

NORTH EAST  
ENGLAND  
29TH MAY – 5TH JUNE



TOUR REPORT

### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May West Carlton**

The tour met at lunchtime at the White Horse in East Barsham where the group had lunch together before making the first leg of our journey north to West Carlton on the East Yorkshire coast near Aldbrough. Around the farm in the evening we noted our first Tree Sparrows, Yellowhammer and Grey Partridge.

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May Spurn**

A warm day in a moderate North Easterly breeze produced little in the way of migrants but a reasonable selection of birds overall. Near Out Newton a roadside stop produced three Corn Buntings with good views of one bird singing. At Spurn, we parked at Chalk Bank on the peninsula and walked to the point, exploring the scrub habitats as well as the Humber estuary. Shorebirds were in short supply, though we did note Sanderling and Ringed Plover as well our first Common Guillemot. Probably twenty Common Whitethroats were noted as well as plenty of Common Linnet, Meadow Pipit and Reed Bunting. Beacon Lane was more productive as we located a singing MARSH WARBLER here, present for the last few days. The birds phenomenal repertoire included mimicry of a variety of species, and eventually, we managed scope views of the bird in a hawthorn bush. Lesser Whitethroat was also noted here and Beacon Ponds yielded around fifty Little Terns, Bar-tailed Godwit and two Grey Plovers. A walk around the Kilnsea/Cliff Farm area added Dunlin, Sedge and Reed Warblers to the list and Tree Sparrows were plentiful. On our way back to Aldbrough, a nice male Yellow Wagtail was singing by the roadside. In the evening, a Little Owl was in the paddock across the road from the farm and the Barn Owl was hunting over the meadows.

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May Hornsea Mere, Flamborough, Bempton and Filey**

Another warm day with a moderate NNE breeze. A ringing session at West Carlton produced Tree Sparrows, Blue & Great Tits, Chaffinch, Wren, Jackdaw and a superb Stock Dove all seen in the hand before breakfast. Our first port of call afterwards was nearby Hornsea Mere, and a good selection of trip ticks included Blackcap, Great Crested Grebe, Common Pochard, a very late Common Goldeneye and a smart first-summer Little Gull. At Flamborough Head, we completed a circular walk from the main car park along the south side of the headland to Old Fall, and back across the fields to the main road. Our first seabirds included many hundreds of Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Guillemot, Razorbill, ATLANTIC PUFFIN, European Shag, Northern Gannet and Northern Fulmar, as well as cliff-nesting House Martins. Meadow Pipit, Common Skylark, Reed Bunting and Common Linnet were all numerous, and at Old Fall plantation we had extremely good views of a Garden Warbler. Common Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, Yellowhammer and the ubiquitous Tree Sparrow were also seen. At nearby Bempton Cliffs we enjoyed excellent views of the breeding seabirds including more Northern Fulmar, Northern Gannet, Common Guillemot, Razorbill, ATLANTIC PUFFIN and huge numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes. One or two Guillemots of the bridled form were noted among the throng and the lovely weather made for a very enjoyable experience overall. After lunch we headed a bit further along the coast to Filey and walked through Parish Wood to the cliff top. Willow Warbler showed well and three Corn Buntings were in the coastal fields. More seabirds were seen along the cliffs though the hoped for Peregrine did not appear. Back at West Carlton in the evening the Little Owl was seen again in the paddock and a Barn Owl was hunting.

### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June County Durham**

A hot day for our trip north towards Northumberland via beautiful County Durham. After a stop at Scotch Corner for a break and coffee, our first birding location was Langdon Beck in Upper Teesdale. Our first Grey Wagtails were on the stream and breeding waders around us included Common Redshank, Eurasian Curlew and European Oystercatcher. Two distant BLACK GROUSE were picked up in the fields and as we walked towards Widdybank Fell two superb breeding plumaged Eurasian Golden Plovers were located. RED GROUSE soon followed with excellent views of a male, and down by the farm we managed to find two RING OUZELS including a smart male perched on the fence. A PEREGRINE circling the hillside was a bonus and we also flushed a Common Snipe from the meadows. Lunch by the stream added our first WHITE-THROATED DIPPER and a Willow Warbler was in song. After lunch we obtained much closer views of the BLACK GROUSE, with four males being seen well in the sunshine. Heading over into Weardale, our last birding stop was the picturesque Tunstall Reservoir and here we spent two hours birding the oak woodland.

COMMON REDSTART were plentiful this year and we noted around six birds including a breeding pair at a nest hole. Spotted Flycatcher, Common Treecreeper, Great-spotted Woodpecker, European Nuthatch, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Grey Wagtail and a TREE PIPIT were also noted, and our journey north to Rothbury produced good views of three RED KITES.

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June Harthope Valley and the Farne Islands**

The Harthope Valley is always a great place to spend a mornings birding, and we weren't to be disappointed today. Our target bird here was WHINCHAT and we saw five birds including four juveniles. Other species noted in the valley were Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Common Chiffchaff, Grey Wagtail, RED GROUSE, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Eurasian Siskin. COMMON REDSTART were easily seen and a male Lesser Redpoll gave good scope views. Heading over to Seahouses we had lunch before catching the 2pm sailing around the Farne Islands. Common Eider and Eurasian Wigeon were seen en route in the bay, and more of the former were floating around the harbour. Out on the islands, we enjoyed fantastic close views of thousands of seabirds including Common Guillemot, Razorbill, ATLANTIC PUFFIN, Common, Sandwich and ARCTIC TERNS, European Shag, Great Cormorant, Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake and Northern Gannets. Rock Pipit was also an addition to the trip list.

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June Hauxley, Amble, East Chevington, Druridge and Cresswell Pond.**

A disappointment today as the boat trip to Coquet Island was cancelled due to strong north-easterly winds. However, we made the best of the opportunities to bird the Druridge Bay reserves starting at Hauxley NR. Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Common Redshank, Little Egret, Common Shelduck, Tree Sparrow, Willow and Sedge Warblers and Tree Sparrow were seen here, though the best bird was undoubtedly the summer plumaged male Ruff seen from the hide. A seawatch from the beach near Amble afforded views across to Coquet Island, and among the throng of breeding seabirds were just about able to pick out the ROSEATE TERNS on their nesting boxes! Thirty Sanderling flew along the shore and a Ruddy Turnstone was on the beach here. Moving on to East Chevington, a productive session here included superb views of a reeling GRASSHOPPER WARBLER perched on the fence, and we were able to photograph it as it seemed oblivious to our presence! Sedge & Reed Warblers, Stonechat and Reed Bunting were also plentiful, and from the hides bathing Common, Sandwich and ARCTIC TERNS were seen. On the Country Park lake, our only Little Grebe of the trip was noted and from here we headed south to Cresswell Pond. It was pretty quiet here though other than Northern Shoveler, Tree Sparrows and a brood of Common Shelduck. Finally Ringed Plover, Great Crested Grebe and a second GRASSHOPPER WARBLER seen from the southern hide at Chevington, as well as further views of the bathing gulls and terns.

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

We departed Rothbury after breakfast for the journey back to Norfolk, the nesting WHITE-THROATED DIPPER being seen by some before breakfast.

#### **Systematic List**

Little Grebe  
Great Crested Grebe  
Northern Fulmar  
Northern Gannet  
Great Cormorant  
European Shag  
Little Egret  
Grey Heron  
Mute Swan  
Greylag Goose  
Canada Goose  
Common Shelduck  
Mallard  
Gadwall  
Northern Shoveler  
Eurasian Wigeon

Common Pochard  
Tufted Duck  
Common Eider  
Common Goldeneye  
Red Kite  
Common Buzzard  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Common Kestrel  
Peregrine  
Red Grouse  
Black Grouse  
Red-legged Partridge  
Grey Partridge  
Common Pheasant  
Common Moorhen  
Eurasian Coot  
Eurasian Oystercatcher  
Ringed Plover  
Grey Plover  
Eurasian Golden Plover  
Northern Lapwing  
Sanderling  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Dunlin  
Common Redshank  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Eurasian Curlew  
Common Snipe  
Ruff  
Black-headed Gull  
Common Gull  
Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Little Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Little Tern  
Sandwich Tern  
Common Tern  
Arctic Tern  
Roseate Tern  
Atlantic Puffin  
Common Guillemot  
Razorbill  
Stock Dove  
Woodpigeon  
Collared Dove  
(Common Cuckoo)  
(Tawny Owl)  
Barn Owl  
Little Owl  
Common Swift  
Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Common Skylark  
Sand Martin  
Barn Swallow  
House Martin  
Rock Pipit  
Meadow Pipit  
Tree Pipit  
Pied Wagtail

Grey Wagtail  
Yellow Wagtail  
Winter Wren  
White-throated Dipper  
Dunnock  
European Robin  
Common Redstart  
Northern Wheatear  
Whinchat  
Common Stonechat  
Song Thrush  
Mistle Thrush  
Common Blackbird  
Ring Ouzel  
Garden Warbler  
Blackcap  
Lesser Whitethroat  
Common Whitethroat  
Sedge Warbler  
Grasshopper Warbler  
European Reed Warbler  
Marsh Warbler  
Willow Warbler  
Common Chiffchaff  
Spotted Flycatcher  
Great Tit  
Blue Tit  
Coal Tit  
Eurasian Nuthatch  
Common Treecreeper  
Black-billed Magpie  
Western Jackdaw  
Rook  
Carrion Crow  
Common Starling  
House Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow  
Chaffinch  
Common Linnet  
Lesser Redpoll  
European Goldfinch  
European Greenfinch  
Eurasian Siskin  
Reed Bunting  
Yellowhammer  
Corn Bunting