



TOUR REPORT
NORFOLK BRECKS
15TH – 18TH MARCH 2026

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MONDAY 16TH MARCH – *bright and breezy morning, clouding over early afternoon and some drizzle. 9C*

We woke to a bright and breezy morning which very much looked like perfect **Goshawk** weather so began the day with a look for these majestic birds of prey. Sure enough, we arrived to find excellent conditions and plenty of **Buzzards** already circling over the trees. We soon heard the song of a **Woodlark** and had great flight views of two chasing each other around over a rough field. A couple of **Fieldfares** perched in a distant tree, and we noted species such as **Mistle Thrush**, **Siskin** and **Brown Hare** as we watched. The **Goshawks** made us wait though, and it was just that we were starting to leave that an immature took to the air and gave great scope views alongside an adult. A third bird also took to the air, and we enjoyed great views of the fluffy white undertail and slow, powerful flapping flight.

Next up was a look for **Stone Curlews** on a nearby pig farm. It didn't take us long to find one sitting in a field margin and another sat in some grass. The views were a little distant, but we could still make out the characteristic streaky brown plumage and yellow bill base. Another stop sadly didn't produce any **Tree Sparrows** but we did see a very smart male **Yellowhammer** before heading onwards towards Mayday Farm.

After calling in for some coffees and a showy **Nuthatch** at Brandon Country Park, we reached Mayday Farm and walked uphill in search of finches. It didn't take us long to find our first target species in the form of two **Lesser Redpolls** perched atop of a small birch tree. The male was looking particularly smart with its extensive pink wash to the underparts. A couple of **Woodlarks** dropped into a clearing in front of where we were stood and we enjoyed some great scope views of one of them resting on the ground. **Siskins** were present in abundance, and we probably saw dozens of these small finches as we wandered through the woodland rides. Eventually it was time for some much-needed lunch though, and we walked back to the van.



Woodlark

We decided to spend the rest of the afternoon birding at RSPB Lakenheath Fen. The weather had closed in a bit, and it was now quite overcast, and the bird activity seemed to have reduced a bit as a result, but we still managed to find some nice birds. Good numbers of ducks were present on the Hockwold Washes with **Shoveler** being particularly numerous. Several **Great Crested Grebes** were looking smart along the river, and a **Great White Egret** gave uncharacteristically close views. Scanning a herd of **Mute Swans** revealed three **Whooper Swans** - an adult and two juveniles.

We continued to walk towards the Joist Fen Viewpoint, pausing to admire a pair of **Marsh Harriers** on the way. It started raining just as we reached the viewpoint, but we were able to pick out a **Cattle Egret** feeding around some horses with a single **Little Egret**, and we heard **Cranes** calling which sadly went unseen. A **Common Toad** could be heard croaking away too. A flyover **Curlew** was a final addition to the trip list as we reflected on what had been a good first day of Breckland birding.

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH – *bright and breezy. 16C.*

The forecast was for a windier day today, so we opted to spend the day birding the North Norfolk coast. It turned out to be rather sunny but there was a chill to the wind when we arrived at Morston Quay for our first stop of the day. Several flocks of **Dark-bellied Brent Geese** were feeding on the saltmarsh close to where we stood and a single **Knot** fed among the **Redshanks** and **Curlews** at close range. We didn't stay here for too long though and made the short journey around to Stiffkey Floods. We were pleased to see that the long-staying trio of **Glossy Ibis** were still present with one of them coming into summer plumage – perhaps an adult and two immature birds. A **Cattle Egret** was feeding with a few cows by the pool, and there were good numbers of **Black-tailed Godwits** and a single **Snipe** present too.



Glossy Ibis

It had been a good start to the day, so we headed on to have a look on the mudflats off Wells Harbour. There were thousands of waders present, with **Knot** being the most numerous, plus smaller numbers of **Dunlin**, **Sanderling**, **Bar-tailed Godwits** and **Curlew**. We almost overlooked a **Greenshank** which was feeding on the near side of the channel right in front of where we were stood. Three **Red-breasted Merganser** could also be seen in the channel, but it seemed as though the lingering Great Northern Diver had finally moved off.

We continued heading west and stopped at Holkham where we walked down to Joe Jordan Hide to see if there were any **White-fronted Geese** present. Sure enough, there were at least 250 **Russian White-fronted Geese** present when we reached the hide and we had excellent views of the various flocks feeding on the fresh marsh. Several **Spoonbills** could be seen flying in and out of the heronry and there were groups of **Avocets** and **Black-tailed Godwits** dotted around too.



Russian White-fronted Geese

Time was pressing on, so we were soon back on the road heading west to RSPB Titchwell Marsh. On reaching the site, we first wandered down the Meadow Trail where the resident **Tawny Owl** was roosting in its usual ivy-covered tree. And we were even able to make out its face for a change!



Tawny Owl

The freshmarsh was covered in birds, with hundreds of **Black-headed Gulls** getting ready for a busy breeding season. Even better were at least 70 **Mediterranean Gulls**, all in their stunning summer plumage. They really looked smart in the beautiful late afternoon sun. There were signs of some summer migrants too, with singles of **Little Ringed Plover** and **Sandwich Tern** seen and plenty of **Avocets** were present too. A single **Greenshank** flew west as we walked back to the van after a great day of coastal birding.



Mediterranean Gulls (plus Common and Black-headed Gulls)

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH – *sunny and warm with a gentle cool breeze. 18C*

We awoke early to a stunning morning and headed off to a nearby site for a search for woodpeckers. We parked up and began walking along the river, noting a flyover **Redpoll** on the way. Several **Mandarins** were flying around, and we counted at least seven of these smart little ducks during our visit. We soon started seeing **Crossbills** too, and had really nice views of several brick-red males. We soon reached the best area for **Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers** and were surprised to hear one drumming as soon as we set our scopes up. Unfortunately, it was very flighty and kept on flying from tree to tree, and we were unable to get a clear view. It crossed the river and began drumming from the south side of the river before crossing back to our side again, calling and drumming a few times then disappeared. It was nice to hear it so well but we were left a little disappointed that we hadn't managed to get a view of it. Still, there were plenty of other nice birds to look at including several **Crossbills**, **Great Spotted Woodpeckers** and **Jays**. A **Kingfisher** also darted past along the river.

We were hoping to improve on our **Stone Curlew** views from earlier in the week so after wrapping up our woodpecker search, we made the journey southwards to Cavenham Heath. However, the **Stone Curlews** proved somewhat more difficult to find than usual here, and it took us some time to locate a couple of birds distantly in a fenced off area. Several **Woodlarks** were more obliging though, with one perching in a birch right in front of where we were standing. A displaying **Eurasian Curlew** was nice to watch among lots of **Lapwings** and a flock of **Fieldfares** flew over, likely getting ready to depart for their Scandinavian breeding grounds. A final highlight came in the form of a **Green Woodpecker** which gave us a nice flypast as we walked back to the van.

For our final birding stop of the tour, we made our way over to Lynford Arboretum. It was very warm and sunny here, and bird activity seemed to be slightly reduced as a result. Plenty of **Siskins** were still around though, and we saw several more **Crossbills**. Plenty of **Goldcrests** were singing and we could hear a singing **Firecrest** which proved elusive deep in some conifer trees. More unexpected was a **Raven** which flew over high calling, alongside some **Buzzards**. While increasing, they still aren't a common sight in the Brecks. Before we knew it though, it was time to head back to the hotel and wrap up what had been a great few days of birding in magnificent early spring weather.

ORIOLE BIRDING NORFOLK BRECKLAND AND COASTAL MARCH 2026

*Species order, names and taxonomy follows - Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1).
<http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>*

#	Common Name	Scientific name	16	17	18	Coments
	Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)					
1	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		X		
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	X	X		
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	X	X		
4	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	X	X		
6	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	X	X	X	
7	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	X	X		
8	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>			X	
9	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				
10	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	X	X		
11	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	X	X		
12	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	X	X		
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X	X	X	
14	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		X		
15	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	X	X		
16	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		X		
17	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	X	X		
18	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>				
19	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>				
20	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				

21	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>				
22	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
23	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		X		
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)						
24	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	X	X		
25	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
26	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	X	X	X	
Gaviidae and Procellariidae (Divers and Shearwaters)						
27	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				
28	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>				
Podicipedidae (Grebes)						
29	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X	X		
30	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	X			
31	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>				
Threskiornithidae and Ardeidae (Spoonbills, Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)						
32	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X		
33	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		X		
34	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>				
35	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X	X		
36	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X	X		
#	Common Name	Scientific name	16	17	18	Comments
37	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	X	X		
38	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	X	X		
Sulidae and Phalacrocoracidae (Gannets, Cormorants and Shags)						
39	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>				
40	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	X	X		
Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)						
41	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	X	X		
42	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	X			

43	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	X	X		
44	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				
45	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	X	X	X	
46	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	X	X	
	<i>Rallidae (Rails, Coots and allies)</i>					
47	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	H	H		
48	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X	X		
49	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X	X		
	<i>Burhinidae, Recurvirostridae and Charadriidae (Thick-knees, Avocets, Plovers and Allies)</i>					
50	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	X		X	
51	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	X	X		
52	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X		
53	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X	X	
54	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
55	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
56	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		X		
57	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		X		
	<i>Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)</i>					
58	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	X	X	X	
59	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		X		
60	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		X		
61	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		X		
62	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		X		
63	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		X		
64	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		X		
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		X		
66	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
67	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	X	X		
68	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				

69	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	H	X		
70	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		X		
<i>Laridae (Gulls and Terns)</i>						
71	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X	X	X	
72	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		X		
73	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	X	X	X	
74	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
75	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
76	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	X	X	X	
77	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	X	X	X	
78	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		X		
#	Common Name	Scientific name	16	17	18	Comments
79	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>				
80	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>				
<i>Columbidae and Cuculidae (Pigeons, Doves and Cuckoos)</i>						
81	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>				
82	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	X		X	
83	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X	X	
84	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	
<i>Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)</i>						
85	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				
86	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		X		
87	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
88	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
<i>Alcedinidae and Picidae (Kingfishers and Woodpeckers)</i>						
89	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			X	
90	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			H	
91	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	X		X	
92	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			X	

	Falconidae (Falcons)					
93	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	
94	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				
95	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
	Lanidae and Corvidae (Shrikes, Crows, Jays, and Magpies)					
96	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>				
97	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			X	
98	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	
99	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	X	X	X	
100	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	X	X	X	
101	Carriion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	X	X	X	
	Paridae and Panuridae (Tits and Reedlings)					
102	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	X		X	
103	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			H	
104	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	
105	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	X	X	X	
106	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	H			
	Alaudidae (Larks)					
107	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	X		X	
108	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X	X	X	
109	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>				
	Hirundinidae (Swallows)					
110	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
111	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
112	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
	Scotocercidae, Aegithalidae and Phylloscopidae (Bush Warblers, Bushtits and Leaf Warblers)					
113	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H		
114	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	X	X	X	
115	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	X	X	X	

	<i>Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)</i>					
116	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		X		
#	Common Name	Scientific name	16	17	18	Comments
117	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>				
	<i>Regulidae (Kinglets)</i>					
118	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			H	
119	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	H	H	X	
	<i>Troglodytidae, Sittidae and Certhiidae (Wrens, Nuthatches and Treecreepers)</i>					
120	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X	X	X	
121	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	X		H	
122	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	H		H	
	<i>Turdidae and Sturnidae (Thrushes and Starlings)</i>					
123	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X	X	X	
124	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
125	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	
126	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	X		X	
127	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	X			
128	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	H	X	H	
129	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	X			
	<i>Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</i>					
130	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	X	X	X	
131	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	X			
132	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	<i>Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)</i>					
133	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X		
134	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
	<i>Prunellidae (Accentors)</i>					
135	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	X	X		
	<i>Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</i>					

136	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			X	
137	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	X	X		
138	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	X	X	X	
139	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	X			
140	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>				
	<i>Fringillidae (Finches)</i>					
141	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X	X	X	
142	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
143	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
144	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
145	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				
146	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>				
147	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	X		X	
148	Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	X			
149	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			X	
150	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	X	X	X	
151	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	X	X	X	
	<i>Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)</i>					
152	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				
153	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	X		H	
154	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	X	X	X	
155	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>				
	Additional species		16	17	18	Comments
156	Whooper Swan		X			
157	Russian White-fronted Goose			X		
158	Raven				X	
159						
160						
161						

162						
163						
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165						
166						
#	Other Wildlife					
1	Brown Hare		X	X		
2	Muntjac		X	X		
3	Roe Deer		X	X		
4	Common Toad		H			
5	Chinese Water Deer			X		
6	Grey Squirrel			X		
7						