



# Nar Valley Ornithological Society

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*Your NarVOS Newsletter, January 2018*

*Issue: 473*

## WELCOME

Dear Members

A Happy Birding New Year to you and welcome to the first newsletter of 2018.

What a winter we have had. We have had more than enough wind, rain and murk but not a big freeze. Bird-wise the range of species appears to be somewhat lower than one might have expected. But winter is not over and the weather and the birds may yet surprise us.

In this newsletter I am very pleased to include an article about the history of Boughton Fen from Sue Pogmore and the first instalment of a write-up about bird migration at Spurn by Brian Barrett. Also, please find a fleshed-out NarVOS Indoor Programme for 2018.

*And a couple of reminders:*

**NARVOS SUBSCRIPTIONS** are now due. Please join. Why not recruit a friend? Please see form on back page of this newsletter.

**NAR VALLEY FISHERIES PERMITS** There are still some available, if you are quick. See more information inside this newsletter.

Please continue to let me have more articles, photos, anecdotes, poetry, etc in 2018.

Thank you.

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## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

### NARVOS FIELD TRIP – 14<sup>th</sup> FEB

**Welney Wildfowl & Wetland Trust**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 11.00am**

**with Paul Wilton**

This trip to Welney will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February to watch the Wildfowl and Swan Feed. What better way to spend Valentine's Day? Please meet at the Welney reserve at 11.00am, then view the waterfowl, culminating with the swan feed at 12.00 noon.

There are always good views to be had of a wide range of waterfowl, including Whooper Swans and Pochard. To whet your appetite even more, the visitor centre, shop and café should all be open.

There has been some recent flooding, happily not in the centre or the main observatory. We expect that most of the outer hides will also remain open but it might be a good idea to bring wellies as a precaution, if you wish to venture away from the observatory.

There is an entry charge for non WWT members although some discounts may be available, depending on the size of our group.

Sat Nav postcode for the Welney Wetlands Centre is **PE14 9TN**. Take the **A10 southbound from Downham Market**. Then turn right (west) towards Ten Mile Bank. Go through TMB village and follow the twisting road until you arrive at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

If you wish to join the trip please sign up at the January indoor meeting or contact Paul on 01553 810166 or [paulisbirding@gmail.com](mailto:paulisbirding@gmail.com)

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## FEBRUARY INDOOR MEETING

### An Evening with Chris Knights

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 7.30pm**

We look forward eagerly to this presentation from Chris Knights – on whatever wildlife subjects and locations he chooses. Chris is well known as a farmer, conservationist, award winning photographer and film maker. Whatever topic Chris chooses, it is bound to be enthralling, entertaining and informative with superb photography.

Please come along to this meeting which begins at **7.30pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** at our usual venue, the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham. Access and parking from Sporle Road, opposite the Cottage Hospital.

## LAST MEETING

### Christmas Social Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

A most agreeable evening meal and social evening was enjoyed by the 43 members who attended – an excellent turnout at Swaffham Golf Club.

A world record sum of £162 was taken on the Christmas raffle, thanks to the persuasive powers of Carl and Glynis Donner to relieve members of their cash. But, of course, such a healthy amount for NarVOS funds would not have been possible without such a bounty of superb raffle prizes. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously and to those who spent so freely.

We are indebted to Glynis, once more, for her quiz and to Allan Hale for his photo ID competition. Your efforts were suitably taxing, entertaining and good fun.

Special thanks should go to Ian Black for all the co-ordinating, liaising and planning he did on behalf of NarVOS to make the event happen. Also, we were most grateful to Swaffham Golf Club for their good food, hospitality and convivial surroundings.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions are now due. We are delighted to report that the membership fees will remain the same as last year and we hope that you will agree that they represent great value for money.

Please complete the Membership Form on the back page and, ideally, bring it along with your payment (cash or cheque) to the January meeting.

If you are unable to attend, please send your completed form and cheque to Mick East (address on back page) or even pay on line.

## ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

### Can you help?

It might only be early 2018 but already we are working on the 2017 NarVOS Annual Report and this is a plea for help. If you think you can supply an article of interest or an appropriate photograph to include in the centre spread, we want to hear from you. Articles should be relevant to the NarVOS study area and submitted in 'Word' format. Pictures should have been taken within the NarVOS area during 2017 and be submitted in jpeg form.

If you think you have something for the Annual Report please speak with any committee member or contact Allan Hale on 01366 328421 or [allan@ajhale.plus.com](mailto:allan@ajhale.plus.com)

## NAR VALLEY FISHERIES PERMITS

At the time of writing there are still some NVF permits available for 2018 – if you hurry. The birdwatching permits for this site - between Pentney and Wormegay - are exclusive to NarVOS members. In short, NVF Permits are £10 for the first year and Free thereafter, subject to renewal. If you would like to see nesting Common Terns, hear the Nightingale, see Hobby, and observe wintering duck please look up the NVF Application Form from the December newsletter and submit to Ian Black, our chairman. Also, contact Ian on 01760 724092 if you have any queries – but **hurry** as Ian needs all application in by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**.

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## ARTICLE ABOUT BOUGHTON FEN

### Boughton Fen – Then and Now

by Sue Pogmore

Sue and Mark Pogmore are heavily involved with the conservation and restoration of Boughton Fen – most certainly a jewel of a 'reserve' within the NarVOS area. Sue kindly wrote this article, hoping that I might be able to publish this very interesting background piece prior to a NarVOS trip to Boughton Fen last December. Unfortunately, timing and newsletter space meant that Sue's article is only now getting a belated but well-deserved airing. My apologies for this publishing delay. Please read and enjoy Sue's article:

Many of you will be familiar with Boughton Fen – a Site of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife site, a popular spot for bird watching, and a pleasant place for a family stroll around the Wildlife Walk. Of course it hasn't always been like this.

Boughton Fen is located at the eastern end of Oxborough Road (old Fen Road) and covers around 40 acres to the south of the 'T' junction and straddles either side of the road that leads to Eastmoor to the north and Oxborough to the south. These parcels of land were assigned Poors' Lands under the Act of 1801. An extract of which reads:

#### **Poors' Lands, Boughton, Norfolk**

*Three Commissioners were appointed under the Act passed in the year 1801 to enclose the common and waste lands of Boughton, and to divide and allot the same, estimated to be in extent 776 acres, 1 rood, 4 perches. On the 26th August, 1803, the Commissioners finished, and ordered their Deed of Award and plans to be placed for reference in the Chest of the Church of the Parish of Boughton.*

*"And we, the said Commissioners, do hereby assign, set out, and allot, as by the said Act directed, unto the Lord or Lords of the Manor Boughton, Overhall and Netherhall, for the time being, the Rector, the Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Boughton for the time being; and to the Proprietors within the aforesaid Parish of estates of the yearly value of £25; and to their respective successors for ever, in trust, as hereinafter mentioned, all that piece or parcel of land, containing by survey, 44 acres, 2 roods, 22 perches, part of the said common."*

*Here the Boundaries are described in the Deed of the Award, and are those of the parcel of land now known as "Boughton Fen." Which said piece or parcel of land is the same piece mentioned and described in the Act, and directed to be allotted by us, in Trust, for the purpose of providing and supplying to the occupiers of each of the Commonable Messuages or Tenements now standing in the said Parish of Boughton, for the time being, and to the occupiers of each of the three following Cottages in Boughton, one belonging to Loom Brook in the occupation of Edward Whittrick and two belonging to, or in the occupation of, George Lewis and William Fincham, a quantity not exceeding nor not less than 4000 turves or flags, of the usual dimensions, for fixing in every year, and for the tenants and occupiers of all the commonable messuages now standing in the Parish of Boughton, to use and enjoy right of common pasture over the said allotment, with such kind and number of stock as is hereinafter mentioned. For each of the commonable messuages, that is to say, 2 cows or 3 head of young stock under 3 years old, or 1 cow with 2 calves under 1 year old, or 2 geldings or 2 mares, with or without foals not exceeding 8 months old. And we, the said Commissioner, direct that the said allotment may be stocked and fed from 12th May until 11th October in every year and that from 14th February until 12th May in every year, the allotment shall not be stocked or fed with any kind of beasts or cattle whatsoever.*

*"And we, the said Commissioners, certify that the said new fences enclosing the parcel of land in trust, directed by us to be made, with ditches 4feet 6inches wide at the top and of the depth of feet, perpendicular, with a sufficient number of gates, with oak posts and proper gate irons therein, have been made, and that white thorn layers have been set in the banks of the fences, and good thorns or other wood have been set on the summits of such banks. And we, the said Commissioners, have computed the costs and charges under the said act to be £1947 18s. 6d., to be paid by the several persons to whom allotments have been made, save and except the several persons particularly exempted on account of allotments made to them in trust as aforesaid from the payment of any of the said charges of the Act."*

It would seem that, contrary to the views of some, that the fen was also much wetter some of the time, than in recent years:



*A flooded Boughton Fen looking towards White Bridge on the Oxborough Road*

Around 1907, a Miss E.A. Pratt (housekeeper and niece of Richard Harwin) financed the building of a small chapel for the residents of Boughton Fen. Unfortunately it no longer stands. Interestingly, the house that Mark and I live in now was the home of Miss Pratt, who was given a sum of money by Richard Harwin to build herself a home – on the condition that she never married!!



*Boughton Fen Chapel*

Fast forward to 1965 – and the introduction of the Commons Registration Act. The Chair of the Parish Meeting was at that time Mrs Audrey Payne, who registered both Boughton Fen (known as Boughton Common at that time) and the village green around the pond as areas of common land on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1968. Grazing rights were awarded to the four principal farms in the village – Field Farm, Church Farm, Hall Farm and The Poplars. Those rights go with the farmhouses, rather than the farmer. At the present time only one of these houses is still occupied by the owner of the farm to which the right relates, the others having all become private dwellings with no interest in farming. The grazing rights are very specific, with each farm being entitled to graze a different assortment and number of beasts.

Dates for grazing were specified, and ages for the permitted livestock given. The number of adult cows ranged from 2 to 12, presumably according to the prestige of the farm. As all these houses still exist, it is clear to see that they become progressively grander in keeping with the number of animals permitted.

At the same time, the cottage dwellers on the fen lost the right to dig peat for fuel.

The registration form reads like something from at least a hundred years ago – yet it was finalised as recently as 1972.

There was absolutely no interest in conservation then, or wildlife, or any of the other things that we value now. In fact, at one point it seems that there was a move to plough the site up and grow crops. Fortunately, the Ministry of Agriculture had no funds at this time, so this never happened.

Things did not appear to change until after 1983 when English Nature (the precedent of Natural England) identified the site as a SSSI.

*Thank you, Sue, for this fascinating glimpse into Boughton Fen's past. And here is Sue's Summary of the subsequent NarVOS field trip:*

## **NarVOS Trip Around Boughton Fen**

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

by Sue Pogmore

After an unpromising morning, with very strong winds and torrential rain, it was a relief to find everything drying up and some blue sky beginning to appear around noon, just in time for the NarVOS walk around Boughton Fen.

A group of ten set out in what was now some wintry sunshine. Mark explained how the fen was made up, and what had happened to it over the past ten years as we went around.

Marsh Harriers were on form at several points around the walk, along with a Red Kite, a Buzzard and a Kestrel. Other sightings included Mistle thrush and a Goldcrest, but sadly, no starlings.

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## A WONDERFUL LEGACY

### Julian Lawson's Estate

You will recall that, following the sad death of Julian Lawson, we at NarVOS were surprised to find that part of the proceeds of the collection taken at his funeral were to be donated to our Society. Julian was very fond of NarVOS, attending meetings, providing Newsletter reports on some of his travels and, even during his illness, joining us on some of our field trips. At this time, Julian began, generously, to donate books from his extensive collection as prizes for our raffles.

Shortly after his death, we were truly grateful to receive, from the funeral directors, two cheques amounting to £181.00. At this time, we were made aware of the fact that part of Julian's estate included books and equipment relating to one of his other great passions – fishing. We were given the go-ahead to help to dispose of some of this collection. Given his equally enthusiastic involvement in angling, Paul Wilton offered to manage this process by arranging the sale of the equipment. NarVOS was informed that the proceeds from these sales would also come as a legacy to the Society.

With enormous gratitude, NarVOS has recently taken receipt of a further £340.00 from Julian's estate. Our thanks go to the executors of the will and, of course, to Olive Ashley who helped to direct the attention of the executors and solicitors towards NarVOS. Our thanks also go to Paul Wilton whose efforts ensured the sale and disposal of all these items, subsequently to the benefit of the Society. The NarVOS committee will seek ways in which to use this legacy to provide for the Society and also to remember our former member, Julian Lawson.

**Ian Black**

## NOTICE

Sadly, we have to inform you that David Brooks, a former NarVOS member, died in a road traffic accident a few weeks ago. David was certainly a member of NarVOS between the years of 2008 and 2013, maybe longer. You may also recall that David was a NarVOS committee member for a time. Since drifting away from NarVOS he continued birding with, amongst others, the U3A Bird Watching Group.

David's funeral will take place at Mintlyn Crematorium, near King's Lynn, at 11.30am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. David's son, Chris, has requested that, should you be intending to attend the funeral, he would like to know in advance. He is currently staying at David's house on phone number 01760 441160.

## WEARING THE WAGTAIL



A NarVOS Grey Wagtail in the same shot as a Silverback Gorilla must surely be unusual, if not unique. The Wagtail is, of course, being displayed on NarVOS clothing worn by member, Sue Bryan. The photo, with thanks to Sue, was taken in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest on her recent trip to Uganda. It did cross my mind how you would actually get into an 'impenetrable' forest.

We expect to have more NarVOS 'Wagtail' clothing available shortly.

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## ARTICLE

### Spurn Migfest - September 2017

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017

by Brian Barrett

*Like many of us over the years NarVOS member Brian Barrett likes to extend his birding knowledge. Brian is a keen birder in NarVOS and beyond, as you will see. Many thanks to Brian for this fascinating article, in which he celebrates the birds of Spurn. :*

I am on Twitter and last year I saw an article about Spurn MigFest. This is a weekend event around Spurn and the surrounding villages where a group of birders gather to celebrate migration. It is the brainchild of two birders that were linked with Spurn who have sadly passed away recently. What was really nice was that throughout the weekend you were reminded of the fact that Andy Roadhouse and Martin Garner were not only well liked, inspirational pioneers they also had a family of friends at Spurn that would not let their memory fade. There were lectures named after them and even the veg option on the hog roast gave a nod in their direction.

Spurn, if you don't know, is located East of Hull in the county of East Riding of Yorkshire. It is a peninsula that birds funnel down as they migrate. It is also home to many birders that have been captivated by the habitat, the chance of good birds and the friendly community feel to the place.

I managed to get that weekend off and my plan was to go up on the Friday and come back late Sunday. It is about a 4 hour drive so I had hoped to leave early on Friday to get to the campsite to pitch my small tent and get settled in early. I packed the night before and was hoping to leave in the morning. What I didn't want was to get to Hull at a peak traffic time as this can be a considerable bottleneck and I wanted to miss school and work traffic. Setting off was delayed, however, due to my guilt. I was about to leave my family for a 2 night birding experience not long after having a weekend away fishing and also having a pelagic planned from Bridlington. I decided to stay longer and give my dog Harvey some time and to give him his 2 walks for the day that meant I was now leaving at 1300.

The journey was easy; following my googlemap app on my phone I made good time and arrived at the Westmere Farm campsite. I had made a detour en route to try to pick up a lifer which was not far away, a White-rumped Sandpiper which only took 10 minutes of searching to find. It was already busy at the farm, there were only a couple of places to choose from to pitch up. So, after getting my tent up and bed sorted I went in to register. I had already purchased my tickets, £27 for the weekend ticket, £7 per night for camping and £9 for the Hogroast and the Andy Roadhouse memorial lecture. There was a buzz in the air: people arriving and pitching up their stalls, the ladies of Spurn were handing out complimentary hot drinks which were available all weekend. They also had a selection of hot food and confectionery items. After registering I wandered around the Westmere Farm Barn and looked at the various stalls promoting holidays abroad, the BTO, Optics stand and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. There were artists selling their wares as well as book stalls with many many books on anything nature related.

After finding the toilets and one shower, I looked at the time and realised that I had an hour to spare before the festival officially opened at 1915. I went back to my car grabbed my bins and scope and thought that I would start my list for the weekend. There was a gap in the hedge further up the campsite and I had seen a few birders head that way, so being the sheep I am, I followed. Up this hedge was part of the Kilnsea Wetlands and there was some interest on one particular pool. Some claimed a Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail, but on good views I discounted it as a Yellow Wagtail, as did Nick Moran who was alongside. In this area were plenty of Barn Swallows, a Shoveler, Woodpigeons, Carrion Crows, House Sparrows, Goldfinch, a single Robin, a Common Sandpiper and, best of all, a Little Stint. Not bad for a small group of ponds, but there were even more birders nearer the seafront, so a quick walk up there may well produce something. As I got nearer some people were walking away and I asked what they had seen, and they said Wryneck. Now I'm interested, I pick up my pace. Although I have seen one once before at Cley, in a garden, I have yet to see one this year. I noticed that there were a lot of yellow caps being worn, I was told that all volunteers would be wearing yellow caps, very distinctive in the field, so if I had any questions these people may be able to help,.

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After getting to a playpark and a little searching I saw the Wryneck fly, but I hoped for better views. So I moved around so that I had the sun to my back and waited for the bird to show again and not long after saw it perched on plants feeding. I had it in my bins for nearly 5 minutes. What a great start! First day a Lifer, plus a second sighting, and one for my year list.



*Wryneck*

I left that area so that I could grab a tea and listen in the barn to the official opening of the Spurn Migfest 2017. This was at 1915 and Andy Clements, Director of the BTO, along with Rob Adams, Chairman of Spurn Migfest, opened the event explaining the origins of the festival and how it has grown in size and recently joined forces with the BTO. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Migfest and it was reflected that last year Andy Clements found the bird of the weekend, a Kentish Plover. The challenge was given to the Spurn birders to find something special this weekend. After this, Nick Whitehouse gave a 40 minute talk of what makes Spurn Special. At the end of this there was a Bat walk, having never been on a specific bat walk I thought that I would join it. There were about 15 people walking around with various items of sonar detecting equipment. The conditions were quite stormy and we only found bats in relatively sheltered areas. We had lots of Common Pipistrelles and also some Nathusius' Pipistrelles which, according to the expert, are rare migrants. I trotted off to bed as I had planned on an early start in the morning.

0515, I'm up, getting dressed and a quick pop to the facilities. I am disappointed that there is only one shower and it has a queue outside. One of the many good things at the Migfest is that there are many radios, many yellow cap-wearing experts and many vans busy ferrying birders to different destinations. My plan for today was to swot up on my seawatching skills for the first hour and a half followed by an epic tour of the Spurn Peninsula which is about 6

miles and 3.5 hours of wandering around the dunes systems with plenty of scrub. This afternoon I planned on doing the Triangle guided tour followed by the hog roast at 1700.

So, I wait outside the meeting point at Westmere Farm with one other birder and get dropped off at Numpties. This is the seawatching hide which comes with its own slightly mad Yorkshire man. This man is to be found in Numpties pretty much most days with a variety of counters, gadgets and notepads noting all movement of most birds. Not only is he entertaining and his knowledge is breath-taking but he is a really nice man. In the 90 minutes or so of being in the hide we get views of numerous Red-throated Divers, Common Scoter, Gannets, Cormorants, Shelduck and Oystercatchers. Good movement of Common Terns and Sandwich Terns were also seen; in amongst these a Roseate Tern was heard. Grey Wagtail also flew over. Gulls seen were Black-headed, Great Black Backed and Lesser Black Backed. The radios were busy with Barred Warbler, Black Redstart, Long-eared Owl and Pied Flycatchers being called out. They interested me but I wanted to stick to my plan as I wanted to use the experts to show me around the Spurn peninsula. So if I followed a report on Birdguides I would have a better understanding of the area and this would help me pinpoint where to go for the bird.

So I walk the short distance past one of the ringing stations and Migration watch posts that were counting the massive movement of Meadow Pipits, House Martins and Swallows. I wait at the meeting point and get introduced to the two guides who are to be showing us around the peninsula, but we are delayed slightly by some other birders that are running a little late. So I venture a few metres away from the meeting point to try to get a few species that would be on the mudflats. I immediately spot a Short-eared Owl, quickly joined by another playing in the wind. I call the other birders and in the next 30 minutes we are treated to quite a few flybys as we eventually make our way south towards the lighthouse on the Spurn peninsula. A Wheatear was spotted on the houses that are lived in by the Coastguards that use Spurn as a launch area.

*Sorry to cut you off here, Brian.  
The remainder of Brian Barrett's Spurn article  
should appear in next month's newsletter.*

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# Nar Valley Ornithological Society Indoor Programme 2018



|              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| January 30   | AGM and A Year at Cape May   | Mike Crewe<br>(Limosa Holidays)                               |
| February 27  | Subject to be confirmed  | Chris Knights<br>(NarVOS)                                     |
| March 27     | A Bird Photographer's Diary<br>(with reference to the new book)          | David Tipling   |
| April 24     | The Wildlife of East Anglia  | Dr Kevin Elsby RPS  |
| May 29       | The Good, The Bad and the Ugly<br>(in the world of fungi)                | Dr Tony Leech<br>(Norfolk Fungus Study<br>Group & NNNS)       |
| June 26      | <b>MEMBERS' EVENING</b>  |   |
| July 31      | A Sheepish Spanish Story. Travels in Spain                               | Dave Horsley<br>(Lecturer &<br>Photographer)                  |
| August 28    | The Great Fen Project – a Future Wetland and More                        | Henry Stanier<br>(Project monitoring and<br>Research Officer) |
| September 25 | Birds of Thetford Forest. Nightjars, Tree Pipits,<br>Firecrests and more | Greg Conway<br>(BTO)  |
| October 30   | Peregrines and Sculthorpe Moor   | Zoe Smith<br>(Hawk & Owl Trust)                               |
| November 27  | The Fair Cape - SW African Birds, Beasts and<br>Botany                   | David Pelling<br>(NarVOS)                                     |
| December     | Christmas Social   |   |

Programme organised by David Moss

All Indoor Meetings take place on the final Tuesday of each month (dates shown)  
starting at 7.30pm and are held in the

**Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham**

Mangate Street, Swaffham

**NB Preferred entrance and car parking off Sporle Road, opposite the Cottage Hospital**

For any further details please call Ian Black, on:

- Telephone: 01760 724092
- e-mail: [ian\\_a\\_black@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_a_black@hotmail.com)

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## NARVOS AREA SIGHTINGS December 2017

collated by Paul Jeffery

**Mute Swan.** There were 65 at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ) and 11 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

**Whooper Swan.** A single bird was present at Wiggshall St Peter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (SS).

**Pink-footed Goose.** There were 5000 flying west at Lynn Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PAJ), 900 at Weasenham on the 14<sup>th</sup> (PM) and 350 at North Wootton Marsh on the 9<sup>th</sup> (GO, RTO).

**Greylag Goose.** There were 150 at West Newton on the 6<sup>th</sup> (FC) and 88 at Tottenhill GP on the 18<sup>th</sup> (SW).

**Brent Goose.** There were 250 present at Lynn Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PAJ).

**Egyptian Goose.** There were 62 at East Winch on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ).

**Wigeon.** There were 271 at Ashwicken GP on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ), 70 at St Germans RC on the 6<sup>th</sup> (SS) and 50 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

**Gadwall.** There were 48 at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ), 35 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH) and 26 at Tottenhill GP on the 18<sup>th</sup> (SW).

**Teal.** There were 300 present at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH), 276 at Tottenhill GP on the 18<sup>th</sup> (SW), 80 at Lynn Point on the 8<sup>th</sup> (JF) and 66 at Pentney GP on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ).

**Mallard.** There were 150 on the relief channel between Downham Market and Tail Sluce, Saddlebow on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF), 140 at the Fisher Fleet on the 8<sup>th</sup> (JF) and 60 at Pensthorpe on the 18<sup>th</sup> (PM).

**Pintail.** There were 4 at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ).

**Shoveler.** There were 27 present at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

**Pochard.** There were 283 present at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ).

**Tufted Duck.** There were 140 at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ), 119 on the relief channel between Downham Market and Tail sluice, Saddlebow on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF) and 64 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

**Goldeneye.** There were 31 on the relief channel between Downham Market and Tail Sluce, Saddlebow on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF), 8 at Pensthorpe on the 18<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH, PM) and 2 at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ).

**Goosander.** There were 8 at Runcton Holme RC on the 27<sup>th</sup> (PW) and 3 at Downham Market RC on the 6<sup>th</sup> (SS).

**Cormorant.** There were 21 at Downham Market RC on the 6<sup>th</sup> (SS) and 16 at St Germans RC on 6<sup>th</sup> (SS).

**Great White Egret.** A single bird was present at Nar Valley Fisheries on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (SS).

**Little Grebe.** There were 18 present at Fosters End on the 17<sup>th</sup> (SS) and 15 were along the relief channel between Downham Market and Tail Sluce, Saddlebow on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF).

**Great-crested Grebe.** There were 13 at Ashwicken GP on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ).

**Hen Harrier.** There were 2 at Roydon Common on the 7<sup>th</sup> (PB) with a ring tail there on the 31<sup>st</sup> (RBA); a single bird was at Boughton Fen on the 8<sup>th</sup> (MP, SP).

**Goshawk.** A single bird was present at Oxborough Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> (PW).

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**Water Rail.** There were 2 at Osier Marsh, King's Lynn from 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> (IP) with single birds at Boughton Fen on the 7<sup>th</sup> (PM), Sculthorpe Moor on the 11<sup>th</sup> (PM) and Tail Sluice on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF).

**Moorhen.** There were 47 present at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

**Coot.** There were 450 at Narford Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> (PAJ), 147 along the relief channel between Downham Market and Tail Sluice, Saddlebow on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF) and 56 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

**Golden Plover.** There were 216 present at Runcton Holme on the 8<sup>th</sup> (PW).

**Lapwing.** There were 800 at Great Cressingham on the 5<sup>th</sup> (PD, PM), 350 at Lynn Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PAJ), 300 at Boal Quay on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF) and 148 at Runcton Holme on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (PW).

**Curlew.** There were 36 at Roydon on the 12<sup>th</sup> (KB), 19 at South Wootton on the 26<sup>th</sup> (AB) and 14 at Fritcham on the 9<sup>th</sup> (SL).

**Turnstone.** There were 50 present in the Fisher Fleet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PAJ).

**Dunlin.** There were 2 at Boal Quay on the 18<sup>th</sup> (KEB).

**Green Sandpiper.** Single birds were present at Scarning on the 9<sup>th</sup> (IPB) and Derby Fen on the 26<sup>th</sup> (KB).

**Woodcock.** Single birds were present at Roydon Common on the 7<sup>th</sup> (PB), Scarning on the 9<sup>th</sup> (IPB) and Pensthorpe on the 18<sup>th</sup> (PA, BH).

**Snipe.** There were 3 at Scarning on the 9<sup>th</sup> (IPB).

**Merlin.** A single bird was at Dereham on the 14<sup>th</sup> (PA).

**Peregrine.** A single bird was present at Narborough on the 24<sup>th</sup> (AJH).

**Firecrest.** A single bird was present at South Wootton on the 5<sup>th</sup> (AB).

**Woodlark.** There were 6 at Cockley Cley Wood on the 24<sup>th</sup> (MJE).

**Cetti's Warbler.** There were 2 at Stowbridge RC on the 24<sup>th</sup> (JF) with single birds at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH) and Runcton Holme on the 10<sup>th</sup> (PW).

**Chiffchaff.** There were 4 at Osier Marsh, King's Lynn on the 14<sup>th</sup> (IP) and a single bird at East Rudham on the 18<sup>th</sup> (BB).

**Blackcap.** Single birds were present at Roydon on the 4<sup>th</sup> (KB) and Gaywood from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> (KEB).

**Waxwing.** A single bird was present at Ashill on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (KG).

**House Sparrow.** There were 70 at Weasenham All Saints on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PM).

**Tree Sparrow.** There were 2 at Fritcham on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (KB).

**Rock Pipit.** A single bird was present at Lynn Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PAJ).

**Brambling.** There were 5 present Sculthorpe Moor on the 11<sup>th</sup> (PM), 2 at Beachamwell on the 10<sup>th</sup> (AJH) and a male at Blackborough End from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> (SS).

**Chaffinch.** There were 110 present at Fritcham on the 9<sup>th</sup> (SL).

**Hawfinch.** A single bird was present at Oxborough Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> (PW).

**Bullfinch.** There were 9 present on the Hoe Bird Walk on the 12<sup>th</sup> (DK), 5 at Sculthorpe Moor on the 11<sup>th</sup> (PM), 5 at Hoe Lane on the 20<sup>th</sup> (AH) and 5 at Gayton Thorpe on the 26<sup>th</sup> (GO, RTO).

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**Linnet.** There were 300 at Ashill on the 17<sup>th</sup> (PAJ), 25 at Worthing on the 12<sup>th</sup> (DK), 25 at Great Cressingham on the 31<sup>st</sup> (PAJ) and 21 at Leziate on the 12<sup>th</sup> (CE).

**Twite.** There were 15 at Lynn Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PAJ).

**Lesser Redpoll.** At Beachamwell 137 were trapped and ringed during the month with 42 present there on the 25<sup>th</sup>, (ADB, AJH), 2 at Pensthorpe on the 18<sup>th</sup> (PA, BH), with single birds at Sculthorpe Moor on the 1<sup>st</sup> (PM) and Narborough on the 24<sup>th</sup> (BR).

**Goldfinch.** There were 150 at Beachamwell on the 9<sup>th</sup> (AJH).

**Siskin.** There were 15 at West Acre on the 24<sup>th</sup> (BG) and 8 at Pensthorpe on the 18<sup>th</sup> (PA, BH).

**Yellowhammer.** There were 22 at Ashill on the 31<sup>st</sup> (GJB) and 7 at Anmer on the 30<sup>th</sup> (GO, RTO).

**Reed Bunting.** There were 6 present at Osier Marsh on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (IP), 3 at Tail Sluice, Saddlebow on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 3 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> (RJG, RH).

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**Your sightings:**

Don't forget, you can submit your sightings direct to the NarVOS Recorder, Paul Jeffery, using his contact details below, or to any other committee member or at the indoor meetings, or by using the Yahoo NarVOS e-group, BirdTrack or NarVOS Facebook.

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