



TOUR REPORT
NORFOLK AUTUMN MIGRATION
17th – 20th September 2024

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Tuesday 17th

We collected as a group at Briarfields Hotel, our base for the next few days, and with a few hours birding still left in the day we headed off to nearby Titchwell RSPB reserve, a few minutes' drive along the road. On arrival we were told that the American Golden Plover, that had been seen sporadically at the site over the last couple of weeks, had re-appeared and was viewable from the autumn trail. We headed straight there, noting a small over flying flock of Pink-footed Geese and a Red Kite on the way. On arrival we were told the bird was amongst a flock of around fifty Eurasian Golden Plover on one of the further islands, but frustratingly kept disappearing out of view. To a degree time was on our side, so we set up our scopes and started searching through the birds. We spent a good thirty minutes looking, we managed to find several initially good contenders, but all transpired in the end to be European Golden Plovers that had largely retained their breeding plumage. We decided to call it a day and head back round to the main footpath and hides, pausing to look at a Black-winged Stilt that had appeared in the corner of the marsh. The bird was found to be wearing a ringing, which unfortunately had confirmed it as one that had escaped from captivity. Our next stop on the walk back, was to overlook a large pool viewed from a raised viewpoint behind a large screen. Immediately obvious were two Great Egrets which we in the process of posturing and bill pointing, seemingly in some sort of territorial dispute.



One of the posturing Great Egrets

Other birds on the water included several Gadwall, Little Grebe, Pochard and Tufted Duck. We walked out onto the main reserve footpath, stopping at several points to view the large fresh marsh on view in front of us. This was to be the focus for the remainder of the afternoon as there was plenty to see. Some of the more interesting species we recorded included Spoonbill, Mediterranean Gull, Little Stint, Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper, Ruff, Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit the latter all present in good numbers so easily seen. The Golden Plover Flock had moved closer too, and a juvenile Grey Plover now in amongst them, giving a nice size and colour comparison. A Sparrowhawk appeared, flushing all the birds including the plovers, which flew off and settled out of view. A vocal Bearded Tit flew along the front of the reeds in front of us, and flock of seven Grey Herons flew over above us. We returned to the bus, noting two Reed Warblers in the Sallows by the path on the walk back.

Wednesday 18th

Our route today was to take us east along the coast road towards Wells, starting the day with a speculative look at Brancaster Staithe harbour along the way. The harbour was on the quiet side with the tide being at its highest, having covered any normally exposed muddy areas. Several Turnstones, Little Egrets and the commoner gull species the best birds we could manage. We arrived at our chosen parking spot for the morning, a small pull-in on the edge of the coast road overlooking the fields and grazing marshes and the distant dunes. We took the footpath running out alongside the marsh which led us down to join the seawall and eventually out into the dunes. Several butterfly species were noted along the ivy sided hedgerows on either of the path as we walked along, namely Painted Lady, Red Admiral and Speckled Wood, with the mornings first flock of noisy Pink-footed Geese flying over too. As we walked between the fields towards the seawall, we noted several Kestrels, at least one vocal Cetti's Warbler and a count of at least seventeen Cattle Egrets in amongst a distant herd of cattle. The highlight here though was a Bittern, seen well in flight by us all as it flew along the seawall before dropping down into a section of reedbed. We reached the top of the seawall, and from our position there and with the tide having now receded, we could scan the now exposed mud of the tidal creek. Grey and Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Oystercatcher and Redshank were all visible.



We enjoyed nice views of wading species such as juvenile Black-tailed Godwit.

A Spoonbill flew over, followed a short while later by a Common Snipe, then we turned our attention to the large reed fringed pool behind us on the marsh. This produced the expected selection of common Ducks and several Little Grebes. We headed onto the end of the path and the dunes, pausing to check the small cluster of bushes at the end of the path. This proved a good move, with both Spotted and Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and several Stonechats all found and seen well.



A welcome addition, Spotted Flycatcher.

A walk out through the dunes to the west of the path followed next, and then out on to the edge of the dunes to view the beach. This latter part was the most productive, with a small flock of Sanderling on view just in front of us, and a winter plumaged Red-throated Diver found in the mouth of the tidal creek, with our return walk also giving us nice views of a Northern Wheatear. On returning to the bus, we climbed on board and then made our way along the coast to nearby Lady Anne's Drive where we had lunch.

After lunch we walked out along the path that runs west along the southern edge of the extensive pine belt. The woodland unsurprisingly, added a selection of new birds to our list such as Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest and Coal Tit. Both Red Kite and Hobby were also noted overflying the pines during the walk, and a lookout over the sea revealed a large flock of Common Scoter loafing offshore as well. The newly revamped Joe Jordan hide at the western end of our walk, gave us some closer views of a small flock of Cattle Egrets, and a solitary wader on the only remaining pool with water in it turned out to be a Green Sandpiper. We returned to the bus, heading back to the hotel where several of the group were dropped off, with the rest of us returning to finish the day again at Titchwell. We didn't have very long, as the group still had to get back in good time for their evening meal, but with the American Golden Plover again being reported we felt it was worth a quick look. Unfortunately, the Golden Plover flock had seemingly departed though we did add several new birds for the trip, namely Greenshank, Knot and Pintail.

Thursday 19th September

Our plan today was again to head east along the coast, though we started with a short detour around the farmland area close to the hotel. This was to primarily add species such as Red-legged Partridge and Pheasant to our list, which we successful did.

Our next stop was just outside Wells-next-the-sea, at a wetland area known as North Point. On arrival a quick scan along the top of a line of fencing by the parking area revealed a smart Whinchat and after gaining some nice views we turned our attention to the nearby large pool. Immediately obvious were the number of geese, both on the pool and on the farmland behind, the majority a mixture of Pink-footed and Greylags. The expected ducks featured too, the majority Wigeon and Teal, with a few Pintail in amongst them. Black-Godwit and Ruff were also picked out, with at least one

calling Greenshank noted too. Our next stop was another wetland area known as Stiffkey Fen, which involved parking on the roadside and taking a footpath down to the fen and viewing from the sea wall. Our attention on our first look was drawn to the line of Spoonbills largely roosting on the edge of the fen, thirty-seven in total, which made an impressive sight. Two Green Sandpipers worked their way along the base of the edge of the reeds and a Greenshank seen in one of the tidal channels by the sea wall. We then walked along the path to view the harbour mouth and extensive mudflats separating us from Blakeney Point. Once again, we saw a nice selection and number of birds, Grey and Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit another Spoonbill plus a dozen or Brent Geese, though arguably the best of the bunch was an adult Peregrine found perched out on the mud. Returning to the bus we continued east along the coast road arriving at Cley NWT reserve where the first job was lunch. A short drive then took us to the east bank carpark and after parking, we walked onto the raised bank and footpath and headed off towards the sea. We didn't get far though as a glance along the adjacent path side dyke a Water Rail shot across quickly followed by a second!



One of the two Water Rails we saw.

The birds repeated this behaviour several times, crossing from one side to the other, clearly in dispute over something and enabling us to gain some nice views. Several Rooks on the marsh were a new bird for the trip, and Ruff and Black-tailed Godwits along the channel of water running through the marsh gave us some nice closer views.

A look over the large area of water called Arnold's Marsh just before the seawall produced a single Sandwich Tern and looking out over the sea itself revealed five juvenile Gannets and a Guillemot. On returning to the bus, we received news of a local Yellow-browed Warbler but I arrival at the site we found the bird had gone. We decided to try and find our own and spend some time at the nearby small hillside reserve of Walsey Hills. We unfortunately drew a blank and had to settle for half a dozen Chiffchaffs and a selection of birds on the feeders there such as Coal Tit and Greenfinch.

Friday 20th September

We started the day again at Titchwell RSPB reserve though this time concentrating our efforts around the boardwalks that lead through the willows and bushes behind the visitor centre and the car park. We'd hoped to find a passerine or two of note, but unfortunately Robins and Chiffchaffs all we could

find. We headed onto Holme next, stopping first at the beach car park where we walked out across the golf course and into the dunes. It was hightide and we'd again hoped for some roosting birds, they were clearly there, but largely frustratingly hidden from view for us behind the dunes. A small flock of Black-tailed Godwits took off and flew past, and a juvenile Gannet flew over the sea just of shore as some consolation. We moved onto Holme Nature reserve next, stopping briefly by the entrance to check the trees there, then along the main track to the carpark and visitor centres. A Yellow-browed Warbler had been discovered in the main car park frequenting several Sycamore trees there and follow our failure to connect with one with decided to put in some time to try and see it. This worked to a degree with at least three of us managing acceptable views of it, though in typical fashion it didn't stay on view for long. A Spotted Flycatcher proved more obliging, and we decided to head onto the coast path to took look out over the sea next. Both Great Spotted Woodpecker and Grey Wagtail flew over us as we headed down. A short look out to sea and along the beach revealed a selection of shorebirds, such as Black and Bar-tailed Godwit, Sanderling and Knot and both Gannet and Fulmar out at sea. We then walked onto the adjacent Observatory reserve, noting four Pintail on Broadwater amongst commoner wildfowl on arrival. After a brief chat with the warden, we moved on through the reserve stopping to look a small tit flock. This revealed a new bird for the trip, Garden Warbler, and one of the group got lucky also gaining nice views of another Yellow-browed Warbler. Lunch followed next, then it was back to the hotel to drop off those that had cars there and collect the luggage of the people who were being dropped back to Kings Lynn.

ORIOLE BIRDING NORFOLK MIGRATION MAGIC WEEKEND 17TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024

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		17	18	19	20	
1	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>			X	X	X	
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		X	X	X		
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		X	X	X		
4	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		X	X	X	X	
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		X	X	X		
6	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>			X	X		
7	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		X	X	X		
8	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		X	X	X	X	
9	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		X	X	X	X	
10	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		X	X	X	X	
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X	X	X	X	
12	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			X	X	X	
13	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		X	X	X	X	

14	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		X	X			
15	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		X	X			
16	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>			X		X	
17	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				X		
18	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				X		
19	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			X			
20	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>					X	
21	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		X	X	X	X	
22	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		X	X	X		
23	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			X			
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X		
25	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		X	X			
26	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X	X	X	X	
27	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>				X	X	
28	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X	X	X	X	
29	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		X		X	X	
30	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X	X		
31	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		X	X	X	X	
32	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			X	X	X	
33	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				X		
34	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X	X	X	X	
35	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X	X	X	X	
36	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			X	X	X	
37	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X	X	X		
38	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X	X	X	X	
39	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		X		X		
40	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		X	X	X	X	
41	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			X	X		
42	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		X				
43	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			X	X	X	
44	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		X			X	
45	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		X	X	X	X	
46	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			X	X		
47	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			X	X	X	
48	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		X	X	X		
49	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			X		X	
50	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		X	X	X		
51	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		X	X			
52	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		X		X	X	
53	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		X				
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			X	X		
55	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		X	X	X	X	
56	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			X	X		
57	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	
58	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		X				

59	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		X	X	X		
60	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			X	X	X	
61	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		X	X	X	X	
62	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		X				
63	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				X		
64	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>				X		
65	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>			X	X		
66	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X	X	X	X	
67	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	
68	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		H				
69	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			X	X	X	
70	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X	
71	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			X			
72	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				X		
73	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			X	X		
74	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	
75	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		X	X	X	X	
76	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				X		
77	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			X	X	X	
78	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			X	X	X	
79	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X	X	X	X	
80	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			X	X	X	
81	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		X	H			
82	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			X		X	
83	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	
84	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			X			
85	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H	H	H	
86	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		X	X	X	X	
87	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			X	X	X	
88	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>					X	
89	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		X				
90	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			X	H	X	
91	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		X	X	X	X	
92	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		X		X	X	
93	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			X	X	X	
94	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			X		X	
95	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X	X	X	X	
96	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			X			
97	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			X			
98	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				X		
99	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			X			
100	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			X	X		
101	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			X	X	X	
102	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			X	X	X	
103	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					X	

104	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		X	X	X	X	
105	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			X	X	X	
106	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			X	X	X	
107	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				X	X	
108	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		X	X	X	X	
109	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	
110	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			H			
111	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			X	X		
112	Cattle Egret				X			
113	Garden Warbler						X	
	(Black-winged Stilt)							