



TOUR REPORT
NORFOLK SHOREBIRDS
22ND – 25TH AUGUST 2022

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TUESDAY 23RD AUGUST – *Warm and overcast, sunny spells later. 26C*

A good start to our three day Norfolk Shorebirds tour with lots of variety on offer in lovely weather, and also plenty of waders! We started along at Stiffkey with a walk west along the coastal footpath to Warham Greens, as this can be a good spot in the mornings for seeing a variety of warblers, with the saltmarsh on one side for a few shorebirds etc. As we walked slowly west, there were plenty of common warblers collecting up ahead of us, feeding in the hawthorn, bramble and elderberries.. Common Whitethroats were numerous but there were several silvery **Lesser Whitethroats** too – August is always such a good month to see them. Over the saltmarsh, we had good views of **Marsh Harriers**, and at least six **Red Kites** were circling out over the dunes. We stopped by the whirligig to admire a covey of **Grey Partridges** along the rough field edge, and while we were watching heard a distinctive call overhead – a **Dotterel**! The bird called 4-5 times but we were largely blocked by scrub and didn't see it, nor get a real sense of which way it was travelling. A tractor had entered the stubble field by the coast path though so we suspected it may have flushed out of there and flown over us. Frustrating! A bit further long we added a few Blackcaps, **Bullfinch**, Sparrowhawk and a **Great White Egret** which was flying high west towards Wells. Adjacent to the main pit, a large flock of **Golden Plovers** were on the saltmarsh, many still sporting black bellies of summer plumage. We hoped the Dotterel might have dropped in with them, but we couldn't see it. A **Yellow Wagtail** flew west calling and we had some more good **Lesser Whitethroat** views in the hedges here. The rarest bird seen in a Norfolk context was a very smart **Hooded Crow** which we had good views of in the pig field behind the pit – the bird had been around a while, but we'd sort of forgotten about it! A **Barn Owl** which flew right past us was undoubtedly more exciting for the group though!



Hooded Crow at Warham Greens

Back at the campsite car park, we headed off towards Cley for a quick comfort stop and then continued along the coast all the way to Trimingham. The breeding Bee-eaters had already fledged with the last juv leaving the hole the previous day, but they had been seen around the watchpoint early morning (the juvs having roosted on site) so we hoped they might return. When we arrived

there hadn't been any sign for two hours though and while we gave it a good wait over lunch, we weren't lucky. A **Green Sandpiper** flying high over the quarry and a few other common birds were about the best of it.

Cley would be our destination for the rest of the afternoon – it was warm, calm, the light perfect and loads of birds were on offer as we wandered down East bank. The Serpentine and Pope's Pool were full of **Black-tailed Godwits** and we spent time comparing the plumages of adults and juveniles, all of the race *islandica*. **Ruffs** were also about in numbers and we saw everything from a pure white-headed male through to gorgeous fresh cinnamon-washed juvs of both male and female. A juv **Wood Sandpiper** was a nice treat, looking mint fresh and immaculate as it picked delicately along the muddy edges of The Serpentine. **Little-ringed Plover** and **Common Snipe** added them selves to our burgeoning shorebird haul, each giving really close scope views in the gorgeous afternoon light. Arnold's Marsh was packed full of birds and we were really surprised to pick out the first two juv **Curlew Sandpipers** of the season among a small clutch of **Dunlin**. Other waders on show included two juv **Knot**, two Common Ringed Plover, a juv **Whimbrel** (really smart!), two **Greenshank**, three **Common Sandpipers**, two more **Golden Plover** and a **Turnstone**. Sandwich and Common Terns completed the picture and we had superb views of **Bearded Tits** in the reeds by the path too – not a bad haul! From here it was back to base, reaching the hotel just after 6pm.

WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST– *Hot and sunny in light winds, 25C*

A good days birding again today in warm settled weather. We set out first of all for a raptor watch at Swanton Novers, with the summering Honey Buzzards hopefully on the agenda. We put in a 2.5hr shift here and there was plenty to see, not least **Goshawks** which showed really well – we saw four different birds including two juveniles sparring in the sky above the great wood, and a massive female which flew off inland behind us. Common Buzzards, **Red Kites** and Kestrels were on show most of the time, and we saw a single Sparrowhawk and distant **Hobby** too. No Honey's for us today, but still a pleasant couple of hours and we did see a nice range of small birds too, including a superb juv **Whinchat** in the car park field.



Heron trio at Titchwell

Heading over to Titchwell we arrived for lunch and then headed out onto the reserve for the first half of the afternoon. The freshmarsh was busy with lots of duck now building up, predominantly Teal of course. Waders were represented by good numbers of Black-tailed Godwits and **Golden Plovers**, plus a juv **Little-ringed Plover**, two each of Dunlin and **Common Sandpiper** and a good scattering of **Ruff**. Two **Great White Egrets** and a **Spoonbill** were also present, and we had good views of **Yellow Wagtails** too. A quick walk up to the beach was well rewarded as three gorgeous juvenile **Black Terns** flew west along the tideline as we arrived, and then the distant whinnying calls of **Whimbrel** revealed a migrating flock of eight which flew past us.



Golden Plovers at Titchwell

Snettisham was our last port of call today, and while the tides were now on neaps, we knew it would still be a lovely evening. Loads of birds were on view in the wonderful evening light – large numbers of Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Knot, Sanderling and Bar-tailed Godwit plus a few **Grey Plovers**. Two **Turtle Doves** were a lovely bonus, perched in the bushes behind us and a young **Peregrine** appeared over The Wash, flushing all the waders in repeated attempts to try and nab something. It did have a go at drowning a godwit but gave up halfway through, and then had a go at flushing up the Oystercatcher flock. All quite dramatic against the sunset! Another predator loomed on the horizon in the form of a marauding **Arctic Skua**, and towards the end we found a juv **Black Tern**, and then a **Little Stint** which was very distant, but readily identifiable. All in all a really good haul for the day!

THURSDAY 25TH AUGUST – *Rain all day with light NW winds, 17C*

A wet day today (something we can hardly complain about with barely any rain for three months!) so we had to make use of the hides on our two main reserves. Cley was our first port of call, and it was tipping it down with rain as we parked up and grabbed our permits from the visitor centre. We were pretty wet by the time we reached Avocet Hide, though at least then we had a nice dry hour enjoying the scrapes! There was plenty to see too, with two nice juvenile **Little Stints** the wader highlight, pottering around the grassy islands alongside a couple of Dunlin and several **Little-ringed**

Plovers. Two **Greenshank** came in and offered, but then flew off east calling, and a **Whinchat** popped up briefly on a clump of docks in front of the hide. Other species noted included Reed and Sedge warblers, a nice gathering of Swallows and **Sand Martins** on the fence outside the hide, **Ruffs** in various guises, and some nice **Black-tailed Godwits**. When the rain stopped, a small group of waders wheeled in – four Dunlin and three juvenile **Curlew Sandpipers**! They circled Simmond's Scrape a few times but didn't land, though we could see their white rumps clearly enough as they headed off.



Whinchat at Cley

It was still raining pretty hard as we headed back west along the coast road, stopping next at Wells North Point for lunch. There were lots of birds here with around 80 **Black-tailed Godwits** (mostly juveniles), four **Green Sandpipers**, a soggy **Red Kite** sat in a bush and two new additions to the tour list in Egyptian Goose and Barnacle Goose! It was clear the weather wasn't going to dry up though, so we finished the tour with another visit to Titchwell knowing we'd have the shelter of the hides. There were a lot less birds here than yesterday though, with a brood of Ringed Plover chicks the only new thing seen on the freshmarsh. A single female **Pintail** was a list addition too. We wrapped things up about 3.30pm and headed back to Briarfields.



Peregrine harassing the waders at Snettisham, 24th August

#	Common Name	Scientific name		23	24	25
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		▪	▪	▪
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		▪	▪	▪
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		▪		▪
4	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				▪
5	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		▪	▪	▪
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				
7	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		▪	▪	▪
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			▪	▪
9	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>				▪
10	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		▪	▪	▪
11	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				▪
12	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		▪	▪	▪
13	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
14	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			▪	
15	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				
16	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			▪	▪
17	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		▪		
18	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			▪	
19	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				
20	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			▪	
21	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna griseus</i>				
22	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>				
23	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		H		
24	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
25	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			▪	
26	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>				
27	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		▪	▪	▪
28	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		▪	▪	
29	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		▪	▪	▪
30	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>				
31	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		▪	▪	▪
32	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		▪	▪	
33	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		▪		▪
34	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		▪	▪	▪
35	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		▪	▪	▪
36	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
37	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		▪	▪	▪
38	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			▪	
39	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>				
40	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>				
41	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		▪	▪	▪
42	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		▪	▪	▪
43	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		▪	▪	▪
44	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		▪	▪	
45	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			▪	
46	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		▪	▪	▪
47	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		▪	▪	▪
48	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		▪	▪	

#	Common Name	Scientific name		23	24	25
49	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		■	■	■
50	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			■	
51	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		■	■	■
52	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		■	■	
53	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		■	■	
54	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		■	■	■
55	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		■		■
56	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			■	
57	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		■	■	■
58	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			■	■
59	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		■	■	■
60	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		■	■	■
61	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		■		■
62	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		■	■	■
63	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		■		
64	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
65	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		■		■
66	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
67	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		■	■	■
68	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			■	
69	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>			■	
70	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
71	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		■	■	
72	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		■	■	■
73	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>				
74	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		■	■	■
75	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		■	■	■
76	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				
77	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		■	■	
78	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>				
79	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			■	
80	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>				
81	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		■	■	
82	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		■	■	■
83	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			■	
84	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		■	■	■
85	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		■		
86	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
87	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
88	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
89	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
90						
91	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
92	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		■	■	■
93	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			■	
94	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			■	
95	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
96	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		■	■	■

#	Common Name	Scientific name	23	24	25
97	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	▪	▪	▪
98	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	▪	▪	▪
99	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	▪	▪	▪
100	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			
101	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			
102	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	▪	▪	▪
103	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	▪	▪	
104	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	▪		
105	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	▪		
106	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	▪	▪	▪
107	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	▪		▪
108	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	▪		▪
109	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H
110	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			▪
111	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			
112	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	▪		▪
113	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	▪		▪
114	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	▪		▪
115	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	▪	H	
116	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			
117	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	▪		
118	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	▪	▪	▪
119	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			
120	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	▪	▪	▪
121	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			
122	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			
123	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	▪	▪	▪
124	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	▪	▪	▪
125	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			
126	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			
127	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			
128	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			
129	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		▪	▪
130	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	▪		
131	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			
132	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	▪	▪	▪
133	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			
134	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	▪	▪	▪
135	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	▪	▪	▪
136	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			
137	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	▪	▪	▪
138	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		▪	▪
139	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	▪		
140	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	▪		
141	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		▪	
142	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	▪	▪	
143	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	▪	▪	▪
144	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			

#	Common Name	Scientific name		23	24	25
145	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				
146	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			▪	
147	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			▪	
	ADDITIONAL SPECIES					
148	Dotterel			H		
149	Brent Goose			▪		
150	Hooded Crow			▪		
152	Goshawk				▪	
153	Black Tern				▪	
154						
155						