 2 east Sidestrand 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Burnham Overy 20<sup>th</sup> and 3 west 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Scolt Head, 5 west Holkham and 2 west Sheringham 20<sup>th</sup> with 8 west 28<sup>th</sup>, 1 east 3 west Weybourne 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 west Beeston Bump 26<sup>th</sup> with 2 west 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 west West Runton 27<sup>th</sup>. Light passage continued throughout Oct, still mainly singles but 2 Beeston Bump 10<sup>th</sup>, 14 west Holme 18<sup>th</sup> with 4 west 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 west 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 west 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 south Heacham 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 Blakeney Point 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Burnham Overy 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Blakeney GM 19<sup>th</sup> and 2 Winterton 25<sup>th</sup>.

At Hunstanton 65 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> including 7 in 2.5 hrs Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 in 5 hrs 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 in 2.5 hrs 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 in 4.5 hrs 14<sup>th</sup>, 5 in 3.5 hrs 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 in 3.5 hrs 18<sup>th</sup>, 5 in 3.75 hrs 19<sup>th</sup> and 4 in 4.5 hrs 29<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period mainly singles recorded at 47 widespread localities Nov/Dec but 2 at 6 localities and 3 at Narborough between Narborough Mill and Bone Mill Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

At Felthorpe one was noted on a very small garden pond Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, it or another being killed by a cat at Felthorpe Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. At Letheringsett one found trapped inside a derelict farmhouse Dec 11<sup>th</sup> and released unharmed.

## **PIED WAGTAIL (White Wagtail)** *Motacilla alba*

**British form *yarrellii* ('Pied Wagtail') a very common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Continental form *alba* ('White Wagtail') a passage migrant, scarce in spring, very scarce in autumn. Amber List (*yarrellii*) and Green List (*alba*).**

### **'Pied Wagtail'** *Motacilla (alba) yarrellii*

At beginning of year 50 Bylaugh Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 50 Holt STW and 275 Threxton STW 4<sup>th</sup>, 60 Drymere (Beechamwell) 8<sup>th</sup> and 40 roosted Hoveton Riverside Shopping Centre 10<sup>th</sup>. 48 roosted Norwich Rampant Horse St 12<sup>th</sup> with 54 17<sup>th</sup>, 61 21<sup>st</sup>, 57 24<sup>th</sup>, 73 25<sup>th</sup>, 105 31<sup>st</sup>, 85 Feb 2nd and 6<sup>th</sup>, 52 12<sup>th</sup>, 94 15<sup>th</sup>, 128 22<sup>nd</sup>, 104 27<sup>th</sup>, 118 29<sup>th</sup>, 175 March 14<sup>th</sup>, 183 19<sup>th</sup> and 135 25<sup>th</sup>. Roosts elsewhere: 440 Wroxham Bridge Feb 7<sup>th</sup> with 420 28<sup>th</sup>, 40 Sutton Fen 22<sup>nd</sup>, 300 Norwich Longwater Lane Industrial Park 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 26 Sutton Broad March 5<sup>th</sup>, 775 Wroxham Broad 7<sup>th</sup> with 825 13<sup>th</sup>, 69 Strumpshaw 9<sup>th</sup>, 25 Barton Turf Fen April 8<sup>th</sup> with 25 16<sup>th</sup> and 34 Hickling Broad Swim Coots 9<sup>th</sup>. Other winter gatherings of note: 43 Little Cressingham Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 35 following plough Stanford TA Feb 15<sup>th</sup> and 20 Bylaugh STW 23<sup>rd</sup>.

12 west Sheringham BO Feb 24<sup>th</sup> were followed by main light spring passage from early March with double-figure counts of 20 Holme 15<sup>th</sup> with 12 west 29<sup>th</sup> and 16 west April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 17 west Sheringham BO March 30<sup>th</sup>, 16 north Waxham April 4<sup>th</sup>, 20 west Scolt Head 9<sup>th</sup> with 21 west 13<sup>th</sup>. Equivalent southerly movement at Hunstanton: 31 in 2 hrs March 15<sup>th</sup>, 97 in 2 hrs 28<sup>th</sup>, 13 in 2 hrs 30<sup>th</sup>, 15 in 2 hrs 31<sup>st</sup> and 13 in 2.5 hrs April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmed breeding pairs: 3 Blakeney Point, 5-7 Cley, 2 North Pickenham, 4 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 2 Thornham Farms and 2 Wighton. Obviously many others not recorded. 2008



Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant increase of 2.29% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 17.07% between 2007 and 2008. 69 individuals were counted in 35 of 63 surveyed squares.

Notable summer/autumn counts: 22 Blakeney Point July 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 30 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 89 Scolt Head 20<sup>th</sup> with up to 50 daily in Aug, 35 Hickling Broad Swim Coots/Rush Hills Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> with 55 3<sup>rd</sup>, 76 6<sup>th</sup>, 120 8<sup>th</sup>, 80 10<sup>th</sup>, 50 17<sup>th</sup> and 40 18<sup>th</sup>, 55 Cantley BF 3<sup>rd</sup>, 40 Morston 18<sup>th</sup>, 40 Brancaster Thompson Farms 23<sup>rd</sup>, 85 roosted Wroxham Bridge 29<sup>th</sup> with 164 Sept 18<sup>th</sup> (the regular roost bushes here were heavily pruned in Oct and the roost moved), 280 roosted in tidal reedbed Brancaster Staithe Aug 31<sup>st</sup> with 265 there and 57 Titchwell Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and 29 Cley 9<sup>th</sup>.

Only autumn movements noted were a total of 76 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Norwich Rampant Horse St roost occupied again from Dec 20<sup>th</sup> but no counts received to end of year. Roosts elsewhere 45 Sutton Fen Oct 5<sup>th</sup> with 315 13<sup>th</sup> and 11 Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 86 west Ormesby Waterworks, presumably to roost, at dusk Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 17 Strumpshaw 8<sup>th</sup> with 70 14<sup>th</sup>, 120 26<sup>th</sup>, 20 Nov 24<sup>th</sup> and 15 26<sup>th</sup>, 75 Buckenham Marshes Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 465 Hoveton Riverside Shopping Centre 23<sup>rd</sup>, 300 Norwich Longwater Lane in Sainsbury's car park Nov 18<sup>th</sup> and 220 Wroxham Bridge Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Other gatherings 40 Hunsett Marshes Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 90 west Swaffham 20<sup>th</sup>, 31 Blakeney GM 31<sup>st</sup>, 22 Horsey Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 120 Beeston Regis 14<sup>th</sup>, 200 feeding in field Bacton Edington Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 30 Brancaster Thompson Farms 18<sup>th</sup> and 90 Wissington BF 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>.

### **‘White Wagtail’ *Motacilla (alba) alba***

First south Hunstanton March 15<sup>th</sup> followed by main spring passage March 20<sup>th</sup>-May 7<sup>th</sup> of up to 156 birds. Mainly 1-3 but 9 Sea Palling March 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 Beeston Regis April 11<sup>th</sup> with 5 26<sup>th</sup> and 6 west Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>. A late bird Cley May 28<sup>th</sup> and one also Cley June 15<sup>th</sup>.

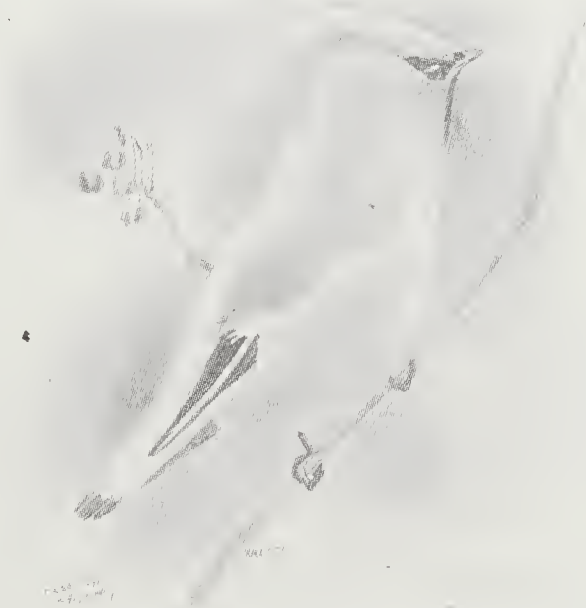
In autumn another good series of records with a single Wissington BF Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Titchwell 14<sup>th</sup> with singles 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and further singles Blakeney Point 18<sup>th</sup>, North Elmham 19<sup>th</sup> and Thornham Hbr Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **WAXWING (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus garrulus***

**Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, in some years very scarce, in others fairly common. Green List.**

Following a poor autumn for this species in 2007 only a few present in first winter period: singles Waxham Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, Cromer 9<sup>th</sup> (present to month end), north Cley 11<sup>th</sup> and 4 Downham Market 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> with 2 still 20<sup>th</sup>; 7 also reported Yarmouth Cemeteries March 8<sup>th</sup>.

A single Cromer Oct 28<sup>th</sup> heralded a major autumn influx: 29<sup>th</sup> 3 Blakeney GM, 25 Holme, one south Hunstanton and 2 Wells; 30<sup>th</sup> 5 East/West Runton, 8 Holkham Meals and 5 Yarmouth; 31<sup>st</sup> 5 Holkham Meals, 5 Holme, 3 Weybourne and singles at 4 other coastal localities. Further arrivals from beginning of Nov, particularly along the north coast. Largest flocks: 1<sup>st</sup> 13 Burnham Overy Staithe (with 34 present and a further 50 south 2<sup>nd</sup>), 10 Holme and Hunstanton, 18 Kelling (increasing to 50 5<sup>th</sup>) and 20 Weybourne; 3<sup>rd</sup> 25 Holme (with 30 4<sup>th</sup>); 4<sup>th</sup> 10 Lessingham and 45



Waxwing (*Richard Thewlis*)

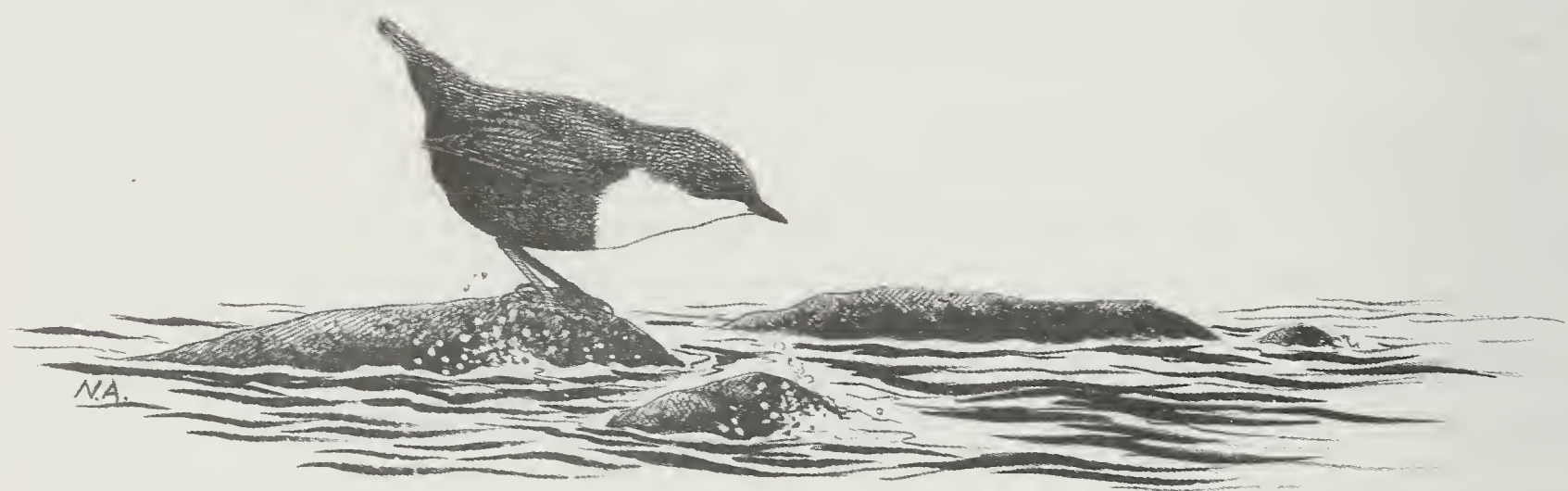


Overstrand (where 37 still 7<sup>th</sup>) and 30 east Weybourne; 5<sup>th</sup> 13 Burnham Thorpe, 30 Cley, 20 Muckleburgh, 60 Salthouse and 31 Sea Palling; 6<sup>th</sup> 24 Weybourne; 7<sup>th</sup> 16 Beeston Priory and 45 south Waxham; 11<sup>th</sup> 11 Sheringham; 14<sup>th</sup> 12 Thorpe St. Andrew; 15<sup>th</sup> 11 Cromer and 11 Whitlingham CP (increasing to 18 23<sup>rd</sup>); 17<sup>th</sup> 22 west North Creake and 30 west Thorpe Marriot; 20<sup>th</sup> 14 Postwick; 22<sup>nd</sup> 14 Norwich, 16 Thorpe St. Andrew and 12 Trowse; 30<sup>th</sup> 34 Sprowston. Also many smaller groups at other localities all month. Although numbers generally smaller in Dec, singles and small groups still widespread throughout the county until year end, with double-figure counts still regularly recorded: 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 Thornham; 5<sup>th</sup> 10 west Titchwell; 6<sup>th</sup> 14 Norwich and 12 Sprowston; 19<sup>th</sup> 13 Ridlington; 21<sup>st</sup> 12 Thorpe St. Andrew. Latest singles East Runton and Langham 29<sup>th</sup> and 7 Weybourne 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **DIPPER (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus***

**Nominate Scandinavian form ('Black-bellied Dipper') a rare vagrant in winter. Birds showing characters of the British form *gularis* ('British Dipper') or the central European form *aquaticus* ('Continental Dipper') noted on a small number of occasions. Green List (nominate) and Red List (*gularis*).**

One of the nominate form Bayfield Hall Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (MO).



Black-bellied Dipper (*Norman Arlott*)

### **WREN (Winter Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes***

**British form *indigenus* ('British Wren') an abundant resident. Nominate European form ('European Wren') may also occur. Green List.**

No count data from first winter period but breeding records of pairs/ singing males (2007 totals in brackets): 12 Blakeney GM with 9 young fledged, 2-4 Blakeney Point (4), 14 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 57 Ringstead Courtyard Farms (similar to 2007), 48 Scolt Head (47), 8 Thornham Farms and only 4 Welney (where 40 in 2004 and 2005).

Largest monthly counts in autumn: Blakeney Point 6 Sept, 5 Nov and 8 Dec; Holme 15 Sept, 12 Oct and 14 Nov.

### **DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis***

**British form *occidentalis* an abundant resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Dunnock') a scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Amber List (*occidentalis*).**

March influx/passage noted Beeston Bump, where 20 26<sup>th</sup>, and Holme, where 12-15 on several dates in second half of month.

In breeding season, counts of pairs/singing males (2007 totals in brackets): 4-8 Blakeney Point, 10 Dersingham, 41 Ringstead Courtyard Farms (45), 58 Scolt Head (58), and 4 Thornham Farms. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 12.28% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 17.76% between 2007 and 2008. 194 individuals were counted in 51 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn migrant counts: 18 Holme Sept 25<sup>th</sup> and 25 27<sup>th</sup>; 75 Scolt Head Sept 25<sup>th</sup> and 50 27<sup>th</sup>. Nine south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> (max 5 Oct 6<sup>th</sup>).



**ROBIN (European Robin)** *Erithacus rubecula*

**British form *melophilus* an abundant resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Robin') a common passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

April passage of presumed continental birds Scolt Head up to 2 on seven dates and max 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup>; 8 trapped Weybourne Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

In breeding season 66 territories Courtyard Farm, Ringstead (10% increase on 2007). 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant increase of 12.4% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 3.7% between 2007 and 2008. 342 individuals were counted in 58 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn passage Aug 28<sup>th</sup>-Nov 4<sup>th</sup> with peak of 20 Thompson Farms, Brancaster Sept 5<sup>th</sup> and more pronounced arrival late Sept: 100 Scolt Head, 60 Blakeney Point and 15 Eccles 24<sup>th</sup>, 85 Holme, 20 Warham Greens and 50 Yarmouth Cemetery 25<sup>th</sup>, 25 Holkham Meals 26<sup>th</sup> and 50 Winterton 27<sup>th</sup>. In late autumn peaks of 10 Blakeney Point Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 25 Warham Greens 31<sup>st</sup>, 45 Holme and 60 Winterton Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10 Blakeney GM 4<sup>th</sup>.

**THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia luscinia*

**Very rare vagrant.**

A first-winter trapped and ringed Holme Sept 14<sup>th</sup> remained to 18<sup>th</sup> (GE, SB *et al*). This is the eleventh record for the county.

**NIGHTINGALE (Common Nightingale)** *Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos*

**Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.**

After last year's very early birds, a return to more traditional arrival dates with first between Waxham and Winterton April 20<sup>th</sup> followed by Pentney GP and Salthouse Heath 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sea Palling 23<sup>rd</sup>, Brundall 24<sup>th</sup>, Catton Park 25<sup>th</sup> and Snettisham CP 26<sup>th</sup>. Spring migrants at north coast localities: Holme May 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point May 27<sup>th</sup> and Holme June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Singing males on breeding territories: Boughton Fen, Brundall, Catton Park, Gunthorpe, Muckleburgh Hill, Pentney GP (4), Pentney Heath (2), Roydon Common, Salthouse Heath (4), Stanford TA, Stow Bardolph, Swanton Morley GP, Wisington BF and Wretton. Male reported still in song Claxton marshes July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica*

**Nominate Scandinavian form ('Red-spotted Bluethroat') formerly a very scarce passage migrant but now a very rare vagrant. Central and southern European form *cyaneola* ('White-spotted Bluethroat') a very rare vagrant.**

A male *cyaneola* Winterton March 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> (MO) and a male of the nominate form West Runton May 27<sup>th</sup> (IP).

**RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL** *Tarsiger cyanurus*

**Very rare vagrant.**

A record arrival in Britain of this species resulted in three being found in the county. A first-winter/female Muckleburgh Hill Oct 31<sup>st</sup>-Nov 4<sup>th</sup> (MN *et al*) was followed by another at Brancaster Nov 4<sup>th</sup> (RC, JC) and yet another at Blakeney Point Nov 6<sup>th</sup> (JG *et al*). These constitute the fourth, fifth and sixth records for the county following those at Yarmouth Cemetery Oct 1994, Brancaster Staithe Oct 1999 and Weybourne Sept 2007.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

**European form *gibraltariensis* a scarce passage migrant, very scarce breeder and winter visitor. Birds showing characters of the Iberian form *aterrimus* and the Central Asian form *phoenicuroides* ('Eastern Black Redstart') each noted on one occasion. Amber List (*gibraltariensis*).**

In first winter period singles at 18 inland and coastal sites. Spring passage end March to end May with singles at 33 mainly coastal sites, latest Scolt Head June 6<sup>th</sup>.



In breeding season a pair King's Lynn Docks fledged at least one chick, 2 (probably 3) pairs Yarmouth and a singing male Tuckswold Estate, Norwich June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

Late summer singles Blakeney Point July 24<sup>th</sup> and Holme Aug 24<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage mostly of singles Sept 12<sup>th</sup>-Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at 27 sites with late autumn peak: max 10 Sea Palling Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and up to 3 Happisburgh Nov 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. In December singles Horsey and King's Lynn Docks.

### **REDSTART (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

**Nominate form a scarce, occasionally fairly common, passage migrant, mostly in autumn and very scarce breeder. South-west Asian form *samamisicus* ('Ehrenberg's Redstart') a very rare vagrant (though under reconsideration by BBRC). Amber List (nominate).**

First returning birds Holme April 12<sup>th</sup>, Stanford TA 14<sup>th</sup>, East Wretham Heath 16<sup>th</sup>, Ringstead 19<sup>th</sup> and Hopton 20<sup>th</sup> with singles at nine other sites by the month end. Light passage in May with 1-2 at 11 mainly north coast sites and peak of 13 Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>. In June singles Warham 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thompson Common 14<sup>th</sup>.

In breeding season 2 or 3 pairs bred Brettenham Common and up to five males in song East Wretham Heath.

Autumn passage began with single Paston July 30<sup>th</sup>, otherwise continuous from Aug 15<sup>th</sup> with early autumn max 12 Blakeney Point Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. Significant arrival, the largest since 2001, on north and east coasts Sept 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> with peaks of 30 Holme, 10 Titchwell, 56 Scolt Head, 25 Burnham Overy Dunes, 86 Blakeney Point, 28 Cley, 18 Kelling WM, 10 Weybourne, 35 Sheringham BO, 20 Beeston Bump, 30 Cromer GC, 35 Overstrand, 60 Sidestrand, 30 Mundesley, 22 Happisburgh, 12 Eccles, 17 Waxham, 12 Horsey, 17 Yarmouth Cemetery and 11 Yarmouth South Denes. Most moved on fairly quickly as numbers dropped to single figures at most sites within a day or two except for 18 Warham Greens 18<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent passage generally light and mostly singles but late peaks of 19 Blakeney Point Sept 24<sup>th</sup> and 8 Stiffkey-Warham Greens 25<sup>th</sup>. Latest Holkham Meals Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra***

**Scarce passage migrant. Has bred. Amber List.**

First Waxham April 24<sup>th</sup>, slightly later than in recent years, followed by singles Burnham Norton, Cley, Salhouse and Cromer GC 27<sup>th</sup>, Holme, Paston and Eccles 28<sup>th</sup> and Beeston Bump and Blakeney GM 29<sup>th</sup>. May passage fairly light with up to 3 at 23 sites. In June singles West Runton 1<sup>st</sup> and a very late bird Holkham 24<sup>th</sup>. Equally noteworthy were July singles Blakeney Point 14<sup>th</sup> and North Wootton Marsh 27<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage began with single Eccles Aug 16<sup>th</sup>. In Aug up to 2 at 19 sites and slight influx noted at month end with peaks of 21 Blakeney Point, 6 Scolt Head and 4 Burnham Overy Dunes, Salhouse and Horsey 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sept passage light involving up to 6 at 47 sites with largest numbers as follows: 11 Scolt Head 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 Breydon 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 Warham Greens 13<sup>th</sup>, 23 Scolt Head, 10 Blakeney Point and 16 Sheringham BO 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 Beeston Bump and Cromer GC 15<sup>th</sup> and 7 Burnham Overy Dunes 17<sup>th</sup>. In Oct up to 2 at 12 sites, max 7 Waxham 11<sup>th</sup> and last Blakeney GM 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **STONECHAT (Eurasian Stonechat) *Saxicola torquatus***

**British form *hibernans* a scarce resident and passage migrant. Continental form *rubicola* ('Continental Stonechat') probably a scarce passage migrant but some breeding birds also show characters associated with this form. Siberian form *maurus/stejnegeri* ('Siberian Stonechat') a very rare vagrant. Green List (*hibernans* and *rubicola*).**

### **Stonechat and 'Continental Stonechat' *Saxicola (torquatus) hibernans* and *rubicola***

In first winter period pairs present at 44 mainly coastal sites and singles at 32 other sites - a very significant increase on previous years reflecting the trend to milder winters. Present inland at Cantley, Catfield, Colkirk, Croxton Heath (2), Denver (2), Felbrigg, Fincham (2), Grime's Graves (2), Hilborough (2), King's Lynn (Saddlebow) (4), Martham (2), Mautby, Mundford (2), Ouse Washes,





*Top left; male White-spotted Bluethroat at Winterton. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Top right; a recently fledged Black Redstart at King's Lynn. (Ashley Banwell)*

*Bottom; three Red-flanked Bluetails were found in late Autumn including one at Muckleburgh Hill, Weybourne (left) and one at Brancaster (right). (left; Julian Bhalerao, right; Richard Campey)*





*Top left; Common Redstart at Winterton. (Bob Cobbold)*

*Top right; Stonechat at Cley. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Middle left; Subalpine Warbler at Sea Palling. (Neil Bowman)*

*Middle right; this Melodious Warbler on Blakeney Point was the first record for over fifty years. (Richard Porter)*

*Bottom left; Wood Warbler at Bodham Common. (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom Right; Firecrest at Sheringham Park. (Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top; Garden Warbler on Kelling Heath. (Julian Bhalerao)*  
*Bottom; an Autumn Pied Flycatcher at Cley. (Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top; Great Grey Shrike on Kelling Heath.*

*This individual decimated the fragile Dartford Warbler population. (Bob Cobbold)*

*Bottom left; this long-staying Lesser Grey Shrike patrolled the cliff top at Sheringham. (Rob Lee)*

*Bottom right; an extremely obliging juvenile Woodchat Shrike on Beeston Bump. (Julian Bhalerao)*



Potter Heigham (5), Rollesby (2), Roydon Common, Southrepps, Sparham, Welney and Wissington BF (3).

Passage commenced late Feb: peaks of 13 Titchwell, 10 Blakeney GM and 9 Kelling WM 27<sup>th</sup> and 7 Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>. March passage peaks: 10 Warham Greens 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 Kelling Quags 7<sup>th</sup>, 17 Holme, 15 Morston and 12 Salthouse 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 Holme, 24 Titchwell, 25 Brancaster, 15 Scolt Head, 27 Holkham NNR, 19 Blakeney Point and 21 Sheringham BO 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by 15 Cley 13<sup>th</sup> and 17 Holme and 12 Kelling WM 20<sup>th</sup>.

Widely reported April-July with a breeding population of at least 69 pairs, a further large increase over the 50+ pairs in 2007, itself the highest recorded population for over a hundred years. Peak numbers Stanford TA (24+), Thetford Forest (23), Roydon Common (4), Burnham Overy Dunes - Holkham Meals (3). As in recent years several pairs had early broods in May.

In autumn up to 5 at 54 sites but any passage largely obscured by records from, or close to, breeding localities and dispersal of young birds. Sept peaks: 5 Wells 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 Sheringham BO 27<sup>th</sup> and 9 Horsey Gap 29<sup>th</sup>. Oct peaks: 6 Snettisham 11<sup>th</sup> and Holme 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 Kelling WM 15<sup>th</sup>. Nov peaks: 6 Cley 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 Holkham 16<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period pairs present at 18 mainly coastal sites.

### **‘Siberian Stonechat’** *Saxicola (torquatus) maurus/stejnegeri*

A first-winter male Stiffkey Sept 26<sup>th</sup> (JF) was the first since 2003.

### **WHEATEAR (Northern Wheatear)** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Nominate form a fairly common passage migrant and very scarce breeder, mostly in Brecks.**

**Greenland form *leucorhoa* (‘Greenland Wheatear’) a fairly common passage migrant. Amber List (*oenanthe*).**

First of the year single Kelling WM March 13<sup>th</sup> - an average arrival date, followed by singles Titchwell, Cley, Overstrand and Paston 15<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse 17<sup>th</sup>, Eccles 18<sup>th</sup> and Stanford TA 19<sup>th</sup>, also up to 6 at 16 sites by month end with max 7 Salthouse and Sheringham BO 30<sup>th</sup>. Passage steady and widespread April - May with up to 6 at 54 sites and peaks: 18 Scolt Head April 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 Cley, 8 Beeston Bump, 41 West Runton and 8 Cromer GC 27<sup>th</sup>, 22 Paston 28<sup>th</sup>, 19 Sheringham BO 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 Choseley and 15 Winterton May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11 West Runton 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 Holme 5<sup>th</sup>, 11 Burnham Overy Dunes 6<sup>th</sup>, 22 Blakeney Point and 21 Horsey/Waxham 27<sup>th</sup>. A male was in full song Roydon Common May 4<sup>th</sup>. In June up to 4 at 6 sites with last of the spring Cley 9<sup>th</sup>.

In breeding season 3 males and 2 females Stanford TA with a juv at a second nearby site. Other mid-summer singles Halvergate Marshes June 27<sup>th</sup> and Sparham July 1<sup>st</sup>. Juvs of unknown origin Yarmouth July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and 2 Burnham Overy Dunes Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Autumn passage began with single Scolt Head July 27<sup>th</sup> and steady passage through Aug with up to 5 at 22 sites max 11 Blakeney Point 23<sup>rd</sup> and 9 Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>. In Sept small arrival 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> with peaks of 16 Scolt Head and 30 Blakeney Point. Larger arrival 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> with 53 Scolt Head, 75 Blakeney Point, 18 Cley, 50 Kelling WM, 25 Weybourne, 60 Sheringham BO, 30 Sheringham GC, 53 Beeston Bump, 125 Cromer GC, 190 Overstand/Sidestrand, 30 Trimingham, 97 Mundesley-Bacton, 34 Paston, 36 Waxham, 38 Winterton and 50 Yarmouth. Late Sept peaks: 52 Blakeney Point 24<sup>th</sup> and 22 Titchwell 25<sup>th</sup>. Oct passage very light with up to 3 at 13 sites. In Nov singles Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and Paston 12<sup>th</sup>. Last Horsey Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **DESERT WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe deserti deserti/atrogularis*

**Very rare vagrant.**

**CORRECTION:** Blakeney Point Nov 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 2003 now accepted as first-winter female (per AMS).

### **RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus torquatus*

**Scarce passage migrant. Red List.**

First of spring Inceborough Hill, Warham Greens and West Runton March 31<sup>st</sup> and Winterton April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Further records from April 8<sup>th</sup> with singles Holkham and Sheringham but then from mid-month reported almost daily with birds moving across a broad front. Peak counts 22 Brancaster Staithe 18<sup>th</sup>,



10 Thornham 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 west Titchwell 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 Weybourne Camp 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 Brancaster Thompson Farms 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 Paston 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 Winterton 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 Cromer GC 26<sup>th</sup> and Walcott 27<sup>th</sup>. Continued passage into first half of May when highest counts 7 Burnham Overy Dunes 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 Beeston Bump 4<sup>th</sup> with final bird of month Blakeney Point 12<sup>th</sup>. Recorded from 26 inland sites including male in song Sutton Fen for over an hour May 10<sup>th</sup>.

In June a male Horsey 5<sup>th</sup> and possibly same intermittently Winterton July 1<sup>st</sup>-Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, only the second instance of over-summering in the county since one Burnham Overy Dunes June-Aug 1995.

First of autumn Blakeney Point Sept 15<sup>th</sup> followed by 1-2 Breydon, Holme, Scolt Head, Strumpshaw and Titchwell. Slight passage Oct 9<sup>th</sup> to early Nov with 1-2 at 19 localities including inland at Hickling Stubb Mill Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, Aylmerton Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, Flitcham Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and Southrepps Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, with last of autumn Chedgrave Nov 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

## **BLACKBIRD (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula merula***

**Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

Evidence of hard-weather movement in Feb when 5 Scolt Head 7<sup>th</sup> and 13 Blakeney Point 17<sup>th</sup> with 10 there 28<sup>th</sup>.

Outward passage of continental birds noted early spring: 65 East Ruston March 10<sup>th</sup>, 20 Holme 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 Winterton 26<sup>th</sup> and 10 Waxham April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Limited breeding data but 3 pairs Blakeney GM while 48 territories at Ringstead Courtyard Farm was a decrease of 6% on 2007. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant increase of 4.51% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 9.48% between 2007 and 2008. 787 individuals were counted in 60 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn passage commenced late Sept with 2 Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup> increasing to 9 27<sup>th</sup> and 8 Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>. Peak numbers late Oct: 250 Eccles 30<sup>th</sup> and 500 Holme and 108 Hunstanton 31<sup>st</sup>. Continued passage early Nov with 400 Holme 5<sup>th</sup>, 160 Holkham Meals, 150 Overstrand, 100 Warham Greens and 100 Winterton 2<sup>nd</sup> and 100 Wells East Hills 8<sup>th</sup>. Hard-weather movement Dec when 17 Blakeney Point 7<sup>th</sup>, 21 west Cley 23<sup>rd</sup>, 36 Holme 24<sup>th</sup> and 16 Blakeney Point 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris***

**Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.**

In Jan highest count 230 Holme 5<sup>th</sup> with additional three-figure counts Mundford, Shipdham and Thurne during month. Peak numbers during Feb-March: 500 Fritton Grange Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 400 Holme Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 300 Gressenhall Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 200 Quidenham March 21<sup>st</sup> and 370 Cockley Cley March 28<sup>th</sup>. Several large gatherings early April when 800 Gateley and 450 Saxlingham Green 5<sup>th</sup> with three-figure counts at a further five inland sites. Scarce on return passage with peak count just 16 Hunstanton May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last of spring Brancaster Thompson Farms May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage from mid-Sept when singles Blakeney GM 14<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 15<sup>th</sup> and Cromer GC 16<sup>th</sup>. Main movement from Oct 17<sup>th</sup> when 502 New Costessey, 300 west East Rudham, 300 west Hunstanton, 150 Norwich and 100 South Creake. Highest count of autumn Oct 18<sup>th</sup> when 4000 off the sea Snettisham in 2 hrs but few noted further east. Further arrival towards month end when 1067 west Titchwell 29<sup>th</sup> and 2000 Holme 31<sup>st</sup> while further inland 661 New Costessey 28<sup>th</sup> with further 578 29<sup>th</sup> and 653 moving through Tudd Valley 31<sup>st</sup>. Movement continued Nov with 802 Hunstanton in 2.5 hrs 7<sup>th</sup> and 888 there in 2 hrs 17<sup>th</sup>. Peak Nov counts 1200 Stanhoe 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1022 Ouse Washes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 600 Horsey 5<sup>th</sup>. In Dec large flocks dispersed and highest numbers 330 Ouse Washes 1<sup>st</sup>, 270 Holme 24<sup>th</sup>, 220 Tibenham 6<sup>th</sup>, 200 Hempnall 18<sup>th</sup> and 200 Thornham 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos***

**British form *clarkei* ('British Song Thrush') a common, though declining, resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Song Thrush') a common passage migrant. Red List (*clarkei*).**

No evidence of hard-weather movement early in year with peak count just 8 Santon Downham Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Outward passage of continental birds slight, but noticeable peak in second half of April when 37 Scolt Head 20<sup>th</sup>, 23 Blakeney Point 21<sup>st</sup> and 26 Scolt Head 23<sup>rd</sup>.



During breeding season, fledged young North Wootton April 24<sup>th</sup> and up to 5 singing males Saxlingham Thorpe May 7<sup>th</sup>. Ringstead Courtyard Farm held 9 territories (same as in 2007) but no other site held more than 3 singing males. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 62.45% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 29.6% between 2007 and 2008. 111 individuals were counted in 42 of 63 surveyed squares.

Return passage from Aug 31<sup>st</sup> when single Blakeney Point but only double-figure counts in first half Sept: 16 Blakeney Point 13<sup>th</sup> and 10 Eccles 14<sup>th</sup>. Peak numbers towards end of month when 100 Warham Greens 26<sup>th</sup>, 75 Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>, 75 Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup> and 75 Holme 27<sup>th</sup>. Just 23 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. Small influx Oct 7<sup>th</sup> when 70 Blakeney Point with double-figure counts from Caister, Hemsby, Hickling Stubb Mill, Holme and Scolt Head in Oct. One singing Langham during mild spell Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus iliacus*

**Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.**

In Jan 80 Holkham Park 6<sup>th</sup> (including some singing birds) increasing to 150 12<sup>th</sup> with 100 still Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. Three-figure counts at 5 sites during March with max 250 New Costessey 26<sup>th</sup>, 150 Nar Valley Fisheries 2<sup>nd</sup> and 150 Ranworth 17<sup>th</sup> with a male in song Ringstead Courtyard Farm 29<sup>th</sup>. Little outward passage noted and apart from 60 Guist April 6<sup>th</sup> highest count just 7 Weybourne April 4<sup>th</sup>. No May records but late birds Weybourne June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (trapped and ringed) and Cromer June 10<sup>th</sup>.

First returning migrants 2 Scolt Head Sept 21<sup>st</sup> with light passage along the north coast until month end. Highest counts 63 Blakeney Point and 30 Holkham 24<sup>th</sup> and 21 Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup>. Main movement from mid-Oct when 8500 west Alby, 1719 New Costessey, 1200 west Honing Lock and 400 west Docking 17<sup>th</sup>, 1011 Hunstanton in 3.5 hrs and 784 New Costessey 18<sup>th</sup>, 2156 Hunstanton in 3.75 hrs 19<sup>th</sup> and 1586 there 23<sup>rd</sup>. Further influx towards month end when 492 west Titchwell and 685 New Costessey 29<sup>th</sup> with 1450 there 31<sup>st</sup>. In Nov peak count 334 New Costessey 1<sup>st</sup> with three-figure counts from a further 6 sites. Most birds moved on quickly with Dec counts from just 8 sites, highest 100 Thornham 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*

**Common resident. Amber List.**

Peak counts during first winter period 7 Kelling WM Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and 6 Calthorpe Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Only evidence of spring movement 2 high north Waxham April 4<sup>th</sup>.

In breeding season 8 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm was an increase of 33% on 2007. As usual, post-breeding flocks noted with 45 Royal Norfolk Showground July 11<sup>th</sup>, 25 Roydon Common Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 20 Brancaster Thompson Farms Sept 20<sup>th</sup> and 17 Stanford TA June 20<sup>th</sup>. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 16.67% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 15.28% between 2007 and 2008. 62 individuals were counted in 26 of 63 surveyed squares.

First autumn migrant Beeston Bump Sept 20<sup>th</sup> with 4 there Oct 6<sup>th</sup> and single west Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. 1-5 noted from a further 4 coastal sites during Oct-Nov and just 6 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **CETTI'S WARBLER** *Cettia cetti cetti*

**Fairly common resident. Green List.**

Countywide total of 201-204 singing males March-July. Broads total of 139 singing males a gross undercount with few records from Trinity Broads/Muck Fleet or large stretches of Rivers Bure, Chet and Yare (including Strumpshaw Fen/Wheatfen) and none from River Waveney.

Well recorded away from Broads with singing males along north coast at Holme, Titchwell (7), Brancaster Hbr, Burnham Norton (5), Burnham Overy (2), Holkham (5), Wells (6), Stiffkey Fen (2), Langham, Blakeney Friary Hills (2), Blakeney GM (4-7), Glandford, Wiveton (2), Cley STW, Cley (5 with 7 nesting females) and Walsey Hills (2). Singing males along Yare and Wensum valleys west of Norwich at Costessey, Norwich Marston Marsh (2), Swanton Morley (2) and UEA Broad (2). Further afield spring singing males Downham Market, Eccles, Marsham, Nar Valley Fisheries,



Pentney GP, Sea Palling, Stanford TA, Thompson Water and Waxham. Fledglings noted at Cley (5 late June) and Horning Ferry June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Additional non-breeding-season records of dispersing birds Snettisham CP Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Weybourne Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, Runciton Holme, Welney and Weybourne all Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Cringleford Marshes Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, Welney Sept 14<sup>th</sup>-Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, Winterton Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne Sept 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, Hellesdon Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Oct 24<sup>th</sup>-Dec 15<sup>th</sup> with 2 Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, North Wootton Marsh Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and Beeston Common Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia naevia***

**Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

First reeling birds of spring Boughton Fen April 12<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head, Holkham and Winterton 13<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham CP, Beeston Bump and Beeston Common 14<sup>th</sup> and Horsey and Waxham 15<sup>th</sup>, after when birds increasingly widespread. By the month end reported from at least 30 sites, including 4 Snettisham CP 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, 4 Hickling NWT 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 Catfield Fen 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 How Hill Reedham Marsh 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 Horsey/Waxham 26<sup>th</sup>, 5 Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup> and 3 Rockland Broad 30<sup>th</sup>.

Arrivals continued first half of May and in spring/summer 98 reeling birds reported from 55 sites, a decline for the second consecutive year. Singing birds: Barton Broad, Barton Turf Fen, Beeston Bump, Blakeney GM 2, Boughton Fen 2, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy Dunes, Burgh Common (Fleggburgh), Buxton Heath, Catfield Fen 6, Cley 2, Cranwich Heath, Dereham, Dersingham Bog, Eccles, Fritton Marshes, Grimston Warren, Hickling NWT 4, Hickling Weavers Way 2, Holkham 3, Holme 2, Horning Waterworks, Horsey 3, How Hill Reedham Marsh 3, Hunsett Marshes, Ken Hill Marshes, Lopham Fen, Lynford Arboretum, Mundford 2, Postwick Marsh 2, Ranworth Marshes, Ringstead Common, Rockland Broad, Roydon Common 2, Salhouse, Scolt Head 9, Sea Palling, Sharp Street Fen, Snettisham CP 4, South Walsham, Stanford TA 5, Stiffkey Fen, Sutton Broad 3, Sutton High Fen 2, Sutton Fen 4, Thetford Warren Wood, Thorpe End, UEA Broad, Upton Broad, Upton Fen, Waxham, Wells, Whitlingham CP, Winterton Dunes and Winterton Holmes. Several sites reported birds still singing late Aug, with adults still feeding young Lopham Fen mid-Sept.

Usual scattering of autumn migrants with singles Scolt Head Aug 31<sup>st</sup> and others here Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 15<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, West Runton 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>, Sidestrand 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, Warham Greens 18<sup>th</sup>, Winterton 21<sup>st</sup> and Weybourne 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides luscinioides***

**Rare vagrant, formerly a very scarce summer visitor. Red List.**

Male in song Hunsett Mill Marsh May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> (MC, PJH).

## **SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

Arrival slightly later than usual, first Cley April 6<sup>th</sup>, Sparham 9<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 Holme and one Heigham Sound 12<sup>th</sup> and Burnham Overy and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 13<sup>th</sup>. Main arrival end April when 70 Snettisham CP 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 Cley 25<sup>th</sup> and 20 Holme 29<sup>th</sup>. Further arrivals first week of May, with most breeding birds back by end of first week. Very few coastal migrants during May: West Runton 5<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

In breeding season 242 singing males Holkham NNR, 84 Hickling Broad complex, 57 Thurne, 51 Blakeney GM, 38 Holme, 22 Welney, 18 Cley and 5 UEA Broad (a decline from 2007).

One of the earlier summer visitor to begin departing with an early migrant Scolt Head July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 35 Chedgrave Marshes July 26<sup>th</sup> (22 ringed), 45 Aug 16<sup>th</sup> (26 ringed), 40 23<sup>rd</sup> (23 ringed) and 40 30<sup>th</sup> (24 ringed). Most gone by early Sept, with only records later in month Holme and Stiffkey 13<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head 15<sup>th</sup>, Sidestrand 17<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy GM 27<sup>th</sup>, Weybourne 28<sup>th</sup> and last of year Welney Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.



## **MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris*

**Very scarce passage migrant in spring. Red List.**

A good year with five spring records, four in the east of the county and one in the Brecks, all singing males. One Gimingham May 30<sup>th</sup>-June 5<sup>th</sup> (RC, GW) was followed by others Sea Palling June 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> (TA, PJH), an undisclosed site June 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (PJH), Thompson Common June 14<sup>th</sup> (LG) and Berney Marshes June 21<sup>st</sup>-July 6<sup>th</sup> (PRA).

## **REED WARBLER (Eurasian Reed Warbler)** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus scirpaceus*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

Singles Hickling Rush Hills and Titchwell April 16<sup>th</sup> were the first of the spring, followed by others Cley and Hickling Broad at Heigham Corner 19<sup>th</sup>, Rockland Broad 21<sup>st</sup> and Holme and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 23<sup>rd</sup>. Further arrivals slow to appear during rest of month with best counts 3 Blakeney GM 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 25<sup>th</sup> and 4 Swanton Morley 26<sup>th</sup>. Main arrival in first ten days of May when 10 Welney 1<sup>st</sup>, 12 Swanton Morley 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12 Cley 7<sup>th</sup>. As usual small numbers of migrants away from suitable breeding habitat at Beeston Bump May 3<sup>rd</sup>, West Runton 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>, West Runton 28<sup>th</sup>, Bacton 30<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point June 3<sup>rd</sup> and an exceptionally late bird West Runton 28<sup>th</sup>.

Impressive numbers of breeding birds at the Hickling Broad complex where 187 singing males, elsewhere 40 Hardley Flood, 38 Thurne, 33 Holme, 19 Blakeney GM, 12 Cley, 9 Reedham and 7 UEA Broad (a decline on previous year). A singing bird at Cley initially identified as a Marsh Warbler included mimicry of 9-10 species.

Passage through Chedgrave Marshes revealed a strong passage from late July, with 70 July 26<sup>th</sup> (56 ringed), 75 Aug 16<sup>th</sup> (57 ringed) and 80 Aug 30<sup>th</sup> (56 ringed). Light coastal passage in Sept, mostly 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> when 6 Holme, 3 Scolt Head, 2 Stiffkey, 3 Blakeney Point, 2 Sheringham and singles at five other sites. Only other noteworthy counts during rest of month: 3 Holme 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 Holkham 26<sup>th</sup> and 5 Heigham Sound 27<sup>th</sup>. Last of year Holme Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, Welney 8<sup>th</sup> and an exceptionally late bird Holkham Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **GREAT REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus arundinaceus*

**Very rare vagrant.**

One Cley May 21<sup>st</sup> (NRR). This is the first record since 2 Berney Marshes in May 1998.

## **ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina*

**Very scarce, occasionally scarce, passage migrant.**

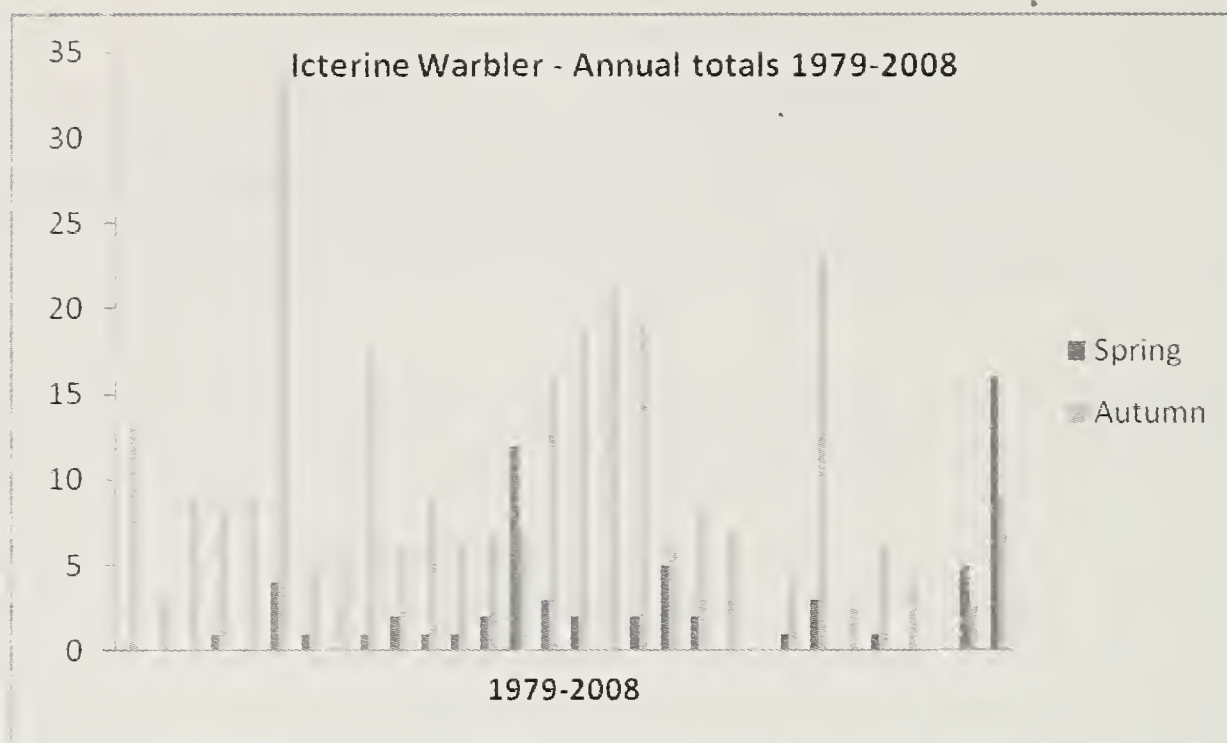
An excellent year with total of 25 recorded, 16 in spring and 9 in autumn, the best year since 2002.

All spring records late May/early June when on May 27<sup>th</sup> 3 Scolt Head, and singles Holkham Meals, Blakeney Point (till 28<sup>th</sup>), Cley and Sidestrand, 2 Holme and singles Burnham Overy Dunes and Eccles 28<sup>th</sup>, Thornham Point 29<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>, Holkham Meals 31<sup>st</sup>, Scolt Head June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney Point 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the best spring ever for this species, with 12 in 1992 the previous best.

In autumn singles Snettisham CP Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 31<sup>st</sup>, Scolt Head and Winterton Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Holkham Meals 15<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 17<sup>th</sup>, Scolt Head and Hopton 21<sup>st</sup> and Scolt Head 25<sup>th</sup>.

Over the last three decades 116 were recorded in 1979-1988, 138 in 1989-1998 and 85 in 199-2008, with the best years being 37 in 1984, 21 in 1994, 1995 and 1996 and 26 in 2002.





### MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*

**Very rare vagrant.**

One Blakeney Point Sept 24<sup>th</sup> (SA, RFP *et al*) was only the third county record and the first since Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1957. See article for a full account of this occurrence.

### BLACKCAP (Eurasian Blackcap) *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant, very scarce in winter. Green List.**

Few over-wintering birds reported in first winter period when singles Banham, Cley, Harleston, Holme, Little Melton, Salhouse, West Acre, Winfarthing and Winterton

First retuning migrants in last few days of March when Hilborough, Holme, Ringstead Courtyard Farm and Titchwell 30<sup>th</sup> and Hoveton Park, Langham, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Walsey Hills and 2 Warham Greens 31<sup>st</sup>. Further new arrivals in first ten days of April when 4 Wolferton 4<sup>th</sup> and Langham 10<sup>th</sup>, before unfavourable weather halted any new arrivals. Once conditions improved in late April and early May there was a second wave of birds, when highest counts 4 Scolt Head, 3 Blakeney Point and 10 Blickling Park 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8 Bintree, 5 Dersingham and 8 Holme 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 Holme and 5 Stiffkey May 5<sup>th</sup>, with late migrants Scolt Head and Blakeney Point June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding birds widespread throughout the county during the spring/summer, with two sites reporting declines on previous year, best counts of singing males/pairs 31 Ringstead Courtyard Farm (12% decline on previous year), 9 Hickling Broad Complex, 6 Salhouse Heath and Thornham Farms, 5-6 Brancaster Thompson Farms (decline on previous year), 4 Welney and 3 Holme, Lenwade Common and Pentney Heath. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 15.75% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 16% between 2007 and 2008. 122 individuals were counted in 43 of 63 surveyed squares.

Return passage evident at coastal sites from at least late Aug when 5 Holme, 3 Scolt Head and 2 Blakeney Point 30<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout Sept at many sites, with several distinct arrival periods, peak counts 21 Warham Greens 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 Holme and 11 Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 Holme, 25 Titchwell and 11 Scolt Head 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 8 Blakeney GM 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup> and 5 Kelling WM 27<sup>th</sup>. Passage poor Oct when peak count 10 Holme 12<sup>th</sup>, with an increase in numbers last few days of Oct/early Nov when 6 Holme, 4 Holkham Meals, 3 Warham Greens and 4 Blakeney Point.

In second winter period singles Bayfield Hall Natural Surroundings, Cley, High Kelling, Holme, Langham, Morston and West Acre.

### GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin borin*

**Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

First of spring Snettisham CP April 19<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 21<sup>st</sup> and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 22<sup>nd</sup>. Only reported from a further 4 sites by the end of the month, including 4 Swanton Morley 26<sup>th</sup>. Main arrival in first half of May when recorded at 23 sites, including 4 Roydon Common 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 Pentney GP 5<sup>th</sup> and 5 Lenwade Common and 3 Saxlingham Nethergate 7<sup>th</sup>. Passage through coastal sites light



until an arrival of Scandinavian migrants in north-east winds and heavy rain May 27<sup>th</sup> when 13 Scolt Head and 8 Blakeney Point and smaller numbers until last migrant Scolt Head June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding birds thinly scattered around the county, with singing males/pairs: 8 Roydon Common, 5 Lenwade Common, 3 Filby Broad and Saxlingham Nethergate, 2 Hickling Broad, Kelling Heath and Litcham Common and singles Cawston, Crostwick Common, Colney Pits, Hilborough, Horsey Mere, Gunthorpe Park, Pentney Heath, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Thornham Farms and Welney.

Return passage from second half of Aug when Blakeney Point 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holme 26<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 at Holme, Scolt Head, Burnham Overy Dunes, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point and Sheringham 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>. Passage during Sept mostly light until 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> when maximum counts 8 Holme, 4 Titchwell, 8 Scolt Head, 2 Warham Greens, 2 Stiffkey, 2 Blakeney GM, 8 Blakeney Point, 2 Cley, 2 Kelling, 2 Sidestrand, 2 Happisburgh, 4 Horsey, 2 Hopton and 2 Yarmouth with singles at several other coastal sites. Passage during rest of month uninspiring with 4 Blakeney Point 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 Holkham 26<sup>th</sup> and 3 Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>. Very few during rest of autumn when singles Kelling WM Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Holme 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>, Walsey Hills 31<sup>st</sup> and last of year Holme Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*

**Nominate form a very scarce autumn passage migrant, recorded only once in spring. Central Asian and southern Siberian form *merzbacheri* may also occur.**

A total of 11 during the autumn, average for recent years, all but one during Sept when Winterton 3<sup>rd</sup>, Blakeney Point 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, 2 15<sup>th</sup> and 1 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, Warham Greens, Winterton and Yarmouth 15<sup>th</sup>, Morston 17<sup>th</sup>, Walsey Hills 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup> and a late bird Holme Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

**Nominate form a fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the Siberian form *blythi* ('Siberian Lesser Whitethroat') and the Central Asian form *halimodendri* ('Steppe Lesser Whitethroat') noted occasionally in late autumn. Green List (nominate).**

In spring first Horsey/Waxham April 15<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham CP 19<sup>th</sup>, Walsey Hills 20<sup>th</sup>, Brancaster Thompson Farms 21<sup>st</sup> and 2 Snettisham CP and singles Grimston Warren, Holme, Hopton, Salthouse, Waxham, Weybourne and Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>. By the end of April reported from a total of 31 sites and by the end of May at 54 localities, including 4 Holme April 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 Blakeney Point and 4 Hopton 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 Holme 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 Holme and 4 Kelling WM May 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 Hopton 4<sup>th</sup> and 9 Holme 5<sup>th</sup>. Migrants continued to pass through coastal sites until late May/early June when 4 Blakeney Point May 27<sup>th</sup> and again June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Singing birds reported from a total of 58 sites May-July, double the number of sites on previous year, including 13 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 5 Snettisham CP and Holme, 4 Sparham Pools, 3 Sutton and two Baconsthorpe, Colney Pits, Long Stratton, Thornham Farms and Waxham.

Migrants began to move through coastal sites during the final week of Aug when 3 Warham Greens 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Scolt Head and 3 Warham Greens 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 Blakeney Point and 2 Hopton 30<sup>th</sup> and one Sheringham and 3 Beeston Bump 31<sup>st</sup>. Light passage throughout Sept, with influx 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, when 2 Lynn Point, 2 Titchwell, 5 Holme, 9 Scolt Head, 3 Warham Greens, 2 Stiffkey, 2 Blakeney Point, 2 Happisburgh, 3 Horsey/Waxham and 5 Hopton. Also during month 6 Warham Greens 5<sup>th</sup> and 15 here 13<sup>th</sup> and 11 Holme 25<sup>th</sup>. Few Oct with one Kelling WM 8<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey 31<sup>st</sup> and a small influx early Nov when singles Stiffkey 1<sup>st</sup>, Scolt Head 2<sup>nd</sup>, Muckleburgh Hill 3<sup>rd</sup> and Blakeney Point and Happisburgh 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **WHITETHROAT (Common Whitethroat)** *Sylvia communis*

**Nominate form a common summer visitor and passage migrant. A bird showing characters of the south-west Asian form *icterops* ('Eastern Whitethroat') noted on one occasion. Amber List (nominate).**

First of spring Colney Pits April 4<sup>th</sup>, the earliest county record by six days, followed by one Scolt Head 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2 Waxham 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Scolt Head and one Snettisham 19<sup>th</sup> and singles Walsey Hills and



Kelling 20<sup>th</sup> with widespread arrival from 23<sup>rd</sup>. Highest counts during rest of April 15 Holme 24<sup>th</sup>, 16 Holme, 4 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 7 Burnham Market and 5 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 Cromer and 8 Morston 26<sup>th</sup> and 9 Hopton 27<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued for most of May, peak counts early in the month when 10 Holme and 10 Cromer 3<sup>rd</sup>, 21 Holme 4<sup>th</sup>, 18 Holme, 8 Scolt Head and 7 Blakeney Point 5<sup>th</sup>, and later in month up to 9 Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, with final migrant of spring here June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding birds reported from many sites around the county, most noteworthy breeding concentrations 47 singing males Ringstead Courtyard Farm (very similar to previous year), 15 Hickling Broad, 13 Holme, 4 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 4 Scolt Head where 14 singing males previous year and the only site to report a significant decline. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 19.18% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 8.99% between 2007 and 2008. 252 individuals were counted in 175 of 51 surveyed squares.

Autumn passage from mid-Aug, with first real influx end of month when 15 Holme, 9 Warham Greens, 3 Blakeney Point and 6 Beeston Bump 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Apart from 21 Warham Greens Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, no other noteworthy counts until mid-month when 9 Holme and 10 Warham Greens 13<sup>th</sup> and 6 Holme, 14 Scolt Head, 8 Burnham Overy Dunes, 4 Blakeney Point, 9 Horsey and 12 Waxham 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>. Apart from 6 Cromer GC Sept 18<sup>th</sup> few others during rest of month with last of year Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup> and Weybourne Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata dartfordiensis*

**Very scarce, though increasing, resident and migrant. Amber List.**

Birds present throughout the year Kelling Heath where 6 Jan-Feb, 4 March and 5 April. Only a single pair thought to have bred, fledging at least one brood. Several of the resident birds were thought to have been taken during the spring by a long-staying Great Grey Shrike. Up to 3 present during the rest of the year including 3 males Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.

Few others elsewhere: Holkham Meals/Burnham Overy Dunes Feb 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and a singing male here March 15<sup>th</sup>, others Salthouse Heath May 26<sup>th</sup>, Winterton Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and another in the north-west of the county Nov 29<sup>th</sup> till year end.

### **SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*

**Nominate western Mediterranean form ('Western Subalpine Warbler') a rare vagrant. South-east European form *albistriata* ('Eastern Subalpine Warbler') a very rare vagrant. A bird showing characters of the Balearic, Corsican, Sardinian and north-west Italian form *moltonii* ('Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler') noted on one occasion.**

Three spring records: one of the nominate form Sea Palling May 7<sup>th</sup> (RC *et al*) and singles not assigned to form Blakeney Point (PN, RFP) and Warham Greens (CH), both May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **GREENISH WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

**Eastern European and western Russian form *viridanus* a rare vagrant. Siberian form *plumbeitarsus* ('Two-barred Greenish Warbler') has occurred on at least one occasion.**

Following the large number last year this species reverted to its normal status with one Sea Palling Sept 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> (TA) the only record.

### **ARCTIC WARBLER** *Phylloscopus borealis borealis*

**Very rare vagrant.**

One Scolt Head Sept 13<sup>th</sup> (NML, NW). This was the first since one at Holme in Sept 1999.

### **PALLAS'S WARBLER (Pallas's Leaf Warbler)** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

**Very scarce, occasionally scarce, autumn passage migrant.**

The best year since 2004, with total of 15 late Oct/early Nov when 3 Holme Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holkham Meals 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>, singles Wells East Hills, Warham Greens, Eccles, Sea Palling and Yarmouth 31<sup>st</sup>, Holme Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Deepdale 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> (heard singing briefly 1<sup>st</sup>), Holkham 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and Muckleburgh Hill 11<sup>th</sup>.





Pallas's Warbler (*Richard Johnson*)

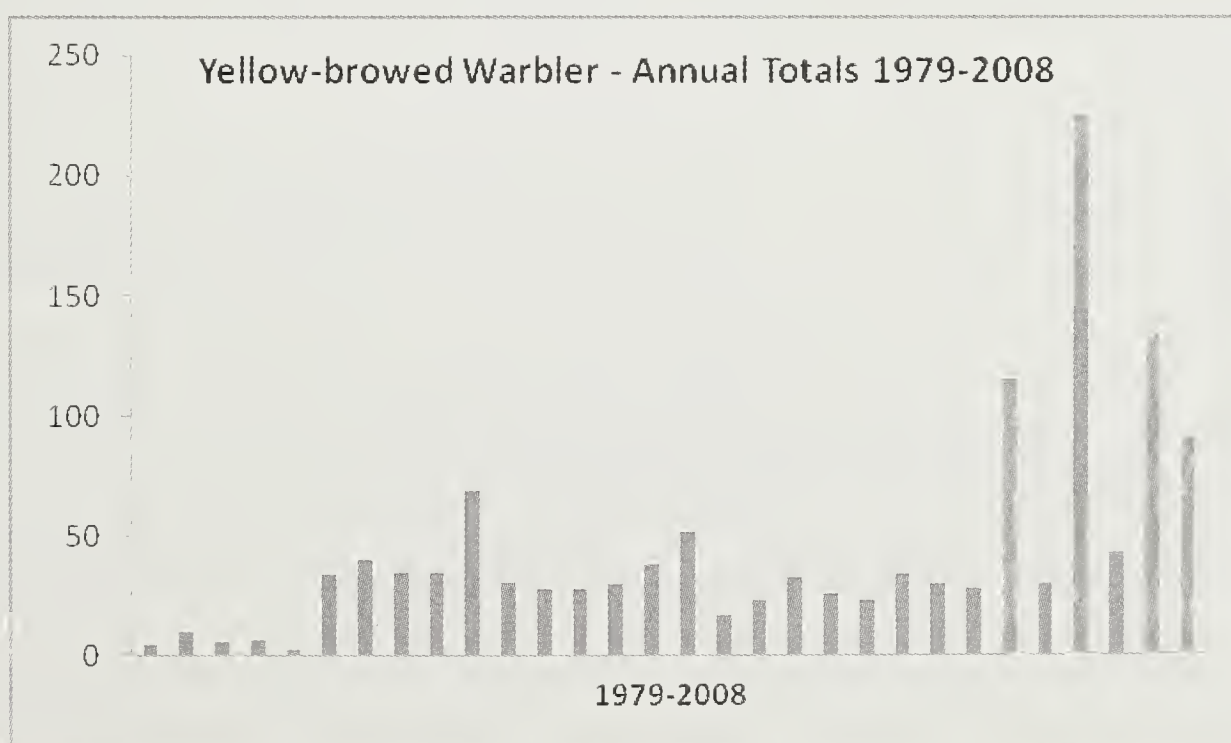
## **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

### **Scarce autumn passage migrant.**

Another excellent autumn with a total of around 90 individuals, 50 in Sept, 24 in Oct and 16 in Nov. First mid-Sept when Holme 14<sup>th</sup>, Holkham 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, 2 17<sup>th</sup> and one 18<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse 15<sup>th</sup>, Burgh Castle 17<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham BO 18<sup>th</sup> and Hopton 21<sup>st</sup>. First influx of autumn Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> when totals of 4 Holme, 7 Holkham, 3 Yarmouth, 2 Scolt Head, Warham Greens, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point and Walsey Hills, singles Titchwell, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy Staithe, Cley, Salthouse, Cromer, Paston, Happisburgh, Eccles, Waxham and Breydon.

Noted on 13 dates in Oct, with most at beginning of month and another smaller influx at month end. Early in month 1-2 Holme, Titchwell, Holkham Meals, Walsey Hills, Kelling WM, Cromer GC and Happisburgh 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Few over the next two weeks: singles Cley 15<sup>th</sup>, Holkham Meals 17<sup>th</sup>, Eccles 19<sup>th</sup>, Holme 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> and Cromer 27<sup>th</sup>. Second influx of autumn in final few days of Oct when 1-2 Holme, Burnham Deepdale, Holkham Meals, Cley, Weybourne and Happisburgh. New arrivals continued in first week of Nov when up to 2 Holme 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Deepdale 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and Overstrand 2<sup>nd</sup> and singles Holkham GM and Blakeney Village 1<sup>st</sup>, Paston and Yarmouth 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sheringham BO 3<sup>rd</sup>, Muckleburgh Hill 5<sup>th</sup>, Cley 6<sup>th</sup>, Yarmouth 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, with last of year Trimingham 9<sup>th</sup> and Holme 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

Inland records Hellesdon Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Glandford 27<sup>th</sup>, Southrepps 28<sup>th</sup>, Beeston Common 29<sup>th</sup>, Holt 30<sup>th</sup>, Bayfield Hall Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 2<sup>nd</sup>, Burgh Castle 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and Norwich Lakenham Mill Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.





During the past thirty years a total of 1301 Yellow-browed Warblers has been recorded, with just under 50% in the six years since 2003, when peak counts have been 115 in 2003, 225 in 2005 and 113 in 2007.

#### **HUME'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus humei humei*

**Very rare vagrant.**

One Holkham Meals Nov 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> (RGM). This species has now occurred in the county in each of the last 3 years.

#### **RADDE'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

**Rare vagrant.**

An excellent year with three records. One Holkham Meals Sept 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> (AJS) was followed quickly by another Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> (AJS). A third trapped Weybourne Oct 6<sup>th</sup> (MPT).

#### **DUSKY WARBLER** *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*

**Rare vagrant.**

One Blakeney Point June 4<sup>th</sup> (PN, RFP) was only the second spring record for the county. A very elusive individual Muckleburgh Hill Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> (MN *et al*) was on a more expected date.

#### **WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

**Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

No improvement in fortunes for this rapidly declining summer visitor, in spring singles Sheringham Pretty Corner May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Yarmouth 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and Sandringham 17<sup>th</sup>. At Bodham a pair May 24<sup>th</sup> until at least June 6<sup>th</sup>, with an additional male 25<sup>th</sup>. During this time the female was incubating but failed due to disturbance. This represents the first breeding attempt in the county since 1994.

Just two autumn migrants: singles Holme Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and Eccles 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

**Nominate form a common summer visitor and passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.**

**Scandinavian form *abietinus* ('Scandinavian Chiffchaff') a scarce passage migrant. Siberian form *tristis/fulvescens* ('Siberian Chiffchaff') a very scarce autumn passage migrant. Green List (nominate).**

#### **Chiffchaff and 'Scandinavian Chiffchaff'** *Phylloscopus (collybita) collybita* and *abietinus*

Small numbers widespread in the first winter period when up to 3 Holme, 2 Stiffkey and Wissington BF and singles Beeston Regis, Cley, Cromer, East Ruston Common, Hickling Broad, Hillborough, Holkham Park, Horning Waterworks, How Hill, Hunstanton, Kelling Heath, Langham, Paston, Sparham Pools, Stiffkey, Strumpshaw, Sutton Fen, Swanton Morley, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Winterton and Wolferton.

First returning migrants of spring mid-March when 2 Barton Broad and singles Burnham Deepdale, Kelling WM and Mundford 14<sup>th</sup>, with reports from an additional 14 sites next day including 7 Paston. Further migrants slow to appear over the next ten days until another much larger arrival in final week of March when 6 Kelling Heath 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 Sheringham BO and 5 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 29<sup>th</sup> and 6 West Runton, 5 Sennowe Park and 5 Wiveton 30<sup>th</sup>. Migrants continued to move through during April and breeding numbers continued to increase, peak counts 5 Kelling and 7 Roydon Common 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Holme 12<sup>th</sup>, 13 Sheringham Park 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 Beeston Common 20<sup>th</sup>, 17 Blakeney Point 21<sup>st</sup>, 15 Blickling Park 23<sup>rd</sup> and 13 Roydon Common and 10 Winterton 26<sup>th</sup>. Bird continued to move through during May when 5 Scolt Head and 3 Blakeney Point 5<sup>th</sup>, with smaller numbers until last Scolt Head and Blakeney Point June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Breeding birds found throughout the county, with singing males/pairs 17 Ringstead Courtyard Farm (23% decline on 2007), 5 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 5 UEA Broads and 4 Catton Park



and Holme. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 4.45% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 4.95% between 2007 and 2008. 140 individuals were counted in 45 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn passage from second half of Aug when 10 Titchwell Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> and 8 Holme and 3 Blakeney Point 30<sup>th</sup>. Good passage during Sept with influxes including 15 Scolt Head and 20 Holkham 13<sup>th</sup>, 14 Lynn Point, 6 Holme, 20 Sheringham, 5 Happisburgh and 10 How Hill Reedham Marshes 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 20 Holme, 20 Holkham, 8 Walsey Hills, 15 Sea Palling and 30 Winterton 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> and 20 Holme, 6 Blakeney Point and 6 Walsey Hills 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>. By contrast far fewer in Oct when highest counts 7 Hopton 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 Holme and 6 Eccles 30<sup>th</sup> and 6 Holme and 4 Titchwell 31<sup>st</sup>. Migrants continued to pass through during Nov with up to 4 Holme 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 4 Stiffkey and 3 Overstrand 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Holkham Meals 8<sup>th</sup> and smaller numbers at many sites including a late migrant Blakeney Point 25<sup>th</sup>.

By the final month of the year birds reported from 17 widely scattered localities, including a *collybita*- type Letheringsett Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **‘Siberian Chiffchaff’** *Phylloscopus (collybita) tristis/fulvescens*

An over-wintering bird Holkham Park Feb 16<sup>th</sup> (M and OM). Three more in late autumn: Holme Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> (DEB, PMW), Stiffkey Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> (AMcE) and Holkham Meals Nov 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (RGM).

**ADDITIONAL RECORD:** Stiffkey Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 (AIMcE).

### **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**Nominate form a common summer visitor and passage migrant. Northern and eastern form *acredula* (‘Northern Willow Warbler’) a scarce passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the Siberian form *yakutensis* (‘Eastern Willow Warbler’) noted occasionally in late autumn.**

**Amber List (nominate).**

First March 30<sup>th</sup> when singles East Ruston, Paston, Sparham and Titchwell and next day Sutton Broad. In April 6 Roydon Common 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 Horsey Gap and 6 Winterton 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 Horsey Mere 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8 Cromer 25<sup>th</sup>, 15 Roydon Common, 15 Swanton Morley and 10 Winterton 26<sup>th</sup> and 13 Blakeney Point and 6 Cromer GC 27<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts in May: 10 Holme 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 15 Holme and 9 Scolt Head 5<sup>th</sup> and 13 Scolt Head and 13 Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>. Last spring migrants Scolt Head June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Blakeney Point 5<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Birds showing characters of *acredula* Holme May 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup> and another here June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Counts of singing/breeding pairs included 67 Hickling Broad Complex (104 in 2007), 15 Swanton Morley, 9 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 8 Kelling Heath and Welney, 6 Horsey Mere and 6 Ringstead Courtyard Farm (58% decline since 2005) and 3 Blakeney GM and Pentney Heath. This species is becoming increasingly scarce as a breeding bird.

Autumn passage from late July when 16 Holme 26<sup>th</sup>. Apart from 10 Holme Aug 9<sup>th</sup> and 15 20<sup>th</sup> few counts of note during the month until influx of migrants 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> when 18 Holme, 17 Scolt Head and 11 Blakeney Point. Peak counts in first half of Sept 18 Blakeney Point 5<sup>th</sup> and 12 Scolt Head 7<sup>th</sup>, with fall 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> when 20 Holme, 37 Scolt Head, 20 Holkham Meals, 14 Stiffkey, 20 Sheringham BO, 20 Beeston Bump, 6 Overstrand, 6 Sidestrand, 12 Eccles, 39 Mundesley, 18 Paston, 12 Eccles, 10 Waxham, 5 Winterton and 5 Yarmouth. Few other counts of note during month with 10 Sheringham BO 20<sup>th</sup> the best, after which very few reported and last of year Walsey Hills 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Welney 27<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus regulus*

**Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.**

Little evidence of outward movement in spring, peak counts 25 Holme March 17<sup>th</sup> and 12 Stiffkey 27<sup>th</sup> with just singles Scolt Head on 3 dates in April.

Limited breeding data but 7 pairs High Kelling and pair bred successfully Holme while at Ringstead Courtyard Farm 10 territories was a decline of 17% on 2007.

First of autumn Cromer Sept 7<sup>th</sup> with numbers increasing from mid-month when 40 Holme 14<sup>th</sup>, 60 Holkham Meals 21<sup>st</sup> and 107 Blakeney Point, 70 Holme and 55 Stiffkey/Warham Greens 25<sup>th</sup>.



Main arrival early Nov when 250 Winterton and 100 Holkham Meals 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 Holme 2<sup>nd</sup>, falling to 450 3<sup>rd</sup> and 100 Titchwell 2<sup>nd</sup>. One trapped Brancaster Thompson Farms bearing a Stavanger, Norway ring.

### **FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla ignicapilla*

**Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, very scarce in winter. Amber List.**

Unusually widespread in Jan with 1-2 at 16 widely scattered sites centred on Cromer-Holt ridge and Brecks but also Blackborough End Tip, Caister, Cley, Holkham Park, Holkham Meals, Hoveton Park, Walsey Hills and Wymondham. In Feb up to 4 singing males at one Breckland site with 4 trapped at another site nearby, at least 2 singing males Cromer-Holt ridge and one found dead Gorleston 24<sup>th</sup>. Evidence of coastal movement from March 1<sup>st</sup> when single Winterton followed by others during month Burnham Deepdale (including one ringed Dunwich, Suffolk, in March 2007), Cley, Cromer, Eccles, Hemsby, Holme, Hopton, Paston, Sea Palling, Stiffkey, Titchwell, Trimingham, Walsey Hills, Warham Greens and Weybourne. In April 1-3 at many coastal sites including 3 ringed Weybourne.

Breeding activity again centred on the Brecks and the Cromer-Holt ridge. In the former up to 20 singing males although no confirmation of successful breeding noted. Along the Cromer-Holt ridge similar numbers of singing males with at least 5 pairs recorded and evidence of successful breeding from 4 sites. Additional singing males Cley, Dersingham Bog, Holkham Meals, Holkham Park, Sandringham and Thetford Nunnery.

Autumn migrants from Sept 14<sup>th</sup> when single Happisburgh and 2 Titchwell. Small numbers in early Oct but noticeable peak Oct 30<sup>th</sup>-Nov 4<sup>th</sup> when 1-3 at 18 coastal locations. In Dec singles at just 6 sites including one trapped and ringed Brancaster Thompson Farms 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata striata*

**Fairly common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.**

First of spring North Walsham April 29<sup>th</sup>. Noted during May at 32 widely scattered inland and coastal sites, mainly 1-3 birds but 6 Sculthorpe Mill 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 Blakeney Point 22<sup>nd</sup> and 4 Scolt Head 8<sup>th</sup> with peak count 17 Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup>.

In breeding season the decline continues with a max of 26 prs at 22 sites. Only 3 sites held more than a single pair: Hoveton Park (3), Metton (2) and Weeting Heath (2). At Bayfield Hall Estate absent for second year running.

Evidence of coastal movement from Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> when single Blakeney Point with 1-2 Burnham Overy Dunes, Scolt Head and Titchwell to month end while inland one inside the Siberian Tiger enclosure at Banham Zoo 25<sup>th</sup>. Small-scale coastal movement throughout Sept with noticeable peak 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> when 12 Yarmouth Cemetery, 9 Sidestrand, 8 Blakeney Point and Scolt Head, 6 Cley and 5 Holkham Meals and Walsey Hills. Latest birds Holkham Gap Oct 13<sup>th</sup> and Muckleburgh Hill and Burnham Deepdale Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, the latter remaining to 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Spotted Flycatcher (*John Geeson*)



### **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva*

**Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn.**

Recorded in spring for second year running: Holkham May 7<sup>th</sup>, probable female Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> and another female in the the ternery there June 4<sup>th</sup>.

First of autumn Scolt Head and Yarmouth Cemetery Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Further 6 individuals to month end: Eccles 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham BO 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, Holme and Wells East Hills 25<sup>th</sup> and Holkham Meals 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>.

### **PIED FLYCATCHER (Eurasian Pied Flycatcher)** *Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca*

**Passage migrant, very scarce in spring, scarce, occasionally fairly common, in autumn. Has bred. Amber List.**

First of spring North Walsham April 28<sup>th</sup> followed by 1-3 during May at 6 coastal localities. Also male Kelling Heath from 10<sup>th</sup> investigating a nestbox but no sign of any female and last seen 17<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn movement from Aug 11<sup>th</sup> when single Horsey with 1-5 at a further 15 widely scattered coastal sites to month end. Small numbers recorded daily during first half of Sept with peak 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> when 18 between Mundesley and Bacton, 18 Happisburgh, 16 Yarmouth Cemetery, 15 Wells Dell, 11 Scolt Head and 10 Burnham Overy Dunes and Winterton. Still 1-4 birds at many coastal sites to month end with inland singles Burgh Castle, Hellesdon, How Hill, Hickling Broad and Southrepps. Oct singles Walsey Hills 4<sup>th</sup>, Happisburgh 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney Point 12<sup>th</sup> and last of year Yarmouth Cemetery 21<sup>st</sup>.



Pied Flycatcher (*Richard Johnson*)

### **BEARDED TIT (Bearded Reedling)** *Panurus biarmicus biarmicus*

**Fairly common resident. Amber List.**

Only double-figure count in first winter period: 12 How Hill Reedham Water Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. At Weybourne pair March 29<sup>th</sup> and singles April 9<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding pairs: *north coast* Titchwell 11, Burnham Norton 4, Burnham Overy GM 5, Blakeney GM 4 (15 young fledged), Cley 7; *Broads* Barton Turf Fen 2, Cantley BF several, Catfield Fen 2, Horning Hall Marshes 1, How Hill Reedham Marshes 2, Hickling Broad complex 44 (62 in 2007), Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 2, Lopham Fen 1, mid-Yare RSPB 25, Sharp Street Fen 2, Upton Fen 1. At Chedgrave Marshes 37 ringed in Aug.

Little evidence of migration/irruptive behaviour: *Sept* 4 Sea Palling church 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 west Weybourne and 5 Winterton 27<sup>th</sup>; *Oct* one Thetford Nunnery Lakes 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Holkham Meals 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 west Holkham GM 24<sup>th</sup> and 3 west 27<sup>th</sup>, one Waxham also 27<sup>th</sup>; *Nov* 3 Welney 1<sup>th</sup>; *Dec* one Welney 15<sup>th</sup>.

Widely reported in second winter period with max monthly counts: *Sept* 30 Cley, 20 Hickling Broad, 17 Stiffkey Fen, 12 Blickling GM, 10 Burnham Overy GM, 10 Strumpshaw; *Oct* 60 Cley (4 flocks), 16 Titchwell; *Nov* 30 Cley, 15 Blickling GM, 13 Titchwell; *Dec* 35 How Hill Turf Fen, 16 Blickling GM, 14 Cantley BF.





Bearded Tit (*Robert Gillmor*)

**LONG-TAILED TIT (Long-tailed Bushtit) *Aegithalos caudatus***

**British form *rosaceus* ('British Long-tailed Tit') a common resident. Nominate Scandinavian form ('Northern Long-tailed Tit') a very rare vagrant. Amber List (*rosaceus*).**

Max counts: *Jan* 50 South Pickenham, 28 Beeston Regis, 25 Swanton Morley GP; *June* 35 Langham, 30 Ranworth Broad; *Aug* 26 Holkham GM; *Sept* 32 Holme, 32 Paston; *Oct* 30 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 26 Beeston Common; *Nov* 59 Sparham (flocks of 42 and 17), 35 Holme, 30 Hempnall, 26 Hempton, 25 Brancaster Staithe, 25 Warham Greens, 25 Wiveton.

Breeding: at Ringstead Courtyard Farm 31 territories, an increase of 19% on 2007.

Autumn movements noted Hunstanton where 70 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> including 26 Oct 10<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs 30 mins), 14 25<sup>th</sup> (3 hrs 30 mins) and 24 29<sup>th</sup> (4 hrs 30 mins). Elsewhere 15 west Welney Oct 20<sup>th</sup> and 37 west Titchwell 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus***

**British form *obscurus* ('British Blue Tit') a very common resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Blue Tit') a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*obscurus*).**

Very little spring movement noted: single east Scolt Head April 21<sup>st</sup> and 3 south Hunstanton 24<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding: at Ringstead Courtyard Farm 31 territories, a decrease of 12% on 2007. At Brancaster Thompson Farms many broods lost from nestboxes, probably due to lack of caterpillar prey. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 28.22% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 11.72% between 2007 and 2008. 379 individuals were counted in 59 of 63 surveyed squares.

In autumn total 12 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> with 9 Oct 12<sup>th</sup> (2 hrs 30 mins).

**GREAT TIT *Parus major***

**British form *newtoni* ('British Great Tit') a very common resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Great Tit') a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*newtoni*).**

In spring 7 migrants north Horsey March 29<sup>th</sup>, 8 west Sheringham 30<sup>th</sup> and 11 west 31<sup>st</sup>, 3 west Beeston Bump also 31<sup>st</sup> and one west Scolt Head April 13<sup>th</sup>. At Hunstanton (all south) 2 March 29<sup>th</sup> and one April 13<sup>th</sup>, 63 24<sup>th</sup> (4 hrs 30 mins) and 6 27<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding: at Ringstead Courtyard Farm 32 territories, a decrease of 31 % on 2007. At Brancaster Thompson Farms more young survived than Blue Tits. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 26.52% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 17.74% between 2007 and 2008. 316 individuals were counted in 58 of 63 surveyed squares.

In autumn total of 16 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> with peaks of 4 Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.



### **COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

**British form** *britannicus* ('British Coal Tit') a fairly common resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Coal Tit') a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*britannicus*).

Influx noted Brancaster Thompson Farms late Sept with up to 10 on several Oct dates. At Hunstanton 2 south Oct 6<sup>th</sup> and 2 south 12<sup>th</sup>. Peak count Holme 15 Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montana*

**British form** *kleinschmidtii* ('British Willow Tit') a scarce and declining resident. Scandinavian form *borealis* ('Northern Willow Tit') a very rare vagrant. Red List (*kleinschmidtii*).

Majority of records relate to sightings in early part of year. Only seen regularly in west/south-west of county at Boughton Fen, Hempton Marsh, Santon Downham, Sculthorpe Fen/Moor, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and River Little Ouse.

In Broads Potter Heigham March and 3 Dec, Rockland Broad Sept/Oct, Strumpshaw Feb and Sutton Fen June (male in song).

Elsewhere isolated records from Bintree, Felbrigg, Gayton Common, Gressenhall, Hoe Rough, Itteringham, Lynford Arboretum, Marham Fen, Necton, Reepham, Sandringham, Stalham (male in song), Stanford TA, Swanton Morley GP and Thursford.

### **MARSH TIT** *Poecile palustris dresseri* ('English Marsh Tit')

**Fairly common resident. Red List.**

Records received from only 75 localities compared with 130 in 2007.

Highest counts: 10 Sculthorpe Moor Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 (ringed) Beechamwell Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 Ling Common (North Wootton) Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 Lynford Arboretum Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. Regularly recorded at a roost site at Bayfield Hall Jan with max 16 1st. One Holkham Meals Sept 6<sup>th</sup> where rarely seen in recent years.

### **NUTHATCH (Eurasian Nuthatch)** *Sitta europaea caesia*

**Fairly common resident. Green List.**

Widespread in suitable woodland but no specific reports received this year.



Nuthatch (*John Geeson*)

### **TREECREEPER (Eurasian Treecreeper)** *Certhia familiaris*

**British form** *britannica* a fairly common resident. Nominate Scandinavian and eastern European form ('Northern Treecreeper') may also occur. Amber List (*britannica*).

Count of 8 West Runton June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **GOLDEN ORIOLE (Eurasian Golden Oriole)** *Oriolus oriolus oriolus*

**Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. No longer breeds. Red List.**

Following a male Winterton May 3<sup>rd</sup>, further singing males Southrepps 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, Wayland Wood 22<sup>nd</sup> and East Somerton 28<sup>th</sup>.

For third year running no evidence of breeding in county with birds from Lakenheath Fen only crossing river into Norfolk for brief periods.



## **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio collurio*

**Very scarce passage migrant. Former breeder. Red List.**

First of spring Muckleburgh Hill May 26<sup>th</sup> followed by male Cromer, female Holme and Blakeney Point 27<sup>th</sup> (latter to 28<sup>th</sup>), female Gorleston (and possibly same Breydon) 28<sup>th</sup>, male Kelling Heath 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and female Snettisham 29<sup>th</sup> with male there 30<sup>th</sup>. In June female Burnham Overy Dunes 4<sup>th</sup>, male Cley 6<sup>th</sup>, male Hickling/Potter Heigham 9<sup>th</sup>, male Waxham 15<sup>th</sup> (then singing Sea Palling 16<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>) and male Kelling Heath 17<sup>th</sup>.

An excellent autumn commenced Aug 31<sup>st</sup> with singles Sea Palling and Warham Greens. In early Sept Blakeney Point 7<sup>th</sup> and Gorleston 9<sup>th</sup> but main movement from mid-month: Heacham, Hopton, Overstrand and Scolt Head 14<sup>th</sup> (latter to 15<sup>th</sup>), Winterton 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, Horsey/Waxham 16<sup>th</sup>, adult male Sutton 19<sup>th</sup>, Cantley BF 21<sup>st</sup>, Holme 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy Dunes 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, Sheringham BO 27<sup>th</sup> and Hunstanton GC/Old Hunstanton 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Late birds Sea Palling Oct 27<sup>th</sup> and Paston 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **LESSER GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius minor*

**Very rare vagrant.**

A good year with two records. An adult Hickling June 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> (AJK *et al*), later relocated in Dorset. The second, an adult female, frequented clifftop fields between Weybourne and Sheringham Sept 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> (KS *et al*).

## **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor excubitor*

**Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.**

After a number of lean years, for the second winter in succession birdwatchers were spoilt for choice, with four birds overwintering. In Jan, the bird from 2007 stayed faithful to Roydon Common for most of the month before appearing briefly Dersingham Bog Jan 29<sup>th</sup> and Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. On the north coast one Holkham GM Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and intermittently Holkham/Burnham Overy area to Feb 24<sup>th</sup> with another Kelling Heath Feb 29<sup>th</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the Brecks one Grime's Graves/Santon Downham Jan 20<sup>th</sup>-March 19<sup>th</sup> with possibly same Fowl Mere Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and Lynford March 17<sup>th</sup>. Additional 'one-day' birds West Beckham Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, Stowbridge Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and Gayton Thorpe March 5<sup>th</sup> followed by April passage birds Great Walsingham 12<sup>th</sup>, Hunstanton 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and Cart Gap 26<sup>th</sup>.

For the second year running a major autumn influx starting with the first Holkham Meals/Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> followed by singles Choseley 25<sup>th</sup> (to Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2 Sept 29<sup>th</sup>), Weybourne and Winterton 25<sup>th</sup> (the latter to 28<sup>th</sup>), Hickling/Potter Heigham 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>, Waxham 26<sup>th</sup>, Eccles 29<sup>th</sup> and Hemsby 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>. In Oct further singles Ringstead 4<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham 6<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Stubb Mill, Waxham and Heacham 11<sup>th</sup> (latter to 12<sup>th</sup>), Holkham/Burnham Overy Dunes 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>, Dersingham Bog 16<sup>th</sup> (to year end), Heacham 18<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 20<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> and Hickling/Brograve and Heacham 25<sup>th</sup>. In Nov singles Holme 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, Wells East Hills 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, North Walsham 2<sup>nd</sup>, Warham Greens 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, Buxton Heath 8<sup>th</sup>, Titchwell 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, Foulsham 10<sup>th</sup>, Horning Marsh Farm 14<sup>th</sup>, Grime's Graves 19<sup>th</sup> (to year end) and Denver 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>. In Dec the Dersingham Bog individual seen intermittently Castle Rising/Babingley and the Denver bird again 28<sup>th</sup>.



Great Grey Shrike (*Richard Thewlis*)



## **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator*

**Nominate southern European form a rare vagrant. Balearic, Corsican and Sardinian form *badius* ('Balearic Woodchat Shrike') has occurred on one occasion.**

A juv Beeston Bump Sept 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> (GED, AMS *et al*) completed an excellent year for shrikes in the county.

## **JAY (Eurasian Jay)** *Garrulus glandarius*

**British form *rufitergum* ('British Jay') a common resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Jay') a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*rufitergum*) and Green List (nominate).**

Few records submitted. Several unusual spring movements with 2 south Hunstanton April 4<sup>th</sup>, in off sea Beeston Bump 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 west West Runton then Beeston Bump May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Limited early autumn movements, probably involving local birds: 5 Titchwell Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 west Burnham Overy Dunes 15<sup>th</sup> and 6 north-west Thornham Farms 28<sup>th</sup>. Only other counts 6 Langham April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 Holme Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **MAGPIE (Eurasian Magpie)** *Pica pica pica*

**Common resident. Green List.**

Few records submitted and disappointingly during whole year no counts received from significant roost at Roydon Common and only two for Whitlingham CP.

Roost counts at start of year: *Jan* 30 Hempton, 69 Ringstead Common, 70 UEA; *Feb* 25 Long Stratton, 82 Whitlingham CP. Day counts of 15 Holme Jan, 17 Roydon Common and 21 Wacton Feb.

Very light spring passage. At Hunstanton 21 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Best counts 4 west Beeston Bump and 2 west West Runton March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 north Waxham April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 north Horsey Gap 13<sup>th</sup>, 3 south Hunstanton and 3 west Beeston Bump 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9 south Hunstanton 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 north Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup>, 5 south Hunstanton May 1<sup>st</sup> and 4 south Hunstanton 2<sup>nd</sup>.

At Ringstead Courtyard Farm 13 breeding territories represented a decline of 59% on 2007. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 39.19% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 46.49% between 2007 and 2008. 76 individuals were counted in 36 of 63 surveyed squares.

Only autumn movement 9 west Blakeney GM Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. Only roost counts in second winter period 46 Whitlingham CP Oct and 28 Surlingham Church Marsh Nov. Day counts from Holme of 17 Sept, 30 Oct, 20 Nov and 30 Dec.



Magpie (*Richard Thewlis*)



## **JACKDAW (Western Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula***

**Western European form *spermologus* ('Western Jackdaw') a very common resident. Nominate eastern European form ('Nordic Jackdaw') a very scarce winter visitor. Green List (both forms).**

Only significant concentration in first half of year rather vague reports of flocks of up to 300 Stanford TA Jan and winter roost containing numbers in low thousands Grimston Warren.

Spring movements noted around whole coast from March 7<sup>th</sup> (Beeston Bump) until May 30<sup>th</sup> (Scolt Head) though most obvious in east. At Hunstanton 137 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peak counts: 5 east and 14 west Overstrand March 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 east and 7 west Overstrand 14<sup>th</sup>, 100 present Bacton and 196 east Paston 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 east Beeston Bump, 11 out to sea West Runton and 15 south Sea Palling 31<sup>st</sup>, 14 south Hunstanton April 4<sup>th</sup>, 29 east Paston 8<sup>th</sup>, 39 east Paston and 16 south Horsey Gap 9<sup>th</sup>, 27 east Paston and 94 south and 36 north Horsey Gap 10<sup>th</sup>, 47 south Horsey Gap 12<sup>th</sup>, 29 east Paston and 12 south Horsey Gap 13<sup>th</sup>, 27 east Paston 14<sup>th</sup>, 39 north and 17 south Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 south Hunstanton and 13 east Beeston Bump 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26 south Hunstanton 24<sup>th</sup>, 19 east Paston 25<sup>th</sup>, 11 south Hunstanton 26<sup>th</sup>, 18 south Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup>, 18 south Hunstanton May 1<sup>st</sup> and 29 south Horsey Gap 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding counts 1+ pairs Blakeney GM and 13 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 182.09% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 10.59% between 2007 and 2008. 675 individuals were counted in 48 of 63 surveyed squares.

Light autumn movements noted mainly in west of county with only 175 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. Peak counts 21 west Holme Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 41 south Hunstanton Oct 9<sup>th</sup> with 25 south there both 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 24 south Hunstanton and single tight flock of 210 in off sea Walcott 31<sup>st</sup>.

Autumn/winter concentrations: *July* 140 Wighton; *Oct/Nov* 2500 roosting Ingworth; *Nov* 120 Dereham; *Dec* 150 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 250 Gunton Park. No counts received in either winter period from major roost at Buckenham Carrs.

Leucistic bird Thetford April 5<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers of birds showing characteristics of *monedula*: 2 Edgefield from Dec 2007-Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Blackborough End Tip Jan 5<sup>th</sup>-March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Beeston Regis/Bump Jan 13<sup>th</sup>-March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 Holkham Park Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Rockland St Mary March 12<sup>th</sup>, Bacton 29<sup>th</sup>, Pentney GP April 1<sup>st</sup>, Cley 25<sup>th</sup>, East Harling Heath Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and East Winch 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **ROOK *Corvus frugilegus frugilegus***

**Very common resident and passage migrant. Green List.**

Only significant gatherings reported at start of year: *Jan* 1000 East Rudham, 4000 (mixed roost with Jackdaws) Horningtoft, 230 Langham; *Feb* 150 Fincham.

Spring movements Feb 12<sup>th</sup> (Paston) to May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Hunstanton and Winterton). At Hunstanton 177 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peak counts around county: 10 west Overstrand March 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 south Hunstanton 15<sup>th</sup>, 38 east Paston 29<sup>th</sup>, 15 south Hunstanton and 10 south Sea Palling 31<sup>st</sup>, 44 south and 4 north Horsey Gap April 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 south and 2 north Horsey Gap 13<sup>th</sup>, 23 south Hunstanton, 16 east Beeston Bump and 38 south Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 17 south and 2 north Waxham 25<sup>th</sup>, 26 south Hunstanton 26<sup>th</sup> and 11 south there 27<sup>th</sup>, 26 south Hunstanton and 29 south Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup>, 30 south Horsey Gap May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18 north Winterton 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Pleasing increase in rookery counts received: 50-60 Bayfield Hall Major's Clump, 37 Oby, 14 Potter Heigham Bridge, 65 and 31 Repps-with-Bastwick, 214 (5 sites) Stanford TA. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant increase of 48.81% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 24.17% between 2007 and 2008. 1046 individuals were counted in 40 of 63 surveyed squares.

Negligible autumn passage with only 44 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> where peak 14 Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 12<sup>th</sup>. Only autumn/winter concentrations noted: Sept 250 Cley; Oct/Nov 2000 (roost) Ingworth; Nov 675 Dereham; Dec 500 north to roost New Costessey 7<sup>th</sup>. No counts at all received in either winter period of major roost at Buckenham Carrs.



## **CARRION CROW** *Coryus corone corone*

**Common resident and passage migrant. Green List.**

Winter concentrations 100 Brancaster Thompson Farms Jan and 300 there Feb.

Moderate spring passage March 7<sup>th</sup> (Overstrand) to May 19<sup>th</sup> (Scolt Head), as usual most noticeable on east coast. At Hunstanton only 104 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> while at Scolt Head total 237 west April 8<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Peak counts around county (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast unless otherwise stated): 10 Hunstanton, 17 Holme and 17 east Paston March 29<sup>th</sup>, 16 Hunstanton and 30 south Sea Palling 31<sup>st</sup>, 16 Hunstanton April 1<sup>st</sup>, 29 Hunstanton and 15 Holme 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 Hunstanton and 30 north 6 south Waxham 4<sup>th</sup>, 13 north 5 south Horsey Gap 9<sup>th</sup> with 31 north 49 south there 10<sup>th</sup> and 8 north 39 south 12<sup>th</sup>, 22 Scolt Head, 68 present Paston and 42 north 29 south Horsey Gap 13<sup>th</sup>, 49 east Paston 15<sup>th</sup>, 66 north 52 south Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 east Weybourne, 30 east Beeston Bump and 28 north 81 south Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 20 Holme, 79 Scolt Head, 30 present Blakeney Point, 21 Weybourne, 46 Beeston Bump and 182 Paston all 24<sup>th</sup>, 12 Holme, 69 east Paston and 67 north, 73 south and 125 present Waxham 25<sup>th</sup>, 15 Holme, 20 Cley and 7 north, 48 south and 120 present Horsey Gap 26<sup>th</sup>, 31 Scolt Head 27<sup>th</sup>, 24 north, 57 south and 85 present Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup>, 17 south Holme, 27 Weybourne and 63 north 20 south Waxham 29<sup>th</sup>, 13 Scolt Head, 74 east Paston and 6 north 118 south Horsey Gap May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20 Holme 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Breeding data: 2 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm; 6 pairs Thornham Farms. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 131.29% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 41.72% between 2007 and 2008. 401 individuals were counted in 37 of 63 surveyed squares.

Only minor autumn movement detected with 12 west Weybourne Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, 15 west Holme 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 south Hunstanton Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, south Hunstanton 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 west Holme 11<sup>th</sup> and 7 north Horsey Gap 18<sup>th</sup>. No significant autumn/winter concentrations or roosts reported.

Possibly same leucistic bird Thetford Feb 16<sup>th</sup> and Thetford Nunnery Lakes Dec 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix cornix*

**Very scarce, and declining, winter visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

Only five records of birds considered pure, most now typically in early spring: Flitcham March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Winterton March 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> (not the resident hybrid), Burnham Thorpe feeding on Brown Hare April 22<sup>nd</sup>, single bird tracked east Paston, south Happisburgh and south Eccles 24<sup>th</sup> then late bird Lessingham May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Long-staying resident Hooded x Carrion Crow hybrid remained all year Somerton Holmes/Winterton paired with Carrion Crow. Further hybrids Waxham March 25<sup>th</sup>, Horsey April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Horning Waterworks paired with Carrion Crow Dec 11<sup>th</sup> to 2009.

## **STARLING (Common Starling)** *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*

**Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.**

Principal concentrations reported at start of year 2500 (roost) Wacton Feb, 100 Holme Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 6000 (roost) Thetford March 7<sup>th</sup>, 750 (roost) Langham 20<sup>th</sup>, 800 Themelthorpe 22<sup>nd</sup>, 450 Holme 27<sup>th</sup> and 320 Wacton Common 29<sup>th</sup>.

Birds on return passage concentrated in short period March 7<sup>th</sup> (Cromer and Overstrand) to May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Hunstanton), peaking late March. Numbers particularly marked as usual on east coast. In contrast at Hunstanton only 130 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peak counts 2000 present Horsey March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2300 south Horsey Gap 15<sup>th</sup>, 3220 east Paston 19<sup>th</sup>, 2500 present West Somerton 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2500 east Paston and 1000 present Heigham Holmes 25<sup>th</sup>, 2500 east Kelling WM and many thousands east Paston 27<sup>th</sup>, 800 east Beeston Bump and 1286 east Overstrand 28<sup>th</sup>, 2370 south Horsey Gap 29<sup>th</sup> and 120 south Sea Palling 31<sup>st</sup>.

Very limited breeding data. No breeding pairs Blakeney Point, 2 pairs Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 3 nests with young Wighton village hall. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a non-significant decline of 25.72% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 10.45% between 2007 and 2008. 658 individuals were counted in 36 of 63 surveyed squares.

Slight increase in numbers undertaking westerly summer movement; 300 present Holme June 1<sup>st</sup>,



300 present Titchwell 10<sup>th</sup>, 21 Holme 15<sup>th</sup>, 39 north Horsey Gap 16<sup>th</sup>, 41 Scolt Head 17<sup>th</sup>, 50 present Holme 18<sup>th</sup>, 100 present Holme 24<sup>th</sup>, 155 present Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>, 456 Titchwell and 8121 Scolt Head July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1401 Holme and 2136 Scolt Head 2<sup>nd</sup>, 800 present Blakeney saltmarsh 7<sup>th</sup>, 200 present Holme 8<sup>th</sup>, 397 Holme 14<sup>th</sup>, 350 present Blakeney Point 14<sup>th</sup> increasing to 500 by 19<sup>th</sup>, 73 Holme 15<sup>th</sup> and 45 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 3350 present Scolt Head saltmarsh 20<sup>th</sup>, 600 present Cley 23<sup>rd</sup>. In Aug feeding flocks 160 Scolt Head on saltmarsh all month, 750 Ousemouth 18<sup>th</sup> and 1000 Cley 19<sup>th</sup>.

Usual protracted autumn arrival from Sept 20<sup>th</sup> (Holme) to Nov 26<sup>th</sup> (Hunstanton). Peak numbers as usual at Hunstanton where 332,324 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, while inland at New Costessey total 4431 west through Tudd Valley Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Peak counts (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast): 7540 Hunstanton Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 5386 Hunstanton and 2000 Brancaster Staithe 13<sup>th</sup>, 5583 Hunstanton 14<sup>th</sup>, 2120 Holme 18<sup>th</sup>, 8651 Hunstanton 19<sup>th</sup>, 12079 Hunstanton and 6695 Holme 23<sup>rd</sup>, 15268 Hunstanton, 2000+ Holme and 1290 west New Costessey 24<sup>th</sup>, 11151 Hunstanton 25<sup>th</sup>, 10004 Hunstanton 26<sup>th</sup>, 35784 Hunstanton, 6733 Holme, 3000 Warham Greens, 2000 present Blakeney GM and 1150 in off sea Paston 29<sup>th</sup>, 19536 Hunstanton, 14329 Holme, 7017 Titchwell and 16000 west in off sea Eccles 30<sup>th</sup>, 89748 Hunstanton, 10,429 Holme, 6085 Titchwell, 35000 Cley and 1324 west New Costessey all 31<sup>st</sup>, 11521 Hunstanton, 1350 Holme and 6400 Cley Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 9379 Hunstanton, 5800 (roost) Cley and 3000 Beeston Bump 2<sup>nd</sup>, 29530 Hunstanton and 10000 Holme 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1050 Overstrand 4<sup>th</sup>, 9462 Hunstanton and 1220 Sidestrand 7<sup>th</sup>, 1450 Holme 8<sup>th</sup>, 1200 Holme and 4000 Salthouse 17<sup>th</sup> and 3245 Hunstanton 26<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn inland counts 250 (roost) Horsey Mere Oct 14<sup>th</sup> increasing to 1000 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 5000+ (roost) Grimston Warren 30<sup>th</sup>. Poor numbers wintering. Usually-significant roost in Ant Valley peaked at only 5000 How Hill Reedham Marshes Nov 28<sup>th</sup> then rapidly dispersed. Other winter counts 700 Blakeney GM Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, 250 (roost) Strumpshaw Fen 30<sup>th</sup>, unusual winter movement 350 west Holme Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 350 (roost) Hoveton Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> and 250 (roost) Martham Broad 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **ROSE-COLOURED STARLING (Rosy Starling) *Sturnus roseus***

**Irruptive rare vagrant.**

An adult Earsham June 29<sup>th</sup> (RH) followed by another adult Great Bircham July 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> (per AIB).

## **HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus domesticus***

**Common resident. Red List.**

Largest flocks reported during year: *Jan* 20 Holme, 26 Thornham Farms; *June* 27 Corpusty; *July* 60 West Runton; *Aug* 18 Ditchingham, 35 North Wootton, 60 Paston; *Sept* 25 Beeston Regis, 50 Paston, 20 Thornham Farms. Also 35 Horning Upper Street, 45 Ludham Whitegates and 30 Ormesby St Margaret throughout year.

Sole spring passage record 2 south Hunstanton April 2<sup>nd</sup> while in autumn singles west Warham Greens Sept 20<sup>th</sup> and south Hunstanton Oct 19<sup>th</sup> were only reports.

Breeding records; no pairs present Blakeney Point, 9 pairs Ringstead Courtyard Farm (decline of 40% on 2007) and 2 pairs Wighton Water Pumping Station. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 29.55% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 9.09% between 2007 and 2008. 392 individuals were counted in 34 of 63 surveyed squares.

## **TREE SPARROW (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus montanus***

**Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.**

Typical scatter of records in first winter period chiefly from west of county (with double-figure counts in brackets): Brancaster Thompson Farms, Burnham Overy, Choseley, Cley, East Harling Heath, Flitcham (12 Feb), Forncett (28 Jan), Fulmodeston, Great Cressingham (10 Jan, 100 March, 80 April), Harpley, Holkham, Illington (10 Feb), Litcham Common, North Barsham, North Lopham, Northrepps, Ringstead Courtyard Farm (17 Jan, 20 Feb, 210 March), Stow Bedon (30 Jan), Summerfield (22 March), Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thornham Farms (10 Jan), Titchwell, Waxham, Welney, West Barsham and Wighton. No records Stanford TA in 2008.

Particularly good spring passage mostly noted in west of county. At Hunstanton 104 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> while at Holme total 49 west Feb 11<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peak counts (south at Hunstanton and



west along north coast): 7 Holme March 8<sup>th</sup>, single present Weybourne 28<sup>th</sup>, 11 Hunstanton and 9 Holme 29<sup>th</sup>, single present Scolt Head April 11<sup>th</sup> and 36 Hunstanton 23<sup>rd</sup> with 34 24<sup>th</sup> and 10 26<sup>th</sup>.

All breeding season records given (with max counts/breeding pairs): Aylsham (3prs), Burnham Market, Choseley, East Rudham (2), Fersfield airfield, Great Walsingham (pair), North Barsham (pair), North Lopham (6), Ringstead Courtyard Farm (16 pairs), Salhouse, Saxthorpe, Shereford (2), Sparham, Swardeston (3), Syderstone (4), Thornham Farms (6 pairs), Titchwell, Wighton (pair). Additional late summer records from Cley (6) and North Pickenham (6). At Thornham Farms total 113 ringed in summer/autumn of which 106 juvs. Preliminary analysis of trapping results gives estimated local population in range of 500-1000+.

First autumn passage/dispersing birds 2 west Holme Sept 13<sup>th</sup> with subsequent records 2 Burnham Overy Dunes 16<sup>th</sup>, west Weybourne 17<sup>th</sup> and 2 east there 25<sup>th</sup>, singles Holme Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 south Hunstanton 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 south Hunstanton and 3 Weybourne 13<sup>th</sup>, Brancaster Staithe 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Cley 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Holme 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 south Hunstanton 19<sup>th</sup>, south Hunstanton and 3 Winterton 25<sup>th</sup>, west Holme 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 Eccles 29<sup>th</sup> (till Nov 16<sup>th</sup>) and west Titchwell 30<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn/second winter period records (with principal counts): Briston, Castle Rising (9 Dec), Dunton, East Barsham, Fritcham, Fornsett (7 Dec), Great Cressingham (20 Sept, 25 Oct), Hilborough, Langham, Mileham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Stow Bedon, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thornham Farms (40 Aug, 20 Sept, none Oct/Nov, 14 Dec), Titchwell and Welney.

### **CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

**British form *gengleri* ('British Chaffinch') an abundant resident. Nominate continental form ('Continental Chaffinch') an abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List (*gengleri*) and Green List (nominate).**

Max counts in first winter period: *Jan* 225 Mundford, 100 Buckenham, 100 Limpenhoe, 90 Thornham, 80 Wighton; *Feb* 300 Stanford TA, 200 Aldby Tip, 120 Cockley Cley, 100 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 100 Cley.

Spring coastal passage underway from Feb 9<sup>th</sup> when 8 east Paston. No further movements recorded until March when 112 east Overstrand 7<sup>th</sup> with 56 east there 8<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts of spring concentrated in last 4 days of month with 5318 east Overstrand (2 hrs) 28<sup>th</sup> the highest-ever spring count at this site, 1055 east and 30 west Beeston Bump (1 hr) 28<sup>th</sup> and 421 east Paston 29<sup>th</sup> with 648 east there 30<sup>th</sup>. In April passage very light with a slight peak 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> when 96 south Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>, 50 east Beeston Bump 23<sup>rd</sup> and 475 south Waxham also 23<sup>rd</sup>. At Hunstanton only 182 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Breeding: 91 territories (same as 2007) Ringstead Courtyard Farms and 4 pairs Blakeney GM fledged 4 young. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 17.81% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 13.68% between 2007 and 2008. 863 individuals were counted in 63 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn coastal movement commenced Sept 18<sup>th</sup> when 15 east Beeston Bump but no significant passage until October when as usual Hunstanton recorded by far the highest counts with (all south) 51419 Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. Peak day totals as follows: 4470 Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 2588 10<sup>th</sup>, 2483 11<sup>th</sup>, 5386 13<sup>th</sup>, 5583 14<sup>th</sup>, 4862 18<sup>th</sup>, 1393 19<sup>th</sup>, 4866 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1646 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8777 25<sup>th</sup>, 2216 27<sup>th</sup> and 1565 Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts elsewhere 300 west Cley Oct 13<sup>th</sup> with 200 west Burnham Deepdale and 190 Beeston Bump also 13<sup>th</sup>, 1120 west Holme and 560 west Blakeney GM 18<sup>th</sup>, 229 west Blakeney GM 19<sup>th</sup> with 271 west there 25<sup>th</sup> and 200 west Holme 26<sup>th</sup>.

Only inland site to regularly record movement New Costessey where 867 moved through Tudd Valley Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-Nov 17<sup>th</sup> peaking at 76 Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 47 14<sup>th</sup>, 69 18<sup>th</sup> and 51 Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers in second winter period rather low with highest counts: *Nov* 117 Blakeney GM and 75 Sparham and *Dec* 70 North Elmham and 50 Bittering.



## **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

**Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Green List.**

Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 300 Blakeney/Wiveton, 180 Mundford, 150 Nar Valley Fisheries, 150 Pentney GP and 105 Holkham Park; *Feb* 250 Stanford TA and 100 Nar Valley Fisheries; *March* 70 East Winch Common, 60 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 35 Neatishead; *April* 100 Holkham Meals (4<sup>th</sup>) and 67 Holme (3<sup>rd</sup>).

In early spring a few singing prior to departure with 2 singing males Ringstead Courtyard Farms March 15<sup>th</sup> and 2 Ringstead Common April 12<sup>th</sup>. Most had departed by mid-April but a few lingered to month end, with 5 Beeston Common 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 Blakeney Point 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 Brancaster Thompson Farms 25<sup>th</sup>. One High Kelling May 2<sup>nd</sup> was the latest.

At a Sheringham garden ringing site a total of 161 ringed Jan-April where the previous highest annual total during past 36 years was only 32. By contrast, spring coastal movement very poor, involving only a handful of birds associating with movements of Chaffinch at a few sites

Autumn immigration first noted from Holme Sept 15<sup>th</sup> with records becoming more frequent as autumn progressed but generally involving only 1 or 2 birds at a scattering of coastal sites, Only site to record regular visible migration was Hunstanton where total of only 193 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> with highest day counts 21 Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 24 13<sup>th</sup>. Numbers equally low elsewhere in autumn and also in second winter period. Only two double-figure counts received: 15 Sparham Pools Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 100 Nar Valley Fisheries Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **SERIN (European Serin)** *Serinus serinus*

**Rare vagrant. Amber List.**

One Scolt Head May 5<sup>th</sup> (NML).

## **GREENFINCH (European Greenfinch)** *Carduelis chloris*

**British form *harrisoni* a common resident and passage migrant. Nominate continental form a winter visitor in unknown numbers. Amber List (*harrisoni*) and Green List (nominate).**

Highest counts during year: *Jan* 300 Hopton, 200 Hoveton and 60 Warham; *Feb* 100 Holme village and 70 Castle Acre; *April* 30 Ormesby St Margaret; *July* 50 Norfolk Showground; *Aug* 30 Brancaster Thompson Farms; *Sept* 50 Ormesby St Margaret; *Oct* 154 Overstrand; *Nov* 100 Sparham, 30 Holme; *Dec* 150 Hoveton, 100 Sparham, 70 Castle Acre and 40 Holme.

Spring coastal movement underway from March 8<sup>th</sup> when 6 east 3 west Overstrand followed by 14 west there 14<sup>th</sup>. Highest passage numbers noted Hunstanton where 287 (all south) March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> with peaks 50 March 29<sup>th</sup>, 53 April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 105 24<sup>th</sup>. Only other counts received: 50 east Overstrand March 28<sup>th</sup> and 40 west Cromer April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding data received: 5 pairs Blakeney GM, 10 singing males Thornham Farms and 16 territories (same as 2007) Ringstead Courtyard Farms. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 152.33% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 4.18% between 2007 and 2008. 412 individuals were counted in 50 of 63 surveyed squares.

Autumn coastal movement concentrated in Oct with main counts from Hunstanton where 1643 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> including 82 Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 398 9<sup>th</sup>, 108 11<sup>th</sup>, 197 13<sup>th</sup>, 96 18<sup>th</sup> and 107 25<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 75 west Holme Oct 11<sup>th</sup> with 45 west there 18<sup>th</sup> and 15 west Blakeney GM 25<sup>th</sup>. Inland at New Costessey 185 flew through Tudd Valley Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. Only coastal movement in Nov 44 east Sidestrand 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **GOLDFINCH (European Goldfinch)** *Carduelis carduelis*

**British form *britannica* a common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor. Nominate continental form may also occur. Amber List (*britannica*).**

Numbers rather low in first winter period with highest counts: *Jan* 40 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 40 Morston and 30 Buckenham; *Feb* 25 Cley, 20 Santon Downham, Thetford Warren and Thornham Farms; *March* 60 Cockley Cley, 50 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 34 Holme.

Spring passage underway mid-March with Hunstanton recording total of 1936 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> with peaks of 41 March 15<sup>th</sup>, 332 31<sup>st</sup>, 208 April 1<sup>st</sup>, 271 2<sup>nd</sup>, 243 4<sup>th</sup>, 108 8<sup>th</sup>, 129 11<sup>th</sup>, 92 24<sup>th</sup>,



72 26<sup>th</sup>, 87 27<sup>th</sup> and 446 May 2<sup>nd</sup>. At Scolt Head passage noted as being very poor with only 263 west April 9<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> including 88 24<sup>th</sup> and 85 26<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 20 west Holme April 27<sup>th</sup>, 123 east Paston May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 128 east there 7<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding season data: 16 singing males Thornham Farms, 13 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farms (18% increase on 2007), 2 pairs Blakeney GM, 2 pairs Eccles, but both predated by Magpies, and a pair Welney. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 47.87% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 5.71% between 2007 and 2008. 257 individuals were counted in 46 of 63 surveyed squares.

Small-scale autumn passage noted from a few coastal sites. At Hunstanton 173 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> peaking at 10 Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 34 12<sup>th</sup>, 12 14<sup>th</sup>, 15 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 Nov 7<sup>th</sup> and 10 8<sup>th</sup>. At Holme 20 west Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 34 west 25<sup>th</sup>, 70 west Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 23 31<sup>st</sup> and 21 west Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. Only other counts 40 west Blakeney GM Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and 15 east Sidestrand Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

Highest counts in second winter period: Oct 79 Warham, 67 Welney, 57 West Runton and 46 Kelling WM; Nov 60 Scolt Head/Brancaster and 40 Salthouse; Dec 45 Scolt Head/Brancaster, 43 Welney, 35 Wissington BF and 30 Bittering.

### **SISKIN (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus***

**Common or fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Green List.**

Large numbers present Jan-March when peak counts: 2-300 Sheringham Park, 200 Weybourne, 150 Lynford Arboretum and Thetford, 130 East Barsham, 120 Felbrigg and How Hill, 100 Pensthorpe, Roydon Common and South Pickenham, 80 Glandford, 70 UEA Broad and Whitlingham CP, 60 Little Cressingham and Wroxham Broad and 50 Holt Lowes, Sculthorpe Moor and Stiffkey. Also a total of 540 ringed in a single garden Grimston Jan-March and 109 in a garden Sheringham Jan-April.

Modest spring passage March 8<sup>th</sup>-May 10<sup>th</sup> with total of 318 south Hunstanton March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>, including 37 April 26<sup>th</sup> and 75 28<sup>th</sup>. Best movements elsewhere 23 east Ovserstrand and 30 south Eccles Mar 28<sup>th</sup>, 60 west Holkham Pines Apr 9<sup>th</sup>, 32 west Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup> and 60 east Paston and 74 south Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Few breeding records with only reports 3 singing males Swanton Novers, 2 pairs Dersingham Bog and single pairs Little Snoring, Lynford Arboretum, Santon Downham, Thetford Warren, and Weeting Heath. Recently-fledged juvenile Langham May 23<sup>rd</sup> and occasional records from a further 9 sites June-Aug.

Autumn passage Sept 8<sup>th</sup>-Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, peak counts 80 west Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 63 west Cromer and 60 north Winterton 19<sup>th</sup>, 45 west Paston and 110 north Paston 21<sup>st</sup>, 45 west Paston 26<sup>th</sup>, 70 west Burnham Overy Dunes, 27 west Sheringham and 100 north Winterton 27<sup>th</sup>, 45 north Hemsby 28<sup>th</sup>, 49 west Blakeney GM Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and 37 west 25<sup>th</sup> and 27 east Sidestrand Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. At Hunstanton total of 334 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, including 53 Oct 13<sup>th</sup> and 38 19<sup>th</sup>.

A number of feeding flocks also recorded: Sept 65 Eccles, 50 How Hill and Yarmouth Cemetery, 40 Holkham, 30 Hoveton Park; Oct 60 Sharp Street, 50 Buckenham Tofts, 50 Horning Waterworks, 50 Stanford TA and 40 Felthorpe.

Largest flocks in second winter period 300 Thetford, 180 Lynford Arboretum, 120 Roydon Common, 85 Trowse, 70 Strumpshaw and Whitlingham CP, 60 How Hill Crome's Broad and 50 Itteringham and Swanton Morley GP.

### **LINNET (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina cannabina***

**Common resident and passage migrant. Red List.**

Largest flocks in first winter period: Jan 120 Roydon Common, 100 Buckenham, 80 Beeston Regis and Rockland St Mary, 60 Brancaster Thompson Farms and Holme, 50 Cockthorpe Airfield, Thornham and Titchwell; Feb 100 Bittering, 80 Sparham Pools, 62 Titchwell, 60 Blakeney GM, 50 Stanford TA; March 70 Quidenham.

Spring coastal passage March 7<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>, best recorded site Hunstanton where total of 2683



south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>, including 121 March 15<sup>th</sup>, 405 31<sup>st</sup>, 285 April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 250 4<sup>th</sup>, 181 28<sup>th</sup> and 142 May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Highest counts elsewhere 29 east 59 west Overstrand March 7<sup>th</sup>, 84 south 57 north Horsey April 10<sup>th</sup>, 193 west Scolt Head 13<sup>th</sup>, 100 east Beeston Bump 21<sup>st</sup>, 190 east Beeston Bump and 322 south 4 north Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 195 west Scolt Head 24<sup>th</sup>, 455 west Scolt Head and 154 north 95 south Waxham 25<sup>th</sup>, 456 west Scolt Head 26<sup>th</sup>, 240 south 10 north Horsey Gap 28<sup>th</sup> and 80 south Winterton May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Largest feeding flocks in spring 400 Kettringham and 200 Burnham Overy Dunes, both in April.

Few breeding records, with singing males/pairs: 43 Scolt Head, 42 Burnham Overy Dunes, 22 Blakeney Point, 18 Sparham, 15 Burnham Norton, 11 Holkham, 7 Cley, 5 Courtyard Farm Ringstead (29% decline on 2007), also bred Blakeney Grazing Marsh. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant increase of 88.15% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant increase of 46.88% between 2007 and 2008. 236 individuals were counted in 31 of 63 surveyed squares.

Light overhead passage in autumn, best site Hunstanton where total of 518 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, including 134 Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and 55 13<sup>th</sup>.

Best feeding flocks autumn/second winter period: *July* 120 Scolt Head; *Aug* 150 Sparham and 100 Terrington; *Sept* 250 Scolt Head, 110 Cley, 108 Blakeney Point, 102 Terrington Marsh and 60 Titchwell; *Oct* 250 Barford, 250 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 200 Sheringham, 170 West Runton, 100 Kelling WM; *Nov* 300 Bittering, 156 Holme, 120 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr; *Dec* 300 Bittering, 250 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 100 Brancaster Thompson Farms.

### **TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris pipilans* ('British Twite')

**Scarce and declining winter visitor. Red List.**

The 2 flocks present in the Scolt Head-Brancaster Hbr area and the Brancaster Beach managed realignment area at the end of 2008 remained into 2009. Between 30 and 55 reported at the former site on 10 dates in Jan and up to 57 at the latter, the combined flock totalling 96 Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Sixty were still in the Hbr Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> but numbers fell to 25 March 7<sup>th</sup> and 22 Mar 9<sup>th</sup> when last reported. Possibly some of same Burnham Norton/Burnham Deepdale where 12-32 on 7 dates Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Good numbers (at least for recent years) reported from The Wash with 120 Terrington Marsh Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by 2-50 on 3 dates in Jan, 40-52 on 3 dates in Feb, 54 March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9 April 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere reports of 6-7 Holme-Thornham Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 Titchwell Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1-2 Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 20 Morston Jan 11<sup>th</sup> with 4 there 20<sup>th</sup> and 19-25 March 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 20 Blakeney GM Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 20 Blakeney Point Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and 16 Cley Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. 39 migrants recorded south Hunstanton in spring with 2 March 15<sup>th</sup>, 27 April 13<sup>th</sup> and 10 April 24<sup>th</sup>.

First in autumn 8 Terrington Marsh Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, where also 45 Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. Thirty nearby at Ousemouth Dec 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> were the only other reports from The Wash during the second winter period. 6-7 birds Happisburgh Oct 20<sup>th</sup>-Nov 11<sup>th</sup> included some colour-ringed individuals from the south Pennines breeding grounds and perhaps some of this party accounted for 2 Trimingham Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 Cart Gap 13<sup>th</sup> and a single Eccles Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. A party of 1-8 birds Cley-Salthouse Nov 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> peaked at 15 Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and 18 flew west there Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. There were reports of 1-4 Thornham-Titchwell Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and Stiffkey-Morston Dec 26<sup>th</sup>. The sole settled winter flock was of just 25-32 at Scolt Head-Brancaster Hbr, which appeared Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, peaked at 32 Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and remained to year end.

Another milestone in the decline of this species is reached this year, with too few records received to warrant tabulation. Just 35 years ago, the species was apparently regarded as too numerous even to merit its own species account in the Norfolk Bird Report, with the first specific entry for the species not appearing until the report for 1973. This reported flocks of 125 at Breydon, 300 at Morston, 300 at Titchwell and 400 at Holme.

### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Red List.**

Numbers in first winter period slightly higher than previous year, peak counts: *Jan* 50 Felthorpe, 25 Ashmanhaugh (feeding in game crop till March), 20 Roydon Commop, 15 Sharp Street; *Feb* 32



Bodham, 20 Beetley, 16 Baconsthorpe, 13 Hickling, 12 Titchwell, 11 Southrepps; *March* 45 How Hill Crome's Broad and 10 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 1-10 noted at a further 19 localities.

Spring passage light March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>, apart from at Hunstanton where total of 329 south including 238 south in 2 hours April 4<sup>th</sup> and 44 in 2.5 hours 8<sup>th</sup>. Best movements elsewhere 9 west Burnham Overy Dunes April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 west Walsey Hills 20<sup>th</sup>, 31 west Scolt Head 26<sup>th</sup> and 15 28<sup>th</sup> and 7 west Holme 27<sup>th</sup>.

Very few breeding records with 2 singing males Barton Turf Fen and one Holkham the only reports.

Autumn passage slightly better than in recent years with influx of birds in second half Sept when 23 Sea Palling 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 west Holkham and 50 Walsey Hills 25<sup>th</sup>, 39 west West Runton 26<sup>th</sup>, 20 Winterton 27<sup>th</sup> and 11 Blakeney Point 28<sup>th</sup>. Best counts in rest of autumn 30 Colney Pits and 7 Beeston Common Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 Holkham Meals 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 west Hickling Stubb Mill 26<sup>th</sup> and 5 south Winterton 27<sup>th</sup>.

Very few in final two months of year: *Nov* 12 Roydon Common, 9 Holkham Meals, and 6 Holme; *Dec* 15 Hickling Stubb Mill, 7 Potter Heigham, and 6 Bittering and High Kelling.

A large number of birds simply passing overhead were submitted as redpoll sp. (either Lesser or Common). Best counts 12 Croxton April 5<sup>th</sup>, 80 Thetford Warren Wood 9<sup>th</sup>, 40 Dersingham 27<sup>th</sup>, 16 south Welney Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 west Weybourne 25<sup>th</sup>, 16 Beeston Bump 29<sup>th</sup>, 15 Catfield Fen Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 15 East Ruston Common 16<sup>th</sup>, 15 west Weybourne 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 west Blakeney GM 25<sup>th</sup>, 20 Wolferton Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 Hillbrough Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 14 How Hill Crome's Broad 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 High Kelling 21<sup>st</sup> and 18 Nar Valley Fisheries and 30 Neatishead 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **MEALY REDPOLL (Common Redpoll) *Carduelis flammea flammea***

**Scarce or very scarce, occasionally fairly common, irruptive visitor in winter. Green List.**

Small numbers reported in first winter period with 1-2 Titchwell Jan-Feb 24<sup>th</sup> and singles Felbrigg Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, Felthorpe 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 Baconsthorpe Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, Bodham 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 Cantley 14<sup>th</sup>, singles Hickling 27<sup>th</sup> and Martham Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers in spring perhaps indicative of light passage through county with singles Titchwell and Warham Greens March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holme 12<sup>th</sup> and 6 (including two singing males) Ringstead Courtyard Farm April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers in autumn with first Wells Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and Wells East Hills 31<sup>st</sup>. More Nov/Dec when up to 18 Holkham Meals Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 7 Blakeney Point 6<sup>th</sup> and 12 Grimes Graves 20<sup>th</sup>, 18 Nar Valley Fisheries Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and 1-3 Bayfield Hall Natural Surroundings, Bittering, Blackborough End Tip, Burnham Overy Dunes, Hickling Broad, Strumpshaw, Thornham, Titchwell, Trimmingham and Woodbastwick.

### **COMMON CROSSBILL (Red Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra curvirostra***

**Scarce, occasionally fairly common, resident and irruptive visitor in summer and autumn. Green List.**

In first four months of the year numbers unimpressive with peak counts 5 Holme Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Mundford 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 Thetford Warren Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 Thetford Olley's Farm 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 Dersingham Bog March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Croxton 31<sup>st</sup>, 8 west Kelling Heath April 5<sup>th</sup> and 9 west 15<sup>th</sup> and 5 Holkham Meals 10<sup>th</sup>, with smaller numbers reported from an additional 14 localities.

Only breeding records: pair with nesting material Santon Warren Jan 27<sup>th</sup> and singing male Grime's Graves on several dates Feb.

From mid-May much of the UK enjoyed a classic irruption of continental birds, the first since 2002. A flock of 13 south Winterton May 12<sup>th</sup> probably marked the beginning of the influx followed by 12 north Bayfield Hall Natural Surroundings, 12 north Holt and 10 Ranworth Broad 20<sup>th</sup>, 13 south Winterton 22<sup>nd</sup>, 15 Hickling and 16 Upper Sheringham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 40 Fritton Waveney Forest 24<sup>th</sup>, 15 west Kelling Heath 26<sup>th</sup>, 27 Holkham Meals 27<sup>th</sup>, 20 east Sidstrand 28<sup>th</sup> and 12 Dunston 31<sup>st</sup>.

Further arrivals over the next five months though numbers had slowed considerably by the autumn. Records and notable counts came from the following sites: Aylmerton 17 June 5<sup>th</sup>, Bacton Wood 55 June 28<sup>th</sup> and 75 July 15<sup>th</sup>, Bayfield Hall Natural Surroundings, Beeston Regis, Blakeney



GM, Brancaster Thompson Farm, Burnham Overy Dunes, Buxton Great Wood, Buxton Heath, Cley 14 July 31<sup>st</sup>, Cringleford, Cromer 40 west June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Croxton Heath 40 Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, Dersingham 23 June 24<sup>th</sup>, Dersingham Bog 30 June 13<sup>th</sup>, Diddlington 95 June 4<sup>th</sup>, Dunston, East Barsham, East Wretham Heath, Felthorpe, Fowl Mere 15 July 31<sup>st</sup>, Framingham Earl, Fritton Waveney Forest 47 June 4<sup>th</sup>, Fulmodeston Severals 30 July 16<sup>th</sup>, Great Hockham, Great Ryburgh 50 east July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Grimston Pott Row, Guist, Happisburgh 14 north-west June 8<sup>th</sup>, Hellesdon, Hickling, High Kelling 12 July 5<sup>th</sup>, Hindolveston 29 east Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, Holkham Meals 40 June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 40 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 30 July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 20 Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and 18 Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, Holkham Park 11 Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Holme 35 June 17<sup>th</sup>, 31 July 24<sup>th</sup> and 23 west Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, Holt, Holt Lowes 10 July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Honing Lock, Honingham, Hopton, Horning Waterworks, 12 June 11<sup>th</sup>, Horsey Mere, Hoveton Park 12 June 5<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, How Hill 12 north June 16<sup>th</sup>, Hunstanton 10 south Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, Kelling Heath 33 June 14<sup>th</sup>, 25 July 10<sup>th</sup> and 14 Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, Kelling WM 26 June 15<sup>th</sup>, Lynford 20 June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 55 Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, Mundesley, Norwich, Ormesby St Margaret, Ormesby St Michael, Overstrand, Paston, Pensthorpe, Potter Heigham, Ranworth Broad, Repps-with-Bastwick, Rockland St Mary, Roughton, Roydon Common 15 June 12<sup>th</sup>, Sandringham, Santon Warren, Scolt Head, Sea Palling 12 June 13<sup>th</sup>, Sennowe Park, Sheringham BO, Sheringham Park, Sidestrand, Snettisham, Stanford TA, Stiffkey, Strumpshaw, Sutton Fen, Upper Sheringham, Swanton Novers 16 west June 28<sup>th</sup> and 12 July 27<sup>th</sup>, Syderstone Common, Taverham, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 18 July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thornham, Thorpe Marriott, Thorpe St Andrew, Thursford, Titchwell 32 June 17<sup>th</sup>, Warham Greens, Wells East Hills, Welney, West Newton, West Runton 10 June 21<sup>st</sup>, Weybourne, Winfarthing, Winterton 22 south June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wiveton Downs, Wolferton 12 June 14<sup>th</sup> and Yarmouth.

Most had moved on by Nov and Dec when best counts: *Nov* 16 Lynford Arboretum, 13 Holkham, 10 Grime's Graves, 8 High Kelling, 6 Buxton Heath and 4 Holme; *Dec* 20 Hockham and 10 Kelling Heath.

### **TRUMPETER FINCH** *Bucanetes githagineus* subsp.

**Very rare vagrant.**

A first-summer male Blakeney Point May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 4<sup>th</sup> (JM, PN *et al*). This was the first record for the county. See article for a full account of this occurrence.



Trumpeter Finch (*Richard Thewlis*)

### **COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus*

**Very scarce passage migrant.**

An excellent spring with four records in the space of eight days. One Weybourne May 29<sup>th</sup> (MPT) was followed by an adult male Scolt Head 30<sup>th</sup> (NML *et al*), a first-summer male there June 1<sup>st</sup> (NML) and one Cromer June 5<sup>th</sup> (SC).

### **BULLFINCH (Eurasian Bullfinch)** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

**British form *pileata* ('British Bullfinch')** a fairly common resident. **Nominate Scandinavian form ('Northern Bullfinch')** a very rare irruptive visitor in autumn and winter. **Amber List (*pileata*).**

Records from 72 sites, best counts 11 Swanton Morley GP, 10 Bintree Mill/Swanton Morley, 10 Great Cressingham, 9 Kelling WM, 8 Dersingham Bog, 8 Kelling Heath, 7 Hoe, 7 Stanford TA and 6



Hilborough.

Only definite breeding records: 7 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm (numbers stable), 3-4 pairs Roydon Common and single pairs Frettenham, Gayton Thorpe, Glandford, Kelling Heath, Kelling WM, Langham, UEA Broad, Wacton and Wiveton Downs. Breeding no doubt occurred at many other sites.

Small numbers of possible migrants west in autumn included 2 Kelling Heath and 3 Kelling WM 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 Bittering and 6 Titchwell 25<sup>th</sup> and one south Hunstanton Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There were no reports of nominate birds this year.



Bullfinch (*Phil Jones*)

#### **HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**Scarce resident and passage migrant. Red List.**

Most records from two Breckland sites, with up to 2 Barnhamcross Common Jan-Feb, 10 March and 2 April and at Lynford Arboretum: 11 Jan, 12 Feb, 8 March, 7 April, 4 Nov and 2 Dec.

Very few elsewhere, only records Aylmerton April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 Barton Turf Fen Nov 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, Brancaster Thompson Farms May 4<sup>th</sup>, with a female ringed there Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, south-east Cley Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, up to 3 Felbrigg Dec 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 3 Gorleston April 1<sup>st</sup>, Horning Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, Lynford Water March 8<sup>th</sup>, Ormesby Broad April 6<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Overstrand Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 2 April 9<sup>th</sup>, Sculthorpe Moor Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, Thetford March 13<sup>th</sup>, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, UEA 2 Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with one Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 Wiveton Downs Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*

**Very rare vagrant.**

An adult male was found on feeders in a Cley garden on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> and remained to March 11<sup>th</sup> (SJA, R and SB, RFP, CW). This was the fourth British record but the first for Norfolk. See article for a full account of this occurrence.



White-crowned Sparrow (*Richard Thewlis*)



**LAPLAND BUNTING (Lapland Longspur) *Calcarius lapponicus***

Nominate continental form a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Greenland and Canadian form *subcalcaratus* may also occur. Amber List (both forms).

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	12	7	-		-	4	4	6
Thornham	12	8	-		-	-	2	4
Titchwell	4	2	-		-	2	1	1
Choseley	1	-	1		-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	3	-	-		4	-	-	1
Burnham Overy	5	2	14		1	1	-	-
Holkham Bay	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Stiffkey/Warham Greens	1	-	-		-	1	1	1
Blakeney Point	1	-	-		1	8	1	-
Cley/Salthouse	7	3	15		-	1	1	1
Kelling/Weybourne	-	1	1		1	3	1	1
Sheringham	-	3	-		-	2	2	1
West Runton	-	-	-		-	1	1	-
Mundesley/Paston	3	-	-		1	-	-	-
Happisburgh/Eccles	2	-	-		-	1	-	-
Breydon	1	1	1		1	1	-	-

Elsewhere in first winter period Brancaster Thompson Farms Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5 Brancaster Staithe and 5 Burnham Deepdale Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. In Feb 3 Catfield and 3 Burnham Norton 12<sup>th</sup>, Potter Heigham Marshes 13<sup>th</sup>, Blakeney GM 15<sup>th</sup> and 2 Trimingham 17<sup>th</sup>. The only late spring record was of a single Beeston Regis April 27<sup>th</sup>.

First of the autumn Scolt Head Sept 9<sup>th</sup> followed by 2 13<sup>th</sup>. Subsequently 1-3 recorded moving west at several coastal locations into Nov. Away from sites above, recorded in Sept at Waxham 16<sup>th</sup>, Wells 25<sup>th</sup> and Horsey Gap 27<sup>th</sup>. In Oct Winterton 8<sup>th</sup>, Horsey 10<sup>th</sup>, Hempstead Marshes, Lessingham 12<sup>th</sup>, Hopton 21<sup>st</sup>, 4 Burnham Deepdale 24<sup>th</sup>, Overstrand 27<sup>th</sup> and Trimingham Nov 9<sup>th</sup>.

In second winter period birds also recorded Terrington Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and Blakeney GM 7<sup>th</sup>.



Lapland Bunting (*Gary Wright*)



**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
**Icelandic form *insulae* ('Icelandic Snow Bunting')** a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. **Nominate Scandinavian form** a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. **Amber List (both forms).**  
Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham/Heacham	89	-	-	-	1	57	40
Hunstanton	-	20	-	-	-	1	80
Holme	60	35	20	2	21	97	95
Titchwell/Brancaster	50	64	16	-	22	100	115
Choseley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	26	50	9	2	2	95	85
Holkham Bay/Wells	157	39	12	-	22	60	120
Blakeney Point	53	36	2	-	14	128	40
Cley/Salthouse	85	100	40	-	23	50	70
Sheringham/West Runton	-	30	25	-	-	60	-
Walcott/Paston	-	-	-	-	2	66	68
Happisburgh/Eccles	17	26	1	-	10	53	55
Winterton	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Caister	75	64	-	-	-	50	75
Breydon/Yarmouth/Gorleston	-	-	-	-	-	-	8

Flocks in first winter period at other sites included 147 Burnham Overy Staithe Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 40 Kelling 10<sup>th</sup>, 50 Heacham 12<sup>th</sup>, 25 Old Hunstanton 13<sup>th</sup>, 20 Weybourne 19<sup>th</sup>, 28 Bacton Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 35 Thornham Point 8<sup>th</sup>, 20 Trimingham 17<sup>th</sup> and 16 Kelling WM 20<sup>th</sup>. Latest spring record single west Burnham Overy Dunes April 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Earliest Sept arrivals 2 Scolt Head 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 Holme BO 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 west Burnham Overy GM 28<sup>th</sup>. Away from sites above, flocks included 40 Wells Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 20 Wells East Hills and 26 West Runton Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 25 Trimingham 9<sup>th</sup>, 50 California 12<sup>th</sup>, 16 Stiffkey, 24 Heacham, 131 Blakeney Hbr and 65 Brancaster 16<sup>th</sup>, 75 Weybourne 19<sup>th</sup>, 54 Burnham Overy Hbr Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and 115 Thornham Point 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Inland records from Hickling Broad Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 Southrepps Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, one of which became a roadkill and is now in the Castle Museum, Norwich, and Terrington Marsh Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella citrinella*  
**Common resident. Red List.**

Flocks in first winter period included 135 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 97 Shipdham, 72 Thornham Farms, 50 Fincham, 50 Weybourne, 45 Bittering, 45 Gressenhall, 40 Cley, 40 Cockthorpe Common and 37 Brettenham Heath. Smaller flocks at Brancaster, Choseley, Corpusty, Narborough, Nar Valley Fisheries Sculthorpe, Sennowe Park Lake, Sheringham, Sparham (where a sharp decline noted), Stanford TA, Stiffkey, Terrington, Walsey Hills, Wereham and Winterton.  
Spring movements at Hunstanton totalled 11 south March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Other spring movements included singles west Beeston Bump March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> when also 3 west Walsey Hills, 2 south Waxham 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 west Beeston Bump 28<sup>th</sup>. A single Beeston Common March 20<sup>th</sup> was the first since 2005.  
Breeding territories/pairs included 42 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 13 Roydon Common, 6 Sparham, 2 East Winch Common, 2 Holme and 1 Narborough. Singing males included 5 Thornham Farms, 4 between Drayton and Costessey, 4 Spixworth, 3 Langham and 2 Wiveton Downs. 2008 Breeding Birds Survey results indicate a significant decline of 33.28% between 1994 and 2008 and a non-significant decline of 6.94% between 2007 and 2008. 199 individuals were counted in 45 of 63 surveyed squares.

First autumn passage migrants noted Titchwell Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and east Holkham 24<sup>th</sup>. At Hunstanton 29 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> with max 6 Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. Other Oct migrant records: west Holkham Meals and 2 west Holme 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 west Titchwell 30<sup>th</sup> and west East Hills 31<sup>st</sup>. In Nov 2 west Titchwell 2<sup>nd</sup> and



singles east Sidestrand 7<sup>th</sup> and west Scolt Head 8<sup>th</sup>.

Flocks in the second winter period: 80 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 60 Little Dunham, 55 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 30 Denver, 30 Ludham, 25 Hilborough, 20 Fincham, 15 East Barsham and 15 Thornham Farms with smaller numbers Blakeney GM, Holkham NNR, Kelling Heath, Kelling WM, Old Catton, Overstrand and Titchwell.

### **ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana*

**Formerly a very scarce passage migrant, now a rare vagrant.**

Scolt Head held the monopoly of this species, with 2 records involving 3 birds: 2 males May 30<sup>th</sup> (NML) and a first-winter Sept 7<sup>th</sup> (NML).

### **LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*

**Rare vagrant.**

One Blakeney Point Sept 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> (AMS *et al*) was the only record.

### **REED BUNTING (Common Reed Bunting)** *Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*

**Common resident and passage migrant. Amber List.**

Flocks in first winter period included 81 Blakeney Point, 60 Blakeney GM, 60 Scolt Head, 41 Shipdham, 35 Flitcham, 35 Holme, 33 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 16 Thornham Farms, 15 Titchwell, 13 Terrington Marsh, 12 Tottenhill GP, 12 Welney, 10 Nar Valley Fisheries, 10 UEA and 8 Ousemouth.

Spring movements at Hunstanton totalled 23 south April 11<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> including 9 (2 hrs) April 13<sup>th</sup> and 6 (2 hrs) 23<sup>rd</sup>. Elsewhere singles west Beeston Bump March 30<sup>th</sup> and 2 Walsey Hills April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding territories/pairs included 8-13 Blakeney GM, 22 Blakeney Point, 17 Welney, 8 Roydon Common, 7 Cley, 5 Holme, 4 Grimston Warren, 3 UEA and single pairs at East Winch Common and Thornham Farms. Singing males included 74 Holkham NNR, 52 Hickling Broad, 28 along River Thurne between Thurne Mouth and Candle Dyke and 3 Reedham.

First migrants of autumn 8 west Scolt Head Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 Holme 13<sup>th</sup> and 15 Holme and one Beeston Bump 20<sup>th</sup>. Autumn movements at Hunstanton totalled 106 south Oct 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 26<sup>th</sup> including 33 (2.5 hrs) Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. Further Oct migrants: 13 west Holme 11<sup>th</sup>, 20 west Sheringham 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 west Titchwell 19<sup>th</sup> and 4 west Blakeney GM 25<sup>th</sup>.

Second winter period flocks included 35 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 25 Sparham, 20 Titchwell, 17 Holkham NNR, 15 Burnham Deepdale, 12 Holme, 11 Blakeney GM, 11 Cantley and 10 Brancaster Common Farms.



Reed Bunting (*Norman Arlott*)



**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra calandra*

**Scarce and declining resident. Red List.**

Peak first winter period counts at regular sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>
Welney/Ten Mile Bank	25	1	19	-	6
Choseley	20	5	15	35	10

Additional records: 85 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 8 Ringstead, 4 Hilborough, 4 Shouldham and 3 Snettisham with singles at Hempstead Marshes and Sea Palling. Single westbound spring passage birds noted Titchwell April 4<sup>th</sup>, Hunstanton 27<sup>th</sup> and Beeston Bump/west Runton May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The only record of breeding concerned six territories at Ringstead Courtyard Farm - a comparable total to recent years at that site. Birds also recorded during the breeding season at Burnham Market, Fincham, Hockwold Fen, Marham and Shouldham.

Autumn passage comprised singles Kelling WM Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and west Fincham 20<sup>th</sup>.

Flocks in the second winter period were 16 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 50 Choseley, 35 Fincham, 31 Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 8 Ringstead.



# Introductions, Escapes, Ferals and Hybrids

It should be noted that the identification of birds listed in the Appendices has not been assessed by the County Records Committee. Records are therefore published as received. Unfamiliar or ‘exotic’ species are perhaps more prone to misidentification, and particular care is of course required with escaped falcons, many of which may be unidentifiable hybrids. Indeed establishing the parentage of all hybrids involves a degree of conjecture.

## Appendix 1 - Categories A, B and C. Escaped or feral individuals of species on the British List.

### **BEAN GOOSE** *Anser (fabalis) fabalis* (‘Taiga Bean Goose’)

Harleston Marshes April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser (albifrons) albifrons* (‘European White-fronted Goose’)

Cley April 28<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, several dates in Aug, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser erythropus*

Boughton Fen May 7<sup>th</sup>, Cantley Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 Earsham GP Aug 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Holkham GM Jan 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>, Horsey Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, Martham Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis*

Two Broome Heath Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cley April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Aug 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 94 Earsham GP Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, Great Ryburgh May 24<sup>th</sup>, How Hill (Reedham Water) April 14<sup>th</sup>, Kelling WM Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey May 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>, Wroxham April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *Aythya nyroca*

Lynford Water Oct 27<sup>th</sup> to the year end (wearing a blue ring).

### **SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*

River Wensum at Fakenham Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **RUDDY SHELDUCK** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Breydon Water June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 July 3<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>-Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 Burnham Overy Staithe Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Bylaugh Park May 21<sup>st</sup>, Cantley July 31<sup>st</sup> and Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cley Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 intermittently Aug 19<sup>th</sup>-Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, Earlham March 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Earsham GP Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 30<sup>th</sup>, all July (a pair raised 3 young), Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 Oct 21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 8 Nov 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 26<sup>th</sup>, 5 Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 south Gorleston Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, Hindolveston May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 west Kelling Hard July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Letheringsett Aug 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, Pentney GP Dec 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>, Salthouse Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 17<sup>th</sup> and 2 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 Sennowe Park Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Oct 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, 2 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, 2 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 west Sheringham July 29<sup>th</sup>, Wissington BF Aug 17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

## Appendix II - Category D. Individuals of 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*

Known feral birds, all white morph: 11 including 5 juvs Earsham GP Aug 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>, Holkham GM





*Top; Long-tailed Tit - an abundant resident. (Neil Bowman)*

*Bottom; male Brambling - a common Winter visitor. (John Miller)*





*Top; Common Crossbills on Kelling Heath. (both; Julian Bhalerao)*

*Bottom; Trumpeter Finch on Blakeney Point - the first county record. (both; Mike Lawrence)*





*White-crowned Sparrow - this totally unexpected American vagrant at Cley was the first record for the county and raised thousands of pounds for Cley church. (both; Julian Bhalerao)*





*Top left; Lapland and Snow Buntings at Salhouse. (Bob Cobbold) ,*  
*Top right; Little Bunting - a rare visitor to Blakeney Point. (Richard Porter)*  
*Bottom; Giles Dunmore - editor for 10 years and a regular visitor to Blakeney Point. (Richard Porter)*



May 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (with Greylag Geese), Nar Valley Fisheries July 20<sup>th</sup>, Pentney May 12<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Snettisham several dates Jan and Feb.

In the first winter period up to 3 white morph birds of unknown origin remained with the Pink-footed Goose flocks from 2008, being seen both in the north of the county as well as in Broadland. The last was seen at Overstrand March 31<sup>st</sup>. A returning bird was amongst Pink-footed Geese at Martham Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

This species is now under consideration by BOU for admission to Category A of the British List by the BOU.

## **Appendix III - Category E. Escaped or feral individuals of species not on the British List**

### **BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*

Cantley BF July 14<sup>th</sup>, Cley March 26<sup>th</sup>-Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, Hickling Broad Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>, Potter Heigham all year, pair Salhouse Broad Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, Salthouse Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, Strumpshaw Fen Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Thurne Jan-June, Winterton Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus*

Buckenham Marshes Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, Cantley Marshes Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Cley Aug 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Felbrigg Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, Kelling WM Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Sea Palling June 14<sup>th</sup>, Welney Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadornoides*

Breydon area April 28<sup>th</sup>-June 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata*

Ten Aslacton (Channons Hall) March 28<sup>th</sup>, pair Hempton Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **RINGED TEAL** *Callonetta leucophrys*

Cley Oct 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Tottenhill GP Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, Stowbridge (Woodlakes) July 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **WOOD DUCK** *Aix sponsa*

Norwich (Riverside) March 26<sup>th</sup>, Ormesby (Little Broad) April 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, pair Ranworth Broad Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>, pair Rollesby Broad June 6<sup>th</sup>, Swanton Morley Aug 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **MANED DUCK** *Chenonetta jubata*

Ludham Nov 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHILOE WIGEON** *Anas sibilatrix*

Earsham GP Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Martham Broad Dec 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

### **FALCATED DUCK** *Anas falcata*

Breydon Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, Buckenham Marshes June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>, Hardley Flood April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **BAIKAL TEAL** *Anas formosa*

Blakeney GM May 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, Cley 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPOT-BILLED DUCK** *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Welney Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.



**AUSTRALIAN SHOVELER** *Anas rhynchos*

Cley Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

**MARbled TEAL** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Wissington BF Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**REEVE'S PHEASANT** *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Three males Buckenham Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Burgh St Peter Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, Strumpshaw Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. No dates or numbers received from the regular site at Stanford TA.

**SACRED IBIS** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Breydon Water Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Overy GM Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cley 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Holkham GM Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Kelling WM May 10<sup>th</sup>, Stiffkey May 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**HARRIS'S HAWK** *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Calthorpe April 24<sup>th</sup>, Gorleston Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, Hindringham Dec 10<sup>th</sup> (with jesses), Horsey Mere Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mundesley March 30<sup>th</sup>, Paston March 30<sup>th</sup>, Sea Palling April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, Strumpshaw Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Waxham March 30<sup>th</sup>, Wighton Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** *Buteo jamaicensis*

Cley April 9<sup>th</sup>, Cockley Cley March 14<sup>th</sup>, Grime's Graves March 19<sup>th</sup>, Hickling Broad Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Swanton Great Wood June 28<sup>th</sup>, Thetford Olly's Farm Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**UNIDENTIFIED LARGE FALCON** *Falco sp.*

Birds showing characters of Lanner *Falco biarmicus* Blakeney Point Sept 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> and Scolt Head Sept 6<sup>th</sup> (with jesses). A bird showing characters of Saker *Falco cherrug* Sculthorpe July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**CALIFORNIA QUAIL** *Callipepla californica*

At least 2 Hingham late March to early April.

**HELMETED GUINEAFOWL** *Numida meleagris*

Two Winfarthing May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**EURASIAN EAGLE OWL** *Bubo bubo*

Thetford Forest May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RUFous-LEGGED OWL** *Strix rufipes*

Warham Village June 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

**COCKATIEL** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Breydon Water May 28<sup>th</sup>, Hindolveston Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, Long Stratton Aug 6<sup>th</sup>.

**BUDGERIGAR** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Blakeney Point Aug 6<sup>th</sup> and Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ISLAND CANARY** *Serinus canaria*

Ringstead Courtyard Farm but no dates given.



## **Appendix IV - Hybrids**

Birds in this section are of proven or likely feral origin. Hybrids judged to be genuinely wild, for example Yellow x 'Blue-headed' Wagtails and Glaucous x Herring Gulls, are included in the main Systematic List.

### **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE x ROSS'S GOOSE**

Brancaster Staithe Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, Burnham Deepdale Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, Burnham Norton Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE x BARNACLE GOOSE**

Flitcham Jan 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **GREYLAG GOOSE x CANADA GOOSE**

Two Boughton Fen Feb, 2 Bylaugh Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 Felbrigg Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, Swanton Morley July 20<sup>th</sup>, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **BAR-HEADED GOOSE x CANADA GOOSE**

Buckenham Marshes all Jan.

### **BAR-HEADED GOOSE x BARNACLE GOOSE**

Pentney GP during Oct.

### **CANADA GOOSE x BARNACLE GOOSE**

Breydon June 13<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Aug 5<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Raynham Park Oct 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **UNIDENTIFIED HYBRID GOOSE**

A bird of unknown parentage at Buckenham Marshes in Jan resembled a 'Blue' Snow Goose.

### **EGYPTIAN GOOSE x MALLARD**

Bylaugh Apr 5<sup>th</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Swanton Morley Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 Aug 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 25<sup>th</sup>, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, Dec 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **RING-NECKED DUCK x SCAUP SP.**

Martham Broad Dec 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>.

### **POCHARD x FERRUGINOUS DUCK**

Martham Broad Dec 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>.

### **POCHARD x TUFTED DUCK**

Swanton Morley Dec 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>.

### **LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT x GOLDEN PHEASANT**

Pensthorpe Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.



# Earliest and Latest Dates for Summer Migrants

<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>		
Garganey	March 7th	Catfield	November 15th	Strumpshaw
Quail	May 10th	North Wootton Marshes	September 16th	Scolt Head
Spoonbill	March 15th	Breydon	November 23rd	Lynn Point
Honey Buzzard	April 27th	Winterton	October 2nd	Boughton Fen
Montagu's Harrier	April 18th	Burnham Market	September 18th	Horsey Gap
Osprey	March 23rd	Stiffkey	November 4th	Woodbastwick
Hobby	April 3rd	Holme	October 29th	Paston
Little Ringed Plover	March 23rd	Tottenham GP	September 27th	Cantley BF
Dotterel	April 26th	Acle Marshes & Choseley	November 12th	East Harling Heath
Little Stint	April 20th	Breydon	November 20th	Titchwell
Temminck's Stint	May 4th	Cley and Stiffkey Fen	August 30th	Hickling Rush Hills
Curlew Sandpiper	May 2nd	Hickling Swim Coots	November 7th	Titchwell
Whimbrel	March 26th	Kelling WM	October 19th	Holme
Wood Sandpiper	April 26th	Breydon	September 21st	Hickling Rush Hills
Common Sandpiper	April 13th	Pentney GP	October 17th	Titchwell
Sandwich Tern	March 28th	Cley and Sheringham	December 15th	Sheringham
Common Tern	April 6th	Filby Broad, Ranworth		
		Broad and Stiffkey	November 3rd	Sheringham
Roseate Tern	May 25th	Sheringham	September 7th	Scolt Head
Arctic Tern	April 21st	Buckenham Marshes,		
		Rockland Broad and		
		Scolt Head	November 2nd	Holme
Little Tern	April 19th	Scolt Head	September 17th	Blakeney Point
Black Tern	April 22nd	Barton Broad, Martham		
		Broad and Stiffkey Fen	September 30th	Rockland Broad
Turtle Dove	April 20th	Choseley	September 21st	Pentney GP
Cuckoo	April 10th	Thetford	September 18th	Titchwell
Nightjar	May 7th	Shouldham	September 8th	Syderstone Common
Swift	April 23rd	Titchwell	October 5th	Welney
Wryneck	April 21st	Burnham Overy Dunes		
		and Winterton	September 27th	Bunwell
Sand Martin	March 1st	Thetford	October 20th	Eccles and Titchwell
Swallow	March 19th	Rockland Broad	November 16th	Ringstead
House Martin	March 29th	Nar Valley Fisheries	October 27th	Waxham
Tree Pipit	April 1st	Sea Palling	October 19th	Holme
Yellow Wagtail	March 27th	Cley	October 16th	Weybourne
White Wagtail	March 15th	Hunstanton	October 18th	Thornham Harbour
Nightingale	April 20th	Waxham/Horsey/Winterton	July 14th	Claxton Marshes
Redstart	April 12th	Holme	November 5th	Holkham Meals
Whinchat	April 24th	Waxham	October 24th	Blakeney GM
Wheatear	March 13th	Kelling WM	December 14th	Horsey
Ring Ouzel	March 31st	Incleborough Hill,		
		Warham Greens and		
		West Runton	November 27th	Chedgrave
Grasshopper Warbler	April 12th	Boughton Fen	September 26th	West Runton and
				Weybourne
Sedge Warbler	April 6th	Cley	September 28th	Weybourne
Reed Warbler	April 16th	Hickling Rush Hills		
		and Titchwell	November 2nd	Holkham Meals
Lesser Whitethroat	April 15th	Horsey/Waxham	November 4th	Blakeney Point and
				Happisburgh
Whitethroat	April 4th	Colney Pits	October 8th	Weybourne
Garden Warbler	April 19th	Snettisham CP	November 14th	Holme
Wood Warbler	May 3rd	Sheringham Pretty Corner	September 29th	Eccles
Willow Warbler	March 9th	Kelling Heath	September 29th	Blakeney



Spotted Flycatcher	April 29th	North Walsham	November 1st	Burnham Deepdale and Muckleburgh Hill
Pied Flycatcher	April 28th	North Walsham	October 21st	Yarmouth Cemetery
Red-backed Shrike	May 26th	Muckleburgh Hill	October 28th	Paston

# Earliest and Latest Dates for Winter Migrants

Departures

Arrivals

Bewick’s Swan	March 29th	Nar Valley Fisheries	November 4th	Welney
Whooper Swan	May 1st	Stiffkey Fen	October 2nd	Welney
‘Taiga Bean Goose’	February 22nd	Cantley Marshes	November 1st	Cantley Marshes
‘Tundra Bean Goose’	March 12th	Welney	November 4th	Blakeney GM and Overstrand
Pink-footed Goose	June 5th	Blakeney GM	September 6th	Holme
White-fronted Goose	April 3rd	Titchwell	November 4th	Denver
Long-tailed Duck	May 6th	Blakeney Point	October 5th	Cromer
Goldeneye	April 27th	Nar Valley Fisheries	September 23rd	Scolt Head
Smew	March 7th	Welney	December 3rd	Tottenham GP
Black-throated Diver	May 19th	Cley	September 11th	Cley
Great Northern Diver	May 14th	Sheringham	September 7th	Cley
Red-necked Grebe	May 20th	Sheringham	August 3rd	Sheringham
Slavonian Grebe	April 13th	Titchwell	September 4th	Titchwell
Black-necked Grebe	April 26th	Ranworth Broad	August 18th	Hopton
Hen Harrier	May 20th	Trimingham	August 14th	Burnham Overy Dunes, Holme and Scolt Head
Rough-legged Buzzard	May 17th	Scolt Head	September 20th	Scolt Head
Merlin	June 3rd	Scolt Head	August 5th	Breydon
Purple Sandpiper	May 4th	Snettisham	August 20th	Walcott
Jack Snipe	April 3rd	Gooderstone	September 15th	Blakeney Point and Scolt Head
Iceland Gull	May 10th	Scolt Head	October 28th	Holme
Glaucous Gull	June 16th	Bacton	October 30th	Cromer and Sheringham
Shore Lark	April 25th	Cley	October 25th	Salthouse
Rock Pipit	April 20th	Hickling Rush Hills	September 4th	Thornham
Water Pipit	April 21st	Hunsett Marshes	September 18th	Strumpshaw Fen
Waxwing	March 8th	Yarmouth Cemetery	October 28th	Cromer
Fieldfare	May 4th	Brancaster Thompson Farms	September 14th	Blakeney GM
Redwing	April 25th	Hunstanton	September 21st	Scolt Head
Great Grey Shrike	April 26th	Cart Gap and Hunstanton	September 24th	Holkham Meals
Brambling	May 28th	Yarmouth Cemetery	September 15th	Holme and Scolt Head
Twite	April 24th	Hunstanton	October 18th	Terrington Marsh
Lapland Bunting	April 27th	Beeston Regis and West Runton	September 9th	Scolt Head
Snow Bunting	April 23rd	Burnham Overy Dunes	September 18th	Scolt Head



# Wetland Bird Survey 2008 - The Complete Wash

Neil Lawton and Jim Scott

	<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	27	16	16	19	5	20	25	12	16	19	34	17
Pink-footed Goose	22252	13776	11	480	7	6	4	1	27	10520	22455	32
Greylag Goose	596	586	504	308	108	1159	1022	480	1019	777	839	804
Canada Goose	117	55	115	113	75	96	153	277	212	588	568	644
Dark-bellied Brent	13639	16688	11400	13091	2533	7	3	44	498	4239	13653	8782
Shelduck	4197	6234	2153	1853	1039	1612	1362	840	2682	3899	5402	2889
Wigeon	3838	2251	1271	7	7	6	1	6	2016	2538	4977	4803
Gadwall	52	70	18	23	6	9	7	20	38	10	10	33
Teal	1286	1322	263	52	4	18	37	354	575	862	1794	2246
Mallard	2316	1955	804	401	374	298	261	786	1462	2463	2059	2567
Pintail	571	462	78	0	0	0	0	0	256	60	473	95
Shoveler	19	28	1	21	2	3	7	22	18	30	18	14
Pochard	10	17	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	23
Tufted Duck	64	133	173	144	88	99	60	47	26	52	32	46
Eider	121	125	95	50	40	45	46	73	160	128	490	216
Common Scoter	15	207	0	1	0	0	18	138	0	3	150	0
Goldeneye	92	69	38	27	0	0	0	0	0	1	42	103
R B Merganser	39	53	14	26	3	0	1	0	0	28	83	15
Little Grebe	28	95	91	28	9	7	17	33	66	65	63	64
Great Crested Grebe	0	9	7	9	1	19	2	11	25	53	34	6
Cormorant	135	329	125	113	62	41	229	452	275	491	314	215
Little Egret	69	69	100	57	69	48	202	250	633	493	573	83
Grey Heron	12	10	3	5	3	5	7	12	34	27	9	11
Moorhen	76	91	84	54	28	38	56	62	78	66	45	49
Coot	107	145	118	66	41	61	70	88	82	110	117	117
Oystercatcher	16555	15646	11450	9258	3060	1863	6271	13610	17788	15221	15264	5139
Avocet	1	52	122	386	280	360	365	388	7	4	1	1
Ringed Plover	42	97	400	133	111	73	52	1831	324	128	291	153
Golden Plover	29633	9474	1	681	0	0	2923	11771	10915	18766	33560	3951
Grey Plover	4395	8825	4630	5949	9049	590	548	6556	7236	6657	5180	1691
Lapwing	6984	11628	128	50	71	101	305	898	3881	3420	21911	7338
Knot	34546	52054	32997	27878	6999	4975	14383	52590	83356	82522	93522	19598
Sanderling	237	141	123	94	1430	954	1132	1420	233	887	118	27
Dunlin	19357	23995	14672	12364	5130	305	18601	23876	13361	22910	16691	8775
Snipe	7	13	18	4	1	1	9	42	32	58	17	6
Black-tailed Godwit	20	10	10	35	0	20	4477	4448	10839	4122	2255	635
Bar-tailed Godwit	7347	10755	9766	1483	62	150	1592	4246	15381	12038	8927	4900
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	18	61	145	139	26	1	0	0
Curlew	2041	3788	2343	881	357	274	4906	3787	7548	4291	2322	1884
Spotted Redshank	1	6	1	2	3	0	10	48	27	2	2	0
Redshank	1203	2164	1620	2107	452	363	1413	2553	5270	5004	2276	2812
Greenshank	0	0	0	0	1	0	250	301	109	17	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	4	0	20	26	1	0	0	0
Turnstone	342	252	166	186	84	54	371	511	685	325	450	128
Black-headed Gull	713	3100	5126	1818	1601	1873	6705	20878	6203	6177	7622	1934
Common Gull	232	367	368	19	13	1	19	179	77	289	278	64
L B B Gull	131	1384	89	722	470	401	584	583	200	313	918	14
Herring Gull	2116	3904	2745	3910	1288	1387	3460	2482	3314	2011	2280	2099
G B B Gull	649	62	128	53	19	56	1011	957	479	255	846	115

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



# Wetland Bird Survey 2008 - 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	69	73	68	62	111	46	53	43	62	37	32	59
Bewick's Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	1
Pink-footed Goose	6070	913	1126	811	8	3	-	-	1760	4291	20525	31707
White-fronted Goose	255	275	2	1	1	-	-	6	-	-	18	17
Greylag Goose	1270	634	727	577	962	389	1732	2203	1611	1155	852	1285
Canada Goose	136	83	108	92	62	104	197	286	82	250	224	183
Barnacle Goose	6	6	6	-	2	6	2	13	-	-	-	6
Dark-bellied Brent	6477	7624	4861	3630	1862	7	3	-	100	1644	7564	6614
Egyptian Goose	49	40	18	2	125	108	119	125	162	32	43	46
Shelduck	1115	907	890	821	593	525	128	122	118	461	739	940
Wigeon	11200	8393	7165	282	24	18	3	6	3832	5404	4878	6384
Gadwall	190	183	142	227	314	281	80	130	127	88	249	196
Teal	3244	1449	833	433	21	32	123	637	2901	3299	3308	3524
Mallard	1150	839	659	630	660	382	587	1056	1156	969	1282	1119
Pintail	584	334	26	12	-	-	-	-	261	279	444	382
Shoveler	119	258	203	210	124	61	65	95	162	289	184	300
Garganey	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	9	-	-	-	-
Pochard	50	41	35	45	23	16	17	14	3	16	18	47
Tufted Duck	48	77	97	115	112	92	46	35	15	21	121	112
Scaup	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eider	8	56	15	10	4	8	6	1	30	10	19	77
Long-tailed Duck	2	32	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	16
Common Scoter	3000	4	3105	3009	3530	1030	7	264	1511	74	1056	151
Velvet Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	-
Goldeneye	111	105	26	8	-	-	-	-	-	5	37	88
R B Merganser	69	131	42	46	1	1	1	-	3	40	86	94
Goosander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	18
Ruddy Duck	-	-	1	8	4	3	6	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Diver	9	14	1	1	1	-	-	-	11	12	8	1
Black-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1	-
Great Northern Diver	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Little Grebe	36	61	41	46	10	9	19	26	30	37	59	41
Great Crested Grebe	14	140	15	5	8	9	2	3	5	22	21	7
Red-necked Grebe	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Slavonian Grebe	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Cormorant	66	66	61	182	299	123	269	298	183	173	132	76
Shag	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	4
Bittern	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Egret	104	99	78	107	177	66	172	211	258	201	187	131
Grey Heron	13	11	13	24	39	14	34	29	25	14	21	14
Spoonbill	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	2	-	-
Water Rail	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	6	3
Coot	441	292	389	271	220	126	236	378	186	352	219	306
Moorhen	172	174	180	156	111	59	65	104	63	126	187	235
Oystercatcher	3446	3954	2874	2346	2045	1558	2795	2569	5108	4788	3213	3185
Avocet	32	105	315	546	556	433	463	130	16	21	29	47
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	-	-	-	-



Ringed Plover	259	322	254	265	643	382	310	1814	1676	647	177	155
Golden Plover	3066	2615	2113	502	8	-	150	676	5914	4968	3359	2673
Grey Plover	1147	895	1006	736	620	235	91	675	1687	1683	792	611
Lapwing	11185	6407	631	449	379	200	750	1146	1433	2064	2433	10419
Knot	3736	2405	1022	1009	640	792	398	582	15436	84812	81200	5449
Sanderling	313	424	674	232	583	177	813	486	766	803	268	555
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	11	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	6	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Dunlin	4029	4088	1892	757	657	67	1625	1428	1227	1277	1805	2054
Ruff	85	35	56	18	-	-	59	113	117	24	152	189
Jack Snipe	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Common Snipe	40	75	41	83	1	2	2	50	64	50	84	135
Woodcock	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2
Black-tailed Godwit	251	153	202	250	311	171	339	794	438	625	442	268
Bar-tailed Godwit	1783	801	1224	525	78	16	117	479	597	1230	1364	1382
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	25	1	25	35	4	-	-	-
Curlew	1716	1872	1146	943	152	170	2318	1510	1862	1536	1076	1303
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	25	1	25	35	4	-	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	32	2	-	-	-
Spotted Redshank	18	12	17	13	1	-	10	21	12	26	2	10
Greenshank	4	3	3	1	27	2	71	35	35	19	6	2
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Redshank	1271	988	919	1026	527	409	1769	1389	2109	1122	989	777
Turnstone	511	480	426	500	429	146	519	727	751	806	556	534

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



# Maximum Monthly Counts 2008 - 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	55	182	110	116	77	79	28	28	29	51	50	72
Bewick's Swan	58	87	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Pink-footed Goose	22785	16640	750	300	1	1	1	1	110	6000	7721	21400
White-fronted Goose	10	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Greylag Goose	76	33	10	5	20	19	24	97	158	356	210	176
Canada Goose	0	15	2	8	10	26	36	56	17	49	17	0
Barnacle Goose	17	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brent Goose	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Egyptian Goose	3	3	2	10	6	47	58	41	83	53	11	3
Shelduck	148	126	156	163	132	334	107	36	107	48	74	29
Wigeon	21400	12884	6118	164	5	0	0	10	624	1740	13106	21074
Gadwall	88	67	69	82	21	23	0	9	2	9	19	55
Teal	5612	2360	1687	707	6	9	90	195	357	624	2286	3216
Mallard	259	184	81	46	63	41	45	671	348	199	313	315
Pintail	110	179	65	5	3	1	5	4	31	126	162	120
Garganey	0	0	0	6	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
Shoveler	746	754	457	124	16	25	13	13	13	160	472	556
Pochard	0	14	16	13	9	6	1	5	1	0	0	54
Tufted Duck	2	2	10	8	6	4	2	2	2	2	1	1
Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Little Grebe	4	4	5	10	6	5	7	10	8	3	4	2
Great Crested Grebe	3	6	9	8	1	2	2	7	7	11	5	0
Cormorant	19	28	18	40	19	19	34	49	25	22	35	22
Little Egret	49	59	59	27	61	54	113	114	83	80	80	62
Spoonbill	0	0	1	1	2	4	11	3	1	0	0	0
Coot	23	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Oystercatcher	5	35	92	132	59	37	90	19	8	5	1	0
Avocet	190	343	242	299	121	161	441	837	897	377	139	142
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Ringed Plover	66	91	26	73	126	26	16	147	165	117	55	66
Golden Plover	15790	10137	1121	1	0	1	347	2300	2400	4200	13600	30800
Grey Plover	53	82	47	11	31	1	1	5	4	3	16	26
Lapwing	19050	16395	560	254	254	206	210	467	449	1395	8560	38700
Knot	107	285	109	31	25	5	15	22	34	7	38	143
Sanderling	5	5	3	5	8	0	1	6	1	0	0	2
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	1	0	10	12	17	0	0	0
Dunlin	3125	3870	2970	1222	810	4	420	189	391	773	2270	3960
Ruff	89	27	16	24	3	3	34	47	41	6	11	62
Snipe	7	18	12	30	6	5	16	8	6	7	10	15
Black-tailed Godwit	2283	602	421	412	38	79	457	692	1190	421	1623	2677
Bar-tailed Godwit	72	75	47	54	26	0	14	14	6	3	19	62
Whimbrel	0	0	0	23	7	0	20	6	2	0	0	0
Curlew	1031	819	799	208	12	32	371	798	919	657	432	913
Spotted Redshank	3	5	3	6	1	1	1	5	6	6	3	2
Redshank	890	1194	1298	1362	222	153	992	1051	1040	814	851	1097
Greenshank	2	2	1	3	10	5	10	9	5	1	1	0
Green Sandpiper	1	0	1	1	0	3	3	8	2	1	0	0
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	10	0	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	4	12	1	4	11	2	0	0	0
Turnstone	5	3	4	7	13	0	5	6	4	10	4	2
Little Gull	0	0	0	3	1	25	14	6	0	0	0	0
Mediterranean Gull	63	-	-	14	17	9	57	118	-	102	92	-



# Non-accepted Records

<i>Species</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>2008</b>		
'Taiga Bean Goose'	Sheringham	27th February
Black-necked Grebe (2)	Titchwell	30th August
Cory's Shearwater	Waxham	13th September
Cory's Shearwater	Holme	3rd October
Storm Petrel	Sheringham	21st July
Storm Petrel	Blakeney Point	23rd September
Storm Petrel	Cley	1st December
Great White Egret	Holme	27th March
Great White Egret	New Buckenham	11th November
Black Stork	Caister	3rd September
White-tailed Eagle	Holme	31st October
Lesser Kestrel	Stiffkey	4th October
Red-footed Falcon	Breydon	7th September
Spotted Crake	Titchwell	6th November
American Golden Plover	North Wootton	6th May
American Golden Plover	Thornham Harbour	12th August
American Golden Plover	Cley	13th October
Baird's Sandpiper	Cley	14th October
Ring-billed Gull	Poringland	12th and 13th January
Ring-billed Gull	Ten Mile Bank	27th January
Brünnich's Guillemot	Cley and Sheringham	24th and 25th July
'Dark-breasted Barn Owl'	Wacton Common	January to April
Red-rumped Swallow	Titchwell	17th October
Bluethroat	Titchwell	24th September
Marsh Warbler	Titchwell	11th May
Serin	Weybourne	9th June
Common Rosefinch	Blakeney Point	30th August
Yellow-breasted Bunting	Thornham Harbour	1st November
<b>2007</b>		
'Dark-breasted Barn Owl'	St Benet's Level	21st December to 5th January 2008
<b>2006</b>		
Black-headed Bunting	Holme	17th August
Black-headed Bunting	Holme	13th September



# Outstanding Scarce and Rare Bird Descriptions 2008

<i>Species</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
Ferruginous Duck	Oby	27th January to 9th February
Cory's Shearwater	Salthouse	13th September
Storm Petrel	East Runton	21st July
Storm Petrel	Eccles	3rd October
Storm Petrel	Holme	3rd October
Storm Petrel	Blakeney Point	3rd October
Night-heron	Wells	5th June
Cattle Egret	Cley	25th June
Great White Egret	Horsey	5th January
Great White Egret	Reedham	5th January
Great White Egret	Holkham	7th January
Great White Egret	Wells	6th February
Great White Egret	Thornham	28th February and 25th March
Great White Egret	Holme	27th March
Great White Egret	Hunstanton	4th October
Glossy Ibis	Salthouse	1st September
Red-footed Falcon	Waxham	22nd May
Red-footed Falcon	Sculthorpe	4th July
Red-footed Falcon	Holme	28th August
Red-footed Falcon	Lenwade	10th September
American Golden Plover	Welney	21st January
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Hickling Rush Hills	8th August
White-winged Black Tern	Hickling Broad	22nd May
Bee-eaters	Horsey	10th May
Red-rumped Swallow	Winterton	9th April
Red-rumped Swallow	Waxham	27th April
Red-rumped Swallow	Holme	17th September
Olive-backed Pipit	Holme	31st October
Red-throated Pipit	Blakeney Point	27th May
Red-throated Pipit	Holme	28th May
Red-throated Pipit	Burnham Overy Dunes	26th September
'Black-bellied Dipper'	Houghton St Giles	31st December
Blyth's Reed Warbler	Holkham Meals	6th to 8th October
Marsh Warbler	Burnham Overy	28th May
Greenish Warbler	Wells	30th May
Radde's Warbler	Blakeney Point	7th November
Rose-coloured Starling	West Lynn	18th June
Serin	Waxham	28th April
Serin	Waxham	20th September
Common Rosefinch	Burnham Norton	4th June
Ortolan Bunting	Trimingham	17th September
Little Bunting	Weybourne	26th September



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# NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT 2008

## Editorial

My suggestion in last year's editorial that people find mammals less exciting than birds due to the limited potential for spotting rare vagrants obviously tempted fate sufficiently to provide Norfolk's third ever Particoloured Bat only weeks later (see page 178 for John Wagstaff and Mick Finnemore's finders' account). I would therefore like to start this year's report by stating categorically that there is absolutely no chance of the county's second Walrus being recorded in the next 12 months. The Yellow-necked Mouse total in 2008 was also exceptional, our rarest rodent making an appearance no fewer than 13 times. In fact, it was a great year for just about every species, as the pool of mammal recorders grew by a third to almost 200, resulting in an amazing annual total of 6,035 records, a 30% increase on 2007. This really is a fantastic effort and I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to send in their observations. Special mention must go to Pam Taylor, Phil Heath, Christian Whiting, Stephen Howell, Malcolm Fisher, Richard Moores, Elizabeth George and Phil Parker, all of whom submitted over 200 records in 2008, and to British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Brecklands Otter Survey, Broadland Environmental Services Ltd. (BESL) and Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) for submitting large survey datasets.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of record submissions in 2008 by tetrad (grey square signifies < 10 records, black signifies 10 or more).

Figure 1 shows that, while there is still an easterly bias in record submissions, the centre and west of the county have experienced the biggest improvement in coverage, with far fewer completely blank tetrads than in 2007. In species terms, it was encouraging to note that the greatest gains were made in those taxa that were highlighted as being particularly poorly recorded in the previous report.

## Bat recording in 2008

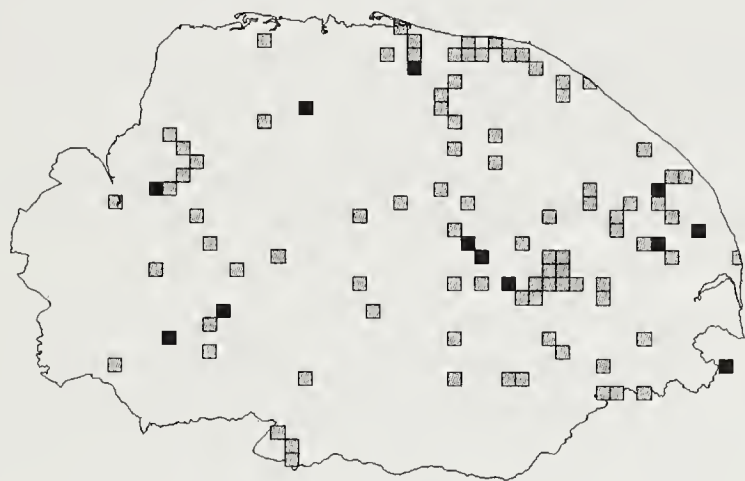
Norfolk has a diverse bat fauna and a rich history of recording, as Catherine Greenhough outlines in her article on page 180. If effective conservation in the county is to be ensured, however, it is absolutely vital that the information being collected is stored on the Norfolk Mammal Database so that it can contribute to initiatives at a local, regional and national scale. To this end, I am pleased to report that the amount of Chiroptera data received has increased almost 10-fold since 2006. The formation of new bat groups is a good sign of a healthy and vibrant recording scene, and the last two years have seen both the Norwich Bat Group and the Barbastelle Study Group spring into life.

The key aims of Norwich Bat Group are to monitor existing roosts in the city and surrounding area, to locate new ones, to promote awareness by organising bat walks and special events and to provide training opportunities for members by arranging indoor workshops, talks and presentations. Training volunteers for the National Bat Monitoring Program and taking part in research projects are also activities central to the group's remit. The group is affiliated to the Bat Conservation Trust and always welcomes new members - email Christine Hipperson at [christine.1988@live.co.uk](mailto:christine.1988@live.co.uk) or visit the website at [www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk).

The Barbastelle Group focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on Norfolk's Barbastelle



population, undertaking routine monitoring of known roost sites and actively searching for new ones, and the progress made in the group's first two years is summarised in Keith Zealand and Ash Murray's article on page 188. The Norfolk bat dataset has also benefited from the work being carried out by BESL as part of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project, outlined in Christian Whiting and Mick Finnemore's article on page 192.

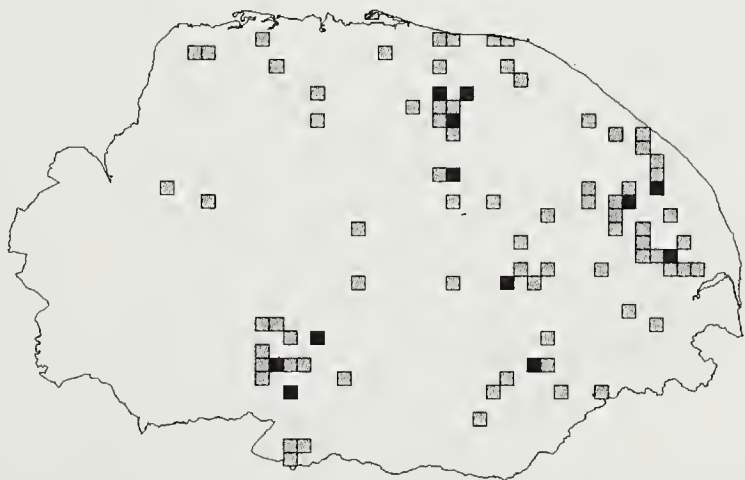


**Figure 2.** Distribution of bat records in 2008 by tetrad (grey square signifies < 10 records, black signifies 10 or more).

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the 2008 bat dataset, highlighting the increased recording effort around Norwich and the Broads, North Norfolk and North-west Norfolk. The survey work being undertaken as part of the Norfolk Bats & Roadside Mammals Survey will help to fill in yet more of the gaps. We would also be keen to hear from more recorders in the Brecks, an area that has been poorly represented in the database over recent years.

**Small mammal recording in Norfolk**

Figure 3 shows the origin of 2008's small mammal records and, while the map still looks sparse, it really does represent an improvement on the situation previously. Contributions of survey data from BESL and the University of East Anglia have boosted the dataset, and you can read more about the latter in Helen Mandley's article on page 200.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of small mammal records in 2008 by tetrad (grey square signifies < 10 records, black signifies 10 or more).

The Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society (N&NNS) is very grateful for the recent loan of a number of Longworth traps by Alf Gudgion, which will facilitate several surveys planned for the coming year. There is also potential for a more widespread analysis of raptor and owl pellets in the county and the Norfolk Mammal Recorder would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in taking part. As mentioned in the Harvest Mouse species account on page 205, the Mammal Society carried out a pilot study investigating the best survey methods to use for the species at the beginning of 2009 and they are planning a more general small mammal survey pilot over the coming autumn – anyone interested in taking part should contact the Norfolk Mammal Recorder for details.



### **The Norfolk Badger Group**

The number of Badger records received in 2008 increased significantly, and we're very grateful to John Crouch for all his efforts in monitoring and researching this elusive species – see his article on page 199 for a synopsis of their distribution in Norfolk. The Norfolk Badger Group continues to gather momentum - you can contact John at [norfolkbadgers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:norfolkbadgers@yahoo.co.uk) and visit their on-line discussion forum at [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/norfolkbadgers](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/norfolkbadgers).

### **The N&NNS Norfolk Hedgehog Survey**

In spring of 2009, the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society launched the Norfolk Hedgehog Survey. These are worrying times for one of the UK's most recognisable and widely loved mammals, recently added to the list of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, as evidence of its decline continues to mount. In farmland areas, increased pesticide use, the loss of field margins in which to forage and the fragmentation of their favoured habitats are all likely to have contributed to the drop in numbers. Urban habitats are also becoming less enticing, as the overgrown, unkempt gardens and brownfield sites that once provided food and shelter are tidied or developed. All that you need to do to take part in the survey is to make a note of the date and location at which you see any live or dead Hedgehog, or any droppings. Download a recording form from the NNS website at [www.nnns.org.uk](http://www.nnns.org.uk) today, or send an SAE to Dr Dave Leech, The Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU – contact [surveys@nnns.org.uk](mailto:surveys@nnns.org.uk) if you have any questions.

### **Natural Connections Farmland Wildlife Survey**

Between September 2009 and March 2010, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust is asking people to record sightings and signs of Harvest Mouse and Brown Hare, as well as those of Barn Owl and Grey Partridge. Norfolk holds notable populations of these iconic farmland mammals, both now of high conservation concern, and details of all observations will be passed to NBIS and entered into the Norfolk Mammal Database to increase our understanding of their distribution within the county. The Natural Connections surveys also aim to encourage people who have never taken part in a wildlife survey to participate so that they can learn more about these species and their conservation. Visit [www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalconnections](http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalconnections) or phone 01603 598333 for a free survey leaflet.

### **Sea Watch Foundation**

Sea Watch is a national marine conservation research charity dedicated to the protection of whales, dolphins and porpoises around the UK. The Sea Watch Foundation monitors cetaceans through its team of volunteers, sightings from the shore providing essential background about the relative abundance and distribution of different inshore species. Twenty cetaceans have been recorded this century in British or Irish territorial waters, and Common Dolphin, Striped Dolphin, Minke Whale and Humpback Whale are among those where numbers sighted have increased since 1980. Porpoises, on the other hand, showed widespread decline in the 1970s-1980s, White-beaked Dolphins also became scarcer in Northern Britain in the 1980s-1990s and Northern Bottlenose Whales have remained uncommon since the 1960s. None of this information would be available to us without the efforts of Sea Watch volunteers recording and reporting their sightings, so if you do come across a cetacean, live or dead, contact Dave Powell, SWF sightings co-ordinator for the Eastern region, at [dpshearwaters@googlemail.com](mailto:dpshearwaters@googlemail.com).

The amount of monitoring activity in the county really is increasing at a rate of knots and now you know all about it, there's no excuse not to take part. If you're an expert, then we need your help, and if you're a beginner, what better way is there to learn? I look forward to hearing from you all over the next year – happy recording!

***Dave Leech***

Norfolk Mammal Recorder



## Submitting your records

The Norfolk Mammal Recorder is 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 2009 submitted by the end of January 2010 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 Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS, [www.nbis.org.uk](http://www.nbis.org.uk)) to ensure that the information collected feeds 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.

## Systematic list information

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 2008 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 2008, 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 2008, followed in brackets by the total number of tetrads in the database as a whole in which the species has been recorded. Thus, 345 records of Grey Squirrel were received in 2008 and a total of 3,421 records of this species are held in the database (including those from 2008). Similarly, Grey Squirrels were recorded in 155 tetrads in 2008 and have been recorded in 712 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 2008 that were not received in time for inclusion in the previous report have been added to the totals presented here.

## Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank everybody who has submitted their data to us for another bumper crop of records – thank you for taking the time to record and submit them. I am also very grateful to those who helped in the production of this report: Tony Leech, Mike Toms, Pat Lorber, Martin Horlock, Steve Henson, Phil Parker, Julie Curl, Cat Greenhough, John Crouch, Dave Powell, David North, Gemma Walker, Scott Perkin, Christine Hipperson, Kate Risely and all authors and photographers.



# Particoloured Bat at Kelling Hard, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008

*John Wagstaff & Mick Finnemore*

On the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> September I made one of my regular birding visits to Kelling Water Meadow and The Quag, where I met four other local birders. We eventually went on to the shingle bank where, because of an obvious lack of birds offshore, we stood talking and looking inland. When I turned around to check the sea again, I scanned across in a north-easterly direction and became somewhat puzzled by a small dark shape flying westwards, a few feet above the water, about 200 yards offshore. It had to be a bird didn't it? Of course it did, but at that distance I could not identify it.

I continued watching and then realised it had changed direction and was now heading towards the beach. I then shouted to the other birders "What do you reckon this is?" and as I pointed to it I suddenly, and excitedly, said "It's a bat!" at the same time as one of the other birders said the same thing. Thinking about it later I recall that it was obviously flying like a bat, rather than like a bird, but the thought did not initially occur to me.

It flew directly towards the war-time pill box on the beach and landed briefly on the outside before flying around it and then going inside. Three of us hurried to the pill box, looked through the narrow slits in the side and saw the bat flying around inside, in the darkness, before landing in a gap in the inside where a brick was missing. Having all agreed that this was a very unusual occurrence, I contacted my friend Mick Finnemore, a bat expert and enthusiast, whom I have known for over 30 years.

*John Wagstaff*

Having encountered the species once before in the mid-1980s and seen photographs of a specimen found in Wiltshire in 2002, on seeing the individual I was able to confirm that it was indeed a Particoloured Bat (*Vespertilio murinus*), a vagrant from northern Europe. The Particoloured is a medium sized bat, slightly larger than our Long-eared/Natterer's. The dorsal fur is quite unlike any of the other species recorded in Britain, possessing distinctive silver highlights to a dark under-fur, likened by some to the dodgy hair-do's often sported by some of our top footballers! The ears are dark and squat, with a dark pigment continuing through the face and nose and the tragus is short and slightly broadened, but not into the mushroom shape typical of Noctule or Leisler's. The general impression of the face is more delicate than those species, reminiscent of Natterer's. The underside, especially the chin, is white with a clear demarcation to dorsal and underside. Whilst full biometrics were not taken, it was an adult male, which is typical of most Particoloured Bats found in Britain. Typically this species has a forearm length of 41-50mm, wingspan of 260-330mm and a body mass of between 11 and 24g.

The typical range for this species is Central to Eastern Europe and northwards to central Scandinavia. It is one of the known migratory species where considerable long-distance movements have been documented. The German publication 'Bat Migrations in Europe' states a maximum recorded autumn movement of 1,780km (Marcovets *et al.* 2004) together with a shorter movement of 1,441km (Masasing 1989), typically in a south-westerly direct. I believe the Kelling bat may have been on such a south-westerly migration when it was blown off course, out into the North Sea, by a strong south-easterly. Instead of finding countryside below and a place to roost, it found only sea and had to continue its flight for another four to five hours until exhausted, it reached the Norfolk Coast. Hence most of the Particoloured bats reaching Britain are found grounded either in a weakened condition or dead.

In its natural range, the species is found in a wide range of habitats, from urban areas to open countryside and water, where the bulk of its food consists of small dipterans and moths. The narrow wings suggest a bat with the fast flight of an aerial forager rather than a gleaner. A particularly interesting feature of this species is the social call, a bird-like trill c.14kHz that is audible to the human ear and heard in the autumn and early winter around tower blocks that are known winter



roosts. David King (Bat Box Ltd) suggests that this may be slightly too high a frequency for many older ears, especially if you listen to Megadeth (*Must be why I've never seen one!* – Ed), so if your young children ask what is that bird calling don't dismiss it just because you cannot hear it! It is also unique amongst European bats in that it regularly gives birth to two offspring at a time, with the females having two pairs of nipples.

This is the third recorded observation of the species in Norfolk, the first mentioned in Barrett-Hamilton's 'A History of British Mammals 1911-1921 from Yarmouth (Great Yarmouth?) and the second relating to an individual found in timber at Great Yarmouth docks in 1968. Phil Heath recalled seeing bats flying in off the sea on several occasions in autumn and on one occasion near Southwold he saw six or seven bats over the afternoon. Whilst many of these could be Nathusius' Pipistrelle, another known migrant and one that is now present as a breeding species in Britain, others could well be Particoloured Bats. Since 2000, the species has been recorded almost annually in the UK, so perhaps it will soon become another addition to the British list as a resident breeder – remember to listen out for the trill!

***Mick Finnemore***

## References

- Marcovets *et al.* (2004) Beringung von Fledermausen in der Biologischen Station Rybachy, 1957 – 2001. *Nyctalus* (N.F.) **9**: 259-268
- Masasing M (1989) A long distance flight of *Vespertilio murinus* from Estonia. *Myotis* **27**: 147-150.



# The past, present and future of bat recording in Norfolk

*Catherine Greenhough*

## Introduction

Man's observation of bats dates back at least 20-25,000 years, when pictures of them were painted onto cave walls. Other references to bats appear in Egyptian tombs and in some of the first books written over 1,900 years ago. Different species of bat were described in scientific journals in the late 1700s and in the mid 1800s bat recording began in Norfolk. At this time bats were difficult creatures to observe as they roosted in inaccessible places and emerged in the evening. The formation of the Bat Unit in 1961, a specialist branch of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, had a big impact on the popularity of this taxon and number of records collected (bat detectors would not be readily available for at least a further 10 years). The formation of the Norfolk Biological Records Centre and the introduction of legislation also appear to have had a positive influence on recording effort in the county.

The information in this paper has been gleaned from records held by Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS - formerly Norfolk Biological Records Centre) and past papers from *Transactions* and the *Mammal Report*. I have used Latin nomenclature as it was reported in the various texts, e.g. in 1837, Noctules were known as *Vespertilio noctula*.

## Observations of bats

The first human observations of bats come from cave paintings, the earliest of which date from 20-25,000 years ago (from the height of the last Ice Age). A painting depicting eight mega-bats roosting on a vine was recently found in a cave in the Kimberley Region of Australia (Rincon 2008). Images of bats were also used to embellish the tombs of Egyptian kings. The 4,000-year-old tomb of Baqet III at Bani Hasan contained pictures thought to depict the Egyptian Rousette *Rousettus aegyptiacus* and the Tomb Bat *Taphozous perforates* (Allen 1939). Around the same time but closer to home, bats were roosting in the shafts later known as Grimes Graves at Thetford where, during excavations in 1914, the remains of four bats, Bechstein's, Daubenton's, Natterer's and Whiskered, were found (Piggott 1953).

In 77 AD, Gaius Plinius Secundus (Pliny) wrote the *Encyclopedia Naturalis Historia*, one of the earliest books to mention bats (papyrus scrolls were still popular at this time). Pliny described bats as being the only flying creature to bear live young and noted that adults carried their young in their arms whilst flying. Until the invention of the printing press almost all books were copied by hand, making them rare and expensive, and were also written in Latin, which meant that few people outside monasteries had access to them. During the Medieval period, *Bestiaries* (a compendium of beasts) were popular. *Bestiaries*, such as the *Aberdeen Bestiary* written in England around the 1200s, described various animals and birds. Each description was generally accompanied by a moral lesson which reflected the belief that the world itself was the word of God, and that everything had its own meaning. During this period bats were classed as birds. In the *Aberdeen Bestiary*, the bat '*der vespertilione*' is described as '*a lowly animal*' that gets its name from '*vesper, the evening, when it emerges*'. Bats were also observed to give '*birth to live young like a quadruped*' and it was thought that they '*do not fly on wings*', but that each '*supports itself by a rowing motion with its skin*' (McLaren & University of Aberdeen Library 1995).

Around two hundred years later, in 1440, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. This allowed scientists (and naturalists) to communicate their discoveries through a wide variety of scholarly journals and helped to bring about the Scientific Revolution, which began in 1543, forming the foundation and origin of modern science. The Scientific Revolution coincided with the replacement of the Old English names, including *bakee*, *leatherwing flittermouse* and *reremouss* with the word 'bat' (Buczacki 2002).

From the late 1700s, naturalists began to print descriptions of bats in publications such as the *Medical Repository* and *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*. Some of the naturalists may



be familiar, e.g. Schreber, who described *Vespertilio barbastelles* in 1774, or Kuhl, who described *Myotis daubentonii* in 1817. In the *Natural History of Selborne* (published 1789), Gilbert White wrote about four species of bat - *Vespertilio murinus*, *V. auritus*, *V. altivolans* and the Little Bat - that he had seen flying about. To put this in context, this was around the same time that Lazzaro Spallanzani discovered, by blinding individuals, that bats could detect and avoid objects during flight without the use of vision (Dijkgraaf 1960).

It was not unusual for bats to be misidentified. From around 1771 until 1829, naturalists believed that the common bat in European countries, *V. murinus*, was also the ‘Common Bat’ present in Britain (see Jenyns 1829). Jenyns was able to prove beyond doubt that the British ‘Common Bat’ was in fact the Pipistrelle. Jenyns also described two species of long-eared bats; the larger, greyer one was called *Plecotus auritus* and the smaller *P. brevimanus*. However, the presence of two distinct long-eared species in Britain was not established until 1964 (Corbet 1964 cited in Swift 1998).

**Table 1.** Bats recorded in Britain in 1837 (Bell 1837)

Whiskered Bat	<i>V. mystacinus</i>
Reddish-grey Bat	<i>V. nattereri</i>
Daubenton’s	<i>V. daubentonii</i>
Notched ear Bat	<i>V. emarginatus</i>
Mouse coloured Bat	<i>V. murinus</i>
Bechstein’s Bat	<i>V. bechsteinii</i>
Common Bat	<i>V. pipistrellus</i>
Pygmy Bat	<i>V. pygmaeus</i>
Serotine	<i>V. serotinus</i>
Noctule	<i>V. noctula</i>
Hairy armed Bat	<i>V. leisleri</i>
Particoloured Bat	<i>V. discolour</i>

In 1837, 12 species of bat were classed as native to Britain (Bell 1837, Table 1), although the definition of ‘native’ is unclear. Bell also recorded five other species, the Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*, Lesser Long-eared Bat *P. brevimanus*, the Barbastelle *Barbastellus daubentonii*, the Greater Horse-shoe Bat *Rhinolophus ferrum-equinium* and the Smaller Horseshoe Bat *R. hipposideros*, as present in the country, but they were not considered native.

### Norfolk’s bats

Norfolk’s bat recording legacy appears to begin during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, although initially interest was limited. The majority of records during this period, of which there are 15 on the database, are for Barbastelle. There are also single records for Brown Long-eared, Noctule and Pipistrelle. These records are spread throughout the county, from Sandringham and Beeston Regis to Winfarthing and Ellingham.

In 1845, the Reverend R. Lubbock published a comprehensive book titled *Observations on the Fauna of Norfolk*, in which he mentions three kinds of bat: the Long-eared Bat *V. auritus*, the Great Bat *V. noctula* and the Common Bat *V. murinus* (see earlier comment). Lubbock writes that, in Norfolk ‘bats do not attract any general attention’ and while he believes that there are two species of very large bat in the county, he had been unable to locate anybody able to distinguish the two (Lubbock 1845). B.T. Lowne published a *Popular Natural History of Great Yarmouth and its Neighbourhood* in 1863, but no bats were mentioned.

In 1869, the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists’ Society was formed, since which time observations of bats have appeared in *Transactions* and later in the annual *Mammal Report*. The earliest bat recorded by the Society was a Particoloured Bat *Scotophilus (Vespertilio) discolor* which was found in the rigging on board a ship located off the Norfolk coast in 1834. The bat was collected as a specimen and identified by a Mr Hancock of Newcastle (Southwell 1874). In the Society’s first *Transactions*, published in 1869, J. H. Gurney mentions four species of bat in Norfolk: the High-Flying Bat *V. noctula*, the Pipistrelle Bat *V. pipistrelles*, the Long-eared Bat *P. auritus* and



the Barbastelle Bat *B. daubentonii*. The latter had been captured from beneath the bark of an oak at Easton (Gurney 1869). In the 1871 *Transactions*, reference is made to two specimens of the Reddish-grey Bat in the possession of a Mr Yarrell, taken from Framlingham Pigot. These specimens are probably the same two referred to by Bell in his book *The History of British Quadrupeds, including Cetacea* published in 1837. During 1875, the Great Bat *Vespertilio noctula* was found roosting in old woodpecker holes in trees in Sparham and Dilham. Also, whilst out trying to collect specimens of Noctule for a friend, Norgate reports that he thought he saw a bat which he believed to be even larger, and recommended that readers look out for *V. murinus* (Norgate 1878).

In 1884, R. H. Mason published the *History of Norfolk*, in which he mentioned six species of bat: the Long-eared, Barbastelle, Particoloured, Great Bat (or White's Bat in reference to G. White), Pipistrelle and the Natterer's (Mason 1884). Naturalists were still on the lookout for other species and in *Transactions* in 1894, Southwell encouraged readers to look out for Serotine, Hairy-armed, Daubenton's and Whiskered Bat (Southwell 1894).

20<sup>th</sup> Century

During the First World War, a single bat was recorded in Norfolk, the first (and possibly only?) Lesser Horseshoe Bat for Norfolk, found at Happisburgh in 1914. The bat was collected as a specimen and now resides at Norwich Castle Museum (Goldsmith & Hancy 1994). By the start of the Second World War, only one more record had been added, a Noctule taken from Terrington Marshes in 1923.

By 1921, 12 species of bat were still thought to be native in Britain (Step 1921, Table 2), the list having changed somewhat since 1837, with the Particoloured now removed. Step also noted that 19<sup>th</sup> Century naturalists were thought to have confused the Whiskered Bat *Myotis mystacinus* with the Pipistrelles and that earlier observers may have confused Serotine and Noctule because of their similar size.

**Table 2.** Bats recorded as native to Britain in 1921 (Step 1921).

Barbastelle	<i>B. barbastellus</i>
Long-eared Bat	<i>P. auritus</i>
Leisler's	<i>Nyctalus leislen</i>
Great Bat	<i>N. noctula</i>
Serotine	<i>V. serotinus</i>
Common Bat	<i>V. pipistrelles</i>
Daubenton's	<i>M. daubentonii</i>
Bechstein's	<i>M. bechsteinii</i>
Red-grey Bat	<i>M. nattereri</i>
Whiskered Bat	<i>M. mystacinus</i>
Lesser Horse-shoe	<i>R. hipposideros</i>
Larger Horse-shoe	<i>R. ferrum-equinium</i>

The 1930s was an important period for bat recording. In 1936, the grid referencing system OS GB 36 TRF was introduced (Ordnance Survey 2009) and in the late 1930s American zoologist D. Griffin discovered echolocation using a modified AM radio - the bat detector was born. The full potential of such a device was not however realised until the 1970s, when field studies of bats and their calls became more prevalent in literature. It took a further 30 years for bat detectors to become affordable (Fenton 2002).

The 1940s was a comparatively quiet time for bat recording in Norfolk. The NBIS database holds five records for this period, all of which were made following the end of the Second World War. Species recorded were Pipistrelle, Brandt's (x2), Serotine and Barbastelle. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 1947, D E Sergeant and D L Harrison, naturalists from Kent, visited Grimes Graves 'to see if any bats were using it as a retreat'. They found a colony of 15 Whiskered Bats *M. mystacinus* hibernating and took one as a specimen (Sergeant & Harrison 1947). This specimen, which was subsequently re-identified as a Brandt's bat (pers. comm.), currently resides in the Harrison Institute in Kent. Towards



the end of the 1940s, the first identification guide to the taxon, *British Bats* (Vesey-Fitzgerald 1949), was published by the Field Studies Council, providing details on the 12 species of bat still thought to be present in Britain at the time.

In 1959, in the Society's first *Mammal Report*, five species of bat - Pipistrelle, Noctule, Long-eared, Natterer's and Whiskered - were recorded and the author recommended to readers to keep an eye out for Lesser Horseshoe and Serotine. The former was known to inhabit chalk caves at Bury St Edmunds and it was hoped that they might turn up in Norfolk. A year later, two Lesser Horseshoe bats were caught (Taylor Page 1960), one at Ellingham and the other at Bury St Edmunds, although it is not clear whether the first was caught in Norfolk or Suffolk as the grid reference is not detailed enough. The author writes that there had been an increase in records, but believed that most naturalists were unfortunately inexperienced in the recognition of bats and, apart from Long-eared Bats, that most small species were usually recorded as Pipistrelles and all large species were thought to be Noctules.

In 1961, *Transactions* reported the formation of the Bat Unit by Mr J. Woolston (Taylor Page 1961). Also in 1961, the first Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* for the county was found dead in an unused room at Ellingham Hall (Taylor Page 1962). Norfolk's second Serotine was shot at Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby in 1964. In 1968, a second Particoloured Bat was found at Great Yarmouth in timber that had been shipped from the Baltic region.

In 1970, Brandt's Bat *M. brandtii* was recognised as a separate species in Britain (Harris *et al.* 1995), any individuals found previously having been identified as Whiskered. These two cryptic species remain difficult to separate, but can be distinguished by dentition, tragus and penis shape and claw length which, when used in combination, allows identification with 100% accuracy (Berge 2006). In 1971, several work parties from Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society worked to open up Eaton Chalk Caves, reputed to be the best-known winter roost of Daubenton's Bats in Norfolk (Goldsmith 1971), which was accidentally filled in during 1968. Work was completed in August 1972 and a metal grill with a padlocked gate was installed to control access to the site. Two Daubenton's were subsequently found hibernating in the caves on 4<sup>th</sup> December (Goldsmith 1972). Eaton Chalk Caves has consequently been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Natterer's, Brown Long-eared and Whiskered/Brandt's have also been recorded there; the highest count was in 1995 when 39 bats were recorded.

In the early 1970s, the Norfolk Biological Records Centre was established in response to requests, received by the Natural History Department at Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, for detailed information on animal and plant species and their distribution. In 1983, after a brief dip in interest, the Bat Unit reformed as the Norfolk Bat Group and in the early 1980s, following visits to a number of potential underground hibernation sites that lacked suitable cracks and crevices, they developed the 'Norfolk Bat Brick'. Experimental bricks were installed into two sites in 1984 and were quickly occupied (Norfolk Bat Group 2008).

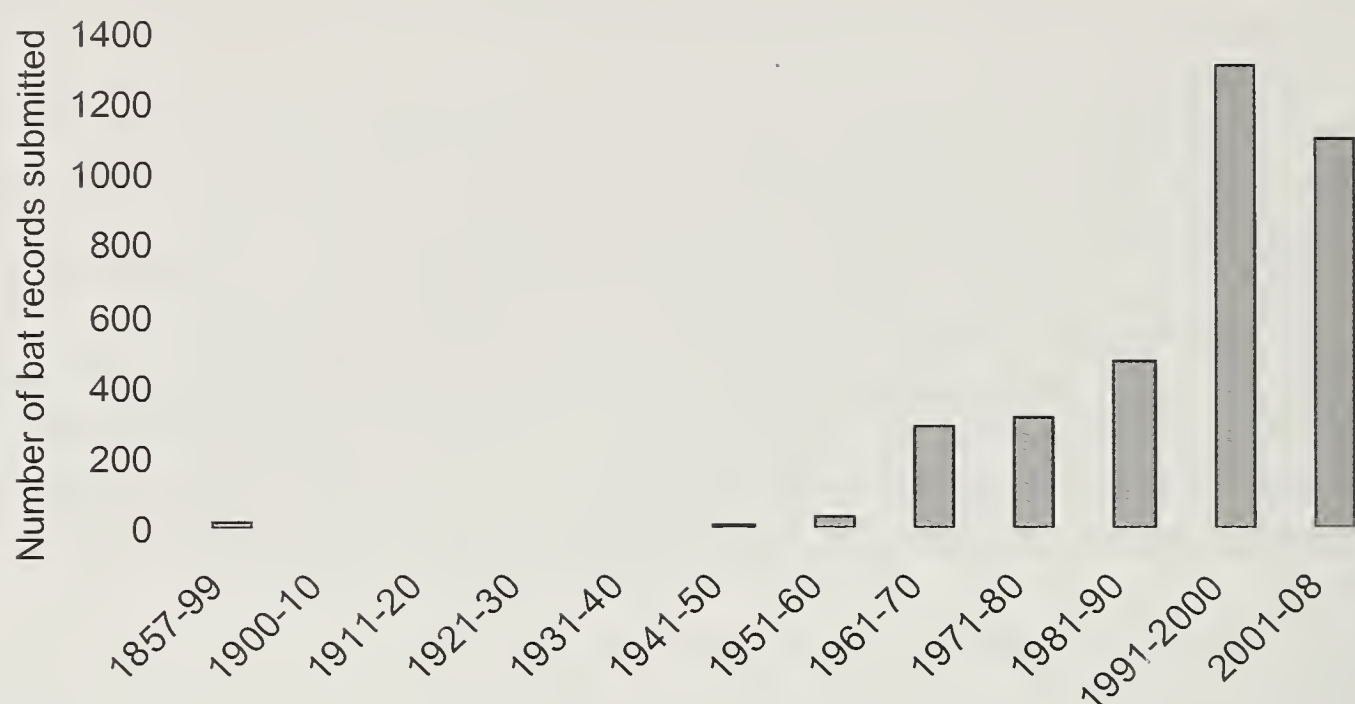
In 1981, the Wildlife and Countryside Act was introduced, which made it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess or trade any species of bat, and prohibited interference of places used for shelter or nest, or to intentionally disturb animals occupying such places. Following the introduction of this legislation, the emphasis on bat recording appears to have increased, a shift reflected by the increase in the number of records submitted to the NBIS database (Figure 1).

In the mid 1990s, bat detector manuals began appearing (Catto 1994, Russ 1999), along with computer programmes such as BatSound that allowed analysis of sonograms. In 1993, Jones & von Páris showed that the echolocation call of Pipistrelle bats fell into two distinct frequency bands. Subsequent research has shown the presence of two distinct species, referred to as the Common Pipistrelle (with a peak echolocation frequency of 45kHz), and the Soprano Pipistrelle (with a peak echolocation frequency of 55kHz) (Barlow & Jones 1997).

The first record for Leisler's held by NBIS dates from 1993, referring to an individual found during bat box checks in Thetford Forest. However it appears that this species had been observed previously in Thetford during the early 1980s (Goldsmith & Hancy 1994).

It is not possible to talk about Norfolk's bats without mentioning the Barbastelle. The colony at Paston Great Barn was one of two maternity roosts discovered in 1996/1997, the other being at





**Figure 1.** Number of bat records in the Norfolk Mammal Database by decade.

Ebernoe Church in West Sussex (Greenway 2008). By 2000, around six maternity colony sites had been identified and more have been found since, such as at Mottisfont in Hampshire. Paston Great Barn is one of only 12 sites in the country to have been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its Barbastelle population.

Norfolk is perhaps also an important area for Nathusius' Pipistrelle. Initially regarded as a vagrant (Stebbing 1988, cited in Russ *et al.* 2001), the species was first recorded in Norfolk at site near Great Yarmouth in 1998, after which a breeding colony was located nearby, one of only four maternity roosts in Britain (Russ 2009a). Nathusius' Pipistrelle has also been recorded on six occasions between 2002 and 2003 at Paston Great Barn. The species is rarely recorded in Britain and to date there have only been 410 records (Russ 2009a). Individuals are typically associated with riparian habitats, broadleaf and mixed woodland and parkland, and while occasionally found on farmland, are always close to water (Russ 2009b).

In 2007, Norwich Bat Group ([www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk)) was established to help protect, conserve and raise the awareness of bats in Norwich and the surrounding area. Of the 17 resident species of bats found in Britain, at least seven species have been recorded in and around Norwich. Although the group has only been running for two years, it has already recorded all seven, while also taking part surveys for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) organised by the Bat Conservation Trust. All records collected are submitted to NBIS via the Norfolk Mammal Recorder.

In 2008, a third Particoloured Bat was spotted at Kelling on the North Norfolk Coast. The bat was seen flying in from the sea and spent the rest of the day roosting in a pillbox on the beach (see the article on page 178 for more details).

## Looking to the future

Bat recording is undoubtedly linked to advances in technology whether it is the invention of the printing press in 1440 or the bat detector in the 1930s. Such inventions had a huge impact on aiding species identification. I have omitted to mention the human element of bat recording, which I hope to cover in the future. However, suffice to say that the number of bat records appears have increased dramatically following the creation of bat groups. In the decade prior to the formation of the Bat Unit in 1961, there were only 31 bat records, compared with 239 the following decade. Legislation and the formation of Norfolk Biological Records Centre also had an important role to play in improving recording effort and facilitating record collation.

At the time of writing in July 2009, the next few years look to be an exciting period in Norfolk's bat recording history. Earlier this year, the Barbastelle Species Action Plan (SAP), the first bat SAP in Norfolk, was published, and the Grouped SAP for Brown Long-eared, Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule has just been completed. Both plans can be found on the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership website at [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans).

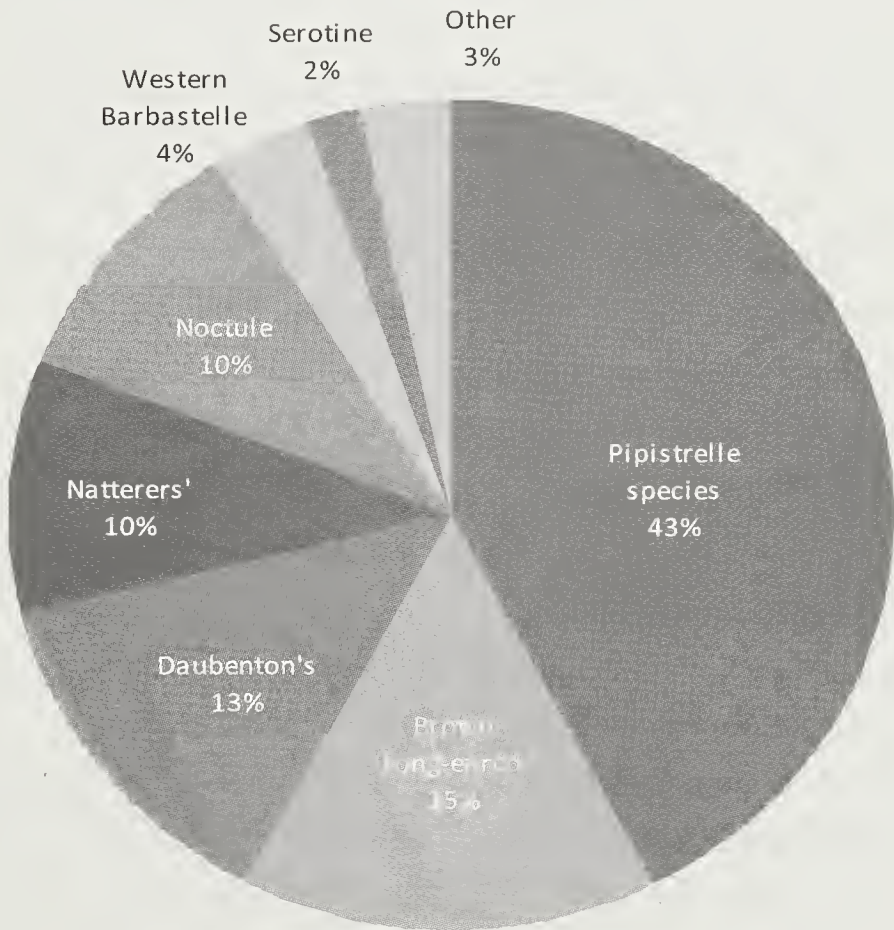


The Norfolk Bats and Roadside Mammals Survey is also currently underway. Part of a two-year project to map the distribution of bats in across Norfolk, the survey is being carried out under the auspices of NBIS with the assistance of volunteers from organisations such as Norwich Bat Group and Friends of the Norfolk Coast Group. This survey will culminate in the publication of a distribution atlas in 2013.

I shall end by summarising Norfolk’s bat records as they appear on the NBIS database. At of the end of 2008, the database contained over 3,000 records, the majority dating from the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The three most commonly recorded bat species are Pipistrelle, Brown Long-eared and Daubenton’s (Figure 2). Natterer’s and Noctule are also fairly common, each accounting for 10% of records, while Barbastelle is the sixth most commonly recorded bat in Norfolk (Table 3). It will be fascinating to see how these figures change over the next few years of bat monitoring in the county.

**Table 3.** Breakdown of bat records held by NBIS.

<i>Species</i>	<i>First record on NBIS database</i>	<i>Rank (no. records)</i>
Pipistrelle: Common/Soprano)	1896/1998	1
Brown Long-eared	1897	2
Daubenton’s	1962	3
Natterer’s	1959	4
Noctule	1896	5
Western Barbastelle	1857	6
Serotine	1959	7
Whiskered/Brandt’s	1959/1947	8
Leisler’s	1993	9
Nathusius’ Pipistrelle	1998	10
Lesser Horseshoe	1914	11
Particoloured	1896/1998	12



**Figure 2.** Species breakdown of bat records held in the Norfolk Mammal Database 1857-2007.

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# The Barbastelle in Norfolk - A new study group formed

## The Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group

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### Introduction

The Western Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus* is one of Britain's rarest and most unusual mammals. Norfolk has long been regarded as a stronghold for the species, but while the population at Paston Barn in the north-east of the county has been well monitored, until recently little information has been available regarding its overall status in the county. Confirmation of the species' presence at other sites and production of the Norfolk Species Action Plan (SAP) for Barbastelle (Greenhough 2009), along with revision of regulations concerning the conservation of European Protected Species, have highlighted the need for more information to guarantee continued effective conservation. The collaboration of Natural England with The National Trust, and the enthusiasm of many volunteering individuals with an interest in Norfolk's bats, has made this possible.

Relative to other British bats, the Barbastelle is a medium-sized species, weighing 6-13g with a wingspan of 245-280mm (Rydell & Bogdanowicz 1997). Their small eyes, rounded ears that meet over the forehead and pug-like expression make them one of our most distinctive-looking bats, giving them a permanently grumpy, 'just woken up' look. Their fur is dark brown with a shaggy, oily appearance and, in adults, is generally cream at the tips, often noted as giving them a frosted appearance.

In mainland Europe, Barbastelles frequently make use of man-made structures for roosting during the summer months, whereas in Britain this appears to be exceptional behaviour, with most roosts discovered being located in trees (one notable exception being the aforementioned Paston Great Barn). Radio-tracking studies suggest that the majority continue to roost in trees during winter months (Greenaway 2001), unless protracted cold spells drive them into artificial sites such as ice houses or cellars. Barbastelles exhibit a strong loyalty towards mature woodlands, which possess a wide range of roost sites, with good access to prey-rich foraging areas, such as riparian habitats, herb-rich grassland and mature hedgerows.

### Distribution and status

Principally confined to Europe and northern Africa, the Barbastelle in Britain is close to the north of its range (Rydell, J. & Bogdanowicz 1997). Here, it appears to be sparsely distributed south of a line between the rivers Humber and Mersey (Altringham 2003), although historical records show that the range did extend further to the north at one time (Millais 1904-1906). On account of its scarcity and population status, the Barbastelle is classified as a rare and declining species throughout most of its European range. Population estimates for the United Kingdom vary considerably, and the widely cited estimate of 5,000 individuals is based on the total number thought necessary to maintain a viable population over its currently known range (Harris *et al.* 1995). It is believed that the Barbastelle has undergone a severe population decline during the past century although, in the absence of accurate and quantitative data, the scale of this decline is difficult to determine. The principal causes are thought to be a loss of suitable habitat for foraging, commuting and roosting, as well as a general reduction in populations of their preferred insect prey species (Greenaway 2001).

As of 2008, the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) held 142 records of Barbastelle in Norfolk, the earliest dating back to 1857. Of these, over 75% relate to the period between 1990 and 2006. This increase relates to the availability of improved detection technology and increased observer effort, not least in response to the discovery of Britain's first maternity roost at Paston in 1996, rather than a population upturn. Whilst several maternity colonies have subsequently been located elsewhere in the UK, Paston Great Barn remains the only confirmed



maternity roost within a building, the others being in trees.

Figure 1 shows the location of records held on the NBIS database up to and including 2006. Although the distribution map shows a general scattering of records across Norfolk, there are noticeable gaps, in particular the Fens, Wensum valley, north-west coast and the Broads.



**Figure 1.** Western Barbastelle records for Norfolk to 2006. Paston Barn circled.  
(produced by the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service)

### **The Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group**

Following the discovery of the Barbastelle maternity roost at Paston Great Barn, the building and its immediate surroundings was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation and, more recently, it was declared a National Nature Reserve. Since securing a fifty-year lease of the site in 2002 from its current owner, the North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, Natural England has commissioned an annual programme of monitoring within the Great Barn. This has provided a wealth of useful information about how the colony makes use of the barn, including spatial and temporal patterns of usage, and changes in the colony's productivity. Periodic surveys have also sought to determine how Barbastelles and other bat species utilise associated buildings on the site, providing an insight into flight-lines, emergence times and weather-related behaviour.

The work at Paston Barn with much-improved bat-detectors, call-recording equipment and call-analysis computer software has also made it possible to undertake surveys in suitable habitats nearby. This resulted in a confirmed record of Barbastelle at The National Trust's Felbrigg estate in North Norfolk (Parsons 2002), which was followed by the verification of calls previously heard over several years on simple heterodyne bat-detectors at nearby Sheringham Park, also a property of The National Trust. Consequently, in 2006, Natural England and The National Trust teamed up to develop a project aimed at improving understanding of the distribution of Barbastelle in Norfolk to help increase site protection, inform provision of appropriate land management advice, improve targeting of agri-environment schemes and facilitate our understanding of the autecology of the species in general.

Whilst the studies were underway at Paston Barn, these new findings also made it necessary for The National Trust to re-assess woodland management aims at its North Norfolk properties. There were clearly very good reasons for the two organisations to work together, pooling resources and, especially, volunteer effort. The Barbastelle is known to be a wide-ranging species and it was believed that individuals in colonies many kilometres apart would be freely interacting. Carrying out simultaneous surveys on a landscape-scale would be extremely difficult without the help of many willing hands.



The Study Group, funded by both organisations, was thus formed primarily to discover the distribution of Barbastelle in Norfolk. In practical terms, the initial intention was to carry out surveys of suitable habitats in the localities of known previous records. After this, follow-up work with intensified effort would locate areas of concentrated bat activity and subsequently, animals would be captured and tracked back to roost sites. In the process, a fuller picture of the distribution of these bats and their use of landscape features and habitats would be built up. The discovery of new maternity roost sites was to be an important aim, thereby setting the significance of Paston Great Barn in proper context within the species' Norfolk population.

In addition to these specific objectives, it was envisaged that the group's work would also raise awareness of bats in general, harnessing the readily apparent enthusiasm that already exists in the county and greatly increasing local expertise in bat monitoring techniques. The resultant increase in knowledge of the ecological requirements of bats and the sharing of information with NBIS would help to inform conservation, planning and development decisions in the future.

## Method

Having set up the study group and purchased the equipment required to make a start, it was intended that three survey visits would be made to each chosen site during the active flight season in order to establish presence or presumed absence of Barbastelles.

Each visit took the form of up to five simultaneously walked transects per site, of up to one hour in duration, travelled at dusk. An uninterrupted digital recording of all the bats' ultrasound calls was made for later analysis using computer software. Every transect route was divided into sections, each assigned a number on the digital recording track. These sections represented a route between recognisable, permanent landmarks on the selected site. Whilst individual site conditions dictated the process to some extent, standard and repeatable methods were used. Later, the total recording was saved to compact disc and hard drive data-storage media, along with maps and analysis results.

This method was ideally suited to a volunteer project, in that several distinct tasks could be assigned to volunteers with differing skills, interests and capabilities. Fit and active volunteers working in pairs, perhaps with limited knowledge of bats but with a grasp of using modern-day 'gadgetry', could easily follow a route and collect basic data such as time, temperature and weather information. Others preferred to plan future transects or, with training, to take on a shared proportion of the accumulated call-analysis. Even such a small project has some administration requirements and there were also, of course, basic health and safety needs to consider due the nature of the work, much of which was carried out in darkness and often in unfamiliar terrain.

## Initial findings and discussion

The plan for the project's second stage was to make use of the information collected to help locate likely catching sites for radio-tracking individual bats back to roosts. However, the first year's surveys took an unexpected turn when recorded calls confirmed the presence of Barbastelle on the first visit to nearly every site visited, some sites displaying particularly high levels of activity. Other bat species were also recorded during surveys, providing new information on the county distribution of Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, in particular, and the prevalence of Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto* calls over Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* calls, by an order of approximately three to one in the habitats surveyed.

At the end of the first year's surveys, a re-appraisal was made and instead of immediately moving on to the catching and tracking phase, it was decided to continue basic survey work, widening the search to areas outside North Norfolk. It seemed appropriate to explore and perhaps confirm the historical information indicating that Barbastelle could be very widespread in Norfolk, if thinly distributed and wide-ranging. A number of transects through landscape types that perhaps did not fit the usual description of good habitat for Barbastelle were also proposed in order to see if published habitat preferences held true for Norfolk. The results of the second year's work confirmed Barbastelle presence at a number of additional sites and it is expected that the current year's surveys (2009) will do likewise. Far from undermining its current conservation status, an increase in the



apparent distribution of the species within Norfolk would serve to further emphasise the importance of the county for this rare bat.

With this new knowledge has come a large volume of recorded data to process and evaluate – the first year alone produced over 2000 bat calls for analysis – and this task is already underway. On revising the group’s task list, it has now become a priority to produce a species list for each site visited so far and to submit this to NBIS and other interested bodies. Inevitably, starting from a base level of variable skills among the group members, a number of calls remain unassigned to species. However, all the recorded data have been preserved and are available, if necessary, for verification or even re-evaluation, as new identification criteria may emerge in future.

## Future developments

A very important aspect, when presented with a number of strands of new and tempting lines of enquiry, is to remain focussed on the main objectives of a project and this certainly applies here. When the fate of the only known Norfolk breeding site for Barbastelle could be decided by a single catastrophic event, it is imperative that as much effort as possible is directed towards discovering the whereabouts of other maternal roosts in the county and this is a primary aim of the Norfolk Species Action Plan for the species.

With knowledge and skills increasing amongst members and experienced professionals lending their specialist skills to the group, our aim of locating roosts is being developed. Additional funding was secured recently and this will enable further training of group members, as well as the purchase of additional equipment and services. Always envisaged as a long-term project, the potential for developing our understanding of this enigmatic bat species is greatly enhanced by the hard work of the many committed volunteers and co-operation of landowners. More volunteers are always welcome, so if you are interested in helping us with the project, don’t hesitate to get in touch.

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# Bat surveys along the Rivers Bure, Thurne, Waveney and Yare (2004–2008) for the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

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## Introduction

The Broadland Flood Alleviation Project (BFAP) is a long-term project aimed at providing a range of flood defence improvements, maintenance and emergency response services within the tidal areas of the Rivers Yare, Bure, Waveney and their tributaries. The Broads are an internationally important wetland site with 28 SSSIs that form the Broads SAC, Broadland SPA and Ramsar sites and the Breydon Water SPA and Ramsar site. A significant number of protected species are present within the project area, including many species of bat.

For a number of reasons the presence of trees and scrub on floodbanks affects the ability to undertake improvement works or bank maintenance. However, trees and scrub provide important habitat for a range of wildlife including bats. All species of bat will use trees and areas of scrub for foraging, whilst most will roost in trees so it is important that any work carried out does not, either through temporary disturbance during the works or through permanent loss of habitat, have a negative impact on bats.



Julie Curl

## Survey methodology

Due to the inherent physical difficulty in surveying large numbers of trees spread along long lengths of floodbanks, combined with the natural tendency of bats to change roosts frequently, a risk-based approach to roost identification was used to narrow down the area for subsequent survey.

- Each flood compartment was surveyed for the presence of trees with the potential to support bats.
- Winter inspections by a licensed ecologist and a qualified tree climber identified trees with the potential to support bats.
- Summer dusk and dawn bat surveys were carried out on trees identified during the winter inspection survey as having Medium or High probability of bat interest.

## Tree and scrub survey

Species, size (height and width of trunk at breast height), options for management (e.g. whether it can be pollarded) and its potential to support bats based on the presence of suitable niches (e.g. rot holes, woodpecker holes, peeling bark) were recorded. Any trees with large cavities that might be used by Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*), or fallen trees with exposed base plates which might be used by Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) or by Otter, were also recorded. Scrub was also recorded in order to assess potential impacts on bat foraging habitat or roosts.

## Winter bat survey

All trees with the potential to support bats identified during the tree and scrub survey were physically inspected by a licensed bat ecologist and a certified climber for the signs of bats (oily residue, scratch



marks, smoothing and/or urine staining around entrance holes, bat droppings) and their roosts (e.g. holes, cracks, loose bark, splits).

Where possible all suitable roosting niches were inspected internally using a Provision P-300 Endoscope or torch and mirror combination. All physical inspections were undertaken in the winter (between November and end of March) when the majority of trees were devoid of leaves. Each tree was then classified as having Low, Medium or High probability of bat interest (Finnemore 2005) as follows:

- *Low bat interest:* Trees with low bat interest are usually young healthy trees without deadwood, loose bark or woodpecker type holes/damage. Most conifers fall into this category as they are usually planted as a crop and are then felled prior to reaching old age. However, specimen conifers (90 years +) may support suitable habitat niches that may be used as bat roosts.
- *Medium bat interest:* Trees with rot holes, cracks, splits and lose bark suitable for roosting bats but without obvious roost signs such as bats present, staining and droppings at entrances.
- *High bat interest:* This group includes trees with known roosts or signs of bat occupancy such as droppings and staining at a roost entrance or the positive recording of a bat being present.

### **Summer dusk (emergence) and dawn (re-entry) surveys**

All trees classified during the winter surveys as having a Medium or High bat interest from 2004 to 2008 were re-surveyed for the presence/absence of bat roosts, and in particular maternity roosts. Due to the large number of trees to be surveyed (the majority of which were riverside trees) along several kilometres of floodbank, it was decided to undertake the summer surveys by boat where bank access was problematic or the distance between trees/tree groups was significant. High-powered torches were used to search for bats flying low over the water (e.g. Daubenton's) or flying high over the tops of trees (e.g. Noctules). In addition to the river based surveys, land based surveys were undertaken along a section of floodbank adjacent to the Cantley sugar beet factory settling lagoons (2007), a section of floodbank at Blundeston Marshes (2008) and a single tree at the end of Upton Boat Dyke (2008).

The dusk surveys commenced ten minutes before and finished two hours after sunset. The survey comprised a slow navigation through the survey corridor to record bat species, numbers, feeding buzzes, social calls and location (including direction of flight where possible). Static surveys were undertaken for between five and ten minutes close to each tree/tree group identified as having potential to support bats in order to record any emerging bats or significant feeding aggregations.

Any bats seen emerging from trees prior to darkness were recorded. As the survey areas were on average 4-5km long, recording of commuting bats was considered to be of limited value due to the restricted time available with fading light. The main aim of the dusk surveys was therefore to identify significant feeding aggregations, especially those that are in close proximity to trees physically checked during the winter survey and identified as having a Medium or High bat interest. Significant feeding aggregation areas would then be surveyed at dawn to look for swarming bats. A number of surveys were undertaken to ensure every tree/tree group was adequately surveyed.

The dawn survey started an hour and a half before sunrise and continued for ten minutes after sunrise in order to record any swarming bats (around roosts) or commuting bats returning to their roosts. The direction of any commuting bats would be recorded to allow any trees along that bearing to be surveyed during subsequent surveys. The assumption was made that any bats seen near to sunrise were roosting nearby either within trees along the floodbank or within trees or buildings towards higher ground.

Recording numbers of bats when using a bat detector can be difficult even for experienced bat ecologists. Single bats or small numbers (e.g. 2-3) of bats of the same species or different species can be reasonably quantified, especially if silhouetted against the western skyline as the sun sets. However, once there are more than three or four bats in close proximity and light has failed, the error in counting bats increases significantly. Therefore, an abundance index was used (i.e. 1 = 1; 2-4 = 2; 5-10 = 3; 10-20 = 4 and >20 = 5). No assessment of population size has been undertaken due to the mobile nature of bats, which could result in the same bat being recorded along the river, leading to over-estimation of numbers.



Due to the number of bats present in most maternity roosts, these should be more easily found than single or small numbers of bats given sufficient survey intensity. A walkover of the survey area during the summer is a good method for locating large maternity roosts when bats can become very noisy. However, finding single or small numbers of bats in a few trees amongst several thousand trees spread along several kilometres of floodbank is inherently difficult.

## Results

### Winter surveys

A total of 227 trees or tree groups were checked for the presence of bats or positive field signs of bats e.g. bats present, droppings, scratch marks, grease marks or urine staining around entrances. Of the trees checked, 149 were classified as having a Low bat interest with 78 trees/tree groups classified as having a Medium bat interest. No positive field signs were found during the winter inspections and therefore none were classified at this stage as having a High bat interest.

A winter inspection of trees would never conclusively prove that bat roosts were not present due to the mobile nature of bat roosts, the low numbers of bats found in hibernation and the difficulty of checking every potential roosting niche. Due to the abundance of suitable foraging habitat and large number of riverside trees, the presence of temporary (e.g. feeding perch), night or day roosts would be expected. Therefore, all trees identified with a Medium bat interest were surveyed during the summer following the winter survey.

### Summer dusk (emergence) and dawn (re-entry) surveys

A total of eight species of bat (Table 1) was recorded during the surveys with the most common species recorded being Daubenton's, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule. Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Natterer's and Serotine were recorded on a few occasions whilst a potential Barbastelle was recorded once (Oulton Marshes). Only five roosts (where swarming activity immediately before sunrise was considered evidence of a roost) involving small numbers of Soprano Pipistrelle were recorded during the surveys; another roost was identified during a visit to the Geldeston Locks Lane Inn. Two of these roosts were in Crack Willows on Oulton Marshes. One of the trees supported a roosting Soprano Pipistrelle and also a Natterer's. Due to the low numbers of bats, all these roosts probably involved male bats or non-breeding females roosting away from the maternity roost.

**Table 1.** Bat species and roosts recorded during summer surveys 2005-2008

<i>Location</i>	<i>Roosts</i>	<i>45P</i>	<i>55P</i>	<i>Nath</i>	<i>Daub</i>	<i>Natt</i>	<i>Noct</i>	<i>Sero</i>	<i>Barb</i>
Upton Boat Dyke		+	+		+	+			
Short Dam Level		+	+		+				
Long Dam Level		+	+		+		+		
Gillingham Marshes		+	+		+				
Geldeston Marshes		+	+	+	+				
Barsham Marshes	1	+	+		+		+	+	
Beccles Marshes		+	+		+		+		
Worlingham to									
Castle Marshes		+	+		+		+		
Barnby to Share Marsh		+	+		+		+		
Oulton Marshes	2	+	+	+		+	+	+	+
Cantley settling lagoons		+	+		+	+	+		
Postwick Marshes	2	+	+		+	+	+		

#### Bat Species:

**45P** - Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)  
**Nath** - Nathusius' Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)  
**Natt** - Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*)  
**Sero** - Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*)

**55P** - Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)  
**Daub** - Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*)  
**Noct** - Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)  
**Barb** - Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*)



Key foraging areas were identified where significant aggregations of bats were recorded. A more detailed description of the species encountered, key foraging areas and roosts (where recorded) are provided below.

### **Bure Valley: Upton Boat Dyke**

A single mature Crack Willow at the start of Upton Boat Dyke was surveyed on two occasions. No bats were recorded emerging or returning to the tree, though a number of bat species including Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's and Natterer's were recorded foraging along the boat dyke and along the hedge/tree line.

### **Waveney Valley: Beccles Marshes to Waveney River Centre**

Four species of bat were recorded including Daubenton's, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule. Soprano Pipistrelle and Daubenton's were the most frequently recorded species with 21 and 18 registrations respectively. Noctules were recorded on 13 occasions with Common Pipistrelle on 11 occasions. Soprano Pipistrelle were recorded along much of the survey transect with predominantly single bats being recorded. Daubenton's were recorded along much of the survey transect, but a significant aggregation of up to ten bats was recorded along the stretch adjacent to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Castle Marshes Reserve (TM4843391879 to TM4851191904). This large number of bats would suggest a potential maternity roost nearby, especially as there was evidence of juvenile bats flying with adults. No bats were seen swarming around trees along either riverbank and, therefore, any roosts would be located within trees or buildings towards higher ground.

An aggregation of five to six foraging Noctules were recorded by the Worlingham Wall, approximately 850m from the Stanley and Alder Carrs SSSI. Due to the large distances that this species of bat flies from their roosts to forage, the roost could be several kilometres away from the river. Alternatively, the roost could be along the riparian corridor either close to where registered or further afield. A mature dead Ash tree overlooking an area of reedbed (part of the Stanley and Alder Carrs SSSI) by Hill House supported a suitable woodpecker hole and was nicely exposed to allow heating by the sun. However, no swarming activity was recorded at sunrise which suggests the presence of a roost. Common Pipistrelle were recorded at a few locations along the river corridor with no swarming activity recorded.

### **Waveney Valley: Geldeston to Beccles Marshes**

Six species were recorded including Daubenton's, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule, Serotine and Nathusius' Pipistrelle. A single Noctule was recorded on two occasions (dusk) whilst a Serotine (single pass) was recorded at dawn commuting in a southerly direction towards Barsham/Shipmeadow.

Bats were recorded along much of the River Waveney from Geldeston downstream to the Beccles Marshes with Daubenton's recorded regularly along the stretch of the river adjacent to the Puddingmoor leisure plots. Extensive feeding aggregations of Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Daubenton's were recorded adjacent to the boat house (TM3957091431) along with a Nathusius' Pipistrelle. Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Daubenton's were also recorded foraging along much of Geldeston Boat Dyke, with the greatest densities by the former railway bridge. A significant aggregation of foraging Soprano Pipistrelle and Daubenton's were recorded upstream of the new footbridge by the Geldeston Locks Lane Inn. The moderate number (>5 bats) of Soprano Pipistrelle bats suggested the possible presence of a roost nearby. A subsequent social visit to the pub identified the presence of a Soprano Pipistrelle roost with at least half a dozen bats seen emerging from under the soffit board at the roof apex approximately 25 minutes after sunset.

Very few bats were recorded along the section of river from Beccles Quay to the Beccles swimming pool, apart from the odd Daubenton's, Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle. The relatively high degree of lighting along this section of river may account for the lack of bats compared to elsewhere on the river. A single Soprano Pipistrelle roost was identified in a group of mature Crack Willows opposite Dunburgh. Constant activity was recorded around the trees approximately one hour before sunrise and continued until approximately 25 minutes before sunrise



followed by a series of repetitious registrations as the bats roosted. The small number of bats would suggest that they were probably males roosting away from the maternity roost, probably in a house on higher ground such as Dunburgh.

### **Waveney Valley: Oulton Marshes**

A total of seven species including all three Pipistrelle species, Natterer's, Noctule, Serotine and potentially Barbastelle were recorded. Common and Soprano Pipistrelles were the most frequently recorded, though Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Natterers and Serotine in particular were frequently recorded. Noctules were recorded at the start of the dusk surveys and towards to the end of the dawn surveys. On one occasion, a Noctule was seen flying towards the Burgh St Peter marshes being pursued by a hobby. Serotine is an uncommon species being recorded infrequently during the surveys, but it was recorded during all of the dusk and dawn surveys. At the end of one of the dusk surveys, a six million candle power torch was used to scan an area of reedbed and a large bat (probably a Serotine) was seen flying low. A potential Barbastelle was recorded during the surveys with a very short registration. However, it is possible that this was a Serotine. Anabat analysis has yet to be undertaken to confirm whether Barbastelle was also present along with the other six confirmed species. Daubenton's were not recorded during the survey as the survey was confined to a short section of floodbank (circa 150m).

Two roosts were confirmed in Crack Willows with one tree supporting a single Soprano Pipistrelle and the other tree supported a Soprano Pipistrelle and a Natterer's (seen flying into the tree – silhouetted against the eastern skyline). Both these trees will be retained as part of the works. Some selective felling will be undertaken to allow the works to progress, whilst no scrub clearance will be undertaken on the road.

### **Yare Valley: Limpenhoe Marshes**

Two dusk and dawn surveys were undertaken along an 800m section of floodbank adjacent to the Cantley sugar beet factory settling lagoons. Five species of bats including Noctule, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's and Natterer's were recorded.

Noctules were visually recorded flying above the settling lagoons at dusk and dawn with 17 registrations on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and 14 registrations on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The bats were seen commuting in a westerly direction. Common and Soprano Pipistrelle were recorded regularly along much of the survey stretch with a concentration of Soprano Pipistrelle along a stretch adjacent to one of the former settling lagoons, which is now used as a fishing lake by the employees of the sugar beet factory. Soprano Pipistrelle outnumbered Common Pipistrelle by a ratio of 2:1. Daubenton's were visually recorded by high powered torchlight flying along the river and over the fishing lake during both surveys. A single Natterer's was recorded (TG3880803082) foraging at head height along a line of willow pollards during the dusk survey (5<sup>th</sup> September 2006).

No bats were seen emerging from any trees or seen swarming around trees prior to sunrise, and therefore, none of the trees supported a roost. The large numbers of foraging pipistrelle bats would suggest a maternity roost is located within a relatively short distance of the survey area, possibly within one of the many buildings at the sugar beet factory or a residential property in Cantley village. Due to the mobile nature of bats changing roosts regularly, there is a potential that individual or small numbers of bats may roost in trees adjacent to the settling lagoons. However, the majority of the trees were semi-mature and supported few roosting niches.

### **Yare Valley: Postwick Marshes**

A total of five species of bats were recorded during the three surveys including Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubentons, Noctule and Natterer's.

Soprano Pipistrelle were recorded along much of the river with significant aggregations of up to 20–30 bats (estimate) recorded within the stretch of river between the Bramerton Woods End Tavern and Hill House, Surlingham. Common Pipistrelle were also recorded throughout much of the compartment, but at lower densities compared with the Soprano Pipistrelle, which are more associated with riparian habitats and tend to have the larger maternity roosts. Peak foraging areas as



for the Soprano Pipistrelle were in the Bramerton area. This concentration of bats is primarily due to the abundance of potential roosts nearby, i.e. larger houses and mature oak trees, and the sheltered nature of the site providing ideal flying conditions for prey insects (e.g. midges and moths). The large number of bats, especially the Soprano Pipistrelle would suggest the presence of maternity roost nearby in one of the houses or mature trees overlooking the river. None of these areas will be affected by the proposed flood defence works. Single Soprano Pipistrelles were recorded flying around a semi-mature Sycamore and an Alder tree with constant activity around the trees recorded for a period of time immediately prior to sunrise. Both trees were considered to be roost sites, probably males roosting away from a maternity roost nearby.

Daubenton's were recorded on a number of occasions, 40 to 48 minutes after sunset along the river adjacent to the RSPB's Church Marsh Nature Reserve. Daubenton's tend to emerge on average about 40 minutes after sunset. This later emergence relative to other bat species is thought to be linked to the increased risk of predation by raptors as they often forage over open water away from protective cover (Jones & Rydell 1994). With the greatest insect activity within the first two hours after sunset, the later emergence means that Daubenton's miss a large proportion of the best feeding time.

A number of studies have looked at the emergence behaviour of Daubenton's and found Daubenton's emerged later in exposed sites (Jones & Rydell 1994) compared to sheltered sites (Rydell *et al.* 1996). Mean emergence times varied between 30 minutes after sunset for sheltered sites (Rydell *et al.* 1996) and 73 minutes after sunset for exposed sites prone to greater predation (Jones and Rydell 1994). Much of the River Yare adjacent to the Postwick Marshes could be considered exposed and therefore, Daubenton's would probably emerge between 40 and 50 minutes after sunset or later. However, areas around Bramerton where there is extensive tree cover on rising ground creating darker conditions relative to areas where there are grazing marshes adjacent to the river, bats may emerge sooner but would not forage along more exposed areas until it was completely dark.

The stretch of river adjacent to the Church Marsh Nature Reserve comprises predominantly grazing marshes with areas of woodland along higher ground. Therefore, the regular occurrence of Daubenton's on the same stretch of water at about the same time would suggest a roost is close by. A thatched boat house exists on a boat dyke immediately upstream of the reserve (TG3030206585) whilst the remains of a former church (TG30800675) shown on the OS Explorer 1:25000 (OL40) map is approximately 600m to the east. Large stone buildings such as priories or churches offer excellent bat roosting conditions (Kunz 1982).

Noctules were recorded during all three surveys both at dusk and dawn, with bats recorded feeding and also commuting at sunrise and a maximum of four bats seen foraging at sunrise prior to commuting back to their roost in a south-westerly direction. A known Noctule maternity roost exists in farmland adjacent to Caistor St Edmund approximately 6km to the south-west.

## Discussion and conclusion

Noctules were regularly recorded foraging high over the River Yare between Bramerton and Surlingham and also above the settling lagoons at the Cantley Sugar Beet Factory. The Noctules recorded at Bramerton returned to their roosts in a south-westerly direction suggesting they were returning to a known roost in farm land at Caistor St Edmund. At Cantley, the Noctules commuted in a westerly direction and could potentially be returning to the aforementioned roost near Caistor St Edmund, approximately 15km away, but are more likely to be returning to a roost closer to Cantley as they were observed 15mins after sunset.

A single Serotine was recorded once commuting at dawn towards Barsham, whilst a probable Nathusius' Pipistrelle was recorded by the boat house on the River Waveney between Geldeston and Beccles. This species is a European vagrant and is probably under-recorded in the Broads.

Due to the scale of the flood defence works within the project area, a significant number of trees and areas of scrub habitat have been cleared, especially within the Waveney valley. Since the river valleys provide optimal foraging habitat for many species of bats, there is potential for affecting existing roosts. As the majority of riparian trees provide more humid, cooler conditions, it is likely that the majority of tree roosts are of small numbers of bats, probably male bats or non-breeding females roosting away from the maternity roost which require warmer conditions. The survey



technique used to identify potential roosts was considered effective as five roosts of small numbers of bats were recorded (no maternity roosts) after winter physical inspections and summer surveys. Nevertheless, it is likely that the number of roosts is under-recorded.

The winter inspections identified the trees with the greatest potential and were physically checked for the presence of bats. However, due to the large number of niches present, some of which may not be physically possible to check, it is highly likely that a number of roosts may have been missed, especially where a roost was on the grazing marsh side of the riparian corridor and bats were not visible from the water. In order to reduce the risk of felling trees that supported roosts, all trees of Low or Medium bat interest would be retained where possible. To date, all trees of Medium bat interest have been retained. Whenever the need arises to fell trees of Low or Medium bat interest, best possible practice is employed using soft felling techniques to minimise the risk to any bats that might be present. To date all trees of High bat interest have been retained by modifying the proposed flood defence improvements.

Where trees of Low bat interest have been felled, bat boxes have been provided at a ratio of three boxes to each tree lost. Some additional boxes have also been provided to enhance roosting opportunities.

Further surveys are planned for the summer 2009 at Hickling and Horsey. Post-construction surveys will also be undertaken within the Waveney valley to monitor bat activity.

## Surveyors

The winter surveys were undertaken by Mick Finnemore (Natural England licensed bat ecologist) and Kevin Parker (certified tree climber). The summer dusk and dawn surveys were undertaken by Mick Finnemore and Christian Whiting with support from BESL Environmental Scientists: Adele Dodgson, Jamie Manners and Helen Markwell.

The results of the winter and summer bat surveys are based on detailed reports produced by Mick Finnemore (2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008) for the project. A fuller version of this report can be obtained from Christian Whiting

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# A synopsis of Badger distribution in Norfolk

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Several Badger species occur throughout the world, but only one is found in the UK; the Eurasian Badger (*Meles meles*). This mammal does occur in Norfolk, though the density is very low compared to other counties of the UK. In favourable areas, there can be up to 100 setts per 10 km<sup>2</sup>, but in Norfolk the figure is currently around 13, not all of which are permanently occupied. This low density is influenced by the fact that Norfolk is a largely agricultural county, with large areas set to crops such as cereals, oilseed rape, sugar beet, vegetables and soft fruit

The highest density of Badger setts used to be located in central Norfolk, with others scattered sparingly throughout the county. However, over the last seven years Badger numbers in the Fenland areas of Norfolk have increased dramatically, and this is now the highest density area in the county. The main reasons for this increase are climatic changes, ensuring a continued supply of food, and Badger-friendly farmers (many of whom are cattle farmers).

Due to the low density, Norfolk's Badgers have evolved in a somewhat different manner to those in higher density areas. Territorial disputes appear to be almost non-existent and Badgers from different setts will regularly use the same latrine areas. Their diet is also much more varied than that of Badgers in regions such as the West of England, where there are large numbers of dairy cattle and, as a consequence, vast areas of undisturbed grassland. In these areas, earthworms (mainly *Lumbricus terrestris*) are believed to make up 75% of the Badger's diet, but post-mortems conducted on animals killed on the roads of Norfolk have revealed that there is no more than a 32% dependency on earthworms. There is never a shortage of food for Badgers in Norfolk, who appear to have developed quite catholic tastes, and as a result there is no obvious period of semi-dormancy, individuals appearing to carry on as normal throughout the winter months.

The Badgers in Norfolk are under increasing pressure from the encroachment of *Homo sapiens*, and his activities, particularly as the county population is continually expanding, necessitating the building of more housing and roads. As a result, fatal Badger RTA's have increased dramatically over the last ten years. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000, I embarked upon the 'Ten Year Norfolk Badger Study'. A non-scientific, part anecdotal, Interim Report was published in January 2006 - this and much more information on the Norfolk Badger population can be found on the 'NorfolkBadgers' site at [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/norfolkbadgers](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/norfolkbadgers).



# Does trapping success differ between ground and aerial mammal traps?

*Helen Mandley*

## Introduction

Most small mammal community studies rely on trapping methods to collect data (Nicolas & Colyn 2006) and it is important to establish the most effective trapping method to collect accurate information about species diversity (Wiener & Smith 1972, Lee 1997). Graipel *et al.* (2003) report that most small mammal studies are currently conducted at ground level (e.g. Bellamy *et al.* 2000, Moore *et al.* 2003, Tattersall *et al.* 2002, Buesching *et al.* 2008). However, when sampling species richness and abundance it may be advisable to use both ground and aerial traps, thus reducing bias towards ground-dwelling species (Hice & Schmidly 2002, Santos-Filho *et al.* 2006).

Commercially produced Longworth traps are readily available and most commonly used (Sutherland 2008), but homemade traps are also employed, varying significantly in style and size (Gurnell & Flowerdew 2006). Most are efficient enough to trap small mammals, but some lack a large nesting box to contain bedding (Gurnell & Flowerdew 2006).

The object of this study was to investigate how trapping efficiency varied with trap design (Lee 1997) and location, specifically looking at the catch rate of ground and aerial traps. Data collected also enabled me to address the following questions:

- Are there differences in mass between arboreal and ground dwelling individuals?
- Are there differences in sex between arboreal and ground dwelling individuals?
- Are there differences in weight between males and females within individual species?

## Methods

My study was conducted at the secure University of East Anglia Rabbit compound, Norwich (OS Grid Reference TG190069). Trapping took place between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008. A transect of 160m was measured along a hedgerow in the compound and the traps were placed 8m apart. Twenty Longworth ground traps and 20 homemade aerial traps were used to compare trapping technique. Hay bedding was put into all Longworth traps, while cotton wool was used in the homemade traps. The traps were baited with carrot (water source), peanut butter, mixed seed and casters (blowfly larvae).

The Longworth traps were placed on the ground and the aerial traps were tied to horizontal branches approximately 1m above ground. All traps were placed with the opening aimed down on a shallow gradient, to allow the trap door to close immediately when triggered and to allow water and urine to drain out, keeping the bedding dry.

The traps were set open at 7.15am and then checked at 3.45pm to see if they had been triggered. The triggered traps were placed individually inside a large clear plastic bag to prevent the mammal escaping. When a mammal was caught, it was held by the scuff of the neck, to prevent it from biting and to enable it to be sexed and identified. The mammal was then placed inside a smaller plastic bag



Julie Curl



to be weighed using a 50g Pesola. Once all measurements had been taken, the mammal was released in the same area. When shrews were caught, they were released immediately in the same area to reduce the possibility of stress-related fatality. Upon completion of processing, traps were re-filled and re-positioned for the next trapping session.

## Results

A total of 131 small mammals of five species were captured in ground and aerial traps over 11 trapping days/nights. Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* was the most commonly caught ( $n = 110$ ), followed by Yellow-necked Mouse *Apodemus flavicollis* ( $n = 7$ ), Common Shrew *Sorex araneus* ( $n = 7$ ), Bank Vole *Myodes glareolus* ( $n = 5$ ), and Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus* ( $n = 2$ ). Shrew species were excluded from analyses unless stated otherwise.

### Trap comparison

There was a significant difference in trapping success of ground and aerial traps (including shrew species) ( $t_{12.7} = -6.7, p < 0.001$ ). Ground traps captured a significantly greater number of individuals than aerial traps (Figure 1). During each trapping session, ground traps also caught a significantly higher number of species (mean = 2, SE = 0.26) than aerial traps (mean = 1.3, SE = 0.15) (Mann-Whitney,  $U_{10,10} = 25.5, p = 0.04$ ).



**Figure 1:** Total number of individual small mammals trapped in the aerial and ground traps over 10 days ( $\pm$  se), (including shrew species)

### Weight and trap type

There were no significant differences between the weight of small mammals and type of trap they entered (Table 1). One can infer from this result that niches on the ground and up in the hedgerow are occupied by many small mammal species.

**Table 1.** Summary of a two-way analysis of variance to investigate whether weight: a) determines which trap the small mammals enter; b) varies between species and c) varies between sexes. Error  $df = 111$ . (\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ).

Source	df	F	Sig
Trap Type	1	0.1	
Species	2	18.9	***
Sex	1	5.8	*

### Sex and arboreality

Males were significantly heavier than females for all species trapped (Table 1). However, there was no sex bias in the sample of mammals caught by ground traps (Male, mean = 4.2, SE = 0.66; Female, mean = 5.4, SE = 0.7;  $t_{18} = -1.24, p > 0.05$ ) or by aerial traps (Male, mean = 1.1, SE = 0.31; Female, mean = 1.6, SE = 0.43;  $t_{18} = -0.94, p > 0.05$ ).



## Discussion

### Trap location

Many mammal traps are set on the ground (Bellamy *et al.* 2000), but, although time consuming, investigators should consider the use of a variety of trap types and positions. The results of the present study supports the use of aerial as well as ground traps.

The traps were set along and in a hedgerow, which only contained dense vegetation in certain areas. It has been reported by Buesching *et al.* (2008) that dense vegetation such as bramble and hawthorn encourages arboreality amongst small mammals. Dense ground vegetation was sparse near trapping points in the present study and unlikely to have affected captures by ground traps. Buesching *et al.* (2008) also suggested that most small mammals are more likely to be caught in ground traps as these can be entered from all directions, whereas to enter aerial traps mammals would have to travel along a particular branch. This is plausible and is supported by the results of the present study, where most mammals were caught in ground traps.

### Comparison of weight between species and trap type

It has been suggested that small mammals such as Wood Mice, one of the smaller and lighter species of the small mammal community, are able to take advantage of niches that are above the ground in the slender branches of hedgerows because they are versatile and agile. However, it is known that larger Yellow-necked Mice also utilise these habitats (Harris & Yalden 2008), indicating that species of diverse weights forage and move through many different heights.

### Arboreality between males & females

Tew & Macdonald (1994) suggested males that protect larger territories have access to most females in that patch during the breeding season. Males would therefore be predicted to expend more energy in moving in the home range searching for females, and might therefore spend more time off the ground. The present study found no significant difference between male and female arboreality, but it was conducted during December, outside the breeding season. A longer investigation over at least one full year would have to be conducted to properly test this theory.

## Conclusion

Ground traps are the most efficient and humane technique to use when conducting a small mammal project. Many winter mammal studies favour Longworth traps over many others because of their ability to house enough warm bedding and food for the trapped mammals (Flowerdew *et al.* 2004). They can be used on the ground and as aerial traps when fixed to a wooden platform and secured onto a branch (Gurnell & Flowerdew, 2006). After using two trap types the results presented here, I suggest that future studies of small mammal communities should use an assortment of traps in order to obtain a wider range of species, and thus a better representation of the community.

Many small mammal population studies may misrepresent community structure and composition, because commonly only mammals at ground level are sampled (Montgomery 1980). Trap comparison studies will encourage investigators to use and experiment with different trapping techniques, furthering our knowledge, and yielding a more accurate account of small mammals in various habitats.

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# Systematic List

## RODENTIA

### **Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris* 0 (791) records 0 (285) tetrads

No records of this species were received in 2008. 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. Culling of Grey Squirrels at sites adjacent to surviving Red Squirrel populations in the north of England continues, with the Red Squirrel Protection Partnership reporting a total of 23,265 individuals killed between January 2007 and July 2009. The species has undergone a rapid range decline nationally and is on the UK BAP list.

### **Grey Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis* 345 (3,421) records 155 (712) tetrads

Grey Squirrel is one of the few species for which the total number of records received in 2008 was lower than the number submitted in 2007, exhibiting a decline of over 20%. A common and widespread species, the distribution of observations was fairly uniform across the county, although relatively fewer were received from the north-west, particularly around the Docking area, and the extreme west. Almost all records (95%) related to sightings of live individuals, and while there was no obvious peak, the numbers fell markedly in July and August when many females would be giving birth. Grey Squirrels are adaptable and can be found in all habitats, including gardens - one individual was even spotted in the concrete confines of Anglia Square, Norwich, with no hint of vegetation in sight (CSM). The apparent rise of the 'black squirrel', a competitively superior morph of the Grey, across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire was highlighted in the national media, who predicted that the latter might become extinct in Eastern England within a decade. No confirmed records of this morph were reported in Norfolk in 2008, although a dark individual was glimpsed at Hopton, Norfolk by IKE. Data from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), which also records mammals, suggest that the UK population has increased by 99% since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2009). Numbers in England have risen by 86% over this period, with the largest increases observed in the north and south-west, while the equivalent figure for the East of England is 42%. 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 2009).

### **Hazel Dormouse** *Muscardinus avellanarius* 0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads

No records of this species were received in 2008. 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 (PTES) in partnership with Natural England, indicates that the long-term national decline is continuing, with numbers falling by an additional 24% since 1995 (TMP 2009). Hazel Dormouse is included on the UK BAP list.

### **Bank Vole** *Myodes glareolus* 59 (848) records 32 (283) tetrads

While traditionally associated with woodlands and a good field layer, this common and widespread species also frequents gardens, especially in rural areas. As with other small mammal species, Bank Vole is poorly monitored in Norfolk, with records largely dependent on the hunting abilities of domestic cats, the source of 36% of records in 2008. Analysis of a large number of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) pellets from the Stanford Training Area (NOW) identified Bank Vole remains in 1.7% of the sample.



**Field Vole** *Microtus agrestis* 95 (1,884) records 30 (431) tetrads

The number of records received for this widespread and under-recorded staple of the owl and raptor food chain in 2008 was similar to that in the previous year, with individuals killed by domestic cats accounting for 66% of submissions. Records of kills by Weasel (GTA) and Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) (PTA) were also submitted, as were the results from several Barn Owl pellet analyses. Remains of Field Vole were found in 50% of pellets from Stanford Training Area dissected by NOW, 42 pellets examined by MAB at Corpusty contained evidence of at least 62 individual voles and FMI found seven skulls in a single pellet from Shotesham.

**Water Vole** *Arvicola terrestris* 202 (2,295) records 53 (444) tetrads

The 2008 Water Vole submission has again been boosted by the results of detailed survey work carried out by Broadland Environmental Services Ltd (BESL) as part of the Broadlands Flood Alleviation Project (BFAP), for which we are very grateful. Unsurprisingly, the distribution of records identifies the area around Norwich and the Broads as a stronghold, but numbers also appear to be high in parts of central north Norfolk, particularly around Sculthorpe, Saxthorpe and Cley. Single observations were also received from the Brecks at Kilverstone (IGH) and Hillborough (STA), and one west Norfolk record was submitted from West Bilney (ROS). Sightings account for about 10% of submissions, most records relating to the distinctive field signs associated with the species, but JEM was fortunate to watch an individual at Cley in July swimming across a channel and carrying weed back to the other side. The species has undergone a national, long-term decline (TMP 2009) and is included on the UK BAP list. In January 2008, the Environment Agency, Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, PTES and Scottish National Heritage launched the National Water Vole Database and Mapping Project, to which NBIS contributed data from the Norfolk Mammal Database. In total, 38,000 records were collated and further funding to gather more information was secured for 2009. The distribution maps produced from these records will be used to inform planning decisions and highlight priority areas in which further surveying for voles is required. A Species Action Plan has also been developed under the Norfolk BAP, emphasising the need for local studies of Water Vole distributions and those of their predators - see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more information.

**Harvest Mouse** *Micromys minutus* 9 (735) records 8 (241) tetrads

Reports of old nests from Saxthorpe (MAB) and How Hills NNR (PHE) accounted for two thirds of the records received in 2008, while a seventh located at Ranworth (GTA) was found to contain a dead individual. The only record from the vice county of west Norfolk was of an animal seen running through an arable headland near Ringstead (JWI), while DMI was lucky enough to watch one hanging by its tail from his bird feeder at Roughton. A national survey carried out in the 1970s suggested that Harvest Mouse was more widespread than previously thought, but it has nevertheless been placed on the UK BAP list due to the potential detrimental effects of increased pesticide use and loss of arable margins. One of the main obstacles to ascertaining the species' conservation status is the difficulty in finding a suitable surveying method. To this end, the Mammal Society have been asking volunteers across the UK to carry out a series of intensive recording techniques and one of the sites selected in 2009 was Pensthorpe – more details will be made available in next year's Mammal Report. Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project ([www.suffolkwildlife.co.uk/barnowl.html](http://www.suffolkwildlife.co.uk/barnowl.html)) have also launched a very successful collaboration aimed at identifying Harvest Mouse remains in owl pellets collected across the county, with encouraging results.

**Wood Mouse** *Apodemus sylvaticus* 208 (1,845) records 40 (429) tetrads

The large increase in the number of records received in 2008 is due to an intensive trapping project carried out by HMD at the University of East Anglia, which you can read more about in her article on page 200. As in previous years, the remaining records were largely the result of captures by domestic cats, although several recorders trapped live individuals indoors (BTO, EGE, SWG) and JWI found one Wood Mouse wintering in a nestbox he had erected for tits at Ringstead. A melanic individual, thought to be of this species, was trapped by JSE in the Brecks and a study by NOW indicated that



9.5% of Barn Owl Pellets from the Stanford Training Area contained Wood Mouse remains.

**Yellow-necked Mouse** *Apodemus flavicollis* 13 (61) records 3 (21) tetrads

The 2008 submission for Yellow-necked Mouse proved to be a bumper one, constituting almost a quarter of the total Norfolk dataset. Three records were of individuals either found dead or trapped at a house in Merton near Watton (JVM), only the fifth tetrad in the vice county of west Norfolk from which the species has been recorded. Two of the other west Norfolk records were from nearby Watton in 1963 and Great Hockham in 2000, while the remaining two relate to observations made on the north-west coast in the 1980s. Eight individuals were trapped on UEA campus during 2008, the second year that the species has been recorded at the site following an initial capture in 2006, and another was found dead in a disused freezer at Shotesham (FMI) in the south-east stronghold of the species. Given the paucity of small mammal records in Norfolk, the distribution of Yellow-necked Mouse could be greater than previously thought, particularly in the south-west of the county, so keep your eyes peeled. Wood Mouse can be a potential confusion species, with many individuals showing some yellow spotting on the throat, although the marking is less well defined and extensive, never joining the brown dorsal fur at the neck to produce a complete collar. If you do think you have found a Yellow-necked Mouse, photographs of the collar and measurements of length, weight and hind-foot length are particularly useful aids to identification, as is dentition if the specimen can be kept.

**House Mouse** *Mus domesticus* 3 (738) records 3 (335) tetrads

The only House Mouse records received in 2008 were from Hoveton Hall (SWG) and Ranworth Broad, where PTA found two living in the nature reserve postbox. 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 2009).

**Common Rat** *Rattus norvegicus* 172 (1,876) records 107 (597) tetrads

Records of this common, though under-recorded, species were received from across the county, with the exception of the extreme west. Nearly two-thirds related to sightings of live individuals, with a lull during June and July when adults generally move into fields to forage, while a further 25% involved rats killed by traffic. Five observers submitted reports of animals taking advantage of food provided for birds in gardens, including one that was caught in a trap set to catch Blackbirds for a ringing project in Holt (DIL). Common Rat remains were found in 1.4% of Barn Owl pellets from Stanford Training Area examined by NOW and two youngsters were observed being taken by a Weasel at Ormesby (JLA). Data from the EHCS, which also records House Mouse, suggest that the population in England has increased by over 88% in the last 25 years and by 95% over the last decade (TMP 2009).

**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 18<sup>th</sup> Century, with the newly introduced Common Rat gradually becoming the commoner species. By the mid 20<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> December 1989. A skull was found during the dredging of a dyke at How Hill in 1997.



## LAGOMORPHA

### **Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus* 483 (3,932) records 209 (844) tetrads

Records received in 2008 were distributed uniformly across the county with no obvious hotspots. While Rabbit has been recorded on more tetrads than nearly any other mammal species, this only accounts for 58% of the total area of Norfolk. It is always worth submitting records of common species - even casual observations may help to fill in gaps in the distribution map, particularly in the less-visited areas of the county, while standardised counts at warrens will help to monitor changes in the population size. Over 90% of records related to sightings of live individuals, peaking between April and May, possibly due to the emergence of juveniles. Some impressive counts were received from large warrens in 2008, including 260 at Weybourne Camp (SHO), 230 at East Wretham (SHO), 140 at Weeting Heath (GWF) and 100 at Whittlingham (RMR). As in previous years, melanistic individuals were reported from a number of sites, including Beeston Regis (SHO), Bylaugh (DAP), Dunston (JEM, SHO), King's Lynn (JLA), Saxthorpe (MAB), and Thetford (DIL). National media suggested that the warm, wet summer might benefit biting insects, leading to an increase in transmission rate of Myxomatosis and a major national outbreak, but only two records of individuals showing signs of the disease were submitted in 2008, one at Hilborough (DIL) and one at Ludham (EGE), compared to 13 cases reported in the previous year. Data collated by TMP indicate that Rabbit numbers across the UK have increased by up to 140% over the last 25 years (TMP 2000), but BBS has identified a 24% national decline since 1995, driven primarily by a fall in numbers in Scotland (Risely *et al.* 2009). The English population appears to have been relatively stable over this period, although there is significant spatial variation and numbers in the East of England have actually increased by 74%, the highest figure in any region.

### **Brown Hare** *Lepus europaeus* 521 (4,507) records 255 (921) tetrads

A 50% increase in the number of records submitted for Brown Hare has led to it becoming the most frequently recorded mammal in the county in 2008, the first time that this position at the top of the list has been held by a species other than Chinese Water Deer since the systematic list was reinstated in 2003. Records were uniformly distributed across the county, almost 95% referring to sightings of live individuals, with observations peaking between March and May, the main period of male fertility when activity levels are likely to be high. As in 2007, only one record of boxing hares was received, seen on 12<sup>th</sup> January by ROS, but sightings of leverets were more frequent than in the previous year, with individuals recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> June (PHE), 25<sup>th</sup> July (JDU), 31<sup>st</sup> July (DIL), 16<sup>th</sup> August (JDU), 21<sup>st</sup> August (IKE) and 25<sup>th</sup> August (STA). While never reaching the densities recorded for Rabbit, individuals do gather in loose groups and maximum counts reported in 2008 were 61 in fields near Ringstead in April (JWI) and 55 in a single field near Buckenham in January (RMR, SHO). Results of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's National Gamebag Census (NGC) indicate that the national population has increased by 37% over the last 25 years (TMP 2009). BBS data suggest that the UK trend since 1995 has been stable, although numbers have declined in Scotland by almost a third (Risely *et al.* 2009). Within England, trends vary regionally, declines in the west and north-west countered by increases of 90% and 22% in the East Midlands and East of England respectively. The species is included on both the UK and the Norfolk BAP lists and a Species Action Plan has been prepared, emphasising the need for continued monitoring to assess the impacts of changing farming practices, predation, disease and competition on this nationally important population - see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more information.

## ERINACEOMORPHA

### **Hedgehog** *Erinaceus europaeus* 439 (3,034) records 275 (783) tetrads

Contribution of the records collected as part of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's (NWT) 'Making Garden Wildlife Count' survey resulted in a doubling of the size of the Hedgehog submission in 2008. These records are particularly valuable as gardens are a much under-recorded habitat, the addition of the



NWT data resulting in a 10% increase in the total number of tetrads from which Hedgehog records have been received. The Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society launched the Norfolk Hedgehog Survey in the spring of 2009, hoping to build on this momentum. To take part, visit the website at [www.nnns.org.uk](http://www.nnns.org.uk) or email [surveys@nnns.org.uk](mailto:surveys@nnns.org.uk). Records in 2008 were uniformly distributed across the county, with no obvious hotspots. Hibernating individuals were recorded at Plumstead in January (JDU) and at Corpusty in November (KGI), the latter in a fleece stored in a garage, delaying the owner's spinning activities until the following spring. While Hedgehogs typically emerge from hibernation in April, 24 records of sightings during the first three months of 2008 were received, the earliest referring to a sub-adult, approximately four inches long, seen feeding under bird feeders on 20<sup>th</sup> January (RRI). The first juveniles of 2008 were seen on 21<sup>st</sup> July in North Wooton (NWT), with others reported later in July (ARL), and then in August (BUR, IKE), September (EGE, SBB) and the beginning of October (EGE). Sightings continued late into the year, with six live or freshly dead individuals reported in November, and one medium-sized animal spotted crossing a road in Ditchingham on Christmas Eve (DCH). Prize for the most gruesome observation goes to LSM & PAS, who found a Hedgehog busily eating a Grey Squirrel that had been killed by a cat (see photograph in the colour pages). Latest survey results suggest that the national population has declined by as much as 44% over the last 25 years (TMP 2009), resulting in its inclusion on the UK BAP list.

## SORICOMORPHA

### **Mole** *Talpa europaea* 243 (3,737) records 133 (862) tetrads

Possibly the least exciting of Norfolk's mammals to record, this may explain the relative paucity of information in the Norfolk Mammal Database. Moles have only ever been recorded from 59% of tetrads in Norfolk, and observations were submitted from just 9% in 2008 - even records of presence/absence each year at the 1km square level would be a useful addition to the dataset. Unsurprisingly, over 90% of records were of fresh excavations, with only a handful of live individuals seen above ground (JDU, JHL, KRY, RFJ, RMR) and four caught by cats (EGE, PTA). National trends are unclear due to the difficulty in monitoring the species, but data collated by TMP (2009) suggest that a period of increase up until 2000 may have been followed by a decline.

### **Common Shrew** *Sorex araneus* 108 (1,280) records 46 (376) tetrads

A doubling in the number of records received for this much under-monitored species in 2008 was largely due to trapping undertaken by BESL during survey work in the Broads and at UEA by HMD. Of 22 additional live observations, a significant number were the result of DCH and MAB lifting sheets of metal or dustbin lids deliberately placed on the ground to provide shelter for small mammals, while just over 20% of records referred to individuals killed by domestic cats. Remains of Common Shrew were found in 8.3% of Barn Owl pellets collected from Stanford Training Area and examined by NOW, and MAB observed evidence of at least 16 individuals in 41 dissected Barn Owl pellets from the Corpusty area.

### **Pygmy Shrew** *Sorex minutus* 46 (573) records 21 (215) 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. As with many of the other small mammal species, an increase in the amount of trapping records from BESL and UEA reaching the county recorder has resulted in a doubling of the number of Pygmy Shrew records received relative to previous years, although 30% of records still relate to captures by domestic cats and ERG again caught two individuals in his house at Great Hockham. Pygmy Shrew remains were found in 3.4% of the Barn Owl pellets collected from Stanford training Area (NOW).





*Top; Particoloured Bats can be distinguished by the silver highlights to their otherwise dark fur and clearly demarcated white underside. (Bat Conservation Trust)*

*Bottom; The characteristic face of the Western Barbastelle, with small eyes, rounded ears that meet over the forehead and pug-like expression that only a mother could love. (Phil Parker)*





*Top; Noctules discovered during an autumn check of bat boxes. They may look quite cute like this but they are aggressive and can bite, so protective gloves are worn when handling them. (Phil Parker)*

*Bottom; Lifting bin lids or sheets of metal placed on the ground can be a good way of recording small mammals, such as these Field Voles, without needing to buy expensive traps. (Phil Parker)*





*Top; A Wood Mouse caught in a trap set at UEA Rabbit enclosure – note that plenty of food and bedding are provided. (Helen Mandley)*

*Bottom; A live Yellow-necked Mouse caught at UEA showing the complete, clearly demarcated collar – the length of the hind feet is also a good identification characteristic. (Helen Mandley)*





*Top; A Chinese Water Deer doing exactly what it says on the tin at Strumpshaw Fen. (Ron McIntyre)*

*Bottom; More commonly seen feeding on a different kind of cat food, a Hedgehog takes advantage of a feline-induced Grey Squirrel casualty in Thetford. (Peter Al-Sheikhli)*



### **Water Shrew** *Neomys fodiens* 12 (331) records 11 (164) 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. The number of records submitted in 2008 was similar to the total in 2007, and all but two originated from the vice county of east Norfolk. The west Norfolk sites were North Creak (PRS), where an individual was observed carrying leaves one at a time across a stream in September, presumably to provide lining for a sleeping nest, and Stanford Training Area in the Brecks (NOW), where remains were found in 0.3% of Barn Owl pellets examined. MAB also found remains in one of the 41 Barn Owl pellets from Corpusty that she dissected. Two more individuals were dispatched by domestic cats, one in Weybourne (ACA) and one in Reepham (RRI), and a third was reported to have been eaten by the obliging and consequently well-watched Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) that appeared at Beeston Regis in February 2008 (FJF).

## **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 eight years, on average by 41% (TMP 2009). Due to historic declines and the reliance of the wintering population on relatively few key hibernation sites (<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

### **Brandt's Bat** *Myotis brandtii* 1 (11) records 1 (8) tetrads

These two bats are notoriously difficult to separate, with information about upper and lower jaw dentition, penis shape, tragus shape and thumb claw length required to guarantee correct identification (Berge 2006). Unsurprisingly, in addition to the records summarized above, a further eight held in the Norfolk Mammal Database cannot be resolved to species. While there are historic records of Whiskered and Brandt's in the database, not all have sufficient associated information to confirm identification and the current status of both species in the county remains uncertain. The majority of Brandt's records originate in the south-west, and a report of an individual found at a known Brecks hibernaculum in 2008 was posted on the internet, the first record from the region since 1995. The last Norfolk record of Whiskered Bat was submitted in 1997 from a site in the north-west of the county. One record of a possible Whiskered was received from a site near Norwich in 2008, having been picked up on a bat detector, but it was a very faint recording and other *Myotis* species could not be ruled out. The NBMP Hibernation Survey results suggest that the national populations of both species are currently stable (TMP 2009).

### **Daubenton's Bat** *Myotis daubentonii* 20 (552) records 15 (116) tetrads

While behavioural characteristics are helpful in the identification of this bat, almost all of records received in 2008 relate to individuals where identification was confirmed through observation at roost or using a bat detector. As in previous years, the majority of records originate from the area around Norwich (DTO, HAN, NBG, RMR) and Broadland (CHW, PHE, RMR), including a hibernation roost at Whitlingham monitored by Norwich Bat Group. Daubenton's were also recorded at a number of north Norfolk Halls, with hibernation roosts surveyed at Blickling and Felbrigg (KZE) and a single individual detected while feeding over the lake at Bayfield on 1<sup>st</sup> November (PHE). Records were submitted from one site in the vice county of west Norfolk, where a probable individual was detected in flight near Wretton (PPA), and a report of 36 individuals at a known hibernaculum in the Brecks was posted on the internet. Data from the NBMP Waterway and



Hibernation Surveys suggest that the national population is stable and may even have grown slightly over the last seven years (TMP 2009).

**Natterer's Bat** *Myotis nattererii* 47 (358) records 21 (108) tetrads

A three-fold increase in the number of Natterer's Bat records received in 2008 was largely thanks to data collected by BESL (CHW, MFN, HMA, JMN & ADO) during their Broadland surveys, discussed in more detail in the article on page 192, and by HAN and PPA. Submissions were located across the whole of Norfolk, mirroring the distribution of the historic dataset and suggesting that the south-westerly bias noted in 2007 was an artefact of variable recording effort. The majority of records related to individuals identified using bat detectors, although seven were of bats observed in roosts. The latter included a count of 31 individuals from two cavities at a site near Stoke Ferry (PPA), the presence of a lactating female providing proof of a maternity roost. National counts at hibernation roosts under the NBMP suggest that wintering numbers have increased by as much as 65% over the last eight years, although a similar increase has not been observed at maternity roosts (TMP 2009).

**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 eleven records from the 1990s held in the database, all but one relate to sites in Suffolk, the exception being a single observation from July 1997 pertaining to an unspecified number of individuals found in a bat box, published in that year's Bird & Mammal Report. However, shortly before going to press, a record was received of a bat that appears to be Leisler's, identified from a photograph taken at a house in the Hickling area in 2006 (PCR) – an update will appear in next year's report. Two further records of this species have been submitted, 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* 51 (415) records 21 (150) tetrads

The number of Noctule records received in 2008 was similar to the number submitted in 2007, meaning that 25% of the total dataset for this species has been collected over the last two years. As in 2007, the majority of records were from the south-east of the county, with a handful in the Brecks and a scattering throughout the length of north Norfolk, although this may reflect observer distribution as much as that of the bats themselves. The large size, early emergence and characteristic flight of this bat mean that some records do refer to observations in the field, but the vast majority of those received in 2008 (92%) related to observations of bats in boxes or were confirmed with the use of bat detectors. The earliest flying individual was recorded at Whittlingham on 30<sup>th</sup> March (RMR) and the latest was detected over the lake at Bayfield Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> November (PHE). The most recent NBMP Field Survey results suggest that Noctule numbers across the UK have increased sharply following a short period of stability, but these results are being explored further and should be interpreted with caution at present. Due to the threats posed by the loss of roost sites, commuting routes and feeding habitat, a new Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan has been prepared, covering Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat – see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more details.

**Common/Soprano Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus spp.* 576 (2,041) records 39 (432) 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. The number of records received for the *Pipistrellus* species complex in 2008 was over two and a half times that received in 2007, 228 relating to Common Pipistrelle, 278 to Soprano Pipistrelle and a further 70 that could not be resolved to species. The huge increase in records was thanks largely to data collected by BESL (CHW, MFN, HMA, JMN & ADO) during their Broadland surveys, discussed in more detail in the article on page 192), and by HAN and PPA. Records of Common



Pipistrelle were received from sites across the whole county and the distribution of Soprano Pipistrelle records was similar, although there were noticeably fewer observations in north-west Norfolk. No counts were received from Common Pipistrelle colonies, but 484 individuals were recorded at a Soprano Pipistrelle natal roost at Horning during July (PHE) and 250 were counted at a roost in Cley in August (PPA & KCH). Of those bats that could be identified to species, the earliest recorded flier was a Soprano Pipistrelle detected at Whittlingham on 27<sup>th</sup> March (RMR) and the latest observations of both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle were recorded on 29<sup>th</sup> October near Norwich (DTO). While no quantitative long term data are available for any bat species, NBMP Field Surveys suggest that Common Pipistrelle numbers have increased by as much as 65% over the past eight years, over which time Soprano Pipistrelle populations have remained stable, possibly declining slightly. Due to the threats posed by the loss of roost sites, commuting routes and feeding habitat, a new Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan has been prepared, covering Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and Brown Long-eared Bat – see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more details.

**Nathusius' Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus nathusii* 5 (15) records 3 (8) tetrads

This scarce Norfolk species was originally recorded at Filby Brood in 1998 and three of the records received in 2008 (KZE, MFN, PHE) relate to individuals detected at a site close by, where the species was recorded for the first time in 2007. A fourth record was submitted from a novel site a few miles further away (MFN), and Nathusius' was also detected at a new site on the west side of Norwich, well outside the previously identified county range. There is currently no national monitoring programme for this species, but the Bat Conservation Trust are piloting a new survey over the coming autumn and are looking for volunteers – more details can be found on their website at [www.bats.org.uk/pages/nathusius\\_pipistrelle\\_survey.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/nathusius_pipistrelle_survey.html).

**Serotine** *Eptesicus serotinus* 12 (77) records 7 (50) tetrads

Norfolk represents the north-eastern limit of this species' current range in the UK. Five of the records submitted in 2008 originate from a single tetrad south of the Broads (CHW) and two more were from tetrads in the Brecks near Wretton (PPA), regions from which the majority of county records originate. However, as in 2007, Serotines were detected on several occasions at Leziate Heath (PPA), and in 2008 records were received from three additional sites in the north-west of the county, one close to Leziate (PPA), another in the Sandringham area (PPA) and a third of up to three individuals flying out from the mainland to Scolt Head (ASM). NBMP data suggest that, while there is evidence of a historic decline, the national population is currently stable and may even be increasing slightly (TMP 2009).

**Particoloured Bat** *Vespertilio murinus* 1 (3) records 1 (2) tetrads

Arguably the most exotic mammal record received in 2008, a single Particoloured Bat, typically found in Central and Northern Europe, was spotted by JWG flying in off the sea at Kelling Hard on 13<sup>th</sup> September and going to roost in a pillbox, where the identification was confirmed by MFN – you can read their finders' account on page 178 of this report. This is the third record for Norfolk, the first relating to a recently uncovered observation from 'Yarmouth' dating back to Barrett-Hamilton's 'A History of British Mammals 1911-1921' (MFN, pers comm.) and the second referring to an individual found in a timber yard in Great Yarmouth Docks on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1968 that had almost certainly been imported with the wood by boat from the Baltic States. Tantalisingly, another bat was seen flying over the sea towards land at Mundesley on 14<sup>th</sup> September (PWL), but unfortunately this individual was less obliging and headed directly inland without stopping. There are only about 20 historic records of the species in the UK, but the frequency of occurrence is increasing and sightings now occur almost annually.

**Barbastelle** *Barbastella barbastellus* 20 (160) records 11 (47) tetrads

A scarce species in the UK, recent fieldwork undertaken by the Barbastelle Study Group suggests that Barbastelle might be more widely distributed in Norfolk than previously thought, as reflected by the increase in submissions in 2008 – see the article on page 188 for more details. The species



had been previously recorded from only three of the 11 tetrads in which it was observed in 2008, meaning that eight sites were completely novel. Of these, four were located in north-west Norfolk (PPA), one was in West Norfolk (PPA), two were in central north Norfolk (PPA) and one was in the south-eastern corner of the county (CHW). It is highly likely that more new sites will become apparent when analysis of the dataset collected by the Barbastelle Study Group over the last two seasons is completed. Very little is known about the population trajectory of the species, but its comparative rarity has assured it a place on the UK BAP list. A Norfolk Species Action Plan has recently been produced, highlighting the threats posed by habitat simplification and loss of roosts, and stressing the importance of both continued monitoring at known sites and surveying of additional sites for evidence of new colonies – see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more details.

### **Brown Long-eared Bat** *Plecotus aruitus* 51 (478) records 36 (213) tetrads

The relatively low record total for this common and widespread bat species may be partially explained by the difficulty in distinguishing it from several of the *Myotis* spp. when using a bat detector. As with most other bat species, however, submissions in 2008 were significantly higher than in the previous years, the number of records almost doubling, thanks largely to the efforts of PPA who collected almost 60% of the year's data. The distribution of records was fairly uniform across the county, with no obvious hotspots and the maximum count of individuals recorded was 70 adults and five juveniles at a maternity roost in Hillington (PPA). While most records relate to individuals identified using bat detectors or observed at roost, two separate reports of dead Brown Long-eared Bats on roads were received in 2008, one from Hillington (IKE) and the other from Hempstead (YGI). The species also seems to be less trap-wary than other bats, one individual requiring extraction from a mist net set to catch Nightjar for a ringing project in Thetford Forest (NCA) and a second discovered by MJW at Swannington on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> June sitting inside their moth trap (which by that point was rather devoid of Lepidoptera). Due to the threats posed by the loss of roost sites, commuting routes and feeding habitat, a new Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan has been prepared, covering Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat – see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more details.

## **CARNIVORA**

### **Fox** *Vulpes vulpes* 255 (2,282) records 146 (706) tetrads

Submissions of Fox records increased for the fourth year in a row, the majority (67%) involving sightings of live individuals, although the species is one of the more frequently reported road casualties and 18% of records referred to animals killed by traffic. Sightings were distributed fairly evenly throughout both the county, although there were noticeably fewer from the north-west. A copulating pair were observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February (JHP) and a vixen with pronounced teats was seen on 25<sup>th</sup> March (IDO), but the first cubs of the year were not reported until 24<sup>th</sup> April (IKE), with the majority of sightings of young or family groups occurring between May and July when records for this species peak. While Rabbits are likely to form a substantial part of the diet of rural foxes, some individuals obviously have a taste for the exotic, including one seen to chase down a Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) at Repps-with-Bastwick (SWG) and another watched tackling a Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) at Glandford (AMO). It is questionable whether even arboreal species might be completely safe from Fox predation, given that SPN watched one individual climb at least 20 feet up a Grey Poplar in Earlham until it was lost from view in the canopy. As in many UK cities, Foxes have taken advantage of the additional feeding opportunities provided in Norwich and several were observed sunning themselves in gardens in 2008 (RAR, JCU). While the Blue Tits mobbing one of these individuals might have been a minor irritation, a Fox seen at Horsey in March (PHE) faced a more formidable opponent in the shape of an irate Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). National population trends for this species are currently unclear – while data from the NGC indicate a long-term increase, stabilising over the last decade (TMP 2009), the results from the BBS imply that UK numbers have fallen by 27% since 1995, with a 16% decline in England over this period (Risely



*et al.* 2009). 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* 84 (754) records 57 (352) tetrads

A 50% increase in the number of Badger records received in 2008 is thanks in no small part to the efforts of JCR, who continues to monitor the species intensively within the county. JCR currently estimates that there are about 400 setts (including main, annexe, subsidiary and outlying setts) in Norfolk, although not all are occupied simultaneously – see his article on page 199 for more information about the breeding densities and regional distribution of the county Badger population. The majority of records received in 2008 originated in central, east and south-western Norfolk, with relatively few in the north-west or the Fens, despite the fact that the latter region is currently thought to hold the highest density of the species (JCR). Almost half of records received relate to animals hit by traffic, while over a third involved observations of live individuals, the only sighting of cubs occurring on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, when three were seen foraging with their mother (JCR). Numbers are thought to be increasing in most areas of Norfolk, mirroring national trends, although there is some suggestion that the UK population has started to decline over the past five years (TMP 2009).

### **Otter** *Lutra lutra* 286 (1,835) records 101 (320) tetrads

While the number of records received in 2008 was similar to that in 2007, the number of tetrads on which individuals or their field signs were observed increased by 30%. The Norfolk Otter population is currently thought to be in good health, as is the case in many other parts of the country where populations have grown steadily following a drastic decline prior to the 1980s (National Otter Surveys – TMP 2009). The majority of records originated from the Brecks and the Broads and we are again grateful to the Brecklands Otter Survey and Broads Environmental Services Ltd. (BESL) for their respective contributions. A significant number of reports were also received from central and north Norfolk, but the species was not recorded at all in the north-west of the county. While the majority of reports refer to spraints and/or tracks, 28% of the 2008 submission consisted of sightings, including one individual swimming up Ranworth Broad with a group of Black-headed Gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) in hot pursuit (MFI). Road casualties are reported each year in small numbers and eight RTAs were recorded in 2008. A particularly distressing fatality was observed on the Little Ouse, where an individual became entangled in fishing line (CEL). With the exception of populations in the far north of Scotland, breeding is thought to be aseasonal. However, in 2008 sightings of pups were concentrated in the summer and early autumn months, the first of the year observed swimming and squeaking its way up the river at Barford on 19<sup>th</sup> August (BTO) and sightings of larger young accompanied by adults reported during September (PTA) and October (BTO). Otters are not popular with all members of the general public and several reports of individuals raiding garden ponds were received in 2008, although the identification of the culprit was only confirmed in a few cases. Otter is on the UK BAP list due to its historic population decline and a Species Action Plan has been prepared under the Norfolk BAP to encourage continued monitoring and expansion of the population into historic sites – see [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans) for more information.

### **Stoat** *Mustela erminea* 204 (3,417) records 135 (857) tetrads

The number of records received for this relatively well-recorded predator in 2008 was similar to that in 2007. With the exception of the extreme west from where few records of any species are submitted, reports were evenly distributed across the county, 79% involving sightings of live individuals and 15% relating to animals killed by traffic. Two individuals also succumbed to domestic cats, presumably seeking more of a challenge than the average rodent could provide, one at Briston (AJO) and one at Kelling (ACA). Sightings peaked in July, when the young are starting to disperse, with lone juveniles or family parties recorded on 21<sup>st</sup> July (JOH), 25<sup>th</sup> August (JCR) and 6<sup>th</sup> September (JWI). Moulting into a white winter coat seems to be an increasingly poor adaptation in these days of increasing global temperatures, but some Stoats obviously like to stick with tradition. Individuals in full ermine were reported from Salthouse Heath on 14<sup>th</sup> February (ACA) and East



Rudham on 28<sup>th</sup> February (RWG), an animal that was 90% white was seen at Edgefield on 7<sup>th</sup> January (JHP) and one that was approximately 75% white was found dead near Norwich on 19<sup>th</sup> February (DCA). Those that were only partially white were not necessarily in moult, as piebald individuals are commonly reported from the southern half of England and Wales. Lagomorphs account for approximately 65% of stoat prey items (McDonald *et al.* 2000), and several records received in 2008 concerned individuals carrying Rabbits (IMC, JWI, SHE). An individual seen by PDO with a vole in its mouth could well have been a female, as they tend to take smaller prey than males. Birds can form up to 10% of the diet, and a Stoat was seen carrying a dead juvenile Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Strumpshaw (BRY & HTG). Not to be outdone, a parent at Langham was observed dragging an adult Woodpigeon (JOH) with two juvenile Stoats following after. One enterprising individual at Holme was even seen to swim 30m to a reedbed in pursuit of a group of fledgling Moorhens (JHI). PHE was lucky enough to watch a Stoat ‘dancing’ for a full five minutes at Horning Waterworks – while naturalists have historically suggested that this behaviour serves to lure or mesmerise curious prey, a less romantic but possibly more plausible explanation is that it is caused by nematode worms of the genus *Skirjabingylus* infesting the animal’s sinuses. Results from the NGC suggest that the national population has increased by 38% over the last 25 years, and by 17% during the last decade (TMP 2009).

#### **Weasel** *Mustela nivalis* 71 (2,358) records 60 (792) tetrads

Although their population sizes are thought to be similar, fewer records of Weasel are received than for the larger, more conspicuous Stoat. Those that were submitted in 2008 showed a similar distribution to that of their close relative, evenly spread throughout the county with the exception of the extreme west. Over 80% involved live sightings, often of individuals emerging from cover to cross tracks or roads, while 11% were of road casualties and two more were taken by cats, including the only juvenile reported, caught in Corpusty on 7<sup>th</sup> July (MAB). Weasels carrying Field Voles were observed at Upton Marshes (GTA) and Weybourne (NOW), and JLA watched for ten minutes as one carried two small Common Rats from outbuildings near Ormesby (JLA). Small rodents are thought to account for two thirds of Weasel prey items, with lagomorphs forming a further 25% (McDonald *et al.* 2000). Results from the NGC suggest that the national population has increased by 24% over the last 25 years, and by 39% during the last decade (TMP 2009).

#### **Ferret** *Mustela furo* 1 (37) records 1 (30) tetrads

Only one record of Ferret was received in 2008, relating to a single, pale individual with a dark, Polecat-like mask, spotted near Feltwell (MDE). It is impossible to determine whether this individual was a recent escape or part of a self-sustaining feral population.

#### **American Mink** *Mustela vison* 25 (436) records 20 (175) tetrads

The number of American Mink records received in 2008 was almost double that in 2007, but the level of monitoring is not sufficient to determine whether this represents a real increase in numbers or merely in recording effort. The introduced mink is controlled at many sites in the county to protect either fisheries or native species such as Water Vole, and seven of these records relate to individuals either trapped or shot. The decomposed remains of an additional animal were retrieved from a crayfish trap set on the River Glaven (AMO). Only one record of juvenile mink was received in 2008, a sighting of two individuals near Colney (JCR). The UK population has declined by almost 50% over the last 25 years, with a 37% drop in numbers over the last decade (TMP 2009).

## **PINNIPEDIA**

#### **Common Seal** *Phoca vitulina* 52 (292) records 18 (58) tetrads

The Wash and north Norfolk colony holds 7% of the national Common Seal population and, taken as a whole, is the largest in the UK. The majority of records received in 2008 were of small numbers of individuals (1-4) scattered around the north and east coasts, the notable exception being the monthly



counts from Blakeney Point supplied by National Trust staff (EST). The Point is mainly used as a haul-out area, although a few individuals do pup there (Wood 2006). Numbers peak between July and September, when the seals are moulting, and the highest count made in 2008 was of 514 individuals on 14<sup>th</sup> July, a similar total to that recorded during the three previous summers. Small numbers of individuals (1-3) were also recorded during the regular counts of Greys undertaken by Natural England volunteers at the Horsey Gap breeding colony over the winter months (BRU & RJR), and a group of 14 adults and a half-grown pup was seen hauled out on the sand at Wells Harbour on 20<sup>th</sup> October (SHO). The only inland record submitted in 2008 was of a single individual seen in the Great Ouse near Saddle Bow on 14<sup>th</sup> December (SSO). Britain holds 5% of the world's Common Seals and about 40% of the European subspecies *Phoca vitulina vitulina*. Trends in abundance are currently unclear, but east coast populations have still not fully recovered from the phocine distemper outbreak in 1988, which killed almost 50% of individuals, and Common Seal is listed under the UK BAP.

**Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* 60 (431) records 24 (60) tetrads**

The Grey Seal dataset has been boosted considerably in 2008 by the submission of regular counts from the breeding colonies at Blakeney Point (EST), monitored by National Trust staff, and at Horsey Gap (BRU & RJR), monitored by Natural England volunteer wardens. Previously used as a haul-out site, the breeding population at Blakeney Point has grown rapidly since 2001, when 25 pups were born (Wood 2006). Numbers fluctuate through the season, but the maximum count in 2008 was of 644 individuals, recorded in March, exceeding the 2007 peak by over 100 animals. The first recorded pup counts at Horsey date back to 1991 (RJR, pers comm.) when four were born; the equivalent figure for 2008 was 201, with a maximum of 172 adults recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> December. An additional record of the breeding colony at Scroby Sands was submitted by SHO, who counted 190 adults and 12 pups by telescope. The majority of the remaining records refer to single individuals or small groups seen off the north, east and west coasts, but two inland sightings were reported in 2008. The first was of a bull seen by RMR in the River Bure between Stokesby and Acle on 24<sup>th</sup> April, diving repeatedly to avoid passing boats, while a second individual was spotted on 17<sup>th</sup> December in the River Yare where it runs through Reedham Marshes (BRY & HTG). UK Grey Seals currently account for almost 40% of the world population and the numbers are predicted to increase further as many potential breeding sites are yet to be filled.

**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 in the 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 – keep your eyes peeled for the second one!

## ARTIODACTYLA

**Reeves' Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi* 306 (2,405) records 151 (627) tetrads**

While the greatest number of records are still submitted from the south west of the county, Reeves' Muntjac are now frequently sighted across the whole of central, north and east Norfolk, increasing the potential for confusion with the superficially similar Chinese Water Deer, which is also expanding its range. As outlined in the previous report, muntjac can be identified by their longer tail, often held erect when running, short 'prong' antlers and black facial markings. The vast majority of records (91%) related to sightings of live individuals, but some road casualties were recorded (6%), possibly due to the species' habit of feeding on roadside verges. As in 2007, the peak in recording occurred in April. Breeding can occur throughout the year, and this was reflected in the 2008 submission, with



fawns recorded on a wide variety of dates, including 29<sup>th</sup> April (IKE), 5<sup>th</sup> May (STA), 16<sup>th</sup> August (AMO), 26<sup>th</sup> August (JCR), 6<sup>th</sup> September (DCH) and 20<sup>th</sup> December (AMO), the latter a small, still spotted individual. Reeve's Muntjac do not herd, and almost all records refer to groups of four individuals or fewer. They appear to be increasingly tolerant of human activity, and can often be observed in gardens or walking along roads even in developed, suburban areas, as reported from Sheringham (GWF) and Thetford (BTO).

The UK muntjac population is almost 12 times larger than it was 25 years ago (TMP 2009), and BBS trends indicate a 43% increase in England since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2009). Increasing deer numbers are of concern to conservationists, as well as foresters and gardeners, because the increased grazing pressure can lead to a thinning of the woodland under-storey on which several declining bird species, including Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, rely for food and nest sites (Gill & Fuller 2007).

### **Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* 142 (1,780) records 66 (415) tetrads**

The size of the Red Deer submission in 2008 was similar to that in 2007, but they were distributed over a much wider area than in the previous year, the number of tetrads in which the species was recorded having increased by over 40%. Four distinct clusters of Red Deer records could be distinguished, one centred around Holt in north Norfolk, a second in the northeast near Barton Broad, a third in south Norfolk, south of Wymondham and a fourth in the Brecks. While this distribution may be influenced by that of recorders, it should be noted that 43 separate observers contributed to this dataset in 2008 and only one record of two young stags from a site near Castle Rising (JHI) falls outside the areas specified above. Red Deer do form large herds and the biggest group recorded, numbering 84 individuals, was spotted in Ashwellthorpe Woods on 1<sup>st</sup> March (RBA). All other records relate to groups of 30 or fewer. There is a clear peak in submissions during March and April, prior to hinds giving birth. National figures suggest that Red Deer numbers have increased by 50% over the last 25 years (TMP 2009), but both TMP and BBS trends indicate that this growth has stabilised over the last decade, with some hint of a possible decline in Scotland (Risely *et al.* 2009).

### **Sika Deer *Cervus nippon* 0 (9) records 0 (6) tetrads**

The last sighting recorded in the Norfolk Mammal Database dates back to 2002, although photographs of this species taken at Melton Constable in 2006 were posted on the internet and a captive herd may well still exist there. 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. Recent estimates suggest that numbers in the UK have increased by 86% in the last 25 years, and by 37% over the last decade (TMP 2009).

### **Fallow Deer *Dama dama* 21 (547) records 15 (174) tetrads**

The distribution of Fallow Deer in Norfolk is fairly aggregated, with the majority of reports originating from known hotspots of which the largest and most persistent is in the north-west, centred around Dersingham and Sandringham and extending as far north as Holkham and as far south as West Acre. This population, responsible for over half of last year's submissions, may have been established by escapees from the deer park in the grounds of Holkham Hall, which continues to support a large population of captive Fallow Deer, recently estimated at 300-400 individuals (RMR, PHE). Outside this area, two records were submitted from the Brecks and two from east Norfolk, one of two females at Hindleveston (JWI) and another from Hevingham Park Wood (PHE). Counts outside Holkham Hall were generally low, never exceeding the eight individuals observed on Grimston Heath on 7th December (RWG). White morphs were reported from Bridgham Heath (PTA) and Grimston Heath (RWG), with noticeably pale individuals observed at Babblingly (ROS) and West Acre (RWG), but no black morphs were observed. The latest national trends indicate a 90% increase in the population over the last 25 years (TMP 2009), with numbers either stable or still increasing over the past decade (Risely *et al.* 2009).



**European Roe Deer** *Capreolus capreolus* 409 (3,143) records 164 (645) tetrads

The number of records submitted for this common and widespread deer in 2008 increased by 45%, suggesting that coverage of this under-recorded species is improving, and observations were distributed evenly across the county with no apparent hotspots. Over 90% of records involved sightings of live individuals, although one notable dead individual was found tangled in an electric fence near Sharp Street (PHE) and another narrowly escaped being flattened by a Red Arrow when it ran across the runway at Norwich Airport (RFJ). Observations peak in April and May, when adults are dispersing, and fawns were recorded between 8<sup>th</sup> May (STA) and 5<sup>th</sup> September (SEK). Unlike Red or Fallow Deer, Roe tend to move about in small, loose herds, although numbers can build up in the winter. The only counts that reached double figures in 2008 were of a group of 17 individuals observed at Lynford Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (CSM) and a herd of 11 deer at Westfield on 7<sup>th</sup> October (SRI). TMP (2009) trends suggest that the national population has almost doubled in size over the past 25 years, while BBS data (Risely *et al.* 2009) indicate a 44% increase in the national population since 1995, which is slightly more pronounced in England (46%) than in Scotland (37%). As with Reeve's Muntjac, these high rates of population growth have conservation, as well as commercial, implications, particularly for woodland birds (Gill & Fuller 2007), and it is vital that we continue to improve monitoring efforts within the county.

**Chinese Water Deer** *Hydropotes inermis* 518 (3,278) records 109 (236) tetrads

Despite an increase in the number of records submitted, Chinese Water Deer has been usurped from its position as Norfolk's most recorded mammal for the first time since the systematic list was reinstated in 2003, narrowly pipped to the post by Brown Hare. It is interesting to note, however, that the number of tetrads from which records were received in 2008 represents a 30% increase on 2007, suggesting that the species may be continuing its recent range expansion. While, the vast majority of records in 2008 originated from within their established Broadland range, a number of reports were received from sites in north Norfolk, including Blakeney (JHI, SWR), Cley (where one was seen on three separate occasions by JHI) and the area around Saxthorpe (MAB, JBR). Two mature bucks were also observed in the vice county of west Norfolk, one at Holkham on 5<sup>th</sup> April and another at Titchwell on 11<sup>th</sup> November (both JHI), and a third individual was seen near the Norfolk/Suffolk border at Scole (PHE). The majority of records related to live individuals (79%), but it is noticeable that the proportion of deaths due to collisions with traffic is greater than for other deer species (13%). This may be due to a bias in reporting of a species perceived as more interesting or to the relatively higher density of small country roads in their favoured habitats. Observations peaked in December and January during the rut, and again in April, but few sightings were reported in mid-summer when females were giving birth. Fawns were reported on 1<sup>st</sup> May (JLA), 20<sup>th</sup> June (PHE) and 30<sup>th</sup> July (PHE). The species does not herd, but can occur in loose groups – the maximum number recorded at a single location was 11 and all counts of 10 or more were made by PHE at St Benet's Levels. National monitoring schemes are unable to produce population trends for Chinese Water Deer due to the species' restricted geographic range.

## CETACEA

**Minke Whale** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* 1 (11) records 1 (10) tetrads

The first record since 1997 was of an individual seen off Walcott by MFZ on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, reported to have a blow that was "small and fine, like a puff of steam". 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 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 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 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 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 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 UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

**Harbour Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena* 38 (338) records 17 (64) tetrads

The 65% increase in the number of Harbour Porpoise records received in 2008 is largely thanks to the receipt of records from the Seawatch Foundation (SWF), which you can read more about in the editorial on page 176. Despite this increase, reports of cetacean sightings are still few and far between given the number of potential observers on the Norfolk coast, and we would urge anyone who does have any information, current or historic, to get in touch with the SWF and the county mammal recorder. Sightings of live individuals accounted for all but five of the records received last year, with beached individuals found at Thornham (DIR), Titchwell (JCU), Blakeney Point (BNT) and Cley (ACA) in February, and one at Waxham in June (GWA). The distribution of observations is largely determined by recording effort, and they therefore tend to be concentrated around popular sea-watching sites, such as Holme, Titchwell, Sheringham, Walcott, Horsey and Winterton. 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 the UK BAP list. A Species Action Plan has been prepared under the Norfolk BAP, encouraging increased monitoring to allow the impacts of increased anthropogenic disturbance, commercial fisheries, pollution and climate change to be fully assessed. The plan can be viewed at [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans), from where an identification guide to east coast cetaceans can also be downloaded.

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus* 3 (7) records 3 (7) tetrads

Given that the last sighting was of two possible individuals submitted in 1998, it was a very pleasant surprise to receive three records for Bottlenose Dolphin in 2008. Surveyors working for a consultancy 10 miles north of Blakeney Point spotted one individual on 4<sup>th</sup> July (BNT) and MFZ spotted another obliging animal at Walcott on 7<sup>th</sup> July, which surfaced to blow only 50m offshore in the early hours of the morning before leaping clear of the water and heading back out to sea. A third, unconfirmed, report of a beached individual at Heacham on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was posted on the Seaquest forum, but no record has been submitted. Further information about the Blakeney Point and Heacham records would be gratefully received by the county mammal recorder.



**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 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 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 UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

**Long-finned Pilot Whale** *Globicephala melas* 1 (7) records 1 (6) tetrads

An unconfirmed report of two individuals of this species spotted off Holme on 5<sup>th</sup> September was released on Birdline East Anglia, but no details were submitted to the county recorder. If anyone does have any information about this sighting then please get in touch with the county mammal recorder. The last confirmed record for Norfolk was of an individual found dead on Scolt Head Island NNR in 1992. This species is included on the 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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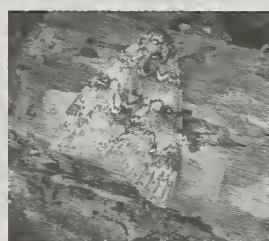
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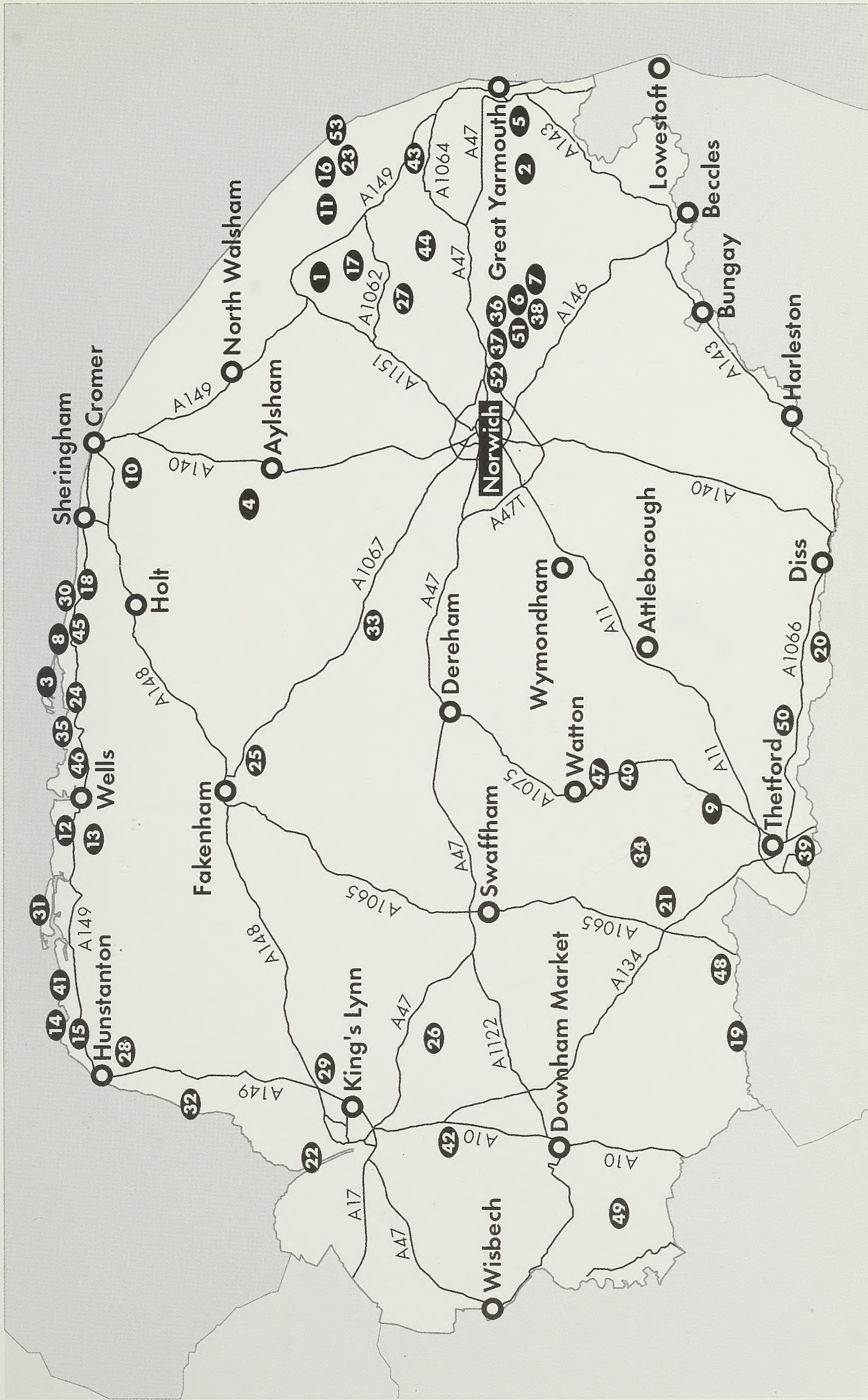




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2	Berney Marshes	RSPB	22	Lynn Point		42	Tottenham GP	
3	Blakeney Point	NT	23	Martham Broad	NWT	43	Trinity Broads:	BA
4	Blickling Park	NT	24	Morston/Stiffkey Marshes	NT		Filby Broad	
5	Breydon Water	LNR	25	Pensthorpe	PWT		Lily Broad	
6	Buckenham/Cantley Marshes	RSPB	26	Pentney GP			Ormesby Broad	
7	Cantley Beet Factory	BS	27	Ranworth/Cockshoot 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			
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	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	
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