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# Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2005



Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

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

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*Front cover photograph: 'Sammy' - Black-winged Stilt, 1993-2005 (Julian Bhalerao)*

*Back cover photograph: Hedgehog (Mike Toms)*

# NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 2005

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# NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 2005

## Editorial

On behalf of the Society I am pleased to present the annual report on the Birds of Norfolk. Apart from the Review of the Year, Systematic List, Ringing Report etc a variety of articles are included. One on Global Warming will hopefully give food for thought, as well as the changing status of Firecrest in the county. Two relate to specific sites - the WWT Reserve at Welney and Yarmouth cemetery. The remaining articles relate to county rarities - Killdeer, Little Swift, Ross's Gull, Black-browed Albatross and Stilt Sandpiper - with an 'obituary' to Sammy, the Titchwell Black-winged Stilt.

## Acknowledgements

The Report continues to be very much a team effort and my special thanks go to:

- Neil Lawton - co-recorder,
- Julian Bhalerao - co-ordinating photographs,
- Justin Lansdell - commenting on and proof-reading articles,
- Peter Lindsley - for his major role in the actual production of the Report.

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

- the inputters of the monthly records into the computerised recording system - Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Judy Dunmore, Vince Hanlon, Neil Lawton, Christine Stean and Pat Wileman;
- those who drafted sections of the Systematic List - Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Andy Brown, Pete Clement, Keith Dye, Mick Fiszer, John and Judy Geeson, Vince Hanlon, Phil Heath, Gary Hibberd, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Ben Murphy, Peter Morrison, Ashley Saunders, Mick Saunt, Christine Stean, Andy Stoddart, Peter Wilson and John Williamson;
- members of the County Records Committee;
- authors of the articles in the Report, in particular Peter Allard, Keith Dye, Peter Morrison and especially John Kemp who has moved from Welney to the Outer Hebrides. John has not only served two 'stints' on the Committee but has also helped with the compilation of the Report over many years.
- Dave and Jacquie Bridges for compiling the Review of the Year;
- the artists and photographers who have made their work freely available;
- The Sarnia Charitable Trust for its continued assistance towards the cost of colour photographs;
- Moss Taylor for supplying details of the ongoing Norfolk Bird Atlas;
- Steve Wakcham for the meteorological information;
- all the many individual contributors and clubs/societies, and in particular Birdline East Anglia and Rare Bird Alert, who have contributed records;
- Pat Wileman for her continued help and support in the computerisation process;
- finally my wife Judy without whose help, support and patience the whole process would never happen.



**The County Records Committee** (Dave Bridges, Mick Fiszer, John Kemp, Justin Lansdell and Richard Millington) considered a total of 103 records in the year; 22 of these were rejected, mostly as a result of insufficient detail and not owing to an incorrect identification. The Committee also noted, with a certain amount of trepidation, that the British Birds Rarities Committee had resolved, as from 1st January 2006, to no longer adjudicate on a considerable number of the more common national rarities, 17 species in total. These species will, in future, be dealt with at county level but still also be published nationally in the annual Scarce Migrants Reports. The Committee reviewed at length which, if any, species should be deleted from the list of those needing submissions of a written description or photographic evidence prior to publication and decided to delete Grey Phalarope (in flight at sea), Caspian Gull and Dartford Warbler. As Red-spotted Bluethroat is now a major rarity in the county it was resolved that Bluethroat (not just White-spotted) should also be included. The list is now as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose (away from Yare Valley)	Dark-breasted Barn Owl
'Vagrant' Canada Goose	Alpine Swift
American Wigeon	Bee-eater
Ring-necked Duck	Short-toed Lark
Ferruginous Duck	Red-rumped Swallow
Surf Scoter	Tawny Pipit
Black-necked Grebe (at sea)	Red-throated Pipit
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Flava</i> Wagtail (continental races except Blue-headed and Grey-headed)
Great Shearwater	Bluethroat
Balearic Shearwater	Aquatic Warbler
Wilson's Petrel	Marsh Warbler
Storm Petrel	Melodious Warbler
Night Heron	Subalpine Warbler
Great White Egret	Greenish Warbler
Purple Heron	Radde's Warbler
White Stork	Dusky Warbler
Black Kite	Chiffchaff ( <i>tristis</i> race)
Red-footed Falcon	Woodchat Shrike
Spotted Crake	Raven
Cormorant	Rose-coloured Starling
American Golden Plover	Serín
White-rumped Sandpiper	Arctic Redpoll
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Common Rosefinch
Sabine's Gull	Ortolan Bunting
Ring-billed Gull	Rustic Bunting
White-winged Black Tern	Little Bunting
Rose-ringed Parakeet	

With regard to the submission of details, obviously the Committee would expect a far more detailed description of a species such as Ring-billed Gull (which is not only rare in the county but difficult to identify) than a species such as a White Stork. Written descriptions should consist of a brief note of the circumstances of the observation (weather, distance from bird, any other observers, etc), followed by a description of the actual bird(s) and details of any other species nearby for comparison. Written notes should state clearly how a bird was identified. Observers are also requested to include a note of their previous experience of the

species and, if relevant, a brief outline of how any confusable species were eliminated. Copies of field sketches (however poor artistically) are often invaluable together with written field notes. It should be noted that on occasions observers may be asked for further details of species not contained in the above list - if records relate to unusual dates, localities, etc.

Owing to the departure of John Kemp it was resolved, in order to maintain continuity, to re-elect Andy Stoddart to the Committee.

**Editorial Material:** Articles for consideration, artwork, photographs and transparencies should continue to be submitted to me at 49 Nelson Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA.

### **Submission of Records**

Many people comment to me on the amount of work involved in the production of this Report. A county the size and importance of Norfolk generates a huge number of bird sightings. As will be seen from the acknowledgments I now have a team of people who help with the computerised recording throughout the year, taking responsibility for certain months. This way the handling of duplicate records is much simpler and far less time consuming and the workload is spread out rather than being concentrated on a short period of time. When records are not submitted until after the end of the year it is impossible to remember whether a sighting has already been recorded and therefore the work has to be duplicated. With this in mind I would ask all contributors **to submit records monthly** or, if this is not possible, then at least on a 3-monthly basis. I cannot emphasise enough the extent to which this cuts down the enormous workload experienced in recording without which there would be no Report.

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

With regard to the submission of **future national rarities**, the British Birds Rarities Committee is seeking to deal with all records in an electronic format. Ideally, where possible, descriptions should continue to be submitted via myself using e-mail and an attached Word document, with any accompanying photographs or sketches as *separate jpeg attachments* - not embedded in the document.

**Records can be sent by post or as MsWord or Excel attachments by e-mail to [giles.dunmore@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:giles.dunmore@tiscali.co.uk) or to 49 Nelson Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA.**

During the year I spend a considerable amount of time 'chasing' descriptions of both county and national rarities. I would request that finders of such birds should submit details to me as soon as possible and certainly not leave it to the end of the year. Obviously if other observers have particularly good views of a rarity for example, but were not the finder, then additional descriptions would be gratefully received.

Giles Dunmore

## Review of the Year

*Dave and Jackie Bridges*

*(with weather details by Steve Wakeham)*

**January** was mild with below average rainfall and often strong to gale force west or south-west winds. Colder north to north-west winds from the 20th veering north north-east introduced wintry showers on the 24th and 25th. By the 27th winds backed north to north-west with outbreaks of rain until the 29th.

The year opened with several birds remaining from 2004 including numbers of Tundra Bean Geese, Greenland White-fronted Goose, two Green-winged Teal, Glossy Ibis, Rough-legged Buzzard, Lesser Yellowlegs, Great Grey Shrike and several Northern Bullfinches. On the north coast the flock of Shore Larks remained at Holkham Bay and the party of Redpolls at Titchwell continued to attract attention. Several flocks of Waxwings remained around Norwich and the immature drake King Eider, found at Titchwell in mid-December 2004, put in its last appearance on the 3rd. A first-year Snow Goose was found amongst the Pink-feet at Holkham on the 7th and remained a popular attraction throughout the winter. The White-tailed Eagle first seen on Boxing Day 2004 was re-found in the Bircham area and led birders a merry dance until it relocated to Welney later in the month. Smew were scarce, and on the sea the rarer divers and grebes were again in short supply. White-winged gulls put in a good showing with four Iceland and three Glaucous found during the month, while some more unseasonal seabird sightings included Manx Shearwater, Arctic Skua and Little Auk. One of the most bizarre records of the year was provided by another seabird species when a flock of Shags crash-landed into a garden in the Brecks at the end of the month! Not far away the discovery of several large flocks of wintering Woodlarks was also notable, being the first found in the county. Other good birds included another Green-winged Teal, Little Stint, Black Redstart, Dartford Warbler, three additional Great Grey Shrikes and several Firecrests.

Early **February** saw a large high pressure building over eastern Europe introducing cool south south-east winds with overnight frosts on the 6th to 8th. Westerly winds returned on the 9th but a depression crossing Scotland produced strong cold northerlies with snow showers on the 14th. A brief respite followed but strong north winds returned on the 18th then veered north-east and produced a covering of snow by the 20th. Cold winds with further occasional snowfall continued until the 27th then fell light resulting in temperatures down to -6°C on the 28th.



Glossy Ibis (*Phil Jones*)

The influx of white-winged gulls continued with nine Glaucous and up to eight Iceland reported; the most reliable site for these being Blackborough End Tip. A Common Sandpiper at King's Lynn was unseasonal as were reports of Manx Shearwater and Pomarine Skua from the coast, while the monthly surveys of the wildfowl at Welney produced a site record count of Gadwall. Several over wintering long-stayers remained in-situ





Leach's Petrel (*Gary Wright*)

including the Snow Goose, Glossy Ibis, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Arctic and Mealy Redpolls. A flock of Waxwings stayed all month at Swaffham while two of the Great Grey Shrikes continued putting in sporadic appearances at Harpley and in the Lynford/Mundford area. Holkham continued to be a favoured area with Shore Lark, Snow Bunting and Firecrest present throughout.

The wintry weather continued into **March** with heavy snow on the 4th which slowly thawed with milder north north-west winds on the 5th to 7th. Winds persisted in this direction until the 13th then backed south-west. Spring arrived on the 18th when temperatures reached 20°C but south-easterly winds brought cooler conditions from the 19th. The month closed with a depression over Biscay introducing easterly winds.

The month opened with a Black Guillemot and the third Manx Shearwater of the winter on the 2nd, followed two days later by the earliest-ever Little Ringed Plover in the county. The sea continued to produce interesting records with four Pomarine Skuas and the year's highest count of Red-throated Diver, while the white-winged gull theme continued with 12 Glaucous and eight Iceland Gulls. From the second week early spring migrants began arriving with Sandwich Tern and Wheatear, followed in the third week by Garganey, Common Tern, Sand Martin, House Martin, White Wagtail and Ring Ouzel all putting in their first appearances of the year. Late March is not normally regarded as a peak time for birds but the 28th certainly bucked the trend when the county's first Killdeer was found on the southern side of Breydon. This day also produced the earliest-ever record of Nightingale in the county and the first Ring-necked Duck for eight years! Other notable birds during the month included two Dartford Warblers, three Great Grey Shrikes and two Hooded Crows.

**April** began with winds from the south to south-east, veering south-west by the 4th. Strong cold northerlies took over on the 6th resulting in a late covering of snow on the 9th, but within 36 hours a ridge of high pressure and a gentle south-westerly wind pushed temperatures up to 16°C. Showery and unsettled conditions then persisted until the 19th after which a high pressure building to the north introduced east to south-east winds. Temperatures slowly increased through to the 25th with warm south-easterlies arriving from the 28th, temperatures climbing to 22°C on the 30th.

The month saw the departure of two popular over-wintering rarities with the Arctic Redpoll last seen on the 4th and the Lesser Yellowlegs on the 24th. Spring migrants continued to arrive with exceptionally early records of several species including Hobby, Arctic Tern, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Grasshopper Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat, the latter equaling the earliest-ever county record. Interest was heightened by a few scarcer migrants in the shape of two Hoopoes and three Wrynecks, with quality being added by a Kentish Plover on the 12th



and Grey-headed Wagtail on the 30th. Two further Great Grey Shrikes were found and three Hooded Crows, a much scarcer bird these days. The month ended with a fly-over Black-winged Stilt and the spring's second record of Black Guillemot, both in the north-west of the county.

Temperatures remained above average at the start of **May** but cooler north-west winds led to a high of only 11°C on the 4th. A high pressure across the country from the 10th to 12th brought light winds and an air frost on the 12th but as the anticyclone moved away easterly winds brought in warmer continental air. Cooler northerly winds returned on the 16th and 17th followed by a spell of unsettled south-west winds until the 25th which produced thundery showers and on the 21st tornadoes on the north coast. A developing low pressure introduced very warm southerly winds on the 27th resulting in temperatures of 27°C but as the low moved east much cooler north-west winds reduced temperatures to only 13 °C on the 30th.

The birding year really came to life this month with good birds right from the start. On the 2nd a Whiskered Tern graced Hockwold Washes and a Black-winged Stilt was at Welney, followed next day by a Purple Heron at Cley. The second week produced Blue-winged Teal, Night Heron and Woodchat Shrike but all these were overshadowed by the first Stilt Sandpiper in the county for 40 years. There was no let up as Purple Heron, Bee-eater and a second Woodchat Shrike turned up in the third week and the final week produced Red-footed Falcon, Collared Pratincole, Ring-billed Gull and yet another Woodchat Shrike. It was not only rare birds on the move as the north-west coast witnessed one of the largest passages of House Martins for many years. The last of the wintering birds departed this month with the final reports of Shore Lark and Waxwing. The Snow Goose also left us heading off north on the 3rd, being tracked right up the east coast of Britain. The month was also not short of scarce migrants with Spotted Crake, two Hoopoes, four Wrynecks, three Grey-headed Wagtails, two Golden Orioles and both Red-backed and Great Grey Shrikes found.



American Golden Plover (*Richard Johnson*)

On a more sad note the month marked the end of an era with the disappearance of Sammy, the Titchwell Black-winged Stilt; he was last seen on the 21st.

Unsettled weather greeted the start of **June** with heavy thunderstorms overnight on the 3rd/4th. High pressure from the 6th to 12th produced cool north to north-west winds followed by unsettled conditions with warmer south-westerlies. High pressure again took over from the 17th and very warm south-easterlies resulted in night time temperatures of 17°C and a daytime high of 30°C on the 19th. The following day brought thunderstorms but temperatures again reached 30°C on the 23rd followed by a brief spell of cooler northerlies on the 25th and 26th. Humid south to south-east winds at the end of the month resulted in more thunderstorms on the 29th and 30th.

The month started where the last had left off with White Stork and Short-toed Lark both occurring on the 1st. Again a Red-footed Falcon took up residence at Hickling from the 5th and the Glossy Ibis made three final appearances. The third week produced two Bee-eaters, a singing Marsh Warbler and a Caspian Tern which was seen arriving in off the sea and was

subsequently re-found two days later in the Broads. The month also produced at least two Red-necked Phalaropes, three Roseate Terns, another Red-backed Shrike and several reports of Golden Oriole.

The breeding season showed some pluses and some minuses. On the plus side Marsh



Tawny Pipit (*Gary Wright*)

Harrier, Common Buzzard and Hobby all reached the highest numbers of recent times and Montagu's Harriers again bred. In the east Cranes reared young and on the coast Sandwich Terns had a good year. A total of at least 22 singing Firecrests were reported and in the Brecks Redstarts showed an increase in numbers. It also appears that this was a Quail year with many reports of singing birds. On the minus side booming Bitterns were down in numbers and Honey Buzzards again failed to breed. Apart from Sandwich, all the terns fared badly and Oystercatcher, Stone Curlew and Ringed Plover all had a poor year. The reports of Willow Tit makes for further depressive reading as the recent decline appears to be continuing.

Low pressure dominated the first week of **July** with winds from a mainly westerly direction and some heavy rainfall, particularly on the 4th. High pressure took over from the 8th and with generally light and variable winds temperatures rose to 27°C on the 14th and 17th. A cold front on the 18th introduced cooler west to north-west winds which continued through to the 23rd. An easterly moving depression on the 24th and 25th ensured that the weather remained unsettled for the rest of the month.

As is often the case in July waders dominated with a Kentish Plover on the opening day followed two days later by a White-rumped Sandpiper. The first Pectoral Sandpiper of the autumn arrived on the 15th with the month's second White-rumped Sandpiper three days later. The final week then produced a Red-necked Phalarope and another Kentish Plover. The wader headlines, however, did not belong solely to the rarities, there being an exceptionally high count of Sanderling at Snettisham where over 3,000 were logged.

Pig fields in the height of summer may not be everybody's cup of tea but gull-watchers searching those near Swaffham turned up a Ring-billed Gull. Staying with gulls and their close relatives a county total of 91 for the recently split Yellow-legged Gull was noteworthy as were a further ten Roseate Terns. The star bird of the month, however, was the Lesser Crested Tern which, having initially been found on Cromer Beach, spent the next fortnight giving its



would-be admirers a real run around by touring the north-east coast before eventually relocating to Suffolk.

The first half of **August** was dominated by high pressure although minor lows and weak fronts did produce some cloudier spells with light rain. A deeper depression on the 19th brought heavier rain and the weather remained unsettled until the 25th. A ridge of high pressure building across the country, together with warm southerly winds, led to the month's highest temperature on the 31st.

Birdwise the first ten days were fairly quiet with a Cory's Shearwater off Cley and a very early Fieldfare in the Fens being the only highlights. The situation improved on the 12th with the arrival of a White-rumped Sandpiper followed two days later by the year's third Black Guillemot. A juvenile Curlew Sandpiper on the 18th was not particularly surprising but it signalled the start of the largest influx for years. The 21st produced the first real seawatching conditions of the autumn resulting in another Cory's Shearwater and good numbers of both Sooty Shearwaters and Arctic Skuas. The same day saw the arrival of a Purple Heron with a Citrine Wagtail putting in a brief appearance at Cley the next day. Things improved further during the final week when White Stork, two Red-footed Falcons and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers arrived together with a supporting cast of Red-necked Phalarope, Icterine Warbler and Common Rosefinch.

The very warm weather of late August continued into **September** with temperatures reaching 25°C on several days and remaining above 17°C all night on the 10th and 11th. The settled conditions continued until the 15th when a low pressure moved across Britain and brought heavy rain followed by strong north winds. High pressure again took control with west to south-west winds until the 24th after which a series of Atlantic lows and associated fronts led to an unsettled end to the month.

A very interesting month got off to a flying start with Tawny Pipit, Booted Warbler, Greenish Warbler and Rose-coloured Starling all on the 1st. These were followed over the



Citrine Wagtail (*Phil Jones*)

next nine days by Red-footed Falcon, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, the first of two Spotted Crakes and Woodchat Shrike. Conditions on the 10th were classic for a fall and sure enough good numbers of Tree Pipits, Redstarts, Wheatears, Lesser Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Pied Flycatchers were found all along the coast. But it was not only the common migrants that turned up! Great Snipe, Greenish Warbler and Yellow-browed Warbler all arrived on Blakeney Point while in the Broads a White-winged Black Tern was found. Scarce drift

migrants in the shape of Wryneck, Icterine Warbler, Barred Warbler, Wood Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Red-backed Shrike also graced several coastal sites. The next few days produced more of the same, together with Common Rosefinch, but by the 16th attention switched to the sea when strong north-east winds produced a large seabird movement. Most notable were several Sabine's Gulls and the largest passage of Leach's Petrels for some years. These were supported by large numbers of Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, Gannets, and Great and Arctic Skuas. Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper also arrived on the 16th and two days later the autumn's second Great Snipe was found at Holkham. The month's second Tawny Pipit was given a far larger audience than the first when it arrived near West Runton on the 25th and stayed for five days. The month also produced a Red-necked Phalarope and another Common Rosefinch, plus the first returning Shore Lark.

The month of **October** was exceptionally warm with above average rainfall. A north-westerly on the 1st produced thundery showers but by the 4th building high pressure brought in warm easterly winds until the 7th, followed by warm southerlies with temperatures reaching 21°C on the 10th and 11th. Outbreaks of rain over the 12th to 14th were replaced by further warm weather with south-east winds. By the 18th cooler, cloudier conditions prevailed with the remainder of the month dominated by Atlantic fronts resulting in unsettled conditions with some strong winds from between south and west.

October is one of the most eagerly awaited months with a reputation over the years of producing many good birds. This month was no exception and started brightly when the fifth county record of American Golden Plover put in a brief appearance. Amazingly the sixth record was found later in the month but this time made a prolonged stay. A Red-throated Pipit and Thrush Nightingale were also found in the first week followed by a Dusky Warbler on the 19th and Great White Egret and Pallid Swift, now almost an annual occurrence, on the 30th. October will most be remembered, however, for the unprecedented influx of Yellow-browed Warblers. After the initial arrivals in September the invasion gathered pace with new birds being found every day of the month. Most birds were around the coast but some were well inland. Several other species arrived in higher numbers than usual including Short-eared Owls, which were seen arriving in off the sea throughout the month, and Little Gulls which were present from mid-month. At the same time large arrivals of Robins and *turdus* Thrushes occurred together with a major influx of Goldcrests. There was an unusual coastal movement of Hawfinches and a large arrival of Richard's Pipits. There were also five Little Buntings, the most in any one year, and the best arrival of Great Grey Shrikes since 1998. Other birds during the month included Cory's Shearwater, Red-necked Phalarope, two Sabine's Gulls, two Black Guillemots, good numbers of Little Auks, Hoopoe, Dartford Warbler, three Pallas's Warblers and Rose-coloured Starling.

The warm weather continued for the first ten days of **November**, temperatures reaching 17°C on the 2nd, with winds from between west and south. A vigorous low swung the winds to north-west on the 11th and 12th but they returned to the west on the 14th. A cold front on the



Woodchat Shrike (Phil Jones)



15th introduced northerly winds and a marked drop in temperature. A high pressure became established until the 23rd when a further cold front brought in gale force northerlies which moderated only slowly through to the 28th. Winds then veered west but clear skies allowed temperatures to fall to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 30th.

November continued where October left off with a Desert Wheatear on the 1st and the second Pallid Swift of the autumn on the 3rd. Cley enjoyed a 'purple patch' during the first week with Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal and Ring-billed Gull all joining the American Golden Plover that was still in residence. The weekend of the 12th/13th will live long in the memory, as the best bird of the autumn in the shape of Norfolk's first Little Swift was found late on the Saturday over Cromer Golf Course. Fortunately the bird roosted overnight and thrilled the crowd that had gathered to see it on Sunday morning. The week ahead produced a Snow Goose, a White-rumped Sandpiper and a heavy passage of Pomarine Skuas, and marked the beginning of a large influx of Grey Phalaropes, which continued through into December. A second Desert Wheatear was found on the 19th, the same day as a very elusive Lesser Canada Goose put in its first appearance. Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes, which had been exceptionally scarce in the early part of the year, were found in good numbers through the month, especially in Holkham Bay and off Blakeney Point. The month also served up two Greenland White-fronted Geese, two Sabine's Gulls, Iceland Gull and Great Grey Shrike in addition to the long-staying Dartford Warblers and Little Bunting that remained from last month.

The beginning of **December** was dominated by low pressures with winds moving from south round to north-west before an anticyclone built over the North Sea on the 9th. A ridge of high pressure remained over southern England with light west to south-west winds until the 12th when a cold front introduced cooler north to north-west winds which increased in strength, resulting in snow showers on the 17th. Atlantic fronts introduced milder westerlies until Christmas Day when cold northerlies again returned, these veering towards the east on Boxing Day, resulting in snow showers and a widespread covering of snow over next two days. Areas of freezing fog then kept temperatures below  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  all day on the 29th before Atlantic fronts introduced milder air and a thaw to the end of the year.

As to be expected wildfowl figured prominently this month with the Lesser Canada Goose reported occasionally and another Greenland White-fronted Goose being found on the 10th. Good numbers of Velvet Scoter and Goosander were present at Titchwell and Denver respectively whilst at Breydon/Berney a county and site record count of Wigeon was made. Following the unusual October coastal records, Hawfinches were found at two sites away from their normal haunts, whilst on the north coast the Dartford Warblers and Little Bunting continued their stay. A very late Sand Martin was seen on the 8th and a Dipper was a surprise four days later at Cockley Cley. In the week leading up to Christmas a Ring-billed Gull appeared at Breydon, the county's first wintering White Wagtail was found at Holt and Rough-legged Buzzards were seen in two areas. There were also further records during the month of Grey Phalarope and Great Grey Shrike. But just as it seemed that the year was drifting towards a quiet end the County's second Ross's Gull, a superb adult, was found on Blakeney Point on the 31st.

What was overall an interesting year produced two additions to the county list in the shape of Killdeer and Little Swift. The spring was once again a disappointment but as happened last year the autumn was ample compensation. This has seemed to be the trend over recent years and with all the talk of global warming and changing climate, this is perhaps what we should expect in the future. One thing is for certain, no matter what the coming years hold in store there will always be something happening in the avian world that will surprise and thrill us all.

# Wetland Bird Survey 2005

## The Complete Wash: *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	43	36	15	32	33	12	12	7	13	33	42	32
Pink-footed Goose	7749	3000	288	216	-	-	-	-	2	3380	20136	31573
Greylag Goose	514	445	271	300	310	422	778	599	223	352	1005	594
Canada Goose	320	58	21	125	108	177	181	183	154	165	306	180
Dark-bellied Brent	21969	14482	11457	9613	7307	2	15	1	58	2063	8224	15779
Shelduck	6645	4310	3438	1894	1743	3531	1985	1143	5007	3048	5118	6617
Wigeon	3424	1715	436	15	2	-	1	25	1709	3179	4258	5747
Gadwall	50	32	45	12	13	14	16	-	15	4	44	42
Teal	2578	1155	781	40	6	1	3	430	1664	745	826	4097
Mallard	2437	1441	715	321	266	321	203	321	1898	2164	2439	2529
Pintail	915	580	142	2	-	-	-	14	58	79	109	342
Shoveler	2	2	9	18	21	1	9	7	15	1	8	7
Pochard	18	22	23	2	2	5	2	3	2	-	4	3
Tufted Duck	24	41	75	102	75	36	12	6	28	5	33	49
Scaup	8	10	12	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
Eider	15	19	9	35	57	67	22	81	87	225	7	70
Common Scoter	-	-	87	-	-	-	6	26	6	-	6	100
Goldeneye	26	38	43	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	18
R B Merganser	23	36	6	46	-	3	-	-	8	27	17	54
Little Grebe	34	36	32	6	3	1	1	5	30	42	34	62
Great Crested Grebe	10	4	10	25	12	3	-	11	29	32	3	48
Cormorant	49	149	117	102	148	98	232	344	371	103	215	169
Little Egret	37	31	33	30	9	36	127	139	113	106	134	120
Grey Heron	13	12	9	13	12	18	33	39	52	47	31	28
Moorhen	12	10	17	18	20	14	17	9	14	8	13	26
Coot	72	69	38	23	25	31	40	57	81	16	39	59
Oystercatcher	15185	16395	10396	6097	4642	5152	9037	18677	16567	13405	13514	14705
Avocet	2	3	37	260	280	469	760	65	10	33	37	2
Ringed Plover	75	177	144	100	1223	97	161	502	468	229	287	34
Golden Plover	10318	34249	1306	247	84	83	1691	15530	17724	26996	17418	8424
Grey Plover	6229	5752	6605	9113	13189	292	2636	8604	8435	2987	2899	3462
Lapwing	3553	25392	216	49	68	94	217	1605	4547	5873	14509	11920
Knot	79266	57294	36736	33892	16002	11898	32015	76193	112438	84924	139270	68464
Sanderling	268	166	395	474	565	215	3291	2457	1426	1006	1091	302
Dunlin	24950	39041	27513	24470	20964	1539	35468	29136	27554	22913	19426	19605
Snipe	14	1	2	3	-	-	1	22	120	37	11	17
Black-tailed Godwit	2297	138	827	5052	2151	796	5148	4511	5990	12205	3535	2450
Bar-tailed Godwit	11268	7020	8154	2706	151	220	3003	3794	9849	5187	6256	8594
Whimbrel	-	-	-	5	125	11	292	63	31	4	24	-
Curlew	1946	2937	2005	2003	320	1092	5140	4542	4378	2654	1639	1945
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	1	2	15	4	39	19	31	14	1
Redshank	2811	2902	2437	2040	921	739	3079	6052	3870	5457	1582	1745
Greenshank	-	2	-	1	12	18	222	258	161	57	7	-
Common Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	4	1	23	15	10	-	-	-
Turnstone	328	301	449	442	374	72	888	1169	488	339	199	515
Black-headed Gull	1041	4230	2502	1792	1723	2212	9371	15595	14876	1760	1354	3725
Common Gull	104	155	559	294	61	1239	327	287	31	107	299	291
L B B Gull	38	15	191	337	273	504	1075	744	337	16	3	592
Herring Gull	522	2427	1743	848	2841	2395	2716	2215	2227	975	1493	3397
G B B Gull	51	200	44	102	137	60	69	558	1773	465	804	307

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

# Wetland Bird Survey 2005

## North Norfolk Coast: *Neil Lawton*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	45	23	37	48	34	36	69	58	43	49	47	50
Pink-footed Goose	26746	9001	417	813	10	-	-	1	104	7090	4832	1456
White-fronted Goose	-	340	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96
Greylag Goose	301	1029	716	560	447	183	290	1248	1432	397	1335	996
Canada Goose	122	27	133	115	153	109	182	84	116	99	168	163
Dark-bellied Brent	6607	5562	3732	2485	2067	15	14	15	18	1007	5180	6632
Egyptian Goose	26	9	8	34	45	9	62	104	76	126	51	14
Shelduck	988	1016	1056	836	668	372	182	126	110	151	499	1283
Wigcon	17444	16000	9795	514	84	5	4	51	2781	8360	17463	15913
Gadwall	115	193	193	148	201	183	97	176	137	128	221	141
Teal	2838	1578	1330	512	64	175	86	807	3472	3748	4994	3971
Mallard	1151	1101	658	497	398	255	314	712	1072	1085	1341	1167
Pintail	508	202	157	28	2	-	-	4	115	301	390	585
Shoveler	119	160	190	219	120	67	61	86	135	234	190	179
Pochard	35	33	43	12	20	9	15	2	-	6	6	17
Tufted Duck	46	52	65	65	106	36	14	31	25	5	11	27
Eider	72	72	105	34	41	47	52	53	64	41	25	46
Common Scoter	437	1572	1422	7737	4454	2	772	832	996	1160	662	5160
Goldeneye	217	67	49	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	28	120
R B Merganser	126	77	78	48	5	3	-	-	1	15	74	132
Ruddy Duck	-	5	7	20	17	10	9	7	4	2	1	3
Red-throated Diver	30	2	21	1	-	-	-	1	7	5	17	18
Little Grebe	46	22	23	18	49	5	9	24	36	28	50	58
Great Crested Grebe	36	6	20	4	4	4	3	4	9	3	39	19
Cormorant	84	66	31	83	242	106	180	274	203	128	96	78
Little Egret	81	43	25	48	114	72	85	164	148	144	97	94
Grey Heron	18	16	8	19	27	22	22	19	37	37	16	21
Coot	274	233	238	214	261	172	153	241	225	121	172	130
Moorhen	151	128	188	123	192	55	92	87	85	77	94	247
Oystercatcher	3031	3778	2954	2548	1963	1243	1775	2561	1989	2398	2300	3710
Avocet	37	79	283	712	604	629	346	224	27	29	47	42
Ringed Plover	248	411	257	296	745	192	497	2310	1139	991	215	215
Golden Plover	4823	3775	1683	5	1	-	146	2411	3154	3444	4175	2735
Grey Plover	912	1386	676	929	962	132	153	1483	1137	1179	945	883
Lapwing	3771	7833	1642	624	569	301	443	694	1770	575	1393	5520
Knot	5185	2011	1546	556	108	199	566	22394	25552	1217	1274	3821
Sanderling	360	584	489	1021	1017	18	1222	954	623	389	225	193
Dunlin	3656	3336	1398	837	1437	55	2086	3333	1310	1819	1830	2778
Ruff	113	63	58	42	4	24	66	146	193	87	67	71
Snipe	57	56	61	24	16	1	3	53	139	89	44	95
Black-tailed Godwit	623	657	998	1577	353	509	454	940	747	519	288	201
Bar-tailed Godwit	1203	1196	642	274	85	52	219	1467	3273	531	690	812
Whimbrel	-	-	-	1	134	20	134	95	9	7	-	-
Curlew	1303	1516	1523	1166	158	385	2188	2284	1904	1669	1068	1314
Spotted Redshank	3	1	6	12	-	9	25	35	34	26	23	10
Redshank	1029	1145	1028	995	605	354	1342	1427	1290	1608	1046	1150
Greenshank	3	1	2	3	13	10	103	147	74	43	11	2
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	6	2	25	11	15	1	-	-
Turnstone	445	420	329	490	546	139	711	928	668	568	334	768

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



## Maximum Monthly Counts 2005

### 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	69	69	151	41	138	59	61	51	47	39	65	70
Bewick's Swan	237	125	80	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	4
Pink-footed Goose	12784	4620	1250	5	1	1	-	-	24	4719	6160	12320
White-fronted Goose	240	267	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
Greylag Goose	117	67	34	14	12	5	20	2	192	411	491	104
Canada Goose	71	34	4	18	35	51	29	46	159	210	184	34
Barnacle Goose	2	57	47	80	15	27	1	-	-	-	8	-
Brent Goose	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	13	9
Egyptian Goose	3	2	8	8	5	18	77	85	58	27	31	2
Shelduck	84	94	86	93	146	349	277	29	182	301	194	134
Wigeon	19019	15780	13254	439	18	4	3	2	252	4440	10739	22134
Gadwall	29	21	91	63	43	19	7	3	2	4	6	3
Teal	2490	4733	3217	779	4	23	88	106	170	450	1927	1942
Mallard	304	256	83	31	75	16	75	129	294	171	293	322
Pintail	248	127	106	16	3	-	-	9	112	126	164	202
Garganey	-	-	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
Shoveler	191	334	468	181	26	12	9	4	6	44	238	242
Pochard	-	9	20	23	13	4	4	10	7	-	-	1
Tufted Duck	5	3	6	5	6	4	5	5	3	3	2	-
Little Grebe	3	3	7	7	8	5	4	9	6	5	4	4
Great Crested Grebe	5	6	5	4	4	4	8	17	13	22	15	5
Cormorant	97	60	34	26	16	24	26	39	19	27	21	27
Little Egret	32	25	23	22	32	40	61	46	32	29	34	17
Coot	180	225	229	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	89	40
Oystercatcher	38	131	168	147	49	56	134	104	36	27	22	35
Avocet	137	147	232	134	79	110	753	1044	548	180	72	131
Ringed Plover	72	76	37	47	72	18	59	233	198	115	71	82
Golden Plover	22400	30940	1534	327	2	-	257	3388	3220	8930	10137	15237
Grey Plover	22	42	32	5	10	3	2	6	4	29	32	42
Lapwing	29136	24900	1156	180	202	140	220	306	240	1217	6280	17410
Knot	369	198	186	61	15	8	31	25	76	63	187	357
Sanderling	1	-	15	13	4	-	2	2	2	1	-	9
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	4	1	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	2	-	3	5	24	4	1	-
Dunlin	4322	3215	3580	1671	2230	35	859	726	820	1380	3880	5510
Ruff	54	84	31	6	2	21	72	29	46	21	9	55
Snipe	17	15	25	30	8	5	5	10	3	7	38	41
Black-tailed Godwit	919	1288	1566	419	68	29	573	1261	1311	1483	1372	1675
Bar-tailed Godwit	34	47	47	70	4	4	6	18	15	5	38	72
Whimbrel	-	-	-	119	74	1	6	11	1	1	-	-
Curlew	1593	1173	1486	248	36	93	709	819	892	871	879	1213
Spotted Redshank	7	6	7	8	4	3	1	1	5	5	6	5
Redshank	933	927	1406	1229	132	106	919	1245	1359	1119	1177	998
Greenshank	-	-	1	4	6	1	10	14	5	1	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	1	-	1	-	2	2	3	2	1	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	7	-	5	3	8	1	-	-
Turnstone	6	4	13	10	12	4	16	16	15	7	3	5
Little Gull	-	-	-	5	3	-	10	7	-	-	-	-



# Norfolk Bird Atlas

*Moss Taylor*

By the time that this is read, the seventh and penultimate year of fieldwork for the Norfolk Bird Atlas (NBA) will have been completed. By then, a minimum of 1350 tetrads will have been visited twice in winter, representing 93% of the 1455 tetrads in Norfolk. In other words, only about 100 need to be covered in the 2006/07 winter, a truly remarkable achievement. Perhaps surprisingly, it has proved more difficult to obtain coverage during the summer months, but despite this by the end of the 2005 breeding season 1065 tetrads had been visited twice in summer and hopefully this total will have risen to about 1260 after the summer of 2006, representing 87% of the county. Therefore less than 200 tetrads remain to be covered during the final summer of fieldwork in 2007. However, as with the winter survey, the vast majority of uncovered tetrads lie in the southern half of Norfolk, which is always the most difficult part in which to obtain coverage. For the Norfolk Bird Atlas results to remain meaningful, it is vital that the fieldwork is completed within this eight-year time span. Therefore, I would beseech all those who have an interest in the distribution and abundance of birds in Norfolk to offer their services during 2007, especially in the breeding season, even if it means travelling some distance from home. On average, a tetrad can be adequately covered in no more than two visits of four hours each, in winter and/or summer.



Marsh Harrier (*Gary Wright*)

In previous annual reports I have tended to concentrate on the changes in abundance of the same 62 commoner species between the current breeding survey and that carried out in 1980-85, or between years, seasons or east and west Norfolk. One of the potential problems in comparing changes between years is the risk that observers tended to favour the more species-rich tetrads in the earlier years. Despite this possible bias, this year's analysis looks at a selection of 31 less common species, some of which are known to have shown population changes since the earlier atlas. The following table shows the percentage of tetrads in which the 31 species were recorded on at least one of the set breeding season visits during the selected summers of 2000, 2003 and 2005, and the total for the six years 2000-05. The final column shows the percentage of tetrads in which the species was present during the 1980-1985 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

	2000	2003	2005	2000-05	1980-85
<i>Tetrads covered in period</i>	<b>170</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>1455</b>
Little Grebe	16	12	9	13	8
Great Crested Grebe	10	14	12	12	10
Cormorant	8	18	13	13	-
Little Egret	-	2	3	2	-
Greylag Goose	29	44	31	35	8
Canada Goose	26	21	18	23	14
Egyptian Goose	22	36	23	27	6
Shelduck	33	34	25	32	20
Gadwall	14	20	13	17	8
Teal	10	9	3	7	7
Pochard	4	5	4	5	5
Tufted Duck	28	30	17	26	19
Marsh Harrier	12	21	18	19	3
Buzzard	6	17	14	10	<1
Hobby	6	10	12	10	8
Oystercatcher	34	47	39	41	15
Avocet	3	4	4	4	<1
Snipe	9	18	4	8	22
Redshank	12	9	7	9	11
Little Owl	9	23	19	18	15
Kingfisher	11	13	11	14	11
Woodlark	11	4	6	7	<1
Sand Martin	14	13	6	13	15
Tree Pipit	9	4	6	6	6
Yellow Wagtail	14	20	12	16	19
Grey Wagtail	5	11	11	8	4
Nightingale	12	7	3	7	15
Cetti's Warbler	2	2	9	5	3
Sedge Warbler	38	33	24	32	34
Reed Warbler	29	25	25	27	23
Siskin	10	4	2	6	2

*Percentage of tetrads in which the 31 species were recorded on at least one of the set breeding season visits during the selected summers of 2000, 2003 and 2005, and the total for the six years 2000-05. The final column shows the percentage of tetrads in which the species was present during the 1980-1985 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.*

In discussing the changes in the table, it needs to be borne in mind that the figures simply represent presence and do not necessarily mean that actual breeding or attempted breeding occurred in all of the tetrads. Also the data from the current NBA project do not include supplementary records, although these will be used in the final publication. Therefore, some of the population increases will be greater and some of the declines may not be as marked as they appear, compared with the figures from the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas.

Amongst the water birds, Little Grebe appears to have increased whereas Great Crested Grebe shows no change, perhaps because the majority of suitable breeding sites are already fully occupied. At the time of the earlier Norfolk Bird Atlas, neither Cormorant nor Little Egret were breeding in the county. While the Cormorant is now fairly widespread, having been recorded in nearly 150 summer tetrads in the six years 2000-05, Little Egrets remain

sparsely distributed but almost certainly will continue to spread inland, as well as along the coastal fringe. All three geese: Greylag, Canada and Egyptian show marked increases overall but in support of anecdotal evidence, Canada Geese have decreased steadily during the six years of the current atlas fieldwork. Whereas Shelduck, Gadwall and Tufted Duck have increased since the early 1980s, the Pochard remains a fairly scarce breeder within the county.

Two of the great success stories in the last 20-30 years have involved Marsh Harriers and Buzzards. The former increasing as a breeding species in Norfolk since the mid-1970s. Having occupied most of the available reedbeds, a pair of Marsh Harriers bred amongst an arable crop in Norfolk in 1982, the first such record in Britain. Since then it has increasingly utilised arable fields, helped by the widespread planting of oil seed rape. At the time of the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas the Buzzard was even rarer, with only two records of summering pairs during the period. The first successful breeding in Norfolk since the 1800s was subsequently reported in 1992. Since then it has steadily increased and during the six years of NBA fieldwork, Buzzards have been recorded in over 100 summer tetrads. The other raptor which appears to be becoming more numerous, and which has also been recorded in over 100 tetrads, is the Hobby.

The most dramatic increase in the table is for Oystercatcher, presumably as a direct result of its spread inland. By comparison, the decline in the national breeding population of Snipe has been well documented and the figures for the two Norfolk atlas projects clearly confirm this trend locally. Fortunately, it appears as though the Redshank is holding its own, at least here in East Anglia.

During the earlier atlas it was known that some records for Woodlark were withheld and so the figure for the early 1980s should have been higher. However, records from the Stanford Battle Area have not yet been included in the current database, and so the increase will eventually be even more marked. It is encouraging to see that the overall figure for Sand Martin is not significantly different between the two surveys. Nor surprisingly is it for Tree Pipit, although Yellow Wagtail appears to be less widespread, and the figures for Nightingale show a marked decline. Cetti's Warbler continues to spread, albeit slowly, since the initial colonisation in the mid-1970s. The populations of both Sedge and Reed Warblers are encouragingly similar between the two atlases.

It is interesting to compare the fortunes of the two Cardueline finches: Siskin and Redpoll. While the former was proved to breed for the first time in Norfolk in 1961, it has slowly increased and spread with breeding records away from the favoured Breckland haunts. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the Redpoll which has shown one of the most dramatic declines of any species since the early 1980s, falling from 31% to just 3%.

As far as this current *Norfolk Bird Report* is concerned, all submitted NBA records up to the end of 2005 have been included in any analysis. As in last year's *Norfolk Bird Report*, the percentage of tetrads in which 62 commoner species were recorded on at least one of the set breeding season visits during the summers of 2000-05, and the average number of 'pairs' per occupied tetrad are given in the species accounts of the Systematic List. In addition, the percentage of tetrads in which the 31 less common species listed above were recorded on at least one of the set breeding season visits during the summers of 2000-05 and during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas are given in the species accounts of the Systematic List.

This project would not have been possible without the sterling efforts of over 300 observers who have contributed to the fieldwork. If any readers feel that they would like to become involved, albeit at this late stage, I would be delighted to hear from them either by post at 4 Heath Road, Sheringham, NR26 8JH or by email on [mosstaylor@care4free.net](mailto:mosstaylor@care4free.net)



# Systematic List

## Introduction

As in the previous year the British Ornithologists' Union has made yet further changes to the British List, both in terms of the order and latin names. The Systematic List has been amended accordingly. The English names that are most familiar have been retained, for example Little Ringed Plover as opposed to Little Plover. Unless otherwise stated, all observations are of single birds and refer to 2005. The following abbreviations are used in the species accounts:

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

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

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

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

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



Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

A common resident; the Ouse Washes attract the most important winter concentrations  
Highest numbers at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Breydon/Berney	69	69	151	41	138	59	61	51	47	39	63	70
Whitlingham CP	61	45	47	43	55	43	21	54	47	50	44	50
Welney	114	113	117	186	294	-	-	-	-	52	74	72
Nar Valley Fisheries	64	40	8	-	-	-	30	-	18	33	22	-

Other concentrations: Jan 150 Halvergate, 73 Rockland Marsh, 75 Thorpe St Andrew; Feb 123 Acle Marshes, 146 Halvergate, 79 Ludham, 71 Thorpe St Andrew; March 97 Buckenham Marshes, 89 Halvergate; April 78 Claxton Marshes; May 105 Stanford Water; Oct 80 Cantley BF.

Records of 90 nests/broods included: 26 Welney, 23 mid-Yare RSPB, 10 Holkham NNR, 5 Haddiscoe, 4 Stanford TA, 3 Hickling Broad, 3 Whitlingham CP; at Cley a brood included 2 white 'Polish' cygnets.

Coastal movements: at Sheringham 5 west May 22nd and 6 west May 28th; at Overstrand 5 east May 22nd and 3 west Sept 27th.



Mute Swan (Phil Jones)

Bewick's Swan

*Cygnus columbianus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers  
Counts at Welney WWT:

Jan 16th	Feb 13th	Mar 13th	Oct 30th	Nov 20th	Dec 4th
3158	1872	14	782	1743	3242

International importance (winter): 170

Numbers at Welney generally down compared with last year. Late records included 14 on March 13th and a single until 29th; 4 injured birds noted in May. The earliest returns 7 on Oct 16th.

Peak counts in Broad's included: *Jan* 237 Breydon/Berney 1st and 31st, 276 Catfield Common 18th, 244 near Hickling Broad 19th, 99 Reedham 30th, 381 Ludham Airfield 31st; *Feb* 318 Hickling Broad 4th, 274 St Benet's Level 9th; *March* 218 Potter Heigham 19th; *Dec* 134 Hickling Broad 25th.

In spring departing birds in March (all east): *7th* 260 in 3 flocks along R Tudd valley at New Costessey (0715-0730), 2 flocks of 30 and 110 Winfarthing (0735); *8th* 43 Attleborough and 60 Norwich; *12th* 20 Necton. Autumn immigration was concentrated Oct 27th-29th when westward movements totalling 354 birds recorded at Holkham Gap, Blakeney Point, Stiffkey, Warham, Morston, Cley, Salthouse, Mundesley, East Ruston, Ringland, Ashill. Late arrivals 24 in off sea Holkham Dec 9th.

In first winter period 19.4% juvs counted in a flock of 232 at Hickling Broad Jan 29th; in second winter period juvs accounted for 16.4% of a flock of 134 at Hickling Broad Dec 25th. An albino noted at Catfield Jan 22nd/23rd.

## Whooper Swan

*Cygnus cygnus*

*Winter visitor, mainly from Iceland, in internationally important numbers*

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 5th</i>	<i>Feb 27th</i>	<i>Mar 13th</i>	<i>Apr 13th</i>	<i>Oct 30th</i>	<i>Nov 20th</i>	<i>Dec 4th</i>
2752	1791	1492	92	654	1653	2053

*International importance (winter): 160*

Counts at Welney followed the normal pattern with the Jan count high although not reaching 2004's record. By May 19th 15 still present, 10 of them injured. Elsewhere in month singles Blackborough End Tip 9th and Burnham Overy 28th. The first 2 birds returned to Welney Sept 25th.

Peak counts in Broad's: *Jan* 44 Thurne Marshes 10th, 50 Catfield 16th, 19 between Hickling and Catfield 17th, 66 Ludham Airfield 31st; *Feb* 50 Hickling Broad 1st, 70 Ludham 8th; *Dec* 25 Sutton Mill 23rd, 23 Hickling Broad 31st.

The earliest bird of autumn was one at Burnham Norton/Overy Sept 3rd which remained all month. Small numbers were seen on passage in autumn in the north-west of county including 34 west Titchwell Oct 27th, 12 Titchwell in off sea Nov 5th and later south at Hunstanton, and 14 south-west Roydon Common Dec 12th.

## Bean Goose

*Anser fabalis*

### Taiga Bean Goose *A (f) fabalis*

*Winter visitor to the Yare Valley*

In first period up to 170 in Yare Valley during early Jan, followed by rapid departure during month, with numbers falling to 96 by 11th, then similar numbers until month end, none after early Feb when 13 on 4th. First returning birds 26 Oct 26th, increasing to 40 Nov 12th, 98 23rd and in Dec 139 12th and 166 19th.

As usual few elsewhere, all in first winter period when Acle Jan 13th, Choseley with Pinkfeet 15th, Holkham GM 19th and 2 Feb 5th, 2 Burgh Castle Feb 8th and 1st-winter Burnham Overy March 6th.

### Tundra Bean Goose *A (f) rossicus*

*Small numbers increasingly recorded in winter*

Following large influx at end of 2004, good numbers remained around county between Jan and early March, totalling around 225 birds. In north-west 20-25 with Pinkfeet, including 18 Little

Walsingham Jan 5th, 5 Stanhoe 7th, 11 Wighton 8th, 5 Choseley 14th and 18 Holkham GM Feb 18th, with smaller numbers regular there until March 9th and one May 5th. In Broads at least 49 Jan, when one Cantley Marshes 1st, 10 Repps-with-Bastwick 10th, 49 Hickling at Hill Common 6th, 11 Martham 10th and 45 between Hickling and Catfield 17th. Up to 46 present west of Yarmouth in Jan, when 20 Breydon/Berney 1st and 19 31st, 17 Halvergate 18th and 46 Runham 21st. In Fens at least 99 present, including a large roaming flock, with 96 Methwold Fens Jan 3rd and at Welncy 3 Jan-March with 19 Jan 5th, 23 7th and 72 9th. Elsewhere 3 west Cley Jan 1st.

Very few during autumn or second winter period, only records 2 Holkham GM Sept 27th and occasional birds there during Dec; 3 presumed returning birds Welney from Dec 26th.

Eleven unidentified Bean Geese, presumed escapes, at Earsham Sept 30th and Oct 6th.

**Pink-footed Goose**

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

*Winter visitor in internationally important numbers from Iceland and East Greenland*

As usual co-ordinated roost counts carried out at all roost sites in county and once again proved to be best way of monitoring wintering numbers. Numbers down on 2004 (when new revised total of 152,514 Dec 13th) with highest count in 2005 118,310 Dec 5th.

First winter period roost counts:

	Jan 4th	Jan 17th	Jan 31st
Snettisham	9220	6950	825
Scolt Head	18000	7800	-
Holkham/Wells	28800	19000	19000
Berney	12046	8900	2900
Horsey	No count	7231	7124
Total	68066	49066	29849

Second winter period roost counts:

	Oct 24th	Nov 7th	Nov 28th	Dec 5th	Dec 28th
Snettisham	3525	19080	40630	30720	14195
Holme/Thornham	1300	1000	-	-	-
Seolt Head	12500	14500	11000	8000	25800
Holkham/Wells	32850	32000	39350	66000	55000
Horsey	2460	4686	2674	6240	4064
Berney	4400	3000	6250	9000	8400
Total	57035	74266	99914	118310	110989

Additional roost counts included 5000 Scolt Head Sept 30th, 10,165 Horsey Feb 7th and 12,320 Berney Dec 11th.

As in recent years, birds along north coast just as likely to roost overnight on grazing marshes, rather than flight out onto nearby tidal roost sites; this was especially evident at Holme and Holkham, whilst in early Oct up 4500 were regularly roosting at Burnham Norton.

Largest feeding flocks away from roost sites: Jan 15,000 Brancaster, 10,000 Little Walsingham, 6500 Reedham and Waxham, 5000 Acle, Lynn Point and Saxlingham, 2500 Ongar Hill; Sept 20,000 North Creake; Nov 20,000 Brancaster, 10,000 Flitcham; Dec 40,000 Brancaster, 12,000 Titchwell, 10,400 Freethorpe.

By late Jan many birds had departed, numbers continued to decline in Feb and best counts March/April 1250 Breydon and 1000 Snettisham March 1st, 2466 Horsey 2nd, 4000 Holkham GM and 1300 North Wootton 9th, 4660 Potter Heigham 21st, 2000 Burnham Overy 23rd, and



200 Holme April 1st, 1000 Horsey 9th and 600 Holkham GM 30th. In May still 750 Holkham GM during first week, falling to 35 11th and 5 until month end; elsewhere 12 Holme 1st-11th, 110 north-west Scolt Head 11th, 25 in off sea 12th and 26 in to roost there 15th.

During June-Aug 1-3 injured/feral birds Breydon/Berney, Cley, Hickling Rush Hills, Holkham GM, Salthouse and Snettisham.

First returning birds early Sept, when 17 in off sea Scolt Head 3rd, followed by other early arrivals 25 Holkham GM 5th, 30 Hickling Stubb Mill 7th, 35 Scolt Head 8th and 13 Titchwell 9th. Numbers quickly built up at Holkham GM during Sept where 60 9th, 1600 12th, 2000 13th, 3200 16th, 8000 19th, 10,000 21st and 12,000 24th. Similar quick build-up in numbers in Broads during Sept, where 500 Waxham 18th, 3000 there 24th and presumed same 3000 Winterton 26th.

Once again much movement between wintering areas in county, interestingly largest counts were of flocks flying east including 1200 Mundesley Jan 9th, 1560 Overstrand Sept 28th, 1500 Cley Oct 8th, 2500 Overstrand 10th, 3000 Cley 11th, 2500 Paston 15th, 1450 Overstrand and 3000 Paston Nov 5th; also 2500 south-west Eccles Oct 7th and 2000 west Cley Dec 4th. Notable counts elsewhere included 80 north Buxton Heath Jan 22nd, 400 south-east Cantley Jan 23rd, 60 west Aylmerton April 22nd, 35 north-east Foul登 and 100 over Roydon Common Sept 16th, 44 north-east Blackbrough End Tip Sept 17th, 150 west Whissonsett Oct 26th, 300 west Hanworth Common Nov 27th, and 1000 east UEA Broad, 1000 south-east Whitlingham CP and 450 east Norwich Dec 8th.

Various leucistic and partial albino birds reported, including 3-5 buff-coloured birds, a blue dun-coloured bird and 2-3 with white bands on belly and wings.

**White-fronted Goose**

*Anser albifrons*

**European White-fronted Goose *A (a) albifrons***

***Winter visitor and passage migrant from Siberian tundra***

Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holkham GM	358	400	470	60	112
Hickling/Heigham Holmes	450	407	30	-	324
Buckenham/Cantley	109	102	-	22	97
Breydon/Berney	240	267	20	12	35

Records away from main wintering localities in first winter period: *Jan* 3 Little Walsingham (with Pinkfeet) 5th, 2 Stanhoe 6th and 17th, 12 Welney 16th, 82 Horsey Mere leaving roost 31st (possibly same as Hickling/Heigham Holmes birds); *Feb* 76 west Brancaster Staithe 5th, 424 Halvergate Marshes and 9 Snettisham 13th; *March* 5 Holme 3rd. Last of spring 200 Holkham GM March 13th and 20 Breydon/Berney 16th.

Feral/injured birds included 1-2 Nar Valley Fisheries and Pentney GP Jan, Holkham GM April/May, Hickling Broad May and Langmere Aug.

First returning birds Oct when 6 east Weybourne 19th, 6 Holkham GM 22nd and 26 Cantley Marshes 27th. Only records away from regular sites in second winter period 2 Holme Nov 22nd and 42 Halvergate Marshes Dec 28th.

Nationally wintering numbers have declined, with more choosing to winter on the continent; numbers in county, however, are at least stable if not increasing at some sites.

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

### *Regular visitor in very small numbers from Western Greenland*

In first winter period, adult and 1st-winter/imm present with Pinkfeet in north Jan-Feb 10th, spending most of time at Holkham GM; also seen Burnham Deepdale, Burnham Overy, Brancaster, Egmere, Stanhoc and Wighton, but often not together.

In second winter period adult with Pinkfeet Ringstead Nov 2nd, imm Welney Nov 29th and a juv/1st- winter Brancaster/Burnham Overy/Holkham GM Dec 10th-30th.

2004 Addition: Repps-with-Bastwick Oct 25th.

## Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

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

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	460	394	252	251	292	421	760	592	750	350	665	590
Holme	25	20	45	22	31	20	32	98	17	45	25	44
Holkham NNR	263	337	267	275	185	68	132	234	202	362	523	143
Stiffkey Fen	700	628	34	42	-	69	-	504	1023	-	253	307
Cley	25	30	120	110	127	41	47	339	12	12	433	462
Hickling/Heigham	350	750	-	-	189	-	-	850	900	-	-	632
Breydon/Berney	117	67	34	14	12	5	20	2	192	411	491	104
Pentney GP	338	-	152	-	249	270	188	248	-	-	120	364
Whitlingham CP	51	27	31	27	31	61	90	38	35	12	11	81

Noteworthy counts elsewhere: *Jan* 363 Nar Valley Fisheries, 267 Pensthorpe, 170 Fustwyced GP, 150 Welney, 122 Flitcham, 120 Wereham and West Raynham, 118 Barton Broad; *Feb* 250 Wereham, 160 Martham, 145 Burnham Overy Hbr, 140 West Somerton. 110 Felbrigg; *June* 103 Barton Broad; *July* 200 Repps-with-Bastwick; *Aug* 279 Titchwell; *Sept* 710 Strumpshaw, 350 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 214 Welney, 186 Titchwell, 154 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Oct* 428 Nar Valley Fisheries, 336 Welney; *Nov* 500 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 457 Strumpshaw, 384 Welney, 190 Cantley Marshes, 119 Barton Broad; *Dec* 500 West Somerton, 383 Welney, 200 Hoe, 181 Barton Broad.

Pairs during breeding season included 68 Holkham NNR (slightly lower than in 2004 due to shooting and egg pricking), 23 Hickling Broad, 12 Holme, 3 Hoveton Hall, 3 Stanford TA; broods also noted at Whitlingham CP 6, Felbrigg 2 and single Flitcham. Also bred at Cley where 134 young fledged, Pensthorpe where 55 adults 30 young, Nar Valley Fisheries and Pentney GP. NBA results showed the species was present in 35% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 8% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Only reports of possible wild Icelandic birds with Pinkfeet Brancaster Jan 14th and Dec 26th, and 2 Holkham GM Feb 20th with one March 9th.

## Snow Goose

*Anser caerulescens*

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

A juv/1st-winter found at Holkham GM Jan 7th in company with Pinkfeet. It remained amongst the hordes of geese in north-west of county mainly at Holkham GM until May 3rd. That morning it was seen to fly off north early at Burnham Overy; it continued north, with 60 Pinkfeet, flying past Spurn, Grimston, Filey and Scarborough (Yorks) and finally passed St

Mary's Island (Northumberland) in the early evening. In second winter period another juv Choseley Nov 15th, which did not linger.

Presumed feral adults at Holkham GM Jan 30th and Feb 20th, Holme Feb 27th and Barnham Broom GC March 21st-31st.

## Greater Canada Goose

*Branta canadensis*

### Introduced resident

Regularly counted at following 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	87	16	8	67	44	100	146	46	11	250	240	190
Holkham NNR	81	27	93	75	86	-	-	-	-	99	109	80
Breydon/Berney	71	34	4	35	35	51	29	46	159	210	184	34
Nar Valley Fisheries	185	70	17	-	-	37	-	-	70	62	-	-
Pentney GP	59	-	-	-	-	53	-	206	-	173	60	230

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 200 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 190 Kcn Hill Marsh, 68 Cley; *Feb* 92 Blickling Park Lake; *June* 79 Barton Broad, 67 Burnham Norton, 66 Titchwell; *July* 135 Gunton Park Lake, 117 Burnham Norton, 105 Titchwell; *Aug* 132 Cley, 100 Hickling Broad, 65 Whitlingham CP; *Sept* 289 Blickling Park Lake, 175 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 110 Cley; *Oct* 300 Blickling Park Lake, 280 Cantley Marshes, 103 Ranworth Broad, 102 Lenwade; *Nov* 175 Cantley Marshes.

The now usual midsummer movements at various coastal sites from late May when 33 west Scolt Head and 31 out to sea then west Sheringham both 29th, possibly involving same flock. Movements continued into June with 45 on sea Scolt Head 8th and 71 west there 14th, 40 west Holme 15th, 26 west Scolt Head also 15th with 86 in ternery there 19th.

Breeding records from Burnham Norton, Holkham NNR (where threefold increase on 2004), Holme, mid-Yare RSPB, Nar Valley Fisheries, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Stanford TA and Thetford. NBA results showed the species was present in 23% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 14% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

## Lesser Canada Goose

*Branta hutchinsii*

### Vagrant from north America

An elusive individual, with Pinkfeet, showing the characteristics of the race *hutchinsii* (Richardson's Canada Goose) at Holkham GM Nov 19th (MIE), Southwood Dec 7th (AGr) and Brancaster Dec 26th (CD).

## Barnacle Goose

*Branta leucopsis*

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

As usual a number of no doubt wild birds associating with the hordes of Pinkfeet in both north-west and east coast areas. The high mobility of birds between sites makes exact numbers impossible to ascertain but max 9 in first winter period and 10 during second winter period. Occasional sightings elsewhere presumably relating to wild birds: 6 west West Runton Jan 30th, 11 Cley with presumably same 11 in from north-east then west Sheringham both Dec 3rd.

Presumed feral birds widely recorded during year with max: *Jan* 100 Buckenham Marshes, 53 Welney, 21 Snettisham (on and off during entire year), 19 Hickling Broad; *Feb* 75 Hethersett, 57 Breydon/Berney, 50 Shotesham; *March* 47 Breydon/Berney; *April* '80



Breydon/Berney; *June* 52 Hickling Rush Hills; *Aug* 52 Hickling Broad; *Oct* 59 Buckenham Marshes; *Dec* 74 Buckenham Marshes.

**Brent Goose**

*Branta bernicla*

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

*Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor*

Monthly peak counts at selected important sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	1000	2000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-
Snettisham	510	575	770	500	6	76	500	764
Holme/Thornham/Titchwell	502	600	700	200	46	590	445	380
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1450	1400	960	663	458	550	1250	1450
Holkham/Wells	2000	479	139	176	35	275	440	1029
Stiffkey/Cockthorpe/Langham	800	760	-	443	696	91	460	563
Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse	800	659	1205	500	678	350	2500	2000

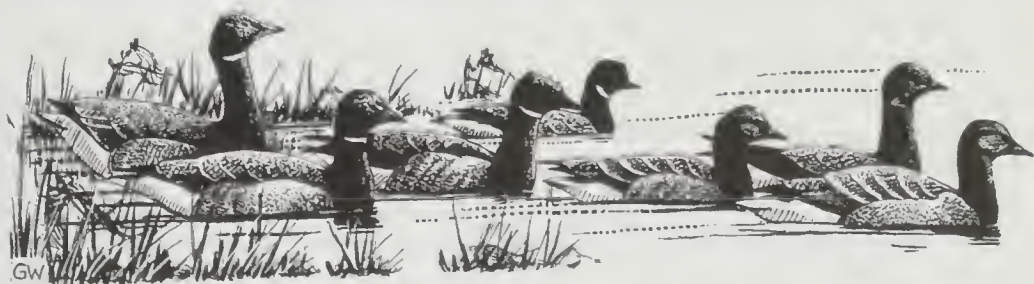
*For further counts in Wash and north coast see WeBS tables*

Vast majority of birds departed by end May leaving just a few lingering individuals throughout summer. In June 12 Scolt Head all month, 4 Morston 12th, 3 Titchwell 26th plus singles Ousemouth, Cley and Yarmouth (north 25th). Similar numbers during July/Aug with up to 14 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 4 Thornham and 3 Holme.

First returning bird Sept 6th when single west Blakeney Point followed by 24 north Gorleston 17th, 6 Blakeney Hbr 18th and 6 west Scolt Head 23rd. Numbers continued to increase during Oct with noticeable peak 15th-18th. During this period westerly passage of birds: 345 Scolt Head and 250 Overstrand 15th, 350 Sheringham 16th, 676 Scolt Head 17th with 1265 there next day.

Summer 2005 was a good year for lemmings and therefore the Brents enjoyed a fairly good breeding season (little pressure from predators). At Cley 32% of birds feeding on winter wheat were juvs while at Scolt Head approx 39% of flocks comprised juvs. Despite this good breeding season numbers still rather disappointing - the north coast population is now some 6000-7000 compared with 10,000-12,000 in late 1980s and early 1990s.

At Burnham Norton the usual leucistic bird present Jan/Feb at least.



Brent Geese (Gary Wright)

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

*Scarce winter visitor*

During first winter period singles at 8 coastal sites with multiple records: *Jan* 2 west Blakeney Point 13th, 3 Stiffkey 19th, 2 Cockthorpe 31st; *Feb* 5 Hindringham 12th, 3 Cockthorpe 13th, 2 Titchwell 26th; *March* 2 Morston 12th, 2 Cley (adult+juv) 22nd with 2 there (both ads) 25th;

April 2 Snettisham 23rd. Last of spring one east with Dark-bellied Brents Burnham Norton May 14th.

An unusual summer record of a colour-ringed bird with 4 Dark-bellied Thornham July 15th.

First returning birds Sept 17th when 2 west Titchwell and Holme. Subsequently singles at 7 sites Sept-Dec with multiple records: Nov 2 Gorleston 19th; Dec 2 Snettisham 15th, 2 Terrington 16th, 4 Stiffkey 18th, 2 Cley 22nd and 27th.

### **Black Brant** *B (b) nigricans*

#### *An almost annual vagrant from Arctic Siberia*

During first winter period recorded at Cley, Cockthorpe Airfield, Hindringham, Holkham GM, Holme, Morston, Snettisham, Stiffkey, Warham and Wells. Multiple records came from Holme/Titchwell where 2 together on numerous dates, these presumably accounting for record of 2 at Thornham Jan 22nd and 26th. Elsewhere 2 Cley Jan 27th and March 21st, and 2 Cockthorpe Feb 1st and 13th. Analysis of data indicates at least 5 present during this period. The bird at Holkham GM was accompanied by 2 hybrid young throughout its stay.

During second winter period probably same bird arrived back at Holkham GM Nov 16th paired with a Dark-bellied Brent and accompanied by 3 hybrid young (until year end). At same site a single unpaired adult also present Nov 16th-23rd at least, and a pure-bred juv on its own within the flock Nov 26th. At Titchwell the 2 adults again returned Dec 10th and remained until year end. In the Wash 3 together Admiralty Point/Terrington Marsh Dec 16th with presumably 2 of these birds (adult+ juv) seen previous day at Snettisham. Further single Cley area intermittently from Nov 18th, probably accounting for one Stiffkey Fen Dec 15th. These records indicate a min of 7 birds present in county during second winter period.

A presumed juv hybrid Black Brant x Dark-bellied Brent Cley Dec 22nd possibly relates to one of the Holkham GM individuals.



Black Brant (Richard Johnson)

### **Egyptian Goose**

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

#### *Long-established resident feral population*

Highest counts: Jan 37 Lenwade; Feb 36 Horning Upper Street; March 63 Ludham Bridge; April 24 Pentney GP; May 31 Whitlingham CP; June 250 Holkham Park, 79 Pentney GP; July 260 Holkham Park, 92 Blickling Park; Aug 119 Pentney GP, 85 Breydon/Berney; Sept 135 Pentney GP, 73 Strumpshaw; Oct 85 Cley, 67 Buckenham Marshes; Nov 75 Bawsey; Dec 58 Horning Upper Street.

Breeding recorded at Banham Moor, Bittering GP, Blackborough End GP, Burnham Norton, Cley, Corpusty, Coxford, East Lexham, Felbrigg, Flitcham, Glandford, Hapton, Holkham NNR, Holkham Park Lake, Holme, Hoveton, Irstead, Lenwade, mid-Yare RSPB, Nar Valley Fisheries, Salthouse, Sennowe Park, Snetterton, Snettisham, Sparham, Stanford TA, Swanton Morley GP, Tasburgh, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Whitlingham CP.

At Holkham NNR a brood of 15 is a record number recorded from a single nest in Britain. NBA results showed the species was present in 27% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 6% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

## Shelduck

*Tadorna tadorna*

*Widespread but declining breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor*

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>
Snettisham	1650	386	263	231	172	1063	270	457	717	517	1535	1431
Holme	25	76	86	34	22	6	7	8	6	21	95	19
Titchwell	40	44	43	48	37	11	25	13	41	4	53	27
Scolt/Braneaster Hbr	270	364	285	143	70	67	67	22	4	148	192	196
Holkham NNR	32	50	124	162	162	119	-	19	-	6	10	73
Stiffkey Fen/SM	93	75	29	35	14	66	-	-	14	19	91	237
Blakeney Hbr/GM	303	210	301	250	183	62	49	11	11	37	37	395
Cley	109	52	49	93	110	73	50	35	52	48	81	72
Breydon/Berney	84	94	86	93	146	-	277	29	182	301	194	134
Welney	109	104	169	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Only notable counts elsewhere: *March* 135 Hardley Flood; *April* 78 Wissington BF; *May* 65 Salthouse; *Nov* 91 Warham SM; *Dec* 228 Warham SM. Away from Snettisham only major count received from Wash, which holds significant numbers, was 3602 North Wootton June.

Breeding records (single broods unless otherwise stated): Aylmerton, Blakeney Point (26 prs), Brancaster Thompson Farm (2 broods), Breydon/Berney (7 broods), Cantley BF (6 broods), Cley (13 prs - 59 young fledged), Coxford, Dersingham Bog (15 prs), East Harling STW, Flitcham, Great Massingham Common (2 broods), Great Ryburgh, Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR (14+ broods), Holme (18 prs), Johnson Street Buttle Marsh. How Hill. Nar Valley Fisheries (2 prs - one brood), Pensthorpe, Pentney GP (2 unsuccessful prs), Scolt Head (30 prs - 14 broods), Stanford Water, Welney (4 broods), Wighton, Wissington BF (4-5 prs - 35 young). At Cley on June 24th a pair were seen with 27 small young - this did not appear to be a crèche but possibly a case of 'egg dumping'. NBA results showed the species was present in 32% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 20% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Regular easterly midsummer departure to moulting grounds; other than 8 Overstrand May 12th all records from Scolt Head where max 79 June 8th and 33 19th, 115 July 10th, 88 11th, 127 12th, 78 13th, 557 14th and lastly 44 on 18th.

Returning birds moving west Sept 4th-Nov 18th though few counts received. Peak movements 45 Scolt Head Sept 4th with 123 there 10th and 66 next day, 180 Holme, 56 Titchwell and 159 Scolt Head 17th, 56 Titchwell Oct 17th, 20 Beeston Bump Nov 14th, 39 Mundesley and 23 north California 17th, 32 Beeston Bump and 23 north California 18th.

Leucistic bird Breydon June 10th and 18th.



**Mandarin**

*Aix galericulata*

*Small population derived from introductions and escapes*

Remains scarce; no evidence of breeding but several records involved pairs. Only regular site Felbrigg Park Lake where pair Jan 3rd until at least April 12th, with further records Nov 5th then pair Dec 9th onwards. Elsewhere Heacham throughout Jan, West Lynn Feb 27th, North Creake March 5th, pair near Acle 25th, Norwich R Wensum 28th, pair Great Ryburgh April 13th-17th with 3 on 16th, west past Overstrand 15th with presumed same later at Cley, Strumpshaw 26th, Sennowe Park Lake 30th, Whitlingham CP May 15th, Flitcham Aug 13th, Aylmerton Sept 18th, 2 Weybourne Oct 6th and Strumpshaw Nov 6th.

**Wigeon**

*Anas penelope*

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

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	<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	1394	930	148	3	715	1985	2828	3798
Holme	1760	1670	1100	25	175	650	1032	1881
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	175	335	33	2	1100	7500	2735	1525
Holkham NNR	11450	10460	5490	399	262	5000	8831	8454
Stiffkey Fen/SM	1000	323	126	-	149	268	823	317
Blakeney Hbr/GM	2280	1439	1822	34	815	993	2843	1483
Cley/Salthouse	1034	1312	1225	29	114	219	1250	1763
Breydon/Berney	19019	15780	13254	439	252	4440	10739*	22134
Ranworth Broad	1570	740	1271	24	102	345	885	1229
Cantley/Buckenham	6350	5742	4425	120	-	2690	4500	3274
Welney	11520	11378	9189	909	200	803	4585	4716

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

*\* Site and county record*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 920 Ken Hill Marsh, 337 Pentney GP; *Feb* 560 Brancaster GM, 310 Burnham Overy GM, 324 Pentney GP; *March* 383 Pentney GP; *Nov* 409 Warham SM; *Dec* 320 Denver Sluice/Saddlebow, 375 Pentney GP.



Wigeon (Robert Gillmor)

Usual rapid departure during April with small numbers lingering into May. Over-summering birds, principally drakes, at many wetland sites with June/July records (max numbers): Breydon/Berney (4), Cantley BF (3), Cley (4), Colney GP (2), Hickling Rush Hills (2), Holkham NNR (21+), Holme (5), Ken Hill Marsh (2), Scolt Head (6 west June 25th), Welney (few). Breeding suspected at Holme (2 prs), Holkham NNR (5), mid-Yare RSPB (3) and Titchwell (5) but no broods reported.

First returning autumn birds 12 west Holme Aug 12th. Visible passage unusually poor with best counts (birds moving west along north coast and north along east coast): 142 Scolt Head Sept 4th, 365 Scolt Head and 193 Mundesley 10th, 209 Cley 16th, 312 Holme, 365 Titchwell, 514 Scolt Head, 504 Sheringham, 149 Mundesley, 358 Walcott (0630-0930) and 302 California all 17th, 350 Holme 18th and 300 21st, 223 Scolt Head 22nd, 405 Scolt Head Oct 6th with further counts from same site 215 7th, 218 16th and 876 on 18th, then 195 Overstrand and 367 Mundesley Nov 17th.

Lucicistic bird Breydon Dec 5th.

## Gadwall

*Anas strepera*

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

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	50	44	43	8	4	10	16	6	13	6	28	52
Holme	6	30	43	13	28	13	9	60	74	17	21	12
Titchwell	27	18	15	15	67	92	30	19	5	12	39	28
Holkham NNR	54	74	15	35	63	-	-	61	-	20	48	22
Cley	37	69	42	37	52	206	53	29	42	82	80	60
Breydon/Berney	29	21	91	63	43	19	7	3	2	4	6	3
Whitlingham CP	150	82	59	7	12	5	2	40	71	81	150	205
How Hill Reedham Water	-	14	8	4	-	6	64	156	265	145	65	56
Welney	303	*351	302	156	-	-	-	-	28	11	56	16

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

*\*Site record*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 118 Alderfen Broad, 90 Bittering GP, 95 Cranwich GP, 40 Hoveton Hall Lake, 307 Martham Broad, 70 Nar Valley Fisheries, 41 Ranworth Broad, 58 Sparham Pools, 50 Stanford Water; *Feb* 44 Bittering GP, 42 Cockley Cley, 48 Horsey Mere, 130 Quidenham; *March* 116 Hickling Broad, 140 Quidenham; *May* 75 Stanford Water; *June* 56 Strumpshaw; *July* 112 Salthouse; *Aug* 108 Strumpshaw; *Sept* 166 Strumpshaw, *Oct* 39 Ranworth Broad, 92 Strumpshaw; *Nov* 79 Alderfen Broad, 62 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Dec* 55 Alderfen Broad, 150 Bittering GP, 74 Earsham GP, 115 Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound, 48 How Hill Crome's Broad, 46 Ranworth Broad, 53 Tottenhill GP, 185 Wroxham Broad.

Breeding records: Bayfield Hall (2 broods), Bittering GP (3 broods), Blakeney Point (4 unsuccessful pairs), Cantley BF, Cley (12 prs - 17+ young), Dillington Carr, Flitcham (3 broods), Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR (42 prs - 17 broods), Holme (25 prs), How Hill Reedham Water (6 broods), mid-Yare RSPB (42 prs), Nar Valley Fisheries, Pensthorpe, Scolt Head (6 prs), Tattersett, Titchwell (9 prs - 2 broods), Welney (15 broods), Whitlingham CP. NBA results showed the species was present in 17% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 8% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Usual light summer/autumn coastal movement, with all records given (west unless otherwise stated): 6 Scolt Head June 23rd with 24 east there July 14th and 2 Sept 1st, 2 east Walcott 11th, 2 Scolt Head 28th and 2 there Oct 12th, 2 Sheringham 24th, 5 south California

29th and 6 north there Nov 16th, 12 Overstrand 18th, 6 Sheringham 19th, 11 north California 22nd, 8 offshore Winterton Dec 3rd.

## Teal

*Anas crecca*

*Passage migrant and abundant winter visitor; breeds in small numbers*

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	1860	688	148	4	197	262	600	565	2344
Holme	38	150	150	16	90	180	192	90	283
Titchwell	313	114	76	86	169	214	390	343	295
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	175	140	48	7	10	308	397	173	206
Holkham NNR	516	440	214	170	23	-	440	1279	563
Stiffkey Fen/SM	-	77	92	100	46	315	1000	1197	556
Blakeney Hbr/GM	372	182	222	81	26	161	507	469	392
Cley	1121	286	259	92	408	2500	1583	1057	1200
Salthouse	245	184	143	45	61	251	202	328	521
Breydon/Berney	2490	4733	3217	779	106	170	450	1927	1942
Hickling Broad	1045	850	350	40	300	1000	200	3000	1110
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	243	180	147	40	-	320	473	238	132
Cantley BF	-	-	200	30	-	250	-	150	-
Buckenham Marshes	600	-	-	-	-	-	533	554	-
Welney	1862	1319	997	745	314	-	731	828	1194

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

Other notable counts: *Jan* 725 Horsey Mere, 168 Whitlingham CP; *Feb* 218 Bittering GP, 210 Bodney Camp, 100 Leziate Fen; *March* 203 Hardley Flood, 500 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh; *Aug* 350 Dersingham Bog; *Sept* 600 How Hill Reedham Water, 270 Lopham Fen, 500 Tottenhill GP; *Oct* 800 Barton Broad, 1290 How Hill Reedham Water, 110 North Wootton Marsh, 526 Strumpshaw; *Nov* 400 Didlington Park Lake, 680 How Hill Reedham Water, 590 Strumpshaw; *Dec* 200 Barningham Lake, 225 Earsham GP, 2450 Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound, 2500 Horsey Mere, 300 Rollesby Broad, 407 Strumpshaw, 350 Tottenhill GP.

Small numbers summered as usual at wetlands throughout county with breeding at Berney (brood), Holkham NNR (6 unsuccessful pairs), Holme (5 prs) and mid-Yare RSPB (4 prs). The species was present in 7% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05 in the current NBA as well as during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas Project.

First visible passage single west Scolt Head June 6th with steady build-up of numbers thereafter. More obvious visible passage from mid-July with main arrival mid-Aug to mid-Sept. Peak counts (west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): 179 Cromer, 81 Overstrand and 121 California Aug 8th, 370 Sheringham (0545-0845), 163 Overstrand (0620-0800), 210 Walcott (0600-0830) and 204 California all 15th, 80 Holme, 103 Scolt Head and 220 Sheringham 19th, 62 Scolt Head, 150 Overstrand (0545-0810), 106 Mundesley and 168 Walcott 20th, 700 Cley 21st, 120 Winterton 23rd, 120 Holme, 734 Scolt Head and 106 Cley (0835-0915) Sept 1st, 200 Blakeney Point and 140 Walcott 4th, 293 Mundesley 10th, 185 Scolt Head, 87 Sheringham, 60 plus 123 south Walcott (0645-0910) and 51 plus 251 south California all 11th, 121 Scolt Head and 170 Mundesley 16th, 189 Holme, 338 Scolt Head, 458 Sheringham, 543 Walcott (0630-0930), 605 Winterton, 521 California and 129 Gorleston all 17th, 87 Scolt Head Oct 3rd with 149 there 18th, 52 Overstrand and 221 Mundesley Nov 17th.



## Green-winged Teal

*Anas carolinensis*

### *Vagrant from North America*

In first winter period wintering drake from 2004 remained Buckenham Marshes until Jan 30th and drake Hickling Rush Hills seen again Jan 22nd-25th and Feb 8th-11th. Additional drakes Welney Jan 31st and Hockwold Washes Feb 12th/13th.

At end of year possibly same drake intermittently Stiffkey WM Nov 2nd-8th and Cley 3rd-14th. Further sightings of males Snettisham Nov 12th, Holme Dec 10th and Cley Dec 22nd. In Broads drake returned for fourth winter in Upper Thurne area being seen Hickling Rush Hills Nov 4th-8th, Martham Broad 18th and 29th, then Horsey Mere Dec 25th.

## Mallard

*Anas platyrhynchos*

### *Widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

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	792	304	123	74	45	35	55	87	302	422	1516	1018
Holme	103	23	66	51	33	33	57	61	105	50	60	73
Titchwell	153	53	38	32	21	52	64	92	22	34	195	168
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	125	180	120	66	62	52	27	34	500	316	195	230
Holkham NNR	315	342	127	118	118	-	-	206	27	391	508	276
Wells Hbr	164	150	147	41	17	245	-	-	55	32	42	82
Blakeney Hbr/GM	115	78	59	30	65	-	-	54	116	145	132	105
Cley	105	64	46	34	35	41	80	103	83	104	87	102
Breydon/Berney	304	256	83	31	75	16	75	129	294	171	293	322
Barton Broad	156	25	60	43	74	201	146	106	68	163	150	196
Ranworth Broad	252	145	35	54	23	32	56	57	125	101	48	208
Welney	702	736	442	448	-	-	-	276	-	552	830	1088

*International importance (winter): 5000*

Notable counts from elsewhere: *Jan* 102 Broome GP, 285 Hickling Broad, 350 Stanford Water, 200 Wissington BF; *Feb* 105 Stiffkey Fen/SM, 100 Wissington BF; *June* 85 How Hill Reedham Water; *Aug* 81 Cockshoot Broad, 168 How Hill Reedham Water, 117 Stiffkey Fen; *Sept* 111 Stiffkey Fen, 300 Tottenhill GP; *Oct* 86 Tottenhill GP; *Nov* 300 Bittering GP, 178 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet, 78 Stiffkey Fen, 100 Stowbridge; *Dec* 535 Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound, 305 Horsey Mere, 555 King's Lynn Gaywood, 98 Stiffkey Fen, 400 Wissington BF.

Breeding data from Blakeney Point (6 unsuccessful pairs), Cley (22 prs fledged 52 young), Holkham NNR (142 prs produced 123 broods), Holme (44 prs), mid-Yare RSPB (143 prs), Scolt Head (16 prs), Titchwell (20 prs) and Welney (numerous broods). NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 9 drakes per occupied tetrad.

Usual limited visible westerly autumn passage with only counts 49 Scolt Head Oct 24th, 39 Cley, 26 Cromer and 12 north 2 south California all Nov 16th. 11 Beeston Bump (0730-1145) and 3 south 2 north California 17th, and 6 Beeston Bump 19th.

## Pintail

*Anas acuta*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred*

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>
Snettisham	165	328	45	254	150	430	280
Titchwell	33	42	67	1	57	60	86
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	90	115	55	64	425	400	380
Holkham NNR	132	-	23	60	5	20	52
Stiffkey Fen/SM	50	130	-	18	11	-	55
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	296	48	76	24	110	288	237
Breydon/Berney	248	127	106	112	126	164	212
Tottenhill GP	30	15	-	120	600	400	250
Welney	782	510	556	44	128	432	335

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

Very few records away from above sites: *Feb* 25 Earsham GP, 59 Hardley Flood, 8 Hickling Broad, 12 Warham SM; *March* 4 Brancaster GM, 14 Earsham GP, 176 Hardley Flood, 26 Hickling Broad, 14 North Wootton Marsh, 40 Ousemouth, 10 Salthouse, 3 Warham SM, 6 Wissington BF; *April* 2 Nar Valley Fisheries; *May* singles Cockley Cley and Nar Valley Fisheries; *Sept* 101 Burnham Overy GM; *Oct* 14 Cockthorpe Airfield (feeding with Pinkfeet 12th); *Dec* 12 Warham SM. Birds using Hardley Flood in first winter period perhaps drawn from Breydon/Berney.

Usual rapid unseen departure from mid-March with small numbers lingering into April. Recorded mid-May to July at Breydon, Cley, Holkham (pair may have had unsuccessful breeding attempt), Ken Hill Marsh (2), Titchwell (6) and Welney (4).

First returning birds 2 west Cromer and 2 north Walcott Aug 8th. Autumn passage through until mid-Oct with double-figure counts (birds moving west along north coast and north along east coast): 14 Cley Sept 2nd, 38 Scolt Head 3rd, 11 Holme 4th and 40 7th, 35 Scolt Head 12th, 35 Scolt Head and 34 Mundesley 16th, 72 Holme, 11 Titchwell, 41 Scolt Head, 31 Sheringham, 34 Walcott (0630-0930) and 18 California all 17th, and 117 Scolt Head Oct 3rd with 63 on 18th.

## Garganey

*Anas querquedula*

*Very scarce breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant*

First of year in off sea Horsey March 20th, closely followed by single (same?) Horsey and 2 Welney 21st, one Cley and 6 (5 drakes) Whitlingham CP 22nd, 3 Berney 23rd, 2 Surlingham Church Marsh 24th and Welney 29th.

Recorded April/May from following 20 localities (with highest counts): Berney (4), Blakeney GM (2), Burnham Overy, Burgh Castle, Burnham Norton (2), Cley (2), Hickling Rush Hills, Hockwold Washes (4), Holkham GM (2), Holme (4), Ken Hill Marsh, Nar Valley Fisheries, Salthouse, Snettisham (2), Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Surlingham Church Marsh (2), Titchwell (3), UEA Broad, Welney (5).

Records of 1-3 from just 8 localities June/July. Breeding: at Holme brood of 9 newly-hatched young June 7th and at Cley 4 fledged young from Aug 3rd; also likely bred at Holkham NNR but no broods located.

Usual scatter of autumn records, chiefly of singles, from Breydon, Cantley BF, Cley (max 4 Aug 29th), Hickling Rush Hills, How Hill Reedham Water, Kelling WM, Nar Valley Fisheries, Ranworth Broad, Snettisham, Strumpshaw (max 3 Aug 23rd), Titchwell, Welney,





Barnacle Goose (left) and Greater Snow Goose (right) were found amongst the huge numbers of wintering geese in North Norfolk. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Garganey - this fine drake was at Cley in May. (*Julian Bhalerao*)







Red-throated Diver - a confiding bird at Caister-on-Sea in November. (*Alan Tate*)

American Kestrel - this escaped female caused a brief stir at Old Hunstanton. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Quail - a rarely photographed species. (*Malcolm Rains*)





spread of Little Egrets continues - these birds were at Holkham Freshmarsh. (*Julian Bhalerao*)







White-tailed Eagle - Great Bircham in January. Left (*Julian Bhalerao*), right (*Andrew Martin*)

Spotted Crake - a long-staying bird at Kelling Quags. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Moorhen - is this species becoming a pest in some areas? (*Tony Howes*)





West Tofts Mere and Weybourne. Last stragglers Buckenham Marshes Oct 1st, Hickling  
Swim Coots 11th and 2 Welney 14th.

**Blue-winged Teal**  
*Vagrant from North America*

*Anas discors*

Spring drake Burnham Norton May 8th (MAG *et al*) sadly stayed just one day. In autumn  
longer staying fem/imm Cley Nov 5th-9th and again 14th (PMW *et al*).

**Shoveler**  
*Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor*

*Anas clypeata*

Peak monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	30	45	54	12	11	9	26	34	36
Titchwell	36	35	18	78	13	45	78	47	42
Holkham NNR	28	43	24	26	16	-	17	41	46
Cley	40	14	24	41	24	57	112	105	100
Breydon/Berney	191	334	468	181	4	6	44	238	242
Cantley BF	-	-	-	17	105	295	120	40	-
Welney	349	348	455	451	58	146	144	134	83

National importance (winter): 100

Significant counts elsewhere: *Jan* 41 Hickling Rush Hills, 66 Holkham Park Lake, 65  
Martham Broad; *Feb* 480 Filby Broad, 87 Hickling Broad; *March* 50 Blakeney GM, 59  
Hockwold Washes, 55 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 54 Tottenhill GP; *April* 32 Blakeney GM,  
33 Ken Hill Marsh; *June* 54 Cley, 65 Titchwell; *July* 37 Cley; *Aug* 60 How Hill Reedham  
Water, 76 Strumpshaw; *Sept* 60 How Hill Reedham Water, 285 Strumpshaw; *Oct* 50 Ranworth  
Broad, 135 Strumpshaw; *Nov* 95 How Hill Reedham Water; *Dec* 34 Hickling Broad, 150  
Holkham Park Lake, 43 Ranworth Broad, 32 Wissington BF.

Breeding records: Blakeney Point (unsuccessful pair), Cley (10 prs - 26 young fledged),  
Holkham NNR (reserve record 54 prs - 13 broods), Holme (15 prs), mid-Yare RSPB (38 prs),  
Titchwell (44 prs - 3 broods), Welney (11 broods). Summering birds present at several other  
localities.

No visible spring passage noted. Westerly autumn passage from Aug 8th (Walcott) to  
Nov 17th (several sites) on just 17 days. Double-figure counts 12 Sheringham and 13 Walcott  
Aug 20th, 23 Scolt Head 23rd with 51 there Sept 1st, 22 on 22nd and 21 Oct 1st, 19  
Sheringham, 14 Beeston Bump (0730-1145), 24 Overstrand, 17 north Winterton and 36 north  
California all Nov 17th. Late winter movement 9 north Winterton Dec 31st.

**Red-crested Pochard**  
*An escape, but with possibility of genuine vagrants from the Continent*

*Netta rufina*

In first winter period recorded regularly at Hickling Broad with a pair March 19th-April 10th  
and a max of 4 March 20th. A male seen Welney Feb 8th/9th and 3 Great Ryburgh March 30th  
the only other records.

A single still present Hickling Broad May 4th and a pair seen on a small pool at Great  
Ryburgh May 10th, although no broods were reported in county this year.

Elsewhere a female Nar Valley Fisheries Aug 29th intermittently until Oct 23rd and an  
eclipse drake How Hill Recdham Water Sept 22nd-Oct 2nd.

**Pochard***Aythya ferina**Summer breeder in small numbers, common passage migrant and winter visitor*

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	24	27	21	-	1	4	8	-
Holme	14	16	11	12	1	17	4	9
Titchwell	22	22	20	4	-	-	3	8
Ranworth Broad	13	3	2	26	14	41	6	43
Tottenhill GP	40	76	-	-	-	-	60	55
Welney	1318	1301	841	17	-	125	581	569
Wissington BF	17	181	197	-	-	-	-	42

*National importance (winter): 440*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 45 Bittering GP, 72 Nar Valley Fisheries, 81 Pentney GP; *Feb* 64 Bittering GP, 60 Sparham Pools, 65 Wroxham Broad; *March* 50 Salhouse Broad; *Sept* 60 Martham Broad, 96 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Dec* 140 Ormesby Broad.

Small numbers summered at various localities with another good breeding season (broods in brackets): Berney (2), Cantley BF (2), Cley (one, possibly first for reserve), Holkham NNR (13), How Hill Reedham Water (3). Elsewhere breeding birds present at Holme (5 prs), mid-Yare RSPB (12 prs) and Titchwell (2 prs). The species was present in 5% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05 in the current NBA as well as during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas Project.

Significant coastal movements: 11 west Scolt Head Oct 2nd and 17 west Holme Oct 3rd.

**Ring-necked Duck***Aythya collaris**Vagrant from North America*

A male Sparham Pools March 28th (RG CS *et al*). Only the second record since 1997.

**Tufted Duck***Aythya fuligula**Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor*

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	50	11	31	53	27	35	32	36
Holme	16	21	22	11	8	8	13	8
Ranworth/Cockshoot	38	33	35	55	54	44	38	74
Whitlingham Lane GP	128	136	123	74	14	76	111	132
Tottenhill GP	49	60	-	30	-	-	130	80
Magdalen RC	-	-	-	-	-	160	150	150
Nar Valley Fisheries	181	54	31	16	112	52	37	-
Welney	311	306	228	230	-	-	29	24

*National importance (winter): 600*

Notable counts elsewhere: *Feb* 191 Wroxham Broad; *March* 132 Hickling Broad, 73 Pentney GP; *April* 100 Hickling Broad; *Nov* 80 Pentney GP, 94 Stowbridge; *Dec* 426 Denver, 100 Swanton Morley GP, 85 Wroxham Broad.

Breeding records (broods in brackets): Blackborough End GP (2), Cantley BF (1), Cley (2), Corpusty (1), Drymere (2), Fowlmere (1), Holkham NNR (19), How Hill Reedham Water (6), Pensthorpe (3), Sparham Pools (5), Tattersett (2), Thetford Nunnery Lakes (3), Welney (11) and Westmere (1). Breeding also noted but no broods reported from Holme, mid-Yare

RSPB, Pentney GP and Titchwell. NBA results showed the species was present in 26% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 19% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Notable coastal movements: 6 west Scolt Head May 2nd with 2 west there 22nd, 2 west July 20th and 30th, and 3 west 31st, 6 north Winterton Aug 6th, 4 west Cley Aug 8th, 12 east Sheringham Oct 16th and 6 west Cromer Nov 16th.

**Scaup**

*Aythya marila*

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

Regular in first winter period at 3 localities: Cley Jan 15th with a female intermittently until at least March 18th; Denver/Magdalen RC with up to 4 birds in area Jan 2nd-March 9th although singles recorded until March 25th; Snettisham adult female present all year but with max totals of 10 Feb 1st and 8th, and 8 March 9th. Elsewhere a good showing of records with 3 Stiffkey Fen Jan 1st increasing to 4 10th, Pentney GP 2nd, 8 Breydon 3rd, Titchwell 14th, 2 Blackborough End GP 15th, Tottenhill GP Feb 1st, Wroxham Broad 3rd-26th, 2 Hickling Broad Feb 22nd-March 12th, 4 Welney March 15th dropping to 2 20th/21st, Fowlmere 30th and Titchwell April 14th-21st.

During summer present throughout at Snettisham with 2 birds on a number of dates. Also 2 Titchwell June 13th, drakes Breydon and Cley July 7th with 2 west there Aug 8th, west Mundesley July 31st and again Aug 8th, west Cromer, Overstrand and north Walcott also Aug 8th.

Autumn coastal movements: *Sept* south Gorleston 10th, south California 11th, west Scolt Head 16th, 2 west Mundesley 17th, 3 west Holme 25th; *Oct* 2 west Holme 3rd with another west 7th, south Horsey 15th, 2 east Sheringham 16th with 2 west there 24th, and north Walcott 23rd.

Other records in second winter period: 5 west Cley Nov 15th, 5 Holme and 6 west Overstrand 18th, 7 Snettisham 25th with 9 there Dec 4th, and Titchwell Dec 19th.

**Eider**

*Somateria mollissima*

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

Max counts at regularly visited 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	3	37	14	7	3	-	-	-	16	24	1	7
Titchwell	30	30	57	20	20	15	5	2	16	11	1	32
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	40	46	47	55	42	50	54	51	59	43	14	7
Holkham Bay	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	4	48

*National importance (winter): 750*

Other regular localities with usually fewer than 10 birds included east coast sites from Walcott to Yarmouth as well as Thornham, Wells, Stiffkey and Cley. Inland Ormesby Little Broad March 13th and Breydon Aug 27th-Oct16th. In the Wash only records from land 2 Hunstanton Jan 29th and 20 Snettisham Feb 11th. However up to 1500 in winter in middle of Wash counted by aerial surveys.

Autumn/winter movements (north along east coast and west along north coast): *Oct* 20 Waxham and 22 North California 5th, 61 Caister 16th, 44 Sheringham 24th; *Nov* 70 Blakeney Point, 55 Salthouse and 50 Happisburgh 18th, 28 Cley and 40 Overstrand 19th, 116 Sheringham 26th, 231 Sheringham, 113 Mundesley and 164 California 27th; *Dec* 36 California 13th, 59 Walcott 27th.



**King Eider**

*Somateria spectabilis*

*Vagrant from the Arctic*

The 1st-winter male Titchwell in Dec 2004 last seen Jan 3rd (SBe TCD *et al*).

**Long-tailed Duck**

*Clangula hyemalis*

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

In first winter period recorded mainly at Holme/Titchwell with monthly max of 34 Jan, 85 Feb, 50 March and 21 April. Birds also wandered to Brancaster with 3 Feb 13th and 7 March 13th. At Hunstanton, despite only one present Jan 31st 100 reported there Feb 16th. Latest 6 Titchwell April 18th.

In second winter period earliest 2 Titchwell Oct 17th followed by one east Cley and 2 Sheringham 24th and a female Wells Boating Lake 29th. Max counts in Holme/Titchwell area 30 Nov and 19 Dec with 2 Holkham Bay Nov 30th and again Dec 4th, with 3 there 9th and 2 lingering until 24th. Elsewhere: Nov Sea Palling 6th, male Whitlingham CP 10th/11th, California and Cley 17th, pair off Overstrand 20th-27th, Filby Broad 23rd; Dec Cley 1st, Kelling 13th, Gorleston 26th.

**Common Scoter**

*Melanitta nigra*

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

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>
Titchwell	650	145	2000	5000	5000	166	500	38	300	700	800	2000
Scolt Head	-	1500	4000	8000	4000	-	750	750	400	1150	-	1250
Holkham Bay	42	8	6	35	-	-	500	14	64	600	2000	2500

*National importance (winter): 350*

Other notable counts during first winter period: 600 Holme Jan 30th, 1500 Thornham April 10th, 2500 Holme May 1st, 1200 Thornham May 8th. Spring coastal movements noted Overstrand where 70 east April 19th, 50 west May 3rd and 95 east May 16th.

In remainder of year movements were reported from June to Nov, virtually all north and west round the coast. The most notable were:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reported between</i>	<i>Highest count</i>	<i>Highest hourly timed count</i>
Aug 8th	Holme-California	825 (Sheringham)	200 (Cley)
Aug 15th	Sheringham-California	343 (Sheringham)	120 (Walcott)
Sept 11th	Scolt Head-Mundesley	389 (Scolt Head)	30 (Walcott)
Oct 2nd	Scolt Head-Gorleston	189 (Scolt Head)	18 (Sheringham)
Nov 16th	Cley-California	618 (Cley)	176 (Cley)
Nov 17th	Cley-California	1091 (Overstrand)	545 (Overstrand)

The passage of 618 birds Cley (in 3 hrs 30 mins) Nov 16th involved no adult males and the 594 Cley (2 hrs 30 mins) Nov 17th included only 15 males.

In second winter period only notable count away from three sites in first table 750 Brancaster Dec 4th.

Inland records: male Strumpshaw June 30th, 2 east Breydon Aug 2nd, 5 Barton Broad Sept 4th, male Whitlingham CP Sept 13th and 4 (3 males 1 female) Pentney GP Oct 6th.

Velvet Scoter
*Melanitta fusca*

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

Max counts from principal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	1	2	-	-	10	9	1
Titchwell	32	4	15	17	10	33	68
Holkham Bay	3	-	-	-	2	15	9

During first winter period away from above sites: *Jan* 2 Brancaster 1st, single Blakeney Point 5th; *Feb* Cley 4th, 3 Winterton 5th, 3 north Sea Palling 7th; *April* 4 Scolt Head 10th and 13 on 12th. Other records included 10 Titchwell May 1st, 2 north Yarmouth July 8th plus single at several sites along north coast until mid-Sept.

Movements noted from mid-Sept: west Mundesley 16th, west Titchwell 16th-19th, east Holme 17th, 11 west Blakeney Point 24th. In Oct and Nov movements of 1-3 birds at several sites with 8 west Cley Nov 18th. Max count east coast 6 Eccles Nov 25th.

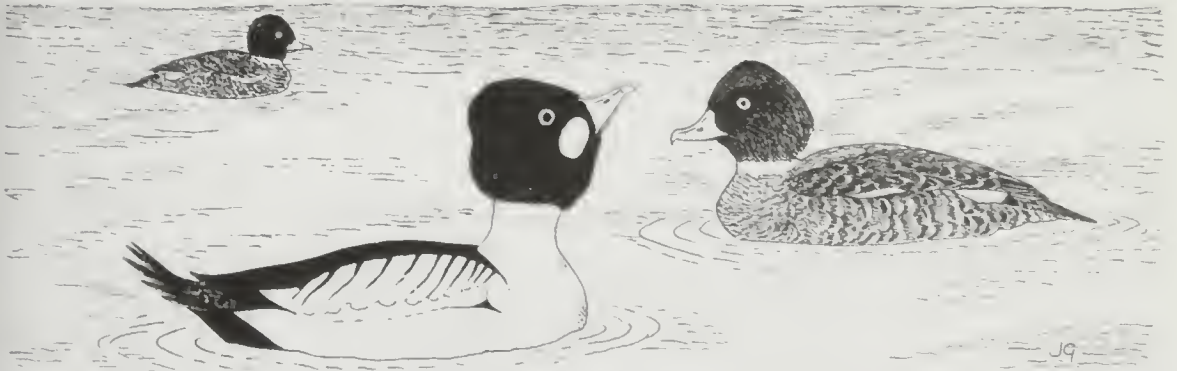
Goldeneye
*Bucephala clangula*

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	36	24	26	3	-	38	22
Titchwell	142	77	105	9	11	19	50
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	45	33	20	4	28	33	-
Tottenhill GP	40	16	16	21	-	6	9
Hickling Broad	45	52	53	-	-	-	16

Elsewhere in first winter period: 58 Thornham Hbr Jan 15th, 10 Saddlebow RC 16th, 15 Barton Broad 22nd, 17 Great Ouse RC and 10 Nar Valley Fisheries 30th. 12 Wiggenhall St Peter RC Feb 4th, 11 Nar Valley Fisheries 27th, 16 Magdalen RC March 10th with up to 51 noted on various other land-locked waters. Last noted in April at Hockwold Washes (2) 24th. Coastal movements noted Feb 14th when 2 females west Overstrand when 2 males north Winterton.



Goldeneye (John Geeson)

In Aug single Gorleston 7th and 2 Cley 8th; single Scolt Head from Sept 18th-Oct 16th. Small numbers noted at several sites in Oct with passage on 24th at Blakeney Point (7 west), Cley (2 west) and Overstrand (single east). Movements in Nov peaked on 16th/17th with 17

west Cley and 21 west Sheringham 16th, 57 west Cley, 66 west Overstrand, 67 west Mundesley, 31 north Walcott and 41 north California on 17th. In Dec away from sites in table max counts 14 Blakeney Hbr and 14 Brancaster 4th, 10 Saddlebow RC 5th and 12 Sennowe Park Lake 17th. Movement noted Dec 17th when 18 west Sheringham and 14 north Winterton.

Smew

Mergellus albellus

Winter visitor in small numbers, increasing during severe weather

Another poor year. All records given: Jan 2 (one drake) Heigham Sound 1st/2nd, drake Tottenhill GP 4th/5th and 9th-11th; Feb redhead Welney 27th, 2 Tottenhill GP 28th; Dec drake Tottenhill GP 3rd-11th, single Wells Hbr 4th, redhead Breydon 11th, single Hickling Broad 16th-23rd, drake Tottenhill GP 22nd/23rd, redhead Horsey Mere 25th.

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	25	15	21	7		31	16	21
Titchwell	30	23	15	6		10	20	29
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	37	55	52	34		43	34	41
Blakeney Hbr	33	9	-	4		4	10	22

National importance (winter): 100

Other double-figure counts in first winter period: 29 Hunstanton Jan 26th, 10 Warham SM Feb 13th, 18 Hunstanton Feb 17th, 17 Holkham Bay March 13th. Inland records (Jan-April) of one Saddlebow RC Jan 2nd and 1-5 (mostly males) Ten Mile Bank various dates Jan 29th-March 13th.

Records at principal coastal localities throughout summer and autumn included 2-5 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr May 1st-10th, 2 Titchwell June 26th, 2 Holme Aug 1st and one Titchwell Sept 20th.

Movements noted from July with one west Cley 7th, one west Sheringham 10th, 2 west Holme Aug 17th, one east Sheringham Sept 16th with 2 west there 17th/18th, and 4 north California also 17th. Oct/Nov movements mainly along north coast although 4 south Gorleston Oct 14th and 3 south California Nov 9th. Largest movements 10 west Scolt Head Oct 3rd, 13 west Sheringham Oct 16th, and 10 west Sheringham then Cley Nov 16th.

During second winter period double-figure counts away from principal localities of 15 Holkham Bay Nov 8th with 30 there Dec 3rd and 16 4th, 10 Stiffkey SM also 4th and 10 Hunstanton 28th.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most abundant in severe winters

Max counts from favoured sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar		Nov	Dec
UEA Broad	10	6	8		-	6
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	20	-	-		-	9
Denver Sluice	27	17	17		20	43

Counts over 10 elsewhere during first winter period: 11 Sparham Pools Jan 1st, 14 Great Ouse RC Jan 30th, 12 Sparham Pools Feb 12th, 15 Wiggenhall St Peter RC March 7th. Coastal





Goosanders (*Gary Wright*)

sightings: 2 Morston Jan 5th, one west Sheringham 22nd, male briefly on sea Titchwell Feb 4th, single Holme 7th, male north Winterton 14th, female east Overstrand March 12th, female west Holme/Titchwell 22nd. In April singles at eight sites with 2 adult males at Scolt Head.

During summer one Thetford Nunnery Lakes May 5th and 9th, with presumed same Santon Downham May 25th and June 17th and 26th, and then Thetford Nuns' Bridges Aug 31st-Oct 21st feeding with tame ducks. Other singles Potter Heigham May 6th-early June, Horsey May 25th, Denver June 5th and Salhouse July 25th.

First returning birds 4 drakes west Overstrand Sept 12th and 2 west Blakeney Point Sept 17th. Only three sightings in Oct: single west Sheringham 2nd, drake UEA Broad 17th/18th, 2 Swanton Morley GP 26th. In Nov six coastal sightings including 9 Eccles then Mundesley 13th; five reports from inland waters, 7 Pentney GP 18th notable. Away from favoured sites no counts greater than 2 in Dec.

## Ruddy Duck

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

*An introduced resident, first recorded in 1977*

Max monthly counts from principal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	4	8	3	5	8	5	4	4	4	1	-
Cley	-	-	2	5	8	4	2	-	1	-	-	-
Stiffkey Fen	3	1	5	10	5	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Titchwell	1	1	3	3	6	7	5	3	-	-	-	-
Tottenham GP	2	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5

Widely distributed (29 sites) but in small numbers, 10 at Stiffkey Fen April 11th being only double-figure count. Slightly more reports of breeding than last year from Bayfield Hall, Cantley BF, 2 pairs Cley (9 young seen), 2 pairs East Wretham Heath, 9 pairs Holkham NNR, 4 pairs Holme (2 broods seen), Salhouse (3 young). Snettisham. 2 pairs Titchwell (4 young) and 3 pairs Welney. The largest post breeding season number away from sites in table, 5 females Ormesby Little Broad Dec 20th.

## Red-legged Partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

### *Common introduced resident*

Counts reported in the first winter period: *Jan* 40 Salthouse, 30 Brancaster Thompson Farm; *Feb* 65 Swaffham. In May 228 counted at Holkham NNR.

Breeding pairs included 276 Brancaster Thompson Farm, 26 Sparham, 14 Holkham NNR, 8 Seolt Head (4 broods noted), 2 Blakeney Point (only one fledged juv seen) and one at Sustead which produced 17 young. NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Counts exceeding 25 in second winter period: *Aug* 80 Tatterford; *Sept* 60 Southrepps; *Oct* 52 Horsey, 50 Castle Acre; *Nov* 50 Thornham Farms, 30 Wighton; *Dec* 100 Winterton, 40 Forneett St Peter, 40 Frettenham.

## Grey Partridge

*Perdix perdix*

### *Resident*

Double-figure counts in first winter period: *Jan* 47 Snettisham, 20 Burnham Overy, 19 Great Bircham, 14 Mileham, 13 Wells, 12 Harpley, 12 Massingham Heath; *Feb* 30 Fring.

Breeding pairs included: 14 Holkham NNR, 4 Hilborough, 4 Sparham, 3 Berncy/Halvergate, 2 Seolt Head (16 in one brood). NBA results showed the species was present in 41% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad. On a managed estate in west of county an increase in breeding pairs to 64 from 30 in 2004, with an autumn count of 323 birds.

Counts in second winter period: *Sept* 40 Roydon Common, 15 California, 14 Caister; *Oct* 16 Sheringham, 13 Swaffham, 11 Holme; *Nov* 20 Dersingham Manor Farm, 15 Grimston Derby Fen, 12 Titchwell, 11 Fritcham; *Dec* 15 Ringstead.

## Quail

*Coturnix coturnix*

### *Summer visitor in erratic numbers; sporadic breeder*

2005 was a 'Quail year' with at least 62 birds reported from 47 localities for extended periods.

Highlights and probable breeding (most records of calling birds): 1-2 Burnham Market area May 14th-July 31st; 1-2 Choseley June 24th-July 11th; 2-3 Docking June 7th-July 23rd; 1-2 Feltwell Anchor June 3rd-18th; one Flitham June 21st-Aug 20th; 2 between Great Bircham and Docking June 7th-24th; one Ludham May 27th-July 4th; one North Creake July 1st-11th; 1-4 Stanford TA May-July; 4-5 Ten Mile Bank May 17th-Sept 8th; one Wacton May 14th-23rd; one Welney May 26th-June 24th.

Other localities where 1-2 birds reported on one/few days: *May* Hellington 11th, Old Buckenham 15th, Babingley 17th, Hickling Broad 17th/18th, Narborough and Titchwell 25th, Breydon and Kelling Heath 26th, Baeonsthorpe and Kettlestone 27th, Eaton 28th, Holme 29th, Bodham 31st; *June* Winfarthing 8th/9th, Seolt Head 9th, Weybourne Heath 11th, Narborough 15th, Roydon Common 16th and 18th, 1-2 Eeles 20th-22nd, Stanhoe 22nd, Langham 24th/25th, Tatterford 25th, Cley 28th; *July* Burlingham and Great Ellingham 2nd, Wells 3rd, Snettisham 4th, 1-2 Southrepps 10th and 21st, West Aere 10th, Beetley and Sheringham 17th, Ringstead 21st, Gimingham 25th, Hindringham 26th, 2 East Walton 30th; *Aug* Brancaster Thompson Farm 2nd, Sheringham 4th; *Sept* West Somerton 12th.

In the words of the observer at Mantons Farm, Ten Mile Bank "present on farm for 40 years - have never had a year like this, seeing so many birds".

It would also appear small numbers may be wintering as evidenced by up to 4 seen on shoots near Sedgeford Oct 22nd and Nov 16th.

Common Pheasant

*Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident

NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 14 cocks per occupied tetrad. Breeding included 13 broods from 25 males at Scolt Head (including one in mid-Sept). There seems to be a fashion to breed 'black' pheasants with 4 noted at East Tuddenham and 2 at Strumpshaw.

Counts: Nov 47 West Acre, 35 Westwick.

Golden Pheasant

*Chrysolophus pictus*

Scarce and local introduced resident

In period Jan-May regularly recorded at East Wretham (max 3), Great Hockham (max 2), Wayland Wood (max 3) and Wolferton (max 5). Elsewhere occasional records: Jan Great Bircham and Thetford; Feb Thetford; April Lynford (2) and Thetford; May Kilverstone and Lynford.

In second half of year only 3 sightings, all at Wolferton: 3 Nov 28th, 3 Dec 3rd (male, female and hybrid male), and 2 males 31st.

Red-throated Diver

*Gavia stellata*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer

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	159	25	8	1	-	1	-	1	44	38	6	2
Burnham Overy-Blakeney Hbr	3	40	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-
Blakeney Point-Happisburgh	207	220	400	1	4	1	1	1	214	60	75	375
Eccles-Hopton	50	125	67	1	-	-	-	1	20	224	23	100

National importance (winter): 50

Most birds, as usual, in coastal waters in north-east of county. Following major counts March 14th, thereafter singles on 18 dates, apart from 4 east Mundesley May 14th, before first double-figure count of autumn 14 Sea Palling Sept 12th. No records from Hunstanton or the Wash and a bird Kelling WM March 24th, just metres from the sea, was the sole individual reported from freshwater.

Three-figure counts on 13 dates in first winter period and on 5 in second. With exception of highly unusual count of 159 west Titchwell in just 2 hours Jan 13th, all between Sheringham and California: Sheringham 187 east 27 west (0615-1830) Sept 16th, 330 west 45 on sea Dec 31st; Overstrand 160 Jan 28th, 137 east 70 on sea Jan 29th, 200 on sea 20 west Feb 28th, 250 on sea March 6th, 150 on sea 120 west March 10th, 400 west (0800-1035) March 14th; Mundesley 128 west Jan 22nd, 130 east Feb 5th, 205 west Feb 10th, 194 west Feb 26th, 114 east 31 west Sept 16th, 261 west Dec 24th; Walcott 200 Dec 25th; Happisburgh 190 Dec 31st; Sea Palling 125 Feb 7th; Horsey 105 north Feb 13th; Winterton 115 north in 1 hr 45 mins Jan 18th, 100 Dec 31st; California 224 Oct 7th.

Black-throated Diver

*Gavia arctica*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Recorded up to April 16th (Holme) and from Sept 5th (west Cley and Blakeney Point).

Exceptionally scarce in first winter period, especially away from coastal waters of far north-west of county. Singles here recorded 8 dates Holme up to April 16th, with 2 Jan 1st and 14th, 1-2 Thornham Point March 13th and April 10th, singles Hunstanton Feb 17th and



Titchwell on 13 dates to April 10th, with 2 March 13th and 16th. All these records could conceivably relate to just two over-wintering birds moving locally with tide and potential prey. Elsewhere in first winter period, singles Caister Jan 2nd, Overstrand Jan 16th, Mundesley Jan 24th, Winterton March 3rd and 12th-14th, and Blakeney Point March 31st.

More widespread in autumn but most numerous in far north-west with singles Holme on 16 dates from Oct 3rd, with 2 Nov 18th, Dec 21st and 23rd, 3 west Oct 23rd and 3 Dec 22nd. Nearby, singles Hunstanton Dec 28th, Titchwell Oct 19th and Nov 12th, west Scolt Head Oct 3rd and on sea there 8th-10th. Perhaps no more than 3 birds involved in these records. Further eastwards, singles west Burnham Overy Oct 22nd, Holkham Bay Nov 6th, Blakeney Point Oct 30th and Nov 27th, east Cley Oct 5th with 2 there Nov 16th, Weybourne Oct 25th, west West Runton Oct 24th and Sheringham Sept 11th, Nov 1st, Dec 10th, 13th and 30th, and 2 east Oct 14th, Overstrand Oct 22nd and Nov 12th, 2 Mundesley Nov 27th and Paston Dec 24th.

Great Northern Diver

*Gavia immer*

*Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers; exceptional in summer*

Recorded up to April 16th (Holme) and from Sept 12th (Sheringham).

Extremely scarce in first winter period with single many dates Titchwell Jan 1st-April 13th probably same as that reported Holme Jan 13th and 19th (though two there March 14th-16th), March 2nd, 14th and April 16th, and Scolt Head March 24th. Elsewhere singles Brancaster Hbr March 9th-15th, west Cley Jan 16th and Feb 6th, Sheringham Jan 22nd (east) and Feb 13th (west), Caister Jan 2nd, and Gorleston Jan 8th (south) and Feb 12th (north).

More records in second winter period. Whilst in north-west singles at Hunstanton Dec 28th, Holme Sept 21st, Oct 13th, 14th, 23rd, Dec 7th and 21st, Titchwell Sept 30th, Oct 7th, Dec 20th, and Scolt Head Oct 13th, 23rd and 24th, Nov 6th, Dec 4th and 7th could conceivably relate to just one bird, more were present in north and east of county. Here singles Holkham Bay Nov 8th and Dec 4th-11th, 1-2 Cley/Blakeney Point 6 dates Oct 23rd-Dec 18th, with 3 east Cley Sept 17th, 5 Nov 17th and 6 Nov 16th, singles Weybourne Oct 2nd and 24th, 1-2 Sheringham on 11 dates Sept 12th-Dec 31st with 5 Nov 16th, Beeston Bump Dec 8th, West Runton Sept 18th and Nov 13th, Cromer Nov 16th, Mundesley Oct 24th, Nov 6th, 15th-17th, 27th and 2 west Dec 17th, Walcott Nov 18th, California Dec 8th and Yarmouth Sept 16th.

Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

Found throughout county with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	10	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	23	23	23
Holme	3	3	2	1	1	-	1	2	3	6	4	10
Holkham NNR	4	4	4	3	40	64	-	9	4	11	9	7
Cley-Salthouse	20	8	10	8	4	6	-	8	-	7	8	8
Nar Valley Fisheries	-	15	-	-	4	-	-	-	10	14	16	-
Breydon/Berney	-	3	7	7	8	5	4	9	6	5	4	4

Counts of 20 or more birds at just four other sites: 25 Heigham Sound Jan 3rd, 32 Hickling Broad Feb 28th, 40 Langmere Aug 23rd and 20 Swanton Morley GP Oct 23rd.

Many fewer breeding pairs reported than last year, with total of 52-56 breeding pairs at 14 sites (number of pairs in brackets): Bittering (3), Cley (3), Cockley Cley (1), Holkham NNR (32) - a 22% reduction since 2004, King's Lynn BF (1-2), Morning Thorpe GP (1-2), Nar Valley Fisheries (1-2), Necton, Roydon Common, Sheringham BO, Stanford TA (4),

Syderstone Common, Tattersett (1-2) and Tottington. No records received from Broads. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 8% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*

*Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	50	5	14	1	3	1	1	8	15	9	26	5
Titchwell	16	12	6	1	2	11	-	2	6	2	20	4
Seolt Head	2	3	3	3	3	3	-	4	5	14	4	3
Breydon/Berney	5	6	3	4	4	4	8	17	13	22	15	5
Ranworth Broad	5	12	16	20	12	14	16	18	7	21	14	15
Barton Broad	7	16	38	38	33	46	31	24	19	27	15	-
Rockland Broad	5	10	10	10	10	8	9	14	11	9	5	5
Nar Valley Fisheries	21	14	8	10	10	6	-	-	7	13	8	-

Other counts of 20 or more: 20 Great Ouse RC Jan 30th, 25 Filby Broad Feb 10th, 36 Welncy April 11th, 20 Potter Heigham June 3rd, 22 Tottenhill GP July 22nd with 36 there Aug 12th, 70 Winterton Nov 5th and 20 Ormesby Little Broad Nov 23rd.

A total of 84 breeding pairs reported from 12 sites: Bittering (2), Broome GP, Diss, Fustyweed, Hickling Broad (32), Holkham Park Lake, Martham Broad (3), Nar Valley Fisheries (3), Pentney GP (2), Rockland Broad (3), Welney (18), mid-Yare RSPB (17). NBA results showed the species was present in 12% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 10% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Red-necked Grebe

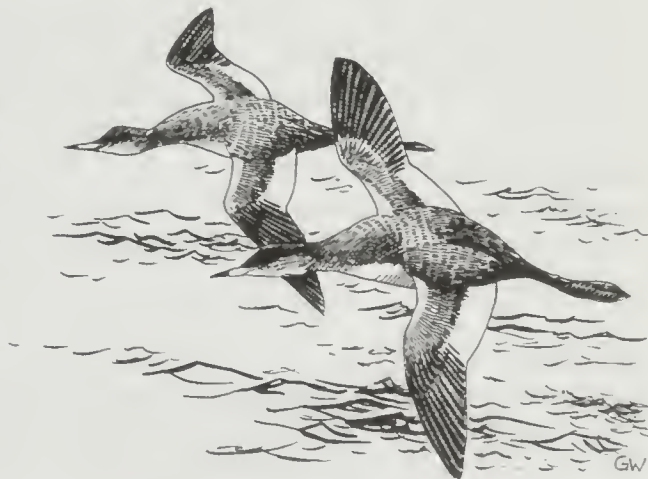
*Podiceps grisegena*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

Exceptionally scarce in first winter period with 1-2 Titchwell Jan 1st, 7th-17th and March 13th, with possibly the same birds off Holme Jan 16th, 29th, Feb 1st and March 11th, and Hunstanton Jan 30th. Elsewhere, Blakeney Point Jan 16th and Mundesley March 5th.

First returning bird a juv Brancaster Hbr July 26th-30th, followed by one north Walcott then west Overstrand Aug 20th. Birds subsequently widely scattered in coastal waters with impressive numbers waxing then waning in Holkham Bay, from one Oct 20th to 5 by 22nd, 10 by 29th, 16 by Nov 5th, 20 by 6th-7th but then falling to 9 on 8th, 8 19th, 4 23rd, 3 Dec 4th then singles 10th, 11th and 24th.

Elsewhere, 10 dates Holme Sept 7th-Dec 24th, Titchwell Sept 9th, 20th-26th and Oct 19th-30th, with 2 Oct 10th and 29th, and 5 Dec 14th, 1-2



Red-necked Grebes (Gary Wright)

Scolt Head on 9 dates Sept 16th-Oct 24th with 3 Sept 17th, Brancaster Dec 4th, Burnham Overy Nov 2nd, Blakeney Point 4 dates Sept 6th-Dec 18th, 1-2 Cley on 7 dates Sept 10th-Dec 18th with 3 Nov 17th, Salthouse Dec 1st, 5th and 7th, Weybourne Oct 17th, 1-2 Sheringham many dates Sept 16th-Dec 31st, with 3 Oct 14th, 4 Oct 2nd, 24th and 25th, 7 Nov 26th and 13 Nov 16th, Cromer Nov 17th with 5 west 15th and 16th (also reported from Beeston Bump), 3 Overstrand Nov 17th and 19th, Trimmingham Sept 3rd, Mundesley Sept 10th and Oct 22nd, with 3 west Nov 6th and 26th, Walcott Oct 19th with 2 Oct 21st and Nov 17th, Sea Palling Sept 17th and Oct 4th, California Nov 28th, Winterton Oct 23rd and 29th, 2 north Yarmouth and one Gorleston Nov 26th.

Inland: Pentney GP Jan 2nd/3rd, Ten Mile Bank Feb 18th, Downham Market RC Sept 22nd-30th, UEA Broad Oct 17th, Breydon Oct 23rd and Wroxham Broad Dec 19th.

## **Slavonian Grebe**

*Podiceps auritus*

*Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly during autumn*

Most records in first winter period from north-west coastal waters: Hunstanton Jan 30th and 2 Feb 26th, 1-2 Holme on 5 dates March 11th-27th, with 3 on 14th, 1-2 Titchwell on 6 dates Jan 1st-March 25th, with 4 March 14th-17th and 6 March 26th, 2 Holkham Bay Jan 22nd and March 13th, 2 Morston Jan 30th, Blakeney Hbr Feb 17th, Overstrand March 24th with 2 on 25th, and Sea Palling Jan 25th.

Unusually numerous in second winter period with notable gatherings in Holkham Bay and off Blakeney Point. A winter-plumaged bird found freshly dead Scolt Head Aug 23rd, with next also there Oct 2nd then 23rd and 4 on 25th. Elsewhere in north-west of county 2 Hunstanton Dec 28th, 1-3 on 20 dates Holme Oct 11th-Dec 24th with 4 Dec 31st, 1-2 on 6 dates Titchwell with 3 Nov 20th and Dec 20th, and 5 Oct 23rd and Dec 4th, and Brancaster Dec 4th. Numbers in Holkham Bay increased from 4 Oct 14th to 8 by 22nd, 10 by Nov 5th and 8th, and 14 by 19th, with 1-2 Dec 9th-11th the only subsequent reports. Further east a remarkable 17 off Blakeney Point Nov 18th, 3 Cley Nov 17th, 3 west Sheringham Oct 24th, 2 Weybourne Oct 29th, West Runton Oct 23rd, Mundesley and Walcott Oct 22nd/23rd with 5 west Mundesley Nov 26th, Winterton Oct 23rd and north Yarmouth Nov 26th.

Inland: Hickling Broad March 14th and Whitlingham CP Dec 22nd-31st.

## **Black-necked Grebe**

*Podiceps nigricollis*

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor*

A typical series of records probably referring to 2 birds in spring and 8 in autumn: Tottenhill GP March 18th, Welney April 7th-10th, Pentney GP Aug 25th, Hockwold Washes Sept 21st, 25th and Oct 9th, Whitlingham CP Oct 22nd, Barton Broad Oct 28th-30th, Snettisham Nov 8th, west Cley Nov 17th, west Blakeney Point Nov 18th, Brancaster Hbr and Nov 30th.

## **Black-browed Albatross**

*Thalassarche melanophrys*

*Wanderer from southern oceans*

2004 Addition: One east Sheringham Oct 10th (MDC MPL MJS). The second county record, see article page 299.

## **Fulmar**

*Fulmarus glacialis*

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

The only significant counts during first winter period and spring included 33 Hunstanton Jan 16th, 50 east Cromer Feb 14th, 120 Hunstanton April 30th and 57 east Mundesley May 14th.



Fortunately, the massive North Sea wrecks of 2004 were not repeated with just 3 tideline corpses including one blue phase during Feb/March between Blakeney Point and Horsey.

During breeding season only reports 120 Hunstanton (increase on 2004), 16 Cromer and possible breeding Scrabby.

Best of autumn movements included 28 west Cley Aug 14th and 80 Salthouse, 200 east Sheringham and 45 east 37 west Mundesley all Sept 10th. Subsequently significant movement Sept 16th when 18 east 9 west Holme, 72 west Titchwell, 209 Scolt Head, 400 Sheringham in 2 hrs and 100 east Mundesley in 4 hrs.

During second winter period only notable count 50 Hunstanton Dec 28th.

Blue phase records included one east West Runton Sept 4th and a rare 'double-dark' blue phase on sea Cley Nov 26th.

### **Cory's Shearwater**

*Calonectris diomedea*

*Annual vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic; most during autumn*

Three typical autumn records: east Cley Aug 7th (MAG), north Gorleston Aug 21st (INS) and west West Runton Oct 23rd (IP).

### **Sooty Shearwater**

*Puffinus griseus*

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

After two lean years, best autumn for nearly 10 years with large numbers. First autumn passage Aug 7th when singles west Cley and Cromer, 2 west one east Mundesley, one Sea Palling, 2 Winterton, 2 north Gorleston, with 7 west Sheringham Aug 8th. Weather driven movement Aug 21st when 11 west Cley in 2 hrs 30 mins, 21 west Overstrand (0630-0830), 14 west Mundesley, 78 north Eccles (1700-2000) and 32 north Waxham. As with Fulmar major offshore movement Sept 16th mainly north coast with best counts 88 east 61 west Scolt Head, 57 Blakeney Point, 33 Cley, 184 east 34 west Sheringham (0615-1830) and 38 west Overstrand in 2 hrs 30 mins. Oct 2nd also proved to be a noteworthy date when best north coast counts included 154 west 27 east Holme, 184 east 11 west Scolt Head, 29 Cley, 100 west Sheringham and 23 west Mundesley. Only recorded on 3 other days in month with max 8 west Scolt Head 13th.

Stragglers into Nov when singles Cley and Sheringham 16th, and late birds Sheringham 25th/26th.

### **Manx Shearwater**

*Puffinus puffinus*

*Passage migrant with majority during autumn movements*

Three exceptionally early records with singles Lynn Point Jan 16th, Holme Feb 19th and Overstrand March 2nd. Very light spring movement when 3 west Cley May 16th and recorded six dates in June with max 14 east 4 west Cley 25th. Noted on 9 dates in July with most notable 10 west Titchwell 25th, 4 Sea Palling 30th and 7 east Mundesley 31st. Best counts in Aug included 16 west Cley and 5 south Gorleston 7th, 8 west Holme and 10 Sheringham 8th, with 1-2 remainder of month predominately between Scolt Head and Walcott. In Sept with exception of 61 Cley 10th, the 16th again proved a notable date with 27 Holme, 34 east 30 west Scolt Head, 155 Blakeney Point in 9 hrs and 345 east Sheringham.

In Oct good movement on 2nd when 34 Holme, 30 Titchwell, 8 east 2 west Scolt Head and 23 east 6 west Sheringham. Only other significant count in Oct 5 west Scolt Head 13th. Three reports in Nov when 5 west Holme 13th, 2 there 26th and single Sheringham also 26th.

## Balearic Shearwater

*Puffinus mauretanicus*

### *Annual in small numbers during autumn*

Total of 10 records involving 13 birds but undoubtedly some duplication involved: Sheringham (IP) and Mundesley (MDF) July 31st, west Cley (MAG) and west Sheringham (JFu *et al*) Aug 7th, 2 west Cley Aug 8th (JRMc), west Cley (JRMc) and west Mundesley (MDF) Aug 14th, west Walcott Aug 20th (PJH), and 2 Blakeney Point (RFP AMS *et al*) and 2 east Sheringham Sept 16th (IGJ AJLS *et al*).



Balearic Shearwater (Andy Benson)

## Storm Petrel

*Hydrobates pelagicus*

### *Almost annual late autumn visitor, often in stormy weather*

A plethora of autumn records: east Sheringham July 25th (RA), west Weybourne July 31st (TCL), west Mundesley Aug 6th (RCo MDF), west Scolt Head (NML) and east Sheringham (JD&JEG S&PM *et al*) Sept 16th, west Mundesley Nov 17th (MDF), west Cley (CHM *et al*) and north Gorleston (INS) Nov 26th, and west Cley Nov 27th (CHM *et al*). A petrel sp west Sheringham also July 31st (IP *et al*) almost certainly also this species.

## Leach's Petrel

*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

### *Gale-blown visitor mostly during autumn*

With exception of singles Scolt Head and Blakeney Point Sept 11th remaining Sept reports confined to 16th when large movement, with best counts: 11 Lynn Point, 14 west Holme, 33 west 8 east Scolt Head, 15 Blakeney Point, 26 east 4 west Sheringham.. In Oct records confined to 2nd with 2 west Titchwell, 4 west Scolt Head, 3 Cley and 5 Sheringham. In Nov 2 Sheringham 13th, single Cromer 16th and latest Sheringham 26th.

## Gannet

*Morus bassanus*

### *Passage migrant, most during autumn gales*

Only 4 counts in first winter period with best 327 east Mundesley Feb 12th. Reports still sparse in spring when in May 18 east Sheringham 1st, 13 east Scolt Head 13th, 104 east Mundesley 14th and 25 east 10 west Overstrand 30th. Well recorded in late July when 50 Winterton 20th, 63 west 21 east Scolt Head and 100 Sheringham 22nd, and 210 east 132 west Mundesley 31st. Movement continued apace in Aug with best 300 Sea Palling 1st, 100 Sheringham and 421

north 35 south California 7th, 200 east Walcott and 439 north 42 south California 8th, and 510 west Mundesley 21st. With exeption of 700 Walcott 2nd highest counts confined in Sept to 16th when 323 west Titchwell in 7 hrs, 628 east 62 west Seolt Head, 1500 east Sheringham, 448 east Cromer and 2000 east in 4 hrs Mundesley.

Major movement continued into Oet when: 2nd 380 west 175 east Holme, 415 west 355 east Seolt Head, 300 east 45 west Sheringham in 7 hrs, 1242 north 24 south California; 3rd 1021 mostly west Holme, 1652 west with a raft of 150 on sea Seolt Head, 758 west in 2 hrs Overstrand, 624 north 92 south California; 5th 264 north 162 south with 120 on sea California. During remainder of month most notable 325 mainly juvs in 2 hrs Sheringham 14th, 500 Winterton in 2 hrs 18th and 600 east Mundesley 19th. Nov peaks included 200 Sheringham 13th, 244 north in 2 hrs Eeeles 14th, and 135 Cley in 3 hrs 30 mins and 68 east 22 west Sheringham 16th.

Casualties included single Burnham Overy GM Sept 22nd and 3 mutilated birds California Oet 7th thought to be due to collisions with wind turbines. A wrecked bird Seolt Head dunes Oet 14th was released on to the sea.

Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant; sporadic breeder

Monthly counts from roost sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	13	12	15	28	20	42	95	76	98	35	80	46
Titchwell	-	-	-	-	23	41	48	65	77	-	-	-
Holkham GM	27	30	-	39	165	-	-	46	-	200	170	43
Ranworth Broad	257	198	179	43	65	-	-	-	61	299	182	194
Nar Valley Fisheries	41	40	15	10	5	-	7	-	15	30	18	42
Welney	256	173	179	108	54	36	22	-	72	101	132	124

National importance (winter): 130

Elsewhere noted Filby Broad with max 51 at roost Feb 10th and up to 7 at new roost Barton Broad Sept 24th.



Comorants (Gary Wright)



Other daytime roosts/loafing birds from 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>
Breydon	97	60	34	26	16	24	26	39	19	27	21	27
Scolt/Brancaster	12	4	6	42	53	80	169	105	142	-	15	21
Cley	-	-	-	-	5	24	35	48	64	70	29	-

Largest counts elsewhere included 125 fishing offshore Winterton Feb 11th, 83 north 5 south California Feb 13th, 75 Hickling Broad April 25th, 29 Ranworth Broad May 8th, 52 Holme Sept 18th, 120 Burnham Overy Staithe Sept 23rd, 60 south/south-west Cley Sept 24th, 44 Haddiscoe Nov 5th and 126 Yarmouth Dec 24th.

At Holkham 50 breeding pairs with up to 150 fledged, down from 72 pairs in 2004 when 200 juvs fledged. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 0% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

**Shag**

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

*Autumn and winter visitor with occasional birds wrecked inland*

Exceptional first winter period records from wide ranging coastal and inland sites. Highest counts in Jan included 4 Sea Palling 4th, 5 Mundesley 8th, 13 Hunstanton 26th and 24 which ‘crashed landed’ in a garden at Mundford 27th, (a dead one of which was found to have been ringed on the Farnes in 2004) and 11 Great Ouse RC 30th; elsewhere recorded at 14 other sites. During Feb, up to 4 recorded at 14 sites with best 16 Great Ouse RC between Denver Sluice and Stowbridge 4th. Casualties, mainly juvs, included 2 Wiggshall St Mary RC Feb 3rd and exhausted birds found on roadside Saddlebow 4th and Snettisham 17th. Best March record 10 Hunstanton 5th; corpses continued to be found when singles Overstrand and Winterton 8th, Heacham 23rd and Blakeney Point 31st with 2 Holme 13th.

No records April-June except one Mundesley May 14th; occasional singles July/Aug.

Autumn coastal records Sept onwards ranging from Scolt Head to Sea Palling with highest counts in Nov: 10 juvs Sheringham 8th, 4 south-east Walcott 13th, 20 Sea Palling roost 15th, 5 Beeston bump in 4 hrs and 6 west Mundesley 17th, 11 Walcott 18th, 7 west Overstrand and 8 west Mundesley 25th, 7 offshore Sheringham 27th. Fewer records Dec with max 5 on sea Overstrand 28th.

**Bittern**

*Botaurus stellaris*

*Rare resident breeder; also winter visitor in variable numbers*

Recorded singly at 15 sites during first winter period including Alderfen Broad Jan 1st, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 4th, Snettisham 21st, Burgh Common Feb 6th, perhaps the same Burgh Castle 9th, plus max 4 Hickling Broad Jan, 3 Strumpshaw Feb and 2 Guist Common/Bintree Mill Feb.

New data received for 2004 revealed a total of 12 nests in Norfolk. Of those 10 were in Broads, 2 of which successfully fledged a total of 4 young, 5 failed due to predation or bad weather and the outcome of the other 3 was unknown. Two nests were also found on north coast, 2 young fledging from one, the other failing due to bad weather.

Booming was first recorded March 1st this year but unfortunately numbers of booming males were down following the exceptional number in 2004. This year a total of 46 booming males were located in the UK, 9 fewer than in 2004, with the number for the county falling from 19 to 12 with a marked decline in Broads. It is thought that the hard weather in Feb may

have been a major factor in this decline. On north coast booming was noted at 3 sites, at 2 of which young were successfully fledged (one of which constituted the first successful breeding since 1989). At the third site a dead bird, believed to be a female, was found entangled in a barbed wire fence April 13th but the male continued to boom beyond this date. In Broads booming was recorded at 9 localities, at two of which young were known to be successfully fledged. Alarminglly, at one new site where booming was heard at dusk March 25th, the observer reported that by April 1st the reedbed had been cut and extensively burned. The events at two of the previously mentioned sites were clearly not what this species needed in a difficult breeding season.

Little evidence of post breeding dispersal (perhaps indicative of a less successful breeding season) when singles recorded away from known or suspected breeding areas at Irstead Hall Feb July 23rd, Salthouse Aug 11th, and Holme Aug 16th and Sept 2nd.

During second winter period noted at just 12 different sites with only those singles at Kelling WM Oct 3rd-5th, Dec 14th and 31st, Holme Oct/Nov, Belton Oct 6th, Holkham GM Nov 6th and Thetford Nunnery Lakes Dec 30th being away from the regular haunts where max 2 Hickling Broad and 4 Strumpshaw.

Night HeronNycticorax nycticorax

Vagrant from the Continent; free-flying colony at Great Witchingham causes confusion

A 2nd-summer Holkham Park Lake May 15th (ABo *et al*) and later in evening Holkham GM (JRMe); presumed same bird west Thornham next day (KJH). Another Santon Downham May 29th (JAr *et al*).

Undoubted escapes Lyng Jan 10th, Sparham Pools Jan 16th and Sparham (flying over A1067) June 16th.

Little EgretEgretta garzetta

Increasing visitor especially in winter; breeding has occurred since 2002

There was apparently some mortality early in year when at least 6 were found dead at Holkham NNR in Feb. Prolonged spells of hard weather are currently the only thing likely to limit this species' apparently relentless expansion. Max monthly counts from well recorded sites are tabulated below, there is doubtless some overlap involved between sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	11	4	13	3	2	2	8	19	28	16	13	6
Holme	4	3	3	7	7	5	5	11	7	13	5	6
Thornham Hbr	-	13	2	3	2	2	6	14	5	4	8	6
Titehwell	2	50	2	3	3	12	57	35	65	46	9	35
Scolt/Brancaester Hbr	14	17	12	12	12	15	38	88	97	70	23	20
Holkham GM	200	105	-	-	70	160	-	-	207	170	180	137
Wells Hbr	115	-	-	-	5	6	-	-	20	16	6	9
Warham Greens	100	10	6	-	8	17	-	6	15	7	11	12
Stiffkey Greens	20	9	-	4	7	8	8	10	5	14	50	11
Blakeney Hbr	13	-	3	-	2	2	10	8	1	17	11	12
Cley	3	3	1	1	5	9	12	8	2	2	3	1
Breydon/Berney	32	25	23	22	32	56	61	46	32	29	34	17
Welney	1	7	10	2	4	7	3	-	-	1	-	1

Surprisingly virtually no evidence of spring coastal movement received with only 2 south Winterton March 23rd, 3 south Hunstanton April 16th with 31 south there next day (movement or birds leaving roost?) and 8 south Trimmingham May 3rd.

Now becoming more regular inland (at all times of year) with several sites recording their first Little Egret this year. Still quite scarce in Fens as indicated in the Welney figures above, also recorded Hockwold Washes where singles March 12th, April 25th and 29th, and May 1st, and Ten Mile Bank May 23rd. Still rare in Brecks where single west Thetford Nunnery Lakes June 23rd the only record. Many of the smaller river valleys in north of county are being explored by this species and the Wensum Valley is also becoming a regular haunt for singles and occasional flocks of up to 6. Becoming more frequent but still relatively scarce in Broads where recorded Heigham Holmes Jan 1st, Limpenhoe Marshes 8th, Cantley Marshes 22nd, 1-2 intermittently Buckenham Marshes March 26th-29th, Martham Broad May 2nd, 5 south-west How Hill May 5th, where also 5 June 10th, single Strumpshaw May 8th and 4 dates June/July, 3 Haddiscoe May 19th, Horstead June 17th, 5 Sutton Fen July 2nd, 3 Hickling Rush Hills July 19th then up to 8 intermittently until Aug 21st, 12 Ludham Johnson Street July 28th-31st, singles Reedham Oct 6th and Rockland Broad Nov 6th.

A total of 63 pairs bred at 3 sites but fledging data available from only the largest of these where 35 pairs fledged at least 90 young. Numbers at this site were slightly down this year where it is thought that winter mortality may have had an adverse effect on breeding numbers. In addition 2 pairs present for over 3 weeks at a fourth site were seen carrying sticks into suitable breeding habitat. Despite this the observer believed that breeding was unlikely.

Some evidence of post breeding dispersal and/or autumn movement from Sheringham, where 3 west July 3rd, 2 east 10th and 4 west then east 17th, and 6 west Aug 28th. Also 2 north Sea Palling July 30th, 3 west Overstrand Aug 18th, single east there Sept 26th having been forced onto the beach by gulls, 3 south Hunstanton Oct 4th, where 4 south 17th and 5 south 21st. Another example of one receiving unwanted attention from large gulls was that at Sheringham Dec 31st which was forced to land on a groyne whilst being mobbed.

## **Great White Egret**

*Ardea alba*

*Increasingly regular vagrant from the Continent*

Single west Titchwell Oct 30th (DMi DMo).

## **Grey Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

*Resident and passage migrant/winter visitor*

The only notable concentrations in first winter period were 22 Banham and 23 Quidenham both Feb.

Spring passage noted from March 22nd when 2 east Beeston Bump and 3 east Overstrand. Further light passage (eastwards unless noted) at Overstrand April 4th and 5th, May 16th and 22nd, Beeston Bump April 5th and north-east Scolt Head April 26th, where 4 north-east one west 27th and single west 28th. One sizeable spring concentration of 43 Welney April 25th.

Breeding data received from just 11 heronries (plus one unoccupied) totalling 121-122 nests. It is not possible to make a meaningful comparison with last year's data but it is notable that the colony at Great Witchingham Wildlife Park has once again grown to 44 nests and is almost back to its former size following the decline to just 16 nests last year.



An apparently considerably reduced westward summer and autumn movement noted at well recorded coastal watchpoints June-Oct as follows:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Holme	-	-	-	9	8
Scolt Head	5	6	20	43	4
Sheringham	1	1	2	1	10
Overstrand	-	-	10	11	-

*Note: Sheringham figures include those from nearby Beeston Bump, but no duplication involved*

Also noted sparsely during this period at less well-recorded sites when east Walcott July 20th, 2 south California Sept 13th, 2 in off sea Winterton Sept 23rd, where 4 also in off sea Oct 28th, in off sea Eceles/Happisburgh Oct 15th and single west one mile offshore Overstrand Nov 23rd.

One notable concentration recorded in second winter period, 33 Hoe Dec 18th.

### Purple Heron

*Ardea purpurea*

*Almost annual spring and autumn vagrant from the Continent*

Three records: Cley May 3rd (D&PW *et al*) and another May 19th-June 4th (JRMc *et al*), and in off sea Bacton Aug 21st (MDF).

### White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

*Vagrant from the Continent, appearing most years; status clouded by free-flying collection birds*



White Stork (*John Geeson*)

The usual series of Broads spring occurrences that presumably relate to the free-flying escape from Thrigby Wildlife Park were followed by a number of records that may well constitute two genuine immigrants.

The first noted in off sea at Sheringham GC then tracked westwards over Cley, Blakeney Hbr/Point, Morston and Scolt Head before turning south over Titchwell June 1st. What is presumed to be same individual then seen low over Blackborough End Tip June 4th before

gaining height and drifting off high south-east. Presumably another was first seen moving high west over Barford Aug 27th before being in Barnham Broom, Runhall, Welbourne Common and Hardingham area Aug 27th/28th and then at Watton Aug 29th/30th.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Rare vagrant from the Continent

The individual that first appeared in the county July 3rd 2004 remained in the Breydon/Berney area until April 1st. What is believed to be the same individual was then seen again, resplendent in full breeding dress, at Hickling Stubb Mill June 11th and 14th (JRW) before making a final appearance at Berney June 27th (RSt).

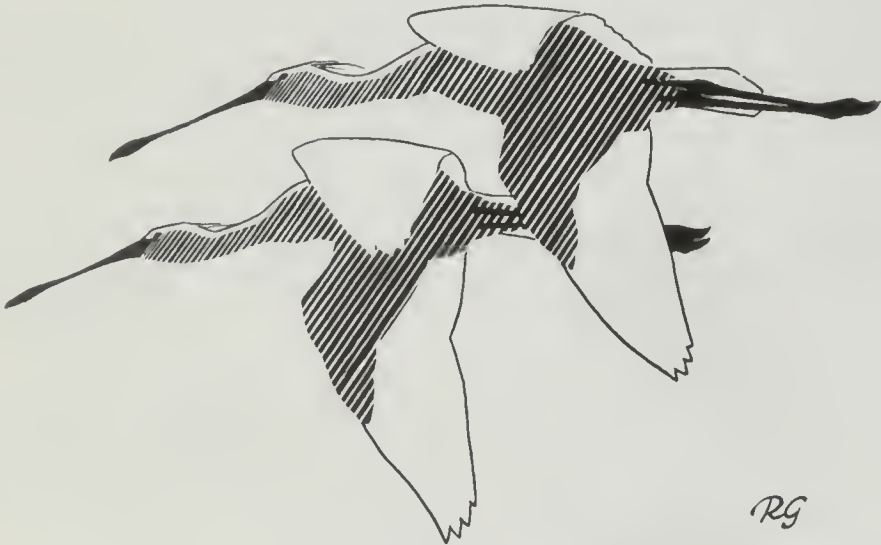
Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

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

The immature present from end of previous year remained on saltings at Warham and Stiffkey Greens, with occasional wanderings to Wells and Holkham GM, until end Jan, when it took up residence at the latter site, remaining there until early May.

First spring migrant noted Stiffkey Fen March 4th followed by another Cley 10th. Further April records from Holkham 5th, Hickling Broad 7th and 21st-24th, Breydon/Berney 16th,



Spoonbills (Robert Gillmor)

21st and 29th, Stiffkey Fen and Titchwell 27th, Salthouse 28th, and Cley and Morston 30th. Continued passage in May when noted away from the regular sites (tabulated below) at Thorpe Marshes 1st-8th and 19th-27th, Horsey 5th, east Beeston Bump 18th, east Cley and Sheringham 31st, and another west Salthouse July 15th.

Numbers remained low throughout most of summer with only 2 sites recording birds on a regular basis and never more than 3 seen together. There is unlikely to be any duplication in the figures below:

	May		Jun		Jul		Aug	
	1st-15th	16th-31st	1st-15th	16th-30th	1st-15th	16th-31st	1st-15th	16th-31st
Hickling Broad	1	-	-	2	-	3	2	2
Breydon/Berney	1	1	-	-	1	2	1	-

Small numbers recorded on autumn passage when 5 Waxham Sept 11th, and an imm west Sept 13th over Overstrand, Cromer and Stiffkey before settling at Holkham GM 13th-15th and moving to Titchwell late 15th, departing early next morning.

## **Honey Buzzard**

*Pernis apivorus*

### ***Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant***

In contrast to last year's early arrival, in a poor spring passage none seen until May 15th when single west Beeston Regis and 2 west Walsey Hills which may have been the returning breeding birds first noted same day. A further 2 Acle 21st, 2 west Holme 26th and single Titchwell 29th were only other May records away from known breeding area. June wanderers Thetford 6th and Strumpshaw 21st.

Unfortunately, despite several intensive bouts of sky-dancing the known breeding pair is thought to have failed for the second year in succession. At least 3 birds present by May 19th with a fourth arriving 22nd. Subsequently up to 5 birds seen in area during July but the nesting wood was apparently deserted and a search revealed what was probably an abandoned nest. The last birds left the site Aug 17th when 2 departed south.

A number of July records elsewhere may relate to the wanderings of the 5 birds frequenting the known breeding area when recorded Horsey Mere 6th, Alderfen Broad 17th, Sheringham Park 23rd/24th and Brancaster 30th. Also noted during Aug when departing and passage birds Edgefield 8th, Flitcham 13th, Brancaster 16th, Cley and Scolt Head 17th, and Titchwell 23rd; and during Sept when Sheringham/West Runton/Aylmerton area 2nd-6th, juv Titchwell 3rd/4th, 24th and 29th, Thornham 9th, Holkham Meals 21st, Heacham 22nd, Sheringham 25th and Flitcham 28th. One report in Oct when noted Titchwell 4th.

## **Red Kite**

*Milvus milvus*

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

First winter period records in Jan from West Acre 1st, Swaffham 2nd and St Benet's Level 9th.

Commencing March spring passage noted from 18th when single Holkham Park with further singles Titchwell 19th, coastal sites from Overstrand to Blakeney 22nd, Breydon and Caister 23rd when 2 Winterton, possibly accounting for those at Acle, Winterton and Blickling Park 25th. Perhaps a dozen noted April when singles Aylmerton and Calthorpe Broad 1st, Horsey/Winterton 1st/2nd, Breydon/Berney and Blackborough End 3rd, 2 Eccles and single North Walsham 4th, Blickling 5th, Fakenham 8th, Dersingham 10th and 12th, Happisburgh 12th, Titchwell 19th, West Runton, Weybourne, Salthouse Heath and Snettisham 28th, and Horsey 29th. May produced around 15 including 2 (one in heavy wing-moult) present in Wensum Valley between Fakenham and Guist 9th-June 26th with single to July 1st, occasionally wandering further north to Little Snoring and Fulmodeston, and west to Sculthorpe and Tattersett. Further May records from Aylmerton 1st, Hockwold Washes 2nd, Acle 7th, Kelling 16th, Bale and North Creake 18th, Flitcham 22nd, Stiffkey 23rd, Little Walsingham 25th and 28th, Shadwell and Weeting Heath 25th, East Ruston 28th, mid-Yare Valley 28th/29th and Dereham 29th. Fewer in June as passage numbers declined when records from Upper Sheringham/West Beckham 1st, Dereham, Burnham Thorpe and Titchwell 4th, Burnham Market 10th and 28th, Flitcham 10th, Hockwold Washes 15th, Roydon Common 16th and South Lopham 20th.

Records re-commenced July 9th when noted south North Wootton but no further July records until 30th when noted Cley, Titchwell and Holme. Further autumn records in Aug when singles south Dersingham/Snettisham 1st, another took up residence in Warham/Stiffkey/Binham area 1st-31st at least, plus 2 Flitcham 6th with single next day, and



Titchwell 30th. Recorded in Sept at Blakeney Hbr 2nd, Flitcham 10th, Roughton/Gunton Park area 16th-18th, and in Oct when 2 Buxton Heath 1st, singles Salthouse 8th, Burnham Norton 9th, Brancaster and Thornham 11th, and Wroxham 27th.

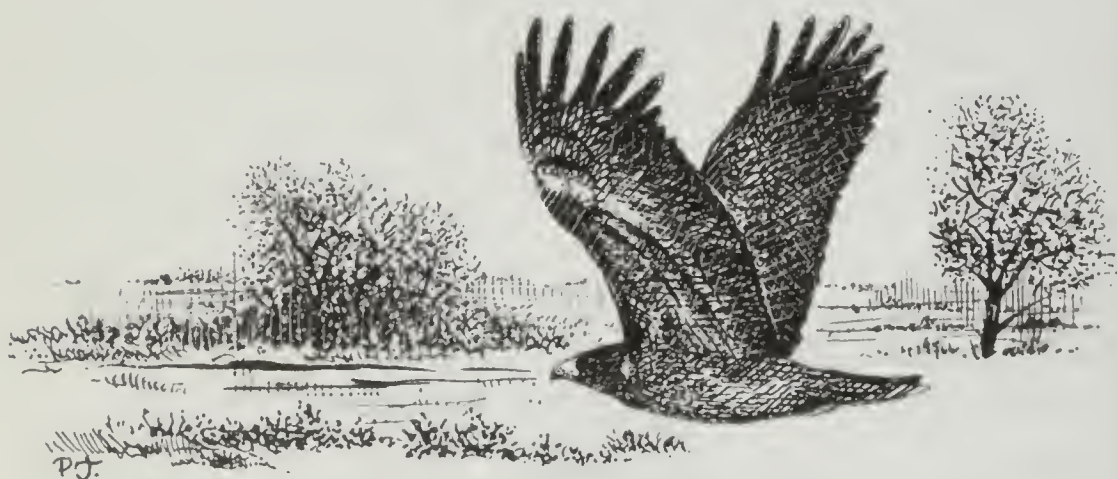
Just one record in second winter period from Thornham Dec 31st.

## White-tailed Eagle

*Haliaeetus albicilla*

*Rare vagrant, mainly in winter*

During Jan an imm was in Great Bircham/Anmer area 9th-17th (AIB *et al*) regularly seen over, and often roosting in, Houghton Park. It departed the area 18th when it was seen over Holkham, Scolt Head, several of the Burnhams and Titchwell before arriving at Welney the following day, where it stayed until 22nd, visiting both Denver and Downham Market on 20th.



White-tailed Eagle (Phil Jones)

## Marsh Harrier

*Circus aeruginosus*

*Increasing migrant breeder; also passage migrant; small numbers winter*

The main Broads roost continues to expand with impressive numbers recorded in first winter period when 50 Jan, 25 Feb and 26 March. Over-wintering is also now being recorded regularly elsewhere and 1-8 roosted at several other Broads and north coast localities during this period.

As over-wintering males become more numerous it is not uncommon for some pairs to be on breeding territory and have commenced nuptial display flights by late-Feb. Discernible passage in spring commenced March 10th when singles west Baeton and Scolt Head, followed by a further 13 migrants during month. Coastal passage increased during April when 14 west Scolt Head during month (max 3 28th and 5 30th), 6 south Hunstanton 4th-30th (max 2 on 29th and 30th), also singles west Inceborough Hill 2nd, east and west Sheringham 2nd, in off sea Overstrand 2nd, 4th and 11th, east Beeston Bump 4th, 24th and in off sea there 26th, plus a few singles elsewhere at coastal and inland sites. Further migrants during May at Aylmerton where 4 west 2nd when also single west Paston, 3 west Holme 3rd when also 2 west Scolt Head, where singles west 5th and 19th and 4 west 21st. Also single in off sea Overstrand 26th.

A full 2005 survey of breeding Marsh Harriers in the UK located an impressive 360 breeding females fledging at least 800 young, more than double the number of nesting females located in the 1995 survey (156). The Norfolk contribution amounted to a max 102 breeding females (96 males) fledging 222 young, both modern day records for the county. The vast majority of nesting attempts (80%) are still made in reedbeds with 20% (max 20 nests) in either

agricultural crops or rough grassland. Details of fledged young in recent years are tabulated below:

	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Fledged young	105	71	112	87	88	117	90	122	189	115	107	139	222

NBA results showed the species was present in 19% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 3% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Post breeding dispersal of juvs during July evident at Scolt Head where (all west) 2 17th, 26th and 29th, 3 23rd and single 25th; also 14 (adults and juvs) west there during Aug (max 3 on 13th and 21st). Interestingly small communal roosts were in use at both Roydon Common (max 5) and Strumpshaw (max 9) late-Aug, but during same period most birds had departed from the Thurne, Ant and Bure valleys with virtually none seen during Aug to mid-Sept. Also at this time mainly westward departing coastal migrants noted as follows: 3 Titchwell Aug 15th, 2 in off sea there 25th, singles Aylmerton 25th and 28th, Beeston Bump and Holme 27th when 4 west Overstrand, and single Southrepps 28th. Little coastal passage noted during Sept when 3 west Scolt Head 6th with singles west there 7th and 30th, plus further singles Bacton 4th, Blakeney Point 11th, Holme 12th and 21st, and High Kelling 14th. Little movement recorded during Oct/Nov, max 3 west Scolt Head Oct 3rd.

Roosting numbers building from late-Sept with main Broads roost holding 20 Oct, 46 Nov and 66 Dec, the latter constituting a new UK record for a Marsh Harrier roost. At this time other coastal and Broads roosts also held good numbers with several sites recording 1-6, plus 7 at Belton Oct 16th, 9 Scolt Head Oct 28th and 17 at a Bure Valley site west of Yarmouth Dec 3rd.

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

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

Good numbers apparently roosting in first winter period, also reported more regularly from around the Wash than in recent years. Recorded away from known roost sites Jan at Rcpps-with-Bastwick 1st, Methwold Fen 3rd, 2 Anmer/Great Bircham area 13th, Shereford 15th, Houghton Park 18th and Docking 25th. Also at this time 2 immis seen hunting in tandem, close together, low-over grassland at Hickling Jan 15th. Noted away from known roost sites during Feb at King's Lynn Fisher Fleet 4th, Hillington 16th, and Fring and West Acre 28th.

Roosting data for first winter period from 7 regular and 2 occasional sites with figures indicating an early spring exodus from the county:

	Regular roosts							Occasional roosts	Max total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(min 2)	
Jan	5	7	5	4	3	3	2	3	32
Feb	4	6	3	-	4	5	-	1	23
March	2	-	-	3		3	-	1	8

Continued spring departure evident during April when 3 passage birds noted heading south Wolferton 2nd, 2 east Aylmerton 16th when another west Burnham Overy Staithe. Few remained into May when singles Strumpshaw 1st, Titchwell 12th, Stiffkey Fen 15th and Scolt Head 16th, 19th and 21st.

Midsummer records in the county are now exceptional but a reminder of the past status of Hen Harrier in Norfolk as a breeding bird came in the form of a male in display at Martham Broad April 1st.

Return passage from Aug 16th (Blakeney Point) with one further record during month at Potter Heigham 26th. Still scarce throughout much of Sept when Flitcham 10th, Winterton 16th, Thornham 17th, Holkham/Burnham Overy GM 22nd, Breydon 24th and Trimmingham 25th. Steady coastal arrival throughout Oct when roosts also occupied. At this time noted Holme/Titchwell 1st, Holkham/Burnham Overy GM 4th, Scolt Head 4th and 10th, Welney 6th, Horsey 8th/9th, North Wootton and Holkham GM 9th, and then widespread at coastal and Broad sites in second half of month, with increased numbers again present on Wash limits at Terrington and Dersingham. Recorded away from known roosts during Oct at Norwich Mousehold Heath and Sutton Fen 28th, and Harpley Common 30th. Good numbers had apparently arrived by early-Nov after which only evidence of continued coastal passage was single west Sheringham 14th.

Roosting numbers fairly high during second winter period when regularly recorded at 7 sites and occasionally at two:

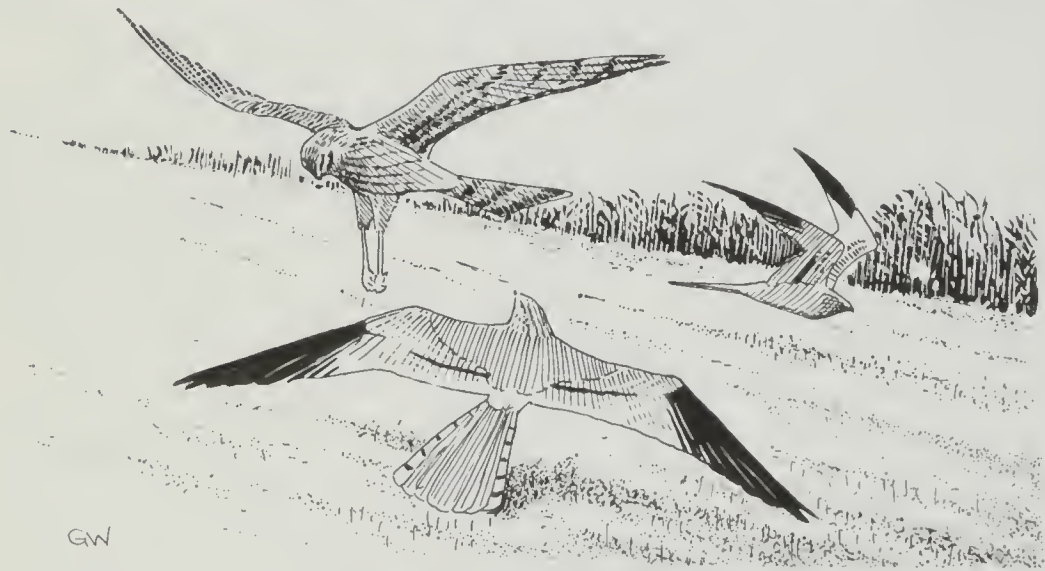
	Regular roosts							Occasional roosts (min 2)	Max total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Oct	1	2	4	-	-	2	7	-	16
Nov	4	4	4	3	2	5	6	1	32
Dec	7	8	4	2	2	-	8	2	38

Montagu’s Harrier

*Circus pygargus*

*Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant*

First of spring Sheringham April 17th with further April singles Brancaster 20th, Strumpshaw 22nd and 30th-May 1st, Snettisham 29th and Swanton Novers 30th. Further passage in May at



Montagu’s Harriers (Gary Wright)

Stiffkey 2nd, Holkham and Scolt Head 3rd, 6th and 21st, single at least Titchwell/Holme area 4th/5th, single at least Rockland Broad 6th-8th, Titchwell 10th, Burnham Norton 14th, Calthorpc and Stiffkey Fen 18th, Lynn Point 21st and 27th, Swanton Novers 22nd and Strumpshaw 27th. Singles west Scolt Head and Titchwell June 3rd were last migrants of spring.



For the third successive year the species bred successfully in the county. Returning to last year's breeding site, at least 3 males and 2 females were present throughout May and 2 pairs settled to breed by end of month. One nest failed, believed predated, the other successfully fledged one young from a nest containing 4 eggs, the remaining 3 proving to be infertile. Additionally a further 2 pairs bred elsewhere in the county, one of which successfully fledged 2 young.

The presence of a small number of failed or non-breeding birds June/July led to an exceptional number of sightings during the period. At one locality 3, perhaps 4 individuals, were regularly seen and display was noted. However, it is not clear if some, or possibly all of the birds originated from the known breeding area. What is clear, from birds identifiable on wing moult pattern, is that some of these birds travelled far and wide over the course of the summer.

The pattern of autumn passage is difficult to unravel due to the movements indicated above and later dispersal of breeding birds. Records thought unlikely to relate to birds from either of areas mentioned above were at Snettisham July 10th and Aug 7th, Houghton Park Aug 3rd, Flitcham 8th, Lynn Point 8th and 20th, North Wootton 22nd, Titchwell 23rd and 28th, ringtail south Kelling Sept 15th, and Brancaster Thompson Farm Sept 15th and 21st.

## **Goshawk**

*Accipiter gentilis*

### ***Rare breeder; also scarce passage migrant and winter visitor***

Recorded away from known or suspected breeding sites during first winter period in greater numbers than usual. In Feb noted at Sheringham Park 9th and Stiffkey 13th, and in March at Quidenham Hargham Heath, 1st, Whitwell Common 9th, Wayland Wood 12th, Hickling 21st and Overstand 23rd.

Evidence of spring coastal passage limited to a male Sheringham Park April 24th and female Holkham May 15th.

As indicated in last year's Report the full county status of this secretive hawk remains enigmatic. However, a hint of the true status in Brecks was provided by the Forestry Commission in a report stating a pair had fledged young at a traditional forest site, the first successful breeding in the forest for 10 years. Despite increased effort in the field by a small number of observers, breeding data is again somewhat sparse and confusing and the age-old Sparrowhawk/Goshawk identification problem still apparently exists. Spring display was noted at 4 Brecks sites, one of which is believed to be that where successful breeding occurred. A further 2 sites also recorded displaying birds in spring and at another, where attempted breeding has been suspected in the past, at least a male and a female were present but no display was observed. In addition, a female wearing jesses was seen in Brecks in spring.

Predictably few autumn singles: Bircham Newton Aug 7th, Brancaster Staithe Aug 12th/13th and Nov 22nd, Thornham Sept 12th and Ormesby Broad Oct 26th. No records away from known or suspected breeding sites in second winter period.

## **Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter nisus*

### ***Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor***

First 3 passage birds of spring west Holme March 14th, with further March records of 2 south Hunstanton 17th, 5 north one south Winterton 20th, 2 south-east Overstrand 22nd and again 24th, with single there 31st, and 6 west Salthouse 23rd. More evidence of spring movement during April when 12 south Horsey 1st/2nd, 23 south 3 north Winterton 2nd/3rd, 4 south Hunstanton 3rd/4th with 5 others south during month, 8 west Scolt Head 4th-16th with max 5 on 11th, 3 north Waxham 11th, single north out to sea and another east Overstand 19th, 7 west

Incleborough Hill 22nd and single north out to sea Beeston Bump 29th. Only Scolt Head recorded migrants in May where 2 west 2nd and single west 11th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 51% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Scolt Head recorded the first returning migrants where 3 Sept 13th, but very little subsequent evidence of autumn passage apart from at California where 11 south Oct 9th-Nov 14th. Elsewhere in Oct west Sheringham 8th, 2 south Hunstanton 23rd, and singles east Overstrand 23rd and west 26th; in Nov passage record 3 south Hunstanton 19th.

**Common Buzzard**

*Buteo buteo*

*Increasing resident breeder; also passage migrant and winter visitor*

Continually increasing in numbers the Common Buzzard is now officially considered the most common breeding bird of prey in Britain. That is not yet the case in Norfolk but the indications are that it possibly could become so. Whilst now common in the north-west quadrant of the county, fairly common in the north-east and increasing in Brecks, it remains scarce in the Fens and apparently scarce south of Norwich. As is now usual, groups of up to 7 recorded in familiar areas during first winter period, often seen soaring together on fine late-winter days.

Once again spring passage was apparently light but remains difficult to assess. No obvious westward coastal passage until March 13th when 8 west Holme and 4 east together Catfield Fen. Further March records from 23rd when 10 west Salthouse, 6 Kelling Heath, 2 Overstrand and single Sheringham, where another 28th. Light passage continued during April when south Horsey 1st, 3 west Incleborough Hill 2nd when single north-west Martham and 6 Aylmerton. Further passage through Incleborough Hill where 3 east one west 16th and 3 west 30th; also noted in off sea Winterton 5th, 2 Gorleston 9th, 2 west Titchwell 11th, 3 north-west Holme 16th and single Snettisham CP 19th. Virtually no discernible movement in May except single north Scolt Head with a Rough-legged Buzzard 11th, and 6 west Stiffkey 15th.

Increased field effort by a small number of observers has enabled the current status of this species as a county breeding bird to become considerably clearer. A total of 25 pairs were confirmed breeding, fledging a min 42 young. Both figures are the highest in modern times, the latter more than doubling the previous best. For the first time a pair was known to have fledged 5 young, with several other nests producing 2-3 young. In addition a further 15 pairs were considered as probable breeders and 7 more pairs as possible. There were also a small number of sites where at least 2 birds were present throughout summer but breeding was considered as unlikely by the reporting observer. Whilst this is still not thought to represent the complete picture it is far more accurate than has been reported in previous years. NBA results showed the species was present in 10% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with % of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Breeding data for the last 10 years:

	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Confirmed prs	2	4	5	5	9	10	11	17	21	25
Probable prs	5	4	5	5	6	5	10	8	5	15
Possible prs	1	1	2	2	5	5	3	8	8	7
Max prs	8	9	12	12	20	20	24	33	34	47
Min fledged young	2	7	7	9	8	12	15	20	13	42

Autumn passage apparently commenced around mid-Aug but is confused by post breeding dispersal of local birds in some instances. Recorded in Aug when 8 east Titchwell and Barrow Common 15th, 2 east Scolt Head and Cley 17th, 6 Stiffkey 21st and 6 together Salthouse/Cley



22nd/23rd, 3 west Titchwell, 5 west Holkham Meals and 12 Kelling all 23rd, 5 west Kelling and 8 Aylmerton 27th, when single west Blackborough End Tip. Passage much lighter during Sept when singles Beeston Regis and Cley 2nd, North Wootton and Sheringham 4th, 5 east Holme 5th, when 8 over Whissonsett, 3 Stiffkey 15th plus 1-2 at 5 other sites on 7 dates. Little evidence of continued passage into Oct when single migrants at 4 sites, plus 3 Holme and 5 east Warham Greens 4th, and 6 north Choseley 9th.

Groups of 2-5 at several now familiar areas during Nov/Dec with one feeding on a swan carcass at Welney Dec 19th.

## Rough-legged Buzzard

*Buteo lagopus*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor; periodic large-scale influxes*

The individual from 2004 remained in Wells/Warham/Wighton area until at least Jan 3rd and was presumably responsible for records from Egmere, Cockthorpe, Langham and Little Walsingham during same period. Presumably another at Flitcham Jan 2nd and 21st, and West Acre Feb 7th.

Spring passage birds during March at Warham Greens 13th, and Salhouse and Blakeney Point 23rd, with further singles in April at Cockthorpe, south Aylmerton and south Waxham 3rd, Holt 8th, east Inceborough Hill 22nd, Winterton 25th, North Walsham 27th and Horsey 28th. Just 2 more in May, singles departing north over Scolt Head 11th (with a Common Buzzard) and Holkham Park 15th.

First of autumn south over Holkham Oct 16th, followed by others Halvergate Marshes Oct 26th, Scolt Head Nov 30th, Warham Greens Dec 7th and 22nd, and in the Grimston/Massingham Heath area Dec 22nd-26th at least.

Whilst most years provide at least one individual that with a little effort is available for all to see, it is now some considerable time since the county received a major continental influx.



Rough-legged Buzzard (Andy Benson)

## Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

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

None in March this year and a relatively poor spring with only 25-30 recorded; first Taverham April 1st followed by 8 further April records from Holme 10th, Holkham/Burnham Overy Staithe 16th, Thornage 19th, Waxham 20th, Norwich Thorpe Marriot 24th, Whitlingham CP 25th, again there 30th, when also Blakeney Point and Brancaster. Also at this time one took up residence at Rockland Broad April 26th-May 16th, with 2 present at least May 5th/6th, at least one of which presumably wandered to mid-Yare Valley sites during that period. A further 12-15 during May as passage increased: Hockwold Washes 1st, Holme 2nd, Ranworth Broad 4th and 8th, Sparham Pools 6th, Cranwich GP and Waxham 8th, Cley 11th, Blickling Park and



Great Ryburgh 17th, East Ruston, Cley and Scolt Head 19th, Strumpshaw 22nd, Great Ryburgh 29th and Colney GP 30th. Only small numbers in June when Strumpshaw 6th, Scolt Head 14th/15th, North Creak and Stanhoe 22nd, Great Ryburgh 25th, and Shadwell and Thetford 27th. The direction of travel of some of these individuals later in month suggested they may have been returning failed breeders from further north.

One over-summered at a Broads locality June 6th-July 3rd at least. Extended stays in spring and summer are now more common and a few Broads sites are particularly favoured. In view of events elsewhere in England, hopes that Opreys may nest somewhere in the Broads in the not-too-distant future are perhaps not without substance. Further July records from Blickling Park 6th, Snettisham 17th and east Titchwell and Scolt Head 18th.

A reasonable autumn passage of about 30 birds was underway from Aug 10th when noted Welney, with further 8 Aug records from Welney 18th, Flitcham 18th/19th, Strumpshaw 20th (remaining in mid-Yare Valley until Sept 15th), Scolt Head 26th, Holme 27th, Cley 29th, East Runton and Rockland Broad 30th. A further 18-20 Sept records from How Hill Reedham Water and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 1st, Blakeney Point and Cley 2nd, Sea Palling 3rd, Snettisham 4th, Scolt Head (where mobbed by 30 Little Egrets) and Burnham Overy Hbr 6th, another Scolt Head 7th when also How Hill, Sheringham 11th, Holkham GM 13th and 23rd, Holme 17th, Wells 18th, Hickling Rush Hills 21st, Hoveton Hall 22nd and Blakeney Point 23rd/24th. Also during Sept singles took up extended residence at How Hill Crome's Broad 15th-24th, wandering to Barton Turf and Catfield Fen, and in the Wensum Valley between Lenwade and Sparham Pools 20th-28th. Last of autumn Hoveton Oct 11th.

## Kestrel

*Falco tinnunculus*

### *Resident and passage migrant*

As usual, only light spring passage noted when single Overstrand March 21st, where also 2 east one west April 19th, 4 west Salthouse Heath March 23rd, singles west Scolt Head April 21st and May 1st, and east there April 24th.

Breeding: at Stanford TA 14 pairs of which 11 pairs nested in boxes, 2 pairs in churches and the other in an oak tree, rearing a combined total of 55 young to at least 18 days old. NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Again only small evidence of autumn movement when noted in off sea Scolt Head Aug 26th and Sheringham Sept 3rd; also further Sept records from Scolt Head where single west 13th and at least 8 hunting the island 18th, the only sizeable autumn concentration reported. During Oct 2 in off sea Scolt Head 1st and 3 west (including 2 offshore) 12th. Elsewhere noted in off sea Beeston Bump 4th, 2 west Overstrand 6th, 2 east Sheringham 16th and single south Winterton 18th, where apparently disorientated amongst a group of large gulls.

A juv was seen hunting Migrant Hawker dragonflies from a perch at Hickling Broad Sept 22nd, a food source more usually associated with Hobbies.

## Red-footed Falcon

*Falco vespertinus*

### *Vagrant, most often in spring; large influx in 1992*

Two accepted spring records: 1st-summer male Horsey May 30th (JGi) and a well-visited female Hickling Broad June 5th-23rd (MAC PJH *et al*).

In autumn a trio of visitors Berney with a 2nd-summer male Aug 30th-Sept 6th, a 1st-summer male Aug 30th-Sept 8th, and a juv Sept 7th (PRA JRo *et al*).

Two spring records still under consideration and details of three other spring records not submitted.

## Merlin

*Falco columbarius*

### *Passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer*

Winter roosting information is often limited, can fluctuate dramatically and some traditional roosts are apparently no longer reliable places to see this species. First winter period roosting data received from just 2 sites, max 4 Jan, 4 Feb and 3 March. Records well inland from coasts are no longer exceptional, as indicated by the 16 sites recording singles Jan-March, several of which produced multiple records, but evidently still scarce in both Fens and Brecks. The most exposed coastal sites still hold this dashing falcon both in winter and during migration, where occasional singles noted Jan-March at Breydon/Berney, Winterton to Horsey, Blakeney Point (2 March 19th and 27th) to Wells, singles daily Scolt Head (3 Jan 12th, 16th and 25th, 2 Feb 13th and 3 March 13th), regular singles Titchwell to Holme and Snettisham (2 Jan 21st) to Ousemouth. In addition 2 Holkham Gap Jan 2nd.

Spring passage noted from early April when 2 in off sea Caister 2nd, Cley 3rd and 11th, Holkham Gap 17th, Heacham 24th, Beeston Bump 26th, and west Blakeney Point and south Hunstanton 30th. In May noted Strumpshaw and Paston 1st, Winterton 3rd, Gunton Park 4th, 2 Scolt Head 8th and 22nd where single daily until 23rd, Blakeney Point 3rd, 11th, 15th and 27th, Burnham Norton 15th and 21st, Stiffkey Fen 16th, Breydon and Winterton 17th, Thornham/Holme 18th with another at latter site 20th. Single June record, Sheringham 3rd.

First evidence of return passage from Scolt Head where singles Aug 7th/8th and 13th and 2 daily 18th-31st. Further Aug records from Blakeney Point 12th, 28th and 30th/31st, Morston 16th, Titchwell 17th, Breydon 22nd, Winterton 23rd and North Wootton 25th. Further passage throughout Sept when 2 daily Scolt Head with 3 there 11th and a Norwegian ringed tideline corpse found on 19th, Cley and Wells East Hills 3rd, Blakeney Point 4th and 10th/11th, Titchwell 4th then regular in area from 8th, Berney 9th, Yarmouth, Paston and Overstrand 11th, Sea Palling 12th, Kelling WM 17th, Sheringham and Winterton 18th, Norwich Airport 21st and 23rd, Aylmerton 22nd, Breydon 24th and Snettisham 29th. Passage continued throughout Oct when noted in off sea Paston and west Overstrand and Sheringham 6th, Burnham Overy GM 10th, east Overstrand 11th, Happisburgh/Cart Gap 19th, Cockthorpe 26th, 2 West Runton 27th and single Kelling WM 31st.

In second winter period similar pattern of distribution as first, although apparently less common, when recorded at 14 inland sites and 2 regular Scolt Head Oct-Dec (3 there Oct 14th, 16th/17th and Dec 4th, and 4 Oct 15th and 20th), and occasional singles Blakeney Point with 3 there Oct 6th. Apparently scarce in Breydon/Berney area at this time but 1-2 Haddiscoe Oct/Nov. Roosting numbers from two poorly-covered sites: max one Oct, 3 Nov, and a surprising 8 Dec (all at one site).

## Hobby

*Falco subbuteo*

### *Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant*

Spring passage noted from early date of April 3rd when singles Cley and Sennowe Park. Further April records from Winterton 13th and 17th, Holme 17th, Thornham 19th, Heacham 22nd, Runham 24th, Brettenham Heath 25th, Gillingham and Yarmouth 27th, Lyng, North Walsham, Salhouse and 2 Cley 28th, How Hill, Scolt Head, Salhouse, Titchwell, and 2 Johnson Street and Holkham all 29th, Lynn Point, 2 Holme, 4 Hockwold Washes and 6 west through Inceborough Hill and West Runton all 30th.

Coastal passage continued strongly throughout May and extended to mid-June when 1st-summer in off sea Scolt Head 12th was possibly last migrant of spring. Large numbers passed through county May/June when 1-3 frequently recorded almost anywhere and some large gatherings, mainly at now familiar wetland sites, with 5 Horsey and Hockwold Washes, 7



Cranwich GP and Sennowe Park/Great Ryburgh, and a spectacular 25 Hickling Broad early June, 13 of which were seen to roost in the same dead tree as a brief shower passed 5th.

In Brecks this species was surveyed for third year in succession in breeding season. In the whole of Thetford Forest 11 nests were found in 2003, 13 in 2004 and 15 in 2005, 12 of which were in Norfolk, all found in Scots Pines. A min of 31 fledged young were seen in 2005 at an average of 2.06 young per located nest and 2.58 young per successful nest - both very high figures for this species.

Breeding data for last 10 years is tabulated below; in light of above figures a conservative estimate of 20 fledged young has been allowed for the Brecks. The max number of pairs recorded in the last 2 years suggests this species can finally be considered established in the county:

	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Confirmed prs	4	5	7	10	10	7	7	8	10	21
Possible prs	5	5	5	8	6	3	4	5	10	5
Max prs	9	10	12	13	16	10	11	13	20	26
Min fledged young	10	6	8	14	11	11	10	7	5	35

In addition to the above an area on the Fens/Brecks border was intensively surveyed and found to hold 6 pairs in a circle of 4.5 km radius. The 10 km square containing the circle held 8 pairs in total. There is clearly some overlap of data and only those pairs indicated as being outside Thetford Forest have been added to above totals.

NBA results showed the species was present in 10% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 8% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

With such an abundance of family groups plus failed and non-breeding birds the autumn skies were seemingly full of small groups of Hobbies even without the autumn passage birds. During July-Sept larger groups away from known breeding sites included: *Aug* 3 Narborough 3rd, 4 Aylmerton and 3 Paston 27th, 4 Seolt Head 30th/31st; *Sept* 4 Sheringham 3rd, 4 Swanton Novers 7th, 4 Berney 9th, 3 Holkham 13th, 3 Buckenham Marshes 23rd. Numbers predictably dwindling by last week Sept when singles at 11 sites plus 2 Seolt Head 24th and 2 Ludham Bridge 27th. Five Oct records from Blakeney Point 4th, Sparham Pools 5th, Titchwell 8th, Ranworth Broad 16th and last Sea Palling 21st.

## Peregrine

*Falco peregrinus*

### *Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor*

Probably 10-11 present in first winter period at familiar coastal wintering territories, usually singly but 2 Wells/Warham and 2 between Snettisham and Ousemouth. Additional singles in Harpley Dams/Houghton Park/Massingham Heath area Jan-March, in Brecks where at least one regularly seen around Thetford during Feb/March, occasionally wandering to Attleborough and Quidenham, and intermittently in Wensum Valley between Fakenham and Bintree. Also more regular at Welney than of late, where 1-2 all winter and occasionally 3 until April 30th. Additional singles difficult to attribute to a wintering territory at Methwold Fen Jan 3rd, Broome Jan 5th, Letheringsett Jan 15th, Paston Feb 4th and March 28th, Cley Feb 18th with another in general area March 21st-31st at least, and Bagthorpe and Southery Fens Feb 27th.

Spring passage underway from early April when singles Ineleborough Hill 2nd, Kelling 3rd, Feltwell 5th, Cley 13th and 20th, New Costessey 17th, Thetford 18th, Weybourne and



Blakeney GM 26th, and Aylmerton and Blakeney Point 30th. Continued passage in May when 2 Scolt Head 1st, with singles there 8th and 25th, Blakeney Point and Nar Valley Fisheries 2nd, Welney 4th, Cockthorpe 18th, Holkham 24th, Holme 28th and Cley 30th, and presumably same June 2nd and 6th. Further June records, perhaps just one bird involved, from Bintree 5th, Great Ryburgh 17th and Colney GP 26th.

The origins of one Blackborough End Tip July 16th remain unknown.

First returning bird of autumn Cley Aug 7th, with further Aug records from Ongar Hill 14th, Salthouse 16th, Snettisham 20th, Whitlingham CP 23rd, Dersingham Bog and Roydon Common 28th, Sheringham 29th, Blakeney Point and Cley 30th, and Holme 31st. Familiar wintering territories again occupied from late-Aug plus additional Sept singles Kelling WM 12th, in off sea California 13th, Old Catton, Sheringham and Cley 17th (remaining in general area to 24th), Docking and Ranworth Broad 26th, and Cockthorpe 28th. Continued passage into Oct when single Trimingham 9th, 2 Sheringham 16th, Cromer 18th, Themelthorpe 22nd, Sheringham and Beeston Bump 24th, Norwich (over City Hall) 25th, Paston and Ranworth Broad 29th, and Smokers Hole 30th. Singles Beeston Bump and hunting Dunlin offshore Sheringham Nov 16th, and seen to catch a Starling 3 km off California Nov 17th last recorded migrants.

Events at Scolt Head again demonstrate the difficulty of evaluating the number of migrants and wintering birds where 1-2 daily Sept with 3 on 23rd, 2 daily Oct when single in off sea 1st with 2 in off sea 2nd, and 3 on 8th, 15th, 17th/18th, 5 on 16th, then 2 daily Nov/Dec, probably at least 9 birds in total.

Slightly fewer on wintering territory during second winter period when perhaps fewer than 10 at coastal sites plus at least 3 in Haddiscoe, Breydon/Berney and mid-Yare Valley areas. During this period regular again at Welney where 1-2 Oct-Dec with 3 Nov 18th.

Water Rail

*Rallus aquaticus*

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

Peak numbers at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	3	2	2	-	-	1	3	3	5
Titchwell	3	4	3	-	1	2	4	2	3
Cley	-	-	1	1	2	6	4	1	3
Hickling	-	-	1	-	2	2	2	4	-
How Hill	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	10	1
Strumpshaw	1	-	-	4	4	-	-	20	11
Welney	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	3	2

Other localities with at least 3: *Feb* 6 Boughton Fen, 5 Catfield Fen; *March* 24 Catfield Fen, 10 Burgh Castle, 4 Surlingham Church Marsh; *Sept* 6 (adult and 5 juvs) Cantley BF, 3 Whitlingham CP; *Oct* 3 Whitlingham CP; *Nov* 3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr; *Dec* 5 Ranworth Broad, 4 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr.

Breeding pairs included 6 Titchwell, 3 Holkham NNR and Roydon Common, 2 Holme and Welney, and singles at Berney, Cantley BF, Cley and Strumpshaw.

Evidence of migration: *Sept* migrant in scrub on Scolt Head 12th-21st; *Oct* freshly plucked remains on beach Warham Greens 15th, migrant in scrub Scolt Head 15th-17th; *Nov* one Hemsby 2nd, one presumed to have been flying over sea caught and killed by Great Black-backed Gull Mundesley 25th.

**Spotted Crake**

*Porzana porzana*

*Scarce passage migrant, rare in winter*

A singing male Hickling Broad May 8th-18th (AGr PJH DMA *et al*). In Sept Kelling WM 9th-30th (NRR JW *et al*) and Cantley BF 24th-26th (JLa *et al*).

**Moorhen**

*Gallinula chloropus*

*Abundant resident; immigrants in autumn*

Peak monthly counts at the most regularly monitored 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>
Holme	25	17	38	12	10	6	7	9	20
Titchwell	3	1	5	10	-	12	6	7	8
Flitcham	-	30	22	-	47	30	38	-	35
Holkham NNR	52	48	21	21	-	-	-	32	78
Blakeney GM	12	3	22	46	-	-	-	-	26
Cley	30	26	33	19	22	31	19	11	41
Salthouse	50	-	30	10	-	15	27	-	-
Whitlingham CP	15	15	16	4	11	5	7	12	10
Strumpshaw	39	9	7	-	-	6	14	13	25

Other counts: *Feb* 48 Tasburgh; *March* 50 Welney; *Sept* 31 Narborough; *Dec* 57 King’s Lynn Gaywood, 21 King’s Lynn The Walks, 21 Norwich Wensum Park.

Breeding pairs included 83 Holkham NNR, 18 Holme, 12 Cley (15 young fledged, first seen May 28th) and 7 Hoveton Hall. At Newton successfully nested on dumped car wheel in ditch. NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

**Coot**

*Fulica atra*

*Common resident and winter visitor*

Monthly max at all 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	40	28	-	3	6	12	16	29	27	21	49	32
Holme	107	70	63	24	24	19	22	47	51	25	28	32
Titchwell	14	17	24	24	21	31	29	28	32	15	13	18
Holkham NNR	88	64	37	58	165	-	-	-	39	30	60	23
Cley	15	54	47	29	20	54	60	32	40	33	18	36
Salthouse	32	17	21	19	15	27	20	-	21	20	-	-
Barton Broad	91	112	78	48	21	22	37	79	28	-	-	103
Ranworth Broad	121	68	27	22	11	30	24	5	17	102	-	54
Breydon/Berney	180	225	229	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	89	40
Strumpshaw	90	96	42	-	-	-	-	-	130	126	157	151
Whitlingham CP	356	221	170	50	47	206	119	162	292	324	454	384
Welney	1051	756	882	675	-	-	-	-	-	-	365	352

*National importance (winter): 1100*

Other counts exceeding 100: *Jan* 180 Holkham Park Lake, 150 Cranwich GP, 121 Potter Heigham; *Feb* 322 Hickling Broad; *July* 435 Ormesby Broad; *Sept* 151 Nar Valley Fisheries, 110 How Hill Reedham Water; *Oct* 158 Nar Valley Fisheries, 135 How Hill Reedham Water.

Breeding pairs included 113 Holkham NNR, 100 Welney, 30 Cley (24 fledged, first chicks April 28th) and 23 Holme.

Common Crane

Grus grus

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

Up to 34 birds seen in first winter period. Four pairs nested and one pair may have attempted breeding; 3 pairs raised 5 young (2, 2 and 1), a fourth pair hatched 2 young which were predated about 5 days before fledging. In second winter period up to 34 (5+ juvs).

Away from regular areas in east of county reports of wandering birds (or possible migrants) began with a single east Jan 3rd over Stiffkey, Cockthorpe, Weybourne and West Runton and in March one flew east over Sheringham on 13th. Subsequently: April 1-2 west Inceborough Hill, Aylmerton, Sheringham, Holme on 2nd; 4 west West Runton, Salhouse, Cley, Blakeney Point, Titchwell 11th; 4 east Titchwell and Holkham 12th; 2 west Cley, Choseley, Titchwell 16th; 2 east Cranwich GP and Lynford GP 23rd; 2 east Lynford GP 24th; 2 west Sheringham 30th; May one Welney 7th; 2 east Kelling WM 8th; 5 west (and then back east) Weybourne, Cley and Blakeney 12th; one Titchwell 20th; one Blakeney 21st; 3 west West Runton then south Cley 29th; 2 Repps-with-Bastwick 30th; June 2 Repps-with-Bastwick 8th, 2 west Salhouse 11th.

In Oct 2 west Brancaster Thompson Farm 18th.

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

Common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeder

Most important and consistently counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1855	2496	884	1561	436	2023	2996	4515	5408	4405	4248	6070
Holme	738	553	717	419	253	55	104	180	585	233	568	975
Titchwell	410	620	591	195	91	68	95	215	232	100	124	344
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	755	919	691	686	599	273	561	750	845	880	375	375
Wells Hbr	308	638	119	258	115	70	-	67	-	550	557	557
Warham SM	241	381	8	15	30	22	-	448	-	180	112	550
Stiffkey SM	241	341	-	232	189	213	279	231	539	331	306	329
Blakeney Hbr	367	154	518	440	328	294	523	633	213	211	144	340
Breydon/Berney	38	131	168	147	49	56	134	104	36	27	22	35

National importance (winter): 3600

Additional counts: Thornham 123 Dec, Burnham Overy 141 March, Holkham Bay 117 May, Haddiscoe 121 March.

Total of 417 breeding pairs reported from coastal sites, very similar to 2004: Ken Hill GM 8, Holme 27 (15 beach and 12 grazing marshes) no young fledged, Titchwell 31, Brancaster 10, Scolt Head 118 with 40-50 young fledged, several of which later found dead (it is thought numbers actually surviving low), Holkham NNR 87 (33 grazing marshes and 54 beach) with 11+ broods fledged, but many taken on grazing marshes by Marsh Harriers, Blakeney Point 132 with 17 fledged young seen (number of pairs down on previous years, but with increased hatching rates yet poor survival rates of chicks), Cley 2, Salhouse 2 with 3-4 young fledged. Breeding also recorded Snettisham but no details.

Inland total of 76 breeding pairs identified, highest number for many years: Bircham Newton, Brancaster Thompson Farm 2, Caistor St Edmund, Corpusty/Saxthorpe 3, Felbrigg, Garboldisham, Great Massingham 2, Great Ryburgh, Haddiscoe Marshes 6, Hoveton, mid-Yare RSPB 11, Mundford 10 pairs within 5 mile radius, Nar Valley Fisheries 2 (one



brood), North Barsham, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP 2 (one brood), Quidenham 2, Repps-with-Bastwick 2, Sandringham, Seulthorpe Airbase 8, Sparham Pools 3, Swanton Morley GP, Thetford Nunnery Flood 2 (one brood), Thorpe St Andrew, Sennowe Park, Stanford TA 3, Welney 4, Wighton 2.

At Scolt Head birds noted departing east to breeding grounds with 149 May 11th and 80 May 18th. Westerly/northerly passage along coast during autumn: 37 Scolt Head and 54 Sheringham July 17th, 59 Scolt Head Aug 1st, 57 Scolt Head, 600 Cley (the largest-ever migration movement in county), 50 Salthouse, 173 Sheringham, 320 Overstrand, 329 Mundesley, 181 California, 41 Winterton and 61 Gorleston all Aug 7th, 93 Scolt Head, 135 Cromer, 52 Overstrand, 56 Cley, 36 Walecott, 44 Winterton and 69 California all Aug 8th, 57 Scolt Head Sept 1st.

Additional inland records of note during year 19 Welney June 5th and 10 east over Norwich Rosary Road July 24th.

The albino once again present Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Jan-March and late Aug-Dec.

**Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

*Vagrant, mostly in late spring/summer, has bred*

Sammy continued to be present at Titchwell until May 21st, but not after, being at least 12 years old - it is likely he died of old age, bringing to an end one of the longest-staying national rarities; see article page 302. Additionally singles south-west Holme April 29th (JAn *et al*) and Welney May 2nd-5th (JBK *et al*).

**Avocet**

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

*Breeding summer visitor, increasing in winter*

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	2	2	83	110	97	169	60	60	50	26	20	1
Holme	-	-	20	21	54	42	16	12	3	1	-	-
Titchwell	15	30	124	112	100	206	188	235	63	14	14	10
Cley	29	59	279	257	215	361	382	86	10	26	40	34
Salthouse	-	-	6	24	86	20	16	-	6	-	-	-
Hickling Broad	-	2	30	62	-	12	61	10	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	137	147	232	134	79	110	800	1044	548	180	81	131

Additional noteworthy counts: Lynn Point 20 May, North Wootton 40 April, Holkham NNR 223 April and 141 May, Stiffkey 26 March, Blakeney GM 42 April and 33 May, Horsey Mere 48 June, Buckenham 36 April, Welney 105 April and Wissington BF 17 July.

Breeding data incomplete with 405 pairs reported from 14 sites: Snettisham 50, Ringstead 3 in potato field, Holme 27 (17 young fledged), Titchwell 49 (12-15 young fledged), Holkham NNR 69 (35 young fledged), Stiffkey 11, Cley 86 (18 young fledged with many eggs and young taken by Grey Herons), Salthouse 43, How Hill 1 (3 young fledged), Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 1 (failed), Haddiseoc Thorpe Marsh 3 (at least one brood hatched), Cantley BF 4 (2 young fledged), mid-Yare RSPB 10 (9 young fledged), Welney 48 (41 young fledged).

Allowing for some missing data, the number breeding in county now probably exceeds 500 pairs in most years; observers encouraged to submit all breeding records.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pairs	209	214	203	181	267	186	309	364	383	397	482	405
Sites	n/a	10	11	13	16	11	14	16	14	14	18	14

Small numbers noted moving offshore including one east Sheringham May 1st, 3 Sea Palling July 17th, west Cromer Aug 8th, 3 east Waleott Oet 30th and north California Nov 17th.

Also inland 2 Hardley Flood March 23rd, one Whitlingham CP April 18th and June 26th, 2 Pentney GP April 26th, one Nar Valley Fisheries April 28th and May 1st, 2 Swanton Morley GP May 26th, 2 King's Lynn BF May 29th and 2 over Little Ryburgh June 4th.

## Stone Curlew

*Burhinus oedicnemus*

### *Breeding summer visitor, mainly to Brecks*

First reported in spring over Buckenham and at Shadwell March 24th, and Great Cressingham March 30th and April 4th, but probably present in Brecks before these dates.

In Brecks total of 190 breeding pairs, of these 111 in Norfolk; a few pairs also present on areas where landowners deny access, hence Brecks population now probably 200 pairs. The increase was nearly all on arable, numbers on heathland now stable; productivity in 2005 low with just 0.53 young per pair. Elsewhere 8 pairs bred in north Norfolk and nationally just over 300 pairs were found.

Only records away from breeding localities singles Blakeney Point May 28th and Scolt Head Aug 28th.

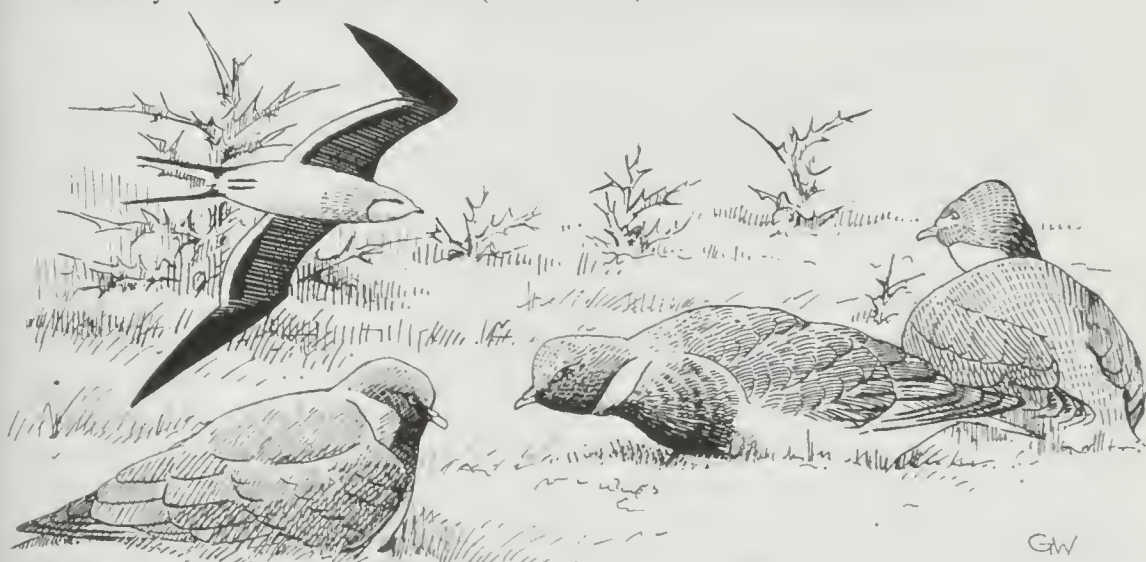
Autumn gatherings 73 Great Cressingham Sept 19th, 91 Oet 1st and still 26 Nov 5th, and at Hilborough 72 Sept 25th, 60 Nov 13th, 13 Dec 12th with 4 still present Dec 24th.

## Collared Pratincole

*Glareola pratincola*

### *Vagrant from southern Europe*

One Blakeney FM May 28th-June 9th (D&JB *et al*). The first record since 1999.



Collared Pratincole (Gary Wright)

## Little Ringed Plover

*Charadrius dubius*

### *Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

First of spring Strumpshaw March 4th (earliest county record), no others until 2 Whitlingham CP March 19th, 2 Thetford Nunnery Flood and one Welney 21st, and 1-3 at four other sites by

month end. Reported from 20 localities in spring, including 13 Welney April 25th, 5 Salthouse May 20th, 1-2 Blakeney Point April 21st/22nd, and singles west Overstrand May 2nd and Salthouse May 22nd.

Breeding pairs reported from 14 sites with min of 28 pairs, very similar to recent years, including 18 young fledged from 9 pairs at one Fenland site. Also at Blakeney Point small groups of 2-3 noted displaying and nest scraping but no breeding attempted.

Post breeding dispersal/autumn passage from late June, best counts of autumn 8 Titchwell July 14th, 5 Stiffkey Fen Sept 1st, 6 Cley July 28th, 8 30th and 4 Aug 19th, 5 Hickling Rush Hills June 30th and 6 Aug 25th, 5 Berney July 9th, 8 Cantley BF Aug 5th and 24 Welney July 4th. Rapid departure after mid-Sept with last of year Titchwell Sept 24th and 3 Stiffkey Fen Oct 2nd.

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

*Charadrius hiaticula*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	5	8	20	40	39	49	88	106	210	-	8	3
Holme	35	57	67	86	40	-	38	328	307	182	63	12
Thornham	30	-	6	4	15	15	10	3	-	41	32	40
Titchwell	52	18	4	14	18	19	14	25	9	49	32	5
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	26	168	88	104	525	216	286	1290	725	655	26	37
Stiffkey SM	1	-	-	15	60	21	16	58	5	15	6	27
Blakeney Hbr	12	47	36	38	123	25	60	442	100	23	85	55
Breydon/Berney	72	76	37	47	76	18	59	233	198	115	71	82

National importance: 290 (winter), 300 (passage)

Highest counts elsewhere: North Wootton Marsh 470 Aug and 45 Sept, Burnham Overy Hbr 72 July and 44 Aug, Holkham Bay 36 Sept, Wells Hbr 72 Jan, 53 Feb and 64 Aug, Warham SM 49 Aug, Hickling Rush Hills 75 Aug and 50 Sept.

Passage of *tundrae* race birds in spring April 12th-June 19th when peak counts 450 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr May 10th, and 79 Hickling Rush Hills and 22 Welney May 16th.

Only visible migration during year 48 north Scolt Head May 15th and 30 west Mundesley Sept 10th.

No improvement in numbers of breeding pairs, with 146 reported from 9 localities: Snettisham 20, Holme 13 (10 young fledged), Titchwell 3, Brancaster Beach 5 (no young fledged), Scolt Head 57 (40-50 young fledged), Holkham NNR 26 (few young), Blakeney Point 15 (11 young fledged), Overstrand 1, Happisburgh-Sea Palling 9 (no young fledged due to predation by gulls and crows), Winterton 2. Although breeding data incomplete with no records from Heacham-Hunstanton, Thornham, Cley, Salthouse, other east coast sites and possible pairs breeding inland, the number of pairs in the county is unlikely to be over 200 pairs. In 1984 a county survey identified 541 pairs but by 1993 this had declined to 429 pairs. At just 200 pairs currently there can be few breeding species that have undergone such a large decline in recent years; in the 1984 survey Norfolk was identified as the most important county in England holding 6% of the UK population. A new national survey is planned for 2007, and it is likely that it will show declines at many other sites in England. There is undoubtedly drastic need for a national action plan to at least stabilize numbers and hopefully reverse the decline. Few would have thought that in the 21st century there would be more pairs of Avocets breeding in the county and a similar number of Stone Curlews breeding in the Brecks.



## Killdeer

*Charadrius vociferus*

### *Vagrant from North America*

The first county record at Breydon March 28th/29th (INS *et al*). See article page 294.



Killdeer (Phil Jones)

## Kentish Plover

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

### *Scarce but annual passage migrant, mostly in spring; rare inland*

Three records, male Breydon April 12th-14th with female there July 1st-11th, visiting Yarmouth beach 8th-10th, and another Hickling Rush Hills July 27th/28th.

## Dotterel

*Charadrius morinellus*

### *Scarce but annual passage migrant; has over-wintered*

In spring only recorded at Waxham where 2 April 30th and one May 7th/8th.

More in autumn when 2 Snettisham Aug 28th/29th and in Sept 4 Scolt Head 10th, with singles Paston 11th, west Cley 23rd and North Wootton Marsh 25th.

## American Golden Plover

*Pluvialis dominica*

### *Rare vagrant*

A juv Salthouse Oct 3rd (RGM) with an adult Warham Greens Oct 26th and then subsequently Langham/Cley 27th-31st (JJ *et al*). The fifth and sixth county records.

## Golden Plover

*Pluvialis apricaria*

### Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1700	2300	300	-	10	700	2130	3500	3000	930
Holme	580	411	1360	90	6	37	300	600	250	200
Titchwell	2500	2200	100	-	30	420	553	1500	1000	4000
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1000	1150	10	-	260	4100	3000	2500	-	-
Holkham NNR	1382	212	710	-	-	-	400	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr	1135	790	226	-	-	300	400	23	2200	2500
Cley	4000	2500	3250	5	9	11	400	2500	1500	2000
Breydon	22400	30940	4000	327	257	3338	3220	8930	10137	15237

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.

The Feb count at Breydon was a site record; also note the high numbers at Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr in autumn and numbers generally along north coast.

Elsewhere counts of 1000 or over: Bittering 1020 Jan, Bressingham 4200 Oct, Buckenham 4000 Jan, 1000 Feb, 1130 Nov and 2250 Dec, Cantley 1000 Feb, Caston 1000 Oct, Dereham 1500 Oct, Dickleburgh 1000 Nov, Great Cressingham 4000 Dec, Hilborough 1000 March, Hingham 1000 March, Langham 1000 Oct, Ludham 2000 Feb and 1500 Dec, Lynn Point 1000 Jan and 3000 Feb, Mattishall 1000 March, North Tuddenham 1000 Jan/Feb, Sea Palling 2000 Feb and 1000 Oct, Shereford 1500 Feb, Shipdham 1800 Dec, Wells Hbr 1500 Nov/Dec, Welney 2170 Jan, 3000 Feb and 1150 Dec.

Few during early May when best count 40 Eau Brink 5th, then none 9th-26th. Small numbers subsequently until first large count of autumn 257 Breydon/Berney July 1st.

Overhead passage during year light, best counts 39 west Scolt Head July 26th, 69 west Scolt Head, 11 west Cley and 14 west Cromer Aug 8th, and 130 south in 2 hrs from dawn Hunstanton Oct 16th.

## Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

### Passage migrant and winter visitor

Most consistently counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	670	500	300	567	685	30	115	2000	250	610	450	788
Holme	53	486	381	314	151	45	4	417	387	37	61	60
Titchwell	22	8	1	50	130	15	68	344	136	18	9	23
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	180	224	236	324	376	25	85	409	382	390	215	210
Stiffkey SM	284	437	-	231	172	96	53	294	190	490	357	143
Warham SM	160	95	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	87	114	269
Blakeney Hbr	-	12	44	1	-	20	3	78	50	2	-	76
Breydon/Berney	22	42	32	5	10	3	2	6	4	29	42	42

International importance (winter): 1500; National importance (winter): 430

Elsewhere 133 Burnham Overy Hbr Nov, and 109 Wells Hbr Feb and 122 Oct.

Few inland with one Hickling Rush Hills April 23rd and 2 June 2nd, 2 cast Aylmerton May 1st and singles Scnnowe Park May 11th and Welney May 12th, 14th/15th and Dec 5th.

Coastal passage (all west): 29 Mundesley July 20th, 34 Mundesley Aug 6th, 63 Cley 10th, 61 Scolt Head 13th, 30 Overstrand 14th, 46 Scolt Head Oct 11th.

Lapwing

*Vanellus vanellus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1200	2720	-	74	90	250	40	255	370	480
Titchwell	9	551	134	10	49	278	474	234	240	1500
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	2500	5700	75	10	239	195	380	423	650	2950
Holkham NNR	746	1096	739	319	-	106	210	-	203	-
Blakeney GM/Cley	1750	870	198	158	40	82	1000	700	676	2300
Hickling Broad	2500	2550	-	-	100	500	610	-	350	2500
Breydon/Berney	29136	24900	1156	180	220	306	300	1217	6280	17410
Buckenham/Cantley	1000	1302	-	-		450	-	350	350	1700
Welney	12038	1841	535	-	430	-	-	-	3070	3490

International and National importance (winter): 20,000

Other counts of 1000 or more from 8 sites: Aylmerton 1000 Jan, Haddiscoe 2250 Nov, Magdalen RC 1297 Dec, North Wootton Marsh 2000 Oct, Ousemouth 4000 Feb, 1000 Oct, Potter Heigham 1200 Jan, Quidenham 1500 Jan. Stiffkey Fen 1000 Jan.

Cold weather movements included 150 west Paston Jan 27th, 120 high north-west Thetford Feb 12th and 70 west Beeston Bump Dec 29th.

Spring easterly movements in March: 1160 Overstrand 4th-10th, 200 Paston 6th, 135 Kelling Heath 13th.

Breeding: the total of 657-658 pairs (667-675 in 2004) not as bleak as it may suggest as data not received from 5 key sites. Details from 34 sites (35 in 2004): *Wash* Dersingham Bog 4, Snettisham 3 (1), Ken Hill Marsh 40 (48); *north coast* Holme 46 (38-40), Titchwell 4 (5), Holkham NNR 228 (237) fledged 99, Stiffkey 3, Cley 26 (4); *Broads* Haddiscoe 5 (10), mid-Yare RSPB 76 (90), Oby 10, Reedham 1; *Brecks* Mundford 20, Stanford TA 7 (5), Thetford Nunnery Lakes 1 (9); *Inland* Bawsey 3, Congham 2, Crostwick 1, Dereham 2, East Tuddenham 1 (1), Egmere 1, Great Ryburgh 4, Harpley 1, Hingham 2, Massingham Heath 2, North Rington 2, Pensthorpe 2, Pentney GP 2-3, Rougham 9, Sculthorpe Airfield 35, Wighton 7; *Fens* Hockwold Fen 1, Ten Mile Bank 2, Welney 104 (122). The trend at many of the key sites still seems to be downward; predation and probably low rainfall during recent winters appears to be having an impact on their success. NBA results showed the species was present in 50% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding movements (all west) Scolt Head where 15 June 9th, 180 18th, 65 21st and 77 23rd. Autumn movements (all west) also noted Scolt Head with 142 Sept 22nd, 215 Oct 4th, 368 15th, 505 17th, 548 19th and 422 24th. At Holme 200 Oct 15th and 225 26th, 520 Nov 1st, 240 2nd and 430 14th. Elsewhere 190 Bacton Sept 26th, 260 Overstrand Nov 1st, and 559 (2 hrs) Cley and 577 Sheringham Nov 14th. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 1897 south Oct 4th-Nov 22nd, including 208 Oct 16th, 323 17th, 173 21st, 174 27th and 213 Nov 18th.

A leucistic individual Weybourne Feb 28th and March 7th, then Salthouse March 19th and lastly Cley 23rd.



## Knot

*Calidris canutus*

*Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor*

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	30035	18000	10515	13800	7000	10000	10000	15000	29720	50000	90000	26850
Holme	18	538	30	227	37	2000	360	21410	24471	20000	100	148
Titchwell	1	200	1200	43	60	1000	1000	114	3700	27	3	8
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	800	400	265	380	475	680	84	639	865	423	250	310
Warham SM	3080	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	621	3000
Wells Hbr	1000	500	-	12	-	-	-	160	-	220	130	130
Stiffkey SM	70	140	-	49	15	7	4	56	167	236	156	157
Blakeney Hbr	217	600	50	8	-	20	1	11	22	-	3	8
Breydon	369	198	186	61	15	8	31	25	76	63	187	357

*International importance (winter): 3500; National importance (winter): 2900*

The Nov count at Snettisham probably consisted of entire Wash population at this time and was highest in county since 1993 when a staggering 150,000-200,000 roosted at Holme in Oct.

Additional counts elsewhere: Ousemouth 700 Jan, 60 May and 2500 Oct, Thornham 40 April, Cley 20 April and 54 June, Salthouse 125 June.

First notable offshore movements of year during July, as usual most referred to birds moving west along north coast and north along east coast, including at Scolt Head 33 July 20th, 77 Aug 6th, 105 26th, 2165 Sept 10th, 1040 11th and 167 Oct 3rd. Elsewhere 49 Mundesley July 8th, 24 Walcott Aug 8th, 70 Winterton and 202 California Sept 11th, 138 Mundesley and 53 Gorleston Oct 2nd, 197 Sheringham Nov 16th, 250 Cley and 286 Mundesley 17th, and 70 Sheringham Dec 17th.

Inland records during spring 5 Hickling Rush Hills March 23rd, where one May 12th and 2 June 25th, and one Buckenham Marshes April 10th. Most inland records during autumn Hickling Rush Hills where one July 1st/2nd, 2 on 22nd, 3 Aug 16th, one 26th, 13 27th, 16 28th, one 29th, 5 Sept 10th and 4 16th; elsewhere one Cantley BF Aug 14th-19th and Sept 17th.

At Breydon a juv Aug 6th was earliest ever at this site.

## Sanderling

*Calidris alba*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

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	60	47	-	17	800	1365	3286	1510	190	-	69	47
Holme	100	427	215	455	508	64	653	302	419	105	37	4
Thornham	5	-	101	41	113	-	13	50	-	66	106	30
Titchwell	45	60	275	395	79	5	36	50	80	67	106	30
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	13	47	57	56	585	65	474	285	145	126	20	16
Holkham Bay	110	46	25	48	14	-	32	7	-	30	100	1100
Blakeney Hbr	-	-	1	-	61	-	27	58	45	19	10	15

*International importance: 1000 (winter); National importance: 230*

Note the high count at Snettisham in July; at Titchwell up to 45 unusually feeding on the freshmarsh May. The Dee count at Holkham Bay was easily a site record, with birds feeding on a large wreck of razor shells.

Noteworthy counts elsewhere: Brancaster 57 March and 26 Nov, Burnham Overy Hbr 42 Aug, 18 Oct and 31 Nov, Wells Hbr 85 Jan, 60 Feb and 200 Aug, Warham SM 10 Jan and 35

Oct, Stiffkey SM 58 Oct and 30 Dec, Winterton 17 Dec, Caister 16 Jan, Yarmouth 14 July, Gorleston 31 Nov.

Offshore passage included 52 east Scolt Head May 15th, where 58 west July 17th and 57 west 23rd, and 36 west Cromer Nov 16th.

Inland records Pentney GP March 12th and July 20th, Welney April 25th, May 1st, 10th and 15th/16th, Nar Valley Fisheries May 14th, and at Hickling Rush Hills 2 June 19th, with one Aug 14th/15th and 25th.

## Little Stint

*Calidris minuta*

### *Double passage migrant in fluctuating numbers*

In first winter period one sporadically Welney Jan 16th-March 18th. No others until start of spring passage in May when one Hickling Rush Hills 4th-6th. Spring passage light, but the 34 recorded was more than double previous year, bulk of records occurred between 10th-22nd, when 5 Cley and Salthouse, 3 Titchwell, 2 Snettisham, Stiffkey Fen and Breydon/Berney, and singles Burnham Norton and Welney. Records during rest of spring included 3 Cley May 27th and in June 2 Snettisham 8th and one 9th, and singles Breydon 10th, Hickling Rush Hills 13th and Cley 15th, with a late bird difficult to assign to either passage period Snettisham 26th.

Autumn passage from mid-July when Cley 16th and 19th, 2 Scolt Head 19th, 2 Breydon/Berney 22nd and 3 Cley 24th increasing to 4 next day, with few others during rest of month, apart from 10 Titchwell 29th. Passage in Aug poor, when 3 Titchwell 3rd, 4 Cley 4th, 3 Hickling Rush Hills 24th, with other inland birds Pentney GP 8th and Welney 25th-31st. Little improvement in numbers during Sept, most 1st-22nd when peak counts 3 Titchwell 14th/15th, 4 west Scolt Head 17th, 6 Cley 13th and 7 14th, 5 Salthouse 10th and 4 11th, 8 Hickling Rush Hills 16th, 9 on 19th/20th and 8 27th, and 3 Breydon/Berney 7th. Inland singles Welney 1st, Cantley BF 13th, and Buckenham 14th and 16th. Few Oct when up to 2 Titchwell 1st-16th, and singles Breydon 1st, Cley 1st/2nd, Hickling Rush Hills 10th-12th, Cantley BF 15th-23rd and Snettisham 30th, where last of year 3 late birds Nov 3rd.

## Temminck's Stint

*Calidris temminckii*

### *Passage migrant, more frequent in spring*

Spring passage totalled around 22 birds May 1st-June 7th, most May when Holme 14th-16th, 3 Titchwell 1st-3rd, 4 on 4th and singles 5th-8th, 18th-20th and 28th/29th, 2 Stiffkey Fen 16th, 3 Cley 17th and singles 18th and 30th-June 1st, Salthouse 17th/18th, 2 Hickling Rush Hills 11th, one 12th, 14th/15th and 18th/19th, Breydon/Berney 20th and Welney 6th/7th, 19th and 27th/28th. One Titchwell June 4th-7th was last of spring.

Four in autumn, a moulting adult Cley Aug 7th-13th, Stiffkey Fen Aug 18th and Titchwell Sept 14th, where 2 15th-18th and one until 23rd.

## White-rumped Sandpiper

*Calidris fuscicollis*

### *Vagrant from North America*

Four autumn records: Titchwell July 3rd (SH RRo *et al*), Breydon July 18th-20th (PRA KRD *et al*), Cley Aug 12th (MAG *et al*) and Salthouse/Kelling WM Nov 13th-15th (JVB MAG *et al*).

## Pectoral Sandpiper

*Calidris melanotos*

### *Almost annual autumn vagrant from North America/Siberia; rare in spring*

Another good year, with around 12-14 individuals, though some duplication is always possible especially along north coast: Welney July 15th-18th and Sept 24th, Titchwell July 28th, adult

Aug 3rd-15th and Sept 7th, 9th, 14th/15th and 21st, Cley July 30th-Aug 1st, Hickling Rush Hills Aug 3rd-5th, 3 on 6th-21st (all adults) and juv Aug 23rd-28th, Snettisham Aug 29th, Stiffkey Fen Aug 31st-Sept 4th and again 7th, Burnham Norton Sept 19th/20th and 29th, Berney Sept 20th.

## Curlew Sandpiper

*Calidris ferruginea*

*Autumn passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; scarce in spring*

Spring passage very poor totalling no more than 7 birds, when Cley April 15th/16th, Breydon/Berney April 27th/28th and May 4th, 2 on both 5th and 17th, Titchwell May 1st and June 22nd, and Holkham GM May 13th.

Return passage of adults from mid-July when singles Snettisham, Titchwell and Breydon 15th, and Cley and Hickling Rush Hills 16th. Passage during rest of month light with 1-3 Snettisham, Titchwell, Cley and Berney on occasional dates; also 2 inland Pentney GP 21st. Passage remained light during first half Aug when 4 Breydon 2nd, 4 Cley 4th and 1-2 at just two other sites. The first juvs appeared Aug 18th, heralding start of best passage of juvs since 1999; peak counts during month 15 Welney 19th, 8 Stiffkey Fen and 13 Salthouse 21st, 33 Cley 21st/22nd, 8 Holme 23rd, 34 Hickling Rush Hills 27th/28th, 20 Snettisham 28th, and 32 Titchwell, 13 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 12 Breydon/Berney all 31st. Present daily during Sept, most during first half of month, best site Titchwell where 59 on 1st, increasing to 74 3rd and up to 120 5th-18th. Site max elsewhere in Sept: 16 Snettisham 7th, 36 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 10th, 20 Burnham Norton 2nd, 6 Holkham GM 16th, 18 Stiffkey Fen 4th, 28 Cley 2nd, 6 Salthouse 3rd, 7 Kelling WM 6th, 39 Hickling Rush Hills 6th, 24 Breydon/Berney 3rd, 10 Welney 4th and 1-3 Holme and Blakeney Point. Additional inland records during month 2 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 6th and 4 Cantley BF 10th with one 28th. Small numbers noted moving west at several coastal sites during autumn, including 2 Holme Sept 10th, 16 Scolt Head Sept 1st, 4 Cley Sept 26th and one Sheringham Aug 7th with 3 21st.

Few in Oct when during first ten days of month 11 Titchwell and 1-4 Snettisham, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Hickling Rush Hills, Breydon and Cantley BF, with last of year Breydon/Berney 20th, Snettisham 29th and Breydon/Berney again Nov 1st.

## Stilt Sandpiper

*Calidris himantopus*

*Vagrant from North America*

One Burnham Norton area May 10th-17th (AIB JBi *et al*). The third county record - see article page 300.



Stilt Sandpiper (Gary Wright)



Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritime

Passage migrant and declining winter visitor in small numbers

Numbers wintering in county continue to decline, best sites Titchwell where one most days Jan-early April and again Dec, and Cley/Salthouse where a long-staying bird Sept-Dec. Elsewhere singles unless stated: Hunstanton 2 Feb, Holme 3 April, Brancaster Nov, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr April and Nov/Dec, Blakeney Point Oct/Nov, Sheringham Sept, Cromer Oct, Eccles April and 2 Dec, Waxham 2 Feb, Winterton Nov, Gorleston Nov. Just away from coast 2 Breydon Jan 31st, where also a long-staying individual sporadically March 19th-May 5th, with possibly same 17th; in Nov one again Breydon on and off Nov 3rd-20th. Other May records included one Warham 9th and 2 Titchwell FM 16th.

First in autumn Aug when west Scolt Head 8th, Titchwell 12th and 25th, Cley 19th/20th and 30th, Blakeney Point and west Walcott 20th, Salthouse 21st/22nd and Bacton briefly 21st before flying inland. Subsequently small numbers of coastal migrants noted moving west/north espccially during or just after onshore gales, when Sheringham Sept 11th, Scolt Head and 2 Walcott 17th, 3 Scolt Head Oct 3rd, Sheringham 24th, 3 Mundesley Nov 16th and 4 17th, 2 Overstrand 25th and California 27th.

The long term trend in the county continues to be downward, with few sites now regularly holding birds and a county wintering population at best of just 10-12. The national long term trend is also downward, why is not clear but perhaps global warming is having an effect, resulting in fewer reaching our shores for the winter.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Passage migrant and winter visitor; non-breeders in summer

Peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1893	6800	4000	4030	3300	302	14760	9510	5590	1600	1010	4220
Holme	139	738	371	112	97	3	51	21	217	63	144	244
Titchwell	61	69	110	24	110	15	265	500	427	170	11	81
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	950	875	563	592	730	155	611	1282	807	689	750	1390
Wells Hbr	650	550	-	-	-	-	-	240	-	205	160	162
Warham SM	840	360	-	-	-	-	-	58	-	150	270	-
Stiffkey SM	195	163	-	88	220	4	67	75	89	180	301	541
Blakeney Hbr	508	400	99	6	226	2	391	763	100	144	-	109
Cley	91	218	526	18	140	27	71	790	620	268	144	294
Salthouse	19	-	28	38	84	-	-	-	100	-	87	52
Breydon/Berney	4322	3215	3580	1671	2230	35	859	726	820	1350	388	550

International importance (winter): 14,000; National importance (winter): 5300

Elsewhere best counts: Ousemouth 120 Aug, Thornham 110 March, Burnham Overy Hbr 136 Jan and 89 May, Holkham GM 99 Feb and 64 March, Hickling Rush Hills 54 April, 35 May, 30 July and 193 Sept, Welney 68 Jan, 192 Feb. 58 May and 48 Nov.

Offshore passage in spring only noted Scolt Head where 46 west April 28th and 47 north high out to sea May 11th and 63 15th. Westerly/northerly passage in autumn noted at many coastal sites, including 107 Cromer Aug 7th, 61 Walcott 15th, 289 Scolt Head Sept 1st, 169 California Sept 11th and 216 Scolt Head 17th, with 275 there Oct 10th. Peak numbers Nov when 200 Beeston Bump, 256 Overstrand and 260 Eccles 14th, 477 Sheringham, 152 Cromer, 390 Overstrand and 217 California 16th, 350 Cley, 642 Mundesley and 72 Winterton 17th, and 148 California 27th.

First juv Breydon July 19th.

## Buff-breasted Sandpiper

*Tryngites subruficollis*

### *Vagrant from North America*

Four autumn records: Hilborough Aug 25th-27th (CRK *et al*), Snettisham Aug 27th-29th and Sept 3rd (MAWa *et al*), Blakeney Point Sept 3rd-6th (many obs) and Breydon Sept 16th (PRA KRD). The max seen in any one year in county.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Richard Johnson)

## Ruff

*Philomachus pugnax*

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

Monthly peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchwell	115	102	102	25	5	13	44	96	108	122	60	86
Brancaster Hbr	40	10	8	-	-	-	-	53	43	85	65	-
Stiffkey	4	9	-	6	-	6	2	59	70	-	-	-
Cley	17	18	22	33	2	20	140	63	11	10	1	1
Breydon/Berney	54	84	31	6	2	21	72	29	46	21	38	41
Buckenham/Cantley	61	50	33	5	-	-	11	40	82	75	40	17
Hickling Rush Hills	-	-	5	11	1	5	56	60	78	55	-	-
Welney	29	24	18	19	2	1	10	-	59	157	12	19

National importance (winter): 50

Additional winter records: 5 St Olave's Herringfleet Jan, 111 Choseley Jan, 50 Strumpshaw Jan with 25 Nov. Allowing for some duplication especially from Choseley and Brancaster Hbr, where wandering birds from Titchwell believed to be involved, a county wintering population of around 300 seems reasonable, representing around 40% of the best recent estimate of national wintering numbers.

Spring passage March to mid-May, when away from tabulated sites double-figure counts of 26 Holkham GM and 16 Blakeney GM March, and 20 Horsey April; last of spring Holme May 23rd.

First returning birds by end of first week June when Cley 6th, Welney 8th and Titchwell 13th. Autumn passage much better than spring, but again few records away from those in table, with 15 Wissington BF July 2nd, one Johnson Street Buttle Marsh July 28th, 4 Holkham

GM Aug 21st, one Pentney GP Aug 24th and 3 Sept 3rd, 3 Blakeney Point Sept 10th, 30 Waxham Oct 5th, 13 Ten Mile Bank Oct 12th and 25 Field Dalling Oct 29th.

Overhead migrants included 14 north-east Hunstanton April 17th, and at Scolt Head 8 south May 1st, 8 west July 9th and 5 west Oct 12th.

## Jack Snipe

*Lymnocyptes minimus*

### *Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining*

In first winter period reported from 18 localities, best counts 14 East Ruston Feb 14th, where also 7 Jan 5th and 8 March 8th, and Buxton Heath where 6 Feb 19th. Elsewhere 1-2 Berney, Dereham Rush Meadow, Great Plumstead, Hockwold Washes, Holme, Horsey, Lynford GP, Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Roydon Common, Strumpshaw, Surlingham Church Marsh, Syderstone Common, Titchwell, Welney and Whitlingham CP.

Evidence of return passage through coastal sites in late March/early April when 2 Holme March 22nd/23rd, and singles Blakeney Point 26th, Winterton 28th and 2 Burnham Overy April 2nd. Last of spring April when singles Welney 2nd, 11th and 19th, Titchwell 4th/5th and How Hill 13th.

First of autumn second half of Sept at Cley 17th and Scolt Head 23rd. In Oct reported from 26 localities, with influxes 8th-11th when singles Holme, Scolt Head, Burnham Overy, Holkham Gap, Blakeney Point, West Runton, Hickling Rush Hills and Winterton, and 15th-18th when 2 Holme and Horsey, and singles Thornham, Brancaster Thompson Farm, Scolt Head, Wells East Hills, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point, Weybourne, Kelling WM, Happisburgh and Waxham. Also of note during month singles in off sea Scolt Head 11th and Overstrand 24th, and at least 4 present Winterton 29th.

Situation during final two months of year similar to that at start with records from 24 sites, but best counts well down with 3 Nar Valley Fisheries Nov 12th and Buxton Heath 26th. Elsewhere 1-2 Beeston Common, Brancaster Hbr, Breydon, Cley, Dersingham Bog, East Ruston, Eccles, Great Ryburgh, Haddiscoe, Holme, How Hill Reedham Water, Paston, Pentney Heath, Roydon Common, Scarning Fen, Sea Palling, Strumpshaw, Surlingham Church Marsh, Swanton Morley GP, Titchwell, Welney and Whitlingham CP.

## Common Snipe

*Gallinago gallinago*

### *Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder*

During first winter period counts of 30 or more recorded at 13 sites: Titchwell 53 Jan, 50 Feb, 42 April, Holkham NNR 32 Jan, Cley 35 March, East Ruston 38 March, Hickling Rush Hills 36 March, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 50 March, Breydon/Berney 30 April, Burgh Castle 35 April, Halvergate Marshes 30 April, Cantley 94 Feb, Strumpshaw 85 Feb, Whitlingham CP 50 Jan, 140 Feb, East Barsham 30 March, Hockwold Washes 30 March.

Breeding reported from 9 sites (14 in 2004) with total of 95 drummers (107 in 2004): *north coast* Holkham NNR 11 (17 = 30% down), Blakeney GM 1, Cley 1; *Broads* Reedham 1, mid-Yare RSPB 4 (10); *Brecks* Hilborough 1; *Fens* Welney 68 (71); *inland* Castle Acre 1 (1), Roydon Common 6 (5). Some well-recorded sites down in numbers, and despite possibly poorer coverage the overall situation makes grim reading.

Visual autumn migration Aug 16th-Oct 28th, but counts in general poor: Hunstanton Cliffs total 57 south Oct 4th-29th; Holme (all west) 45 Aug 29th, 100 Sept 1st, 41 23rd, 28 Oct 28th; Scolt Head (all west) Aug/Sept total of 827 included 49 Aug 16th and 23rd, 82 28th, 62 29th, 176 Sept 1st, 37 3rd, 33 19th, 115 20th.



During autumn/second winter period only 16 sites recorded 30 or more (18 in 2004) with counts generally lower, perhaps reflected by dry start to winter: Holme 33 Sept, 52 Oct; Titchwell 45 Sept, 30 Dec; Scolt Head 31 Oct; Burnham Norton 32 Sept; Cley 55 Oct, 35 Dec; Hickling Broad 48 Aug, 35 Nov; Potter Heigham 78 Dec; Sutton Hall 30 Dec; Breydon/Berney 38 Nov, 41 Dec; Haddiscoe 48 Nov; Cantley BF 70 Aug, 50 Sept, 52 Oct; Cantley Marshes 51 Nov, 92 Dec; Buckenham 120 Dec; Whitlingham CP 40 Dec; Magdalen RC 43 Dec; Welney 51 Oct, 43 Nov.

Mid-winter cold weather movements late Dec with 8 east Beeston Bump 28th, and 40 west Sheringham 29th and 11 west 31st.

## **Great Snipe**

*Gallinago media*

### ***Vagrant from north-east Europe***

Singles on typical Sept dates, Blakeney Point 10th/11th (RFP AMS *et al*) and Holkham GM 19th (AIB JRMc).

## **Woodcock**

*Scolopax rusticola*

### ***Passage migrant and winter visitor; breeder particularly in Brecks***

Largest number reported during winter months 300 shot during 2004/05 winter at Holkham Park, which was considered a poor season. Though most of those shot would probably have been continental migrants the number wintering in county is not known; with this lack of information and a lack of bag returns from other shooting estates which also target Woodcock, it is unclear whether this number is sustainable. Highest counts elsewhere: 70 flushed during shoot Brancaster Thompson Farm Dec, 6 Titchwell Jan and Flordon Feb, 5 Dersingham Bog Nov, and 4 Hickling Stubb Mill, Holkham NNR and Salthouse Heath Nov/Dec, with 1-3 from at least 53 other widely-scattered localities. One observer commented that fewer seen in Broads during year.

Evidence of return movement through coastal sites late March/early April when in off sea Heacham and Horsey March 26th, in a garden Brancaster Staithe 27th, 2 Paston and one Beeston Bump 28th, one Scolt Head 29th, and in April 2 Horsey 1st and one Scolt Head 2nd.

Roding birds reported at 24 sites: Barton Broad 2, Boughton Fen 3, Briston, Buxton Heath, Catfield Fen 2, Cranwich Heath, Dersingham Bog 5, Drymere 6, East Walton Common 2, Grimston Heath, Holt Lowes 4, Honing Lock, Hoveton Hall 3, Marsham Heath 2, Massingham Heath 2, Potter Heigham 2, Repps-with-Bastwick 3, Salthouse Heath 2, Sennowe Park, Strumpshaw, Syderstone Common 3, West Bilney, West Runton (Roman Camp) 2. Other reports during breeding season included a min of 8 successful females Swanton Novers and a bird with 4 young Gooderstone April 9th, where two nests also failed.

Apart from an exceptionally early bird in off sea Cley Aug 27th, immigration did not commence until mid-Oct. During autumn a number of influxes, first Oct 15th-18th when 5 Scolt Head, 3 Blakeney Point, 2 Wells East Hills, Sheringham, Happisburgh and Waxham, and singles at 12 other coastal sites. Second influx Oct 24th when 6 Blakeney Point (including 5 in off sea) and singles at 4 other coastal sites (including one being chased in off sea by Peregrine at Sheringham, which successfully evaded capture once it reached land). Final influx of autumn Nov 16th-19th when scattering of coastal migrants including total of 6 which arrived in off sea.

## Black-tailed Godwit

*Limosa limosa*

*Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder*

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	30	5	45	300	-	85	875	680	470	45	1	-
Holme	1	3	18	70	180	4	14	5	4	5	8	7
Titchwell	44	35	20	1	111	294	390	488	340	40	50	50
Seolt/Braneaster Hbr	330	215	180	398	80	27	35	255	350	300	140	35
Holkham NNR	24	91	250	358	110	130	250	318	25	-	-	-
Stiffkey Fen/SM	-	-	31	39	-	-	-	467	675	40	153	16
Blakeney Hbr/GM	36	131	716	-	104	-	137	-	-	2	10	-
Cley	311	520	815	810	197	180	232	310	450	400	136	210
Salthouse/Kelling	10	147	-	25	74	7	65	94	-	-	2	21
Hickling Broad	-	-	-	170	16	52	141	150	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	919	1288	1566	419	68	29	573	1261	1311	1483	1372	1675
Welney	505	546	631	250	45	55	-	4	-	16	200	813

*International importance (winter): 700; National importance (winter): 70*

The Dec count at Breydon/Berney was yet another new site record. Elsewhere only records away from main sites in winter months 23 Lynn Point Jan and at Choseley 33 Jan and 10 Feb, where birds feeding on bare field, returning to roost at Titchwell each evening.

Spring passage peaked second half of March until mid-May when elsewhere 21 Whitlingham CP March 22nd, 240 Haddiscoe 25th, 42 Ouse Washes April 10th, 1000 Ken Hill Marsh 17th and 40 Fritton May 1st.

Elsewhere in autumn up to 500 Holkham Park Aug where birds regularly noted feeding on cricket pitch from mid-month (only recorded twice here before), 202 North Wootton July 1st, 50 feeding in stubble Burnham Market Sept 19th, 15 Runham July 7th and singles Pentney GP July 28th and Aug 6th.

Much movement noted between north coast sites, difficult to be certain of any movements from further afield, but of note 23 south Hunstanton April 13th, 10 west Sheringham July 3rd and 8 west there Oct 15th.

As usual vast majority of records referred to *islandica* race birds breeding in Iceland, only reports of continental birds of the nominate race *limosa*, 5 Titchwell June 26th (including a colour-ringed juv), and a colour-ringed adult Cley June 28th and July 18th.

Three pairs of *limosa* race birds once again bred at usual site, all failed due to predation; one hatched young but these disappeared after ten days, whilst the last clutch was predated by a male Marsh Harrier June 16th.

A dry summer in Iceland resulted in a poor breeding season for *islandica* birds, with juvs forming only 11.4% of flocks aged at Cley Oct-Dec, compared with 19.7% in 2004 and 24.2% in 2003.

Bar-tailed Godwit

*Limosa lapponica*

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

Monthly max at main sites:

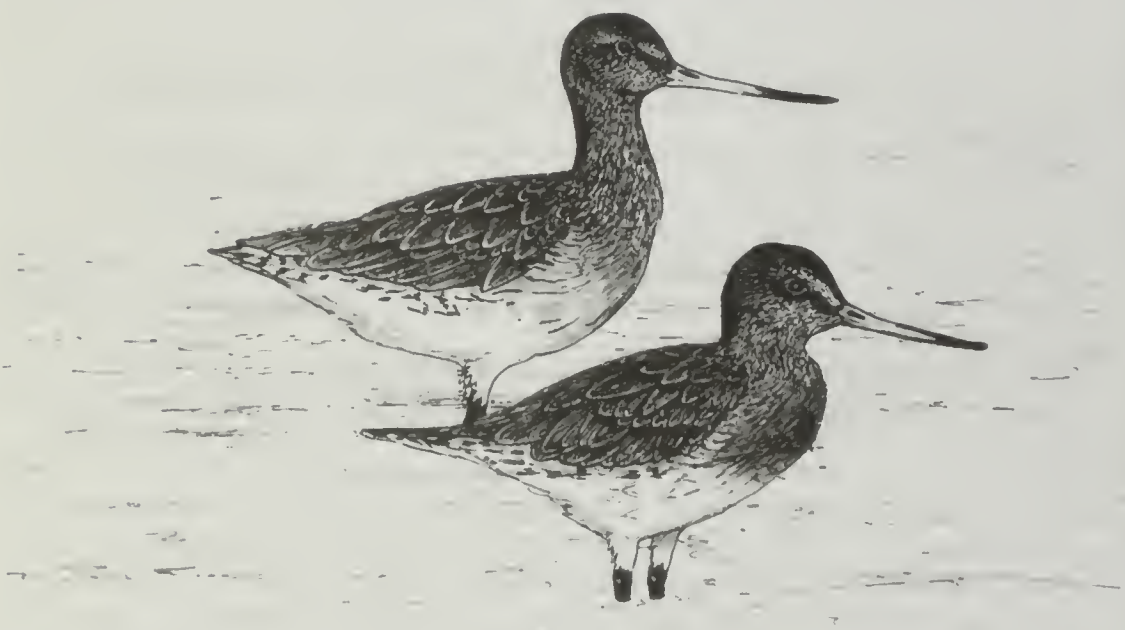
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	2650	2000	4035	200	120	50	1800	1000	1600	2800	2720	3150
Holme	139	423	276	135	3	9	25	1070	1170	60	166	6
Thornham	121	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	184	2
Titchwell	218	100	134	-	19	56	123	1240	1734	800	300	382
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	151	310	158	83	59	24	95	276	275	282	185	188
Wells Hbr	77	62	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	84	12	12
Stiffkey SM	331	204	-	51	6	-	-	66	166	69	115	133
Blakeney Hbr	264	200	50	5	-	-	-	28	4	-	4	38
Breydon	34	47	47	70	4	4	6	18	15	5	38	72

International importance (winter): 1000; National importance (winter): 530

Only other noteworthy count 30 Cley April.

Coastal movements in spring 73 west Scolt Head April 11th, 8 east West Somerton 23rd, 7 south Waxham 25th and 7 south Winterton May 1st. Numbers passed coastal sites in autumn better, as usual moving north along east coast and west along north coast, when 39 Scolt Head July 2nd and 36 3rd, 24 Sheringham 23rd, 36 Cromer and 19 California Aug 8th, 28 Walcott 15th, 150 Holme and 315 Scolt Head Sept 10th, and 19 Winterton and 21 California 11th.

Inland records 12 north-east Welney Feb 27th (extremely unusual here in winter), where in spring singles April 25th and 27th, 2 May 8th and 3 10th and singles on three other dates during month, and singles Hickling Rush Hills April 23rd and 27th, and Nar Valley Fisheries May 19th. In autumn west Great Ryburgh Aug 8th, and 6 Hickling Rush Hills and one Cantley BF Sept 10th.



Bar-tailed Godwits (Alan Burtenshaw)





s Avocet population was devastated by a single Grey Heron. (*Tony Howes*)

eer - the first record for Norfolk was at Breydon Water in March. Left (*Murray Smith*), right (*Neil Bowman*)





The Great Yarmouth area is one of the best places in the whole of Britain to see Kentish Plover. Left, male at Breydon Water, (*Murray Smith*) and right, female at North Denes. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Dotterel - one of two extremely obliging juveniles at Snettisham. (*Julian Bhalerao*)







Sandpiper - the first to be enjoyed by the modern generation of birders was at  
 am Norton in May. (*Steve Gantlett*)

er Yellowlegs - the over-wintering bird remained at Stiffkey into April. (*Murray Smith*)

Stint - a juvenile at Salthouse. (*Julian Bhalerao*)







Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found on Blakeney Point, above (*Richard Porter*)  
and an inland record at Hilborough, below. (*Chris Knights*)



Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus*

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter

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	20	20	1	1	1
Holme	12	40	-	-	-
Titchwell	5	20	10	4	6
Seolt/Brancaster Hbr	42	85	48	53	19
Holkham NNR	27	90	3	8	2
Stiffkey	4	-	6	14	-
Blakeney Hbr/Point	12	-	56	150	3
Cley	6	14	25	-	8
Hickling Rush Hill/Broad	35	30	3	14	-
Breydon/Berney	119	74	6	-	1

National importance (passage): 50

First of spring north Horsey Mareh 25th and west Holkham Gap 26th, but no others for a further two weeks when Blakeney Hbr April 10th, Blakeney Point and east Overstrand 11th, and Breydon/Berney 12th. Spring passage peaked mid-April to mid-May when largest feeding flocks at sites other than those in table: 10 Ken Hill Marsh April 21st, 7 Warham May 8th, 17 Blakeney GM April 28th and 24 May 8th/9th, 10 Salthouse April 28th and 32 May 9th, 21 Kelling WM May 1st, 20 Horsey April 27th and 7 Winterton May 6th.

Largest counts of birds moving overhead in spring 25 east Sheringham April 24th, 25 east Cley and 27 east Sheringham May 1st, 35 west 14 east Seolt Head 15th and 15 west Cley 20th.

Additional inland reeords during spring: Leziate Ashwieken Heath April 21st-23rd, Welney 24th, 2 north Gillingham 27th, 2 Nar Valley Fisheries 28th, 2 Roydon Common and one West Bilney 29th, 11 Blakborough End Tip and 2 Roydon Common 30th, and in May 9 north Aylmerton 1st, Welney 2nd, west Norwieh 3rd, 9 Leziate Ashwieken Heath 7th and Nar Valley Fisheries 9th.

During June singles reported Snettisham, Holme and Breydon/Berney up to 10th, probably marking end of spring passage, whilst singles Great Ryburgh 22nd, 4 Blakeney Point and Winterton 24th, one Holme, 2 Seolt Head and 17 Blakeney Hbr 27th, and one Titchwell 28th marked start of autumn.

Additional counts of grounded/feeding flocks in autumn: 77 Caister GC July 24th with 29 Aug 15th-29th, 7 Warham Aug 21st. Overhead passage much more pronouneed July/Aug (when west unless stated): Holme 38 July 16th, Titchwell 32 July 23rd, Brancaster Staithe 30 Aug 20th. Seolt Head total of 308 July including 53 16th, 74 17th and 82 23rd, and 151 Aug including 36 2nd and 27 5th, Cley 33 July 21st, Sheringham 32 July 23rd and 27 Aug 7th, and 16 north Sea Palling July 19th. Largest movements of autumn slightly later than usual in early Sept when 125 Holme, 191 Seolt Head, 44 Blakeney Point, 8 Cley, 13 Walsey Hills and 14 Sea Palling all 1st, 22 Stiffkey and 27 south Blakeney Point 5th and 15 Seolt Head 15th. Fewer inland reeords during autumn when 4 Welney July 15th, south Stoke Holy Cross July 25th, Colney Aug 18th and Brograve Level Sept 23rd.

Last of year during Oct when 1-5 at seven sites until mid-month, when 5 west Holme and Seolt Head 15th, and singles Seolt Head 16th/17th, Brancaster GM 16th, and Blakeney Point 22nd and 24th.



During both migration periods, what was presumed to be same leucistic bird at Breydon/Berney April 11th/12th, Holkham GM April 26th-May 8th, and then east Holkham GM July 27th and back at Breydon/Berney Aug 6th.

## Curlew

*Numenius arquata*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce breeder*

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	550	257	500	70	-	300	155	300	454	740	594	194
Holme	188	260	215	146	80	23	242	178	160	145	90	175
Thornham	10	500	24	8	-	4	-	11	-	-	9	26
Titchwell	26	1	138	23	3	127	127	24	152	129	14	16
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	610	655	617	550	80	329	1402	1544	981	853	428	563
Holkham NNR	144	255	156	67	-	-	58	21	44	53	185	175
Warham SM	31	60	45	52	-	-	-	45	46	95	93	107
Wells Hbr	7	51	12	17	6	5	-	-	13	115	37	27
Stiffkey SM	68	61	-	67	6	14	78	129	119	150	70	95
Blakeney GM	16	184	127	51	3	-	119	-	-	-	41	86
Blakeney Hbr	125	6	195	202	19	7	262	292	549	212	113	65
Cley	90	46	33	76	8	7	43	38	20	11	8	66
Breydon/Berney	1593	1173	1486	248	36	93	709	819	892	871	879	1213

*International importance (winter): 3500; National importance (winter): 1200*

Peak counts elsewhere: 30 Brancaster and 11 Welney Jan, 57 Salthouse Feb, 60 Cantley April, 71 North Wootton Oct.

Inland feeding flocks during year, all of which return to coast to roost: 50 Houghton and 49 West Walton Jan, 244 Houghton, 80 Anmer and 43 Leziate Fen Feb, 50 Grimston Sugar Fen and Leziate Ashwicken Heath April, 30 Roydon Common Oct, 55 Castle Acre Dec.

East/north-east departing birds in spring 128 Scolt Head April 17th and 133 21st, and 44 Blakeney Point 26th.

Breeding records included 18 pairs Stanford TA, 4-5 pairs Brettenham Heath where a productive year, 2 pairs Roydon Common and a displaying male East Wretham Heath.

First autumn movements June when 5 west Scolt Head 9th, 53 25th and 72 30th. During rest of autumn largest westerly movements 67 Scolt Head July 2nd, 13 Norwich 10th, 44 Sheringham 23rd, 46 Scolt Head, 14 Cromer and 16 Walcott Aug 8th, and 76 Scolt Head Aug 31st, with 120 Sept 1st and 43 10th.

## Spotted Redshank

*Tringa erythropus*

*Passage migrant; small numbers over-winter*

During first winter period regularly reported from Holme/Thornham/Titchwell (5 Jan and Feb, 3 March), Cley/Salthouse (4 Jan, 3 Feb and March) and Breydon/Berney (7 Jan, 6 Feb and 7 March). In addition isolated records of singles Stiffkey Fen Feb 4th and 13th, and Welney Jan 31st.

Continued increase of over-wintering population adds to difficulty in identifying start of light spring passage in early April. At this time sightings of 1-4 at 5 additional localities (3 coastal plus inland at Hockwold Washes and Welney) with peaks of 5 Cley April 12th and Titchwell 24th, before last of spring Holkham GM May 17th. Unusually a bird seen briefly in song-flight Burnham Norton May 11th.



First of heavier autumn passage at both Titchwell and Cley June 11th before monthly peaks at most frequently counted key sites:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	1	8	43	24	28
Holme	1	1	1	21	2
Thornham/Titchwell	7	17	30	35	24
Cley/Salthouse	5	9	12	10	7
Breydon/Berney	3	1	1	5	5

Scarce away from traditional sites with just singles at Scolt Head, Holkham GM, Warham SM, Stiffkey SM, Kelling WM, Sea Palling, Hickling Broad, West Newton and Welney. Numbers dropped away during Oct and only one record during second half of month.

During Nov/Dec only regularly recorded Snettisham (17 Nov, one Dec), Holme/Thornham/Titchwell (19 Nov 6th/7th, 8 Dec), Cley/Salthouse (6 Nov, 4 Dec) and Breydon/Berney (6 Nov, 5 Dec) with additional bird Hickling Broad Nov 2nd, a mix of late migrants and over-wintering individuals.

## Redshank

*Tringa totanus*

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder in some areas*

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>
Snettisham	160	300	158	215	150	286	780	1385	900	363	275	229
Holme	106	175	201	114	60	74	36	20	94	217	200	168
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	272	330	366	309	151	180	1025	1082	876	665	263	260
Blakeney Hbr	158	27	165	135	32	13	59	89	32	87	60	160
Breydon/Berney	933	927	1406	1229	132	106	919	1245	1359	119	1177	998

*National importance (winter): 1100*

Again exceptional numbers at Breydon in spring but also in autumn.

No spring movements noted this year.

Breeding: poorly recorded this year with only 601 pairs at 11 sites (629-631 at 18 2004): Wash Snettisham 143 (138), Ken Hill 16 (22); *North coast* Holme 37, Titchwell 45 (42), Scolt Head 59 (35), Holkham NNR 126 (133), Blakeney Point 6 (6), Cley 8 (8-10); *east coast/Broads* mid-Yare RSPB 43; *Fens* Welney 117 (120); *Inland* Thetford Nunnery Lakes 1.

Only autumn movements, 30 Sheringham east Aug 28th and 30 west Holme Sept 1st.

At Hockwold Washes peak monthly counts: 15 Jan, 20 Feb, 21 March, 33 April, 25 Nov, 42 Dec.

## Greenshank

*Tringa nebularia*

*Passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce in winter*

In first winter period regularly reported only at Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (one Jan-March) and Morston/Blakeney Hbr/Cley (2 Jan, one Feb/March) with another Heacham Jan 30th presumably relating to a previously unseen wintering bird in the Wash.

Single Titchwell March 18th and another Breydon/Berney 28th before sightings from two more sites April 1st and start of more widespread spring passage. Now expected in only small numbers with peak of just 6 Breydon/Berney during May and 5 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr

April 30th, Buckenham May 11th/12th, Titchwell 11th, Cantley 12th, Cley 15th and Holme May 29th.

No clear distinction between end of spring and first returning birds with singles at 7 sites during first half June. Subtle increase from mid-month and peaks of 4 Stiffkey 23rd and 26th, and 3 Burnham Norton 25th.

Monthly peaks from favoured localities during heavier autumn migration:

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	59	39	23	4
Holme	2	3	7	2
Thornham/Titchwell	16	22	13	6
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	74	64	28	29
Stiffkey SM	5	12	5	2
Blakeney Hbr	8	15	6	1
Cley/Salthouse	15	20	16	3
Hickling Broad	3	8	3	3
Breydon/Berney	10	14	14	1
Cantley BF	3	5	2	2
Buckenham	3	1	7	-

Many sightings of small numbers elsewhere on single dates but highest count just 8 between Burnham Deepdale and Burnham Norton Sept 3rd. No records from southern Wash in either spring or autumn, an area that has held impressive numbers in previous years.

Last remnants of average autumn early Nov when 4 Stiffkey SM and singles Titchwell and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 6th. Only sightings thereafter 2 Holme Dec 1st and single 10th, presumably relate to birds attempting to over-winter again on tidal saltmarshes in north-west of county.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

*Tringa flavipes*

*Vagrant from North America*

The bird originally found on Sept 14th 2004 remained at Stiffkey until April 24th, favouring a tidal creek immediately north of Stiffkey Fen where it proved popular and often confiding. The county's first over-wintering record.

**Green Sandpiper**

*Tringa ochropus*

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

During first winter period recorded at 29 localities Jan to mid-March. Most records related to singles but 2 at Blackborough End GP, Haddiscoe, Narfold, Nar Valley Fisheries, Strumpshaw and Whitlingham CP. Interestingly at this time only one coastal sighting (Horsey) and clustered records from Yare, Wensum and Nar valleys suggesting concentrations or over-recording of mobile individuals.

As always start of light spring passage impossible to determine with no notable increase and only recorded at 27 localities (8 coastal) until last of traditionally early movement, at both Cley and Grimston April 22nd. Mostly singles with 2 at six sites and 3 Haddiscoe March 25th and Whitlingham CP next day.

May sightings at Scolt Head (west) and Titchwell 1st, Burnham Norton 14th and Hickling Broad 17th bridged spring passage with assumed first returning bird Thetford Nunnery Lakes June 9th.

Heavier autumn passage with Cantley BF again premier site:

	<i>Jun</i>		<i>Jul</i>		<i>Aug</i>		<i>Sep</i>		<i>Oct</i>	
	<i>16-30</i>		<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-31</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-31</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-30</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-31</i>
Cantley BF	30		37	59	58	55	5	6	-	9

Numerous records elsewhere but only double-figure count 10 Hickling Broad Aug 31st. Passage tailed off late Oct/early Nov with 6 Haddiscoc Nov 5th last significant count of autumn.

Recorded at 14 inland localities mid-Nov/Dec, all singles except 4 Cantley BF and 2 both Beetley and Hockwold cum Wilton.

Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

*Passage migrant in spring and autumn*

First of year Pentney GP April 26th followed by singles at two other sites by month end. Usual light spring passage recorded at 11 sites: Scolt Head, Holkham GM, Blakeney FM, Cley, Kelling WM, Sheringham, Breydon/Berney, Cantley, Buckenham, Pentney GP and Welney. All records of 1-2 birds except 3 at Welney May 2nd, Buckenham 10th-12th and Blakeney FM 14th, before last of spring Breydon/Berney May 20th.

Poor autumn passage commenced June 30th at Cley. Recorded on many dates thereafter from 17 widely-scattered localities including unusual record of bird south-east over Rosary Road, Norwich July 25th. Peaks of just 3 at Breydon/Berney July 9th, Cley July 31st and Cantley BF Aug 18th. Last of lacklustre year Titchwell Sept 13th.

Common Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

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

In first winter period one King's Lynn Fisher Fleet and Lynn Point Feb 4th. Harbinger of light spring passage Flitcham April 16th (same as 2004) with many records from April 20th and throughout May.

Recorded at 26 localities with peak counts (all in May): 7 Whitlingham CP 1st, 9 15th, 7 16th and 10 on 17th, 6 Cley 11th, 6 Hickling Broad 12th, 8 Titchwell 14th and 7 Breydon during month. Otherwise all reports of 1-5 until last of spring Overstrand May 26th.

Early June presence at Titchwell on three dates (2 on 3rd) suggesting over-summering with first genuine autumn migrant Cley 14th.

Usual heavier autumn movement with almost daily reports of small numbers. Numerous double-figure counts at this time with two clear influxes in late July-early Aug and again late Aug-early Sept. All such counts listed: *July* 12 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 23rd, 14 Cley 29th, 10 Pentney GP 30th, 11 Cantley BF 31st; *Aug* 16 Cantley BF 1st and 22 on 3rd, 10 Lynn Point 8th, 22 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 10 Winterton (south) 31st; *Sept* 12 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 1st, 15 Hickling Broad (one taken by Sparrowhawk), 14 Titchwell and 12 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr all 3rd.

Passage tailed off thereafter with occasional records until Oct 22nd. Two intriguing Nov records at Walcott 11th and Snettisham 20th may have been lingering autumn birds, but one at Foul Anchor (R Nene) Dec 19th was doubtless over-wintering and continues a series of unseasonal records from this area in recent years.



# Turnstone

*Arenaria interpres*

Passage migrant and winter visitor; some summering non-breeders

Peak monthly counts from key localities:

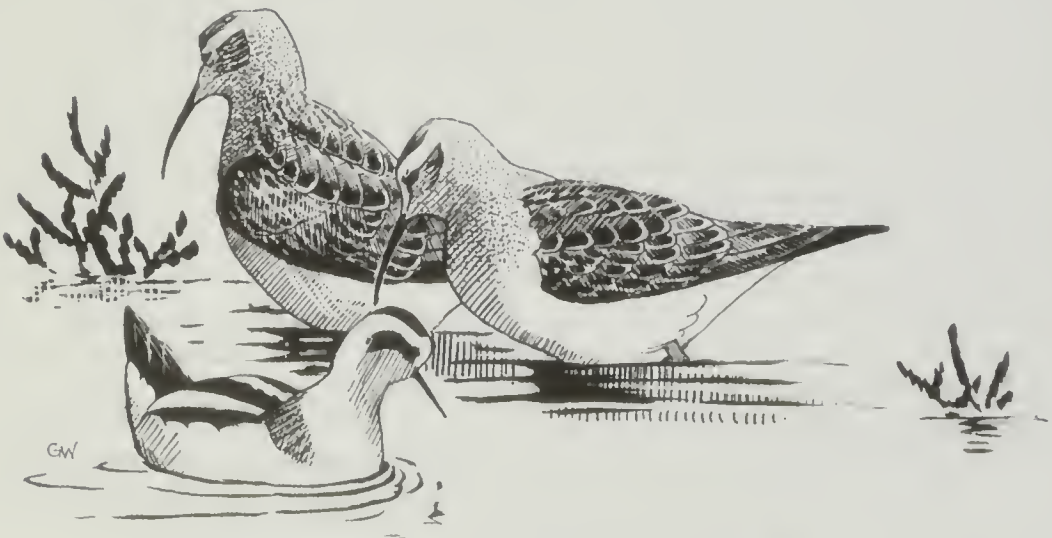
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
King's Lynn	-	350	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	239	200
Snettisham	30	87	131	80	92	34	498	555	175	110	25	13
Holme	11	44	58	46	17	6	38	57	54	47	50	10
Thornham Hbr	-	-	-	3	27	2	1	17	-	3	12	64
Titchwell	18	97	7	159	80	50	11	52	85	25	12	182
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	210	152	146	160	305	106	401	564	409	313	144	144
Wells Hbr	28	21	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	56	25	23
Stiffkey SM	38	28	-	13	79	24	57	50	62	61	41	37
Blakeney Hbr	98	61	58	84	74	30	189	159	80	40	28	166
Cley	10	3	2	16	20	38	12	-	23	5	-	91
Salthouse	23	-	26	10	25	-	-	-	3	9	6	11
Walcott	126	96	77	-	-	-	-	20	52	46	81	-
Breydon/Berney	6	4	13	10	12	4	16	16	15	7	3	5

National importance (winter): 640

Elsewhere few counts of 20+ birds: Jan 23 Gorleston; Feb 36 Gorleston; April 36 Yarmouth; May 40 Lynn Point; Nov 60 Lynn Point, 67 Holkham Bay, 28 Cromer, 28 Gorleston. Some sites would certainly benefit from more regular counting.

Only visible evidence of spring departure 62 north Scolt Head May 15th. Westerly coastal movements during autumn witnessed Sept 10th when 40 Holme and 76 Scolt Head, and also Oct 1st when 25 Holme.

Inland records continue to increase and the species is now an expected, albeit scarce, visitor to some inland sites. Such sightings made in 8 months and all records listed (singles unless stated): Aylmerton Aug 28th (2 flew south down street); Hickling Broad May 4th, 16th (3), June 11th, Aug 15th, 25th, 26th (3), Sept 20th; Cantley BF July 31st, Aug 31st, Sept 10th (3); Pentney GP May 21st, July 27th/28th, 30th; Blackborough End March 22nd; Welney Jan 1st, 21st, March 6th, 8th-14th, May 1st, Aug 9th, 15th (3); West Walton Dec 18th.



Red-necked Phalarope and Curlew Sandpipers (Gary Wright)

## Red-necked Phalarope

*Phalaropus lobatus*

### *Scarce passage migrant*

A good year with 5 individuals including 3 lingering birds. Two in second half of June assumed to relate to early returning adults, thus making 2005 the third consecutive year without a spring record.

First of year Welney June 16th followed by presumed same individual Titchwell 23rd and Burnham Norton 25th-27th. Moulting adult Titchwell July 29th relocated to Cley 30th-Aug 3rd, followed by third of year at Titchwell, an adult, Aug 29th. Finally a juv Cley Sept 18th moved to Holme 19th/20th before settling Titchwell 20th-Oct 2nd, completing an impressive autumn for the species at this celebrated RSPB Reserve.

## Grey Phalarope

*Phalaropus fulicarius*

### *Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare at other times*

First of year Cley Sept 16th followed by another on offshore sandbank at Snettisham Oct 26th, the only sightings in each month.

Large-scale influx from Nov 12th with offshore records almost daily mid-month. All listed by date (singles unless stated) but impossible to ascertain how many individuals involved due to obvious duplication: *12th-14th* West Runton (on shore); *13th* Sheringham; *16th* Cley; *18th* Blakeney Point (2) and Cley; *19th* Kelling (on sea) and California, *20th* Brancaster (on sea) and Sheringham; *25th* Eccles (2); *26th* Cley, Yarmouth (2) and Gorleston (2); *29th* Eccles. Last of a productive year Cley and Salhouse Dec 19th, on sea at former locality.

*2004 Addition:* California Sept 24th.

## Pomarine Skua

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

### *Passage migrant during autumn; small numbers at other times*

Few late winter records: 2 east Holme Feb 19th, and singles from 4 north coast sites during first half of March.

Passage of autumn birds extended from end of July to mid-Dec, though numbers typically small. First singles east Holme and Mundesley July 31st; small numbers (1-2) recorded from localities around north and east coasts on many dates during Aug and Sept, though 4 adults south Walcott Sept 11th and 6 Sea Palling Sept 12th. The first of several more substantial movements commenced Oct 2nd when 6 west Holme, 3 Titchwell, 11 west Scolt Head and 3 Cley. After ones and twos recorded during most of month, larger numbers seen again on 23rd when 2 Titchwell, 3 Blakeney Point, 16 east Sheringham and 18 east West Runton; a further 6 logged at both Sheringham and West Runton 24th. However, largest counts mid-Nov: *13th* 7 west Holme, 9 east Sheringham by 1330 hrs and 17 east Mundesley; *14th* 9 east Sheringham; *16th* 30 west Holme, 13 Cley (0830-1300), 8 juvs east Sheringham (1400-1515), 4 east Overstrand and 12 south California; *19th* 3 Titchwell and 2 east Beeston Bump. Small numbers during remainder of month though 5 Holme and 6 Cley 26th. The trickle of records continued during Dec with latest birds in the Wash and west Sheringham 17th.

## Arctic Skua

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

### *Mainly autumn passage migrant, scarce at other times*

During first winter period, just two records Titchwell Jan 8th and Mundesley 22nd. Spring records from May 1st when east Sheringham, with further singles Titchwell 15th and Cley 16th. In June several single birds seen Scolt Head, Cley, Overstrand and Sea Palling.

Main autumn movements noted from mid-July, with largest monthly counts: 10 Walcott 20th, 13 Scolt Head 21st, 9 Sea Palling 22nd, 30 west Sheringham and 37 west Mundesley 23rd, 10 Titchwell, 22 Scolt Head and 11 Sea Palling 25th, 10 Sea Palling 30th and 13 Gorleston 31st. Good numbers continued throughout Aug with 20 Scolt Head, 42 west Cley, 18 west Sheringham and 20 east Mundesley 7th; on following day 29 Cley, 22 west Walcott and 41 north California. On 14th/15th 25 Cley, 13 east Overstrand, 29 east Mundesley and 15 Walcott, with another upsurge of records on 20th/21st when 26 west Titchwell, 15 Sheringham, 10 west Overstrand, 33 west Mundesley, 28 Waxham, 24 Eccles and 14 Winterton. An unusual inland record of one over Roydon Common on 19th.

Good numbers continued throughout first half of Sept, with peak counts: 2nd 25 east Mundesley, 25 south Walcott, 32 Sea Palling; 11th 125 east Sheringham, 57 east Mundesley, 41 south Walcott, 39 Sea Palling; 16th 58 Holme, 69 west Titchwell, 57 west 13 east Scolt Head, 70 east (0615-1830) Sheringham, 40 east Mundesley, 27 (3 hrs) Sea Palling, 36 south California; 24th 29 Holme. In Oct, max counts on 2nd included 70 west Holme, 41 west Scolt Head and 22 Sheringham; the only other substantial counts in month 14 Holme and 30 Cley on 13th. Counts increased again from Nov 13th when 15 west Holme, 10 Titchwell and 13 Sheringham, with another peak on 16th when 12 Sheringham, 28 Overstrand and 14 California. A few stragglers second half of Nov with latest Holme Dec 3rd.

2004 Addition: one chasing Common Terns over Sennowe Park Lake July 22nd.

## Long-tailed Skua

*Stercorarius longicaudus*

### *Autumn passage migrant increasingly identified in recent years*

In Aug adult west Cley 11th, juv east Sheringham and adult California 14th, adult east Cley 20th and single east Mundesley 21st. In Sept: single Sea Palling 1st and 2 there 2nd; juv west Blakeney Point 10th; 3 including one adult Scolt Head, singles Blakeney Point, Cley, Salthouse and Kelling, and 2 juvs east Sheringham all 11th; adult east Mundesley and Sea Palling 12th; 3 west 2 east (all juvs) Scolt Head, juv Blakeney Point, 4 juvs east Sheringham, and 2 juvs West Runton 16th; single juvs Burnham Overy Hbr and south Gorleston 17th. No further records until Oct, when juv Blakeney Point 1st and 5 west one east there 2nd; on latter date also 3 west Scolt Head, 2 Cley, one Weybourne, and 2 west 2 east Sheringham. At end of month singles Sheringham 24th and 25th, with late juv west Mundesley Nov 25th.

## Great Skua

*Stercorarius skua*

### *Passage migrant mostly in autumn; small numbers at other times*

In Jan singles Titchwell 2nd and 16th. Spring records from Scolt Head April 18th, Sheringham May 9th and Hunstanton May 15th.

Autumn passage noted from July 20th, and small numbers (1-5) recorded around coast through Aug and early Sept, with 22 Titchwell Aug 21st. Numbers increased Sept 10th-12th, when max 35 east Sheringham and 26 east Mundesley 10th. The most impressive movement occurred in strong north-east winds on 16th with (all west) 240 Hunstanton, 62 Holme, 30 Titchwell and 67 Scolt Head; however, largest counts were of birds moving east with 170 Blakeney Point, 48 in 4 hrs 30 mins Cley, 269 Sheringham, 174 Mundesley and 135 Sea Palling. Double-figure counts still logged from several sites on 17th and 18th. Further large movements occurred during first 3 days of Oct: 1st 28 west Scolt Head; 2nd 198 west Holme (0655-1120, 1520-1800), 65 Titchwell, 139 west Scolt Head, 30 west Cley, 25 Weybourne, 67 east 36 west Sheringham (0630-1330); 3rd 30 west Holme, 44 Titchwell, 79 west Scolt Head. Subsequently in mid-month: 13th 21 Scolt Head, 25 Cley; 14th 13 Sheringham, 18 east Overstrand, 12 south Walcott, 12 Sea Palling. The final substantial movement occurred



mid-Nov: 13th 24 west Holme, 28 Sheringham; 14th 20 east Sheringham; 16th 36 west Holme, 17 Cley. A final flourish of 29 Holme in 2 hrs on 29th latest record of year.



Mediterranean Gulls (Gary Wright)

**Mediterranean Gull**

*Larus melanocephalus*

*Regular all-year visitor in increasing numbers, often remaining for weeks; recent breeder*  
Three Black-headed Gull colonies held pairs: at one site 3 pairs fledged total of 4 young, at other sites one pair each fledged 2 young.

Records received from 27 coastal and 25 inland localities. Estimates of numbers through year, though subjective, suggest a wintering population of 50-70 birds. Again a pronounced peak July/Aug due to post breeding dispersal (presumably largely from Continent). Interesting in this regard was a small, tight flock of 8 (7 adults one 3ey) arriving Seolt Head from east in evening of July 2nd. Unprecedented numbers of juvs arrived in late summer continuing an upward trend. First 2 Overstrand July 16th-18th followed by maybe 14 individuals to month end including one penetrating inland to Quidenham 30th and 6 Yarmouth by 31st. Aug saw a further 27 juvs including no fewer than 18 in the gull roost at Breydon 14th.  
Estimated number of individuals per month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	27	-	-	-	-
1st-year	4	6	4	6	8	2	12	9	11	6	-	18
2nd-year	6	8	7	4	2	1	7	2	-	3	1	6
Adult	12	37	21	25	15	16	49	4	10	13	6	38
Unaged	45	7	40	6	23	-	4	43	54	34	53	2
Total	67	58	72	41	48	19	88	85	75	56	60	64

Yarmouth's wintering population continues to slowly increase, reaching a record 53 Dec; monthly max: 44 Jan 1st, 34 Feb 18th, 40 March 6th. 12 July 31st. 7 Sept 24th. 40 Oct 1st, 30 Nov 20th and 23rd, and 53 Dec 11th. Peak counts at Breydon: 13 Feb 26th, 31 July 29th, 57 Aug 12th, 59 Sept 4th, 46 Sept 9th and 52 Nov 29th. High counts elsewhere: 8 Titchwell Jan 29th and Feb 20th, 6 Holme Feb 16th, 5 Gorleston Feb 20th, 10 Snettisham March 28th and 14 there April 24th, 22 Wells Hbr May 8th, 11 Seolt Head May 18th and 13 there July 2nd. Also at least 4 individuals inland Ditchingham Feb/March.

Little Gull

Larus minutus

Non-breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor

Evidently uncommon midwinter with few records Jan/Feb, most notable 8 Gorleston Jan 1st and single Hickling Broad Jan 30th.

A busy spring passage involving approx 150 March 28th-late May at several coastal and 14 inland sites. Initial peak April 21st-25th concerned largely adults followed by widespread arrival of 2nd-calendar year (2cy) birds May 6th onwards. Largest flocks: 22 (21 adults) Hickling Broad April 22nd, 9 adult Whitlingham CP April 23rd, 15 Hickling Broad April 25th and 11 Titchwell May 31st. Loitering/ summering 2cy birds built up to 24 Titchwell June 12th and 8 Hickling Broad June 19th, with 18 still Titchwell July 7th.

Return noted July 16th when 9 (7 adults) Breydon 16th and an early juv Scolt Head 25th. Only small numbers Aug/Sept when max 11 Scolt Head Sept 16th; also singles inland Ranworth Broad Sept 26th/27th and Hickling Broad Sept 30th. Typically Oct saw most activity offshore, particularly Mundesley to Winterton where large numbers lingered from mid-month. Peaks included: 98 west Scolt Head 3rd and 147 east there 7th, 370 Sea Palling 12th, 92 south Waxham 15th, 131 south Walcott (0715-0815) 19th, 850 south Walcott and 780 south before 0800 hrs Sea Palling 20th, 1500 Mundesley and 1000 north Walcott 22nd, 200 Cley and 258 west Sheringham 24th, 500 Sheringham, 210 west Overstrand (0730-0900) and 1000 north Walcott 25th, 250 Winterton 26th, 128 Sheringham and 1350 California 29th. Passage tailed off Nov although 464 California 1st, 620 south Walcott 2nd, 103 west Sheringham 7th, 360 Sea Palling 9th and 620 north Eccles 13th.

Virtual absence Dec when singles Ranworth Broad and Buckenham 26th. Table shows largest count at any one locality each month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	1	12	22	11	24	18	8	11	1350	620	2

Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

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

Following a juv cast along shingle ridge Kelling WM Sept 10th (AFC *et al*) multiple records Sept 16th: adult and 2 juvs west Scolt Head (NML), juv east Blakeney Point/Cley (RFP AMS *et al*), juv west Salhouse (AFC *et al*) and juv west juv east Sheringham (IGJ RL *et al*). Subsequently adult east Mundesley Oct 2nd (MDF) and juvs Holme Oct 13th (many obs), Sheringham Nov 13th (TH *et al*) and Cley Nov 16th (RGM). No details received of five other reported birds.

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

Breeds colonially, dispersing in winter when many immigrants from Eastern Europe

Peak numbers at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt Head	-	-	700	7000	2150	-	-	5000	5500	8400	-	-
B End Tip	2000	1500	-	250	-	-	400	-	-	400	1000	1000

Large or notable gatherings elsewhere: 2000 Narford Lake Jan 12th, 3500 Ranworth Broad 16th, 1480 (roost) Filby Broad Feb 10th, 600 Pentney GP 22nd, 800 Overstrand 28th, 600 Wissington BF April 1st (where presumably bred), 1344 Titchwell and 504 Salhouse 10th, 640 Burnham Overy and 888 Warham SM Sept 18th, 1200 Eau Brink 22nd, 1000 Pentney GP

Oct 5th, 969 Holme 8th, 300 Ranworth Broad 16th, 5500 Cley Nov 28th, 4000 Saddlebow Dec 4th, 7000 Cley-Kelling 18th, 16,000 (roost) Wroxham Broad 29th.

Recorded breeding at 16 sites, a total of approx 5800 pairs: Snettisham 1355, Holme 140, Titchwell 153, Scolt Head 1705, Holkham NNR 1250, Stiffkey 15, Blakeney Point 1000, Reedham Water 5, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 10, mid-Yare RSPB 201, Welney 25. Further breeding occurred at Cley, Hickling Broad, How Hill and Nar Valley Fisheries. Good success on Scolt Head where 2000 young fledged, while the Blakeney Point gullery faired less well with 400 young raised (losses due to fox, stoat and large gull predation).

Regular westerly movement off Scolt Head July to mid-Oct totalled 9898 birds with peaks of 471 July 5th, 578 July 23rd, 291 Aug 29th, 932 Sept 22nd, 941 Oct 3rd and 947 Oct 13th. Similarly 3168 west Holme on 5 dates Sept 21st-Oct 3rd and 1014 west Sheringham July 23rd.

The same leucistic adult as previous years visited Blackborough End Tip Jan 9th and 29th and Ousemouth Jan 9th. A leucistic adult frequented Ditchingham Feb 14th-March 15th.

Ring-billed Gull

*Larus delawarensis*

Rare visitor from North America

It seems Ring-billed Gulls are like buses...following 8 years with no records 4 birds were sighted this year, the county's ninth-twelfth records. The first, possibly a bird heading northward, was a 2cy which rested on Arnold's Marsh, Cley May 28th (PMW). This was followed by a 2cy on pig fields Swaffham July 27th/28th, an excellent inland find (TCL *et al*). A handsome adult roosted Cley Nov 7th-11th (MAG *et al*), closing a fine spell for Nearctic vagrants at that locality. Lastly a 1st-winter was discovered at Breydon Dec 18th (INS).

Common Gull

*Larus canus*

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

Monthly max Scolt Head:1500 April 30th, 1150 (majority 2cy) May 19th, 600 Aug 6th, 2375 Sept 25th, 3200 Oct 3rd and 2000 Nov 6th. Concentrations elsewhere: 520 Becchamwell Jan 12th, 620 Holme 16th, 2000 St Benet's Level 22nd and Feb 11th, 770 Choseley Jan 31st, 500 Titchwell Feb 6th, 594 Blakeney Hbr 17th, 2000 Holme 27th, 600 Overstrand 28th, 3100 Thornham Point-Titchwell March 5th, 612 Titchwell April 10th, 257 Holkham Bay May 8th, 597 (5 juv) Breydon July 29th, 1000 Holme Nov 17th, 1550 Cley 28th, 526 Holme Dec 28th, 8000 roosted Wroxham Broad 29th.

In spring 300 (mostly 2cy) west Cley May 12th.

The small breeding population remains stable at 16 pairs: Scolt Head 3, Holkham NNR 9 and Blakeney Point 4.

Unexceptional numbers logged west Scolt Head July 5th-Oct 13th, totalling 867 and peaking at 319 July 23rd; on latter date 380 also west Sheringham.

Ditchingham recorded a leucistic bird March 23rd with one (same?) also Holkham April 17th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

*Larus fuscus*

Passage migrant and migratory breeder; increasing in winter

Monthly max at some regular sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saddlebow	-	-	-	-	250	-	150	100	40	550	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	12	5	57	440	390	200	500	350	100	-	-	-
Welney	90	380	460	-	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	82



Further flocks included: 700 Quidenham Jan 24th, 1200 Banham 28th, 600 Quidenham Feb 13th, 400 Attleborough March 5th, 325 (roost flight) Lynn Point 12th, 119 Wells Hbr April 10th, 100 Cley May/June, 150 Feltwell Tip May 7th, 149 Wells Hbr 8th, 110 (imms) Sheringham June 11th, 450 Cantley BF 19th, 570 Swaffham 27th, 200 Cley July 18th, 410 Drymere 19th, 200 Quidenham 23rd, 226 Cley 24th, 170 Swaffham Aug 1st, 187 Whitlingham CP 17th, 1000 (roosted) Barton Broad Sept 1st, 246 Whitlingham CP 6th, 350 Ludham Airfield 10th, 455 New Costessey Oct 11th, 250 Ranworth Broad 16th, 175 Cley Nov 1st, 450 Eau Brink 5th.

Scolt Head saw westerly movement in spring totalling 329 on 7 dates April 28th-May 28th. Later in year 64 west Sheringham July 23rd.

An incomplete picture of breeding numbers but pairs recorded at 3 sites: Wells SM 90, Yarmouth 30 (on roofs) and also 3 pairs in display Scolt Head.

Birds resembling *L f intermedius* much in evidence on north-east coast as shown by up to 100 'mainly *intermedius*' Cley May/June and 150 there Nov 1st. Further west at Blackborough End Tip peak of 6 July 30th. Several Norwegian ringed *intermedius* noted at Cley, Swaffham and Blackborough End Tip.

Yellow-legged Gull

*Larus michahellis*

Increasing visitor from southern Europe

The spread of records for this newly-elevated species was typical with lowest numbers midwinter and pronounced peak July/Aug . Good numbers late winter due particularly to at least 20 individuals attracted to fields near Quidenham, including a metal-ringed bird. July saw an arrival of juvs from 12th with birds regular Blackborough End Tip where 6 present 30th.



Yellow-legged Gull (Richard Johnson)

Estimates of numbers and age breakdown per month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	8	-	-	-	-
1st-year	4	12	8	8	7	8	15	6	6	5	3	3
2nd-year	3	9	11	5	8	11	18	15	2	2	2	2
3rd-year	-	5	3	-	-	1	6	3	-	2	-	1
4th-year/adult	4	13	7	3	3	5	36	43	8	31	14	2
Unaged	-	1	-	1	1	3	2	3	4	1	2	2
Total	11	40	29	17	19	28	91	78	20	41	21	10

Monthly max at favoured localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cley	-	-	-	2	2	4	21	11	2	1	4	-
Blackboro' End Tip	2	3	3	3	7	4	30	12	3	4	2	1
Saddlebow	1	2	-	3	-	15	27	34	2	32	2	1

July counts of 30 Blackborough End Tip 25th and 21 Cley 27th were particularly notable. Further concentrations included: 15 Quidenham Feb 13th and 12 there March 6th, 6 Ditchingham April 4th, 20 Eau Brink July 16th, 7 Glandford Aug 1st, 6 Aldeby Tip 2nd, 34 Saddlebow 3rd, 7 Salhouse 11th, 13 Eau Brink Nov 5th.

**Herring Gull**

*Larus argentatus*

**Herring Gull *L (a) argentus/argentatus***

*Increasing breeder, late summer migrant and winter visitor*

Highest counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	400	1200	375	675	500	-	390	501	1018	-	-	1626
Scolt Head	-	-	6000	-	1300	365	165	160	325	650	-	-
Wells Hbr	256	768	831	608	543	444	-	-	103	-	-	326
Blackboro' End Tip	1200	1000	1000	1500	400	300	500	1150	500	350	-	1000

No particularly large counts this year other than the 6000 Scolt Head March 9th but sizeable concentrations elsewhere included: 400 Saddlebow Jan 23rd, 580 Feltwell Tip Feb 6th, 492 Titchwell 13th, 1507 (roost flight) Lynn Point March 12th, 373 Thornham and 1010 Titchwell March 13th, 2509 Titchwell and 534 Holkham Bay April 10th, 1100 Aldeby Tip Oct 14th.

Coastal movements in spring involved 150 (nominate *argentatus*) west Overstrand March 10th, 110 west Sheringham March 13th, 120 (immis) west Overstrand April 25th and 563 west Scolt Head May 19th.

Numbers of breeding pairs: Scolt Head 5, Holkham NNR 250, Blakeney Point 4, Yarmouth 50 (on rooftops). Possible nesting took place at Salhouse Road, Norwich.

Autumn saw 472 west Scolt Head Oct 3rd, 175 west Holme Nov 13th and 486 north California Nov 27th.

Records of *argentatus* included large count of 200 Titchwell Feb 20th; otherwise 40 Edgefield Tip Jan 24th, 15 Feltwell Tip Feb 6th, 20 Blackborough End Tip April 16th, 20 Cley Nov 28th, 50 west Overstrand Dec 19th and 25 west Cley Dec 27th. Numbers at Blackborough considered low in closing months of year; small numbers noted throughout summer there but an adult Sept 3rd was thought to be first returning bird proper at the site.

A leucistic adult visited Blackborough End Tip Aug 27th and a presumed hybrid Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull Cley Jan 11th.

**Caspian Gull *L (a/michahellis) cachinnans***

*Increasing visitor from eastern Europe*

Another exceptional year with perhaps 65 individuals recorded at 19 sites including 34 at Blackborough End Tip alone! Fields near Quidenham attracted 8 individuals in first winter period with peak 3 March 13th. A good run of birds (mostly 2cy) through Blackborough End Tip April and May was not untypical judging from recent years. Aldeby Tip attracted an early

juv Aug 2nd with another Salthouse/ Edgefield Tip Aug 10th/11th moving to Blackborough End Tip Aug 12th-16th.

Estimates of number of individuals per month:

	<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	6	11	7	7	10	-	4	8	2	2	6	9

All records listed: *Jan* unaged Saddlebow 2nd where 2 (3cy, 4cy) 5th, 3cy Blackborough End Tip 5th, 3cy Croxton 6th/7th, 2 (3cy, 5cy) Blackborough End Tip 9th, 2 (4cy, adult) Quidenham 29th; *Feb* 2cy Blackborough End Tip 6th, 4cy Feltwell Tip 6th, 2 (2cy, 3cy) Blackborough End Tip 7th-13th with possibly same 2cy to 17th, 2cy Ditchingham 9th, 2cy Quidenham 4 dates Feb 12th-March 13th, 4cy Quidenham 12th/13th, adult Ditchingham 16th, 2cy Blackborough End Tip 18th (different to bird on 17th), 3cy Quidenham 6 dates Feb 19th-March 13th, adult Wroxham Broad 20th, 3cy Blackborough End Tip 23rd (possibly bird seen earlier in Feb?), 4cy Welney 25th-28th, 2cy Blackborough End Tip 26th; *March* 3cy Quidenham 4th and 6th with 2 on latter date, 2cy Blackborough End Tip 5th with 3cy on 9th, 5cy Quidenham 13th, 3cy Ditchingham 13th, 2cy Blackborough End Tip 16th, 2cy Ditchingham 18th, 2 (2cy, 3cy) Blackborough End Tip 21st; *April* 3 (2 2cy, 1 3cy) Blackborough End Tip 16th, 3cy 18th with 3 2cy there 23rd; *May* 2cy Blackborough End Tip 1st and 3 2cy there 4th, 2cy Cley 6th, 2 2cy Blackborough End Tip 7th, 2cy Welney 7th-28th with presumed same Feltwell Tip 7th/8th, 2cy Blackborough End Tip 8th, 3 2cy 14th, 2cy 20th/21st and 4 2cy there 28th, 3cy Cley 28th/29th; *July* 2cy Blackborough End Tip 12th, 3cy Eau Brink 16th and Blackborough End Tip 23rd when 2cy also at latter site, 2cy Cley/Salthouse July 27th-Aug 11th, 2 (3cy, adult) Blackborough End Tip 30th (same 3cy as 23rd); *Aug* juv Aldeby Tip 2nd, 3cy Hickling Broad 7th, juv Salthouse/Edgefield Tip 9th-11th, juv Blackborough End Tip 12th-16th with different 2cys there 13th and 16th, 3cy Blackborough End Tip 20th and 2 2cy there 27th; *Sept* 2cy Saddlebow 4th, 1cy Blackborough End Tip 5th and 10th; *Oct* 3cy Blackborough End Tip 6th and 10th, 1cy west close inshore Cley 24th; *Nov* near adult Blackborough End Tip 2nd, adult 4th, 2 (2cy, adult) 17th with 2 (3cy, adult) there 18th, adult Hockwold Washes 18th and 3cy there 19th, adult Titchwell 26th with 1cy there 27th; *Dec* 1cy Aldeby Tip 1st/2nd, 2cy Blackborough End Tip 3rd, 2 (2cy, adult) Breydon 4th, 1cy Blackborough End Tip 10th, 2 (1cy, 2cy) Aldeby Tip 14th where 2cy also 17th, 1cy Blackborough End Tip 17th and 1cy Hockwold Washes 25th.

Birds bearing green darvic rings included a 3cy Quidenham several dates Feb 19th-March 13th, with same Ditchingham March 13th, and a 2cy Feltwell Tip May 7th and presumed same Welney May 7th-28th. A 2cy Blackborough End Tip April 30th/May 1st bore a metal ring only, as did an adult there July 30th. At latter site an unfortunate 5cy bird Jan 9th had both feet missing.

## **Iceland Gull**

*Larus glaucooides*

### ***Annual but very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant***

Early winter produced a good showing with perhaps 11 or more individuals including a long-staying and popular bird (2cy) Blackborough End Tip Jan 14th-April 16th and a more elusive adult Titchwell/Holme Feb 15th-March 14th. Elsewhere: *Jan* 2cy Saddlebow 1st/2nd, 3cy west Mundesley 8th, 2cy south Overstrand 22nd; *Feb* 2cy Welney 10th-13th, 2cy (Welney bird?) Stoke Ferry 15th, 2cy King's Lynn Fisher Fleet 19th, 3cy Ditchingham 20th-26th, adult Wells 20th, 2cy (Stoke Ferry bird?) Cranwich GP 23rd with same Foulden 25th, 2cy Welney 26th/27th, 3cy Hunstanton 27th; *March* 3cy (Feb bird?) Ditchingham 1st and 13th, 2cy





Iceland Gull (*Alan Burtenshaw*)

(possibly Blackborough bird) Pentney GP 5th/6th, 3cy Titchwell 6th-12th, 2cy Nar Valley Fisheries (Blackborough bird) 12th and 28th, 3cy Holme 14th, 4cy Welney 19th, 2cy west Sheringham 20th; *April* 2cy (Blackborough bird) Saddlebow 3rd, 2cy (new bird) Blackborough End Tip 16th (when 2 2cy present) to May 1st, 2cy Burnham Overy 22nd.

Only one record in second winter period, 2cy south California Nov 22nd.

## Glaucous Gull

*Larus hyperboreus*

*Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; rare in summer*

An exceptional 25+ individuals was result of a large (by recent standards) influx of this species into Britain, along with good numbers of Iceland Gulls in first winter period. The vast majority were aged as 2nd-calendar year but some of these were rather pale (possibly from the Greenland population?) and thus could be confused with 3cy birds without care and good views.

Table shows estimates of number of individuals per month:

	<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	3	9	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2

All records listed: *Jan* 2cy Warham Greens 2nd-13th, 3cy Wells 7th, 2cy Holt 9th-23rd with same Edgefield Tip 31st and Feb 5th, 2cy Titchwell 13th and 29th, 2cy/3cy east Morston 14th, 2cy Blakeney Hbr 15th (latter 2 sightings probably Warham bird), 2cy Cley 31st (same as Edgefield Tip?); *Feb* 2 3cy Welney 1st with one to 10th, 5 individual 2cys recorded Blackborough End Tip many dates Feb 2nd-April 16th (with 3cys reported there Feb 11th and 20th and max of 3 birds (all ages) together Feb 20th and March 5th), 2cy Broome 3rd, 2 (2cy, 3cy) Feltwell Tip 5th, 2cy Welney 6th/7th and 14th, 2cy Ditchingham 9th-24th where a 2nd 2cy Feb 17th-March 13th, 2cy Weybourne 14th, 2cy Snettisham Feb 19th-March 3rd, 2cy Holkham Gap 20th, 2cy Nar Valley Fisheries 27th; *March* unaged Holme and 2cy Hunstanton 2nd, 2cy Edgefield Tip 2nd-9th, 2cy Titchwell 5th, 2cy west West Runton 6th, 2 2cy Breydon 6th, 2cy Holme/Thornham 7th, 2cy Blakeney Point 13th, adult Welney 19th, 2cy Overstrand

28th, 2 (2cy, 3cy) Aldeby Tip 29th, unaged Breydon 30th; *April* 3cy Ditchingham 4th, imm Cley 6th, 2cy north Winterton 6th, 2cy west Paston 7th, unaged Edgefield Tip 8th, 2cy Stiffkey 12th, 2cy Breydon 12th-14th, 3cy west Overstrand 14th, 2cy Caister 16th/17th; *Nov* 1cy California 16th, 1cy Holme/Titchwell 25th, 1cy Cley 27th; *Dec* 1cy Breydon 13th, 18th and 28th, 1cy west Overstrand 27th.

A putative 1cy Herring x Glaucous Gull Blackborough End Tip Dec 3rd and 10th.

## Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus*

*Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor*

No gatherings greater than 300 this year, the largest 300 Blakeney Point Sept 4th and 285 Scolt Head Oct 2nd. Monthly max 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	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	89	126	31	108	31
Scolt Head	-	-	95	47	48	27	45	189	247	285	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	180	-	-	157	158	56	-	64	104	-	59	90

Also notable: 80 (roost) Cranwich GP Jan 29th, 93 Welney March 7th, 68 (roost flight) Lynn Point March 12th, 130 Nar Valley Fisheries April 30th, 100 Cley May, 250 Overstrand (following crab boats) May 1st, 59 Welney May 15th, 89 Holme, 68 Thornham and 75 Blakeney Hbr Aug 21st, 144 Blakeney Hbr Sept 3rd, 142 Sheringham 4th, 122 Breydon 19th, 83 Aldeby Tip 23rd, 225 Blakeney Point 24th, 166 Blakeney Hbr Oct 8th, 117 Aldeby Tip 14th, 107 east Sheringham 16th, 120 west Overstrand Nov 25th, 165 Edgefield Tip Nov 27th, 90 (roost) Wroxham Broad Dec 29th and 196 Breydon Dec 30th.

The first juv arrived at Blackborough End Tip Aug 20th. Several Norwegian-ringed birds recorded Cley and Blackborough End Tip throughout year and single Quidenham Feb.

## Ross's Gull

*Rhodostethia rosea*

*Vagrant from the Arctic*

One Cley/Blakeney Point Dec 31st (AA D&PW *et al*). The second county record – see article page 297.

## Kittiwake

*Rissa tridactyla*

*Mainly passage migrant; occasional non-breeding concentrations in summer*

Largest count in first winter period 70 Gorleston Feb 20th. Single adults inland Welney March 7th and Tottenhill GP March 28th, typical dates.

Up to 15 adults frequented the ternery on Scolt Head late May/early June. Passage observed June-Nov peaking during strong northerlies Nov 13th though numbers less than impressive. Notable counts: 49 east Scolt Head and 40 west Overstrand June 5th, 250 east Walcott July 24th, 58 south Gorleston Aug 3rd, 107 west Sheringham Aug 7th, 46 east 17 west Scolt Head and 93 east Sheringham (0630-1330) Sept 16th, 46 west Sheringham Oct 2nd, 78 west 5 east Scolt Head and 170 Cley 13th, 67 west Scolt Head 14th, 46 east Cromer and 250 east Overstrand 18th, 330 west Holme, 200 Titchwell, 200 Blakeney and 500 Sheringham Nov 13th, 322 west Holme, 362 west (3 hrs 30 mins) Cley, 127 east 29 west Sheringham (0920-1105) and 254 south California 16th, and 207 west Holme 26th.

## Little Tern

*Sternula albifrons*

### *Local migratory breeder*

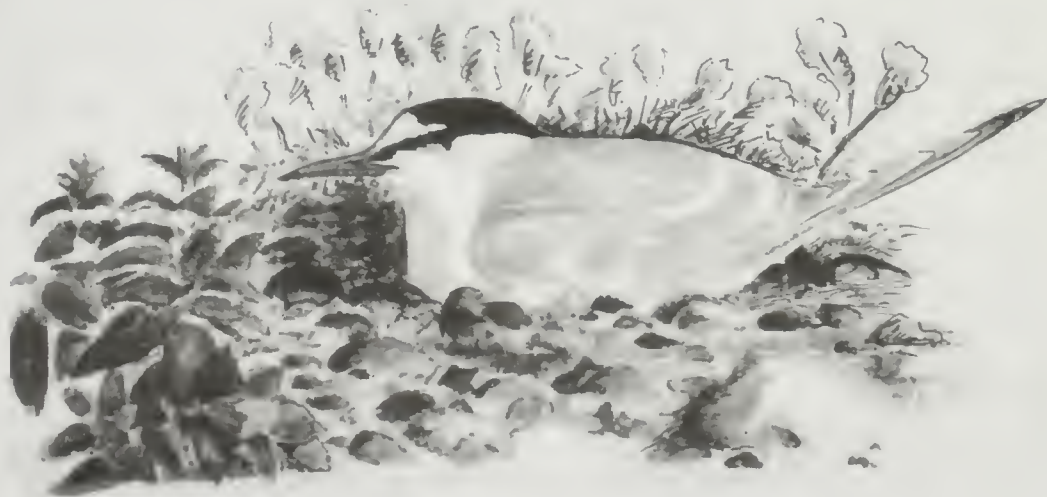
First Scolt Head April 15th with 2 there 18th, north Yarmouth and 80 west in small groups Scolt Head 20th. The only other double-figure movements/gatherings during April were all at Scolt Head where 10 23rd, 16 west 27th, 57 west 28th, 74 west 29th and 25 on 31st.

Max of 418 breeding pairs fledged just 55 young, another disastrous season.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Holme	12	0
Titchwell	5	0
Brancaster Hbr	4	0
Scolt Head	105	25
Holkham NNR	62	8
(Burnham Overy	17	6)
(Wells	18	0)
(Wells New Ridge	25	0)
(Little Binks	2	2)
Blakeney Point	50	11
Eccles	36	0
Winterton	(83) 10	0
Yarmouth North Beach	196	11

At Titchwell all nests flooded by high tides. At Brancaster Hbr all predated by fox. A record number of pairs at Scolt Head, but the cold spring resulted in first nest as late as May 29th. During period of cold weather and lack of food mid-June 76 pairs deserted nests at the main breeding site almost overnight. Most adults appeared to desert colony and it was a further 10 days before many reappeared, with just 26 pairs re-nesting. Further high tides and bad weather resulted in just 5 young fledging. At a second site on the island, pairs were more successful fledging 20 young. It was unfortunate it was a cold spring because the island was totally fox free from mid-May to mid-Aug for the first time in many years.

At Holkham NNR and Blakeney Point poor success, the cold spring and high tides, plus large gull predation at the latter colony, no doubt major factors. At Eccles all eggs predated by



Little Tern (*Andy Benson*)



Carrion Crows and Magpies. A lack of suitable food was thought to be the reason for failure at Winterton. On June 13th 83 breeding pairs were counted, but by the month end only 10 remained. The Yarmouth North Beach colony, boosted by failed birds from Winterton, held 196 breeding pairs by end of June; Kestrel predation of chicks was the sole reason for the almost complete failure here.

Three impressive midsummer counts, 400 Yarmouth North Beach July 10th, 650 in evening roost Scolt Head 22nd and a site record count of 326 Breydon on 29th.

Inland: 2 Pentney GP April 30th, Welney April 30th and May 1st, Hockwold Washes May 1st, Hickling Broad May 7th, 2 12th and 15 July 30th, and one Martham Broad May 22nd.

Last Holme Sept 17th.

## **Caspian Tern**

*Hydroprogne caspia*

### ***Vagrant from southern and eastern Europe***

One flew in off the sea and continued inland at Horsey June 19th; it was seen that evening at the western end of Breydon and fishing in the Berney Marshes soke dyke (JR *et al*). It was subsequently seen at Hickling Broad June 21st (PJH AJK).

## **Whiskered Tern**

*Chlidonias hybrida*

### ***Vagrant from southern Europe***

An adult Hockwold Washes May 2nd (JVB PJD *et al*) heralded a multiple arrival in the country.

## **Black Tern**

*Chlidonias niger*

### ***Regular double passage migrant in variable numbers; has bred***

First records 2 Breydon April 21st followed by singles Colney GP 23rd, Nar Valley Fisheries and Titchwell 24th, Pentney GP 25th, Breydon and 4 Strumpshaw 30th. A very light passage on May 1st when 1-2 at 10 localities totalling just 14 birds, with 3 Hickling Broad. Singles were at Sparham Pools and Blickling Park Lake on 8th. Another very light passage followed from 13th with 1-2 at 12 sites by end of month totalling 20 birds, the exception being 4 Hockwold Washes 14th and 5 Rockland Broad 21st.

In June Nar Valley Fisheries 8th and 2 Hockwold Washes 12th. A single Rockland Broad 19th/20th was only July occurrence.

In autumn singles at 3 localities Aug 6th/7th. Main passage from 13th-month end with 1-4 at 20 localities totalling just 39 birds, with also 13 west Titchwell 23rd and 6 Clcy 31st. The light passage continued into Sept with 1-6 at 17 localities to 25th, totalling just 36 birds, the exception 15 west Scolt Head 1st and 14 Thornham Point 10th. Last Titchwell Oct 29th/30th only record for month.

## **White-winged Black Tern**

*Chlidonias leucopterus*

### ***Vagrant from south-east Europe***

A juv Hickling Broad Sept 10th (PJH *et al*) continued the species' impressive run, by being recorded in the county for ninth consecutive year.

## **Sandwich Tern**

*Sterna sandvicensis*

### ***Migratory breeder and passage migrant***

First of spring Sheringham March 12th with another Breydon 13th. No more until 2 Clcy 23rd followed by singles Holme and Scolt Head 25th, where 40 29th and 100 30th. Build-up at Scolt Head continued throughout April where 275 5th, 400 6th, 500 14th, 700 18th, 900

20th/21st, 1200 24th, 1800 25th/26th and 2000 by 29th. Elsewhere best spring counts 102 Cley April 14th and 200 May 20th, 500 Blakeney Hbr May 8th.

A better breeding season at Scolt Head, where 1800-2000 pairs fledged 1500-1800 young. At Blakeney Point an increase to 1650 pairs fledged 900 young; a three-fold increase in fledged young over 2004 at both sites. At Holkham NNR none bred on the Binks.

Single 1st-summer birds at Cley May 20th and Scolt Head Aug 2nd; first juv away from breeding areas Breydon July 8th.

Other notable coastal movements/gatherings 6500 Scolt Head July 18th, 822 east Mundesley 24th, 400 day-roosting on an inland field nearby 26th and a site record 1018 east there 28th, 330 Breydon 31st, 300 feeding offshore Overstrand Aug 2nd and 500 west there 14th.

Inland: Langham May 4th, 2 Nar Valley Fisheries 8th, Ranworth Broad 15th, Welney 24th and at Hickling Broad 3 July 22nd, 7 26th and one Aug 12th.

Last in autumn Holme, Holkham and Cley Oct 29th, Gorleston 30th and Blakeney Point Nov 1st.

### **Lesser Crested Tern**

*Sterna bengalensis*

#### ***Vagrant from north-east Africa***

One toured the north coast mid-July; originally found at Cromer on 16th (MPL RBV), it was subsequently seen the same day at Blakeney Point, Cley and Overstrand. The next day it appeared at Cley, Weybourne, Sheringham, Cromer, Mundesley, Happisburgh and Waxham before settling at Cley on 18th-20th. The third county record, the last in 1993.



Lesser Crested Tern (*Richard Johnson*)

### **Common Tern**

*Sterna hirundo*

#### ***Migratory breeder and passage migrant at both coastal and inland sites***

Recorded between March 21st (Barton Broad, Hoveton Great Broad and Ranworth Broad), the earliest-ever county arrival by 3 days, and Nov 16th (Cromer and Holme). As usual only notable spring concentrations at Scolt Head where 220 by May 6th, 450 on 19th and 500 26th.

A min of 815 breeding pairs, an increase of 171 on 2004 with at least 195 young fledged, an increase of just 36.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Snettisham	60	1
Titchwell	1	unknown
Scolt Head	240	1
Holkham NNR	65	0
(Stiffkey Big Binks	15)	
(Stiffkey Little Binks	22)	
(Wells New Ridge	28)	
Blakeney Point	150	1
Cley	3	0
Breydon	200	126
Hickling Broad	1	0
Ranworth Broad	25	moderate success*
Barton Broad	25	high success*
Nar Valley Fisheries	2	1
Pentney GP	17	21
Welney	30	35

*\*no precise counts made due to problems of disturbance*

An almost complete failure at Snettisham again, cause unknown. At Scolt Head an increase on 2004 but still low numbers; many abandoned nests during a period of moderately bad weather, many failing to return or re-nest. There was some evidence that food may have been in short supply; there was no fox predation this year. Another total failure at Holkham NNR due to high tides and poor weather. At Blakeney Point, very poor success caused by large gull predation and high tides in late July. Heavy rain and high tides also resulted in lost nests at Cley. At Breydon a later breeding season than normal and less eggs laid than in previous years. Birds were again compelled to feed in the adjacent dykes through lack of suitable food in the North Sea early on. However, by late June it appeared that food stocks had increased as many birds were seen bringing fish in from the coast. This resulted in a slightly increased success rate this year over 2004, but still a poor year. The only sites with more than one fledged young per pair were Pentney GP and Welney.

1st-summer birds at Scolt Head June 26th-28th, July 19th, 4 20th, one 21st-31st, 3 Aug 1st-3rd, and Breydon July 3rd.

Notable autumn movements/gatherings: 380 Scolt Head July 25th, 730 Aug 3rd and 365 west Sept 8th, 477 feeding off California Aug 15th, 150 south Winterton 26th and 238 east Walcott (1600-1900) 27th. At Holme 31 flew high inland Sept 2nd.

## **Roseate Tern**

*Sterna dougallii*

*Uncommon summer visitor; has bred*

Another reasonably good year with mainly singles early June-early Aug. No breeding or attempted breeding recorded for fifth successive year.

All records: Blakeney Point June 9th; Cley June 28th, 2 July 19th and one 20th; Salthouse June 28th; Breydon July 12th, 14th/15th, 2 17th and singles 24th, 31st and Aug 1st/2nd; east then west Mundesley July 31st, and an adult and juv west there Aug 7th.



## Arctic Tern

*Sterna paradisaea*

### *Double passage migrant; a few pairs breed*

First arrivals 2 west Paston April 8th, followed by a mainly light passage of 1-7 at 11 localities from 20th-30th the exception being 22 east Breydon 24th and 10 Filby Broad 26th. In May 1-8 at 9 localities, the exception 13 Scolt Head 1st, 24 west Beeston Bump and 23 Welney 4th, 11 Blakeney Hbr 8th, 11 Morston 9th and 26 Holme 13th.

Breeding: 2 pairs Scolt Head, one pair Wells New Ridge and 8 pairs Blakeney Point. All failed presumably due to the bad weather and high tides that affected other north coast tern colonies in July, and large gull predation at Blakeney Point.

Elsewhere in June 2 Titchwell 4th and 25 feeding in Blakeney Hbr 9th. In July Titchwell 4th, 3 Cley 19th, Gorleston 22nd and Sea Palling 28th.

1st-summer bird Breydon July 17th; inland juvs Denver Aug 25th and Ranworth Broad Sept 25th-Oct 2nd.

A good autumn coastal passage with 1-8 at 19 localities the exception 22 west Mundesley and 64 west Cley Aug 7th, 20 there 12th, 27 14th, 12 east (0615-0830) Sept 16th, 10 west 5 east Holme and 32 west Scolt Head 16th, and 11 west Mundesley Oct 2nd.

A very late juv Horsey Nov 19th, California 19th, 23rd (when it became Norfolk's latest ever), 25th and 28th, and Caister 21st, 23rd and 26th-28th. It reappeared at Yarmouth Central Beach Dec 4th, 7th and 8th interacting with sea anglers, fishing offshore and roosting on beach with Mediterranean Gulls. In so doing it became Norfolk's first-ever winter occurrence.

## Guillemot

*Uria aalge*

### *Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional wrecks*

Small numbers around coast Jan and early Feb, although 250 Titchwell Jan 15th was noteworthy; inland, up to 4 birds in Welney-Denver area on 29th, but one of these was found dead the following day. During late Jan and Feb further casualties found on beaches included 8 Holkham Jan 30th, 41 (non-oiled) between Cley and Blakeney Point Feb 1st and 33 recorded along this stretch on 26th. In March a few birds were reported from east coast at Happisburgh and Winterton, with 2 corpses picked up at latter site mid-month.

Summer records typically few, although 50 east Overstrand June 6th was out of the ordinary. Main autumn passage noted from mid-Oct, when 200 east Sheringham in 2 hrs 14th and 1000 the following day, 410 east Cromer 17th, and smaller numbers east/south around coast until mid-Nov. The only notable Dec records were 30 Cley 10th and 8 Titchwell 20th.

## Razorbill

*Alca torda*

### *Passage migrant and winter visitor*

Single birds around coast between Titchwell and Winterton on several dates Jan and Feb; March records all relating to casualties with 2 Winterton 6th and 5 Blakeney Point 31st.

Summer records in June, July and early Aug were again of small numbers () mostly from north coast localities, although 20 east Overstrand June 6th.

Autumn movement first noted Sept 29th when 900 (with no Guillemots or auk sp) east Sheringham in only 1 hr 30 mins. Further substantial counts in Oct were of 53 east Cromer 17th, 719 east Cromer and 300 east Overstrand 18th, 40 north Walcott 24th and 68 south California 25th. Counts of 30 Cley and 20 Sheringham were logged heading east Nov 16th, with latest record single Cley Dec 2nd.

## Guillemot/Razorbill

In spring a significant movement of 600 mostly west Overstrand March 2nd.

As usual largest movements of unidentified large auks occurred during autumn: *Sept* 50 east Scolt Head 16th and 740 west there 28th; *Oct* 85 east 63 west Scolt Head 1st, 132 east 86 west Holme 2nd, 417 east 55 west Scolt Head and 500 Cley 13th, 5140 east 150 west Scolt Head 14th, 50 east Scolt Head and 3200 east Sheringham 16th, 600 east Overstrand 18th (0710-0820), 740 west 10 east Scolt Head 28th; *Nov* 100 Sheringham 13th.

## Black Guillemot

*Cepphus grylle*

### *Rare passage migrant and winter visitor*

Unusually two spring records, Stiffkey SM March 2nd and Brancaster Hbr April 27th. More typical late summer/autumn records of singles Blakeney Point Aug 14th, imm east Mundesley Sept 16th, Beeston Bump Oct 1st and south Sea Palling Oct 18th.

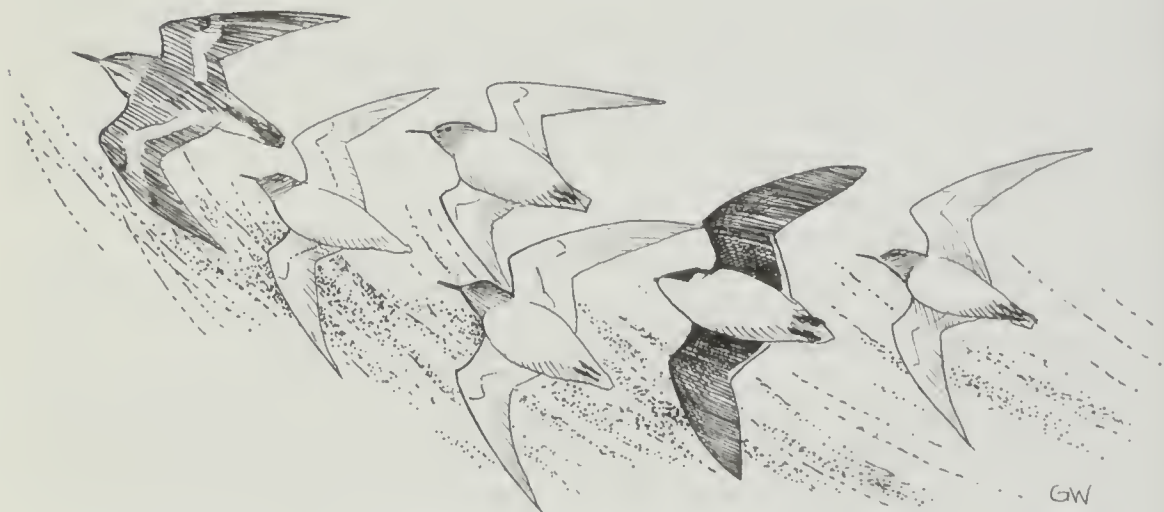
## Little Auk

*Alle alle*

### *Passage migrant, most during northerly gales; occasional wrecks*

During first winter period 2 Titchwell Jan 2nd and one 6th, with a moribund bird in a Brancaster Staithe garden on 4th; small numbers (1-5) reported on 6 dates between late Jan and March 11th on north and east coasts between Titchwell and Winterton.

First autumn records Oct 23rd when 26 West Runton and 8 north in 20 mins Winterton. These eclipsed by a major movement on 24th with largest counts: 18 west 4 east Scolt Head, 100 west Blakeney Point, 250 west Cley, 400 west Sheringham, 56 west West Runton (0750-1240), 160 west Overstrand, 104 west Mundesley, 117 north Walcott (0715-1145), 300 Sea Palling (before 1100). On same date one seen heading inland with incoming Fieldfares at Titchwell and another inland at Itteringham. Much smaller numbers (mostly 1-6) around north and east coasts between Holme and California Nov 16th-19th, but 23 Cley (0700-1200), 17 west Overstrand and 10 west Mundesley 17th, and 12 Walcott 18th. During last few days of Nov 1-2 at a few east coast sites; only Dec records one west Cley and 4 west Mundesley 17th.



Little Auk and Dunlin (Gary Wright)

## **Puffin**

*Fratercula arctica*

### ***Passage migrant and winter visitor***

The only Jan record Titchwell on 2nd. In Feb singles Sheringham, Overstrand and Winterton mid-month, and another Overstrand on 26th. The only live birds recorded in March were 2 Titchwell on 16th, but tideline corpses found at several sites. A solitary spring record, two south Sea Palling May 5th.

Autumn passage from Sept 5th when one Cley, followed by several other records of 1-3 from mostly north coast sites during month, although 7 east Sheringham on 10th (0615-1830). Following a few records of 1-3 from Scolt Head and Sheringham during first few days of Oct, a larger passage occurred 13th-17th when 12 east Scolt Head, 5 east Cley and 1-2 Sheringham and Cromer; subsequently 1-2 Titchwell and Walcott 23rd and 24th. A further small passage occurred from mid-Nov when 1-2 at north coast sites between Holme and Overstrand on 4 dates 13th-21st, with 6 west Mundesley on 26th. In Dec one freshly dead Scolt Head 14th and 7 west Mundesley 17th.

## **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon**

*Columba livia*

### ***Introduced/escaped resident in most urban areas***

At Beeston Bump present all year along cliffs with max 31 Oct 23rd. Large numbers again King's Lynn Fisher Fleet with 250 Dec 28th. NBA results showed the species was present in 36% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 8 pairs per occupied tetrad.

## **Stock Dove**

*Columba oenas*

### ***Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor***

Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 176 Hockwold Washes, 140 Wighton, 112 Choseley, 80 Potter Heigham, 60 Newton Flotman; *Feb* 72 Spixworth, 45 Brograve Lvel; *March* 60 Attleborough, 40 Beeston Regis.

Spring coastal movement small with first 4 north Gorleston March 12th. Most consistent sites to record movements were Beeston Bump where total of only 25 March 18th-May 18th, with max 6 west March 24th, and Overstrand where 20 April 22nd-May 30th with max 9 east 3 west May 29th. Elsewhere 19 west Holme March 14th, 5 north Winterton March 18th with 5 south there 23rd, and 13 south Horsey April 2nd. Numbers very low at Hunstanton where only 6 south counted March 15th-April 17th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 79% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration from Sept 22nd when single west Overstrand. Thereafter only significant numbers California where 320 south 5 north Oct 10th-Nov 14th with max (all south) 32 Oct 26th, 17 27th, 12 Nov 1st, 106 4th, 78 5th, 21 7th, 25 8th and 11 9th.

Only notable counts during second winter period 200 Lynn Point Oct 2nd with 240 there Nov 17th, and 50 Thornham Nov 20th.

## **Woodpigeon**

*Columba palumbus*

### ***Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor***

Largest counts during first winter period: *Jan* 2000 Paston, 450 Wighton; *Feb* 1200 Stratton St Michael, 1000 Weasenham, 900 North Tuddenham; *March* 2000 Aylmerton, 1500 Caston, 500 Beeston Regis; *April* 2000 Kelling, 800 Sheringham, 500 West Runton.

Spring movement possibly began Feb 8th when 380 west Holme but no further passage until 275 west there March 14th. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 6708 south March 15th-May



28th with peaks of 768 March 15th, 2205 18th, 999 23rd, 212 April 3rd, 217 12th, 200 May 21st, 248 24th and 102 26th. Also regularly recorded Beeston Bump where (all west) 110 March 17th, 25 April 12th, 55 May 18th and 164 23rd, and Overstrand where 210 west May 23rd, 24 east 23 west 26th and 44 east 29th.

Breeding: an increase in number of breeding pairs to 8 on Scolt Head. NBA results showed the species was present in 99% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 120 birds per occupied tetrad.

In late summer of 5000 Thornham Farms Aug 26th. An impressive coastal passage late Oct-Nov, which was mirrored throughout south-east England. At Hunstanton 4955 south Oct 23rd-Nov 30th with peaks 516 Oct 26th, 956 29th, 832 Nov 4th, 921 5th and 402 20th. At California 6042 south Oct 23rd-Nov 22nd with peaks 359 Nov 1st, 2228 4th and 1526 5th; at Overstrand 838 east Oct 27th, 104 east Nov 1st and 581 west 147 east 4th. Movement also noted inland at New Costessey where 4890 along R Tudd valley Oct 17th-Nov 14th with peaks of 545 east Nov 3rd and 4020 south-east 4th.

Main gatherings recorded in second winter period: *Oct* 1500 Flitcham; *Nov* 5000 Brancaster Thompson Farm, 400 Wighton; *Dec* 1000 How Hill.

## **Collared Dove**

*Streptopelia decaocto*

***First bred in Britain at Cromer in 1955, now widespread and common resident***

Max counts during first winter period: *Jan* 85 Ormesby St Margaret, 64 Langham, 58 Mileham, 45 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet; *March* 60 Ormesby St Margaret.

Coastal movement underway from mid-March; Hunstanton Cliffs again most productive site with 248 south March 17th-May 28th with peaks 21 May 21st, 28 23rd, 24 26th and 52 28th. At Beeston Bump total of 34 March 18th-May 29th with max 13 west May 29th. At Overstrand 80 April 5th-June 1st peaking 15 west 5 east May 28th and 13 east 9 west 29th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad. During summer a single Scolt Head July 9th and 100 Docking Aug 3rd were noteworthy.

Autumn passage noted at two sites. At Hunstanton 35 south Oct 1st-Nov 20th and at California 99 Oct 28th-Nov 13th with 14 south 7 north Nov 4th, 13 south 6 north 7th and 13 south 7 north 12th.

Max counts in second winter period: *Oct* 340 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet; *Nov* 200 Ringstead, 70 Flitcham, 70 Ormesby St Margaret, 58 Langham; *Dec* 200 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet, 80 Ormesby St Margaret, 75 Saddlebow.

A fully albino bird south at California Oct 28th.

## **Turtle Dove**

*Streptopelia turtur*

***Migratory breeder and passage migrant; evidence of recent decline***

First record 2 North Creak on early date of April 6th followed by one singing Norwich Dussingdale 12th and 2 north Aylmerton 16th. Further April records from 22 sites to month end. Increasingly more common during May with records from numerous localities throughout county.

Spring movements noted from 11 sites, the most productive being Hunstanton where total of only 77 south April 18th-May 28th with max 6 May 2nd, 7 3rd, 13 21st, 9 26th and 28 on 28th. Only other site to record regular movement Overstrand where 49 west May 21st-June 1st peaking at 25 May 28th.

Numerous records received during summer months indicate that this species still has a widespread, if rather patchy, distribution. One main stronghold was the Docking area where

10 calling birds within 5 mile radius of village. NBA results showed the species was present in 58% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. Only double-figure counts during summer 10 Pentney GP July 4th, 13 Titchwell Aug 18th and 11 Flitcham Aug 25th.

Numbers dropped rapidly from late Aug with evidence of migration Overstrand where single in off sea Aug 28th with another west there next day, and one west Sheringham Sept 4th. Last record Walpole Highway Oct 4th.

## **Cuckoo**

*Cuculus canorus*

### ***Migratory breeder and passage migrant***

First recorded on early date of April 3rd at Surlingham. No further records until singles Holkham April 14th, and Titchwell and Ditchingham next day. Thereafter increasingly more common with records of 1-3 from numerous sites throughout county. Highest counts of spring 4 East Beckham May 30th and 4 Scolt Head June 1st. A hepatic bird North Wootton June 1st remained in area for most of month. Only visible migration noted Overstrand where singles west May 16th and 24th.

Throughout summer birds reported from widely scattered localities with juvs present at a min of 9 sites. NBA results showed the species was present in 54% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Numbers rapidly decreased towards end of Aug with evidence of birds on passage at Scolt Head 31st with one west Overstrand same day. Last of year Welney Sept 3rd.

## **Barn Owl**

*Tyto alba*

### ***Resident, continental race has appeared as a vagrant***

As in previous years noted throughout county with reports from 303 sites (10 down on last year). Numerous records of multiple sightings with highest numbers Hickling Stubb Mill where 5 Nov 12th, 4 Jan 22nd and 3 Dec 18th. Elsewhere 5 Heigham Holmes Dec 28th, 4 Brograve Level Dec 23rd, Great Bircham Jan 10th, Haddiscoe March 25th and Lessingham Hempstead Marshes Dec 23rd, and 3 Blakeney GM Nov 7th and Dec 20th, Burgh Castle in Jan, Holme Feb 27th, Lyng Jan 10th and Rockland Broad in Jan. At Roydon a bird Dec 16th was first in area for many years.

Breeding reports from 36 sites involving a min of 69 pairs. The Gooderstone/Cockley Cley/Hilborough area held 10 pairs and in the Cley/Glandford area a survey of Glaven valley found 8 active nests. In Stanford TA breeding noted at 5 sites and at Bayfield Hall 3 boxes each held 3 chicks. Elsewhere 3 pairs reported at Great Ryburgh, Holme parish and Sparham/Lyng Easthaugh, with 2 pairs each at Caister, Hickling and Holkham. Largest brood reported was at Starston where 5 young reared. At a nest in Saxthorpe the young perished after the female became a road casualty. Other road casualties at Tattersett Aug 23rd, Acle Bridge Sept 19th and Acle Hall Sept 25th.

At Sheringham BO on Aug 16th a male noted drifting out to sea where it lingered for 5 mins before returning and immediately landing on roof of seawatching hide.

## **Little Owl**

*Athene noctua*

### ***Introduced resident***

For second year in succession an increase in number of recorded sites to 138, an increase of 15 on 2004. At two sites, Flordon and Watton, 4 birds noted with two birds reported at several other sites. At Hethersett up to 2 birds have been present in same tree for past 10 years, whilst at East Tuddenham a bird in July was first for several years. At Easton a pair returned to a tree



Little Owl (Gary Wright)

for first time in 20 years, the tree having been struck by lightning and the original pair not subsequently seen .

An increase in records of confirmed breeding with reports from 11 sites with at least 12 pairs involved. Young noted at East Ruston, Flitcham and Hockering. A welcome increase on last year but doubtless still vastly under-recorded. NBA results showed the species was present in 18% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 15% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Just a single road casualty involving a bird found near Wilby.

## Tawny Owl

*Strix aluco*

### *Widespread resident*

Reports from 113 sites, a slight reduction on 2004. Highest counts of calling males 4 Brancaster Thompson Farm (Jan 22nd) and Hanworth Common (May 2nd), 3 Hedenham and Lenwade Heath (both Jan), and 2 Brancaster Barrow Common, East Wretham and Holt.

Breeding recorded at 18 sites with at least 30 pairs involved. Highest concentrations 5 prs Stanford TA, 4 prs Repps-with-Bastwick, 3 prs Hoveton Hall and Great Ryburgh, and 2 prs Old Catton. Young noted (number in brackets where known): Brettenham Heath (3), East Harling Woods (2), Pentney, Roydon, Stanford TA (5 groups of calling young), Tasburgh, Welney (2) and Whissonsett (3). At Little London the one confirmed breeding record was considered to be only a quarter of the actual total.

Road casualties at Corpusty, Newton Flotman, Sporle and Stiffkey Fen, with a further dead bird found on railway line at Cantley. A very disturbing report of a bird found at Sculthorpe Moor Jan 9th which had apparently been shot the previous day. It is sad to realise there are still people in our society who are prepared to flout the law in this way.

## Long-eared Owl

*Asio otus*

### *Scarce and local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

In first winter period singles at 10 sites: Jan Brancaster (found dead), Hoe Common (heard), Holme, South Creak, Walsingham/Wighton; Feb Great Walsingham, Holme, Moulton St Michael, North Creak (found tangled in barbed wire and too badly injured to survive), Welney; March Great Moulton, Great Walsingham. Two further reports in April from



Boughton Fen (found dead) and Great Walsingham. In May migrant in off sea Holme 1st with a hunting bird Syderstone Common 9th; others during month Holme 11th and Breydon 17th.

Breeding records from Brettenham Hcath, Drymere, East Harling, South Creake and a further site in north of county. At Brettenham Heath an adult and 3 young seen June 19th with young heard calling 22nd, and at East Harling young heard calling June 23rd. Only other record at this time one Roydon Common June 7th.

In autumn two early reports in Sept from Upper Sheringham 2nd and Waxham (2) 10th. No further records until mid-Oct when one in off sea then roosting Titchwell 14th. More reports of birds in off sea during month at Eccles, Holkham Gap and Holme 15th, Overstrand 16th, Blakeney Point 28th and Walcott 30th. Other coastal migrants Holme and West Runton 15th, Blakeney Point (3), Burnham Overy Dunes, Holkham Meals, Holme (2) and Thornham Point 16th, Blakeney Point (2) and Stiffkey 17th, and Salthouse where one flying slowly west 250 metres offshore 21st. Two inland reports at this time from Strumpshaw 5th and Dunton 28th; the latter related to a bird seen on a road sign beside the A148 at 2 am but found dead there at dawn. Last report of a migrant arriving off sea November 16th at Holkham Gap with other records at this time from Beeston Bump 15th, Lower Kelling 19th and, last report of year, Scarning Fen 20th.

## Short-eared Owl

*Asio flammeus*

### *Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor*

Following the large arrival in autumn 2004, reported widely during first three months. The area of marshes south of Breydon Water held highest numbers with monthly peaks of 11 Jan 3rd, 6 Feb 2nd and 4 March 29th. Multiple counts elsewhere of 3 at Warham Greens Jan 7th and 12th, Stokesby March 14th and Morston March 26th, and 2 at Titchwell Jan 13th/14th, Snettisham 30th, Wells all Feb, Holme Feb 7th and 22nd, Reedham 8th, Holkham 13th, Snettisham 16th and March 1st, King's Lynn BF March 7th, Winterton 17th and 23rd, Haddiscoe 18th, and Holme 20th and 23rd. Other sites where reported during this period Acle, Berney, Blakeney Point, Denver, Eccles, Fleggburgh Burgh Common, Hilgay Fen, Hockwold Fen, Horsey, Lynn Point, Martham, Overstrand, Paston, Roydon Common, Scolt Head, Sea Palling, Strumpshaw, Ten Mile Bank, Thornham, UEA Broad, Waxham and Yarmouth.

During April/May still widespread with highest counts 3 Snettisham April 24th and 2 there throughout May, and 2 Hockwold Washes April 25th. All other sightings were of single birds. Sites additional to winter months Blakeney GM, Burnham Overy, Cantley BF, Cley, Fritton, Hickling Broad, Hilborough, Kelling, Lessingham Hempstead Marshes, Ludham, Massingham Heath, Salthouse, Sculthorpe Airfield, Sheringham and West Walton.

Breeding confirmed at a site in north-west of county where 3 fledged young seen. An additional pair probably bred in the Wash area. No other sightings away from these areas during June/July.

First autumn record Cley Aug 31st with further reports in Sept from Eccles 6th, Blakeney Point (2), Gorleston (in off sea) and Hopton 10th, Winterton 18th, Titchwell 19th, and Sea Palling (in off sea) and Winterton 22nd. Migration was in full swing during Oct with birds arriving in off sea at Sheringham 5th, Happisburgh and Scolt Head 14th, Holkham Bay, Paston (2), Scolt Head and Sheringham (2) 15th, Cley and Overstrand (2) 16th, Sea Palling (2), Sheringham (2), Stiffkey and Weybourne 18th, Paston, Scolt Head and Sea Palling (2) 19th, Beeston Bump 23rd, Blakeney Point (2) 24th, Kelling WM 26th, Blakeney Point 27th and Walcott (2) 30th. In addition one flew west at sea Overstrand 18th. Scolt Head had highest numbers at this time with 3 on 14th, 5 15th, 6 16th, 4 17th and 3 19th. Elsewhere on coast during Oct noted at Eccles, Holme (2 14th-16th), Hopton, Horsey, Morston, Mundesley,

Salthouse, Thornham Point, Titchwell, Warham Greens (2 on 22nd), Waxham, Wells, Wells East Hills, West Runton (west along cliff top 15th) and Winterton.

Nov saw last migrants arriving with 2 in off sea Lessingham Gap 4th and a final flurry on 17th when 5 arrived at California and singles at Cley, Sheringham and Titchwell. Reported from numerous coastal sites between Snettisham and Eccles during month but apart from 2 at Holkham 1st/2nd, Eccles 2nd, Holme 12th and Burnham Overy Staithe 22nd, all sightings were of single birds. Only inland Nov records from Denver, Dersingham Bog, Haddiscoe Marshes and Welney. Best counts in Dec 3 Hockwold Fen 11th with 2 Scolt Head 4th, Snettisham from 7th, Ouse RC between Downham Market and Magdalen RC 11th and Setchey 18th. Elsewhere in second winter period Acle, Blakeney GM, Breydon, Hockwold Washes, Roydon Common, Sheringham, Titchwell, Warham Greens and Winterton.

## Nightjar

*Caprimulgus europaeus*

### *Local migratory breeder and rare passage migrant*

First spring arrival West Bilney May 4th followed by singles Muckleburgh Hill and another northern site 12th, and Weybourne and a west county site 13th.

No national survey this year so far fewer records of breeding. Those received indicated following min numbers of churring males, *north* 13 at 6 sites, *east* 3 at one site, *west* 48 at 4 sites, *central* 5 at 2 sites, *Brecks* 10 at 5 sites. The high numbers in west of county result of just 2 sites holding a total of 42. Negative reports received from 2 regular sites (one in west, one in Brecks) with no churring males this year. Two interesting reports relate to a male churring from a log in heat of day within feet of observer at site in east June 3rd, and a male in north that churred for 20 seconds at 1620 hrs in response to a car engine being started July 1st.

Last report of churring was in west Aug 14th with last sight records Roydon Common Sept 11th, Winterton 16th and a very late bird flushed at Buxton Oct 11th.



Nightjar (Alan Burtenshaw)

## Swift

*Apus apus*

### *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant*

First of spring Middleton April 18th followed by 2 Colney and 2 Norwich 23rd. More widely noted on 24th with 12 Hickling Broad, 10 Filby Broad, 8 Colney, 3 Swanton Morley GP and Whitlingham CP, 2 Hockwold Washes and Thetford, and singles at 9 other sites. Numbers remained low until last three days of month, the only double-figure counts being 13 Thetford



Nunnery Lakes 25th, 24 Welney 26th, 59 west Scolt Head (first passage of year), 50 Hickling Broad, 16 Blakeney Point, 16 Weybourne and 15 Kelling WM all 27th. From 28th increased movement on coast with (all west unless stated) 66 south Hunstanton and 140 Scolt Head 28th, 50/hr south Snettisham, 275 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 73 Scolt Head 29th, and 275 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 75 Holme, 292 Scolt Head, 22 Blakeney Point, 15 Inceborough Hill and 11 plus 2 east Overstrand 30th.

Main passage May when at Scolt Head total of 6604 west during month; best day counts 283 2nd, 328 19th, 973 20th, 992 21st, 1135 22nd and 1562 26th. At Hunstanton southerly passage during month of 269 in 2 hrs 30 mins 2nd, 335 in 4 hrs 3rd, 802 in 3 hrs 21st, 1716 in 2 hrs 30 mins 22nd and 1136 in 2 hrs 30 mins 26th. Elsewhere along coast counts (all west unless stated) of 99 Overstrand 2nd and 300 there 16th, 400 Holme, 100s Cley and 880 east Paston 22nd, 100s east and west Cley and 512 Sheringham 23rd, and 150 Overstrand 26th. In addition thousands were feeding over Cley Reserve 24th. Gatherings inland at this time 500 Hickling Broad 6th and 10th, 100 Blickling Park 7th, 190 Whitlingham CP 8th with 415 there 13th, 100 Swanton Morley GP 17th and 270 Whitlingham CP 22nd.

Few reports regarding breeding but those received indicated reduced numbers at several localities. In Corpusty Little London only 3 pairs bred and in Broads' villages of Catfield, Hickling, Ludham, Potter Heigham, Stalham and Sutton numbers were well down. Only other reports were of 20 pairs in one house in Martham and 10 pairs in Woodland Drive, Colney. NBA results showed the species was present in 81% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 22 birds per occupied tetrad.

Large westerly movements at Scolt Head continued throughout June with total for month of 12,440. Highest number was a massive 7311 on 14th with other high counts of 307 3rd, 1895 15th, 1865 17th, 202 19th and 283 30th. Other large numbers in month 200 Cley 2nd, 300 Whitlingham CP 3rd with 200 there 12th, and 500 ahead of a weather front Long Stratton 15th. Lower numbers moving at Scolt Head July with month total of 2245 including 335 1st, 367 2nd, 240 3rd and 102 14th. Other notable reports in month 120 south Winterton 1st, 150 Whitlingham CP 9th and 410 west Sheringham 17th.

Numbers declined rapidly in Aug with 250 'anting' over Scolt Head and 177 west in 30 mins Sheringham both 2nd, the only three-figure counts. At Whitlingham CP 80 still present 21st but this reduced to 20 by 25th, and 32 south at Attleborough on 29th was last double-figure count of year. Usual widespread reports of lingering birds through first half Sept with last of month Barney 19th. In Oct late birds Burnham Overy Dunes 8th, south Hunstanton 11th, Scolt Head (3) and 2 west Brancaster Staithe 24th, north California 26th. Snettisham CP 29th and Horsey 30th. Final report of year Sheringham Nov 6th.

## **Pallid Swift**

*Apus pallidus*

### ***Vagrant from southern Europe and north-west Africa***

Singles between Sheringham and Weybourne Oct 30th (AE BJM *et al*) and Overstrand Nov 3rd (GDo BJM). Decisions awaited on two other submissions.

## **Alpine Swift**

*Apus melba*

### ***Vagrant from southern Europe***

2004 Addition: Scratby April 22nd (AGr).

## **Little Swift**

*Apus affinis*

### ***Vagrant from north Africa***

One Cromer Cliffs Nov 12th/13th (GW *et al*). First county record - see article page 295.





Little Swift (Phil Jones)

## Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

### *Resident, numbers fluctuating in response to severity of winters*

Noted at 163 sites, an increase of 10 over 2004. During first part of year most reports of one or 2 birds but 3 noted at Whitlingham CP Jan 22nd and Barton Broad and Flitcham April 10th.

Breeding recorded at 11 sites with min of 15 pairs involved. At 4 sites juvs/young noted with 2 broods suspected at Flitcham. On River Glaven 4 territories found between Glandford and Hunworth, and at New Costessey breeding took place along River Wensum for 10th successive year. At Hoveton Hall Lake a nesting tunnel was constructed but breeding attempt was unsuccessful. NBA results showed the species was present in 14% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 11% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Probable autumn migrants Blakeney Point with 3 Aug 30th and one Sept 4th, and at Winterton where a bird flew north along old cliff-top Sept 13th. At latter site this species is a local rarity, the nearest resident birds being 2 miles away.

During second half of year multiple records from several sites with 6 Flitcham Aug 15th (including 3 juvs) and Great Ouse RC between Denver Sluice and Saddlebow Dec 11th, 5 Aylmerton Oct 1st, 4 Holkham Oct 8th and Strumpshaw Nov 1st, and 3 Titchwell Dec 4th. One report of a casualty, a bird which flew into a window and died at Costessey on an unspecified date.

## Bee-eater

*Merops apiaster*

### *Vagrant from southern Europe*

Three sight records: Holme May 17th (JHa JAn *et al*), Kelling (MPL) then west Cley (S&PM *et al*) June 14th and Strumpshaw Common June 23rd (IR). Also three records of 'bee eater sp' calling only: west Salthouse May 10th (MAG), west Scolt Head Aug 29th (NML) and Cley Sept 18th (RBr).

## Hoopoe

*Upupa epops*

### *Annual vagrant in very small numbers*

An increase in reports over recent years with 5 birds noted. First of year one flying west over Cley Reserve April 14th followed by one that frequented a Cromer garden April 24th-27th.

Another found in a garden at Denton May 4th with the last of spring flying over A47 at Norwich May 24th. One autumn record Happisburgh Oct 14th-20th.

## **Wryneck**

*Jynx torquilla*

*Former breeder; now scarce annual passage migrant, mostly in autumn*

An average spring with 7 records: Kelling April 19th-21st, Snettisham CP 21st/22nd, Overstrand 26th, Weybourne May 1st (trapped), Holkham Meals 5th, Kelling Heath 16th and Holme 18th.

Autumn passage was exceptional with between 50 and 70 birds involved, the majority Sept 10th-12th. Aug produced only 3 birds: Holme 19th, Weybourne 23rd (trapped) and Sheringham 27th. Another 7 arrived by Sept 8th at Happisburgh and Winterton (2) 2nd, Blakeney Point, Potter Heigham Marshes and Trimingham 5th, and Snettisham 6th-8th. On 10th birds were recorded at Scolt Head (8), Burnham Overy Dunes (3), Stiffkey, Blakeney Point (3), Sheringham, Overstrand, Sidestrand, Trimingham, Winterton (to 12th) and Gorleston. The following day 9 were counted at Scolt Head, 4 at Burnham Overy Dunes, 5 at Blakeney Point and singles at Stiffkey SM, Sheringham and Horsey. Numbers diminished overnight so that by 12th 3 remained Scolt Head and Blakeney Point, and singles Horsey and Waxham. The rest of Sept saw 5 further singles: Cley 13th-15th, Kelling Heath 17th, Colkirk 18th (found dead), Winterton 18th/19th and Snettisham 20th. Autumn passage then tailed off with birds at Blakeney Oct 6th, Overstrand 8th and Happisburgh 16th-20th.

## **Green Woodpecker**

*Picus viridis*

*Resident*

NBA results showed the species was present in 65% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. Counts of more than two: 3 Winterton Feb 1st, 5 Flordon 2nd, 6 Beeston Regis March 22nd, 4 Hoveton Hall and 6 Repps-with-Bastwick June 1st, 4 Grimston Derby Fen 21st, 4 Nar Valley Fisheries Oct 23rd, 3 West Acre Nov 4th, 6 Beeston Regis 11th and 3 Leziate Ashwicken Heath Dec 7th.

## **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos major*

*Common resident; birds of the northern race occasional in autumn*

Counts of 7 Sheringham Jan 14th, 5 Roydon Common 22nd, 6 Holkham Park March 19th, 7 Flordon June 16th and 6 Beeston Regis Dec 26th. Notable breeding season records 6 pairs Hoveton Hall June 1st and 8 territories Swanton Novers 2nd. NBA results showed the species was present in 76% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migrants at coastal sites Sept 25th-Nov 6th totalled 18 mainly on east and north-east coasts; 6 birds passed Overstrand Oct 9th-11th, with one in off sea Nov 6th.

## **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos minor*

*Declining local resident*

Recorded at 31 sites: Attleborough, Aylmerton, Beeston Regis, Bintree, Blickling Park, Buckenham, Buckenham Tofts, Cley STW, Costessey, Dereham, Gressenhall, Harleston, Hickling, Hoe Rough, Holkham Park, Horsey Merc. Lynford Arboretum, Lynford GP, Lyng, Mundford, Rockland Broad, Rushford, Santon Downham, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools, Strumpshaw, Swannington, Swanton Novers, Thetford Nunnery, Tottenhill GP, Whitlingham CP and Wroxham.

Notable records included up to 3 males and a female at Holkham Park Jan 1st-May 12th; 2 Lynford Arboretum Jan 1st-March 12th; pair Santon Downham March 13th-April 22nd; parents and 2 young coming to garden at Harleston in June; single in garden Wroxham June 26th 'first for 20 years'; max 4 Strumpshaw various dates; family party of 2 adults and 2 juvs Swanton Novers date unknown and not thought to have nested on reserve; single Tottenhill GP various dates.

### **Short-toed Lark**

*Calandrella brachydactyla*

*Vagrant from southern Europe east to Afghanistan*

Only one record Blakeney Point June 1st/2nd (AS *et al*).

### **Woodlark**

*Lullula arborea*

*Uncommon migratory breeder, recently increasing; also scarce passage migrant*

In Jan reports of remarkable numbers in Beechamwell area feeding on stubble fields with 44 on 16th, 80 23rd and 95 30th. This is the first record in the county of large numbers during winter. Other wintering flocks on stubble in Jan: 6 Stanford TA 26th and two groups of 6 and 7 at Hilborough during month. First spring migrant south Winterton March 18th with others in April south Hunstanton 4th and 12th, and west Beeston Bump 11th and Holkham Meals 16th. Further coastal reports April from Holme 12th and Burnham Overy Staithe 16th.

First singing males on territory Stanford TA Jan 26th and 3 Thetford Warren Jan 30th; from Feb birds on territory reported widely. A survey in Thetford Forest found 272 singing males, a 5% decrease on 2004; of these 137 were in Norfolk, a reduction of 10 from last year. Elsewhere totals of singing males/prs 12 in north, 3 in central and 9 in west. Just one negative report from East Winch Common where survey work found no birds. Only reports of juvs from a site in north with 4 May 18th and 3 July 6th. NBA results showed the species was present in 7% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with % of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project. Late singing males noted Oct in northern Brecks 1st and in north and west 27th.

In autumn one south Hunstanton Oct 11th only report of migration on coast with inland movements of singles north-east Blackborough End GP Oct 15th and over Sustead Oct 16th.

In second winter period gatherings Nov at Croxton where 12 in harvested carrot field and in Dec in Brecks where a total of 58 in 4 groups were found on barley stubble at Croxton, Feltwell, Ickburgh and Weeting.

### **Skylark**

*Alauda arvensis*

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

Smaller numbers noted in first winter than in corresponding period last year. Highest counts: Jan 113 Mileham, 75 Beechamwell, 70 Hethersett, 50 Harleston and Sprowston, 46 Stiffkey SM and 43 Titchwell; Feb 200 Harpley, 60 Happisburgh, Massingham Heath and Spixworth, 55 Shotesham and 54 Holkham. Only report of spring migration from Hunstanton where 27 south March 15th-May 23rd with best day count 8 March 15th.

Breeding: singing males/prs 83 Scolt Head, 62 Blakeney Point, 32 Welney and 30 Sparham NWT. At Cley several pairs noted in meadows around Beach Road and East Bank but breeding uncertain. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration observed at several coastal sites. At Hunstanton total of 582 south Oct 4th-Nov 22nd with best day totals (all in periods of 2 hrs 30 mins) 54 Oct 10th, 50 11th and 101 27th. At Scolt Head westerly passage Oct with 88 on 8th, 128 12th and 378 23rd. Movement



elsewhere in Oct, 30 west Blakeney Point 15th, 50 east Overstrand 16th, 80 west Holme 23rd and 30 in off sea Cley 24th. In Nov 34 south California 9th only passage reported. Other notable counts during this period: *Oct* 75 Holme 11th, 150 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 16th and 70 between Kelling and Salthouse 31st; *Nov* 50 Great Cressingham 5th, 45 Scolt Head and 40 Holkham 6th, and 60 North Wootton Marsh 20th. In early Dec several flocks found near north coast with 71 Wells and 59 Titchwell 4th, and 100 Brancaster Thompson Farm 7th. Largest counts of second winter period confined to last 5 days of year when a cold weather movement of 200 west in 2 mins early morning Becston Bump 29th with smaller numbers moving throughout rest of day. Also at this time large flocks noted widely with 100 Ten Mile Bank 27th, 250 Holme 28th, 260 Sheringham 29th, 150 East Winch 30th and 200 Stanford TA 31st.

## Shore Lark

*Eremophila alpestris*

### *Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; exceptional in summer*

During first three months Holkham Bay was again the primary site with at least 28 present throughout but with monthly peaks of 38 Jan 30th, 28 Feb 5th and 30 March 6th. Numbers there declined after first week March with 12 April 1st and final sighting 6 May 7th. More records from other sites over this period than in 2004: *Jan* 2 Sheringham 1st and 13th, 7 Holme 16th; *Feb* 3 Blakeney Point 1st, 5th and 26th, 2 Sheringham 27th; *March* 2 Old Hunstanton 26th. Reported more widely during April as birds began moving back towards breeding areas with 4 Hempstead 3rd, 4 Cley 12th-18th with 2 still 19th and one 23rd, one west Overstrand 12th, one West Runton 22nd increasing to 5 on 23rd/24th, 5 Waxham 25th and 2 Scolt Head 26th. Final report one Waxham May 3rd.

First returning bird in autumn Muckleburgh Hill Sept 27th. At Holkham Bay first record Oct 14th with 2 on 22nd. Elsewhere in Oct noted east Scolt Head 15th, Titchwell 16th, Cley 23rd-25th and again 28th, in off sea Blakeney Point 24th with 14 in off sea there 28th, and 2 Salthouse 27th. Further reports away from main wintering area early Nov of singles at Breydon 1st, and Cley 2nd and 12th. At Holkham Bay 2 Nov 6th increased to 6 by 15th and 7 by 20th. Thereafter 7 present until Dec 9th reducing to 6 until year end. Only other report in second winter period 3 Yarmouth North Beach Dec 18th.



Shore Lark (Andy Benson)

## Sand Martin

*Riparia riparia*

### *Local migratory breeder and common passage migrant*

First spring records March 16th when 5 Titchwell and 2 Walcott. A steady trickle of birds in rest of month when noted south Hunstanton, 2 Holme, Whitlingham CP and Welney 17th, Cley, 3 west Cromer and 5 west Overstrand 18th, 3 Lynford GP 20th, 2 Roydon Common 22nd, south Hunstanton, 10 west Holme, 9 Rockland Broad and 2 Buckenham 23rd and south Hunstanton 24th. Passage picked up first few days April when 71 west Scolt Head 3rd. Also on 3rd 50 Strumpshaw with 10 Tottenhill GP 4th; subsequent largest count 100 Barton Broad 22nd. Reports of coastal passage from 26th when 29 west Scolt Head followed at same site by (all west) 67 on 27th, 107 28th and 224 30th. In May at Scolt Head total of 617 birds logged during month, all moving west, with best day counts 232 on 2nd, 72 18th, 118 19th, 49 22nd and 28 26th. At Hunstanton southerly passage of 68 in 5 hrs 30 mins 18th, 30 in 3 hrs 20th and 47 in 2 hrs 30 mins 22nd. Inland gatherings during month of 100 Barton Broad 4th and 100 Sparham Pools 15th. At Hunstanton spring total of 259 south March 17th-May 28th. Last spring migrant west Scolt Head June 1st.

In breeding season reports of occupied burrows/prs: 51 Beetley GP (many fledged young June 28th), 110 Blackborough End, 6-10 Glaven valley between Glandford Mill and Hunworth, 8-10 Pentney GP, 270 at two sites (60 and 210) in Stanford TA and at least 30 West Runton. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 15% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

First post breeding movement Scolt Head June 14th when 9 west followed by smaller numbers until end of month; numbers increased in July with (all west) 52 on 2nd, 243 14th and 82 18th. Westerly movement noted at two other coastal sites during month with 20 Holkham 1st and 215 Sheringham 17th. Inland counts at this time 40 Welney 15th, 100 Hickling Broad 18th, 350 Crimplesham 19th, and 100 Whitlingham CP and 50 Cantley BF 31st. Further passage Scolt Head in Aug with (all west) 73 on 1st, 62 16th and 32 17th. Two inland sites held large gatherings during month with 250 Welney 3rd and 200 Nar Valley Fisheries 14th. Fewer birds Sept when 40 Cley 2nd highest count. Small numbers continued to move west at Scolt Head until 22nd during which time only other report of coastal movement 3 west Holme 15th. In last week of month Burnham Norton 25th, Sheringham (3) and West Runton (2) 26th, and Weybourne (3) and Cantley BF (2) 28th. Just two subsequent reports with 2 west Holme Oct 26th and last of year east Overstrand Nov 1st.

## Swallow

*Hirundo rustica*

### *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant*

The year began with a remarkable record of one flying south-west over Hunstanton at 1000 hrs Jan 4th. At a more expected time first of spring 2 west Titchwell March 16th followed by reports during rest of month from West Runton 18th, Necton 20th, east Paston and Upper Sheringham 22nd, 2 Surlingham Church Marsh 24th, Hickling Broad 25th, Wroxham Broad 27th, Grimston Pott Row and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 28th, Lyng, Sparham Pools, Strumpshaw and 5 Thetford Nunnery Flood 29th, and Buckenham Marshes 31st. Apart from 24 Great Hockham 1st and 18 west Scolt Head 3rd, only small numbers noted early April. Passage increased markedly second half of month with counts at Scolt Head (all west) 138 on 16th, 232 26th, 971 27th, 1352 28th, 790 29th and 1349 30th. At Hunstanton southerly passage of 124 in 2 hrs 27th, 95 in 2 hrs 29th and 93 in 2 hrs 30th. Other coastal movements at this time (all west unless stated) 40 Holkham 16th, 60 east Overstrand 25th and 117 there (1200-1315) 26th, 100/hr Holme and 90 plus 40 east Overstrand 29th, and 158 Blakeney Point and 30/hr



Incleborough Hill 30th. Migration peaked in May with total for month at Scolt Head of 8975 west. This included day counts of 718 on 2nd, 1047 3rd, 1663 18th, 1177 19th, 770 20th, 795 21st, 528 22nd, 346 26th and last of spring 30 June 1st. May counts at Hunstanton of birds moving south with 175 in 2 hrs 30 mins 2nd, 116 in 3 hrs 3rd, 981 in 5 hrs 30 mins 18th, 189 in 4 hrs 20th and 246 in 2 hrs 30 mins 22nd. Elsewhere on coast during May (all west unless stated) 164 plus 60 east Overstrand and 100 south Winterton 2nd, 161 plus 50 east Overstrand 3rd, 90 east Overstrand and 200 south Winterton 12th, 150 Cley 17th with 125/hr there 18th and 140/hr 20th, and 90 Overstrand 26th. Also at this time 500 Barton Broad 4th and 250 Lynn Point 21st. At Hunstanton total of 2299 birds moving south April 1st-May 28th.

Breeding records included following pairs: Blakeney Point 5 (15 young fledged), Caister Stables 10, Cley Coastguards 4 (most having 3 broods), Little London (Corpusty) 7 (all with double broods of 5), Scolt Head 2, Stanford TA 103 and Welney 16. NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Scolt Head first of autumn July 14th when 71 west with further totals in month of 236 west 18th and 46 west 29th. Larger numbers moved west Aug when 379 2nd, 215 13th, 364 16th, 496 28th and 659 29th; feeding flocks of 500 also there 21st and 26th. Other coastal sites reported birds moving in last few days of month with (all west unless stated) 300 Overstrand 28th, 421 Sheringham 29th, and 77 plus 121 east Overstrand 30th. Autumn roosts of 100 Holme July 13th increasing to 275 Aug 21st, 500 Lopham Fen Aug 10th, 250 Haddiscoe Aug 28th and 300 Martham Broad Sept 1st. Good numbers still moving first half Sept (all west unless stated): Holme 145 east 3rd, 125 6th, 250 7th, 135 10th, 281 east 11th, 150 15th, 50 18th, and at Scolt Head 246 7th, 176 8th and 108 13th. High counts elsewhere at this time with 300 Cley 2nd, 1500 Salthouse 5th, 200 Cley, 500 Salthouse and 205 north California 11th, 300 Thornham and 174 south California 13th, 100 Holme 15th, 70 Burnham Norton 25th and 50 Sutton 30th.

Numbers much reduced Oct when only double-figure counts 15 Ranworth Broad 3rd and 12 south Horsey 8th. After 2 St Benet's Level 18th all reports during rest of month were of coastal birds with small numbers noted at various sites. Usual rash of Nov records from Hemsby and Winterton 2nd, west Overstrand (2) 3rd, Winterton (2) 4th, Sheringham and west Stiffkey Fen 8th, west Cley 10th and Caister 12th. A late bird at Titchwell Dec 8th was last of year.

## House Martin

*Delichon urbicum*

### *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant*

First arrivals at Strumpshaw March 16th/17th followed by west Paston 25th, 5 Rockland Broad 28th and 20 Strumpshaw 31st. Singles only during first part of April until 2 south Hunstanton 12th, 4 Pentney GP 14th, 2 Titchwell 15th and 12 west Holme, 6 west Scolt Head and 3 west Cley 16th. Very few then until main passage got under way 26th when 45 west Overstrand. The last four days of month then produced some good counts with totals south Hunstanton (all in 2 hr periods) of 44 on 27th, 50 28th, 96 29th and 99 30th, and west Scolt Head of 180 27th, 557 28th, 337 29th and 389 30th. Further east at this time 90 west Overstrand 29th. May witnessed one of heaviest spring migrations seen in county with bulk of movement occurring in last fortnight. At Scolt Head total of 10,303 west during month including day counts of 545 on 18th, 1890 19th, 1798 20th, 1572 21st, 1792 22nd, 597 23rd, 435 25th and 1343 26th. At Hunstanton (all south) 460 in 5 hrs 30 mins 18th, 945 in 4 hrs 20th, 382 in 3 hrs 21st, 2803 in 2 hrs 30 mins 22nd, 276 in 2 hrs 23rd and 385 in 3 hrs 26th. Elsewhere 380 west Overstrand 16th and 1280 east Paston (0600-1000) 22nd. At Titchwell 500 present 21st whist away from coast



concentrations of 100 Barton Broad 4th, 100 Whitlingham CP 8th, 190 Hockwold Washes 16th and 170 Swanton Morley 17th. In June further westerly movements at Scolt Head until 17th with counts of 89 1st, 113 2nd and 131 14th.

Breeding counts of nests/prs included: 14 Aylmerton (despite some being deliberately destroyed early in season), 7 Corpusty Little London, one Fakenham (on Budgens Store), 12 Fleggburgh Sports Village, 30 Forngett St Mary, 12 Gooderstone, 60 at two sites Great Ryburgh, 3 Heydon (despite discouragement from house owners), 30 Horning Hall, 20 Norwich Blyth Jex School, 9 Old Catton (15 in 2004), 25 on

single house Oby and 25 Welney including 9 on main hide. A very good breeding year was reported at Great Hockham. At Old Catton young fledged from one nest Sept 17th whilst at other nests young were still being fed Sept 30th. NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In midsummer some notable gatherings reported: *June* 120 Titchwell 6th; *July* 200 Titchwell 7th, 150 West Acre 18th and 50 Whitlingham CP 31st; *Aug* 150 in single tree Bacton 15th, 300 Houghton and 80 Holme 18th, 250 Sparham 20th, 130 Whitlingham CP 21st and 300 Hickling Broad 23rd.

Autumn passage was in marked contrast to spring with few reports. At Scolt Head migration began with 10 west Aug 10th but only subsequent counts (all west) 353 Aug 28th, 120 29th, 108 Sept 7th and 120 24th. At Holme Sept movement (all west) 55 on 3rd, 75 6th, 175 11th, 25 25th and 5 26th. Elsewhere on coast only reports (all west) 200 Overstrand and 160 in 5 mins Sheringham Aug 28th, and 350 Sheringham Aug 29th. Inland 120 south in one flock Attleborough also Aug 29th. Several large concentrations Sept with 200 High Kelling 2nd, 100 Hanworth 3rd, 200 on wires Great Hockham 4th, 100 Wayford Bridge 8th, 100 Gillingham Dam Levels 9th, 400 Whitlingham CP 18th and 150 Cantley BF 26th. Far fewer birds Oct when 40 east Winterton 1st and 15 east Overstrand 10th only double-figure counts. Small numbers noted through to end of month with 6 Sheringham 27th and 3 Wells 31st highest totals. Early Nov produced daily sightings until 4th with reports from Aylmerton 1st, Cromer (4), Hemsby (3), Sheringham (4) and Winterton (5) all 2nd, California (6 south) and Overstrand (4 west ) 3rd, and West Runton (6) 4th. Finally 6 noted Sheringham 6th with last of year 4 Aylmerton 7th.



House Martins (*Andy Benson*)

## Red-rumped Swallow

*Hirundo daurica*

*Vagrant from southern Europe*

One along the cliffs at Overstrand May 23rd (GDo).

Richard's Pipit

*Anthus novaeseelandiae*

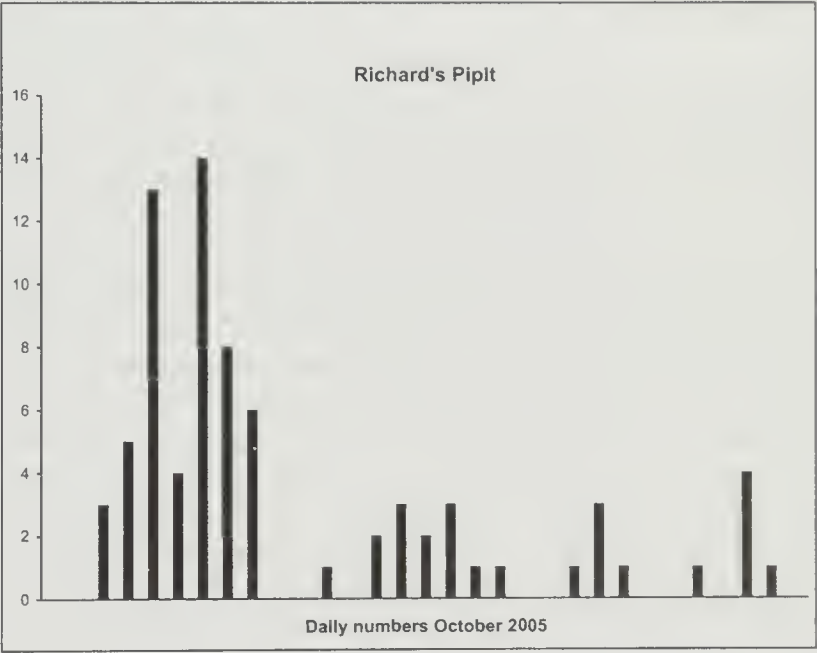
*Virtually annual autumn migrant from western Siberia; rare in spring and winter*

All records in autumn, when first Holkham GM Sept 13th; no others until final ten days of month when singles Holme 21st, west Holkham Meals and Blakeney Point 24th, Cley and west Beeston Bump 25th, Scolt Head 25th/26th and Snettisham CP 26th.

Impressive numbers in Oct when around 68 reported, as usual many stayed only briefly or were flyovers, so no doubt some duplication. Over half of these occurred between 3rd-9th, when 2 Snettisham CP 9th, south Hunstanton 8th, Holme 5th and west 8th, Titchwell 9th, 3 Scolt Head briefly then west 4th and another west 5th, Burnham Overy Dunes 3rd/4th, increasing to 3 on 5th and another 9th, west Holkham Meals 9th, Blakeney Point 5th with 2 6th and one until 8th, 5 Wells East Hills 7th and one 8th, Wells Lodge Marsh 6th, west Stiffkey 9th, 2 Morston 8th, Cley 5th, 2 Salthouse 3rd, west Weybourne 7th, west Sheringham 4th, with 3 present and 2 west 5th and 2 present and one west 7th, west Overstrand 8th, north Sea Palling 7th, 2 Waxham 7th, Horsey 5th and north 7th, and California briefly then north 7th.

Others during rest of Oct Titchwell 30th, Scolt Head 12th, 2 west 14th, west 17th and tenth of autumn west there 19th, Burnham Deepdale 23rd, Burnham Overy Dunes 16th, south-west Wells 15th, Wells East Hills 17th, south-east Morston 18th, east Salthouse 27th and 2 29th/30th, Kelling WM 29th, Sheringham 22nd-24th, West Runton 16th/17th and 19th, north-west Trimmingham 15th, south Happisburgh 15th, and Horsey 17th and south 23rd. Inland singles south Aylmerton 6th and King's Lynn BF 16th.

Three late birds Nov when singles Halvergate Marshes 4th, Burnham Overy Dunes 19th/20th and Blakeney Point 20th, bringing autumn total to around 80 birds, only bettered by 1994 when at least 95 seen.



Tawny Pipit

*Anthus campestris*

*Scarce migrant from southern Europe*

Two typical autumn records in both date and localities, with singles Scolt Head Sept 1st (NML) and West Runton Sept 25th-29th (IP *et al*).

## Tree Pipit

*Anthus trivialis*

### *Migratory breeder and passage migrant*

First arrivals early April when Santon Downham 1st, 3 Roudham Heath 2nd and 2 at both Harling and Roydon Common 3rd. Coastal passage also commenced early with singles south Hunstanton (where spring total of 48 south April 4th-May 18th) and Holkham Meals 4th, but no others until singles Titchwell and Waxham 11th, and 2 south Hunstanton and one Holme 12th. Main coastal passage mid-April to early May when 5 south Hunstanton and singles Holme and Winterton 16th, 3 Holme 27th, 9 south Hunstanton 30th, and in May 2 west Scolt Head and 5 west Burnham Overy Dunes 1st, 14 south Hunstanton, 5 Scolt Head and 2 west Overstrand 3rd, 2 Overstrand 12th, 3 Holme 22nd and 2 Scolt Head 26th where last of spring 31st.

Singing males reported from 13 sites during breeding season including Brettenham Heath, Cockley Cley 3, Croxton Heath 3, Dersingham Bog 8, Drymere (Beechamwall) 2, Harling 2, Roudham Heath 3, Roydon Common 7, Salthouse Heath, Santon Downham 2, Swaffham, Thetford Rifle Range 2 and Weybourne Heath 3. For third consecutive year a singing male present along shingle ridge at Cley just west of coastguards April 11th-22nd. The species was present in 6% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05 in the current NBA as well as during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas Project.

Earliest autumn coastal migrants 2 Beeston Bump Aug 6th, then 2 Holme 9th, 2 Blakeney Point 17th and singles Titchwell 28th, St Benet's Abbey 29th and Scolt Head 31st. Noted on 9 dates Sept most 10th/11th when 14 Blakeney Point, 3 Titchwell and Scolt Head, and 1-2 Burnham Overy Dunes, Warham Greens, Morston, Sidestrand, Trimmingham and Breydon. More than usual during Oct when singles Blakeney Point 5th, Winterton 12th, Scolt Head 14th, Sheringham and Happisburgh 15th, Burnham Deepdale 23rd and Overstrand 24th.

## Meadow Pipit

*Anthus pratensis*

### *Locally common migratory breeder and passage migrant with small numbers in winter*

In first winter period highest counts 80 Roydon Common, 70 Holme, 64 Holkham Bay, 50 Beechamwell, Brancaster Thompson Farm, Fring and Mulbarton, 40 Bintree and 31 Brancaster GM.

Westerly coastal passage in spring slightly later than usual to commence, with first March 15th when 152 Hunstanton, 160 Beeston Bump (0600-0730) and 139 Overstrand (0800-0920). Passage continued on many dates for a further two months, best site Hunstanton where total of 5927 south March 15th-May 23rd, best days 194 March 17th, 487 18th, 267 22nd, 310 23rd, 547 24th, 409 April 4th, 214 6th, 236 10th, 520 12th (3 hrs), 959 13th, 188 29th, 190 30th and 96 May 2nd, (all counts were made in first two hours from dawn unless stated). Largest westerly movements elsewhere: 126 Beeston Bump (0600-0715), 106 Cromer (1 hr 30 mins), 177 Overstrand (0750-0900) and 100 Paston March 17th, 290 Beeston Bump (0545-0715), 257 Cromer (1 hr 30 mins), 265 Overstrand (0750-0910) 18th, 500 Cley 21st, 294 Overstrand (0700-0930) 22nd, and in April 310 Scolt Head and 220 Overstrand 4th, 534 Scolt Head and 330 Sheringham 10th, 883 Scolt Head, 317 Cromer (2 hrs 30 mins) and 70 Overstrand 11th, 275 Scolt Head, 303 Beeston Bump (0555-0655) and 90 Overstrand 12th, 286 Scolt Head 27th and 228 there 29th, and 345 Scolt Head and 62 Blakeney Point 30th.

Numbers much reduced in May when best counts 47 Scolt Head 2nd, where smaller numbers west until 18th. Eastern half of coast also recorded birds moving east on several dates including 300 Paston March 22nd, 150 Overstrand March 24th and 45 April 19th. Few reports of grounded/feeding flocks during spring with 80 Holme March 20th and 48 Holkham Bay April 10th best counts.



Singing males/breeding pairs during breeding season included 90 Scolt Head, 73 Blakeney Point, 72 Welney, 31 mid-Yare RSPB, 23 Titchwell, 11 Cley/Salthouse (6 in fields east of Beach Rd and 5 between East Bank and Iron Rd), 4 Dersingham Bog, 3 Aylmerton (in oil seed rape) and 2 Roydon Common. Clearly coastal dune systems, grazing marshes and heathland in north-west Norfolk are the breeding strongholds for this species; it would be interesting to know the distribution of breeding pairs in dunes along east coast and heathland in Brecks. NBA results showed the species was present in 34% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding flocks began to congregate from mid-Aug when 180 Scolt Head and 50 Brancaster GM. Largest flocks during rest of autumn 232 Cley, 200 Paston, 150 Scolt Head, 130 Long Stratton, 44 Repps-with-Bastwick and 40 Blakeney Point Sept. and in Oct (especially mid-month) 220 Scolt Head, 210 Holkham Bay, 200 Yarmouth, 148 Cley, 120 Sheringham, 80 Blakeney Point, 60 Holme and 57 Salthouse. Overhead passage in autumn from late Aug when 26 Scolt Head and 3 Overstrand 28th, with main passage mid-Sept to early Nov. Best sites: *Hunstanton* 646 south Oct 1st-Nov 22nd including 75 Oct 26th, 74 27th, 65 29th and 36 Nov 12th; *Scolt Head* 2700 west Aug 28th-Oct 23rd, including 78 Sept 12th, 995 13th, 228 14th, 87 Oct 10th, 145 14th and 196 15th; *California* total of 611 south 83 north on 30 dates Sept 13th-Nov 21st, best day 101 south 42 north Sept 13th. Elsewhere best movements 207 east Cromer Sept 21st, 69 west 6 east Overstrand Oct 4th and 60 south Winterton Nov 4th.

Highest counts in final two months of year 80 Roydon Common and 45 East Beckham, with cold weather movement of 20 west Becston Bump Dec 29th.

### **Red-throated Pipit**

*Anthus cervinus*

*Vagrant from northern Europe*

Only record one Burnham Overy Dunes Oct 4th (MAG *et al*).

### **Rock Pipit**

*Anthus petrosus*

*Winter visitor and passage migrant, most probably of the Scandinavian race littoralis*

Under-recorded, highest counts in first winter period (Jan-March) 26 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 25 Holkham Bay, 17 Warham SM, 8 Stiffkey SM, 7 Holme and 5 Wells Hbr; also at this time cold weather movement of 23 west Overstrand March 4th. Occasional birds noted on visual migration on a handful of dates during spring, with latest 7 Titchwell April 10th.

First returning migrants in Sept when 3 Blakeney Point 10th, one Breydon 11th and 3 west Scolt Head 12th. Numbers present at coastal sites increased almost daily until end of Oct, with peak counts 45 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Sept 29th and 250 Oct 15th, 6 Wells Hbr, 9 Warham SM and 10 Blakeney Point all Oct 8th, 15 Wells East Hills 15th and 15 Holkham Gap 16th. Overhead passage as usual best recorded Scolt Head where total of at least 1040 west Sept 12th-Oct 26th, including 148 Oct 3rd, 82 4th, 42 7th, 41 10th, 71 11th, 223 14th, 186 15th, 43 16th and 53 23rd. Best movements elsewhere 11 south Hunstanton Oct 4th, 14 9th and 17 26th, 25 west Holme Sept 25th and 31 Oct 3rd, 12 Sheringham Oct 9th, 10 west Overstrand 3rd and a total of just 16 south on nine dates at California Oct 9th-Nov 7th. Those birds heading west along north coast are presumably heading to the vast areas of saltmarsh around the Wash for the winter.

Only records of note in second winter period 85 Holkham Gap Nov, 48 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Nov and 54 Dec, 54 Warham SM Dec and 12 Holme Nov. The true numbers wintering on saltmarsh along the coast and around the Wash must number several thousand.

Inland records and others away from usual wintering areas included 4 Burgh Castle Jan 4th, 5 Reedham Jan 30th, Haddiscoe March 25th and 2 Nov 5th, Sustead Oct 6th and 8 Breydon Dec 15th.

## Water Pipit

*Anthus spinoletta*

### *Local winter visitor*

In first winter period total of around 70 reported from 20 localities, including 24 Buckenham Marshes, 12 Strumpshaw, 5 Hickling Rush Hills, 4 Cley, Haddiscoe and Hickling Broad, 3 Hockwold Washes and Welney, and 1-2 Burnham Norton, Holkham GM, How Hill, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, Ludham Marshes, Martham Broad, North Wootton, Surlingham Church Marsh, Weybourne, Whitlingham CP and Wissington BF. In April small numbers noted at 7 sites, including 4 Hickling Broad 12th and last of spring How Hill 13th.

First back in autumn Hickling Rush Hills Oct 11th, 2 Burnham Norton 17th and singles Cley 20th, Buckenham Marshes 22nd, Cantley BF 23rd and 5 Strumpshaw 30th. Like start of year best site Nov/Dec Buckenham Marshes where peak count 11 Dec; elsewhere during this period 6 Strumpshaw, 4 Hickling Broad and Hockwold Washes, and 1-2 Breydon, Cley, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh and Titchwell.

## Citrine Wagtail

*Motacilla citreola*

A 1st-winter at Cley Aug 22nd (D&PW *et al*), the sixth county record.

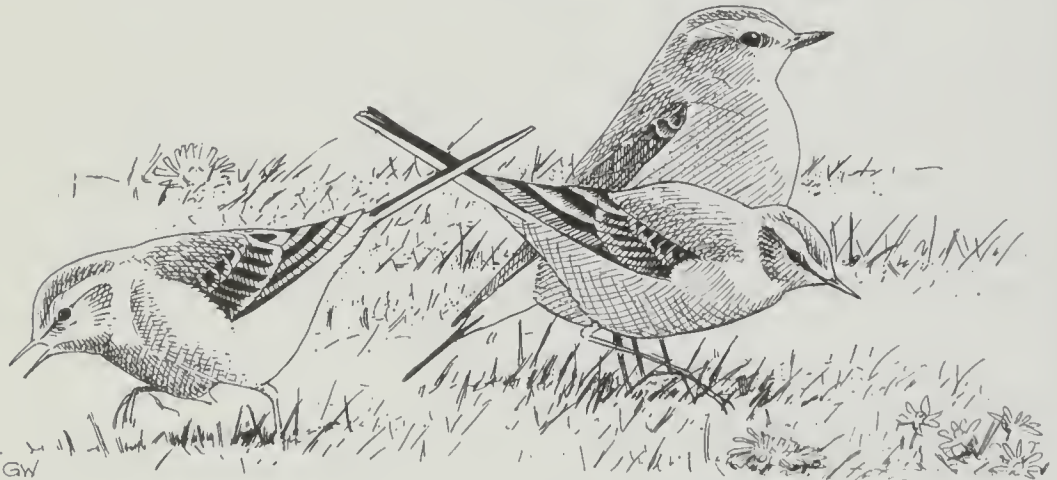
## Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava*

### Yellow Wagtail *M (f) flavissima*

#### *Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant*

First arrival Holme April 1st followed by light movement with no double-figure counts by 23rd. Main spring passage started 25th when 10 west Overstrand followed by: 26th 23 west Scolt Head and 20 West Runton; 27th 19 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 37 west Scolt Head; 28th 17 Snettisham, 66 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 48 west Scolt Head; 29th 58 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 23 west Scolt Head and 14 Beeston Regis; 30th a large movement saw 59 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 37 (25 west and 12 on GM) Holme, 17 Titchwell, an incredible 316 west Scolt Head, 50 west Blakeney Point, 29 Blakeney GM, 59 west Sheringham, 60 West



Yellow Wagtails and Wheatear (Gary Wright)

Runton, 50 Paston and 14 Horsey. Passage continued throughout May with best counts 32 Snettisham CP, 35 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 43 west Scolt Head 2nd, 110 south in 4 hrs Hunstanton, 323 west Scolt Head and 32 west Overstrand 3rd, 58 south in 5 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton and 41 west Scolt Head 18th, 37 west there 19th and 40 south in 4 hrs Hunstanton 20th. Another excellent spring for this species which included at least 1052 west at Scolt Head.

Confirmed breeding pairs at just 7 localities: Gimingham, Limpenhoe 3, Ludham 3, mid-Yare RSPB 6, Repps-with-Bastwick, Welney 31 and West Runton. Breeding suspected at three other localities and attempted breeding at another failed. NBA results showed the species was present in 16% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 19% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

In July 5 west Scolt Head the only coastal movement. Best Aug counts at Welney where 30 25th and 145 28th. Sept passage light with only double-figure counts 10 Holme 5th, 10 Haddiscoe roost 10th and 40 Welney 16th. In Oct singles Titchwell 3rd and 15th, Kelling WM 5th, west Overstrand 8th and 3 Flitcham 23rd. In Nov a very late bird Welney 21st.

### **Blue-headed Wagtail** *M (f) flava*

#### ***Regular migrant from continental Europe, mainly in spring***

An early bird at Cantley April 3rd, then a very light movement from 16th-May 3rd associated with the early main Yellow Wagtail passage. Mainly 1-2 at 10 localities totalling just 14 birds, the exception 5 Blakeney GM 2nd and 3 Scolt Head 3rd. A single at Kelling May 14th and the last Choseley June 10th made it a very poor spring for this race.

### **Grey-headed Wagtail** *M (f) thunbergi*

#### ***Scarce spring migrant from North Fenno-Scandia***

Just five singles of this distinctive and attractive race: Paston April 30th, Scolt Head May 3rd, Titchwell and Waxham 19th, and Cromer 22nd.

### **Grey Wagtail**

*Motacilla cinerea*

#### ***Local breeder, fairly common passage migrant, less common in winter***

Mainly singles recorded at 35 localities Jan/Feb, one site had 2 birds, two 3 and one 4. A light spring passage in March with mainly 1-2 at 9 coastal localities, the exception 3 south Hunstanton 15th and 3 Holme 20th.

Birds on territories from mid-March with at least 21 confirmed breeding pairs (4 down on 2004), at Bayfield Hall, Bintree, Blickling Park Lake, Buckenham Tofts, Corpusty, Dereham, Fakenham, Horstead Mill, Keswick Mill, Marlingford Mill, Narborough, Norwich (New Mills, Quayside, Waterworks and Whitefriars), Santon Downham, Sculthorpe Mill, Tasburgh, Thetford Nunnery Flood, Trowse Mill and Wensum Lodge. At least 12 more pairs at traditional and other suitable localities where some may have bred.

First post breeding dispersal noted early Sept, with a steady light passage throughout month at mainly north and east coast localities; counts above three: 4 east Wells 13th, and 5 Beeston Regis and 4 Gaywood 25th. Passage increased throughout Oct with counts above three: at Hunstanton 5 south in 2 hrs 4th, 5 south 3 north in 2 hrs 30 mins 8th, 4 south in 2 hrs 30 mins 10th and 7 south in 2 hrs 30 mins 11th; elsewhere 4 west Burnham Overy Dunes 5th, with 5 west 6th, 8 west Holme, 11 west Scolt Head, 9 east Overstrand and 5 south California 7th, 6 west Beeston Regis (0830-1030) and 6 east one west Sheringham 8th, 8 west Scolt Head and 5 south California 10th, 5 Holme and 4 Cantley 15th.

In second winter period recorded at just 22 widespread localities Nov/Dec.



**Pied Wagtail** *M (a) yarrellii*

***Common breeding resident and passage migrant***

At start of year 710 Norwich Thickthorn Services roost Jan 3rd, 480 Feb 4th, 660 11th, 600 18th and 620 25th. Roosts elsewhere included 60 Hoveton Jan 5th, 200 Brancaster Hbr 16th and 25th, 30 Cley 26th, 80 Titchwell Feb 1st and 205 March 18th, 380 Swaffham Feb 21st and 200 March 8th, 200 Strumpshaw March 16th and 65 East Ruston 28th. Other notable winter gatherings 50 Dereham Rush Meadows STW and 41 feeding in field Wighton Jan 1st, 28 Norwich Airport in harvested beet field 8th and 32 on 10th, 50 Titchwell 13th, 70 Brancaster Thompson Farm 16th, 85 Saxlingham Nethergate Feb 10th and 74 Holt STW 13th.

Main westerly spring movement in March with 19 Holme 14th, 75 Beeston Bump (0600-0730) 15th and 22 (0600-0715) 16th, 24 Holme and 21 Cromer also 16th, 38 Beeston Bump (0600-0715) and 46 Cromer in 1 hr 30 mins 17th, 29 Holme, 27 Cromer in 1 hr 30 mins and 20 Overstrand 18th, 68 Sheringham and 11 Beeston Bump 19th, 20 Holme (0700-0900) 20th, 23 Beeston Bump (0600-0715) 22nd and 49 (0600-0730) 23rd, 22 Cromer in 1 hr 30 mins and 15 Overstrand 25th. Equivalent southerly movement at Hunstanton where 2 hr counts produced 48 March 15th, 50 17th, 49 18th, 75 22nd, 63 23rd and 97 24th. At this site total of 538 recorded moving south March 15th-May 3rd.

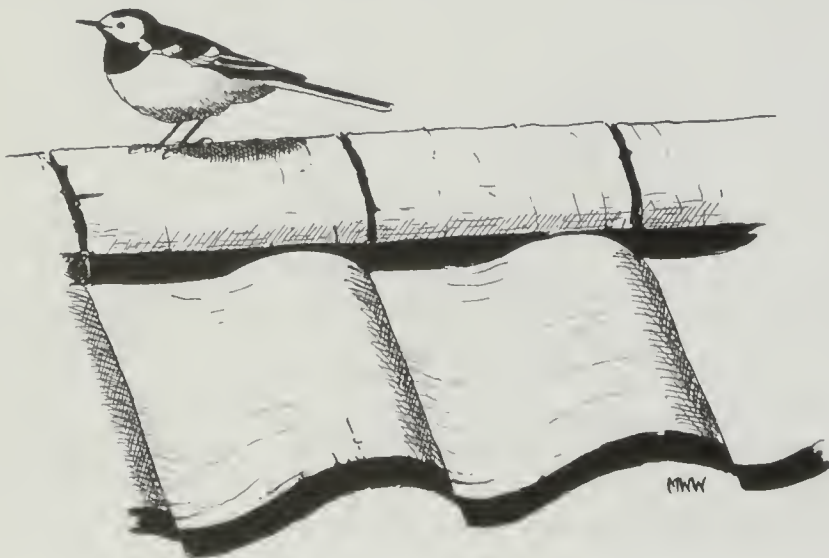
Movements/gatherings of note in April 27 west Scolt Head 3rd, 19 on 11th and 80 at Boughton Fen roost 21st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Notable summer counts 27 west Sheringham July 17th, 54 Scolt Head 24th, 25 Pentney GP Aug 26th and 80 there Sept 8th, 300 Brancaster Hbr roost Sept 17th, 47 Brancaster GM 18th and 52 Sheringham GC 19th.

Autumn movements of note 17 west Holme Sept 21st, 15 west Cromer 22nd, 16 south in 2 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton Oct 8th, 19 south 3 north California 10th and 14 south there 11th.

The Norwich Thickthorn Services roost remained unoccupied at end of year. Elsewhere 300 Brancaster Hbr Oct 6th, 210 Nov 6th and 240 Dec 4th, 120 Blakeney Point and 177 Strumpshaw Oct 30th and 107 Nov 6th, 70 Cley Dec 11th and 40 High Kelling 21st.



Pied Wagtail (*Martin Woodcock*)

## White Wagtail *M (a) alba*

*Regular passage migrant from continental Europe; has bred*

First 6 at Brancaster Staithe March 16th. Main spring passage March 20th-May 2nd with 1-5 at 20 localities but 9 west Scolt Head April 9th, 9 there 26th and 11 on 28th, 7 Blakeney Point and 18 there 30th, 11 Titchwell May 1st and 10 Scolt Head 2nd. Light passage continued May 3rd-19th with 1-3 at 6 localities with 5 Titchwell 6th; latest 2 Scolt Head May 26th.

In autumn an excellent series of records: 2 Cley Aug 16th, one Sept 13th, juv 19th and an adult 21st/22nd, Titchwell Sept 5th, Cantley BF 10th, 2 adults and 3 juvs Aylmerton 18th-25th and an adult Oct 9th, Overstrand Sept 22nd, Ranworth Broad Oct 7th-24th, Scolt Head Oct 17th and Cromer 19th.

A 1st-winter Holt Dec 23rd/24th (AMS) is the first winter record for Norfolk.

## Waxwing

*Bombycilla garrulus*

*Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor*

Following the large invasion of autumn/winter 2004 reports widespread in first winter period although relatively small numbers involved compared with elsewhere in Britain. Largest numbers: *Jan* 31 Norwich Chapelfield 1st with 20 still 9th, 15 south Saddlebow 2nd, 6 Old Hunstanton 6th, 20 Snettisham 9th, 25 Bawburgh 18th, 10 west Great Ryburgh 20th, 15 Saddlebow RC 30th and 20 Fakenham (Co-op car park) 31st; *Feb* 8 Swaffham all month, 21 east Belton Marsh 8th and 6 Strumpshaw 20th; *March* 7 Swaffham 1st/2nd, 20 Norwich Southern Bypass 12th, 31 Kelling Heath 13th, 12 Postwick 15th increasing to 17 by 22nd and 20 by 29th, 10 Snettisham 20th, 14 Watlington 27th with 13 still 31st, and 13 Norwich Dussingdale Estate 28th. Smaller numbers first half April with 10 Watlington 1st, 11 Hellesdon 3rd and 9 Norwich Boundary Road 10th. Only reports thereafter were singles at Briston, Cley and Titchwell all 30th, with last of spring Beeston Regis May 12th.

Other sites where noted during this period: Blackborough End, Dereham, Fakenham (Morrisons car park), Hindolveston, Holme, Honing Lock, North Pickenham, Norwich (Harvey Lane, Riverside Road and Roundtree Way), Sprowston, Stiffkey, Stiffkey Fen, Thornham, Thorpe St Andrew, Warham Greens and Wymondham.

First autumn birds 2 in off sea Scolt Head Oct 16th. Apart from one Happisburgh Nov 2nd, no further reports until third week Nov when noted widely with best counts 10 west Brancaster Staithe and 13 Titchwell 18th, 26 Holme (two flocks) 19th, 13 Overstrand 19th-21st, 13 south Hunstanton, 15 Sea Palling (with 13 still 22nd) and 8 Waxham 20th, and 16 Waxham 30th. In Dec small numbers at many localities with highest totals 14 Ormesby St Margaret 1st, 9 Stiffkey Fen 4th, 7 Norwich Amptill Street 5th, 5 Yarmouth 6th, 8 Norwich Carshalton Road and 5 Cromer 10th, 17 Norwich Muriel Road 11th, 12 How Hill Reedham Marshes 14th, 5 Horsey 20th and 5 Yarmouth 31st.

Elsewhere during last two months of year reported at: Beechamwell, Binham, Brancaster Thompson Farm, Caister, Cley, Docking, East Beckham, East Ruston, Haddiscoe, Hillington, Hoveton, How Hill, King's Lynn, Langham, Lessingham, Lower Kelling, Melton Constable, Narborough, Paston, Pensthorpe, Potter Heigham, Sheringham, Sidestrand, Strumpshaw, Ten Mile Bank, Thornham, Thorpe Marriott and Weybourne.

## Dipper

*Cinclus cinclus*

*Almost annual winter visitor in very small numbers*

One of undetermined race on some drained ponds at Cockley Cley Dec 12th - not present once ponds were refilled (MHa).

## **Wren**

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

### ***Very common resident and passage migrant in small numbers***

No reports regarding first winter period but more records relating to breeding. Number of pairs/singing males: 27 Dersingham Bog, 40 Flordon, 26 Hoveton Hall, 24 Pensthorpe, 20 Saxlingham Thorpe and Smockmill Common, 40 Scolt Head (37 in 2004), 80 Swanton Novers and 44 Welney (41 in 2004). NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 21 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Just one autumn report of 45 Scolt Head Oct 6th.

## **Dunnock**

*Prunella modularis*

### ***Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn***

A clear influx along north coast on March 28th with 30 Blakeney Point and 50 Sheringham. At latter site 8 new birds trapped and observers commented that 'there were lots everywhere'. In April 2 continental birds ringed Weybourne 2nd.

During breeding season number of pairs/singing males: 10 Blakeney Point (8 in 2004), 12 Hoveton Hall and 62 Scolt Head (64 in 2004). NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 8 pairs per occupied tetrad.

First autumn migrants noted Overstrand where 3 west Sept 6th followed by 2 west 22nd, 8 east 25th and one in off sea 28th. Elsewhere in month 8 new birds trapped Wells Green 21st was also suggestive of movement. In Oct further migrants 10 south Beeston Bump 1st, 5 east Overstrand 7th, 4 south Hunstanton, 6 west Scolt Head and 6 south California 10th with 4 also south latter site 23rd. Also at Wells Green 9 new birds trapped 4th. Autumn counts at Scolt Head: *Sept* 80 on 10th and 60 11th; *Oct* 55 on 6th, 90 15th and 35 16th. Totals at other sites in Oct of 50 Paston 6th, 25 Eccles and 20 Sea Palling 7th, and 15 Sheringham and 30 Winterton 15th.

## **Robin**

*Erithacus rubecula*

### ***Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn***

Small spring passage along north coast where Holme 20 March 26th, 25 27th and 15 31st, Salthouse 8 26th and Waxham 10 April 1st.

In breeding season few reports received but 24 pairs Hoveton Hall, 11 Dersingham Bog and 94 Swanton Novers. NBA results showed the species was present in 96% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 15 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage Sept 10th-Oct 22nd with peaks of 31 Scolt Head and 22 Blakeney Point Sept 10th, and 35 Holme 11th; notable influx in mid-Oct with 150 Holkham Meals, 70 Sheringham and 100 Winterton on 15th (increasing to 200 following day), and 30 Burnham Overy Dunes and 40 Eccles 16th. By 22nd 50 still at Winterton.

## **Thrush Nightingale**

*Luscinia luscinia*

### ***Vagrant from eastern Europe and western Russia***

One trapped Holme Oct 7th (JAn SBa AP *et al*). Recorded for fourth year in succession; the tenth county record.



## Nightingale

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

### **Local migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant**

The earliest-ever arrival in song Pentney Heath March 28th (reportedly present from 24th), up to a week ahead of previous earliest record. Singles Pentney GP March 29th and Wissington BF April 1st were also very early and at least ten days ahead of next arrivals 2 Salthouse Heath 12th. Passage birds (mostly singles) in April at Holme 16th, Sheringham 22nd, Stiffkey Fen 23rd, Walsey Hills 27th, Cley and Scolt Head 30th, and in May Thornham 8th.

Between end April and early June singing males on breeding territories at Blackborough End (2), Boughton Fen, Castle Acre, Cley, Cranwich GP, Didlington, Foulden Common, Hedenham, Holme (2), Kelling Heath, Marham, Middleton, Narborough (2), Pentney GP (6), Quidenham, Eccles Heath (2), North Runcton, Roydon Common, Salthouse Heath (5), Stanford TA (3) and West Winch. Dramatic decrease in numbers at Roydon Common (from 10 singing males in 2003) and none at all at East Winch Common, possibly due to egg-collector activities. NBA results showed the species was present in 7% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 15% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Sole autumn record, single at Stiffkey SM Sept 10th/11th.

## Black Redstart

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

### **Rare migratory breeder, regular passage migrant and occasional in winter**

Singles at three sites (Eccles, Harpley and Stiffkey) during Jan/Feb; notable increase between March 2nd and May 13th with singles at 34 sites with max 3 Holme March 21st and Waxham 23rd.

In breeding season singing males at five sites in Yarmouth April 11th-June 5th, and pair from April 25th. No reports from former stronghold at Yarmouth South Denes but singles elsewhere in summer Horsey June 8th, Blakeney Point July 9th, Snettisham 10th and Norwich 13th.

Autumn passage Aug 6th-Nov 27th comprised singles at 18 sites with max 3 Scolt Head Oct 6th/7th. No reports during second winter period.

## Redstart

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

### **Local migratory breeder (most in Brecks), common passage migrant**

An extremely early individual Thetford Forest March 26th followed by others Yarmouth April 1st, Aylmerton 2nd and Overstrand 3rd. Singles Morston, Cley and Pentney 7th, and Kelling Heath 9th were also comparatively early. More continuous passage April 11th-May 29th with singles at 29 sites and up to 4 Scolt Head and Blakeney Point April 30th.

In breeding season an apparent increase at Stanford TA with at least 55 singing males compared with about 20 in previous two years; one pair also bred at Swanton Novers. Singing males also present East Wretham Heath April 22nd-May 22nd (3 on May 16th) and Felbrigg April 23rd-June 1st.

Autumn passage from Aug 10th largely uneventful with up to 3 at 30 sites; clear arrival along north coast on Sept 10th with peaks of 43 Scolt Head, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 15 Holkham Meals, 50 Blakeney Point, 20 Overstrand, 10 Winterton and up to 8 at 14 other sites. Last of year Scolt Head Oct 24th.

## Whinchat

*Saxicola rubetra*

### **Common passage migrant; has bred in past**

First of spring Scolt Head April 22nd, was almost a week later than in recent years and in contrast to other migrants; between then and May 26th up to 3 at 25 sites, peaks 9 Scolt Head, 7 Titchwell and 4 at five other sites April 30th/May 1st. Late birds included a singing male (chased off by resident Stonechats) Roydon Common June 5th and Kelling WM 9th.

Autumn passage Aug 11th-Nov 1st mostly of small numbers (fewer than 10) at 36 coastal sites with two notable exceptions. Pronounced arrivals of 26 Holme, 43 Scolt Head, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 56 Blakeney Point, 10 Sidestrand and 14 Horsey on Aug 31st and up to 8 at nine other sites, followed by 48 Scolt Head, 50 Burnham Overy Dunes, 60 Blakeney Point, 16 Sheringham, 45 Overstrand and up to 12 at 17 other north and east coast sites on Sept 10th/11th. Passage numbers thereafter mostly of singles except 7 Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 24th. Inland singles Roydon Common Aug 11th and Sept 18th, Norwich Airport 3 Sept 3rd-5th and single 18th-23rd, Potter Heigham Marshes Sept 5th, Welney 15th and 2 on 25th, and Hockwold Washes and Mautby 21st. Last of autumn Holkham Meals Nov 1st.

## Stonechat

*Saxicola torquatus*

### **European Stonechat *S (t) hibernans***

#### ***Small but increasing breeding population; regular passage migrant, local in winter***

At start of year present at 29 mainly coastal and Broads sites, max 5 Buckenham Marshes Feb 13th, 4 Cley Jan 15th and 4 throughout Jan and Feb Roydon Common; up to 3 at 11 other sites. Noticeable passage or return to breeding areas in March, mid-month peaks of 5 Overstrand 15th, 12 Sheringham 16th, 7 Holme 17th, 8 Heacham, 6 Kelling WM, 10 Weybourne and 6 Beeston Bump all 18th, 6 Roydon Common 19th, and also up to 4 at nine other sites during month. Passage less obvious April as most birds on territory, individuals considered to be continental *S t rubicola* Cley 10th and Scolt Head May 12th-end June.

In breeding season pairs reported from coastal and Brecks sites with a breeding population of approximately 42 pairs, the highest number since the 19th century: Burnham Overy Dunes (2), Dersingham Bog (2), Heacham, Roydon Common (3), Stanford TA (8), Waxham-Winterton (6) and Weybourne. In Thetford Forest total of 34 pairs (an increase from 24 in 2004 and 14 in 2003) with 19 pairs in Norfolk.

As in previous years autumn passage largely obscured by gradual dispersal from breeding areas. In Sept peak of 12 Horsey 18th probably comprised birds of local origin, elsewhere 2 Thornham Point/Titchwell 1st, 2 Scolt Head 18th, 3 Ten Mile Bank 24th and 4 Caister 25th, may have been on passage. Similar pattern in Oct with most records from breeding localities and low peaks elsewhere, 6 Scolt Head 5th and 8th, 4 Blakeney Point 11th, 8 Sheringham 17th and 6 Cley 26th. At start of second winter period present at 15 coastal and 10 inland sites; peaks of 7 Brancaster GM Nov 6th, 6 Snettisham Dec 4th, 5 Cley 24th, 4 Welney Dec 5th and 4 Salthouse-Kelling throughout.

## Wheatear

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

### ***Increasingly rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant***

First of year Titchwell March 11th, an average first date, followed by two Caister 13th and singles Salthouse and Cromer 16th. By month end recorded at 14 sites with peaks of 6 Yarmouth South Dunes 17th, Holme 21st and Snettisham CP 28th, with 12 Blakeney Point 31st. Steady passage throughout April; notable influx, most probably of Greenland birds, at end of month and into May, peaks of 27 West Runton 27th, 53 Scolt Head 28th, 30 Blakeney

Point 29th increasing to 60 there 30th, also 46 Titchwell, 124 Scolt Head, 90 Sheringham and 100 West Runton all on 30th. On May 1st 30 Snettisham, 24 Holme, 25 Burnham Overy Dunes, 50 Kelling WM, 23 Beeston Regis and 23 Bacton. Smaller influx later in mid-May with 22 Scolt Head, 22 Blakeney Point and 21 Winterton on 15th, and 30 Waxham 18th. Small numbers on passage into early June with last of spring Pentney 15th.

In breeding season total of 4 pairs Stanford TA. Subsequently singles (most probably birds from further north) mid-July North Wootton 15th/16th, Horsey 16th and Snettisham 17th-27th.

Autumn passage throughout Aug (from 3rd) and early Sept very light with up to 9 at 12 sites. Definite arrival on coast Sept 10th with peaks of 115 Scolt Head, 40 Burnham Overy Dunes, 120 Blakeney Point, 20 Kelling WM, 34 Sheringham, 150 Overstrand and 54 California, most of which quickly moved on with greatly reduced numbers in following days; 40 Cley on 15th may have been lingering birds. Passage thereafter very light, mostly up to 4 at 28 sites; last of year single Breydon Nov 7th.

## **Desert Wheatear**

*Oenanthe deserti*

### ***Vagrant from North Africa or central Asia***

A female at Eccles Nov 1st-4th (NBB *et al*)) followed by a male Caister Nov 19th-22nd (JVB AGr *et al*). The first since 2000, taking the number of county records into double figures.

## **Ring Ouzel**

*Turdus torquatus*

### ***Passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; exceptional in winter***

First of a poor spring for this species Lynn Point March 19th with a further 5 coastal singles up to month end. In first half of April 1-4 at 24 widely-scattered sites with peak counts 3 Scolt Head and Beeston Bump 3rd, and 4 Overstrand 4th. Main movement 20th-25th, peak counts being 4 Scolt Head 20th, 4 Thurne 22nd-24th, 4 Heacham and Horsey 23rd, 5 Kelling Heath also 23rd and 6 there following day. In May, 3 Beeston Bump 1st highest count with 1-2 at a further 15 sites, the last being single Holme 30th. As usual, most records from coast but also noted at following inland sites: Brooke, Catfield, Corpusty, Dersingham Bog, Fersfield, Hillborough, Hockwold Washes, Itteringham, Lessingham, Leziate, Loddon, Methwold, Roydon Common, Runham, South Creak, Thetford, Thurne and Weeting Heath.



Ring Ouzel (*Richard Johnson*)



A good autumn with first Blakeney Point Sept 3rd (with 3 there 10th) followed by singles Caister 13th and Wells East Hills 17th. No further records until Oct 1st when single Warham Greens. Main passage from mid-month when present daily at many sites across the county. Highest counts 6 Scolt Head 15th, 6 Wells East Hills 16th, 5 Brancaster 17th, and 12 Warham Greens 22nd with 6 still there 24th. Singles still in early Nov Bressingham Common, California, Cromer, Dickleburgh, Kelling, Stiffkey, Potter Heigham and Titchwell, with final birds of year 3 California 7th.

Partial albino Sheringham Oct 28th with white patches on nape.

## **Blackbird**

*Turdus merula*

### ***Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor***

Spring movement peaked in late March when 125 Holme and 75 Scolt Head 26th, 300 Holme and 130 Blakeney Point 27th, and 100 Blakeney Point 28th.

Breeding: 15 pairs Hoveton Hall and 22 singing males Welney (20 in 2004). NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 26 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Single Scolt Head Sept 22nd may have been an early migrant but first real indication of autumn passage Oct 9th when 30 Lynn Point. Main influx from Oct 15th with peak counts 1000 Holme, 350 Scolt Head, 700 Holkham Meals, 300 Overstrand, 3000 Bacton and 500 Happisburgh. Continued heavy passage Oct 16th/17th with 1250 Holme, 1100 Scolt Head, 520 Blakeney Point and 380 Sheringham, plus three-figure counts from a further 4 sites. Second wave of migrants Oct 24th when 700 Holme, 1800 Scolt Head, 1000 in off sea between Cley and Blakeney Point and 100 Overstrand.

Cold weather movement noted late Dec when 500 in off sea Overstrand 28th-31st.

## **Fieldfare**

*Turdus pilaris*

### ***Common passage migrant and winter visitor***

At start of year peak count 300 King's Lynn BF Jan 1st. Gradual build-up through March when main concentrations 250 Little Ryburgh 16th, 400 Wereham 17th, 200 Hillborough 22nd and 200 Swanton Novers 23rd. Bulk of departing birds in last few days of March when 400 Blakeney Point and Overstrand 26th, 150 Holme 27th, 500 east Ormesby St Margaret and 620 High Kelling 28th, and 1000 Brettenham Heath 31st. During April largest flock just 120 Holkham Park 23rd with double-figure counts from 7 other sites. Singles in early May Blakeney Point, Harpley and Thornage with last of spring Potter Heigham 21st.

First of autumn an early bird Ten Mile Bank Aug 11th plus a further single Blakeney Point 31st. Small numbers at 7 sites during Sept but main influx from Oct 24th when 1500 Holme, 10,000 in off sea Titchwell prior to 1300 hrs, 6920 in off sea Scolt Head, 2000 Blakeney Point, 3000 in off sea Sheringham and Overstrand; also 4500 thrushes (mainly Redwings and Fieldfares) in off sea West Runton same day. Further wave of migrants during second half of Nov when highest counts 1046 west Titchwell 14th in just 30 mins, 1250 Holme 17th, 1382 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton 18th with 2038 south in 2 hrs 30 mins at same site 20th, 1000 Thornham 21st and 1000 west Brancaster 22nd.

In early Dec 300 Holme 6th/7th while peak count inland 800 How Hill 22nd. Cold weather influx 28th-31st when 200-300 Overstrand and 500 Holme 29th/30th.



Long-billed Godwit - a summering individual at Cley. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Long-tailed Skua - a juvenile over Blakeney Point. (*Richard Porter*)

Lesser Crested Tern was seen at several coastal sites in July. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Ross's Gull - the second County record was on Blakeney Point on the last day of the year. *(Steve Gantlett)*

Iceland Gull - this immature bird was a popular visitor to West Norfolk. *(Pat Wileman)*

Puffin - another rarely photographed species in the County. *(Pat Wilemen)*







Alan's first Little Swift roosted overnight at Cromer in November. Left (*Alan Tate*), right (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Hoopoe - an extremely obliging bird in a farmyard at Happisburgh. (*Neil Bowman*)





Green Woodpecker - a juvenile. (*Neil Bowman*)

Wryneck - this bird visited several gardens in Cley during September. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





## Song Thrush

*Turdus philomelos*

### *Common resident and passage migrant; recently decreasing*

Evidence of small-scale return Scolt Head peaking at 28 April 20th and final bird of spring there May 15th.

Breeding: at East Tuddenham one observer commented that numbers seem to be increasing while in Thetford Forest the population continues to thrive in the thicket-stage plantations. Elsewhere 9 pairs Swanton Novers and 6 pairs Hoveton Hall. NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

First autumn migrant Blakeney Point Sept 4th where 4 10th and 11 Scolt Head same day; subsequently 20 Warham Greens 19th. Further small-scale movement from Oct 6th when 48 Scolt Head, 50 Blakeney Point and 58 between Cley and Walsey Hills. Main movement Oct 15th when 3000 Holme, 6500 in off sea Holkham Meals and 2400 Bacton, with three-figure counts at Scolt Head, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point and Overstrand. Smaller numbers following day when 160 Scolt Head, 100 Burnham Overy Dunes and 400 Eccles. Final movement of autumn Oct 24th when 120 Scolt Head, 1000 in off sea Blakeney Point (0900-1500), 500 in off sea Cley (1145-mid pm) and 200 Overstrand.

## Redwing

*Turdus iliacus*

### *Common passage migrant and winter visitor*

Highest counts in early part of year 150 Swanton Novers Jan 9th, 100 Potter Heigham Jan 23rd, 100 Bintree Feb 13th, 100 Grimston Warren Feb 27th and 130 Lakenham March 3rd. Evidence of return passage March 19th when 100 in off sea Cromer GC in heavy mist. Inland 210 north in small groups East Tuddenham 22nd and 200 Hoveton the following day. Main exodus March 26th/27th when 250 Holme, 240 Blakeney Point, 300 grounded in fog Overstrand and 250 Paston. In April, following 8 Scolt Head 2nd just 3 further singles with final bird Scolt Head 27th.

First of autumn Holkham Meals Sept 21st followed by small numbers at 8 sites during first half of Oct. Main movement commenced Oct 14th when 1000 west Brancaster, 970 New Costessey and 853 south-west Norwich. Increasing numbers following day with peak counts 5,000 Holme, 3500 Scolt Head, 8000 Holkham Meals, 1000 Wells East Hills, 1150 West Runton, 2500 Overstrand and 8000 Bacton. Continued movement 16th when peak counts 1500 Holme and 1250 Scolt Head. Major influx Oct 24th when 2000 Holme, 25,210 in off sea Scolt Head (although this represented coverage of just one-third of the island), 10,000 Titchwell prior to 1300 hrs, 5500 in off sea Blakeney Point (0900-1500), 8000 in off sea Cley in 3 hrs 30 mins, 1000 Sheringham and 1500 Overstrand.

At year end, cold weather movement when 350 Overstrand Dec 28th-31st and 500 west in small flocks Beeston Bump 29th.

## Mistle Thrush

*Turdus viscivorus*

### *Common resident and partial migrant*

Spring movement non-existent with just two birds noted east Overstrand March 19th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad. Usual post breeding flocks from June 12th when 15 North Runcton. Increasing numbers during July when 40 Easton 15th, 40 Flitcham 23rd and 33 Beeston St Lawrence 27th. Peak numbers in Aug when 85 Edingtonthorpe 22nd and 50 Sealthorpe 28th, with double-figure counts from Great Cressingham, Roydon and Runhall.



Small-scale movement from Sept 13th when 2 south Overstrand and 12 Brancaster 24th, with light passage continuing through Oct with max 15 south Sidestrand 6th and 10 south Hunstanton in 3 hrs 26th.

## **Cetti's Warbler**

*Cettia cetti*

### ***Broads breeding population established since 1974***

In first winter period noted away from traditional sites at Lopham Fen Jan 30th, Boughton Fen Feb 8th and Welney Feb 17th, with further records there March 17th and 23rd.

With yet another mild winter decline in records from north coast and Wensum Valley somewhat surprising. However county-wide total of only 117 singing males March-July far from true reflection of species' present status as hugely under-recorded in Broads, where only 98 reported with virtually no records from rivers Bure, Chet and Waveney and few from Ant. In east of county again at Waxham and Yarmouth Gapton Hall Road, with additional males Flordon Common April/May and R Yare by Norwich Cattle Market. Singing birds also noted in Wensum Valley at Colney Pits, Costessey Fish Farm, Lenwade (2) and Swanton Morley GP. Along north coast singing males at Titchwell (4), Burnham Norton (2), Blakeney GM, Cley Glaven valley and Cley/Walsey Hills (2). At Weybourne present Jan until mid-April but no song and no breeding. NBA results showed the species was present in 5% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 3% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Later in summer/autumn migrant/dispersing birds at Holme Aug-Nov, male heard twice Weybourne Sept and female ringed there Oct 6th with occasional birds until end of year, single Burnham Overy Staithe Sept 11th, Brancaster GM Sept 18th, ringed Sheringham Oct 8th, Salthouse Oct 9th-14th, Welney Oct 9th to end of month with 2 Nov 7th, and 2 Holkham Meals Oct 19th with single there Nov 6th.

## **Grasshopper Warbler**

*Locustella naevia*

### ***Summer visitor and scarce passage migrant***

First Strumpshaw April 3rd, the earliest county example by three days, no others until Beeston Bump 10th, 3 Catfield Fen 12th, Waxham 13th, Winterton 15th and Snettisham, Beeston Bump, Horsey and Hickling Rush Hills 16th. Arrival continued apace during rest of month, with records from 30 sites by month end, including 6 Snettisham CP and 5 Hickling Weavers Way 27th, and 5 Hockwold Washes and 4 Holme, Holkham Meals and Horsey 30th.

Number of sites and singing males down significantly on previous year, with 113 males reported from 53 localities; most notable was large reduction in numbers reported from mid-Yare RSPB, whilst declines also noted at Holkham NNR and Titchwell. Singing birds: Beeston Bump, Blakeney GM, Boughton Fen 2, Brancaster GM, Buckenham Tofts, Burnham Norton, Catfield Fen 3, Cley, Cromer GC, Dersingham Bog 4, East Ruston King's Fen, Foulden Common, Great Ryburgh, Heacham, Hedenham, Hempton, Hickling Broad Complex 10, High Kelling, Hockwold Washes 6, Holkham NNR 6 (2 Burnham Overy, 4 Holkham), Holme 4, Horning Waterworks, Horsey 4, How Hill, Kelling, Langford, Long Stratton, mid-Yare RSPB 23, Nar Valley Fishcries, Newton, Potter Heigham, Reedham Water, Roydon Fen, Salthouse, Scolt Head 3, Snettisham Village, Snettisham CP 6, Southery Fens, Southrepps Common, Stanford TA, Thornham, Titchwell, UEA, Upton Broad 2, Upton Fen, Waxham 2, West Runton, Wheatfen, Whitlingham CP, Winterton 2.

Total of 7 migrants reported during autumn, though many more probably passed through undetected, with 2 Scolt Head Aug 30th and one until Sept 2nd, and singles Blakeney Point

Sept 3rd/4th and 10th/11th, West Runton 5th, Waxham 11th, Holme 12th with last of year Strumpshaw 23rd.



Grasshopper Warbler (Martin Woodcock)

### **Sedge Warbler**

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

#### ***Summer breeder and passage migrant***

First Breydon March 28th, followed in early April by others Breydon 2nd, Hickling Rush Hills, Strumpshaw, Surlingham Church Marsh and Titchwell 3rd, Burnham Norton 5th and Horsey Mere 7th. A slow arrival followed, numbers low at all sites until final week of month when highest count 25 Holme 30th. Most birds had arrived by end of first week in May when reedbeds were once again full of singing birds. Numbers of coastal migrants as usual low, with late birds Overstrand May 18th and 28th, and Blakeney Point 26th/27th; the final destination of these late migrants was presumably Northern Europe, most British breeding birds having been back for nearly a month.

During breeding season, counts of singing males/pairs included: mid-Yare RSPB 163, Welney 53, King's Lynn BF 20, Titchwell 9, Guist 5. Noticeably fewer than usual in Ludham area and only low numbers throughout Broads. NBA results showed the species was present in 32% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 34% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Ringling at Haddiscoe as usual demonstrated the impressive numbers which must pass through the county's reedbeds, with 80 July 23rd (46 ringed), 50 Aug 13th (34 ringed), 80 21st (40 ringed), 30 29th (18 ringed) and 5 late birds ringed Sept 11th. Coastal passage light, with small influx Sept 10th-13th when singles Holme, Scolt Head and Sheringham. Last of year Holkham and Titchwell Sept 21st and Whitlingham CP 24th.

### **Marsh Warbler**

*Acrocephalus palustris*

#### ***Rare in late spring and autumn***

Only record, singing male Scolt Head June 18th (NML NW); this species has become decidedly scarcer in recent years.

Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First of year singing males Titchwell, Holkham and Strumpshaw April 11th, equalling the county's earliest-ever date, followed by others Titchwell and Norwich Marston Marsh 17th, and Strumpshaw 18th. Birds continued to slowly arrive, with 6 Cantley and 3 Nar Valley Fisheries 24th, and 3 Holme 26th by month end. Numbers continued to increase during first half of May with 8 Cantley Marshes 1st, 6 Blickling Park 8th and 12 at Burnham Norton 9th. Small numbers of obvious coastal migrants May and June, including singles Overstrand May 29th, Beeston Bump June 2nd/3rd, Winterton 3rd and Scolt Head 11th.

Singing males during breeding season: Hickling Broad 188, mid-Yare RSPB 176, Welney 77, Titchwell 22, King's Lynn BF 20, Cley 18, Southery Fens 14 (around small reed-fringed reservoir), Pensthorpe 14, Whitlingham CP 10, Cantley Marshes 8, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 4, North Rington and Sennowe Park Lake 3, Guist 2. Once again a number of singing males away from typical breeding habitat, with one in garden Great Ryburgh May 24th-June 2nd and another singing from a blackthorn thicket Crostwick Heath. NBA results showed the species was present in 27% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 23% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Heavy passage once again noted through reedbeds at Haddiscoe late summer/early autumn, where 80 July 23rd (46 ringed), 100 Aug 13th (65 ringed), 60 Aug 29th (44 ringed) and 40 Sept 11th (26 ringed). Small numbers of coastal migrants reported Sept, especially 10th-12th when 1-3 Holme, Scolt Head, Burnham Overy Dunes, Blakeney Point, Eccles and Hopton, with smaller numbers until end of month. Last of year 2 Welney Oct 9th.

Booted Warbler

*Hippolais caligata*

A rare vagrant

One Winterton Sept 1st (PCa PJH *et al*), the fifth county record.

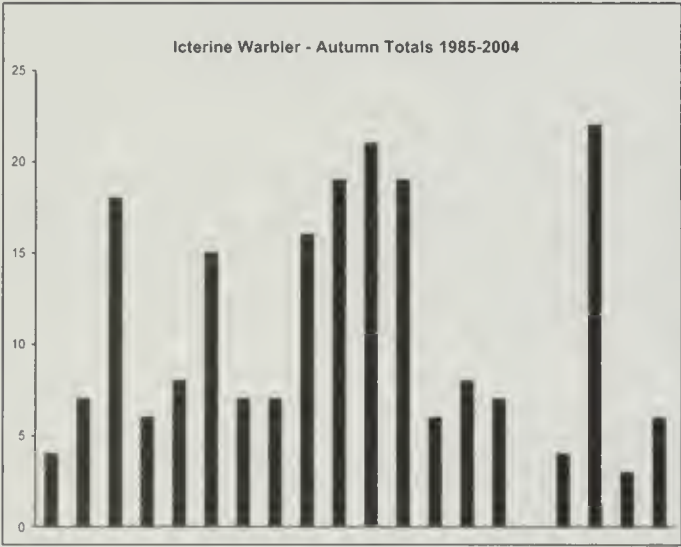
Icterine Warbler

*Hippolais icterina*

A very scarce passage migrant

Another poor year with singles Scolt Head Aug 31st and Sept 10th, and Holkham Meals and West Runton Sept 11th.

2004 Correction: incorrect graph given last year— correct graph now shown:





## Blackcap

*Sylvia atricapilla*

### *Summer breeder and passage migrant; winters in small numbers*

Very few in first winter period with 1-2 Brancaster Staithe, Cley, Heacham, Holme, Holt, Norwich Boston St and Swaffham; whether the small numbers reported represents a genuine reduction in wintering numbers or merely under recording is not known. Observers are encouraged submit all winter records.

Over wintering birds meant it was difficult to determine first spring arrivals but birds at Holme March 19th, Repps-with-Bastwick 23rd, Strumpshaw 24th, Titchwell 25th, and Holme and Old Catton 26th no doubt included some. Few reported during first ten days of April, but birds became increasingly widespread from 10th, highest counts during month 9 Cley 11th, 5 Surlingham 16th, 5 West Winch 17th, 10 Holme 22nd, and 5 Walsey Hills and 10 Sheringham 22nd. Number of coastal migrants poor during spring, with many sites reporting only single birds, other than those breeding, on occasional dates until last Scolt Head May 26th.

Breeding numbers appear to be continuing to increase with numbers at Cley up on last five years with at least a dozen broods within a mile and half of village; increasing numbers also reported at Repps-with-Bastwick. Singing males/territories: Hoveton Hall 19, Repps-with-Bastwick 16, Dersingham Bog and Waveney Forest 8, Whitlingham CP 7. NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return passage of migrants from Aug 21st (Scolt Head), with obvious influx Sept 10th-12th when 6 Holme, 8 Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney Point and 2 Sheringham. A further peak Oct 15th-18th when 25 Holme, 23 Scolt Head, 7 Wells East Hills, 9 Blakeney Point, 4 Kelling and 4 Happisburgh. Also during autumn 10 Titchwell Aug 30th, 5 Eccles Oct 7th and 10 Overstrand Oct 24th.

In final two months of year only records 3 Holme Nov 27th, and 1-2 Sheringham and Garboldisham.

## Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

### *Summer breeder and passage migrant*

As usual one of later breeding migrant warblers to appear, with none until last ten days in April when Lynford Arboretum 22nd, Lopham Fen and Pentney GP 24th, Roydon Common 25th, Holme and Strumpshaw 26th, and at 10 other sites by month end. Typically numbers of coastal migrants during spring low, with 1-2 at eight sites, including late birds Scolt Head May 19th, Blakeney Point 21st, where very late bird June 21st/22nd.

Singing birds reported from good number of sites during May/June, including Ashill, Attleborough, Bittering 2, Castle Acre, Cley Hangs, Crostwick Common, East Wretham Heath, Filby Broad, Foulden Common 3, Hickling, Kelling Heath 2, Kelling Triangle 2, Hoveton Hall 3, King's Lynn Hospital 2, Lynford Arboretum 3, Massingham Heath, Muckleburgh Hill, Nar Valley Fisheries, Newton, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Postwick, Rockland Broad, Roydon Common 4, Salthouse Heath, Santon Downham, Sheringham 6, Snetterton, Sparham 2, South Acre 2, Strumpshaw 2, Surlingham Church Marsh, Swanton Novers, Wayland Wood, Wells Lime Works, West Acre 2, West Newton, Weybourne Wood 2, and Whitlingham CP 4. NBA results showed the species was present in 41% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return passage of migrants underway during second half Aug when Holme 15th, Blakeney Point and Winterton 20th, Scolt Head and Winterton 26th, and Scolt Head 31st. In Sept, following 7 Blakeney Point 3rd, largest numbers 10th-12th when 5 Holme, 2 Titchwell, 21 Scolt Head, 5 Burnham Overy Dunes, 12 Blakeney Point and 2 Yarmouth Cemetery. Small

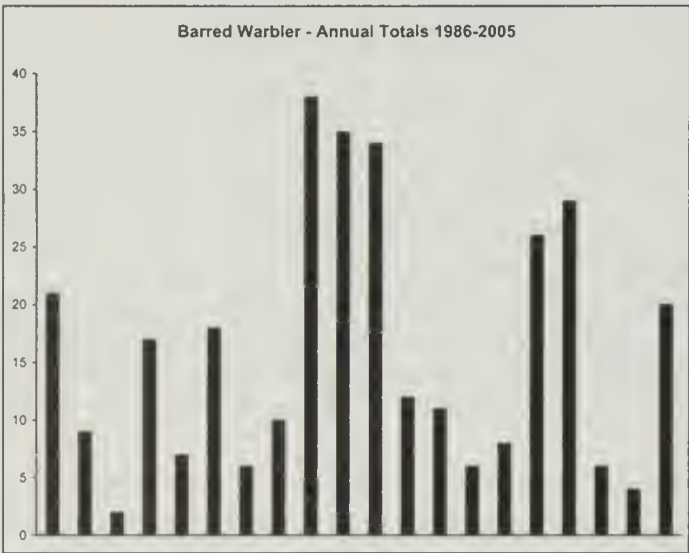
numbers Oct when singles Holme 4th, Paston 6th, Southrepps 7th/8th, Scolt Head 14th-19th, Eccles 15th, Blakeney Point 16th, Weybourne Camp 19th and last Snettisham CP 22nd.

**Barred Warbler**

*Sylvia nisoria*

*Scarce autumn migrant recorded only once in spring*

An excellent autumn with total of 20 reported: *Aug* Burnham Overy Dunes 23rd, Winterton 23rd-28th, Holme 25th, Cley 28th, Snettisham CP 29th, Blakeney Point 31st; *Sept* Burnham Overy 10th-12th, Blakeney Point 10th and 2 on 11th, Waxham 10th, Wells East Hills and Horsey 11th, Scolt Head 11th/12th, Holme 12th, Blakeney GM 18th, Scolt Head 24th-26th, West Runton 25th; *Oct* Waxham 3rd, Holme 14th, West Runton 26th.



**Lesser Whitethroat**

*Sylvia curruca*

*Summer breeder and passage migrant*

One Snettisham CP April 10th equalled earliest county record in 1961; no others until just over week later when Shereford 18th, Snettisham CP and Titchwell 19th, 3 Snettisham, 2 Holme and singles Scolt Head and Weybourne 21st, and next day 4 Holme, 4 Cley and 2 Sea Palling. New arrivals noted daily during rest of April, with records from 22 sites by month end, similar to the 21 reported previous year, including 6 at Snettisham CP and Holme.

Passage in May peaked during first four days when 8 Swainsthorpe, 7 Cromer GC, 5 Holme and Newton, 4 Hopton, and 3 Foul登 Common, Saxlingham, Scolt Head and Tasburgh. Some may have included resident birds, but clearly many were migrants as only 3 during rest of month at Cromer GC and 2 remaining at Swainsthorpe.

Number of singing birds May-July far more widespread than in 2004, with reports from an impressive 46 localities, more than twice number reported previous year. Largest number of singing males/pairs: 5 Holme and Newton, 4 Overstrand, and 3 Burnham Norton, Cromer GC, Harpley Dams and Tasburgh. NBA results showed the species was present in 39% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coastal passage from mid-Aug when Blakeney Point 16th, Scolt Head 17th, Winterton 26th, Hopton 28th and 2 Scolt Head 30th. Passage relatively light during Sept, with distinct peak 10th-12th when 5 Holme, Titchwell and Warham Greens, 4 Eccles, 3 Burnham Overy Dunes and Horsey, and 1-2 Lynn Point, Scolt Head, Morston, Blakeney Point, Kelling WM,

Sheringham, Waxham, Horsey and Winterton. In Oct all but one record 5th-8th, when 3 Holkham Meals and singles Holme, Scolt Head, Blakeney Point, Wells East Hills, Kelling WM and Eccles; only record after this period Morston 18th/19th.

## **Whitethroat**

*Sylvia communis*

### ***Summer breeder and passage migrant***

First returning birds first week April when Narborough 5th (equalling earliest county record), and Cromer and Redenhall 6th, followed by birds Waxham 11th, Warham Greens 12th, and 5 Snettisham, 3 Holme and one Shereford 16th. New arrivals slow over next few days, until widespread arrival in last ten days of month when 8 Snettisham CP 22nd, 8 Holme 24th, and 13 Scolt Head and 12 Waxham 30th. Coastal passage at many sites during May almost non-existent.

The county's breeding population currently appears healthy with excellent numbers reported around Cley during summer, where highest numbers for more than a decade with every hedgerow holding good numbers. Elsewhere increasing numbers at King's Lynn BF and an increase for fourth consecutive year at Scolt Head; in contrast numbers at East Tuddenham fell to just a single pair when usually 3-4. Singing males during breeding season: Welney 38, West Winch 31, King's Lynn BF 15, Scolt Head 14, East Runcton 12, Beeston Regis 11, Great Ryburgh 8-10, Harpley Dams and Roydon Common 8, Sparham NWT 6. NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Main autumn passage at coastal sites mid-Aug to mid-Sept, peak counts 16 California Aug 14th, 12 Cley 18th, 7 Scolt Head 31st and in Sept 6 Holme 1st, 4 Scolt Head 4th, 5 Horsey 5th, 5 Holme 10th and 3 Titchwell 12th. More than usual in Oct with singles Hoveton 4th, Bacton 9th, Blakeney Point 14th, Overstrand 15th, Waxham 17th, Morston 19th and Happisburgh 21st.

## **Dartford Warbler**

*Sylvia undata*

### ***Vagrant from southern England and the Continent***

During first winter period and spring birds recorded at three sites. At one site in north female Jan 21st-March 4th, with a second Feb 27th-March 18th and a singing male Jan 20th-May 11th, but on no occasion was it seen near or with any females. In Brecks male holding territory March 27th-April 16th with a female at another site April 29th. Though breeding could no be proven with this notoriously secretive species, the presence of 3 birds at first locality suggests it may have been attempted. With numbers breeding in Suffolk now exceeding 100 pairs, the future for this species in the county looks rosy and we can only hope it will become common on the county's heathlands.

Migrants/wandering birds: male Broombill (Wimbotisham) Jan 23rd (PDH), male Cley March 19th (AMa *et al*), female Blakeney Point March 28th (JGi *et al*), an elusive bird Morston Oct 15th-Nov 4th, with 2 on 5th until year end.

2004 Addition: California Oct 6th (AGr).

## **Greenish Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochiloides*

### ***Regular vagrant from eastern Europe and western Russia***

Three typical Sept records: Thornham Point 1st (PE AGri *et al*), Blakeney Point 10th (RFP AMS *et al*) and Scolt Head 12th (NML). Details of birds at Holme and Holkham Meals remain unsubmitted.



## Pallas's Warbler

*Phylloscopus proregulus*

### *Rare autumn migrant from Siberia*

Conditions which were conducive for large numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers to arrive did not affect this species, with just three records, Eccles Oct 1st, Holkham Meals 9th and Holme 14th.

## Yellow-browed Warbler

*Phylloscopus inornatus*

### *Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia*

An outstanding autumn, with record total of around 225, nearly twice the 115 recorded in 2003 the previous best year.

First Sept when one Blakeney Point 10th/11th, equalling last year's earliest-ever county example. Also during Sept 2 Holkham Meals 11th, where 1-2 until 14th and then 3 on 18th until month end, and singles Salthouse 17th, Holme 21st, Winterton 24th and 2 on 25th (3 birds), Titchwell 25th-27th, Wells East Hills 25th and Sheringham 29th. These far from unusual numbers during Sept gave little hint of what was to come.

Recorded daily during Oct with birds lingering many days at some sites and dramatic influxes 5th-9th and 14th-17th, when impressive totals of 62 and 51 present in county on 7th and 15th respectively.

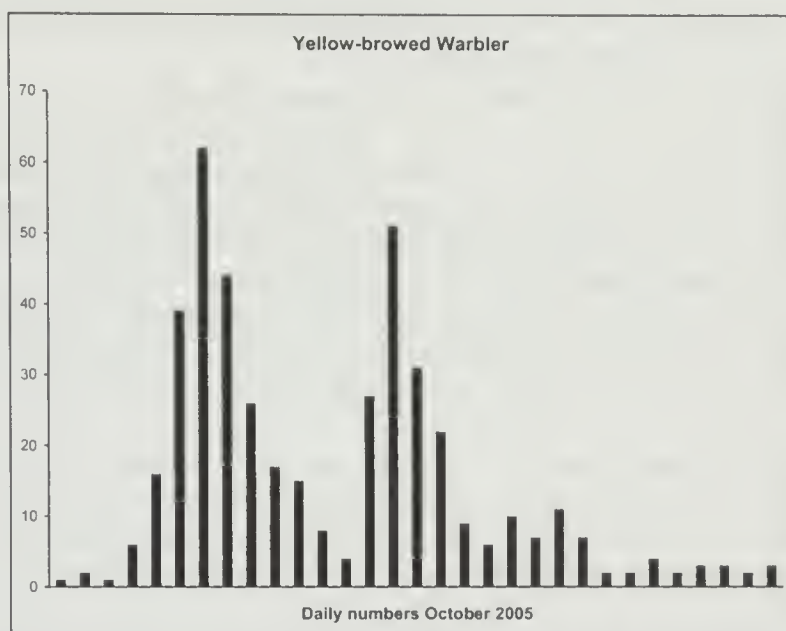
Min site totals during 5th-9th: 3 Holme, 6 Titchwell, 2 Brancaster Thompson Farm, 2 Brancaster Staithe, 17 Holkham Meals, 8 Wells East Hills, 3 Warham Greens, 3 Stiffkey Meals, 3 Morston, 4 Blakeney Village, 5 Cley, 5 Walsey Hills, 2 Salthouse, 3 Sheringham, 6 Overstrand, 2 Happisburgh, 4 Sea Palling, 2 Waxham, 2 Caister GC, and singles Thornham, Brancaster Village, Scolt Head, Burnham Deepdale, Blakeney Point, Blakeney Friary Hills, Kelling WM, Weybourne, Beeston Common, Northrepps, Trimingham, Winterton, Hemsby, California and Yarmouth. Numbers equally widespread during second influx 14th-17th, when totals included: 12 Holme, 2 Titchwell, 5 Brancaster GM/Gypsy Lane, 2 Brancaster, 4 Brancaster Staithe, 3 Scolt Head, 3 Burnham Deepdale, 3 Burnham Overy Dunes, 8 Holkham Meals, 4 Wells East Hills, 2 Warham Greens, 2 Stiffkey Fen, 2 Walsey Hills, 4 Sheringham, 2 Waxham, 2 Winterton, and singles Burnham Norton, Morston, Blakeney Village, Wiveton, Cley, Salthouse, Weybourne, Overstrand, Sidestrand, Happisburgh, Eccles and Hopton. In addition to sites already mentioned birds also recorded during Oct at Cromer and Horsey, with



Yellow-browed Warblers (Gary Wright)

inland records North Walsham 7th, Choseley and Kelling Heath 9th, Downham Market 16th, and Aldborough and Kelling Heath 20th.

Despite unprecedented numbers in Oct, only Nov records Titchwell 1st-11th and Holme 3rd-5th.



Why these birds arrived in large numbers this year and in previous ones is unclear; increased observer coverage must only be a small factor as similar numbers would not have gone unseen in the 1960s or 70s. Perhaps birds are breeding further west than previously, and combined with a good breeding season, the right weather conditions conducive to westwards movement from breeding areas and the right conditions for bringing birds across the North Sea, are all factors which must play a part.

## Dusky Warbler

*Phylloscopus fuscatus*

*Vagrant from Siberia*

Only record one Wells East Hills Oct 19th-23rd (JRMc RMa *et al*).

## Wood Warbler

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

*Passage migrant and rare breeder*

Typical numbers by recent standards with 7 in spring and 4 in autumn. In spring singles Holkham Meals April 29th-May 1st, Waxham 29th, Holme, Titchwell and Sheringham Pretty Corner May 1st, and Holme 6th/7th and 21st/22nd. In autumn all records over a three day period, Blakeney Point Sept 10th, Holkham Meals 10th/11th, with 2 on 12th, and Yarmouth Cemetery 12th.

## Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita*

*Common summer breeder, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor*

In first winter period 1-2 Beeston Regis, Blackborough End Tip, Brancaster Thompson Farm, Cley, Flitcham, Fritton, Great Bircham, Holkham Meals, Langham, Stiffkey Fen, Titchwell, Strumpshaw and Whitlingham CP.

Difficult to be certain of first spring arrivals, but birds noted at several new sites from March 12th, with more widespread arrivals 17th-20th; highest counts by month end 5

Winterton 18th, 6 Holme and 4 Blakeney Point 20th, 11 Holme, 6 Kelling Heath and 10 Woodbastwick 23rd, and 10 Sparham 28th. New arrivals continued to appear during first week of April when 23 Holkham Meals, 25 Holme, 4 Scolt Head and 5 Whitlingham CP 2nd, and 10 Beeston Common, 5 North Wootton, 7 Strumpshaw and 10 Swanton Morley GP 3rd. Also during April 12 Barnhamcross Common 10th and 12 West Winch 17th, with small numbers passing through coastal sites until late May.

Singing males/pairs reported during breeding season: Swanton Novers 27, Hoveton Hall 11, Repps-with-Bastwick 7, Roydon Common 6 (where much reduced on previous years), Dersingham Bog 4, Harpley Dams 4. At Cley breeding numbers were described as above average and more than during past two years, with success high. NBA results showed the species was present in 85% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Passage through coastal sites in autumn from early Aug, but few counts of note until Sept when 15 Holme and 8 Yarmouth 10th, and 30 Holkham 12th and 15 on 17th. Another peak mid-Oct, when 6 Titchwell and 8 Hopton 14th, with smaller numbers also recorded at many other sites at this time.

Birds widespread during final two months of year when 3 Beeston Common Nov 15th and 1-2 Broome, Calthorpe Broad, Caister, Cley, East Ruston Mown Fen, Eccles, Great Ryburgh, Great Witchingham, Hickling Broad, Hoe, Holkham Meals, Horsey, How Hill Reedham Water, Mundesley, Norwich Rosary Road, Reephram, Sheringham, Strumpshaw, Thetford Nunnery Lakes (pale eastern type), Titchwell and Whitlingham CP.

Birds showing characteristics of *tristis* race Blakeney Point Oct 5th (SCJ RFP AMS), Wells East Hills Nov 18th (JRMc) and Weybourne Dec 12th (MP *et al*).

## **Willow Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

### ***Common summer breeder and passage migrant***

One Hoveton Park March 23rd, was first of spring and was quickly followed by others Paston 24th, 3 Potter Heigham and singles Cromer and Kelling Heath 25th, and Rockland Broad 26th, with records from 13 additional sites by month end, including 2 Sparham 28th and 5 Roydon Common 31st. Birds continued to put in first appearance at many new sites during first few days of April and present in good numbers by mid-month, including 8 Hickling Rush Hills 2nd, 8 Winterton and 5 Swanton Morley GP 3rd, 25 Hickling Broad 10th, 15 Winterton 16th, 10 Roydon Common and 11 West Winch 17th, and 14 Strumpshaw 19th. Coastal passage peaked April 30th when 20 Holme, 82 Scolt Head, 30 Blakeney Point, 30 Sheringham and 10 West Runton, when also 4 in open fields Aylmerton. Movement through coastal sites continued until late May, peak counts 20 Holme and 17 Scolt Head 1st, and 15 Holme, 12 Scolt Head and 20 Blakeney Point 3rd.

Breeding season reports included singing males/pairs: mid-Yare RSPB 39, Swanton Novers 33, Dersingham Bog 19, Pensthorpe 9, Welney 9, Roydon Common 7, Repps-with-Bastwick 6. Above-average breeding numbers recorded around Cley, with birds in all suitable localities and good numbers of young seen by mid-June; in contrast a continued absence was reported from Little London. NBA results showed the species was present in 74% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return movement through coastal sites from mid-Aug, numbers low during month, best count 8 Scolt Head 31st. Autumn passage peaked Sept 10th/11th, when 25 Holme, 47 Scolt Head, 50 Holkham Meals, 13 Warham Greens, 70 Blakeney Point (including an *acredula* bird) and 12 Sheringham. In Oct 2 Yarmouth 6th and singles Whitlingham CP 4th, Holme 7th,



Holme, Holkham Meals, Wells East Hills and Blakeney Point 15th, Holme and Holkham Meals 16th and Happisburgh 19th; many reported mid-month were grey/white or large cold brown birds, very white below, with olive wing panels and bright pink legs and bill, presumably of eastern origin possibly sub-species *acredula* or even *yakutensis*. Last of year, and an exceptionally late bird, Cley Nov 4th-12th.

## **Goldcrest**

*Regulus regulus*

### ***Resident breeder and passage migrant***

With the exception of good numbers Holme in second half of March (peaking at 85 on 20th) only other double-figure count in spring 22 Scolt Head April 2nd.

Breeding season counts from Hoveton Hall where 11 pairs, 6 singing males Waveney Forest and 5 singing males Harpley Dams. NBA results showed the species was present in 61% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Single-figure counts from Holme, Scolt Head and Blakeney Point during Sept followed by small influx in early Oct when 50 Scolt Head and Blakeney Point 6th, and 45 Sea Palling following day. Main arrival commenced Oct 14th with 350 Holme, 320 Scolt Head, 130 Wells East Hills, 250 Blakeney Point and 100 Sheringham. Major influx on 15th when 500 Holme, 450 Scolt Head, 2500 Holkham Meals, 500 Wells East Hills, 1000 Happisburgh and 500 Winterton (where 240 ringed) while at Horsey 40 noted in one tree. Good numbers still present 16th/17th with three-figure counts from 8 coastal sites. Numbers declined quickly during month and 150 Yarmouth Cemetery 19th, with 100 Holkham Meals and Winterton 22nd, were last significant counts.

## **Firecrest**

*Regulus ignicapilla*

### ***Spring and autumn passage migrant; scarce in winter; occasional breeder***

In Jan/Feb up to 3 birds Holkham Meals plus single Beeston Regis Feb 8th and 17th. Singles during March at 10 coastal sites including singing male Titchwell 26th-28th and single Thetford Nunnery 21st. During April, 1-3 at 13 coastal sites plus inland birds at Flordon and Garboldisham (ringed).

Breeding activity centred around two extensive sites. Up to 14 singing males along Holt-Cromer ridge but only indication of successful breeding a pair feeding at least two young mid-June. In Brecks up to 8 singing males centred around two main localities.

First of autumn Holkham Meals Sept 18th with further singles Overstrand and Titchwell up to month end. During Oct 1-2 at 13 sites including inland singles High Kelling and Hoe Rough. Singles Holkham Gap Nov 22nd, West Runton Dec 1st, and 1-2 Holt 12th and 20th.

Also see article page 279.

## **Spotted Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa striata*

### ***Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant***

First of spring April 30th when 2 Scolt Head plus singles Holkham Meals, Warham and Waxham. Another single Holme May 6th then noted daily from 12th with peak counts 9 Scolt Head 19th and 26th, 6 Lynford 19th and 4 Horning 18th.

Another encouraging breeding season with up to 75 pairs or singing males (slightly down from last year's 79) with singles at a further 19 sites. Peak counts 7 pairs Mannington Hall, 3-4 Great Ryburgh, 3 Horning Hall and Stanford TA. On the debit side, just single pair Cley where

normally up to 4 pairs present, while at East Tuddenham was noted as 'very scarce'. NBA results showed the species was present in 30% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

During Aug family parties noted at 8 sites with autumn passage from 16th when single Thornham Point. Small-scale coastal movement during first half of Sept with max 6 Thornham Point 6th and 8 Scolt Head 10th, and 1-3 at a further 18 sites. In Oct singles Yarmouth Cemetery 6th, Horsey 7th with last of autumn at latter site 15th.

### **Red-breasted Flycatcher**

*Ficedula parva*

*Scarce autumn migrant; rare in spring*

Eight birds noted in period Sept 10th-18th: Yarmouth Cemetery 10th, Scolt Head, Burnham Overy Dunes and Overstrand 10th/11th, Holkham Meals 11th, Waxham 11th/12th, between Walsey Hills and Salthouse 13th, and Wells East Hills (where a red-chinned male) 17th/18th.

### **Pied Flycatcher**

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

*Passage migrant, scarce in spring, abundant at times in autumn; has bred*

First of spring Blakeney Point and Sheringham April 27th with others Titchwell and Blakeney Point 30th/May 1st. Just 3 further singles in May: Weybourne 1st, Titchwell 12th and Holkham Meals 13th.

Following 4 Sheringham Aug 10th, 1-4 at many coastal sites during remainder of month peaking at 6 Scolt Head and 8 Blakeney Point 31st. Notable influx in first half of Sept: 3rd 22 Blakeney Point; 10th 28 Scolt Head, 20 Burnham Overy Dunes, 10 Holkham Meals, 35 Blakeney Point, 13 Sheringham, 12 Sidestrand, 10 Trimingham; 12th 12 Holkham Meals. Evidence of rapid onward movement since just two further singles until month end at Holme 16th and Scolt Head 21st. Singles at 6 coastal sites in Oct, latest Holkham Meals 16th.

### **Bearded Tit**

*Panurus biarmicus*

*Declining resident and partial migrant; periodic influxes from Low Countries*

Only three double-figure counts in first winter period, 10 Cantley Marshes Jan 15th, 12 Reedham Feb 8th and 12 Cley March 19th.

Breeding pairs: *north coast* Titchwell 17, Holkham NNR 19 (14 in 2003 previous best-ever year), Cley 10-12 (highest number for a decade but still fewer than early 1990s); *Broads* Hickling Broad complex 84, mid-Yare RSPB 20, R Bure (Stokesby with Herringby) 3. Also noted several dates Lopham Fen where possibly bred.

Highest autumn counts 58 Cley Sept 20th and 50 Cantley BF Sept 25th/26th.

Migrants and/or local movements: 6 south-east Breydon Sept 24th and in Oct 21 west Holme 6th, 2 south-east Kelling WM and 12 high east Stiffkey Fen 7th, 10 high west Muckleburgh Hill 9th, 2 west Sheringham 10th, 7 Guist Common and 13 east Weybourne 11th, 5 Scolt Head 16th, 10 high south-east Blakeney Point 17th and 6 Snettisham CP 22nd.

In Nov/Dec max counts of 28 Haddiscoe and 24 Hickling Broad.

### **Long-tailed Tit**

*Aegithalos caudatus*

*Common resident breeder; Scandinavian white-headed race very rare in autumn*

Max counts: Jan 27 Sparham Pools, 22 Becston Regis (one flock); Feb 65 Grimston Pott Row; March 22 Horsey Mere, 21 Blickling Park; June 26 Harpley; Aug 50 Becston Common, 38 Beeston Regis (one flock); Sept 40 How Hill; Oct 40 Overstrand, 25 Holme; Nov 35 How Hill.

Only evidence of migration noted Hunstanton March where 3 south 17th and 7 south 19th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 78% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.

## Blue Tit

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

### *Common breeding resident and passage migrant*

At Brancaster Thompson Farm total of 70 ringed Feb 5th.

Coastal movements noted March when (west) 3 Cromer 14th with 10 22nd; at Hunstanton (all south) 4 17th, 2 18th, 3 19th and 6 on 23rd.

NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 13 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Hoveton Hill 45 pairs counted.

At Burgh-next-Aylsham a pair bred in a House Martin's nest on a south facing wall beneath overhanging eaves. The tits were first noticed on May 14th shortly before the House Martins started visiting and repairing 3 nests together, the tits occupying the easterly one. The middle nest was briefly visited by a martin with the westerly one actively visited whilst the tits were in residence. Two tits were feeding young on May 26th at 3-5 minute intervals; at least 4 tits left the nest next day (IFK).

Southerly movement again noted Hunstanton Oct when 3 10th, 4 11th and 10 12th.

## Great Tit

*Parus major*

### *Common breeding resident and passage migrant*

In spring total of 281 south Hunstanton March 17th-April 1st with 117 on 17th in 2 hrs. Elsewhere in March 15 west in 3 flocks Beeston Bump 18th, west Sheringham and 5 north Horsey 19th, Blakeney Point 19th-23rd (a continental bird based on bill structure and the first-ever site record), and 2 Wells East Hills 20th-26th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn 5 south Hunstanton Oct 10th with 3 south 12th; also 3 Wells East Hills 17th.



Great Tit (Phil Jones)

## Coal Tit

*Periparus ater*

### *Breeding resident and passage migrant*

NBA results showed the species was present in 54% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Burnham Overy Dunes 3 west at great height Oct 5th.



## **Willow Tit**

*Poecile montanus*

### **Breeding resident in decline**

Recorded at only 37 sites, compared with 53 in 2004: Alderfen Broad, Anmer, Barnhamcross Common, Boughton Fen, Brundall Church Fen, Burnham Norton, East Walton, Foulden Common, Hempton (3 prs), Hoe Common, Houghton Park, Hoveton, Kettlestone, Lynford Arboretum, Lynford GP, Marham Fen, Massingham Heath, Pensthorpe, Pentney Heath, Ranworth Broad, Reepham, Rockland Broad, Sandringham, Scunthorpe Mill, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools, Stalham, Strumpshaw, Swaffham, Swanton Novers, Syderstone Common (3 prs), Tallents Meadow Lake, Thetford Nunnery, Thompson Common, Tottenhill GP, Wayland Wood, West Acre.

At Swanton Novers major decline noted with just one singing male found although several juvs caught later in season; also considered now rare locally at Reepham. At Kettlestone significant decline at ringing site - just 2 birds caught Jan-March with last re-trap May 1st. No records in year from Stanford TA.

## **Marsh Tit**

*Poecile palustris*

### **Breeding resident**

Noted at 96 localities but undoubtedly present at others. Observers are requested to submit all records so the status of this declining species can be more closely monitored.

NBA results showed the species was present in 28% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Swanton Novers 15 territorial males located although breeding success appeared moderate with small brood sizes.

## **Nuthatch**

*Sitta europaea*

### **Breeding resident, possibly in decline**

NBA results showed the species was present in 22% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Wandering birds at Titchwell May 23rd and July 3rd.

## **Treecreeper**

*Certhia familiaris*

### **Widespread woodland resident**

NBA results showed the species was present in 33% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. At East Tuddenham noted as 'has suffered an alarming decline'. Is this comment applicable elsewhere in the county?

2004 Addition: One with characteristics of nominate northern race Hemsby Oct 1st (AGr).

## **Golden Oriole**

*Oriolus oriolus*

### **Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant in small numbers**

In May, away from breeding area, female Winterton 1st and one Swanton Novers 25th. In June singing male Hickling Broad 9th/10th, Winterton 12th, male Titchwell 15th/16th, female type east Aylmerton 18th and Dereham 24th.

Breeding: none reported but a male singing at one site during May only (Golden Oriole Group).

## Red-backed Shrike

*Lanius collurio*

### *Passage migrant in small numbers; last bred 1989*

Another poor spring with just two records: male Hindringham May 18th and female Kelling June 9th.

In contrast, a reasonable autumn with up to 14 birds noted, all during Sept. Small influx during first week when singles Scolt Head 1st-3rd with a second bird 3rd/4th, Stiffkey 2nd-13th, Horsey and West Runton 4th (latter until 6th), and Hickling Rush Hills 6th-8th. Further movement from 10th when singles Winterton, Blakeney Point and California (latter two until 11th), 2 Cley 12th-14th with one remaining until 16th and the second moving to Blakeney FM 14th-20th, and Burnham Overy Dunes 13th. Final birds of autumn Winterton 18th/19th and 24th/25th.

## Great Grey Shrike

*Lanius excubitor*

### *Scarce passage migrant and declining winter visitor*

The over-wintering bird from 2004 remained in Lynford/Mundford area intermittently Jan 1st-March 19th. Additional singles in west of county Harpley End/East Rudham various dates Jan 12th-March 31st, Gooderstone Warren Jan 19th, Hillborough March 12th-22nd and Bodney Camp (Hollow Heath) March 18th-22nd. Light coastal movement with singles Sea Palling/Waxham March 28th, Hickling April 3rd and Holme April 21st, with last of spring well inland at Denver May 7th.

In autumn, singles Cromer GC and Mundesley Oct 4th were forerunners of best autumn for this species since 1998 with a further 14 birds noted during month: Choseley 5th while the Mundesley bird was tracked through Paston, Happisburgh and Waxham on same date, adult and 1st-winter Terrington Marsh 6th, Titchwell (on Parrinder Hide) 6th with probably same Choseley 7th, Cley/Blakeney 8th, Holme 14th, Waxham/Horsey 16th/17th, Stiffkey/Warham Greens 17th-20th, Weeting 23rd and Holme 26th. In Nov single Breydon 7th-10th and two inland singles in Dec at Santon Downham 10th and Wreningham 27th.

## Woodchat Shrike

*Lanius senator*

### *Vagrant from southern Europe, mostly in spring*

Small influx during May when 3 different 1st-summer females present: Burnham Norton 14th/15th (CHM *et al*), Cromer 21st-25th (GD BJM *et al*) and Scolt Head 26th (NML *et al*). In autumn juv Warham Greens Sept 6th (NAA MAG RGM *et al*) was first since one at Overstrand in Oct 1997.

Four in a year equals highest total previously reached in 1960 and 1977.

## Jay

*Garrulus glandarius*

### *Common resident; periodic influxes from the Continent following failure of acorn crop*

Very little information received; only aggregations noted 6 Great Bircham Jan 19th and loose group 20 Holkham Park April 15th. NBA results showed the species was present in 69% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 2% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Small-scale autumn arrival with 3 Titchwell Sept 5th, Holme 13th, single Holme and 2 Titchwell 22nd, 2 Cromer GC 25th, single Holme and 2 Titchwell 26th, singles Holme and south Overstrand 28th, 15 Holme Oct 15th, 2 in off sea Salthouse and 2 in off sea West Runton 27th.

A white leucistic bird throughout the year at Costessey.



Woodchat Shrike (Gary Wright)

## Magpie

*Pica pica*

### ***Common resident forming winter roosts***

Only reported roost counts at start of year: *Jan* 140 Roydon Common; *March* 37 East Ruston, 36 Horsey Brayden Marshes. Other concentrations 30 Sheringham Jan 16th and 15 Felthorpe 23rd.

Spring passage from March 14th when 2 out to sea Holmc, followed by 3 west Overstrand 18th, 3 south Hunstanton and 2 west Overstrand 19th, west Overstrand 21st, 3 west Beeston Bump and 2 west Overstrand 23rd, 2 Scolt Head April 2nd with one there 3rd, 11 west Overstrand 5th, 3 east Overstrand and 8 north Waxham 11th, 3 west Overstrand 12th followed by single west 13th and 2 west 14th, 2 south Hunstanton 28th, south Scolt Head May 1st and 2 south Hunstanton 3rd.

NBA results showed the species was present in 81% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Late summer groups of 13 Helleston July 23rd and 25 Saxlingham Aug 2nd.

Autumn movements of 3 south Hunstanton Oct 10th, 5 south California 26th with 15 south there Nov 1st and 12 south 5th, and 4 east Overstrand 7th.

Winter roosts at end of year: *Nov* 21 Horsey Brayden Marshes; *Dec* 122 Roydon Common.

## Jackdaw

*Corvus monedula*

### ***Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor***

At the major Buckenham Carr roost estimates on Jan 23rd and Feb 12th/13th suggested max 40,000 birds with 60% Rooks and 40% Jackdaws. This is largest roost estimate since monitoring began in Nov 2001 and largest-ever published count for the site. Other concentrations/roosts in first winter period included: *Jan* 200 Colkirk, 1500 Roydon Common, 3000 Shouldham Warren, 600 Watlington, 500 Wiggenhall St Peter RC; *Feb* 250 Colkirk, 300 East Winch, 400 Garboldisham.

Numerous observations of small groups on spring passage around coast March 10th (Overstrand) to May 26th (Hunstanton) with peak counts 35 south Hunstanton March 17th, 44 south Hunstanton and 32 north 13 south Winterton 18th, 14 north 8 south and 8 east Horsey



19th, 89 south 3 north Winterton 23rd, 63 south Horsey April 2nd, 80 present Weybourne May 22nd. At Hunstanton total 219 south March 15th-May 26th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Moderate autumn passage Aug 30th (Scolt Head) to Nov 9th (Overstrand), with double-figure counts 28 present Holme Sept 11th with 14 east 8 west there 22nd, 20 south Hunstanton Oct 26th and 16 south there 29th. At Hunstanton total 61 south Oct 4th-Nov 5th.

In second half of year far smaller totals in Yare Valley. At Claxton Mulberry Carr, which serves as the roost site until mid-Sept, 'corvid counts' of 400 June 18th, 778 July 3rd, 1244 July 14th and 1699 Sept 2nd. Subsequent counts at Buckenham Carr included 4609 Oct 23rd and 15,000 Dec 10th. Only other roost reported 800 Diddlington Park Nov. Also mixed gathering 1500 Rooks/Jackdaws Blackborough End Tip July.

Birds considered to show characteristics of eastern race *monedula* Blackborough End Tip intermittently Jan 15th-May 1st, Holt Jan 22nd, Holkham Feb 3rd, Edgefield 5th, Garboldisham 11th, Thctford Nunnery April 11th, Cley Glaven Bank May 29th, Blackborough End Tip and Edgefield both Dec 3rd, with 2 Blackborough End Tip 10th.

## Rook

*Corvus frugilegus*

### *Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

A welcome increase in records received. At the major Buckenham Carr roost estimates on Jan 23rd and Feb 12th/13th suggested max 40,000 birds with 60% Rooks and 40% Jackdaws. This is largest roost estimate since monitoring began in Nov 2001 and largest-ever published count for the site. Other roosts/concentrations in first winter period included: Jan 500 Beetley, 600 Milcham, 400 Morton-on-the-Hill, 2750 Shouldham Warren, 400 Watlington, 1500 Wiggenhall St Peter RC; Feb 2000 Blackborough End Tip, 800 Garboldisham, 700 Middle Harling, 300 Spixworth. Also mixed gatherings Rooks/Jackdaws 3000 Stanford TA Jan and 800 Dereham Feb.

Usual series of spring coastal movements March 14th (Holme) to May 18th (Hunstanton) involving average number of birds. Peak movements: 11 east 6 west Overstrand March 15th, 14 south Hunstanton 17th, 32 south Hunstanton and 11 west Holme 18th, 43 south Winterton 23rd, 18 south Hunstanton April 10th, 11 south Hunstanton and 25 west Overstrand 12th, 22 south Waxham 19th, 17 east Beeston Bump 27th. At Hunstanton total 139 south March 15th-May 18th.



Rooks (Andy Benson)

Rookery counts received: Buckenham Marshes (50), Cantley BF (43), Cantley Marshes (35), East Wretham Heath (27), Flordon (17 on pylons), Great Ryburgh (11), Haddiscoe Thorpe Marshes (120), Old Catton The Elms (6), Pensthorpe (30), Potter Heigham Bridge (21), Stibbard (70). NBA results showed the species was present in 66% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 39 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Very light autumn passage Aug 30th (Scolt Head) to Nov 13th (California) with only 36 south Hunstanton Oct 4th-Nov 18th, where max count 13 Oct 27th. Only seven single-figure records from elsewhere. In second half of year far smaller totals in Yare Valley. At Claxton Mulberry Carr, which serves as the roost site until mid-Sept, 'corvid counts' of 400 June 18th, 778 July 3rd, 1244 July 14th and 1699 Sept 2nd. Subsequent counts at Buckenham Carr included 4609 Oct 23rd and 15,000 Dec 10th. Only other notable count in second winter period 800 roosting Diddlington Park Nov.

Leucistic bird Kelling WM May 1st.

## **Carrion Crow**

*Corvus corone*

### ***Increasing resident forming winter roosts; also a passage migrant***

Only concentrations noted during year: 100-200 regularly roosting Roydon Common, 31 Hoe Common Jan, 40 Wacton April, 100 Nar Valley Fisheries July, 200 Pentney GP Aug, 139 roosting Claxton Mulberry Carr Dec 10th. Also at Barton Broad 104 at roost Jan, 73 March, 49 May and 146 Sept.

Usual protracted spring passage around coast from March 10th (Overstrand) to June 9th (Scolt Head), with peak counts: 15 east 6 west Sheringham and 98 south Horsey April 2nd, 37 west Overstrand 5th, 37 west Scolt Head and 72 north 16 south Waxham (0730-0830) 11th, 86 west Overstrand (0730-0830) 12th, 32 east Paston and 25 north 13 south Horsey 23rd, 58 south Hunstanton (2 hrs), 42 west Scolt Head, 16 west Beeston Bump and 28 west Paston all 28th, 20 south 12 north Horsey (0700-0930) 29th, 19 east 3 west Overstrand and 26 south Horsey 30th, 22 south Hunstanton (4 hrs), 23 west Scolt Head and 28 west 4 east Overstrand all May 3rd, 42 west Beeston Bump 18th. At Hunstanton total 149 south March 17th-May 18th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 90% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Minimal autumn passage with only reports 2 west Overstrand Sept 24th and 3 west there 25th, 6 east Holme 26th, 4 west Overstrand 28th, 25 west Sheringham Oct 9th and 10 east Overstrand Nov 1st.

During Oct-Dec up to 22 feeding Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr considered unusual.

## **Hooded Crow**

*Corvus c cornix*

### ***A declining wintering and passage migrant***

Only eight records of birds considered to be pure and even here some duplication possible: Winterton March 24th, west Titchwell 29th, singles east Overstrand April 21st and 22nd, west Burnham Norton 23rd, east Sheringham 24th, shot near Castle Rising early Oct, and Thetford Dec 31st. With wintering birds seemingly a thing of the past and so few on spring passage this must now be one of the trickiest birds to see in the county.

A hybrid remained throughout year in Winterton/Somerton Holmes area as did two around Burgh Castle/Haddiscoe Island, all birds being paired with Carrion Crows. Additional intergrades noted east Overstrand May 12th, 2 Waxham Sept 3rd and one Yarmouth North Denes Oct 18th.

## Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*

### *Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

Only roosts noted at start of year: *Jan* 1000 Bawburgh, 2000 Saddlebow; *Feb* 8000 King's Lynn The Walks, 4000 Saddlebow.

Strong return passage with peak counts 900 west Holme March 15th, 2500 present Holme and 1570 south 550 north Winterton 20th, 1150 south 100 north Winterton 22nd, 2400 Blakeney Point with 1000 west, 2000 grounded all day Overstrand in heavy fog and 1200 east Paston (0600-0800) all 26th, 2800 Blakeney Point 27th, 1000 Burnham Norton, 3500 Blakeney Point and 5000 Halvergate Marshes 28th, 2500 east Beeston Bump 29th and 30,000 Breydon 31st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 15 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Moderate midsummer westerly movement with 305 Scolt Head June 9th and 429 there 17th, 1200 Holme and 5808 Scolt Head 20th, and 3906 Titchwell 23rd. Best counts of daytime feeding flocks 400 Cley June 7th, roost 960 Holme 9th, 500 Thornham and 445 Warham 26th, 1350 Scolt Head 29th, roost 700 Holme July 10th and 1400 Scolt Head 24th. No reports received in Aug. Early autumn roost counts: *Sept* 3000 How Hill Reedham Marshes 6th, 900 Holme 12th increasing to 3000 by 27th, 3000 Hickling Heigham Sound 30th; *Oct* 2500 Titchwell 3rd, still 3000 Holme 4th.

Regular protracted autumn arrival with peak numbers as usual Hunstanton where total 132,975 south Oct 1st-Nov 30th. Max counts (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast): 2391 Hunstanton Oct 4th; 3335 Hunstanton 5th; 10,147 Hunstanton and 2377 Scolt Head 12th; 3585 Scolt Head 15th; 12,978 Hunstanton, 4350 Scolt Head, 3232 Sheringham and 5500 Eccles all 16th; 12,773 Hunstanton 17th; 5000 Happisburgh and 5000 Waxham 18th; 19,100 Scolt Head 19th; 16,892 Hunstanton 21st; 2500 in off sea Hemsby 26th; 6386 Hunstanton and 7730 Holme 28th when also 10,000 north-east Briston and 2000 west Sutton Fen; 7047 Hunstanton and 12,000 Holme 29th; 7476 Hunstanton Nov 1st; 5855 Hunstanton 18th with 5070 there 19th and 6340 20th. Late autumn roosts 4800 Strumpshaw Oct 30th, 6000 How Hill Reedham Marshes Nov 1st rising to 18,000 18th and 2000 Cantley Marshes 19th.

Only counts at year's end 5000 Saddlebow RC Dec 4th, roost 24,280 Strumpshaw 18th and 5000 north at dusk Ranworth Broad 26th.

White leucistic bird Acle Straight March 29th and leucistic juv Cley July 20th.

## Rose-coloured Starling

*Sturnus roseus*

### *Irruptive vagrant from south-east Europe and central Asia*

Two autumn juvs, Blakeney Point Sept 1st-3rd (JGi *et al*) and Holme Oct 6th/7th (SNe *et al*).

## House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

### *Common but declining resident*

Largest flocks during year: *Jan* 40 Eastgate, 69 Great Ryburgh, 40 Langham, 150 Newton Flotman; *April* 44 Hanworth Common, 36 West Winch; *May* 35 North Runcton, 35 Overstrand; *June* 180 King's Lynn; *July* 200 West Runcton; *Sept* 80 Walpole Highway; *Dec* 87 Ashwellthorpe, 100 Fornsett, roost 60 Norwich Drayton Road, 90 (at feeding station) Welney. Flock of 40 present all year Ormsby St Margaret.



Colonies suffer mixed fortunes: a four-fold increase from 6 or so noted in past few years Norwich Tuckswood Lane, while colony of 35 lost Honing Lock in Nov when mature mixed-species hedge removed and replaced by wooden fence. NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 26 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only three spring movements noted 2 west Beeston Bump March 19th, 11 south Hunstanton 22nd, 2 west Beeston Bump May 18th. Few reports of autumn passage with 8 west Overstrand Aug 16th, 2 west Scolt Head Sept 29th, 13 south Hunstanton Oct 10th with 3 south there next day and 2 north California Nov 8th.



House Sparrow (*Martin Woodcock*)

## Tree Sparrow

*Passer montanus*

### *Scarce resident; passage migrant and winter visitor*

Usual scatter of records chiefly from West Norfolk localities at start of year (with principal counts in brackets): Ashill, Beeston, Brettenham Heath (20 March), Choseley, Colkirk, Elsing, Garboldisham, Great Hockham, Flitcham, Harling (8 Jan), Harpley, Hillington, Lyng (60 Jan, 20 April), Massingham Heath (42 on pig fields Feb), Mileham, Narborough (8 Feb), Rockland St Mary, Shereford (10 Jan, 15 Feb, 10 March), Southrepps, Sparham, Ten Mile Bank, Welney, West Acre, Whissonsett, Wimbotsham (22).

Good series of spring passage records: west Overstrand March 18th, single Heacham and 5 south Hunstanton 23rd, 8 south Hunstanton 24th, 2 Holme and single Cley 25th, 8 south Hunstanton and 2 present Holme April 1st, 3 Holme 2nd, Waxham 11th, 9 south Hunstanton and 9 Holme 12th, 4 south Hunstanton 13th, Holme 22nd, 2 Brancaster Staithe 26th, Waxham May 1st, Winterton 13th, single south Hunstanton 26th.

All breeding season records listed (with max counts/pairs): Ashill (pr), Choseley (5), Colkirk (4), East Lexham, East Rudham (2), Flitcham, Great Massingham Common (pr), Harpley Dams (7 with 1+pr), Hilborough (12 prs in nest boxes), Necton, Rockland St Peter (15), Rougham (4), Saxthorpe, Shereford (2), Shipdham ('good colony'), South Acre, South Creak, Syderstone (pr), Thornham (12 prs), West Acre (2), West Lexham, West Rudham. No details received from Fulmodeston. Additional summer records from Gayton, Great Dunham and Sculthorpe Mill. At Thornham 58 ringed Sept suggesting population of 100 in vicinity.

Protracted autumn passage commencing 4 west Sheringham Aug 28th, then Winterton Sept 1st, 4 Kelling WM plus 5 north Waxham/Horsey and single north Winterton 13th, Snettisham 17th, 4 Warham Greens 22nd, 2 Holme Oct 7th, 8 Warham Greens 8th, Cley 10th-12th, 3 south Sea Palling 11th, west Sheringham 15th with single there 17th, 5 Warham Greens 22nd, 2 Warham Greens and 2 south California 23rd, 8 south California Nov 4th with further singles south there 7th and 10th.

Autumn/second winter period records from Aylmerton, Briston, Choseley, Fersfield Airfield (9 Oct), Great Hockham, South Lopham, Stanford TA (6 Nov), Swaffham Petygards (14 Dec), Ten Mile Bank (13 Oct), Titchwell, Welney and Wimbotsham.

## Chaffinch

*Fringilla coelebs*

**Common resident; also passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers**

During first winter period max counts: *Jan* 750 West Acre, 150 Houghton Park, 150 Narborough, 120 Elsing, 100 Bintree, 100 Swanton Novers; *Feb* 300 West Acre, 120 Santon Downham, 100 East Raynham, 100 North Tuddenham; *March* 100 Thornham Lyng Farm.

At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 586 south March 15th-May 28th with peak number during March when 52 17th, 315 18th, 58 23rd and 38 24th. Elsewhere small-scale movements recorded at handful of sites with max (all March): 71 east Cromer 16th, 23 west Beeston Bump 18th, 150 east Paston 22nd with 100 east there 23rd, 184 south Winterton 24th. No notable counts during April.

Breeding data from Hoveton Hall where 30 pairs and Welney where 35 singing males. NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 28 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn movements underway from mid-Sept when single Scolt Head 12th. Heaviest passage recorded from Hunstanton Cliffs where total of 21,104 south Oct 4th-Nov 22nd with max 819 Oct 8th, 1085 10th, 4925 11th, 2368 12th, 1447 21st, 1955 27th, 3851 28th, 1863 29th, 403 Nov 4th and 244 12th.

Elsewhere 579 west Scolt Head Oct 10th and 450 west Holme Oct 16th with 475 west there 28th. At Cromer/Overstrand total of 344 (most east) Sept 19th-Nov 12th and at California 875 south 95 north Sept 13th-Nov 23rd.

Numbers during second winter period apparently very low as no details of any flocks received.

## Brambling

*Fringilla montifringilla*

**Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers**

During first winter period recorded at many localities but in generally unremarkable numbers. All three-figure counts listed: *Jan* 120 West Harling Heath, 100 Lynford, 100 Thetford; *Feb* 250 Thetford, 200 Felbrigg, 200 Santon Downham; *March* 130 Holkham Meals, 100 Ringstead; *April* 100 Dersingham Bog (including singing males).

Numbers tailed off rapidly during early April and by month end only singles at 10 sites with last of spring on 27th at Aylmerton (singing male), Potter Heigham and Winterton.

Earliest autumn arrival Blakeney Point Sept 11th with another Holkham Meals next day. Numbers very slow to arrive during rest of Sept with only 9 more birds. This situation changed rapidly during Oct with many arriving from 5th, when 15 Titchwell, 12 Blakeney Point and 20 Cley. Most counts were of birds either moving along coast or flying in off sea. At Hunstanton total of 1198 south Oct 4th-Nov 18th with max 77 Oct 10th, 107 11th, 78 (and 79 north) 16th, 100 17th, 89 21st, 278 27th, 101 28th and 79 29th. On Oct 15th 300 south with 40 present Holme, 243 Scolt Head, 215 over Holkham Meals and 150 Overstrand; on same day 500 Paston Churchyard would have been a fine sight. Good numbers continued to be reported until month end with max counts 80 High Kelling 17th, 100 east Beeston Bump 18th, and 142 in off sea Scolt Head and 200 in off sea Overstrand 24th.

Despite these fairly strong movements very few apparently stayed into the winter with 150 Hilborough Dec 24th only notable count received.

## Greenfinch

*Carduelis chloris*

### *Common resident and passage migrant*

Max counts in first winter period: *Jan* 150 Hoveton Hall (roosting), 100 Brancaster Thompson Farm, 100 Ormesby St Margaret, 100 Swanton Novers; *March* 200 Thornham Farms, 200 Ormesby St Margaret.

Spring coastal movement underway March 14th when 76 west Holme. As usual Hunstanton Cliffs most productive site with total of 2146 south March 15th-May 28th with peaks of 199 March 17th, 496 18th, 206 23rd, 153 24th, 84 April 3rd and 52 12th. No further movement there until interesting late spring passage of 18 south May 26th, which was not mirrored at any other site. Max counts elsewhere 40 west Beeston Bump March 18th, 57 west Overstrand 19th, 50 east Paston 22nd and 33 south Winterton 23rd.

NBA results showed the species was present in 93% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 13 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Late summer/early autumn gatherings 300 North Wootton Marsh Aug 25th and 80 Sidestrand Sept 4th.

First autumn movement 32 west Overstrand Sept 28th. Main passage during Oct with two sites on opposite sides of county dominating events. At California 7140 south 956 north Oct 3rd-Nov 23rd with peaks 809 south Oct 10th, 436 south 149 north 23rd, 557 south 26th, 805 south 27th and 612 south 91 north 29th. At Hunstanton 4581 south Oct 1st-Nov 22nd with peaks 340 Oct 4th, 547 8th, 1052 10th, 356 11th, 219 21st, 443 26th and 411 27th. Regular movements only noted at four other sites: at Scolt Head (all west) 50 Oct 18th, 273 23rd and 42 24th, at Sheringham 302 east Oct 16th and 107 west 27th, at Beeston Bump 120 east (0730-0740) Oct 12th, and at Overstrand 308 west Oct 4th, 55 east 44 west 11th, 427 east 17th, 20 east Nov 2nd and 34 west 5th.

Max counts in second winter period: *Oct* 300 Kelling WM, 150 Sea Palling; *Nov* 200 Salthouse, 150 Sparham, 120 Ormesby St Margaret; *Dec* 150 Holme, 150 Southrepps.

## Goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis*

### *Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor*

Only counts over 50 during first winter period: *Jan* 85 Snettisham, 60 Hoveton, 60 Lynford Arborctum, 60 Wissington BF; *Feb* 50 Fakenham, 50 Welney; *March* 80 Barrow Common, 70 Welney, 50 Roydon Common.

Coastal movements March 14th-June 3rd with Hunstanton Cliffs being most favoured site where total of 2146 south March 15th-May 28th with peak day counts of 115 March 24th, 81 April 3rd, 188 4th, 91 5th, 115 11th, 415 12th, 120 28th, 136 29th, 165 May 2nd and 153 3rd. Elsewhere total of 553 west Scolt Head March 24th-May 19th with max 142 April 11th, 89 27th, 76 30th and 33 May 2nd. At Overstrand total of 465 April 22nd-May 29th with peak counts 53 east April 22nd, 80 east 25th, 160 east May 1st and 49 east 31 west 2nd. No significant counts from any other sites.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Some late summer/early autumn gatherings but numbers unremarkable; max counts 60 Whitlingham CP Aug 10th and 50 Kelling Aug 25th.

Small-scale autumn coastal movements noted Overstrand Sept 28th-Nov 21st. At California 252 south 26 north Oct 3rd-Nov 20th with peak of 58 south Oct 8th. At Hunstanton 105 south Oct 4th-Nov 12th with max 47 Nov 4th.



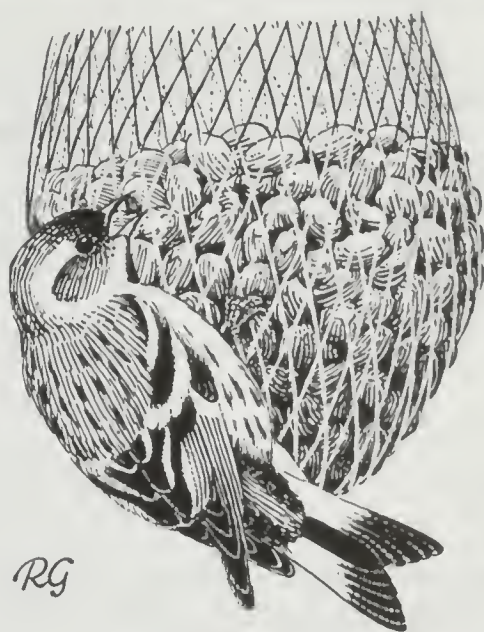
During second winter period max counts: *Oct* 132 Salthouse, 85 Haddiseoe, 80 Hunstanton, 75 Stoke Ferry, 60 Sea Palling; *Nov* 70 Beeston Regis, 50 Salthouse, 50 Ormesby St Margaret; *Dec* 150 East Winch.

At Egmere a partial albino Jan 2nd with all white body and head, but normal wing coloration.

## Siskin

*Carduelis spinus*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; small numbers breed*



Siskin (Robert Gillmor)

Widespread in first winter period with highest counts: *Jan* 50 Lynford Arboretum, 120 Roydon Common; *Feb* 100 Lynford Arboretum, 100 Santon Downham. Little spring passage noted at coastal sites; at Hunstanton just 36 south March 15th-May 3rd, with 19 March 18th.

Pairs and evidence of breeding recorded at East Ruston, Grimston Warren, Holkham, Mundford, Roydon Common, Sandringham, Santon Downham, Thetford Warren and West Newton, with a juv confirmed at Beeston Regis in June/July. NBA results showed the species was present in 6% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, compared with 2% of tetrads during the 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas project.

Best autumn passage for some time around coast with records early Sept to mid-Nov, peak counts Sept 12th/13th. On 12th 100 west Brancaster, 101 Burnham Overy Dunes, 450 north Waxham and 120 north Horsey; on 13th 152 west 25 present Seolt Head, 100 west Brancaster Staithe, 150 mainly west Cley, 117 north Horsey/Waxham and 252 north California. Also 114 west Overstrand Sept 25th.

In Oct 80 west Overstrand 6th, 78 south Sea Palling 7th, 89 south Hunstanton 11th and 76 south 26th, and 125 Holme 16th. Largest counts from California where 204 north 108 south also 7th, with 108 also south there 10th and 11th; at this site 669 south 639 north Sept 12th-Nov 23rd. At Hunstanton 536 south Oct 4th-Nov 5th.

In Nov/Dec recorded widely with peak counts 200 Roydon Common Dec 19th, and 120 East Walton Common and 300 Thetford Nunn's Bridges Dec 22nd.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

Common resident and passage migrant

Highest counts in first winter period: Jan 500 Sheringham; Feb 150 Strumpshaw, 100 Thornham; March 150 Scarning.

Spring passage noted around whole coast, peak counts in April when 370 south Horsey 1st, 382 west Scolt Head and 542 west Sheringham 10th, 416 south Hunstanton, 390 west Scolt Head and 263 west Cromer all 11th, 507 south Hunstanton 12th, 400 west Sheringham 17th and 450 west 18th, and 256 east Overstrand 19th. At Hunstanton total 3000 south March 15th-May 28th.

Breeding reported from Blakeney Point (22 prs), Sparham (12 prs) and Scolt Head (31 singing males). NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn flocks of up to 100 widely reported but higher counts included 500 Thornham late Aug/early Sept, 207 Cley Sept 18th, 250 Great Cressingham 29th, 800 Sheringham Oct 1st and 6th, 150 Scolt Head 15th, 110 Burnham Deepdale 17th and 300 Kelling/Salthouse 31st. Autumn passage Sept-Nov with max (all Oct) 107 south California and 129 south Hunstanton 10th, with 155 south latter site 11th.

In second winter period highest counts 100 East Winch and 100 Horsey Mill.

Twite

Carduelis flavirostris

Declining local winter visitor

Max counts at main resorts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thornham-Titchwell	40	40	5	-	50	50
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	58	65	-	12	35	48
Terrington /Ongar/Lynn Point	60	40	32	-	39	170
Cley-Salthouse	6	4	2	5	5	-

This species was again scarce, being regularly reported from just four sites in each winter period, though with a max of just 6 at one of these. The few reports from Holme which did not specifically mention Thornham Hbr have been included with the Thornham/Titchwell counts as birds can readily be seen flying between these two sites. There were just three reports from Holkham Bay, which has regularly hosted a wintering flock since the mid-1980s: 2 Jan 15th, 2 Oct 26th and 17 Nov 7th. There were no reports again from Breydon or Happisburgh and the only reports from east of county were singles south Winterton March 21st and 23rd, 18 south Horsey Oct 15th, Haddiscoe Nov 5th and 32 Paston 31st Dec. By contrast, birds were more regularly reported from the Wash than in recent years, but other than an exceptional record of 170 Dec 4th, counts failed to exceed 60 birds. Away from these areas only other reports in first winter period concerned ‘several’ Stiffkey Fen Jan 5th and one east Overstrand April 5th, last of spring.

Two Titchwell Sept 24th were first of autumn, with reports away from main haunts all probably relating to autumn coastal migrants: 70 east Weybourne Oct 7th, 3 Stiffkey 8th, west Sheringham 22nd, 2 Snettisham 23rd, 13 Stiffkey Nov 5th and one south Hunstanton 22nd. At Blakeney Point 6 Oct 29th were probably same as those regularly reported Cley-Salthouse.

## Lesser Redpoll

*Carduelis cabaret*

### *Passage migrant, winter visitor and declining resident*

Double-figure counts in first winter period of 10 Lynford Arboretum and 10 Tatterford Jan 9th, 12 Ranworth Broad 14th, 12 Sandringham 16th, 35 Fritton Feb 5th, 28 Catfield Fen 10th, 13 Thetford March 4th, 50 Barton Broad 12th and 30 Hoveton Park 25th.

Spring passage very slight, with 42 south Hunstanton March 15th-May 3rd, including 20 April 4th, otherwise only singles reported as migrants at Scolt Head and Overstrand.

Possible evidence of breeding noted Brettenham Heath, Dersingham and Norwich but no confirmation from these sites.

Autumn coastal migrants widely noted. Total of 118 south and 20 north California Sept 14th-Nov 14th, with peaks of 16 north Oct 7th, 27 south 10th, 35 south 26th, 15 south Nov 1st and 15 south 4th. At Hunstanton 32 south Oct 5th-Nov 20th. Other double-figure counts in Oct: 22 Sea Palling 3rd, 11 Cley/Salthouse and 32 west Overstrand 6th, 45 Holme and 20 Winterton 16th; inland 15 Thetford and 12 How Hill 17th, and 13 Horning Waterworks 31st.

In second winter period 75 Holme Nov 20th, 40 Thornham Farms 23rd-26th, 16 Earsham GP Dec 5th, 20 Strumpshaw 18th and 25 How Hill 21st.

## Common (ie Mealy) Redpoll

*Carduelis flammea*

### *Scarce winter visitor*

In first winter period 2-4 present Titchwell from Dec 2004, last seen April 4th. Elsewhere 3 Strumpshaw Jan 14th with 4 there 16th, Fritton Feb 5th and Bintree 13th

A spring migrant Blakeney Point March 31st.

In autumn 4 Cley Oct 3rd showed characters of the form *islandica*. Birds of nominate form occurred from mid-Oct: 2 Blakeney Point and singles Wells and Weybourne Oct 15th, 2 Holme 16th, 2 Weybourne 17th, 2 Warham Greens 22nd/23rd, 5 Burnham Overy Dunes 23rd, Blakeney Point 28th, and Titchwell and California Nov 2nd.

In second winter period 20 at Thornham Farms Nov 23rd-26th with, in Dec, 2 Earsham GP and Titchwell, and singles at East Barsham, East Ruston and Strumpshaw.

## Arctic Redpoll

*Carduelis hornemanni*

### *Winter vagrant from Scandinavia and northern Russia*

One of form *exilipes* Titchwell since Dec 3rd 2004 remained until April 4th.

*Additional 2002 record:* 2 Barton Turf Jan 28th (PJH).

## Crossbill

*Loxia curvirostra*

### *Breeding resident in fluctuating numbers with Thetford Forest the stronghold; immigrants arrive most years in late summer and autumn; major irruptions at irregular intervals*

Reported widely across county throughout year in small numbers. Many reports from Brecks with peak counts of 20 Lynford Arboretum Jan, 39 Mundford July and 30 Grime's Graves Oct.

Spring coastal migrants (1-3) at Holme, Holkham, Cley and Cromer, whilst breeding confirmed at West Tofts Merc where a pair and 2 young seen.

Some evidence of a small summer arrival with larger counts of 25 Kelling Heath June 2nd, 32 Holt Lowes 9th, 20 Holkham 29th, 25 Hockering and 25 Ringstead July 2nd, 50 Aldeby Tip 3rd, 45 Felthwell 8th, 25 Kelling Heath 10th, 20 Hoveton 13th and 30 Houghton Park 22nd to month end.

Fly-over autumn coastal migrants: 3 south Hunstanton Oct 29th and one south there Nov 5th, 2 west Holme Sept 13th with 8 east there Oct 8th and 22 south 17th, 20 south Titchwell Oct



30th, 2 west Stiffkey Fen Nov 1st, west Cley Oct 20th, west Sheringham Oct 15th with 5 west there 17th, 2 west 29th and west Nov 20th, east Overstrand Nov 9th and south Happisburgh Oct 15th.

In Nov/Dec flocks, away from Brecks, of 25 Dersingham Bog, 12 Downham Market, 20 Holkham Meals, 13 Roydon Common and 12 Weybourne Heath.

### **Common Rosefinch**

*Carpodacus erythrinus*

#### ***Rare passage migrant; potential colonist***

Three autumn records, 2 Scolt Head Aug 31st (NML), Holkham Meals Sept 12th (CAH) and Beeston Bump Sept 25th-29th (DR *et al*).

### **Bullfinch**

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

#### ***Resident and occasional immigrant***

Northern birds of form *pyrrhula* remaining from the Oct 2004 invasion identified as follows: Titchwell Jan 3rd, 2 Lynford Jan 9th, with 3 there 15th and 2 March 25th, 9 near Holt Jan 16th declining to 2 by month end, Strumpshaw Jan 16th-Feb 20th, Holkham Meals Jan 22nd/23rd and early March to at least 13th, Blickling Park Jan 25th and Felbrigg March 7th.

Returning migrants noted late March: 3 south Hunstanton 23rd, Blakeney Point and Winterton 27th, and Sea Palling and Waxham 28th.

Widespread reports of British birds across county throughout year with records from 115 localities; only double-figure counts 11 Narborough and 11 Strumpshaw Feb, up to 10 Roydon Common Sept, and 13 East Walton and 10 Sennowe Park Dec. Breeding reported from Broome, Dersingham Bog, East Tuddenham, Flordon, Hoveton Hall, Marham Fen, Pensthorpe, Repps-with-Bastwick, Roydon Common, Swanton Novers (14 prs - 'well up on last 5 years') and Whitlingham CP. NBA results showed the species was present in 43% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migrants: south California Oct 9th, Overstrand 10th, 4 west Holme 22nd, and 3 west 2 east and 5 in off sea Overstrand Nov 1st. Subsequently in Dec various reports of increased numbers often in small parties both on north coast and inland, birds considered to be arrivals from near-Continent.

### **Hawfinch**

*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

#### ***Elusive and very local resident; scarce migrant***

Only regularly recorded early in year at Lynford Arboretum where max 11 Jan, 16 Feb and 6 March; during rest of year singles only on two dates at this site Oct and Dec. Elsewhere in first winter period 1-2 Barnhamcross Common Jan, 5 West Tofts Mere Jan 1st, one Santon Downham Jan 16th, 2 East Wretham Heath Feb 13th and one Thetford Nunnery Lakes Feb 28th.

A good year for spring coastal migrants: Winterton March 27th, Brancaster Thompson Farm March 28th and Salthouse April 21st. Only other records April-Sept, 2 Hilborough April 3rd and 6 Swanton Novers Aug 27th.

An abnormal number of coastal autumn migrants: west Titchwell Oct 11th, west Burnham Deepdale and Holme and south Hunstanton 16th, 3 west West Runton 23rd, Holme 29th, 3 Titchwell and south Breydon Nov 5th. In second winter period inland records from Norwich Mousehold Heath Oct 12th, New Costessey 15th and 23rd, Aylmerton Oct 26th and Dec 8th, and Thetford Nunnery Lakes Dec 5th and 10th.

## Lapland Bunting

*Calcarius lapponicus*

*Regular but usually scarce passage migrant and winter visitor*

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	1	1	-	-	4	-	-
Titchwell	6	-	2	-	1	-	-
Choseley	12	18	-	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Burnham Overy	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Holkham Bay	2	-	1	-	5	1	1
Stiffkey/Warham Greens	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
Blakeney Point	1	-	-	2	3	-	-
Cley/Salthouse	1	-	-	2	2	-	-
Kelling/Weybourne	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Sheringham	30	6	-	-	7	8	1
West Runton	-	2	2	-	3	1	1
Mundesley/Paston	-	-	-	-	1	18	14
Happisburgh/Eccles	-	2	-	-	-	5	3
Breydon	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

Elsewhere in first winter period singles Wighton Jan 2nd, Burnham Norton Feb 5th, Terrington Marsh Feb 12th, and Beeston Bump March 15th and 23rd, with 2 Reedham Jan 30th. In April singles Yarmouth beach 4th and Salthouse 10th.

Earliest autumn arrivals Sept 10th at Blakeney Point (2) and Weybourne. Subsequent records not included in above table of singles in off sea Winterton Sept 24th and south Oct 1st. In Oct others at Hunstanton 4th, 8th and 16th, Overstrand 4th, 7th-10th and 21st, Waxham 7th, Horsey 8th/9th and 29th, California 9th and 26th, Bacton 15th, Sea Palling 21st and Morston 27th. Later singles at Terrington Marsh Nov 7th, Mautby Nov 26th, King's Lynn BF Dec 1st and Brancaster Dec 22nd.

## Snow Bunting

*Plectrophenax nivalis*

*Winter visitor in declining numbers*

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham/Heacham	40	120	7	-	-	80	70
Hunstanton	65	150	65	-	-	13	-
Holme	130	40	7	2	2	-	60
Titchwell/Brancaster	110	60	7	2	2	50	60
Choseley	200	115	-	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	125	35	-	1	11	60	90
Holkham Bay/Wells	200	130	50	-	50	200	68
Blakeney Point	-	4	2	1	1	80	26
Cley/Salthouse	64	17	18	1	14	80	75
Sheringham/West Runton	-	20	5	1	-	20	25
Walcott/Paston	25	13	2	1	-	100	-
Happisburgh/Eccles	155	60	2	1	8	-	53
Winterton	100	10	90	-	7	30	100
Caister	250	235	100	-	-	200	450
Breydon/Yarmouth/Gorleston	26	15	1	-	2	50	65

Birds regularly move around coast, therefore clearly much duplication in above counts.

Elsewhere in Jan 12 Clippesby Hill 1st, 20 Stiffkey Fen 3rd and 9th, 5 inland Colkirk 9th and 9 Mundesley 31st. Latest spring record West Runton April 2nd.

Earliest Sept arrivals Weybourne and Paston 16th. Other winter records included 150 Baeton Nov 19th, 11 Waxham Nov 29th and 16 Stiffkey SM Dec 4th. A flock of 15-20 west over garden in Old Catton Dec 29th. At Caister total of 570 trapped Nov-Dec and 531 ringed.

## Yellowhammer

*Emberiza citrinella*

### *Once common resident, currently in decline*

Flocks in first winter period included 200 Harleston, 150 Caistor St Edmund, and 100 at Choseley, Marham and Narborough. Smaller flocks of up to 90 at Aylmerton, Beechamwell, Bintree, East Rudham, Gresham, Hoveton, Massingham Heath, North Tuddenham, Sprowston and Tasburgh.

Spring passage birds included total of 36 south Hunstanton March 18th-April 3rd with max 7 March 24th, singles west Beeston Bump March 16th, 19th and 23rd, and April 4th and 5th, and 5 west Overstrand March 25th with singles there March 18th and 19th, and April 14th, 19th, 21st and 30th.

Breeding records included 9 singing males Spixworth Quaker Farm and 11 Harpley Dams. Also 10 breeding pairs Sparham NWT and 13 Roydon Common. NBA results showed the species was present in 83% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage movement noted Hunstanton where 13 south Oct 4th-Nov 4th, with max 5 on Oct 23rd. Other Oct movements 6 west Overstrand 26th and 5 south California 29th.

Second winter period flocks of up to 50 at Paston and North Pickenham, and 270 Fornsett St Peter Dec 27th.



Yellowhammer (John Geeson)

## Little Bunting

*Emberiza pusilla*

### *Vagrant from northern Scandinavia eastwards, mostly in autumn*

Five Oct records, four of which were one-day only birds: Cley 5th (RJ) Scolt Head 6th (NML *et al*), Sheringham 16th (MPL RBV) and Salthouse 29th (AJS MSa). Another found at Morston 16th (DEB PWM *et al*) remained until year end. The max number ever seen in county in one year, exceeding the four in both 1994 and 1998.



Reed Bunting

*Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident and passage migrant

Flocks in first winter period included 38 Choseley, 25 St Benet’s Level and Brancaster, 22 Scolt Head, 20 North Wootton and 12 at both Ranworth Broad and Welney.

Spring movements recorded south at Hunstanton Cliffs totalled 112 March 15th-April 4th with 52 March 18th and 13 on 23rd and 24th. Elsewhere singles west Beeston Bump March 19th and April 4th, Overstrand March 18th, 19th and 22nd , and 5 west Holme, 6 west Scolt Head and 5 south Winterton all March 23rd.

Breeding territories/pairs included: 45 Welney, 45 Holkham NNR, 29 Blakeney Point and 15 Titchwell, with 88 singing males Scolt Head, 15 Roydon Common, 5 Snettisham and smaller numbers at Cantley Marshes, Castle Acre, Haddiscoe, Shotesham, Tasburgh, Tharston, Wacton Common and Whitlingham CP. NBA results showed the species was present in 35% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-05, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn movements included total of 73 west at Scolt Head, with 46 on Oct 15th when 130 also present, 160 south Hunstanton Oct 4th-Nov 12th with 45 on Oct 27th, and 99 south 3 north at California Oct 4th-Nov 22nd with 24 south Oct 10th. Smaller numbers recorded west at Holme, West Runton and Overstrand, and south at Horsey and Winterton.

Second winter period flocks included 180 Hickling, 30 Burnham Overy Dunes, and 20 Holkham and Holme.

Corn Bunting

*Emberiza calandra*

Local and declining resident

Peak first winter period counts at regular sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Welney/Ten Mile Bank	70	1	1	-	-
Choseley	70	100	40	30	25

Elsewhere 15 Northrepps Feb 28th, 8 West Runton March 12th, 10 Terrington Marsh April 12th, and singles at Holme, Lynn Point and Methwold.

Spring movement of singles south Hunstanton March 18th and April 28th, west Beeston Bump April 12th and east Overstrand May 25th.

In late April/early May singles Sheringham on 3 dates, with other singles in May at Winterton 15th, Hockwold Fen 22nd, Feltwell 26th and Weybourne 29th, at Methwold 3 singing males 26th. In June 7 singing birds on territory within a two mile radius of Choseley 1st and 2 at Welney 3rd. In July 4 singing at Ringstead 4th and a single Thornham Farms 15th.

Autumn coastal migrants west Scolt Head Sept 22nd, south Hunstanton Oct 29th and Nov 12th, and west Overstrand Nov 1st and 9th

In second winter period flocks of 50 Choseley Nov 19th, 6 Happisburgh and 5 Paston.



Corn Bunting (Gary Wright)

# Introductions, Escapes, Ferals and Hybrids

## Appendix I - Categories A, B and C

Escapes or feral birds of species on the British List

### Category A Species

#### Lesser White-fronted Goose

*Anser erythropus*

*Northern Eurasia; winters southern Europe, India and China*

Buckenham Sept 9th; Chedgrave Heckingham Marsh April 16th; Harleston Jan 27th (with Greylags), 2 (adult, 1st-winter) Feb 15th, 17th and 23rd-26th, adult March 12th; Heigham Holmes Aug 30th (1st-summer), Nov 29th/30th; Hickling Broad June 15th (imm), 21st/22nd, Aug 16th (1st-summer), Sept 4th and 10th, Dec 2nd/3rd (adult) and 7th-25th; Martham Braod Nov 29th/30th and Dec 4th; Pentney GP Jan 16th and 23rd; Titchwell June 15th; West Somerton Dec 1st (adult).

#### Red-breasted Goose

*Branta ruficollis*

*Western Siberia; winters Black, Caspian and Aral Seas*

At Diss Mere fully winged bird present all year, second pinioned bird up to Sept 20th; Breydon/Berney June 19th and Nov 12th; Hickling Rush Hills June 21st; Stiffkey FM March 23rd-31st..

#### Lady Amherst's Pheasant

*Chrysolophus amherstiae*

*Mountains of Tibet and China to north Burma*

Mundford Jan 16th.

#### Cattle Egret

*Bubulcus ibis*

*Cosmopolitan (result of mass 'escape' from Pensthorpe)*

Attlebridge July 22nd-24th; Blakeney Aug 1st, 15th and 18th; Burnham Overy Staithe Sept 1st, 3rd/4th, 10th/11th, 2 on 12th, 14th, 18th and 21st, one 24th and 29th, Oct 2nd/3rd and 9th; Cley July 31st, Aug 5th, Sept 2nd/3rd and 7th, Oct 24th; Hickling Broad, Potter Heigham and Sea Palling Aug 26th; Titchwell Sept 9th-11th and 25th.

#### Rose-ringed Parakeet

*Psittacula krameri*

*Feral in London area*

Overstrand Sept 6th (house escape).

### Category B/C Species

#### Ruddy Shelduck

*Tadorna ferruginea*

*Asia and North Africa*

Bayfield Brecks May 11th; Bayfield Lake Jan 7th, March 17th, a pair raised 7 ducklings to free flying stage; Breydon July 20th; Briningham 4 Jan 28th; Blickling Park Lake 2 Jan 7th and 24th, one May 8th, June 21st and July 2nd; Buckenham Sept 14th; Cley May 18th and 31st, 2 adults with 9 juvs July 10th, 8 Aug 1st-3rd, 9 4th-17th, 7 20th-31st, 12 Sept 3rd, 11 8th, up to 18 9th-30th, 8 Oct 3rd, 19 4th, 3 27th and up to 10 present during Dec; Earsham GP Jan 13th, 26th and Aug 20th/21st; Great Ryburgh Aug 23rd; Guist pair March 14th and 2 27th; Hedenham April 24th; Hickling Broad Aug 29th and Sept 12th; Holkham NNR pair July 20th, 2 Aug 28th; Kelling 5 west Oct 14th; Kettlestone pair fledged 5 young plus an additional pair; Little Snoring 2 Oct 14th; Melton Constable 4 Jan 27th/28th, 3 30th, 5 31st, 2 Feb 5th, 9th and 12th, 4 on 13th; Potter Heigham Aug 30th, Sept 6th/7th; Salthouse 5 Oct 1st; Stiffkey Fen Aug 28th; Thornage March 29th; Winterton Aug 3rd.

## Appendix II - Category D

Species that would otherwise appear on the British List except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state

### Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

*Tundra of northern Canada, winters to southern United States*

Burnham Norton March 28th-30th, April 23rd, Aug 23rd-30th; Hickling Broad area Jan 1st-March 19th; Stiffkey Fen March 24th.

## Appendix III - Category E

Escapes or feral birds of species not on the British List

### White-faced Whistling-duck

*Dendrocygna viduata*

*Costa Rica to Brazil; Africa, Madagascar and Comoro Islands*

Great Ryburgh June 13th.

### Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

*Australia and Tasmania*

Cley March 1st-May 10th, May 21st/22nd, July 6th, 8th and 29th, Aug 3rd and 9th, Sept 1st-Oct 7th, Nov 1st-Dec 31st; Halvergate Marshes Feb 2nd; Hickling Broad April 5th/6th and 25th, Aug 20th; Hockwold Washes May 31st; Horning Upper Street Dec 30th; Ludham Dec 20th-22nd; Martham July 6th and 9th; Nar Valley Fisheries July 9th; Potter Heigham March 15th-25th; Rudham Marshes Feb 8th; Salthouse Nov 13th; Sea Palling March 3rd; St Benet's Level Feb 1st-18th.

### Bar-headed Goose

*Anser indicus*

*Central Asia; winters in India and Burma*

Bradwell Sept 21st; Buckenham Tofts May 14th; Felbrigg Jan 3rd, Feb 1st, Dec 3rd and 18th; Holkham GM Sept 24th; Pentney GP Jan 9th and 22nd; Snettisham March 29th, June 13th and 19th, Sept 9th; Stanford TA May 14th; Tottenhill GP Jan 19th; Welney May 2nd.

### Emperor Goose

*Anser canagica*

*North-east Siberia to western Alaska; winters southern Alaska to northern California*

How Hill May 13th

### South African Shelduck

*Tadorna cana*

*Karoo of southern Africa*

Cley 3 Oct 10th.

### Muscovy Duck

*Cairina moschata*

*Southern Mexico to Argentina and Brazil*

Brundall Broad April 11th; Diss Mere one all year; Glanford Mill 3 May 22nd; Thetford June 27th.

### Wood Duck

*Aix sponsa*

*Canada to northern Mexico, Cuba and Bahamas*

Gunton Park Jan 27th, Feb 23rd, March 21st and 25th, Sept 24th.

### Chiloe Wigeon

*Anas sibilatrix*

*Southern South America*

Thorpe St Andrew (R Yare) April 30th.

### Hottentot Teal

*Anas hottentota*

*Africa south of Sahara*

Fritcham Jan 23rd.



**Rosy-billed Pochard***Netta peposaca**South America*

Ranworth Broad regular visitor throughout year.

**Reeves's Pheasant***Syrmaticus reevesii**North-central China*

Bircham Newton April 7th; Bodney May 2nd; Ditchingham April 14th; Lynford May 20th; Stanford TA males displaying at 3 sites; Stoke Holy Cross April 21st-27th.

**Japanese Green Pheasant** (hybrid type)*Phasianus versicolor**Japan*

The population in the Briggate, East Ruston, Honing, Riddlington and Worstead area remains stable and may well be expanding with records from North Walsham and Ingham. A new population appears to have been found in the Colby-Banningham. Area, with 51 birds counted Oct 31st. (*The county records committee is of the opinion that all the above birds are hybrids and not 'pure' birds.*)

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecauclatus**Africa south of Sahara and Arabia*

Hickling Broad imm July 18th.

**Harris' Hawk***Parabuteo unicinctus**USA and South America*

Hickling Broad March 13th and 28th, May 15th, Oct 10th, Nov 20th, Dec 1st, 4th, 18th, 24th and 31st; Brayden Marshes/Horse Mere area Aug 12th-Dec 31st.

**Red-tailed Hawk***Buteo jamaicensis**North and Central America and West Indies*

Thetford Forest April 2nd; Thetford Olly's Farm Feb 19th.

**Saker***Falco cherrug**South central Eurasia, winters eastern Mediterranean, India and Tibet*

Choseley April 27th, May 18th/19th, Aug 6th; Hunstanton April 1st; Stiffkey May 15th; Titchwell April 10th and 24th, June 15th, July 24th.

**Lanner***Falco biarmicus**Savanna and deserts of western Palearctic and Africa*

Choseley May 5th.

**American Kestrel***Falco sparverius**North and South America*

Old Hunstanton Oct 15th-17th.

**Budgerigar***Melopsittacus undulatus**Australia*

Holme Aug 15th.

**Rose-faced Lovebird***Agapornis roseicollis**South-west Angola to Northern Cape Province*

Hingham May 2nd.

**Cockatiel***Nymphicus hollandicus**Australia*

Thetford Sept 19th.

**Eurasian Eagle Owl***Bubo bubo**Palearctic*

Burgh Castle March 6th; Lcnwade/Sparham at least one Jan-May also Oct 17th and Nov 23rd.

**Laughing Kookaburra**

*Australia*

Hoc Rough Oct 24th, 28th and 30th, Nov 4th.

**Australian Magpie**

*Australia and New Guinea*

Bacton Dec 18th.

**White-necked Raven**

*East and south Africa*

Cley Sept 21st; Snettisham Sept 19th; Warham Sept 21st (being hand fed).

**Yellow-fronted Canary**

*Africa south of Sahara*

Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 12th; Overstrand Sept 2nd and 6th.

*Dacelo novaeguineae*

*Gymnorhina tibicen*

*Corvus albicollis*

*Serinus mozambicus*

**Appendix IV - Hybrids**

*As submitted by observers - parentage not necessarily confirmed*

**Pink-footed Goose x Ross's Goose**

Choseley Nov 15th; Holkham GM Jan 15th and 21st.

**Greylag Goose x Canada Goose**

Blickling Park Lake 4 Sept 28th.

**Barnacle Goose x White-fronted Goose**

Flitcham Dec 21st.

**Barnacle Goose x Greylag Goose**

Holkham Park June 14th one paired with Greylag and 4 goslings

**Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose**

Hickling Broad June 19th-23rd and 2 on 24th.

**Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon**

Burnham Norton Nov 1st-5th and Dec 24th.

**Pochard x Ferruginous Duck**

Welney Jan 3rd-31st.

**Pochard x Tufted Duck**

Broome GP Jan 5th, 10th and Feb 22nd; Welney Jan 2nd, March 9th/10th.

**Saker Falcon x Gyr(?) Falcon**

Choseley July 29th.

**Mediterranean Gull x Black-headed Gull**

Holkham Park Aug 10th.

# Earliest and Latest Dates of Summer Migrants

*(excludes occasional winter records)*

	<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>	
Garganey	March 20th	Horsey	Oct 14th	Welney
Spoonbill	March 4th	Stiffkey Fen	Sept 15th	Holkham, Titchwell
Honey Buzzard	May 15th	3 sites	Oct 4th	Titchwell
Montagu's Harrier	April 17th	Sheringham	Sept 21st	Brancaster
Osprey	April 1st	Taverham	Oct 11th	Hoveton
Hobby	April 3rd	Cley, Sennowe Park	Oct 21st	Sea Palling
Quail	May 11th	Hellington	Sept 12th	West Somerton
Stone Curlew	March 24th	Buckenham, Shadwell	Dec 24th	Hilborough
Little Ringed Plover	March 4th	Strumpshaw	Oct 2nd	Stiffkey Fen
Dotterel	April 30th	Waxham	Sept 25th	North Wootton
Little Stint	May 4th	Hickling Rush Hills	Nov 3rd	Snettisham
Temminek's Stint	May 1st	Titchwell	Sept 23rd	Titchwell
Curlew Sandpiper	April 15th	Cley	Nov 1st	Berney/Breydon
Whimbrel	March 25th	Horsey	Oct 24th	Blakeney Point
Wood Sandpiper	April 26th	Pentney GP	Sept 13th	Titchwell
Common Sandpiper	April 16th	Flitcham	Nov 20th	Snettisham
Little Tern	April 15th	Scolt Head	Sept 17th	Holme
Black Tern	April 21st	Breydon	Oct 30th	Titchwell
Sandwich Tern	March 12th	Sheringham	Nov 1st	Blakeney Point
Common Tern	March 21st	3 sites	Nov 16th	Cromer, Holme
Roseate Tern	June 9th	Blakeney Point	Aug 7th	Mundesley
Arctic Tern	April 8th	Paston	Dec 8th	Yarmouth
Turtle Dove	April 6th	North Creake	Oct 4th	Walpole Highway
Cuckoo	April 3rd	Surlingham	Sept 3rd	Welney
Nightjar	May 4th	West Bilney	Oct 11th	Buxton
Swift	April 18th	Middleton	Nov 6th	Sheringham
Wryneck	April 19th	Kelling	Oct 20th	Happisburgh
Sand Martin	March 16th	Titchwell, Walcott	Nov 1st	Overstrand
Swallow	March 16th	Titchwell	Dec 8th	Titchwell
House Martin	March 16th	Strumpshaw	Nov 7th	Aylmerton
Tree Pipit	April 1st	Santon Downham	Oct 24th	Overstrand
Yellow Wagtail	April 1st	Holme	Nov 21st	Welney
White Wagtail	March 16th	Brancaster Staithe	Oct 19th	Cromer
Nightingale	March 28th	Pentney Heath	Sept 11th	Stiffkey SM
Redstart	March 26th	Thetford Forest	Oct 24th	Scolt Head
Whinchat	April 22nd	Scolt Head	Nov 1st	Holkham Meals
Wheatear	March 11th	Titchwell	Nov 7th	Breydon
Ring Ouzel	March 19th	Lynn Point	Nov 7th	California
Grasshopper Warbler	April 3rd	Strumpshaw	Sept 23rd	Strumpshaw
Sedge Warbler	March 28th	Breydon	Sept 24th	Whitlingham CP
Reed Warbler	April 11th	3 sites	Oct 9th	Welney
Lesser Whitethroat	April 10th	Snettisham CP	Oct 19th	Morston
Whitethroat	April 5th	Narborough	Oct 21st	Happisburgh
Garden Warbler	April 22nd	Lynford Arborctum	Oct 22nd	Snettisham CP
Wood Warbler	April 29th	Holkham Meals	Sept 12th	Yarmouth
Willow Warbler	March 23rd	Hovcton Hall	Nov 12th	Cley
Spotted Flycatcher	April 30th	4 sites	Oct 15th	Horsey
Pied Flycatcher	April 27th	Blakeney Pt, Sher'ham	Oct 16th	Holkham Meals
Red-backed Shrike	May 18th	Hindringham	Sept 25th	Winterton



# Latest and Earliest Dates of Winter Migrants

*(excludes occasional summer records)*

	<i>Departures</i>		<i>Arrivals</i>	
Bewick's Swan	March 29th	Welney	Oct 16th	Welney
Whooper Swan	May 19th	Welney	Sept 3rd	Burnham Norton
Taiga Bean Goose	March 6th	Burnham Overy	Oct 26th	Yare Valley
Tundra Bean Goose	May 5th	Holkham	Sept 27th	Holkham
Pink-footed Goose	May 15th	Scolt Head	Sept 3rd	Scolt Head
White-fronted Goose	March 16th	Berney	Oct 19th	Weybourne
Long-tailed Duck	April 18th	Titchwell	Oct 17th	Titchwell
Goldeneye	April 24th	Hockwold Washes	Aug 7th	Gorleston
Smew	Feb 28th	Tottenhill GP	Dec 3rd	Tottenhill GP
Black-throated Diver	April 16th	Holme	Sept 5th	Cley, Blakeney Pt
Great Northern Diver	April 16th	Holme	Sept 12th	Sheringham
Red-necked Grebe	March 13th	Titchwell	July 26th	Brancaaster Hbr
Slavonian Grebe	March 26th	Titchwell	Oct 2nd	Scolt Head
Black-necked Grebe	April 10th	Welney	Aug 25th	Pentney GP
Hen Harrier	May 21st	Scolt Head	Aug 16th	Blakeney Point
Rough-legged Buzzard	May 15th	Holkham Park	Oct 16th	Holkham
Merlin	June 3rd	Sheringham	Aug 7th	Scolt Head
Peregrine	June 26th	Colney GP	Aug 7th	Cley
Purple Sandpiper	May 16th	Titchwell	Aug 8th	Scolt Head
Jack Snipe	April 13th	How Hill	Sept 17th	Cley
Iceland Gull	May 22nd	Burnham Overy	Nov 22nd	California
Glaucous Gull	April 17th	Caister	Nov 16th	California
Shore Lark	May 3rd	Waxham	Sept 27th	Muckleborough Hill
Rock Pipit	April 10th	Titchwell	Sept 10th	Blakeney Point
Water Pipit	April 13th	How Hill	Oct 11th	Hickling Rush Hills
Waxwing	May 12th	Beeston Regis	Oct 16th	Scolt Head
Fieldfare	May 21st	Potter Heigham	Aug 11th	Ten Mile Bank
Redwing	April 27th	Scolt Head	Sept 21st	Holkham Meals
Great Grey Shrike	May 7th	Denver	Oct 4th	Cromer GC, Mundesley
Brambling	April 27th	3 sites	Sept 11th	Blakeney Point
Twite	April 5th	Overstrand	Sept 24th	Titchwell
Lapland Bunting	April 10th	Salhouse	Sept 10th	Blakeney Pt, Weyb'me
Snow Bunting	April 2nd	West Runton	Sept 16th	Weybourne, Paston

## Non-accepted Records

The following refer to records where a written description has not been accepted by either the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee.

1991 Snowy Owl - Breydon March 22nd.

2004 Pallid Swift - Hunstanton Oct 29th; Asian Desert Warbler - California Oct 22nd.

2005 American Wigeon - Broome GP Nov 24th/25th; Black-necked Grebe - Holkham Bay Dec 5th; Fea's Petrel - Sheringham Aug 8th; Cory's Shearwater - Cley Aug 21st, Holme Sept 29th, Cley Oct 23rd, Happisburgh Oct 27th; Great Shearwater - Titchwell June 4th; Sooty Shearwater - Happisburgh Feb 26th; White Stork - Titchwell Feb 20th, Trimmingham Sept 6th; Eagle sp - Titchwell March 14th; Corncrake - Weybourne May 17th; Broad-billed Sandpiper - Titchwell July 19th; Grey Phalarope - Sheringham Nov 19th; Long-tailed Skua - Winterton Dec 4th; Bonaparte's Gull - Weybourne Nov 16th; Caspian Gull - King's Lynn July 15th,

Blakeney Hbr Aug 19th; Ross's Gull - Hunstanton Oct 19th; Bee Eater - Burnham Norton May 15th, Hempstead July 26th; Greenish Warbler - Stiffkey Meals Sept 12th/13th; Hume's Leaf Warbler - Weybourne Dec 11th; Raven - Northrepps March 16th/17th, Cley March 21st; Serin - Thornham Sept 2nd; Ortolan Bunting - Salthouse Aug 28th.

## Non-submitted Records

The following records have been reported to either the National or East Anglian Birdlines, or Rare Bird Alert but to date no details have been received. Descriptions of any of these records would be welcomed (for consideration either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee) so that hopefully they can be published as accepted records in due course.

Surf Scoter (3)	Wash (3 mls w Snettisham)	Nov 13th
Black-necked Grebe	Salthouse	Oct 26th
Purple Heron	Runham	May 17th
Spotted Crake	Titchwell	Sept 13th
Black Kite	Thwaite Common	April 6th
	Sheringham/Weybourne	May 21st
	Wells	Sept 3rd
Red-footed Falcon	Hickling Broad (male)	June 3rd-5th
	Hickling Broad (2 females)	June 5th
	Yarmouth Racecourse	June 11th
Black-winged Stilt (2)	Welney	Aug 17th
White-rumped Sandpiper	Salthouse	Sept 6th
	Welney	Oct 2nd
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Titchwell	Sept 17th/18th
Sabine's Gull	Cley	Sept 17th
	Sheringham	Oct 14th
	Holme	Oct 14th
	Walcott	Oct 24th
	Sheringham	Nov 14th
Whiskered Tern	Acle Straight	May 21st
Rose-ringed Parakeet	East Wreatham Heath	June 27th
Pallid Swift	Holme	Oct 29th
	Sheringham	Oct 31st
	Winterton	Nov 2nd
Bee-eater	Necton	June 17th
	Salthouse	Sept 19th
Red-throated Pipit	Holkham Gap	April 25th
	Winterton	Oct 5th
	Holkham Gap	Oct 9th
Greenish Warbler	Holkham Meals	Sept 11th/12th
	Holme	Sept 12th
Raven	Fakenham	March 31st
Rosc-coloured Starling	Choseley	Oct 4th
Serin	Necton	May 19th
Little Bunting	Choseley	March 12th

# List of Contributors to Systematic List

S Abbott	M A Brewster	M Cowley	N Gibbons
M Abdulla	D & J Bridges	H P Crawley	S Gillings
R Abel	G N Brind	G Cresswell	J Gilroy (JGi)
A Aberdeen	BTO	M D Crewe	P Gluth
N A Alford	I Brittain	J Cricket	G Goffin
P R Allard	G J Brooking	A Curl	D J Golds
M Andrew	R Brooks	V A Dalkin	M A Golley
J Andrews (JAn)	A Brown	K Davey	A Goodall
D P Appleton	A F Brown	T C & G Davies	S J Gough
G F Appleton	Jon Brown	J Day	M Grantham
P C Arbery	R Brownsword (RBr)	C H Dobbs	A J Gray
J Archer (JAr)	S H Bryan	J Dobson	A Green
D Austin	A L & R M Bull	P Dolman	B Greenacre
T Austin	R Burrows	P J Dolton	C Gregory
J K Baker	A & S Burtenshaw	C Donner	L V Gregory
R Baker	N Burton	D Dorling	A Grcotton
D Baldwin	R Burton	G Dormer (GDo)	R Gribble
B Ball	J F Butcher	K Dove	A Grieve (AGr)
M Ball	G Button	J Dries	B Griffin
D E Balmer	B Bye	G E Dunmore	A Grimsey (AGri)
A Banwell	J Cadbury	G Dutson	G&J Gurney
S Barbato	N Calbrade	K R Dye	A J Hale
S Barker (SBA)	S Cale	R Dyke	P D Halford
B Barnett	O Campbell	A Eadson	J Halls
R E Batty	P Carr	J Eaton	J Hampshire
S Baylis	B & D Carter	P Eele	P Hampson
P E Beard	P Cawley (PCa)	M I Eldridge	M Handschuh (MHa)
D Bcasley	D E Chamberlain	N Elms	V J Hanlon
B Beckett	A G Channer	N J C Elsey	J Harding (JHa)
D Beckett	C Chapman	G S Elton	R I Harold
A P Benson	K Charters	G J Etherington	J Harris
L Benson (LBe)	D L Cheyne	J Evans	R Harvey
L G Bentley	R H Chittenden	C M & F J Farrow	D Headland
C Betts	M A Chipperfield	P C Feakes	P J Heath
S Betts (SBe)	P Clack	C & J Fenn	I G Henderson
J V Bhalcrao	P Clement	J Filowiat	K J & A Herber
Birdguides	Cley Bird Club	P Findon	B Herbing
Birdline East Anglia	R Cobbold (RCo)	M Fisher	P Herkenrath
Birdtrack	M Cocker	M D Fiszer	C M Hewson
J Bishop(JBi)	A Cohen	G W Follows	G Hewson
N Blacker	A F Coles	R A & A J Foyster	G F Hibberd
I Blaxill	M P Collier	R Fray	R Hill
A I Bloomfield	G Collins	A C Frost	I Hines
C Boness	M Colman	R J Fuller	M Hines
A D Boote	P Colston (PCo)	J Furse (JFu)	A & M Hiron
A Booth (ABO)	S Conner	J Gaffney	R Hoblyn
G Boulter	G Conway	S J M Gantlett	S J Holloway
T E Boulton	F Cooke	A J Gardiner	D J Holman
N B Bowman	R Coombes	R W & H K Garner	Holme Bird Observatory
I Boston	R H Coombes	J R Gathercole	P Holness
R Bradley	A Court	J D & J E Gecson	C A Holt
K J Brett	T Cowan	E L George	J Hopkins



S Howell	T C Lowe	N Pomiankowski	R Stern (RSt)
T Humpage	J C Lowen	J Popkin	A Stockhausen
C Hudson	M Luitwieler	R F Porter	A M Stoddart
R A Image	R Mabey	A Powell	N Strect
R Irstead	J MacCallum-Stewart	I Prentice	B Stretch (BSt)
A & C Jackson	D Machin	M Preston	M Sweeney
C Jarrett	I M D Maclean	B&B Pummell	L S Taylor
B Jarvis	J D Magee	M H Rains	M P Taylor
P A Jeffery	D Mallord (DMa)	Rare Bird Alert	P Taylor
A Jenkins	J H Marchant	M J Raven	R Thewlis
A & J Jenkins	R Marchant	D I & R M Richmond	M Toms
I G & K Johnson	M R & O R Marks	I Robinson	J&D K Toomer
S & M Johnson	A Martin (AMa)	R Robinson	D Underwood
R Johnson	B Martin	C Robson	E Urquart
D Jones	J P Martin	D Roche	B Vevers
J Jones	R Martin (RMA)	R Roche (RRO)	J A Vickery
R F Jones	J R McCallum	E V Rogers	R Vigor
S C Joyner	S McElwee	J Rogers	A E Vine
A C Joys	R C & S McIntyre	N R Rogers	R B Votier
A J Kane	E E McLemon	R Rogers	J Wagstaff
C Kelly	H P Medhurst	R Rolfe	M A Ward (MAWa)
G I Kelly	A Mellor	M S Rooney	P Ward
J B Kemp	R G Millington	J Rowe (JRo)	R Warren
T Kerridge	C H Mills	RSPB	A M Waterman
I F & J Keymer	D Mirecki (DMi)	D H Russell	M Watson
V Kimmel	P Montgomery	D H Sadler	M A Webster
P King	N Morris	B Sage	Wensum Valley Bird
L Kingleysides	D Morrison (DMo)	A J Saunders	Society
C A E Kirtland	S & P Morrison	M Saunders (MSa)	S C West
D R Knight	B J Murphy	D Saunt	P Westley
G Knight	P W Murphy	M J Saunt	C E Wheeler
C R Knights	A R Murray	C Sayer	D White
M Knights	A J Musgrove	J Scott (JSc)	P Whitcomb
P C Lack	E T Myers	R E Scott	I White
D A Lake	NARVOS	D Seaman	J R Whitelegg
W N Landells	C&F Neale	J & R Secker	P Whittall
C Lansdell	S Newman (SNe)	B Shapcott	D & P Wileman
J Lansdell (JLa)	P Newport	K Shepherd	N Williams
T Lawrence	S Newson	Sheringham Bird	R Williams
J Lawson	B Nicholls	Observatory	J R Williamson
N M Lawton	T Nightingale	N Sills	A M Wilson
R M Leaney	NOA	G M Siriwardena	K Wilson
M P Lee	D Nye	R Skeen	P M Wilson
R Lee	M Olin	A J L & E Smith	D Wood
D Leech	G R Oxborough	I N Smith	P Wood
J Leeder	J & A Oxenford	M Smith	P J Woolnough
D P Lester	N Packer	S Smith	G Wright
J Lines	P Parker	M Somerwill	L Wright
S Linsell	T Peach	S South	M Wright
S M Lister	D Pelling	M Spriggs	S A Wright
L Lloyd	J Pilgrim	E M P Stanford	T Wright
P Lockwood	S G Piner	Santa Bird Club	
J Lovett	S H Piotrowski	J M Stenning	
M & K Lovett	B Pleasance	N Stephenson	

# Ringling Report

*Allan Hale*

A total of 46,423 birds of 129 species were reported as being ringed in Norfolk during 2005. Again it has not been possible to obtain every ringer's totals but this is still the highest number of birds ever ringed in the county in a year. The species count was average for the past decade.

Amongst the rarer birds to be handled were Thrush Nightingale, Red-backed Shrike and no fewer than 9 Yellow-browed Warblers. The most-ringed species was Greenfinch with 6,244 birds handled, followed by Blue Tit (4,032), Great Tit (3,281) and Swallow (2,897). Record numbers of Barn Owl (714), Great Spotted Woodpecker (139), Goldcrest (1,889) and Swallow were ringed. Other impressive totals included 9 Hobby (the first ringed in Norfolk since 1991), and 10 Grasshopper Warbler (best since 1991). Does 24 Willow Tit represent the start of a recovery after the record low of 12 during 2004?

As usual there was much of interest in the recoveries received, which were from 22 countries. These included places that turn up rarely in this report including Canada, The Ukraine, and perhaps surprisingly, Northern Ireland. The longest displacement of the year was from a Turnstone, which travelled 6,378km from its breeding grounds on Ellesmere Island to its wintering grounds on The Wash. Not all movements have a distance and direction of travel shown, since this information is only rarely given where colour-ringed birds are concerned.

Thanks to all Norfolk ringers for access to their data, and especially to Steve and Alison Wakeham for the Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation. Thanks also to the "Cley Crew" for their diligence in reading and reporting the many colour-ringed birds seen in the area.

## Selected Norfolk Recoveries Notified During 2005

Ringling details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second.

### Age when ringed

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Pullus (= nestling)  |
| 2 | Fully grown, year of hatching unknown                            |
| 3 | Hatched during calendar year of ringling                         |
| 4 | Hatched before calendar year of ringling, but exact year unknown |
| 5 | Hatched during previous calendar year                            |
| 6 | Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown     |
| 7 | Hatched two calendar years before ringling                       |
| 8 | Hatched more than two calendar years before ringling             |
| M | = male   |
| F | = female   |
| J | = distinctive juvenile plumage                                   |

### Condition at Recovery

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| X  | Found dead                                |
| XF | Found freshly dead or dying               |
| XL | Found long dead                           |
| +  | Shot or intentionally killed by man       |
| R  | Caught and released by a ringer           |
| B  | Caught and released by a ringer (nesting) |
| RR | Ring or colour marks read in the field    |

### **Dark-bellied Brent Goose**

A bird ringed as an adult male at Lidia Bay, Taimyr, Siberia, Russia 09.08.95 was reported in last years report. It had subsequently been seen on Jersey, Channel Islands (1996) Jylland, Denmark (spring 1997), Sylt, Germany (springs of 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001) before being noted at Cley-next-the-Sea during the winters of 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. It has since been seen just once, again at Cley, 03.11.05. Another bird, ringed as a moulting adult on the Pyasina Delta, Siberia, Russia during August '93 was seen at Cley-next-the Sea on three dates during January '05.

### **Cormorant**

8	12.05.04	Enkhuizen, De Ven, Noord-Holland, Netherlands	
RR	13.02.05	Snettisham	(326km W)

Having been prevented from wader catching by strong winds during the February trip, most of the Wash Wader Ringing Group team spent the Sunday morning birdwatching, including spotting this colour-ringed Cormorant from the Netherlands.

### **Shag**

1	19.07.05	Isle of May, Firth of Forth, Scotland
RR	05.11.05	Sheringham

The Isle of May is a source for many of the Shag that are seen in Norfolk.

### **Hen Harrier**

1F	Summer 05	Northumberland/Cumbria/Scottish Borders
RR	03.11.05	Cley-next-the-Sea

A colour-ringed bird. Six of the ten birds that fledged at these sites were fitted with the same colour combination.

### **Oystercatcher**

3	27.11.88	Heacham	
R	30.06.05	Vareid, Flakstad, Nordland, Norway	(1,828km NNE)

The northernmost Oystercatcher recovery of the year, this individual was found caught up in fishing netting used to protect poultry, and safely released.

### **Avocet**

The first Spanish-ringed Avocet to be found in Britain (ringed as a nestling) was reported in the last county bird report. After three successive summers at Cley-next-the-Sea, (1,820km NNE) it returned yet again for the 2005 breeding season, where, yet again, it was a failed breeder on Pat's Pool.

Another, ringed as a nestling at Holme-next-the-Sea 18.06.93, was still going strong at Cley during 2005. After nest-building on Pat's Pool it left, apparently to nest elsewhere. It was seen regularly again during July.

A brace of nestlings from Trimley Marshes, Suffolk, were also seen at Cley during the summer of 2005. Both were ringed during 1997.

### **Ringed Plover**

1	25.07.98	Snettisham	
RR	08.10.04	Porspaul, Finistere, France	(614km SW)
1	13.06.04	Snettisham	



RR 28.09.04 Portnafrankagh, Mayo, Eire (711km WNW)

The colour-ringing programme along the eastern shore of The Wash continues to yield much valuable information. Two further birds were found in Finistere, France plus another in Eire. The length of the study is now revealing some longer-lived birds, with one still going strong in Norfolk after over eight years.

#### Knot

5 03.07.04 Heacham  
R 25.02.05 Brora, Highland Region, Scotland (630km NNW)

3 27.12.03 Terrington  
RR 31.03.05 Strekdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands (296km E)

5 03.07.04 Heacham  
RR 31.03.05 Strekdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands (296km E)

The first shows one of two identical movements - the two individuals were caught together in both of the locations. It is interesting to note that these birds, having been caught on The Wash in July had moved north and were, apparently, wintering around the Moray Firth. The second and third shown are two field sightings from a diligent Dutch birdwatcher.

#### Sanderling

4 01.08.04 Snettisham  
XL 02.08.05 Tavira, Algarve, Portugal (1,860km SSW)

Only the fifth British-ringed Sanderling to be found in Portugal, and the first from The Wash. This bird will have been on its southward migration when caught at Snettisham, however being found 'long dead' it is not clear whether it had arrived particularly early in Portugal the following year, or had, in fact, failed to make the return journey in the spring.

#### Dunlin

3 15.08.04 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
R 03.09.04 Terrington (344km E)

3 31.08.02 Langenwerder, Nordwestmeeklenburg, Germany  
R 16.10.04 Snettisham (742km W)

The first shows an unusual relocation from the west coast to east during the autumn migration. The second is one of three Dunlin from the same German site showing a similar migration timing in successive years, before being captured together amongst the 800+ caught at Snettisham in October 2004.

#### Ruff

4M 29.04.05 Bolsward, Friesland, Netherlands  
RR 22.06.05 Vadsoe, Norway  
RR 15.07.05 Cley-next-the-Sea (until at least 01.08.05)

A total of five colour-ringed Ruff were seen at Cley between 25.06.05 and 17.09.05; they were all ringed in various parts of Friesland in The Netherlands. The most interesting (the only one

seen between ringing and its appearance at Cley) is shown in full, having completed a return trip to Northern Norway in the intervening 3 months.

### Black-tailed Godwit

4M	31.07.00	Terrington, King's Lynn
RR	April 01	Kilnsea, East Yorkshire
RR	07.03.02	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 20.04.02)
RR	02.05.02	Eastern Iceland
RR	20.03.03	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 06.04.03)
RR	26.04.03	Eastern Iceland (until 05.05.03)
RR	03.09.03	Stour Estuary, Essex
RR	02.03.04	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 23.04.04)
RR	10.04.05	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 23.04.05)
4F	07.09.98	Holbeach, Lincolnshire
RR	30.11.98	Stour Estuary, Essex
RR	28.04.99	Stour Estuary, Essex
RR	05.01.00	Cantabria, Spain (until 26.01.00)
RR	08.10.00	Stour Estuary, Essex (until 04.11.00)
RR	19.01.01	Stour Estuary, Essex (until 17.02.01)
RR	24.10.02	Stour Estuary, Essex
RR	10.01.03	Orwell Estuary, Suffolk
RR	08.02.03	Stour Estuary, Essex (until 19.02.03)
RR	25.03.05	Cley-next-the-Sea

A total of 43 colour-ringed birds of the form *islandica* were seen at Cley. The majority were ringed on The Wash, the exceptions being 2 ringed in East Norfolk, 3 in Western France and 10 in Iceland. Two particularly interesting histories are shown.

Five colour-ringed birds of the nominate form *limosa* were also seen at Cley between June and August 2005. They were all ringed as nestlings in the UK (site withheld at the request of the RSPB.)

### Greenshank

3J	22.08.03	Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
RR	07.07.05	Cley-next-the-Sea

Strangely, the sighting at Cley was the first for this colour-ringed individual since its ringing, some two years previously.

### Turnstone

3	30.07.99	Alert, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada	
RR	05.03.05	Thornham	(6,378km ESE)
4	02.08.04	Terrington Bund	
?	20.04.05	Conakry, Guinea	(4,977km SSW)

It is known that some birds from the Greenland and Canadian breeding population winter on the Wash. The first shown is a colour-ringed individual spotted by group member Chris Kelly, and is the third Canadian ringed Turnstone to be found around the Wash.

Whilst a few Turnstone from the Fennoscandian breeding population may also winter in Britain, most occur on passage, continuing southwards to northwest and West Africa. The second shown is however, the first British-ringed Turnstone to be found in Guinea, although there have been three examples from neighbouring Guinea Bissau, including two from the Wash.

### **Mediterranean Gull**

I	04.06.03	Fejer, Central Hungary
RR	25.06.04	Cley/Salthouse (plus irregularly until 05.09.04)
RR	27.03.05	Cley-next-the-Sea (plus regularly until 27.07.05)
4	05.04.99	Engshaveparken, Copenhagen, Denmark
RR	06.04.99	Holme So, Brondby, Denmark
RR	17.04.99	Utterslev Mose, Copenhagen, Denmark
RR	03.05.99	Holme So, Brondby, Denmark (until 10.05.99)
RR	18.02.01	Titchwell
RR	23.03.03	Holme So, Brondby, Denmark (until 27.06.04)
RR	18.01.06	Aldeby
I	10.05.04	Lublin, Wijla River, Poland
RR	31.01.05	Titchwell

A second nestling from 2003 in Central Hungary was seen at Cley during July 2005, having previously been at Minsmere during April 2005.

The second shown is one of only four Mediterranean Gulls that have been colour-ringed in Denmark. The 2006 date has been added for completeness.

The third demonstrates yet another country from where our Mediterranean Gulls originate.

The last Mediterranean Gull story is best told in narrative. An adult male was ringed as a third calendar year bird at Rijkevorsel, Antwerp, Belgium on 24.06.01. The bird regularly wintered at Great Yarmouth and bred in 2001, 2002 and 2003 at Zandvlietsluis, Antwerp. On 16.05.04 (having been last seen at Yarmouth on 01.02.04), it turned up at the Nyski Reservoir, Opole in Poland with its *green ring 74A* damaged and worn. It was caught on 23.05.04 and this ring was replaced with a Polish *red ring 2P8*, but leaving the Belgium metal ring on. It bred at Opole, Poland and then returned to Yarmouth on 02.12.04 with its Belgium metal ring and Polish colour ring (causing a little confusion at first!). The bird remained at Yarmouth until 07.03.05 at least.

### **Black-headed Gull**

3	31.07.04	Turku, Turku-Pori, Finland	
RR	21.01.05	The Mere, Diss	(1,582km SW)
I	05.07.00	Juuka, Pohjois-Karjala, Finland	
X	16.02.06	Bradmoor Lake, Narborough	(2,046km WSW)
I	15.07.99	Westernland, The Netherlands	
RR	March 03	East Harling	
RR	09.02.05	Ditchingham	



The 'Diss Gull Watcher' always comes up with something for this report! Another Dutch-ringed nestling was at Ditchingham during February 2005.

### **Common Gull**

4	30.06.04	Walfisch, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany	
RR	10.11.05	Cley-next-the-Sea	(695km W)
4	10.06.01	Breivika, Tromso, Norway	
RR	09.05.02	Breivika, Tromso, Norway	
RR	28.03.05	Ditchingham	

Both of these birds were ringed as adults on their breeding grounds, later choosing to winter in Norfolk.

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

1	17.09.99	Orfordness, Suffolk	
RR	10.06.01	Orfordness, Suffolk	
RR	21.06.01	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 02.08.01)	
RR	16.06.04	Cley-next-the-Sea (16.06.04)	
RR	19.07.05	Cley-next-the-Sea	
RR	Jan 06	near Madrid, Spain	
1	16.07.00	Orfordness, Suffolk	
RR	10.02.01	Oued Sous, Agadir, Morocco	
RR	03.11.01	Milton, Cambridgeshire	
RR	12.04.04	Orfordness, Suffolk	
RR	28.01.05	Wilby, Diss	

Ten colour-ringed birds were seen at Cley during 2005. Six were from Orfordness (Suffolk), two from Vest-Agder (Norway), one from Rotterdam (The Netherlands) and one from South Walney (Cumbria). All were ringed as nestlings except the South Walney bird. Just one is shown in full, interesting in that a five year old bird might not be expected to winter as far south as Central Spain. Conversely, a juvenile might well be expected to make such a journey.

The second shown is more typical, going well south in its first winter, then remaining in Eastern England during subsequent winters. Another bird showed a similar pattern, wintering in Spain during January 2002 and then being seen at Wilby in January 2005.

### **Herring Gull**

#### ***Herring Gull***

A colour-ringed bird at Cley-next-the-Sea 09.04.05 had been ringed as a nestling in Vest-Agder, Norway, two years previously. This was the first sighting after ringing.

#### ***Caspian Gull***

1	16.05.03	Jankowice, Babice, Malopolska, Poland	
RR	24.02.04	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	
RR	27.02.04	Hempstead, Gloucestershire	
RR	04.10.04	Westkapelle, Zeeland, The Netherlands	
RR	26.01.05	Wilby, Diss (until at least 13.03.05)	

A doubly interesting find for local gull watchers. In addition to the well-travelled bird shown, another colour-ringed Caspian Gull at Wilby on 28.01.05 had been ringed in Ukraine, but no further details are available,

### Great Black-backed Gull

1	25.06.03	Mandal, Vest-Agder, Norway
RR	09.10.03	Helgoland Island, Germany
RR	24.09.04	Ijmuiden, The Netherlands
RR	09.04.05	Cley-next-the-Sea
RR	06.05.05	Cley-next-the-Sea
RR	25.07.05	Cley-ncxt-the-Sea
1	10.07.04	Kandalakshskiy NR, Murmansk, Russia
RR	22.02.05	Ditchingham

A total of seven birds, all ringed as nestlings in Vest-Agder, Norway were seen at Cley, plus an eighth at Wilby and a ninth at Blackborough End. The example shown is the only one with multiple sightings since ringing.

### Little Tern

1	07.07.91	near Wells-next-the-Sea	
X	12.05.05	Blakeney Point	(9km ENE)

At almost 14 years of age this bird is still some three years short of the national longevity record.

### Swallow

3J	26.08.05	near Cantley	
R	28.09.05	Embalse de Beniarres, Alicante, Spain	(1,538km S)

The dates come as no surprise - Norfolk in late August, Spain a month later.

### Robin

3	16.10.05	Dungeness, Kent	
3	23.11.05	near Wells-next-the-Sea	(226km N)
3	27.10.04	near Weybourne	
X	08.10.05	Gjesing, Esbjerg, Jylland, Denmark	(556km WNW)

The first shown was presumably a Continental bird making landfall in Kent, but then moving back north to Wells the next month. The second was identified as a Continental bird on ringing near Weybourne - it drowned after falling into a bucket of Danish water!

### Blackbird

3M	03.11.02	Shimpling, Diss	
R	23.06.05	Tongeren, Gelderland, The Netherlands	(323km E)
4F	09.11.00	River Burn, Burnham Market	
?	08.04.01	Trollhattan, Alvsborg, Sweden	(936km NE)
4F	28.10.01	Snettisham Coastal Park	

XF	04.04.04	Torsminde, Jylland, Denmark	(629km NE)
3F	10.11.04	Burnham Deepdale	
X	20.01.05	Menai Bridge, Anglesey, Wales	

An interesting series of records showing the breeding grounds of some of our winter visitors and the wintering grounds of some of our passage migrants.

### **Song Thrush**

3	14.10.05	near Wells-next-the-Sea	
+	06.11.05	Urros, Braganca, Beira Alta, Portugal	(1,500km SSW)

Sadly shot, presumably on its wintering ground, only 23 days after being ringed in Norfolk. In the last three county bird reports there have been nine Norfolk-ringed Song Thrushes shot overseas, two in France, one in Spain and six in Portugal. Only a single bird survived beyond seven weeks of its ringing date.

### **Cetti's Warbler**

3M	23.07.03	Weybourne	
R	30.05.05	Martham Pits, Martham	(41km SE)

Not a long movement, but any information regarding this species is welcome.

### **Sedge Warbler**

3	11.08.05	Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour, Dorset	
R	29.08.05	The Island, Haddiscoe	(325km NE)
3	23.07.05	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	20.08.05	Massereau, Frossay, Loire-Atlantique, France	(643km SSW)

The first shows a young bird starting its first migration in the wrong direction. The second demonstrates a more expected movement, the bird stopping off along the French Atlantic coast. It is thought that Sedge Warblers may need to feed in France to put on reserves of fat, thus enabling them to make the long-haul flight to Africa. They rarely stop off on the Iberian peninsular.

### **Reed Warbler**

3J	21.08.04	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	01.09.05	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, France	(917km S)

The location in France is somewhat further east than might be expected from a British Reed Warbler. Usually they stop off at coastal wetlands.

### **Blackcap**

3F	22.10.01	Weybourne	
R	20.04.02	Haute Corse, Corsica, France	(1,263km SSE)

Note the finding date – it often takes a long while to get details from foreign ringing schemes! This is the first time that Corsica has ever featured in this report.



**Chiffchaff**

3M	29.09.01	Omo, Skaelskor, Sjaelland, Denmark	
R	28.10.04	near Weybourne	(701km WSW)
3J	16.07.04	Weybourne	
R	24.09.04	De Haan, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	(225km SE)
3	19.06.03	Shereford, Fakenham	
R	27.07.03	Shereford, Fakenham	
R	10.04.04	Sint Laureins, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	(257km SE)

The first is clearly a Continental or Scandinavian bird on passage. The other two conform with the habits of British Chiffchaffs which tend to cross The Channel to and from the Low Countries.

**Willow Warbler**

4F	30.04.05	near Sheringham	
X	05.06.05	Bellanoch, Strathclyde, Scotland	(554km NW)

A migrant at Sheringham, this bird was the victim of a road traffic accident on its breeding grounds.

**Goldcrest**

3M	28.10.05	near Weybourne	
R	11.12.05	Norwich	(37km SSE)

This bird was thought to be of continental origin when originally trapped. Its recapture in the county is suggestive of wintering here.

**Chaffinch**

6M	22.03.98	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
R	20.05.03	Torgerstuen, Hedmark, Norway	(1,097km NNE)

This is typical of where our winter immigrants originate.

**Brambling**

5M	16.10.03	Hals, Ovre Eikker, Buskerud, Norway	
R	19.03.04	Snail's Pit Farm, Swaffham	(973km SE)

Another example of a typical breeding ground for this winter visitor to Norfolk.

**Greenfinch**

6M	29.02.04	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
R	09.05.04	Tved, Jylland, Denmark	(661km NE)

The only foreign movement of the year.

**Goldfinch**

5M	03.03.02	Martham	
R	11.02.05	Crossgar WWT Centre, Down, Northern Ireland	

It is rare that Northern Ireland turns up in this report.

### Siskin

4	07.03.02	Garboldisham, Diss	
R	13.02.05	Logie Hill, Kildary, Highland Region, Scotland	
6M	15.02.04	Sheringham	
R	30.05.05	Alvhyttan, Nora, Orebro, Sweden	(1,109km NE)
5M	11.03.04	Sheringham	
R	27.03.05	Sourbrodt, Liege, Belgium	(436km SE)
4	19.02.03	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	16.03.05	Hellwege, Luneberg, Germany	

Many of our winter and spring migrant Siskin breed in Scotland – the first shown is, unusually, the only such movement reported during the year. The others show migration routes that lead to breeding grounds almost anywhere in Northern or Eastern Europe.

### Lesser Redpoll

3F	09.11.05	Cauldwell Hall Farm, Hollesley, Suffolk	
R	23.11.05	Lyng Farm, near Thornham	(115km NNW)
3	22.10.05	Icklesham, Sussex	
R	23.11.05	Lyng Farm, near Thornham	(226km N)

These two birds were caught together near Thornham. They were part of a mixed flock of Lesser and Common Redpolls feeding in game corn. Note the speed of movement, especially of the first shown.

### Snow Bunting

2F	08.11.04	Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
R	19.03.05	Caister-on-Sea	(184km NNW)

A second bird, ringed at Koksijde, Belgium 07.12.04, was trapped again at Caister-on-Sea 05.03.05



Water Rail (*Martin Woodcock*)



ny Pipit - stayed for a few days at  
st Runton in September. (*Julian Bhalerao*)



ert Wheatears are now almost to be expected - this bird was well received at Caister-on-Sea in November.  
right (*Murray Smith*), below (*Julian Bhalerao*)







Woodchat Shrikes - left, Burnham Norton in May; right, Warham Greens in September. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Common Crossbill - a migrant female at Holme. (*Julian Bhalerao*)



## Norfolk Ringing Totals - 2005

Mute Swan	10	Woodpigeon	130	Whitethroat	333
Canada Goose	7	Collared Dove	216	Yellow-browed Warbler	9
Egyptian Goose	1	Turtle Dove	6	Chiffchaff	553
Wigeon	1	Cuckoo	2	Willow Warbler	398
Teal	94	Barn Owl	714	Goldcrest	1889
Mallard	2	Tawny Owl	16	Firecrest	5
Shoveler	1	Nightjar	4	Spotted Flycatcher	58
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Swift	19	Pied Flycatcher	20
Grey Partridge	1	Kingfisher	30	Bearded Tit	135
Great Crested Grebe	1	Wryneck	2	Long-tailed Tit	750
Marsh Harrier	21	Green Woodpecker	21	Marsh Tit	150
Sparrowhawk	47	Great Sp Woodpecker	139	Willow Tit	24
Kestrel	107	Lesser Sp Woodpecker	1	Coal Tit	541
Hobby	9	Woodlark	1	Bluc Tit	4032
Water Rail	4	Skylark	1	Great Tit	3281
Moorhen	68	Sand Martin	822	Nuthatch	38
Coot	11	Swallow	2897	Treecreeper	77
Oystercatcher	540	House Martin	83	Red-backed Shrike	1
Little Ringed Plover	2	Meadow Pipit	8	Jay	39
Ringed Plover	143	Yellow Wagtail	8	Magpie	10
Grey Plover	8	Grey Wagtail	2	Jackdaw	77
Lapwing	27	Pied Wagtail	64	Rook	13
Knot	105	Wren	1005	Starling	466
Sanderling	557	Duncock	1273	House Sparrow	547
Curlew Sandpiper	1	Robin	1346	Tree Sparrow	84
Dunlin	1299	Thrush Nightingale	1	Chaffinch	2742
Ruff	1	Nightingale	13	Brambling	719
Common Snipe	11	Black Redstart	2	Greenfinch	6244
Woodcock	1	Redstart	27	Goldfinch	1051
Black-tailed Godwit	20	Stonechat	6	Siskin	796
Bar-tailed Godwit	7	Wheatear	61	Linnet	100
Whimbrel	1	Ring Ouzel	2	Lesser Redpoll	46
Curlew	10	Blackbird	2600	Common Redpoll	11
Redshank	317	Fieldfare	74	Redpoll sp	15
Greenshank	1	Song Thrush	370	Crossbill	4
Turnstone	72	Redwing	249	Bullfinch	228
Black-headed Gull	23	Mistle Thrush	6	Hawfinch	1
Common Gull	1	Cetti's Warbler	25	Snow Bunting	582
LBB Gull	403	Grasshopper Warbler	10	Yellowhammer	197
Herring Gull	312	Sedge Warbler	489	Reed Bunting	449
Common Tern	16	Reed Warbler	1134	Corn Bunting	1
Little Tern	43	Blackcap	1277	<b>Total Ringed</b>	<b>46423</b>
Guillemot	2	Garden Warbler	146		
Stock Dove	23	Lesser Whitethroat	73		

# Is Global Warming Affecting Norfolk's Birds?

*Keith Dye*

For a number of years Global Warming has been the subject of conjecture and concern. The media and a number of 'experts' have become obsessed by it and the effects it may or may not be having on the environment, at present and in the future, forecasting all sorts of detrimental results if the world doesn't clean up its act. Studies have been, and are being carried out on the subject, and results so far would appear to support the claims that Global Warming is a reality and has been for some considerable time. We cannot have failed to notice that in recent years our weather has been less extreme seasonally, with less fluctuating temperatures and winters much milder than in the past. This would appear to be somewhat of a contradiction to the forecast colder winters as a result of the Gulf Stream reportedly cooling by some 30% in the last eight years or so, a direct result of cooler water moving southwards from the melting polar icecap.

Nature is recognised and generally accepted as being a good yardstick for gauging changes to the environment and birds acknowledged as being an excellent indicator of any such change. It is therefore reasonable to assume that a look at the habits of a number of birds, particularly migratory species, might give insight as to whether any noticeable change has taken place in the county.

In the case of Little Egret, it is plain for all to see that there has been marked increase in numbers in the county in the last ten years and an explosion in the last five. From being a 'scarce visitor' in 1989 it was considered an 'increasing visitor especially in winter' in 2004. The first wintering record in the county was as recently as 1994. I personally recall a Little Egret at Breydon Water in the autumn and second winter period of 1992 that was looked for every day to get the latest date, such was its rarity in south-east Norfolk at that time. As recently as 1998 the county record count stood at just 11, but since 2000 has increased each year to an incredible 212 roosting at Holkham Grazing Marsh in November 2004. First recorded breeding in Britain in 1996, 55 pairs fledged 152 young in Norfolk in 2004, increasing to 63 pairs in 2005.

Another species that has noticeably changed its migratory habits is Marsh Harrier. Once rare in winter, over-wintering birds were noted in small numbers from the mid-1950s. Up to 10 wintered annually in the 1990s, mainly immatures and females, but in recent years males have also been recorded in increasing numbers, with up to 11 in December 2004 when 56 roosted in the county.

Similarly Mediterranean Gull numbers have been increasing since the early 1980s, with the spread around the coast most noticeable from 1985 and inland from the following year. It first bred in Norfolk in 1992 and has had mixed breeding success since. What is noticeable now is that it is wintering in larger numbers, particularly at favoured localities such as the Yarmouth/Breydon area where it can be seen in good numbers from late July to March, with peak counts of 11 in 1997 to 69 in 2004.

Cetti's Warbler is another example of rapid spread. First recorded in Norfolk in 1973 by virtue of a dead specimen found in Norwich, breeding was first proved the following year and a total of 22 males located in the Yare Valley in 1976. In 1981 there was a noticeable increase in numbers reported away from the Broads and 64 singing males were recorded in the county in 1984. From 1999 the increase has been dramatic, with at least 135 in 2000 and over 200 in 2004.



Sardinian Warbler is a species that has gone from being regarded a major rarity in 1980 to being almost annual in recent years. First recorded in the county in 1973 with the second in 1980, since 1991 a further 11 have reached our shores, with six since the turn of the century.

Increasingly mild winters since the 1960s have resulted in an eastwards shift in the distribution of wintering waders in the UK from sheltered western estuaries to the more exposed easterly localities. Wintering on the east coast reduces the distance over which the birds must migrate to their breeding grounds and also allows them to utilise the higher quality feeding grounds found in the muddy estuaries, which contrasts with the poorer quality sandier estuaries of the west coast. As a result of this one might expect to find significant changes both at the Wash and at Breydon Water. Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts for the complete Wash from 1976-2004 show some obvious change for some wader species during that period. For example Oystercatcher numbers peaked between the late 1980s-early 90s before falling off again to more normal levels. Similarly, Grey Plover peaked in the early 1990s and Dunlin in the mid 1980s-early 1990s. Black-tailed Godwit shows an increase from the mid 1990s that has levelled out at higher numbers than previously. While most other wader species wintering in the Wash show change year on year, there appears to be no significant increase or decrease in their numbers attributable to climate change.

At Breydon Water observations show that Oystercatcher has decreased in numbers since 1995/96, while Golden Plover saw a steady increase from under four figures in 1990/91 to 10,464 in 2003/04 and an amazing rise to 30,940 in 2004/05. Lapwing have increased dramatically from 1991/92 when numbers almost doubled the norm to 22,000, averaging 24,700 since then with a peak of 41,000 in 1992/93. Dunlin show an increase from 1993/1994 while Black-tailed Godwit have increased sensationally from the same winter when numbers rose by over 1300%, from a high of 44 the previous year to 591, averaging 767 since then with 1607 the peak in 2001/02. Curlew have steadily increased since 1988/89 and Redshank since 2001/02. Avocet numbers have increased dramatically since the mid-1990s. Late summer counts have escalated from a record of just 26 up to 1993 to a peak of 1069 in August 2003; wintering numbers have also increased markedly.

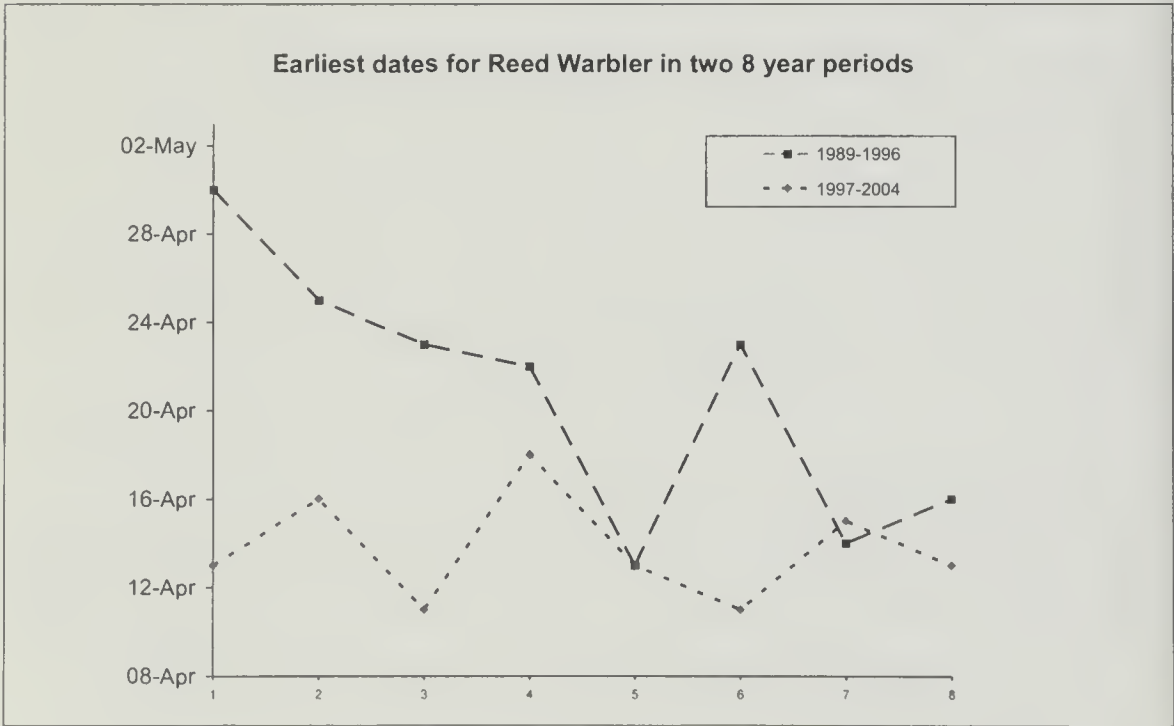
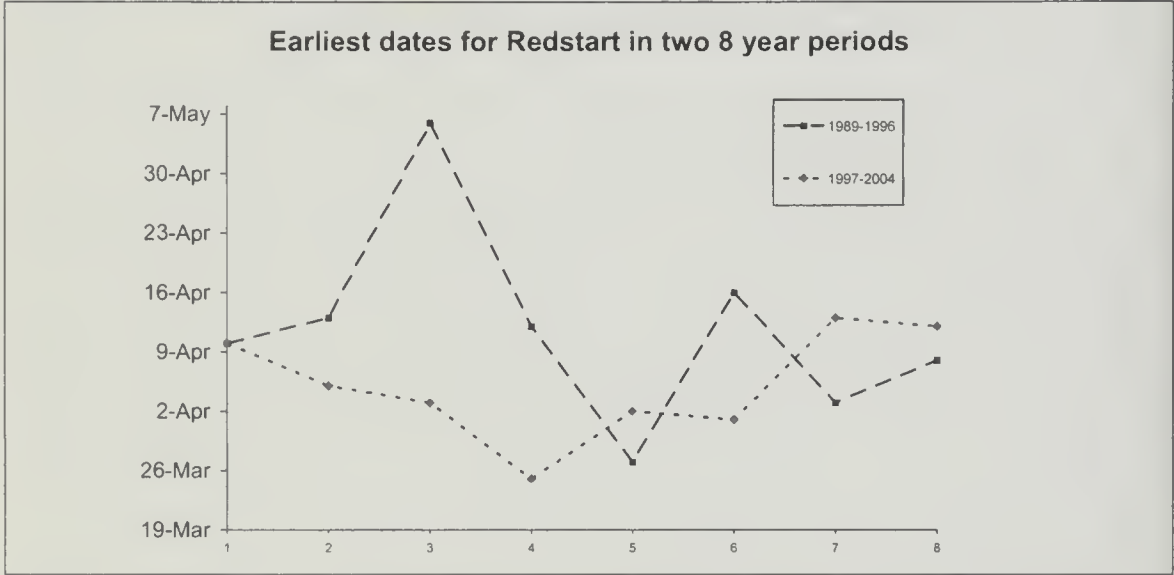
The BTO Nest Record Scheme showed nationally over the 25 year period 1971-1995 that 19 species (Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank, Tree Pipit, Wren, Redstart, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Wood Warbler, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Corn Bunting) were laying on average 8.8 days earlier than historically (range 4-17 days). In contrast only one species, Stock Dove, was laying much later. One can safely assume that birds are more likely to nest earlier if temperatures rise earlier in the year, with average flowering and leafing dates on plants in turn affecting the abundance of insect food supplies for birds. Advancement of arrival dates is necessary if synchrony between peak offspring demand and peak food availability is to be maintained. It then follows that juveniles will have longer to get into good condition to face the following winter, therefore improving year to year survival.

An analysis has been made over the past 16 years, subdivided into two 8-year periods, of the earliest arrival dates of a range of common migrants. This period is dictated by the paucity of available detailed information prior to 1989.

Of the common summer migrants Garganey is one of the earlier arrivals but there has been little or no change to its arrival date in the last 16 years, averaging March 10th. Splitting those years into the two equal 8 year periods gives the average date of March 10th for both. Common Swift follows a similar pattern with an average arrival date of April 21st throughout. This little or no change of migratory habits of Swift is further illustrated by the observations over a 47 year period in east Norfolk where the average date of May 3rd has changed by only one day in

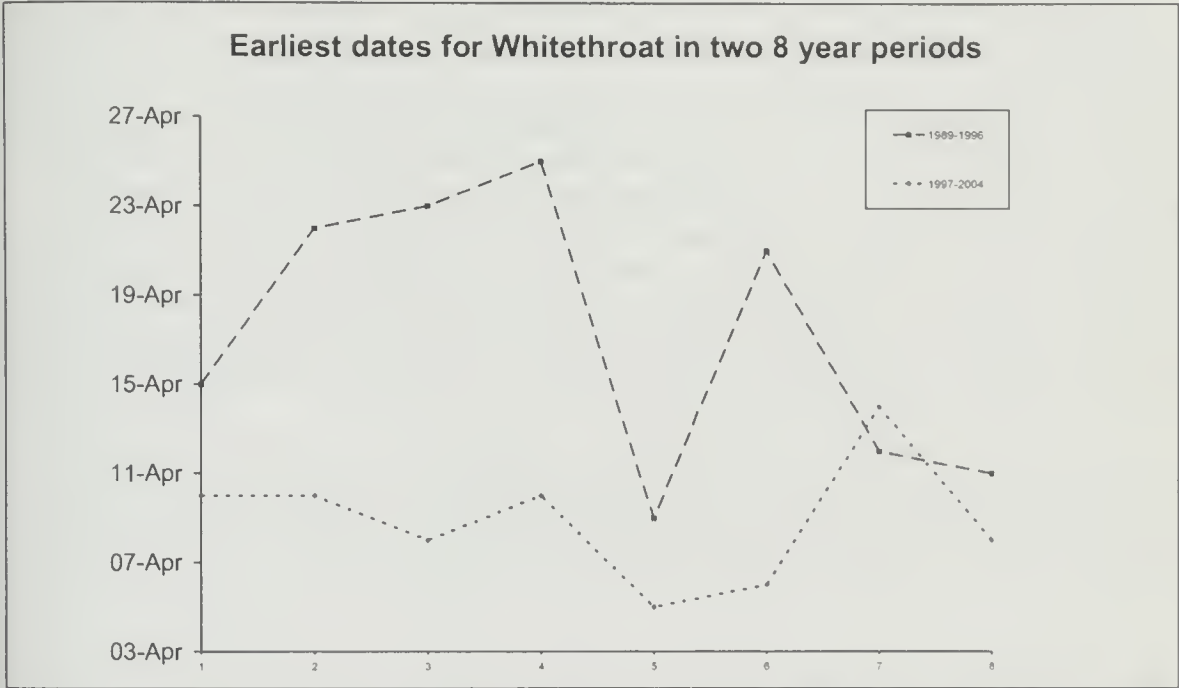
all that time. Sand Martin too hasn't noticeably changed its arrival dates with an average of March 12th throughout the period.

However, Swallow does show a change. Where its average arrival date since 1989 is March 19th, the first 8 year period averages March 20th and the second March 18th. Also of interest is that in 2004 there were two records of singles in February, on the 15th and 22nd, so early as to be considered winter records, but an indication of change. These were not considered in the average dates. House Martin also shows a change with the 16 year average of March 25th; the average for the first period being the 26th and the second the 23rd. Again there is an example of a very early arrival on the February 29th 2000, not considered in the averages but another early date of March 10th the same year is included. Yellow Wagtail shows an average arrival date of March 24th, but is the first to show a reverse trend with the first period averaging March 23rd and the second March 25th.

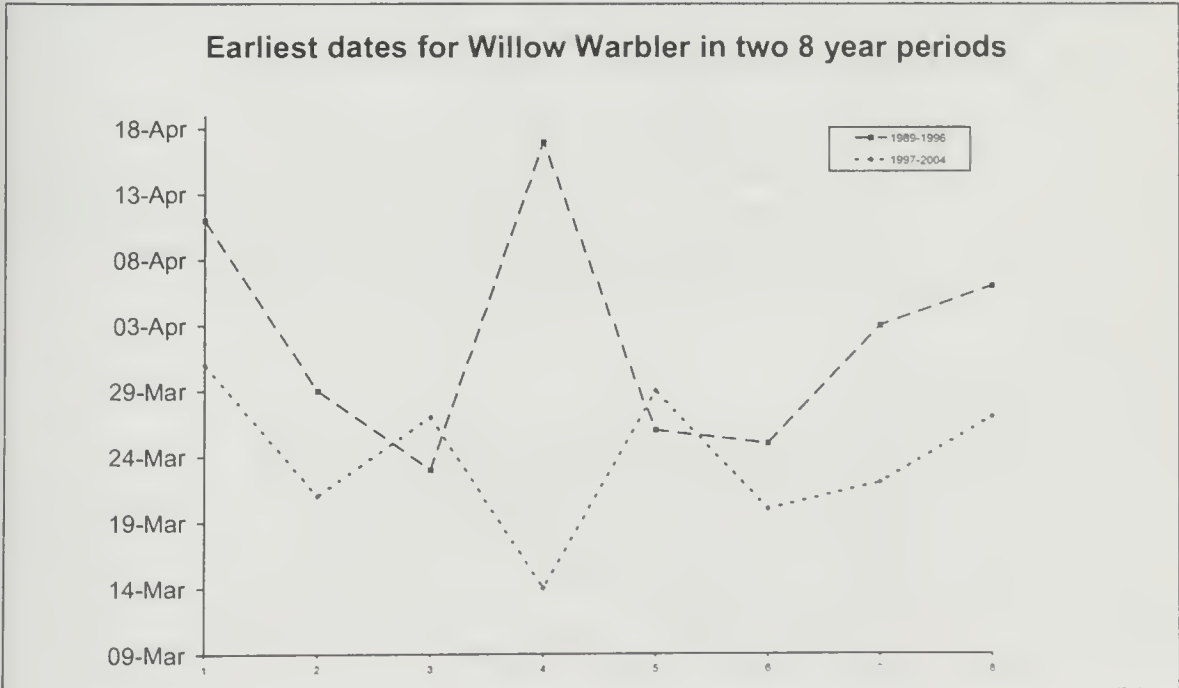


Common Redstart shows the most marked change of those migratory species considered so far with an average arrival date since 1989 of April 10th. In the first 8 year period the average was April 13th and in the second April 7th.

Grasshopper Warbler indicates no change over the 16 year period with all three averaging out at April 12th. Sedge Warbler shows an average arrival date of April 1st, with the first period averaging April 3rd and the second March 30th. Reed Warbler is another that shows a noticeable change, its 16 year average date is April 18th, with the first 8 averaging April 21st and the second April 14th.



Lesser Whitethroat has an average date of April 19th for the 16 year period and shows little change over the two 8 year periods, whereas Common Whitethroat does. Over the whole





period its average arrival date is April 14th, the first averaging April 18th and the second April 9th.

Garden Warbler shows a little change with April 22nd its average date overall. The first period averages April 24th and the second April 20th. Willow Warbler shows the most marked change of those considered. Its average arrival date over the 16 years is March 29th, with the first April 3rd and the second March 24th.

Finally of the common migrants, Spotted Flycatcher shows a slight change with the whole period average being May 4th and the two 8 year periods May 6th and 2nd respectively.

In every case that shows any change, apart from Yellow Wagtail, the trend is for the second 8 year period average arrival date to be earlier than the first 8 year period, indicating as has been suggested by egg laying averages, that some migrants are certainly arriving earlier. Surely indicative of regular milder weather, and therefore perhaps global warming, numbers of wintering warblers have shown dramatic increases. Blackcap, once considered rare in winter with no more than one or two recorded in any year, increased dramatically from the winter of 1966/67 when at least ten were present in the county. In December 1992, 53 were recorded albeit with smaller numbers each winter since, making it difficult to determine whether early spring birds are northward moving migrants or relocating wintering birds. Since the 1980s wintering Chiffchaff numbers have steadily increased, with peaks of 38 in the county in the first winter period of 1995 and 1-2 or more being recorded at up to 17 localities in the first winter period of 2004, again masking the first spring arrivals.

What is also noticeable is that common spring migrants are no longer as abundant as previously. Spring coastal movements are much lighter and it seems, of late, that no sooner has spring passage commenced, it is over. Autumn passage follows a similar pattern to spring with less classic 'fall' conditions. Certain species such as Red-backed Shrike and Wood Warbler have been lost as breeding birds and others such as Turtle Dove and Spotted Flycatcher are in serious decline. In recent years numbers of certain winter visitors such as Purple Sandpiper and Twite have been reducing. Undoubtedly various factors are causing reductions but global warming must be playing a part.

## Summary

Although the scope of this article cannot consider all species occurring in the county it is clear that climate change is affecting Norfolk's birds. Whether this is all due to man's influence through global warming and other as yet not understood effects, or natural change, is not easy to judge. For example would any of these changes have taken place were it not for man's influence? Are these changes due to natural cyclic effects? How much has man influenced natural change? There have been three Ice Ages that cannot be blamed on man, what real proven influence are we having on climate change long term? Whatever the cause it is clear that global warming and climate change are having an impact on Norfolk's birds.

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# The Changing Status of Firecrest in Norfolk

*Peter Morrison*

## Introduction

The Firecrest is one of Norfolk's most attractive breeding birds yet is under-recorded and therefore probably more widespread than generally thought.

In Britain Firecrests are birds of the southern lowlands, breeding in extensive woodlands such as the New Forest and wintering along the south coast. Their range is not contiguous but they now breed as far north as Merseyside and Yorkshire and as far west as Powys and Gwent. Both spring and autumn migrations have a south-easterly bias with more birds in autumn than spring. Spring birds are thought to be continental overshoots and autumn birds the result of westerly drift from Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands.

The BTO's Atlas of Breeding Birds (published 1976) showed possible breeding in just one square in Norfolk. The companion Atlas of Wintering Birds (published 1986) recorded single birds wintering in five squares. The New Atlas of Breeding Birds (published 1993) indicated an increase in Norfolk (in line with other southern counties) to confirmed breeding in one square and possible breeding in three. The text made two significant points, that breeding Firecrests tended to be found in concentrations and that more than half of singing males may fail to find a mate.

The history of Firecrests in Norfolk up to 1998 is covered in The Birds of Norfolk (published 2000) which gave its status as 'A very rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor'. In numerical terms that means that 1-10 pairs had bred in Norfolk since records began, between 21 and 200 passed through the county on migration each year and that up to 20 birds over-wintered each year.

## Firecrest occurrence in Norfolk (1995-2005)

The following table is the author's interpretation of Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report data. Its reliability is limited by the difficulty of establishing any duplication, the patchiness of observer coverage and difficulty of distinguishing between breeding/wintering birds and passage migrants.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Wintering Jan-Feb</i>	<i>Spring Passage Mar-May</i>	<i>Presence in breeding habitat April-June</i>	<i>Autumn Passage Sep-Nov</i>	<i>Wintering Nov-Dec</i>
1995	10	47	4	37	2
1996	3	34	1	108	7
1997	9	35	4	52	3
1998	5	44	4	23	3
1999	2	32	11	46	6
2000	3	36	16	36	1
2001	1	44	5	23	0
2002	2	41	2	150	12
2003	12	35	16	100	19
2004	15	37	20	50	3
2005	4	22	22	19	4

Two noteworthy correlations can be drawn from the table. Firstly, this data shows that high wintering numbers follow high autumn passage numbers, suggesting that wintering birds are migrants which arrived in the autumn and that breeding birds do not over-winter. Secondly, numbers of wintering birds in the late period of one year are similar to numbers in the early period of the following year, suggesting that the wintering birds remain in the county (assuming observer coverage is constant).

### **Autumn Passage**

Autumn passage begins in September and continues into November. There has been a tremendous variation in numbers (19-150) in the period covered. Autumn Firecrests occur mainly on the coast in evergreen oak, coniferous trees, hedges, holly and dense low vegetation. These birds are thought to be continental breeders that have drifted across the North Sea on their way south. Most autumn migrants move through Norfolk but a proportion (average 10%) stay to winter.

### **Wintering birds**

The link between autumn migrants and wintering birds has been noted above. Numbers of birds wintering are generally in single figures. They have been found in the woods along the Holt-Cromer Ridge, in the Brecks and at well-watched sites such as Holkham Meals and Great Yarmouth Cemetery, with a few records elsewhere. The birds seem to need sheltered coniferous woodland with a dense understorey of evergreen shrubs/small trees such as holly and box. Personal experience is that birds roam widely but tend to remain within a contiguous area of woodland while in the Brecks some have utilised small areas only. It is interesting to speculate how many individuals winter inland away from well-watched coastal sites.

### **Spring Passage**

Spring passage begins in March and can last into May. Over the last eleven years numbers have varied between 22 and 47 (average 37). It has been assumed that all coastal birds are migrants. They are usually found where there are evergreens - Holme, Holkham Meals, Great Yarmouth Cemetery are favoured - but they can turn up anywhere. Inland Firecrests have been found in deciduous woods with little ground cover save small holly trees. Migrants have generally been thought to be overshooting continental breeders but it is equally possible they are Norfolk breeders.

### **Recent probable and proven breeding**

#### *Holt-Cromer Ridge*

In 2003 an adult accompanied by a juvenile was seen at one site on two dates in August. In 2004 an adult with two juveniles were seen at one site at the beginning of September and two pairs were observed collecting nesting material and later food at another in May and June. At the second site groups of at least 4 juveniles accompanying an adult were seen on several occasions from 4th June to 27th July. In 2005 up to 14 singing males were present in suitable habitat in May/June although only one pair was seen feeding two fledged young mid-June.

#### *The Brecks*

An observer who did not submit records to the county recorder found up to 20 singing males annually until 2001 (when observing ceased), finding 1-2 nests each year. In addition at least 14 males were heard singing in one area in 2004, with up to 8 centred around two main areas in 2005, confirming the species remains established hereabouts.



*Elsewhere*

There were two other breeding season records not submitted in 2004, a breeding pair at Forest Park Caravan Site, Overstrand and at least 3 singing males at Swanton Novers.

*Current status*

There have been up to 40 singing male Firecrests recorded in Norfolk during the breeding season in recent years. Bearing in mind the paucity of inland observers and the frequent occurrence of suitable habitat, for example on large estates, there are undoubtedly more.

Using the Birds of Norfolk terminology the current status of Firecrest is:-

Scaree breeder	11-100 per year
Scaree passage migrant	21-200 per year
Scaree winter visitor	21-200 per year

If the Norfolk Bird Report is to provide a complete record all observers are urged to submit their records. Note that the county recorder will respect requests to restrict circulation of sensitive records and withhold sites in the publication.

**Breeding Habitat**

Firecrests breeding in Britain are generally considered to be summer visitors but their presence in breeding habitat over the winter and early establishment of territories hints they are resident or short-distance migrants. No breeding birds have been ringed and there have been only 29 recoveries of ringed Firecrests in total (Migration Atlas).

The New Atlas of Breeding Birds refers to Firecrest breeding in seven major concentrations nationally with clumping (clustering) at the local level. Similar groupings have been noted in Norfolk with breeding birds concentrated along the Holt-Cromer Ridge and in the Brecks. On the Holt-Cromer Ridge there are three clusters where several singing males/pairs have been found within a radius of half a kilometre. They may also breed at Swanton Novers and in the Sandringham and Holkham areas.

The Birds of Norfolk describes the breeding habitat as follows: 'A variety of woodland has been used by singing males in Norfolk - larch at Sheringham, Corsican pine, fir and oak in the Brecks, as well as the atypical range that is present in Lynford Arboretum'.

It seems that the same habitat can satisfy both wintering and breeding birds because they have been found wintering and breeding in similar areas both in Norfolk and elsewhere. Some Norfolk breeding birds begin singing in early March although others have not been heard until April or May. Along the Holt-Cromer Ridge there is a definite break in occupation in March which suggests that the breeding population is migratory. On the other hand some Firecrests in the Brecks are paired up/singing in late March. This can possibly be explained as early migrants (which have just arrived and taking advantage of the best habitat/territories), perhaps resident or a combination of both. In Hampshire singing birds have been found in early March, where there were none in the winter, and before any Firecrests have been recorded on the coast.

In general breeding habitat requirements are for soft, feathery, bushy conifers like Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock and Yew, or deciduous trees with thickly ivy-covered trunks. The Brecks concentration nests in Douglas Fir with box understory and exotic deciduous and coniferous trees. The Holt-Cromer Ridge concentration is mainly in three clusters nesting in a plantation of mature Douglas Firs, a mixture of deciduous trees with ivy, rhododendrons and exotic conifers, and finally mature Western Red Cedars respectively.

## **Prospects/future**

The breeding distribution of Firecrests is not fully known nationally or locally. The difficulty of finding them in their woodland breeding habitat (which often has few other species) makes searching unpopular with most birdwatchers. Most records of breeding and wintering come from observers who have looked for them deliberately or in areas of high observer coverage.

The exact status of Firecrest in Norfolk will only be determined by intensive fieldwork across the whole county involving visits to suitable habitat at all times of year, particularly in the period March to May when frequent visits are necessary to record when wintering birds are last seen and breeding birds arrive. Firecrests often sing within a few metres of the ground; at this time they are not easily disturbed - there are instances of birds found next to car parks, busy paths and roads. Likely breeding trees are Yew, Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Wellingtonia, Coast Redwood, Western Red Cedar, Norway Spruce and any tree with the trunk covered in ivy. Less likely are Lodgepole Pine, Lawson's Cypress, Thuja, Sitka Spruce and Scots Pine - although nests have been found in these.

Practically all the woodland on the Holt-Cromer ridge has the potential for breeding of this species. They have been seen in woods from Holt Country Park to the Forest Park Caravan Site between Cromer and Overstrand at various times of the year.

Fieldwork for the Norfolk Bird Atlas which began in 2000 has recorded 43 pairs/singing males in 36 tetrads - some in well-watched coastal sites, some in known breeding sites, and a few in out of the way places not normally visited by birdwatchers. The BTO's Scarce Woodland Bird Survey (2005-6) has Firecrest as one of its target species. Firecrest is too scarce for the Breeding Bird Survey to monitor but the Forest Park Caravan Site record came from this. Fieldwork for the next BTO Atlas begins in earnest in 2007 and should reveal a lot more about their spread nationally, although the results cannot be expected for some years. The BTO is considering a national Firecrest Survey and an article in BTO News 263 by John Eyre and Rob Fuller urged observers to get out and look for them.

## **Tips for finding breeding Firecrests**

Firecrests are easiest to find in April and May when the males sing loudly from early morning to early afternoon and on occasions in the evening. Many are often in good song again in the second half of June. Their song is louder and more piercing than Goldcrest's and typically rises up the musical scale with no flourish at the end, whereas Goldcrest's song is more rhythmical and ends in a flourish. Firecrest calls are similar to their song but with far fewer notes contrasting with the Goldcrest that gives a softer, sweeter note on a monotone. Firecrests are particularly vocal when more than one is present. Birds giving apparent Goldcrest song have been noted in Norfolk (BoN) and elsewhere (BWP). More worryingly Goldcrest giving Firecrest song has also been recorded at New Milton, Hampshire in 2004.

Juveniles can be seen from late May to August, they lack the adults' head pattern but do have a pale strip above the eye curving upwards to the back of the head and generally look 'washed out', enabling separation from superficially similar Goldcrests.

Up to 50% of nests are predated (BWP) but they are double-brooded so it is worth returning to search throughout the summer. Firecrests prefer to feed in deciduous trees and are often easier to detect here than in conifers. They also prefer to forage lower down than Goldcrests (BWP).

## **Predicted status by 2010**

The table below, taken from the 2004 Hampshire Bird Report of singing males, shows how quickly Firecrest numbers can rise (and some authorities believe there are many undiscovered Firecrests in Hampshire).

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
16	17	17	18	30	50	47	53	109	109

Given increased awareness of suitable habitat, Firecrest behaviour and the likelihood of finding them breeding, Firecrests can be expected to be found in all large woods in Norfolk over the next few years. This would result in their becoming, in BoN terms, a fairly common breeder (101-1000 pairs per year).

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# Welney – the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Reserve

*John Kemp*

Welney Washes, situated in the south-west corner of the county, are part of the 20 mile long flood plain usually referred to as the Hundred Foot or Ouse Washes. The annual winter inundation of the site is part of a successful 300 year old drainage scheme devised by the Dutch engineer Vermuyden. The ancient fenland landscape was an inhospitable and treacherous quagmire, lightly populated, mainly on the higher 'islands', of which Ely is a prime example. Winter flooding rendered most of the area impassable. Early attempts to tame the area had been largely unsuccessful until Vermuyden dug a straight twenty mile long cut through the fens from Earith to Denver, now known as the Old Bedford River. This alone did not produce the desired results. It was not until a similar cut, known as the New Bedford or Hundred Foot River, was dug parallel to and half-a-mile from the Old Bedford River that successful drainage was achieved. The resulting floodplain between these two rivers is what we now know as the Ouse Washes, and this became one of the most important wildfowl wintering sites in the British Isles. Settlements were now protected from erratic flooding and the surrounding area became very important for food production.

The hydrology of the area is, in theory, rather simple. During periods of high rainfall excess water from the swollen River Great Ouse can be diverted into the washes at Earith Sluice, creating the classic shallow flooding so attractive to thousands of wetland birds. Here it is temporarily stored until river levels subside, enabling it to be released by gravity back into the river system at the north end of the washes via the John Martin Sluice, from where it continues its journey out to sea at King's Lynn. The extent of winter flooding can vary enormously from year to year. Recent years have seen problems with evacuating the final amounts of water during the springtime, requiring pumps to be employed. Prolonged flooding in spring covers the breeding areas of ground nesting birds and kills or retards vegetation, eventually adversely changing the botanical value of the site. Spring flooding has been an important factor in the decline of breeding Black-tailed Godwits although most other wader species soon bounce back in numbers after one or two 'flood-free springs'.

The washes are normally dry in the summer months when traditional non-intensive livestock grazing and haymaking help to maintain the open character of the area. Between 6-700 cattle graze the Reserve during the summer, normally between May-October. This is essential to satisfy the flood protection role of the site. A lack of management would soon result in rank and scrubby fen vegetation which would not only impede water flows but be detrimental to breeding waders and grazing Wigeon in the winter. The first cattle in springtime are grazed on higher areas, often near bushes or next to main roads that are less favoured by breeding waders. As the peak breeding season passes the stock gradually move onto the rest of the Reserve. Sheep grazing was stopped over a decade ago when the regime was found to be too disruptive to breeding birds during spring. Individual fields or washes are surrounded by ditches which help to contain the stock as well as assisting in the spring run-off of floodwater. Some wildlife reserves are finding it difficult to find enough grazing stock to manage grasslands today with the number of cattle farmers declining after years of low prices, nightmare scenarios such as BSE and Foot-and-Mouth and ever-increasing bureaucracy. So far the Welney Reserve has managed to hold onto enough faithful grazing tenants to meet the requirements of the site.

Sir Peter Scott, founder of The Wildfowl Trust as it was then known, first came to the washes for wildfowling purposes in 1928 and was so fascinated by the area that he returned on

many occasions. Links with the washes continued especially after he moved to a lighthouse at Sutton Bridge on the edge of the Wash. In 1968 an anonymous donation of 100 acres of washland became the seed that grew into the Welney Reserve, opening in 1970. That year visitor access to the site was provided by Army Engineers who constructed the footbridge over the tidal Hundred Foot River with donated steelwork. Through his many contacts, Sir Peter was able to coax further donations from a number of well known businesses enabling the Wildfowl Trust to acquire further land and grow to its present size of about 1000 acres. A new luxury heated viewing hide was one of the first of its kind and has been extended on two occasions to cater for growing visitor numbers.

### **Wintering birds**

One of the initial objectives of the new Reserve was to encourage Bewick's Swans to use the lagoon in front of the main hide. This was gradually achieved over a number of years by an artificial feeding regime and became very popular with the visiting public. Whooper Swans were virtually non-existent in the early days but birds started to appear and gradually grow in numbers. Nowadays the washes are the largest wintering Whooper Swan site in the British Isles and this has pushed the smaller, less aggressive, Bewick's Swan to elsewhere on the Reserve. One of the greatest bird spectacles is to witness the dawn and dusk flights of both wild swans to and from their daytime arable feeding areas. Like Pink-footed Geese in north Norfolk the wild swans here are especially partial to the remains of the sugar-beet harvest lying on the fields. The average numbers of swans wintering at Welney are now around 2500 Whooper Swans and over 4000 Bewick's Swans. Geese have never been attracted to the site in large or regular gatherings, though a small group of Tundra Bean Geese are annual visitors. Wildfowl numbers include both nationally and internationally important concentrations of 15,000 Wigeon, 1000 Pintail, 2500 Teal and 2000 Pochard. Most of the latter frequent the main lagoon where they partake in the daily grain feeds. Wintering or passage waders such as Lapwing, Golden Plover and Black-tailed Godwits can be present in thousands, numbers depending very much upon water levels and the severity of winter weather. Such large numbers of birds attract one or two Peregrines each winter, these often lingering well into the spring, while both Barn and Short-eared Owls may be seen hunting the riverbanks and roadside verges.

Most passerines occur in small numbers including Fieldfares around the hawthorns. A mix of finches, especially Goldfinches, visit the feeding station at the visitor centre along with a few Reed and sometimes Corn Buntings.

### **Breeding birds**

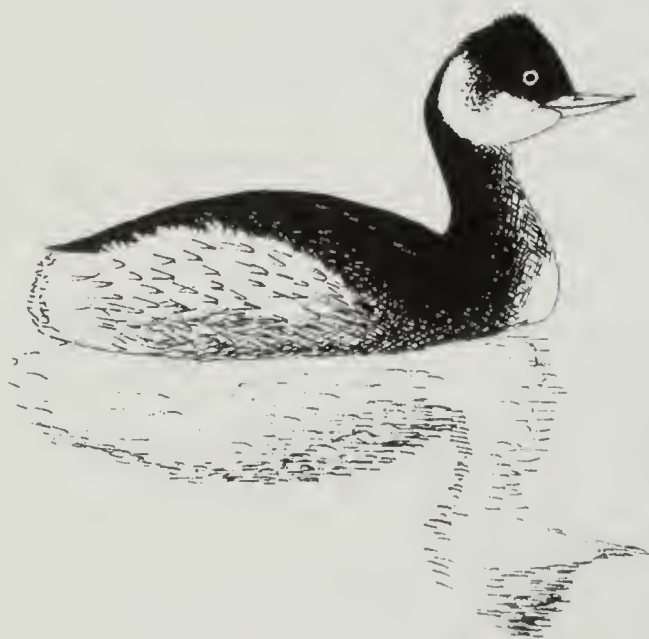
The Reserve is largely made up of that rare commodity, wet grassland, and consequently holds important breeding populations of Lapwing (140 pairs), Redshank (120 pairs) and Snipe (70 pairs), the latter species now almost extinct as a breeder in the rest of the county, and a handful of Black-tailed Godwits. In addition Avocets (40 pairs at a truly inland site, first breeding in 1996) and Little Ringed Plovers (10 pairs) nest around permanent pools. The success of the last species has been vastly improved by the use of wire cages, first used in 1996, to protect nests from predation by Moorhens and Coots and trampling by larger species such as Mute Swans. Common Terns, which first bred in 1998, reached 49 pairs in 2004, while ducks such as Shelduck, Shoveler, Gadwall, Teal, Tufted Duck and occasionally Garganey all breed, with Marsh Harriers nesting since 1997. The open grasslands also hold significant populations of breeding Meadow Pipits, Yellow Wagtails, Skylarks and Reed Buntings. A spring blitz on corvids, foxes and mink helps to improve the breeding success of all these ground nesting species. The site also contains areas and rows of willow woodland, hawthorn, rank scrub and

phragmites resulting in further diversity of breeding species, most notably numerous Sedge and Reed Warblers, Whitethroats, Blackcaps, Swallows, House Martins, Turtle Doves, Tawny Owl, Cuckoo, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Water Rails. Sadly the declining Tree Sparrow and Spotted Flycatcher no longer breed.

### Passage birds

When flooded, the 20 mile long length of the Ouse Washes, and its associated rivers, form a natural flight-line for migratory birds. Though spring flooding has serious consequences for nesting birds it does result in more sightings of Arctic and Black Terns, Little Gulls and the like than in a dry year. The resulting splashy habitat attracts, in particular, a wide range of transient waders. These vary from more coastal types such as Grey Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwits and Turnstones to typical freshwater species such as Wood Sandpipers. Less common visitors include Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, which also occur in autumn, while the Temminck's Stint is virtually annual. The Icelandic race of Black-tailed Godwit, now in glowing red summer plumage, can also be present in spectacular numbers. Amongst passerines Black Redstart, Ring Ouzel and Firecrest have all been recorded on a number of occasions, while a wide range of unexpected visitors may occur briefly, ranging from Common Scoter and Common Crane to Common Buzzard.

The returning autumn passage, commencing in mid-July for some waders, again includes a wide variety of species ranging from Greenshanks, Green Sandpipers and Spotted Redshanks to the almost annual Pectoral Sandpiper, with both Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes having been seen on a number of occasions. Late summer sees concentrations of Yellow Wagtails feeding amongst herds of cattle while Sand Martins occasionally still reach 1-200, although that is well down on the July counts of two decades ago. A few Whinchats and Wheatears turn up each year, usually coinciding with falls along the north Norfolk coast, and the occasional Ring Ouzel visits with incoming winter thrushes.



Black-necked Grebe (*John Geeson*)



## Rarities

The habitat and location of the site means that most rarity records involve wildfowl and waders, though passerines have included three Richard's Pipits, Red-throated Pipit in 1992, and a Citrine Wagtail in 1980. Both Red-backed and Great Grey Shrike have been seen infrequently.

Wildfowl such as American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck and Ferruginous Duck have all been sighted on a number of occasions while the first Canvasback for the county was present in 1997 and 1998. Continued scrutiny of the large Pochard gathering should produce more excitement in the future. The 1987 October hurricane produced two fly-by Sabine's Gulls, and both Whiskered Tern and White-winged Black Tern have been seen twice and thrice respectively, with two of the latter species during a Black Tern movement in May 1977.

An enviable list of rare waders includes Black-winged Stilt and Kentish Plover in spring, and White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Great Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs and Spotted Sandpiper during autumn passage, the latter species overwintering.

The list includes a further variety of other rarities such as Pied-billed Grebe, Purple Heron, Great White Egret, Cattle Egret, White-tailed Eagle and Red-footed Falcon, plus a host of semi-rarities/uncommon species such as Rough-legged Buzzard, Montagu's Harrier, Black-necked, Slavonian and Red-necked Grebes, Spotted Crake, Quail, Hoopoe, Waxwing and Lapland Bunting. Despite its inland location Welney has recorded a number of seabirds/coastal species over the years including Gannets, Manx Shearwater, Fulmars, Brent Geese, Eider, Pomarine, Arctic and Great Skuas, Puffin, Razorbill, several Guillemots, plus many Kittiwakes after gales and on overland spring passage. A high proportion of visitors to the site are novices or non-birding members of the public arriving to see the swans. Increased surveillance by more experienced birdwatchers, especially during the passage periods, would undoubtedly turn-up more unusual species.

## Other Wildlife

Welney is not just about birds, twenty species of dragonfly/damselfly have been recorded including Scarce Chaser, Hairy Dragonfly and Variable Damselfly. Common butterflies abound at times, springtime Orange-tips always a pleasing sight as well as the occasional Speckled Wood. Small numbers of Common Blues, Brown Argus, Small Coppers and the declining Wall Brown are also present. The mammal list includes Harvest Mouse, Water Shrew and Common Seal, while Common Porpoise has even ventured this far inland on a couple of occasions. Muntjac are resident and nationally increasing species such as Roe Deer and Badgers are starting to make appearances. Perhaps the biggest mammal 'dip' was the Walrus which came up the river Great Ouse in 1981 but stopped about two miles short of the Reserve. What a record that would have been for an inland site!

## The Future

What of the future for the Hundred Foot Washes? Although the past couple of winters have seen just light flooding, the problems of evacuating water in the springtime remain. This delay in removing floodwater can seriously affect breeding birds as well as vegetation growth. Water entering the washes carries high nutrient loads, not just from agriculture but from the numerous domestic sewerage outlets into the catchment area. This greatly reduces the botanical value of the site and encourages aggressive plant species such as *glyceria* to dominate large areas. Plans are afoot to find substantial areas of compensatory land close to the washes which can be managed more exactly to meet the requirements of both flora and

fauna. Let us hope that the washes are not neglected as a result. For those who care to look they still provide a magnificent ornithological spectacle throughout the year.

Winter peaks and 5 year mean for selected species

<i>Species</i>	<i>00/01</i>	<i>00/01</i>	<i>02/03</i>	<i>03/04</i>	<i>04/05</i>	<i>5 yr mean</i>
<b>Cormorant</b>	249	248	166	207	256	<b>225</b>
<b>Mute Swan</b>	<b>494</b>	189	193	252	294	<b>264</b>
<b>Bewick's Swan</b>	3834	4697	4707	5122	3643	<b>4401</b>
<b>Whooper Swan</b>	1514	1916	2376	3051	2752	<b>2322</b>
<b>Tundra Bean Goose</b>	<b>9</b>	9	9	<b>9</b>	72	<b>20</b>
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	311	494	354	419	338	<b>383</b>
<b>Shelduck</b>	195	137	110	171	<b>189</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Wigeon</b>	6046	9597	15067	11617	11520	<b>10769</b>
<b>Gadwall</b>	137	91	195	275	351	<b>210</b>
<b>Teal</b>	<b>1071</b>	3543	2181	3307	2420	<b>2624</b>
<b>Mallard</b>	1295	1465	1473	1242	1111	<b>1317</b>
<b>Pintail</b>	1176	1610	971	1071	1326	<b>1231</b>
<b>Shoveler</b>	292	303	351	206	455	<b>321</b>
<b>Pochard</b>	2007	1613	1759	2188	1318	<b>1777</b>
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	221	182	<b>189</b>	<b>189</b>	311	<b>210</b>
<b>Coot</b>	578	668	526	704	1051	<b>705</b>
<b>Lapwing</b>	2000	7160	3900	6520	12038	<b>6324</b>
<b>Golden Plover</b>	700	2800	2234	3350	3000	<b>2417</b>
<b>Ruff</b>	181	338	158	232	197	<b>221</b>
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	767	1718	1341	1540	700	<b>1213</b>

# Glimpsed amid the graves; birding in Great Yarmouth Cemeteries

*Peter Allard*

## Introduction

Great Yarmouth Cemeteries are a well known ornithological hot spot and refuge for migrating birds, particularly in autumn, but have a long and chequered history. Once part of the celebrated Yarmouth North Denes, the famed local naturalist Arthur Patterson described this area at the turn of the previous century in great detail and commented on the many changes which had already taken place. By the late 1880s, a railway had already been built through this area of marrams and gorse, a large adjacent area given over to the golfer and an equally large portion had been built over. Patterson continued "where today hundreds of tombstones are crumbling in the strong air and railway buildings are to be seen, bird-catchers placed their traps and hid behind marrams and gorse to pull over nets upon wretched Linnets, Twite and Snow Buntings lured to their doom".

Today the railway has long gone, but the hundreds of tombstones remain. The cemeteries themselves were a much needed addition to the long established churchyard of St Nicholas, 10 acres of the south cemeteries being created in 1855 whilst the newer north side of 15 acres was established 21 years later. The area is dissected by Kitchener Road, formerly known appropriately as Cemetery Road. The infamous bird-catchers have long disappeared, but their place has been taken by large numbers of birdwatchers. It is the largest open space in the town and the bushes and trees provide shelter and food for a variety of birds, often lured down in the first place by the lights of the town. In the past 40 years successions of exciting and rare migrants have been identified here. The Sycamore and Holm Oak trees, some of which are over 100 years old, are particularly favoured. The pathways hold numerous evergreen bushes and, since the summer of 2001, a controversial scheme to leave large areas of grass uncut for birds and other wildlife has been implemented by the Council, particularly in the north side. Early morning can be the most rewarding time, migrants often passing on after being disturbed by casual walkers and visitors.

## Early Days

The first birdwatcher to notice the potential of birding in Yarmouth Cemeteries was Michael Seago in the late 1950s. Michael had already moved to Norwich by then so his autumn visits were sadly few, but he emphatically stressed to me that this was **the** place to see Pied Flycatchers. Taking Michael's advice, I did, in fact, see my first-ever Pied Flycatchers here in late September 1960. Since then and for the next decade, this locality was visited each autumn by a small band of local birders before in 1969 others from further afield began to take a real interest in the site. A number of factors were involved. Moss Taylor had recently moved from Essex and was living close by, shift work was now giving me more spare time to watch and amongst other local birders, John Makepeace was now visiting almost on a daily basis. The initial birding grapevines, albeit on a personal level, were also becoming better established and for the first time birders were also paying visits here in spring, noting Common Redstarts and summer-plumaged Pied Flycatchers amongst the hordes of House Sparrows. The Western Bonelli's Warbler of August 1974, the first major rarity, finally proved the cemeteries had real potential for the unexpected and was a place to visit, particularly during or following periods of easterly winds in either spring or autumn. Following other good finds, many birders, both local and from away now regularly visit the site. Today, the area is visited almost daily, and despite the decrease in the number of birds present, there is usually something of interest to record.



## The Big Fall

Disregarding rarities, the most vividly recalled moment over the past five decades was the 'great fall' of September 1965. My notes recall that after a night of heavy, almost continuous rain, the morning of Friday the 3rd saw the town of Great Yarmouth covered by an uncanny darkness with very low cloud producing an almost night-time spectacle. There then followed another torrential downpour which lasted several hours. A strong south-easterly wind was blowing, but by the afternoon, the weather had eased a little and the light conditions had improved considerably. Migrant birds were literally everywhere, gardens were full of passerines and as most were extremely tired and wet, a number were found dead by the roadside, victims of road traffic. The following morning I arrived early to witness a scene never to be forgotten with every tree and bush alive with birds. Hundreds of migrants were covering every available space and being the only birder present, knowing where to start was not easy. It was still windy, but dry, and I walked around both sides of the cemeteries surveying the exceptional scene. The paths were literally full of Redstarts, the commonest migrant and several were unfortunately found dead. I walked around several times and having also visited the adjoining churchyard, the total number of Redstarts present was in excess of 1000. How true that figure is remains unknown, with other observers present a better guess could have been made, but it reflects how numerous the species was during this exciting period. My notebook records there were something like 600 Pied Flycatchers with 200 Wheatears and 120 Whinchats for company. Other rough estimates of birds included 150 Garden Warblers, 50 Tree Pipits, 50 Spotted Flycatchers, 35 Willow Warblers, 20 Whitethroats, 15 Lesser Whitethroats, 10 Siskins, at least 5 Wrynecks, 3 Blackcaps and 2 Ring Ouzels. The 'great fall' of September 1965 was obvious all along the east coast of England and Scotland, but had its greatest concentration in East Suffolk where Minsmere alone had an estimated 15,000 Redstarts, 10,000 Wheatears and 5,000 Pied Flycatchers. Had this 'fall' occurred in more recent times, it would have been documented in greater detail, but in the mid-60s, birding was totally different with less observer coverage and those in the field had no pagers or mobile phones. It is very unlikely that another fall on this massive scale will happen again if the decrease in numbers of Scandinavian migrants evidenced in recent years continues.

## Rarities

Exciting finds have been many and include two 'firsts' for the county, a superb male Siberian Thrush briefly on 25th December 1977 and a female or first-winter male Red-flanked Bluetail on 18th October 1994. This latter bird stayed for three days and caused much excitement, being enjoyed by literally hundreds of admirers. It was the fourteenth Red-flanked Bluetail for Great Britain, but only the second to be enjoyed en masse following one in Dorset the previous autumn.

Other exciting finds have included two Olive-backed Pipits, one on 13th October 1992 and another well-watched individual on 18th-21st October 2003. A succession of rare warblers have been identified over the years and include a Greenish Warbler on 17th August 1995, an Arctic Warbler on 1st/2nd October 1988, single Dusky Warblers on 6th November 1994 and 21st November 2000, a Radde's Warbler on 29th/30th October 1995, an obliging Western Bonelli's Warbler 30th August to 3rd September 1974, and a popular wintering Hume's Warbler 2nd January to 28th April 1995. Another Hume's Warbler was seen on 30th November 2003 staying until at least 4th December. There were a number of Nutcracker sightings during the invasion autumn of 1968 including two together on 6th September and another two close by on the 13th. A Little Bunting appeared on 9th September 1989 and presumably the same individual stayed in the area until at least 15th October; another appeared

briefly on 18th September 1995. Another rare bunting, a splendid Ortolan, was found on 10th May 1992, remaining three days. Of interest on 6th October 1998 during easterly winds, a female or first-winter male Common Redstart exhibiting features of the eastern race '*samamiscus*' was noted.

### Other Migrants

Of the more predictable scarcer migrants, Yellow-browed Warblers are seen most autumns, the first being identified on 19th September 1969. On one occasion, 16th October 1985, there were at least four of these little 'Siberian gems' present. However, it was not until 1991 that the first-ever Pallas's Warbler was seen, one being found on the 30th October feeding in the sycamore trees on the south side. Pallas's Warblers have occurred on several occasions since then including at least three together in late October 1997. Icterine Warblers are occasionally seen in autumn including a late bird on 16th October 1990, with at least three turning up in spring - a mobile singing bird on 20th May 1984 with others on 28th May 1996 and on 26th May the following year. Red-breasted Flycatcher is almost annual in autumn and has been recorded on many occasions, extreme dates being 2nd September and 30th October; interestingly at least two birds have been noted as displaying reddish coloured breasts. Great Grey Shrikes have appeared on at least six occasions, the last being 17th/18th October 1988 mirroring their recent decline. Red-backed Shrike likewise was formerly a more regular visitor and records surprisingly included three together on the gravestones in August 1977 with a tailing off of sightings, the last an immature 15th August 1996. The cemeteries have also been blessed with two brief Golden Oriole visits, a male 18th May 1996 and a female 31st May 1998. Other unusual passerine visitors include the occasional Hawfinch and Nightingale, infrequent visits by both Snow and Lapland Buntings and at least one Bluethroat close by. Perhaps surprisingly however, there has only been one record of Barred Warbler, a single on



Yellow-browed Warbler (Richard Johnson)



6th September 2002. On a wider issue, the continued decline in numbers of Scandinavian drift migrants noted at many east coast localities has also been noted in the cemeteries. My penned notebook for September 1964 suggests that it was unusual to have less than 30 Pied Flycatchers present, even on a westerly wind; today the presence of 30 would raise a few eyebrows.

The cemeteries are not an area where one would expect a variety of birds of prey. This to some extent is true, but over the years a number of species have been seen. There are single records of both Rough-legged Buzzard and Hen Harrier resting amongst the gravestones, whilst overhead Common Buzzards and the occasional Marsh Harrier or Red Kite are seen almost annually. Perhaps the most unusual record was a Honey Buzzard found dead on 24th May 1999. Amongst other raptors, Hobby is now seen more frequently overhead, particularly in late summer giving the local Swift population much concern, with Merlins not infrequent in late autumn. Migrant Long-eared Owls are noted most autumns, particularly in October or early November, with the occasional Short-eared Owl also being seen. The list of migrants is almost endless; both Grey Heron and Water Rail have been seen in recent years, although the popular green Amazon Parrot present for several weeks in October 1990 was unlikely to have come very far!

### **Breeding**

Although not known for it, the list of breeding species is varied but declining. House Sparrows were most abundant in my younger days and bred in all the adjacent buildings. The cemeteries were full of them in autumn and it was often difficult to locate migrant birds amongst the throng. Now House Sparrow is distinctly unusual here and the few that do still breed are confined to the churchyard area. The same applies to both Blackbird and Song Thrush. A survey in 1962 revealed there were at least 19 Blackbird and 7 Song Thrush nests in the cemeteries and adjacent churchyard. One would be very fortunate to find a single nest of either species today. On a more upbeat note, a pair of Mistle Thrushes nested successfully in the churchyard for the first time in 1999 and continued in subsequent years. Spotted Flycatchers were always to be found breeding here in my youth, with four pairs found in the 1962 survey, but sadly these declined annually and the last pairs nested in 1998. One real surprise came in 2002 when a pair of Barn Owls nested successfully in the church tower raising two chicks, while Tawny Owls bred annually in the churchyard until 2001, but not since with several suitable trees used for nesting sadly felled during this period. Proof of the cemeteries' ability to surprise was a pair of Long-tailed Tits that built a nest in 1996, but no eggs were ever laid. It is difficult to recall the pairs of Yellowhammer that nested alongside the site up until about 1963, frequenting the old railway land until it was put to other uses. There was a Rookery in the main churchyard until stopped by tree felling in 1977; two pairs returned to breed in 2003, but it proved to be a one-off attempt and today the remaining trees are empty. Noisy Jackdaws nest in abundance in the church, the total of about 16 breeding pairs has been constant for nearly three decades. Rarer and much enjoyed, Black Redstarts have very occasionally bred close by.

The reasons behind the decline in nesting species within the churchyard and cemeteries are complex and many. The presence of Grey Squirrels since 1973 has not helped the issue while the recent nesting of both Carrion Crows and Magpies, together with the arrival of breeding Sparrowhawk, complete a trio of avian predators. An additional factor to consider is noticeably more disturbance within the cemeteries complex by both casual visitors and local people alike. The sad felling of over 150 Elm trees in the late 1980s and into the 90s made huge gaps in both the churchyard and cemeteries woodland scene, and the resultant loss of cover for both nesting birds and migrant cover has never been properly redressed.



## The Birding Year

The birding year begins very quietly in January and February with perhaps the occasional wintering Chiffchaff or Blackcap. Firecrest has also wintered in recent times, but the real surprise was the Hume's Warbler which over-wintered in early 1995, although an over-wintering Tree Creeper in 1999-2000 was also unexpected. The first sign of spring is often the appearance of an early Black Redstart in mid-March frequenting the old wall which surrounds the site, and often the first migrant Firecrests can be found by the month end with as many as 10 present in the last week of March 2001. A surprise was an early Sedge Warbler on 30th March 1999, a scarce species here. April sees the first of many summer visitors passing through, several species of warbler can be found, whilst departing Scandinavian thrushes may be present during suitable weather conditions. Hawfinches have been noted in both March and April and early summer-plumaged Pied Flycatchers have been seen in the last week. Three early Wood Warblers were seen on 25th/26th April 2002, a scarce migrant on the east coast. May is a month of surprises and arrivals can be anything from Golden Orioles to Ortolan Buntings. Retreating winter birds can still be found, however, with no less than 16 Bramblings on 1st May 1998 and a late Redwing which remained until 16th May 1994. Early May is also a good time to look for Ring Ouzels, and the first Swifts appear in numbers hawking insects high overhead with many remaining to nest in the older buildings close by. Both singing Reed and Sedge Warblers have been noted in late May; is it asking too much for a male Collared Flycatcher to drop in here one spring? June and July are usually quiet, although late passage can occur, for example in 1991 up to 2 Pied Flycatchers remained until at least 5th July. Collared Doves tend to congregate by this time and are regular nesters in the area; the cemeteries were first colonized by these attractive doves during the spring of 1962. August, September and October are the premium months and the list of migrant birds recorded is very long. Many birds pass through quickly, but others stay longer. Wrynecks can be encountered and migrant owls are looked for in the largest trees. Occasionally large falls of Goldcrests are in evidence, numbers flitting in almost every bush or tree with over 1000 estimated in October 1975. Likewise, Robins can appear in good numbers, an estimated 450 present on 6th October 1998, complimented by Redwings and Fieldfares overhead in late autumn and Woodcocks disturbed from amongst the graves. It is an exciting and rewarding time for the patient observer with the unexpected just around the corner. Tree Pipits are almost annual in September and October, although there seem fewer Meadow Pipits than previously. Pied Flycatchers do still occur, although not in the numbers seen over 30 years ago, with the first to appear usually arriving in the first week of August and the last departing in early October. By mid-November and into December, virtually all migration has finished and apart from visits by the occasional flock of Waxwings, the cemeteries are reasonably quiet. However, surprises are never too far away and the Hume's Warbler in 2003 was proof of this, while both records of Dusky Warbler have been in November. The real proof that the cemeteries never sleep was the sighting of the male Siberian Thrush on Christmas Day 1977. However, despite all the intense coverage over the years, no Bluethroat or Serin has appeared leaving a number of further challenges still to pursue.

## Killdeer at Breydon Water - an addition to the county list

*Ian Smith*

Looking forward to a bank holiday weekend with some good weather and some birding (especially when working during the week when the weather had been good) is always special and bank holiday Monday 28th March was no exception. Sadly the weekend had been a disappointment with low cloud and mist rolling in off the sea making birding virtually impossible on both Saturday and Sunday.



Killdeer (*John Geeson*)

The local weather forecast for Monday gave a glimmer of hope. With the mist due to clear and the morning somewhat brighter with much better visibility and only occasional mist patches, I was off to Breydon, arriving on the south wall sometime just after 9.00 am. The tide was coming up and the majority of waders were being pushed towards the eastern end of the estuary with good numbers but nothing unusual. I started the 2-3 mile walk along the south wall with little to look at for the first mile, gradually convincing myself there was not much about; a male Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl over the marshes were the first indication of things improving.

About half way along the wall near a small wind pump I noticed a small group of Golden Plover in a field and 'scoped' them just in case any early Dotterel might be amongst the 12 birds present. On scanning the plovers I noticed a larger flock of 40-50 Golden Plovers in the adjacent field. I had just walked past without noticing them and while scanning through the flock I noticed a wader on its own to the right of the plovers. It was smaller with white under-parts and two distinctive breast bands, surely it had to be a Killdeer! The bird showed very well in the field and I could not believe I had just fulfilled one of my ambitions to find a first for Norfolk. It was 11.45 am and I watched it for 10 minutes before deciding I had to contact someone and let the news out, although this was a bit awkward as I didn't have a mobile phone with me.

I started walking back hastily and after only a few minutes a family on bikes came along the bank towards me. I quickly looked to see if the bird was still there, the time now 12.05 pm. Fortunately the person had a mobile phone with him and was quite happy to lend it me so I could contact local birder Keith Dye who lived not far from Breydon. "He's in the shower" came the reply from his other half. I almost shouted "tell him I've found a rare bird at Breydon" and within a minute I was talking to Keith and telling him I'd found a Killdeer along the south wall. He said he would be there as quickly as possible and I promised to stay with the bird. After a few minutes on the phone and thanking the family, I started making the short walk back feeling happy that other birders would soon be enjoying the bird. Just as I was getting close to the field at 12.20 pm I saw the plover flock fly off west; I hoped the bird would still be present but sadly it had gone with them. I walked further along the wall to check the surrounding marshes but to no avail, only an early singing Sedge Warbler by way of compensation. Feeling rather disappointed I waited until Keith arrived and told him the bad news; despite much searching by birders arriving from far and wide the bird was not relocated during the rest of the day.

Amazingly next day the Killdeer was re-found early in the morning in the exact same field and was seen by hundreds of grateful birders until dusk, although not seen subsequently. I was happy that many people got to see it rather than one single over-the-moon observer!

## **Little Swift at Cromer - the first county record**

*Gary Wright*

On 13th November, having spent the morning decorating and listening to the cricket on the radio, I decided the weather was too good to waste indoors. I would like to have spent the afternoon at Holkham Bay looking at grebes but the rest of the family fancied a walk closer to home along the clifftops between Cromer and Overstrand, with the swings at Happy Valley being a particular lure for my children. The swings won - I was out-voted and I took my binoculars almost as an afterthought.

Having got the swings out of the way, we walked along the clifftops across the golf course, enjoying the late autumnal sunshine. At about 3.15 pm and halfway to Overstrand, I noticed what I thought was a hirundine hawking along the cliff-face about 150 yards ahead. Raising my binoculars and expecting to see perhaps a late Swallow, I was surprised to see it was a swift. Thoughts of Chimney Swift went briefly through my mind in view of the recent influx but as the bird banked, it revealed a big square white rump. I thought for a moment that I must have been mistaken and that it was a late House Martin but no, the underparts were all dark and it was indeed a swift. I quickly realised I was watching a Little Swift, a species I had seen abroad, and ran to get closer views.

I reached a vantage spot whereby the bird was feeding just off the cliff edge in front of me and swooping past within 10 feet in bright sunshine. When my family caught up, I got them all to note the features - even my 5 year old son could pick out the big square white rump on an otherwise dark bird with his naked eye! The bird also had a square tail, comparable to a House Martin in size and shape and had a noticeably whitish forehead and throat, especially when viewed head on. All this was obvious with the naked eye, even without binoculars. I told my children that this was a 'big one', not just a 'nice bird for Dad'.



I was anxious to get birders to the site before dark but I didn't have a mobile phone with me and the nearest public phone was over half a mile away in Overstrand. I was worried about running the distance, having had major back surgery a few months previously, but after watching the bird for 5 minutes, I decided to make the dash. My back held and I remembered the Birdline number whilst my children carried on watching the bird. By the time I returned the bird appeared to have moved on so I was relieved when it was soon relocated half a mile closer to Cromer by the first visiting birders; putting on a show until darkness before roosting on the cliff face in plummeting temperatures.

The following morning, 300-400 people gathered in the dark, hoping to see the bird leave its roost at dawn. There were some anxious moments initially when it became apparent the bird was not on its ledge but fortunately it was eventually spotted clinging onto the cliff, just a few feet below the crowd and almost within touching distance of increasingly desperate birders. With the weather now cold and grey, with a sharp northerly wind blowing, the bird looked a pathetic shivering creature huddled into the cliff and quite unlike the bird of the previous afternoon. At 8 am, however, it lifted off, quickly gathering itself, gained height and disappeared to the south, not to be seen again.



Little Swift (*Gary Wright*)

## **Ross's Gull at Cley - the second record for Norfolk**

*David and Pat Wileman*

On the morning of New Year's Eve Tony Aberdein was anxious to take a walk, having had limited opportunity to do so due to rain and snow the previous two days. After a quick visit to Salthouse to see a flock of Snow Buntings he decided to call in at Cley Coastguards. Standing on the shingle bank and looking towards Blakeney Point he saw what he thought was a distant seal on the beach and decided to investigate. Having walked far enough to see that his seal was in fact a piece of driftwood he returned to looking for birds instead!

The only bird within range was a gull which he casually looked at expecting it to be a Black-headed. However, to his astonishment it looked to be an adult Ross's Gull complete with black eyes and dark surrounds, a short all black bill and short red legs. The wings and upperparts were a uniform pale grey and its belly had a slight pinkish tinge, the bird was surely a Ross's Gull. Before long it flew off along the beach showing a grey underwing and disappeared below the beach crest. Fortunately it had not landed far away and Tony was able to approach close enough to note a faint mask line over its head and a thin black line along the outer edge of the outermost primary. Not having a mobile phone he hurried back to the Coastguards. We were then walking in that direction from Arnold's Marsh, where we had been looking for Black-tailed Godwits. Our day was to improve dramatically when we saw Tony standing on top of the bank waving his arms and beckoning us on. When we reached him he said he had just found what he was sure was a Ross's Gull, certainly his description sounded extremely promising!! Graham Brownlow joined us and we followed Tony west along the shingle bank towards the spot where he had left the bird, ringing other local birders as we walked - most notably Eddie Myers who was on site but some distance away walking along East Bank.

After about 400 m we stopped and noticed a small gull standing on its own just under the bank ridge 5-10 m up from the water's edge. Looking at it through my telescope the main features Tony had described could be seen, while adding that the head was dome-shaped and had a dusky mark at the end of the ear coverts, the wings were very long and completely hid the tail. The bird looked larger than a Little Gull and the wings were too long. The head shape, bill length relative to head size, white crown and black outer primary leading edge were all consistent with adult winter Ross's Gull and inconsistent with Little Gull. All quickly agreed that it was indeed an adult winter Ross's and the news was phoned to the pager service. Pat and Graham started taking photos and David taking notes. The bill was neatly proportioned and pointed at the tip. The dark smudge behind the ear coverts continued as a faint band up round the top of the nape (a shadow of the summer plumage markings) while the nape and hindneck were in fact a very pale grey, not white, but much paler than the mantle. The tertials and greater coverts were tipped white forming a thin band contrasting with the exposed primaries that appeared a shade darker than the wing coverts. The underparts looked plain white to us but Tony and Graham both thought there was definitely the slightest of pink tinges. The legs and feet were dull reddish with an orange tinge to the legs.

Five minutes later the bird flew up and directly out to sea. As it lifted up we noted that the underside of the pointed wings were indeed grey with a contrasting white trailing edge and that the grey was nowhere near as dark as on an adult Little Gull. Most of us failed to examine the tail shape in the general panic but fortunately we had specifically told Tony that the

wedge-shaped tail was an important feature that had not yet been checked off and he duly confirmed its presence.

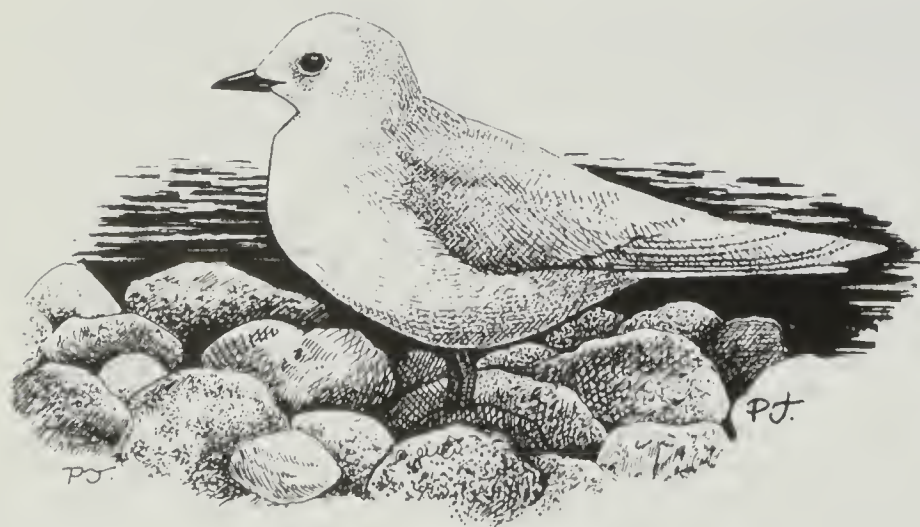
The first local birders were walking determinedly along the shingle bank towards us at the time but all failed to see the bird fly off. Eddie Myers, a real gull enthusiast who had found Norfolk's only previous Ross's Gull, collapsed in a heap on the shingle in utter despair. This in contrast to Richard Millington who had paused at the Coastguards and 'scoped' us and the bird from the top of the bank!

The bird was, fortunately for Eddie and others, re-found in the afternoon by Andy Stoddart on Blakeney Point between Halfway House and the sea-watching hide soon after 2 pm. Those that had enough energy left for the long trudge out were rewarded with excellent close views, even the pink flush to the underparts was enhanced by the late afternoon light. It remained there until 4.30 pm when it flew out to sea once more.

Next day the new year crowds were frustrated until it returned to Cley late morning, much to the irritation of those that had walked out to the Point to look for it. It was seen from 11.00 am by large numbers of observers and most of the locals went back for second views of it standing on the shingle bank beside Half Moon Pit. Here we too convinced ourselves of that pink tinge to the breast and could see the tail appeared worn but was indeed wedge-shaped. Mark Golley commented that the two or three outer-tail feathers were so heavily worn that bare shafts could be seen, while the forehead was found to not be pure white but had a touch of grey when seen head on. Soon after midday it flew out over Eye Field and landed by Eye Pool before returning to Half Moon Pit briefly. It then flew east to spend its afternoon on the brackish lagoons just west of East Bank, unfortunately flying into the adjacent wire fence at about 1.40 pm. It was reported to appear none the worse for this experience and remained on the shingle bank until nearly 4.30 pm when it flew out to sea for the last time. It was not seen again.

Amazingly another adult Ross's Gull turned up at Lowestoft on 5th January but showed subtly different markings confirming it as a second individual.

*The first Norfolk record was of an adult summer-plumaged bird, also found at Cley on Arnold's Marsh, on 9th May 1984. It was subsequently seen at Blakeney Point the next day, returned to Cley on 11th/12th May and then visited Titchwell on 13th/14th May.*



Ross's Gull (Phil Jones)



## Black-browed Albatross off Sheringham – the second county record

*Mick Saunt*

On 10th October 2004, after a pleasant morning's birding around Sheringham bird observatory's recording area (and seeing Pallas's Warbler in the hand), Mike Crewe, Paul Lee and myself headed for the sea-watching hide which is situated between Weybourne and Sheringham about 100 yards back from the cliff edge. As is often the case, early afternoon is probably the quietest time of day for sea-watching, but with a fresh/moderate ENE blowing there was just about enough to hold our interest with reasonable numbers of Gannets, both moving east and diving for fish, plus a few Common Scoter. However at about 1.05 pm Mike said "I've got an albatross"; quickly followed by something a bit stronger!

At a range of some 800-1000 yards (distance is always difficult to assess when there are no markers or flags) the three of us were eventually able to get on to the bird as it initially flew due east past our viewpoint. It then gradually headed ENE away from the coast and after about five minutes the bird was lost to view in the haze and shimmer.

*Size and shape:* Heavier bodied, bulkier and longer-winged than Gannet (at one stage seen in same 'scope view to allow direct comparison). Compact, deep bellied and tail-less appearance giving a distinctly front-heavy look. Large blunt head merging into neck to give a 'bull-headed' appearance. Wings, long and narrow, positioned centrally to the body.

*Plumage:* Head, neck, body and uppertail all clean white in the bright sunlight. Mantle and upper wing brown-black (similar to Manx Shearwater upperparts when seen in the same light conditions). Due to distance and angle, views of underwing were frustratingly difficult but generally appeared pale-centred with a darker border. The dark areas extended across the underside of the primaries and seemingly onto the primary coverts. The dark trailing edge to the wing was narrower than the dark leading edge, the latter being widest on the inner part of the wing.

*Bare parts:* Heavy yellow bill held at a slight downward angle.

*Flight action:* Flight relatively slow with carpals pushed a little forward and the hand angled back, progressing via a series of shallow flaps and glides. At one stage when it seemed to receive extra lift it set its wings in an evenly-bowed arc riding the waves in graceful curves as it slowly headed away from the coast.

Although there have been four previous records of Albatross sp in the county, this constitutes only the second record of Black-browed Albatross, following the first off Mundesley on 31st December 2002.

# Norfolk's Third Stilt Sandpiper

*Andrew Bloomfield*

At over 4000 hectares, Holkham NNR is one of Britain's largest nature reserves, and encompasses a variety of rich habitats. Sometimes, however, working within such a large area has its disadvantages - you never seem to be in quite the right place!

These were my thoughts on May 10th when a change of weather in the morning prevented a day's scouring the dykes at Burnham Norton marshes for breeding wetland birds. Instead I was at Holkham in the early afternoon when fellow summer warden Jem Bishop contacted me to say he had just seen a strange wader on the pools at Burnham Norton. From a brief distant view Jem noted a bird that initially looked a bit like a Wood Sandpiper but rather more leggy, with a kink-tipped long bill, pale supercilium and some chequered barring on otherwise pale underparts. "What does a Stilt Sandpiper look like, I've never seen one before?" he calmly asked. "Sounds promising, I'll come over for a look" I replied.

Twenty minutes later I was down the track at Burnham Norton followed by site manager Ron Harold, by which time the bird had flown into a pool much closer to the main path and was giving much better views. We joined Jem to watch the bird and it was immediately apparent at a range of about 20 yards that it was indeed a Stilt Sandpiper moulting into breeding plumage, a species both Ron and myself had seen before.

It was between Redshank and Dunlin in size, with much longer spindly yellowy-green legs than the latter species. The bill was also far longer, jet black with a thicker base and a narrower slightly kinked downward tip. It stood with a very upright stance usually with neck and head held high as it walked, conjuring a Wood Sandpiper-like impression. It was quite pot-bellied and short winged/tailed which gave the bird a strange short rear-ended look, compared with its long neck, bill and legs. At a great distance with binoculars it looked quite dark above and pale below with a noticeable pale supercilium.

At a range of 20 yards with a telescope its beauty immediately became more apparent. In good light its most striking feature was its russet-ginger cheeks contrasting strongly with the white supercilium and darker lores. Above this was a much darker lateral crown stripe, divided by a paler central crown stripe, giving a somewhat Whimbrel-like look when viewed head on. Its pale underparts were in fact finely marked with delicate flecked bars including the underbelly and vent, that became far heavier down the flanks. Its hind neck was a similar colour, while the mantle had very dark feathering with finer pale edges to some of the feathers. In contrast the wing coverts were a far plainer grey-brown with insignificant pale feather edges. Tertiaries were darker with pale edges, while its primaries were darker still.

In flight it displayed a squared-off white rump (similar to a Lesser Yellowlegs) with plain wing and no evidence of wing bars. A paler stripe up the middle of its otherwise grey underwings gave it something of the look of a muted Black-tailed Godwit. On one occasion when it flew it uttered a rather quiet 'keewf' note.

So Jem had found himself a new bird and the 344th species to be recorded in the Holkham area. More worryingly for us was that it was only the third Norfolk record and the first since 1965, thus bound to be popular. We had to think what to do quickly, before releasing the news, as the marsh was full of nesting birds and the small car park in the sleepy village of Burnham Norton was far from ready for an invasion of birders. Fortunately swift negotiating with local farmers, Deepdale Farms, enabled a set-a-side field to be utilised as a make-shift car park. With everything in place we finally released the news and waited for the inevitable arrival of birders.

Unfortunately after a couple of hours the bird became more flighty and flew off strongly to the north-west, high over Scolt Head Island, disappointing many observers. It returned the next day before making a brief appearance at Titchwell and Brancaster Harbour and remaining elusive. A great many people still needed a change of fortune as its appearances were always brief. On the 13th it finally settled back into the pools at Burnham Norton, remaining until the 17th and pleasing a steady stream of up to 2500 birders. It remained fairly faithful to the fresh water pools although occasionally flew out to feed in the saltmarsh creeks close to Overy Harbour. With the Reserve's first Blue-Winged Teal also appearing at Burnham Norton on the 8th, a very confiding Woodchat Shrike on 14th/15th (perched only feet away from crowds watching the Sandpiper), and a Night Heron nearby, Holkham NNR enjoyed one of its most exciting springs for several years.



Stilt Sandpiper (*Phil Jones*)

### **The following artists may be able to provide copies of their work or take commissions**

Andy Benson, Ciconia, The Close, Aylmerton, Norwich NR11 8PX  
 Alan Burtenshaw, 14 Bellview Close, Briston, Melton Constable NR24 2SJ  
 John Geeson, 22 Hillside, Barnham Broom NR9 4DF  
 Robert Gillmor, North Light, Hill Top, Cley, Holt NR25 7SE  
 Richard Johnson, or tel: 07811-409651  
 Phil Jones, 24 Church Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 0EG  
 Gary Wright, 27 Ray Bond Way, Aylsham NR11 6UT  
 Martin Woodcock, Furlongs, Long Lane, Wiveton, Holt NR25 7DD



## **‘Sammy’ – the most watched bird in Britain?**

3

*Paul Eele*

On July 31st 1993, a male Black-winged Stilt was found at Druridge Bay in Northumberland. It stayed for almost two weeks, until August 16th. Then, just two days later, what was undoubtedly the same bird turned up at the RSPB's Snettisham Reserve, where it remained until August 21st.

The last short flight around the coast from Snettisham to RSPB Titchwell Marsh turned out to be the start of an epic period for this black and white wader. The next 12 years - almost all of which were spent at Titchwell - turned it into arguably the most watched bird in Britain.

For most of the year ‘Sammy’, as he became affectionately known, could be found walking around the lagoons in the company of the resident Avocets and Oystercatchers, or feeding in the saltmarsh creeks where he could be surprisingly hard to find. During the breeding season, he could often be seen pursuing the Oystercatchers around the reserve in a bid to find a mate - it must have been their similar plumage that was the attraction!

For a bird from the sunny climes of southern Europe, the winter months must have been an especially hard time. He always looked very lonely hunched up behind one of the islands on the brackish marsh, trying to keep out of the worst of the winter weather. He did occasionally wander away from the reserve, visiting Holme, Scolt Head and even back to Snettisham. Every time though he'd eventually return to Titchwell.

Of course, there will always be questions raised about his origin. Could a bird that was resident for such a long time really be wild? The answer is nobody really knows, although there have been many theories put forward over the years. Was he an escapee from a bird collection? Was he one of the stilt family that bred at Holme in the late 1980s, returning home? Or was he simply a lost migrant from the Mediterranean?

Wherever Sammy came from, the reserve visitors always enjoyed him. But Sammy was more than just a hit with the visitors and birdwatchers. He was a Marketing Department's dream! Soon there were mugs, T-shirts, baseball caps and pin badges appearing in the reserve shop. Sammy made regular appearances in the birding magazines and featured several times on local television. People grew so fond of him over the years that we even received chocolates and Christmas cards for him. Sammy never really was one for chocolate, but the reserve staff made sure the gifts didn't go to waste.

On the May 21st, 2005 Sammy was recorded sheltering behind some bushes on the saltmarsh. At the time this was not thought to be a significant sighting. Unfortunately it turned out to be the last time he was seen at Titchwell Marsh.

So, was Sammy the most watched bird in Britain? Well, the answer is probably yes. During his 12-year residency over 1.5 million people visited the reserve. The majority of these would have seen him gracing the lagoons. Few individual birds can lay claim to such status.

It was a sad day for many to hear of his disappearance, but I am sure that as an icon of RSPB Titchwell Marsh, he will not be forgotten.

# NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT – 2005

## Editorial

The editors are delighted to present the 49th annual Norfolk Mammal Report, for which some 2,955 records have been received. This represents a significant increase on the number of records submitted for 2004 (1,826 records). The proportion of records submitted in electronic format has also increased significantly, something that is especially pleasing for the editors because it makes the entry of information into the Norfolk Mammal Database that much easier. For example, while it takes about an hour to check and enter 80 records when submitted on paper, as many as 500 hundred can be checked and entered in the same amount of time if submitted electronically. Electronically submitted records can be supplied in a number of ways (see Submission of Records section, below).

## Submission of records

Records should be submitted to the County Mammal Recorder: Mike Toms, c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. Records may be submitted on paper or by email. A standard MS Excel template is available for those observers wishing to send in data electronically and a copy of this can be requested by emailing [michael.toms@bto.org](mailto:michael.toms@bto.org). The same email address should also be used for the submission of records or any queries. Observers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the Norfolk Mammal Report or in other publications of the Society. Please contact the County Mammal Recorder to discuss ideas and submission requirements.

It is helpful if records for 2006 could be submitted by the end of January 2007. Records from previous years are welcome and, although they may not feature in the mammal report for the year in question, they will be added to the Norfolk Mammal Database. The information that makes up a record is all-important and observers should attempt to provide the following details when making a submission:

Species

Site Name

Grid Reference

Number of individuals seen

Date

Notes (including age and sex if known)

Type of record (*e.g.* road casualty, field sighting, caught by cat, found dead, trapped)

Observer name and contact details.

## Systematic List

The systematic list follows the classification used by Corbet & Harris (1991) and includes a summary of the information held on the Norfolk Mammal Database, both for 2005 and for the database as a whole. Two sets of figures are shown after the vernacular and systematic names. The first of these highlights the number of records received for 2005, with the total number of records held for this species in the database shown in brackets. The second set of figures shows the number of tetrads (a two by two kilometre square) from which the species was recorded in 2005, followed in brackets by the total number of tetrads containing the species in the database as a whole. Thus, 175 Hedgehog records were received for 2005, with 2,248 in the database as a whole (including 2005). Similarly, Hedgehogs were recorded in 76 tetrads during 2005 and have been recorded from 654 tetrads in total.

## Insectivora

### Hedgehog

*Erinaceus europaeus*

#### **175 (2,248) records 76 (654) tetrads**

There were a number of early records for this species during 2005, with the first of these coming from Caister-on-Sea on 1st January (CJS). Others seen during the same month included an adult found freshly dead at Thetford (MPT) and a road casualty on the A1062 near Horning (EG), suggesting the mild weather had tempted a number of individuals to emerge from their winter retreats. Although it is normal for Hedgehogs to arouse from torpor fairly regularly throughout the winter, they usually remain within the nest before resuming hibernation. Single records were received from February and March with the frequency of observations increasing in April (the typical time of emergence for this species). The first young of the year were reported on 10th June when an adult was seen with three youngsters in Corpusty (PSL). Further young were reported throughout the summer, including a report from Necton of a female and her cricket ball-sized young disturbed by terriers (GJB). Some 112 of the records received for this species related to individuals found dead on the county's roads and there is no doubt that traffic takes a great toll on this species each year. Tentative figures from national projects monitoring this species suggest that the population may be undergoing something of a decline (Battersby *et al.*, 2005).

### Mole

*Talpa europaea*

#### **211 (3,088) records 122 (782) tetrads**

As in previous years, the bulk of the records received relate to the presence of molehills at a site, rather than observations of live individuals. The increase in the numbers of records received since 2004 almost certainly stems from an appeal for records of common species that have previously tended to be overlooked by observers, rather than an increase in the mole population itself. Records were received from all months of the year. Five records were received of individuals found dead on roads and there was just a one record of a live individual seen above ground. This came from the BTO Nunnery Gardens in Thetford, when an individual was found next to the drive, attempting to dig down by some tree roots (MPT). Another active individual was reported (below ground) constructing a fresh molehill, the observer (PT) noting how '*the cat and I watched as a new molehill grew on the grass outside the lab*'. The 14 records of moles found dead away from roads included one individual found in a mole trap set on a football pitch (MPT) and one found dead in a pond at the old Whitlingham Hospital (PT).

### Common Shrew

*Sorex araneus*

#### **43 (1,076) records 17 (342) tetrads**

The Common Shrew is thought to be widespread within the county, occupying those habitats in which there is dense ground cover and suitable prey available. Unfortunately, most of the 43 records received for this species were the result of cat predation. Although the numbers of individuals killed by the county's cats must number in the thousands, there is no way of knowing if this level of predation is having an influence at the population level. It is known that predation by cats on certain other small mammal species can have a significant effect on population size in some habitats (Baker *et al.*, 2003). It has been suggested that the Common Shrew population fell by 9.1% between 1974 and 1997, although this figure is based on data collected from two national studies of prey remains in Barn Owl *Tyto alba* pellets (Gluc, 1974; Love *et al.*, 2000). Any conclusions based on these data may be complicated by the fact that





and parasite - this Noctule was one of a number recorded during inspection of  
 bat boxes at Sheringham Park; the parasite is on top of the animal's left ear. (*Phil Richardson*)

ow Deer - aside from the Holkham herd, records of this species come mainly from the northern part of  
 Ford Forest and the Wolferton/Babingley area of West Norfolk. (*John Kemp*)





Wood Mouse - Wood Mice are the most common small mammal reported from gardens, often moving into sheds and garages early in the winter. Here they can become a pest, raiding stored products like seed purchased for feeding wild birds. (*Andy Musgrove*)

Harbour Porpoise - the carcasses of Harbour Porpoises are regularly found on Norfolk beaches. (*Peter M Wilson*)







Bank Vole - the smallest British vole. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

at Blakeney Point - boat trips from Moreston and Blakeney are popular with both  
naturalists and tourists alike. (*Julian Bhalerao*)







Hare - commonly seen throughout the county. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Muntjac - a fawn at Wolferton. (*Julian Bhalerao*)



Barn Owls could alter their hunting behaviour and prey selection in relation to factors other than prey availability, thus meaning that the contribution of Common Shrew to Barn Owl diet is not directly related to population size. This is something that has been explored by a number of authors (Yom-Tov & Wool, 1997; Van Nieuwenhuyse *et al.*, 2002). ESW encountered a family party of Common Shrews moving in convoy-like fashion. This behaviour is known as 'caravanning' and has been described in captive shrews on a number of occasions (Fons, 1974; Corbett & Southern, 1977). It was first described in the wild (and in Common Shrew) in the late 1970s (Harper, 1977). The behaviour is thought to be stimulated by disturbance at the nest and occurs as the shrews undertake a movement to a new nest site. Each youngster will grab the tail base of the one in front of it, with the leading youngster grabbing the tail base of its parent. The parent will then lead the young through the vegetation, sometimes in a seemingly haphazard fashion, while continuing to emit a series of twittering calls.

### **Pygmy Shrew**

*Sorex minutus*

#### **30 (479) records 8 (193) tetrads**

The notable increase in the number of records received this year is largely due to the contributions of two observers (EG, PT). Separation of this species from the related Common Shrew is not straightforward and is best determined from dead specimens. Fortunately for us, the majority of records received are of this type (typically taken by pet eats), something which provides an opportunity to examine the length of the tail in relation to overall body length. However, it remains likely that some of the records on the database attributed to Pygmy Shrew are actually of immature Common Shrew.

### **Water Shrew**

*Neomys fodiens*

#### **14 (275) records 6 (141) tetrads**

The Mammal Society's Water Shrew Survey held its final year of fieldwork during 2005. Although records for Norfolk have yet to be forwarded on from the Mammal Society, a preliminary report has been published. This can be downloaded from both [www.mammal.org.uk](http://www.mammal.org.uk) and [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Included in the 14 records received for 2005 was one of a live individual seen feeding beside an embankment within the railway yard at Reepham (DIR). DIR also contributed a further seven records, all the result of eat predation.

## **Chiroptera**

### **Lesser Horseshoe Bat**

*Rhinolophus hipposideros*

#### **0 (0) records 0 (0) tetrads**

Although there are no records of this species in the Norfolk Mammal Database, the species was known to be present within the county during the 1950s and 1960s.

### **Whiskered Bat**

*Myotis mystacinus*

#### **0 (4) records 0 (2) tetrads**

No records for this species have been received since 1987, when a roost of 15 individuals was found near Snettisham.



**Brandt's Bat***Myotis brandtii***0 (5) records 0 (5) tetrads**

Small numbers of this species are known to have used monitored winter roost sites through into the mid-1980s, although there are no recent records on the Norfolk Mammal Database.

**Natterer's Bat***Myotis nattereri***1 (302) records 1 (88) tetrads**

A record of 20 individuals reported from Paston Great Barn on 20th August (PJH) was the only record of the species reported during 2005. The species is thought to be fairly common throughout the UK, maintaining summer roosts in timber rot holes within churches, barns and trees. No information has been received from the winter roost reported last year.

**Daubenton's Bat***Myotis daubentonii***4 (413) records 2 (98) tetrads**

Records were received from Sparham Hall Farm (CSY), the Wensum Valley (1st April, RM) and Candle Dyke (24th September, PJH). Daubenton's Bat is a common and widespread species associated with riparian habitats. Results from analyses of data collected through the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) suggest that the national population is increasing, although additional data are needed to add further weight to this result (Battersby, 2005).

**Serotine***Eptesicus serotinus***1 (33) records 1 (22) tetrads**

A single certain record was received for 2005, concerning 10 individuals noted by IGH on 30th May at Langmere Boxes in the Brecks. Records held on the Norfolk Mammal Database show two distinct clusters, one in the eastern quarter of the county, the other centred on the Brecks. However, this distribution is likely to reflect observer effort rather than the distribution of this species within the county. An individual thought to be of this species was picked up on a bat detector at Great Ryburgh on 7th June (SCA).

**Leisler's Bat***Nyctalus leisleri***0 (0) records 0 (0) tetrads**

This species first began to appear in bat boxes in the part of Thetford Forest falling within West Suffolk during the 1980s and is now regular there. However, there are no Norfolk records of this species in the Norfolk Mammal Database.

**Noctule***Nyctalus noctula***7 (240) records 5 (110) tetrads**

Up to 30 individuals were recorded hunting over Mown Fen, East Ruston on 11th June and up to 15 on 21st June (PJH). Inspection of the bat boxes installed at Sheringham Park by KZ & JG (29th October) revealed the presence of 19 Noctules.

**Pipistrelle***Pipistrellus spp***25 (1096) records 17 (372) tetrads**

As noted in previous reports, the taxonomic split of Pipistrelle into two species (*P. pipistrellus* – Common or 45kHz Pipistrelle and *P. pygmaeus* – Soprano or 55kHz Pipistrelle) necessitates the use of Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus* spp. within the database. Records stemming from the use of



bat detectors revealed the certain presence of *P. pipistrellus* at Waxham Barn (EG), Candle Dyke (PJH) and Hindringham (GH). A colony of *P. pygmaeus* was reported from a house in Horning (EG). Identified by bat detector, two were first reported on the wing on 15th June. Nightly counts over the following weeks revealed a peak count of 142 individuals on 29th June. Soprano Pipistrelle roosts preferentially in buildings, where it tends to form larger colonies than those seen in Common Pipistrelle. Results from colony counts across England give an average colony size for Soprano Pipistrelle of 240 and for Common Pipistrelle of 60.5. Inspections of the bat boxes at Sheringham Park revealed the presence of 26 55kHz Pipistrelles (KZ, PRI & JG), while a further five were noted at Felbrigg the previous day, again during an inspection of the bat boxes by KZ & JG. Two other pipistrelles were not identified to species.

### **Nathusius's Pipistrelle**

*Pipistrellus nathusii*

**0 (7) records 0 (3) tetrads**

No records of this species were received for 2005. A review of the status of this species within the county appears in the mammal report for 2002 (Parsons, 2003).

### **Barbastelle**

*Barbastella barbastellus*

**1 (115) records 0 (35) tetrads**

A single record was received for this species, relating to 15 individuals reported from Paston Barn on 23rd August (PJH). This is the best-known breeding colony within the county. Work is underway nationally to establish wider scale volunteer-based monitoring of this species (Battersby, 2005).

### **Brown Long-eared Bat**

*Plecotus auritus*

**2 (423) records 2 (175) tetrads**

32 Brown Long-eared Bats were reported from the Sheringham Park boxes during a visit on 29th October (KZ & JG). A further 14 were recorded using the boxes at Felbrigg during a visit made the previous day.

## **Lagomorpha**

### **Rabbit**

*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

**293 (2,702) records 116 (726) tetrads**

A common and widespread species recorded from across the county. One unusual sighting received this year concerned two half-grown individuals sheltering in a burrow made amongst Sand Martin holes in the cliff face of a sand pit at Sandy Hill. The burrow appeared to have been exposed when the cliff face was extended (IFK). Despite the increased number of records received this year, there were fewer reports of individuals showing signs of myxomatosis.

### **Brown Hare**

*Lepus europaeus*

**281 (3,336) records 157 (810) tetrads**

Brown Hare numbers are thought to have stabilised following a period of long-term decline. Densities within Norfolk are greatest within mixed arable areas, with some estates in the west of the county supporting sizeable populations. Most reports received for 2005 refer to individuals seen early in the year on arable farmland, with smaller numbers reported following collision with traffic on routes throughout the county. Despite the apparent stabilisation in the

population trend, the Brown Hare remains a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and efforts are being made to improve the status of populations nationwide.

## Rodentia

### Red Squirrel

*Sciurus vulgaris*

**0 (793) records 0 (284) tetrads**

No records were received for this species during 2005. The status of the species within Thetford Forest, where breeding and release work has taken place, remains unclear. A number of individuals within the county keep and breed both European and British Red Squirrels, some of which may escape or be deliberately released into the wild.

### Grey Squirrel

*Sciurus carolinensis*

**179 (2,368) records 81 (617) tetrads**

The Grey Squirrel is perhaps the most frequently seen of our mammal species, occurring in a wide range of habitats and adaptable enough to exploit feeding opportunities associated with Man. One individual noted during 2005 was seen to carry a large piece of sugar beet up a tree (EG).

### Bank Vole

*Clethrionomys glareolus*

**26 (704) records 10 (246) tetrads**

The 26 records received for this species during 2005 came from just ten different tetrads, highlighting (as for other small mammal species) the very low level of observer coverage for this group. Most of our small mammal species are thought to be widely distributed across the county but without targeted live-trapping efforts they typically go unnoticed. Virtually all of the records received referred to individuals caught by domestic cats and presented to their owners.

### Field Vole

*Microtus agrestis*

**111 (1,618) records 17 (404) tetrads**

The Field Vole (also known as the Short-tailed Vole) is regarded as being the most abundant mammal species within the United Kingdom. It is also an important prey species for a number of avian and mammalian predators and, as such, forms a vital component of the food chain in its favoured grassland-dominated habitats. Most records were associated with cat predation, although it is possible to search for, and record, field signs of this species within its favoured grassland habitats (Hansson, 1979; Village & Myhill, 1990).

### Water Vole

*Arvicola terrestris*

**40 (1,198) records 21 (400) tetrads**

The presence of Water Voles at a site is often determined through recognition of their characteristic feeding and latrine signs. These are more commonly encountered than the animals themselves, something that is reflected in the pattern of records received annually when compiling the Norfolk Mammal Report. Although no records were received from Titchwell this year, there were records from Norfolk's other key sites, including the Bure and the Broads.

**Wood Mouse***Apodemus sylvaticus***79 (1,486) records 26 (402) tetrads**

Records of this common and widespread species were, once again, dominated by individuals caught by domestic cats.

**Yellow-necked Mouse***Apodemus flavicollis***2 (40) records 1 (17) tetrads**

As in previous years, the two records received for 2005 were from Ditchingham in the south of the county (DLC).

**Harvest Mouse***Micromys minutus***18 (682) records 10 (235) tetrads**

There was the usual cluster of records from around Corpusty thanks to the recording efforts of MAB, together with reports from five other tetrads (all in East Norfolk). These included the record of three individuals caught by two Kestrels hunting over an area of reedbed at Rockland Broad on 7th November (DPL) and individuals which survived being caught by cats at Beeston Common (FJF) and Potter Heigham (PT).

**House Mouse***Mus musculus***10 (720) records 6 (325) tetrads**

Individuals were reported from Welney (JK), Horning (EG), Hunstanton (EH), Hellesdon (SH) and Ashill (GJB)

**Brown Rat***Rattus norvegicus***107 (1,416) records 66 (526) tetrads**

This 18th Century introduction is well-established within Norfolk. Largely commensal in nature it has the potential to be encountered anywhere within the county. A good spread of records this year, including a number of individuals reported to be "swarming around a pheasant feeding bin" (DIR).

**Ship Rat***Rattus rattus***0 (9) records 0 (6) tetrads**

No certain records of this species have been reported for a number of years.

**Common Dormouse***Muscardinus avellanarius***0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads**

A small number of seemingly reliable records go back over many years, supporting the suggestion that the species could be reintroduced to the county at some point in the future.

**Coypu***Myocastor coypus***0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads**

A former pest species no longer resident within the county.



## Cetacea

### Minke Whale

*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

**0 (10) records 0 (9) tetrads**

Last recorded in 1997, when a sequence of three records on 2nd September suggested a single individual passing along the coast from Weybourne to Sheringham. This species is only rarely encountered on the east coast south of Yorkshire.

### 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.

### 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 Waxham Gap.

### Sperm Whale

*Physeter catodon*

**0 (9) records 0 (7) tetrads**

No reports were received for this species during 2005.

### Northern Bottlenose Whale

*Hyperoodon ampullatus*

**0 (6) records 0 (5) tetrads**

This species has occasionally been recorded stranded on the Norfolk coast

### Sowerby's Beaked Whale

*Mesoplodon bidens*

**0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads**

A single beached individual was recorded at Happisburgh in August 1952.

### Cuvier's Beaked Whale

*Ziphius cavirostris*

**0 (3) records 0 (1) tetrads**

All three records on the database refer to the same individual, reported in the 2002 mammal report (Cresswell, 2003).

### Harbour Porpoise

*Phocoena phocoena*

**24 (300) records 13 (53) tetrads**

Records of Harbour Porpoise seen close offshore were noted from Salhouse, Sheringham, Walcott, Overstrand, Paston, Winterton, Eccles, Horsey Gap, Happisburgh, Cley and Thornham Point thanks to the efforts of a number of recorders. At least four individuals were seen feeding in association with a pod of White-beaked Dolphins off Horsey Gap (DB). One individual was found dead in the Hundred Foot River at Welney (JK).

### Common Dolphin

*Delphinus delphis*

**0 (7) records 0 (5) tetrads**

No records reported this year.

### **Bottlenose Dolphin**

*Tursiops truncatus*

**0 (9) records 0 (9) tetrads**

A scarce species in the southern part of the North Sea.

### **White-beaked Dolphin**

*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*

**1 (22) records 1 (17) tetrads**

Although a scarce visitor to the southern North Sea, movements to exploit concentrations of favoured prey may bring this species close inshore. DB noted a group of 30 or so individuals feeding in association with Harbour Porpoises and Gannets about 1000m offshore from Horsey Gap on 6th September.

### **False Killer Whale**

*Pseudorca crassidens*

**0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads**

The only record on the Norfolk Mammal Database concerns the stranding of eight individuals in Wooton Creek in November 1935.

### **Long-finned Pilot Whale**

*Globicephala melas*

**0 (6) records 0 (5) tetrads**

Last reported in 1992 when one was found dead on Scolt Head Island.

## **Carnivora**

### **Red Fox**

*Vulpes vulpes*

**123 (1,697) records 75 (603) tetrads**

An increased number of records were received for this species during 2005, with the majority coming from the eastern half of the county. A number of the reports received relate to Red Fox populations subject to control, either on game-rearing estates or nature reserves. Eighteen individuals were controlled on the Welney reserve during the year (JK) and reports from elsewhere (where control does not necessarily take place) highlighted the issue of fox predation on scarce breeding species, with one observer noting an individual predating the nests of Little Terns at Holkholm (AB). Cubs were reported from near Saxthorpe (MAB), Ludham (EG, PJH), Mousehold Heath (EG) and Potter Heigham (PT).

### **Stoat**

*Mustela erminea*

**140 (2,868) records 101 (797) tetrads**

The Stoat is a fairly common and widely reported species within Norfolk. Records were received for all months of the year and typically involved single individuals seen briefly, although a family party of five were seen crossing a road at Hindringham on 2nd July (GH). A number of individuals were seen swimming, including two at Buckenham Marshes on 17th January (SH) and one at Holkham NNR on 18th May (AB). Other individuals were seen crossing roads, often carrying small mammal prey or dragging a Rabbit. Other prey items recorded included Grey Squirrel and a road casualty Brown Hare. RJF reported a Stoat in ermine at Ranworth on 21st March which took to the water after being mobbed by gulls. One of the two seen swimming at Buckenham Marshes had a large area of white on its back and a very pale individual was seen at Flitcham (CJS). SHE & RL watched a Stoat dragging a predated

Rabbit some 50-100 metres over a ploughed field towards a hedgerow, by which time it looked exhausted.

## **Weasel**

*Mustela nivalis*

### **76 (2,133) records 59 (737) tetrads**

Most of the records received were of single individuals seen dashing across open ground. However, DPL came across two individuals seemingly fighting and making a great deal of noise at Rockland Broad. Three individuals were seen together near Lowes Farm, Hunworth on 24th September (SH). Although the national Weasel population is thought to be stable at present, the longer term trend over the past 40 years is one of decline.

## **Ferret**

*Mustela putorius/furo*

### **1 (29) records 1 (23) tetrads**

An individual was reported crossing a track (twice) near Stiffkey on 28th August.

## **American Mink**

*Mustela vison*

### **9 (353) records 6 (138) tetrads**

IFK reported that eleven individuals had been trapped on the River Wissey (STANTA) during March and April 2005, while three were trapped on Sparham Hall Farm during the year (CSY) and others were trapped at Welney (JK) and the Sweet Briar Marshes (CR).

## **Badger**

*Meles meles*

### **19 (586) records 17 (293) tetrads**

Unfortunately, because of sensitivities over the location of Badger setts not all records reach the county mammal recorder. However, the 19 records that were received continue the pattern of recent years, with records coming from the Brecks, central and northeast Norfolk. At least nine of the individuals noted were the victims of traffic. Three other records were of active setts, with fresh earthworks or bedding in evidence.

## **Otter**

*Lutra lutra*

### **79 (1,030) records 29 (252) tetrads**

The number of Otter records received was similar to last year and again, most were related to feeding signs or droppings. Records were concentrated around the Broads, the STANTA training area, Corpusty and the Nunnery Lakes at Thetford. Among sightings of live individuals were animals noted on the Wissey (STANTA) by IFK, the Wensum by CSY and the Little Ouse by CG. Two Otters were watched for 15 minutes at dusk on 11th June, feeding on White-clawed Crayfish in the River Wensum at Senowe Park (SCA). Four individuals were found dead on our roads. One was found on the A1088 north of Euston on 26th February (CG), one near Stracey Arms on 27th March (IFK), one – a sub-adult female – on the B1110 near Raw Hall Farm (IFK) and one on the A148 near Thursford Wood (RT via IFK).

## **Pinnipedia**

## **Common Seal**

*Phoca vitulina*

### **31 (165) records 8 (41) tetrads**

Some 23 of the 31 records received were from Blakeney Point, with counts numbering up to 536 on 4th September (DW). Other records included 33 hauled out at Horsey on 8th October



(GC) and an individual seen from the train, hauled out on the bank of the Waveney near Blundeston Marshes (PD). An individual was found dead in the Hundred Foot River at Welney on 14th July (JK).

### **Harp Seal**

*Phoca groenlandica*

**0 (2) records 0 (1) tetrads**

The database contains two records from previous years for this species.

### **Grey Seal**

*Halichoerus grypus*

**51 (157) records 17 (40) tetrads**

A big increase in the number of records received this year is largely due to records from Blakeney Point supplied by DW. His counts ranged from 90 on 14th April through to 382 on 15th August. The first pups were reported from Winterton on 6th October (ALB), with GC reporting his first pup of the year at Horsey two days later.

### **Walrus**

*Odobenus rosmarus*

**0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads**

A 1981 record is the only one on the database for this species.

## **Artiodactyla**

### **Red Deer**

*Cervus elaphus*

**90 (1,642) records 45 (399) tetrads**

Records for this species have tended to come from a small number of discreet areas in any given year. Those for 2005 come predominantly from Thetford Forest, Tacolneston, Hunworth and Barton Broad. Red Deer herds may roam over a reasonable area during the course of a year.

### **Sika Deer**

*Cervus nippon*

**0 (8) records 0 (5) tetrads**

The eight records on the database leave the historical status and distribution of this species unclear within the county.

### **Fallow Deer**

*Dama dama*

**31 (530) records 13 (162) tetrads**

Aside from the Holkham herd, records of this species come mainly from the northern part of Thetford Forest and the Wolferton/Babingley area of West Norfolk. A black form doe was noted from Lambpit Hill, Thetford (PJA) and one or more white form individuals were noted from Kilverstone (CJS & PJA) and near Houghton Hall.

### **Roe Deer**

*Capreolus capreolus*

**139 (2,317) records 82 (535) tetrads**

The various surveys monitoring the status of this species at the national level all point towards a continued and substantial increase in the range and abundance of this species. Records came from across much of western and central Norfolk during 2005, with up to 10 individuals seen

feeding together (CSY). Just four road casualties were reported from among the 139 records received.

## **Muntjac**

*Muntiacus reevesi*

### **130 (1,737) records 77 (530) tetrads**

The Muntjac is now well established within the county.

## **Chinese Water Deer**

*Hydropotes inermis*

### **339 (1,910) 63 (187) tetrads**

Another large number of reports were received for this species during 2005, continuing the pattern seen in previous years. The species was most commonly noted in the Broads and surrounding area. Records away from the Broads included one at Thornham salt marsh (SH), one at Blakeney (DWY), at least two near Saxthorpe (MAB), one at Tuttington (CJS) and one at Templewood (EJA). This species takes readily to water, as demonstrated by one seen swimming at Strumpshaw (CJS). A female with a youngster (still wobbly-legged) was encountered near Langley Church (DPL) and an individual was seen being chased by a Barn Owl at Potter Heigham (PT).

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# The seals of Blakeney Point

*David Wood*

Coastal Warden, Blakeney NNR

A mixed colony of Common and Grey Seals uses the western end of Blakeney Point and the tidal sands north of Stiffkey for breeding, pupping, moulting and generally taking it easy. The seals haul out on the exposed sands during low tide and then, at high tide, move onto the western end of Blakeney Point in small numbers. This tidally-induced movement allows them easier and quicker access to deep water whenever they may need it. During the winter months, when the Grey Seals are pupping and human disturbance is reduced, some of the seals will often remain on the point throughout low tide. Populations of the two species have undergone some significant changes in recent years, with outbreaks of a deadly virus affecting the Common Seals and an increase in the Grey Seal population.

## **The Common Seal**

It is estimated that Britain holds around 50,000 to 60,000 Common Seals, the majority of which are found in Scotland. This represents about 40% of the European sub-species of Common Seal (SCOS, 2004). They live for 20-30 years and feed on a wide range of prey, generally within 40-50km of their haul-out site. Common Seals pup in June and July and moult in August. The population on Blakeney Point is recognised as an important interest feature under the Wash and North Norfolk Marine Special Area of Conservation. The Point's Common Seal population is closely linked to the much larger population in the Wash. The Point appears to be used mainly as a haul-out site, with only a few using the area to pup. Peak numbers are seen during August and early September whilst the seals are moulting.

In 1988 and 2002, Common Seals across northwest Europe suffered from an outbreak of Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV). The Wash and North Norfolk population appears to have been particularly susceptible to this virus. In 1988, the Point's population was reduced from around 750 to 300. Losses of c.52% were recorded for the East coast of England but a much-reduced impact was recorded elsewhere in the UK (SCOS 2004). By 2002, the Point's population had recovered to around 700 individuals. The second outbreak did not kill as many seals as in 1988 but at least 120 dead seals were found between Cley and Stiffkey between August and November. Many more were found up and down the coast. A 22% loss was recorded from the Wash population. However, the overall population losses for the UK may have been less than 2% (SCOS 2004). More recently, a count of 536 Common Seals was recorded for the Point on 4th September 2005.

## **The Grey Seal**

The Grey Seal population in the UK is broadly estimated to be around 110,000 individuals, the majority of which are in Scotland. This represents some 39% of the world population. Female Grey Seals regularly live beyond the age of 30 years and can breed from the age of five years. They give birth in November and December. The pups are reliant on land for around three weeks after birth and use this time to be suckled and weaned and to moult into their sea-going coat. The adults moult in spring. Grey Seals feed mainly on fish caught close to the sea-bed and are known to undertake foraging trips lasting several days over hundreds of kilometres.

The change in the Grey Seal population at Blakeney is an interesting recent development. Just 20 years ago, sightings of Grey Seals in the area were relatively unusual. A regular small haul-out of Grey Seals developed on the Point during the 1990s. Since the year 2000, this increase in numbers has continued and a breeding colony has become established. In 2001,

around 25 pups were born and this number as increased year on year. In 2005, around 175 Grey Seal pups were born and Grey Seals are not present throughout the year, with a peak count of 382 on the 15th August 2005.

### **Conflicts**

The increase in the Grey Seal population at Blakeney Point may pose some interesting problems and conflicts. The high tide haul out areas are often very close to large number of ground-nesting birds, especially Little, Common and Sandwich Terns. On large tides, the seals are pushed up into these areas and can crush eggs and chicks. The increasing numbers and the very nature of Grey Seals may considerably worsen this problem. Compared with Common Seals, the Grey Seals appear to haul out further away from the water's edge and remain in these areas for longer, increasing the risk of nest destruction. During the winter months there may also be a conflict between the different seal species. Traditionally, there are fewer Common Seals present during the winter months, although a small number usually remain. Since the arrival of a breeding colony of Grey Seals, the Common Seals appear to have difficulty in hauling out on the Point at high tide. This is most probably due to the territorial nature of the Grey Seals whilst they are pupping and mating. This has forced the Common Seals to haul out in new, less suitable areas and may force them out of the area completely at this time of year. The increase in the Grey Seal population may also cause an increase in the conflict between the seals and fishermen. Generally the Grey Seals appear to be more prone to causing problems by interfering with nets and pots and are less easily discouraged.

### **Seal Watching**

Viewing the seals on Blakeney Point has become a very popular activity. The trips that run from Morston Quay now take thousands of people out each year. This allows for the best and closest views and causes the least problems for the seals and for the management of Blakeney Point. Viewing the seals on foot on the point during the summer months (April-September) is only possible for a couple of hours either side of low tide, and the views can be distant. At high tide, the seals haul out in an area to which access for walkers is restricted. This is to minimise disturbance to the seals and to the protected tern colonies nearby. The pupping Grey Seals now use a large area on the western end of the Point during the winter and should not be approached too closely. A small restricted area is now left throughout the winter due to the recent population changes.

### **Seal Welfare**

Seal pups are often left alone for periods by the adults but are rarely abandoned. However, approaching a pup may increase the chances of it being abandoned. If you find a pup that you think has been abandoned on Blakeney Point please contact one of the wardens. Seals should not be approached on land as disturbance can cause problems during pupping and moulting. They can also be aggressive and surprisingly fast over a short distance.

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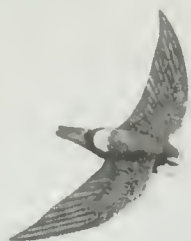
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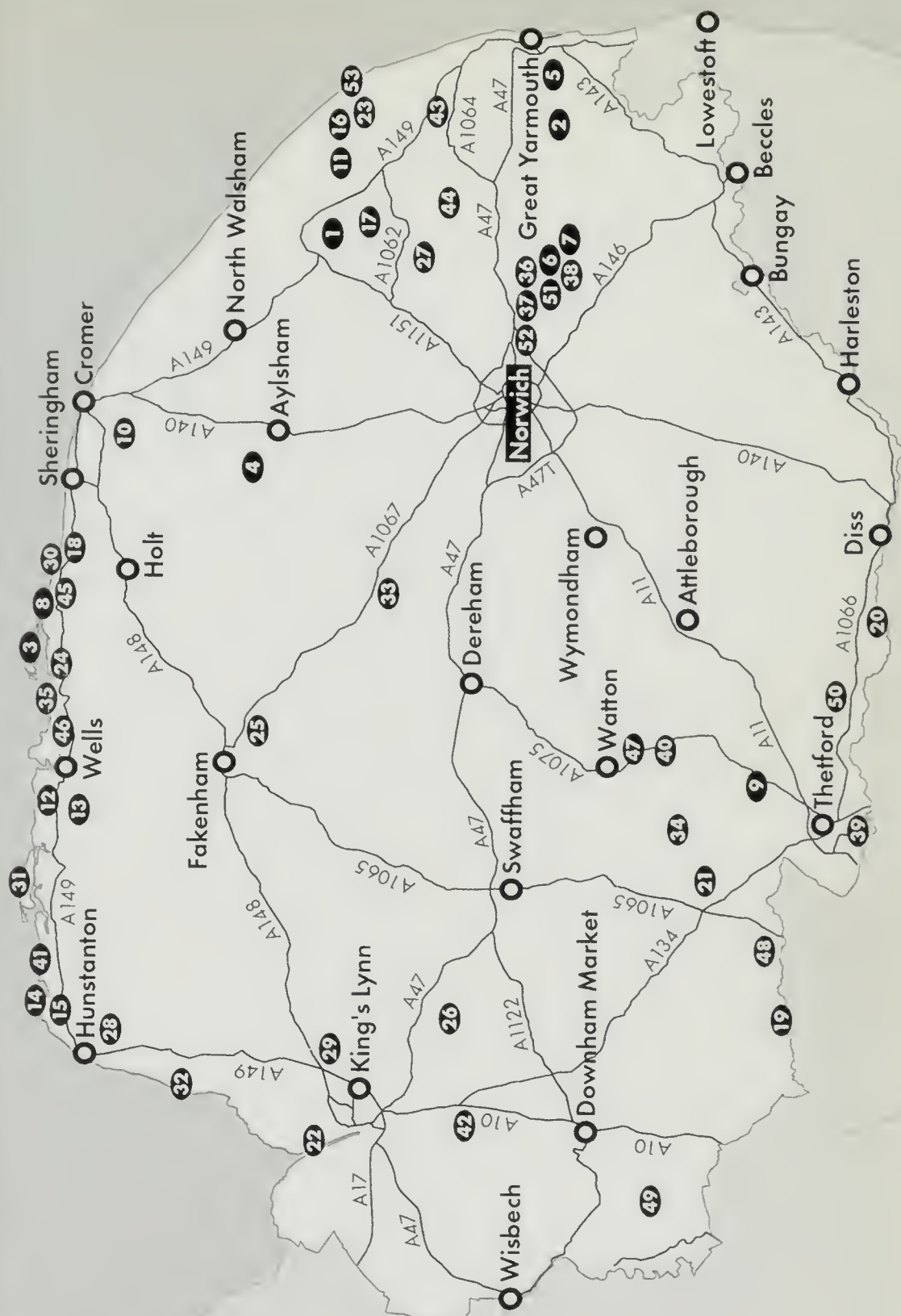
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1 Barton Broad	NWT	21 Lynford Arboretum	41 Titchwell Marsh	RSPB
2 Berney Marshes	RSPB	22 Lynn Point	42 Tottenhill	GP
3 Blakeney Point	NT	23 Martham Broad	43 Trinity Broads:	BA
4 Blickling Park	NT	24 Morston/Stiffkey Marshes	Filby Broad	
5 Breydon Water	LNR	25 Pensthorpe	Lily Broad	
6 Buckenham/Cantley Marshes	RSPB	26 Pentney GP	Ormesby Broad	
7 Cantley Beet Factory	BS	27 Ranworth/Cockshoot Broads	Ormesby Little Broad	
8 Cley Marsh	NWT	28 Ringstead Downs	Rollesby Broad	
9 East Wretham Heath	NWT	29 Roydon Common	Upton Fen	NWT
10 Felbrigg Park	NT	30 Salthouse Marshes	45 Walsey Hills	NOA
11 Hickling Broad	NWT	31 Scolt Head Island	46 Warham Greens	EN
12 Holkham NNR	EN	32 Snettisham Pits	47 Wayland Wood	NWT
13 Holkham Park	HE	33 Sparham Pools	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	51 Wheatfen	TET
17 How Hill	BA	37 Surlingham Broad	52 Whitlingham CP	
18 Kelling WM		38 Surlingham/Rockland Marshes	53 Winterton Dunes	EN
19 Hockwold Washes		39 Thetford Nunnery Lakes		
20 Lopham Fen	SWT	40 Thompson Water		
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BS	= British Sugar	PWT	= Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust	
EN	= English Nature	RSPB	= Royal Society for Protection of Birds	
HE	= Holkham Estate	SWT	= Suffolk Wildlife Trust	
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	TET	= Ted Ellis Trust	
NOA	= Norfolk Ornithologists Association	W&WT	= Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	







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