



**TOUR REPORT**  
**NORFOLK SHOREBIRDS**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2026**

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**FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST** – *Sunshine and fresh SW winds, heavy showers later. 21C*

A superb and varied days birding on the North Norfolk coast to kick off our annual Shorebirds tour. With four days of easterly winds and a nice early autumn fall of migrants along the coast, we headed first to Wells Woods to see if we could catch any tail-end birds that were still lingering after the arrival. We had a good session with excellent views of up to five **Pied Flycatchers**, a very fleeting **Redstart** and 6-7 lemon-yellow **Willow Warblers**. Other highlights were a couple of low **Red Kites**, a **Bullfinch** and a large number of **Chiffchaffs** among the assorted tits. Nearby, a **Red-necked Phalarope** had been present several days at North Point pools, which now held some water again after the recent drought had left it dry. The north end of the track was hopeless for viewing as we could barely see the pool over the vegetation and we were looking into the sun, so we relocated to the top of the track by the A149. Here we had enough height to view the pool properly and with the sun behind us, we picked out the juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** spinning frantically and everyone had some really good scope views. A few other bits here included three **Pintail** among the throng of Teal, four distant **Green Sandpipers** and a brace of **Yellow Wagtails** which flew low overhead calling.



**Willow Warbler**

Cley next and we planned to spend the whole of the rest of the day around the reserve, which is looking in tip-top condition at the moment and enjoying a real birding renaissance. Firstly from Bishop's Hide overlooking Pat's Pool, we saw our first juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper** with two birds present, and six **Little Stints** picking furtively around the edges of the islands. 110 **Dunlin** was a nice number and there were lots of **Ruff**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Avocet** and a single juvenile **Knot** too. After lunch, we took the boardwalk out to the main hides and overlook Simmond's Scrape. Four more juvenile **Curlew Sandpipers** dropped in together and

there were five **Little Stints** here too. A lovely second-winter **Little Gull** was preening among the loafing gulls, and an instructive third-summer **Yellow-legged Gull** was among them too. A cryptic eclipse **Garganey** among the Teal was a nice addition to the list if not a little tricky to spot! There was clearly something going on with the waders as little groups of **Dunlin** and **Ringed Plover** kept dropping in and it was only when we moved to Teal Hide we realised something special was happening. The **Dunlin** flock had now increased to 170 and we could see a flock of TEN **Little Stints** pottering around together in the wet grass. Our final count of these here was a whopping fourteen and **Curlew Sandpipers** had now risen to a dozen! Two winter adult **Spotted Redshanks** had also appeared and with the godwit flock now close we could see some beautiful fresh juvenile *islandica* birds.



**Little Gull at Cley by Julia Banks**

This left us just enough time to head round to the beach and walk to North Scrape. Along the Eye Field fence, a lovely mixed flock of three **Whinchat**, five **Wheatear** and seven **Yellow Wagtails** were feeding and frequently perching up in front of us. From the hide, a further four **Little Stints** were logged and there were three **Common Sandpipers** together on a small puddle in front of the hide. More good views of **Yellow Wagtails** and **Greenland Wheatears**, several **Snipe** and two juvenile **Little-ringed Plovers** rounded off a class day – but we had to scuttle off back along the beach as the sky to the west had gone purple and we could see a massive storm coming. We made it back to the van with time to spare, and drove back to Titchwell through the torrential rain.

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST** – *Overcast morning and a wet afternoon in SW winds. 19C*

We made the very short journey to Titchwell reserve this morning, where a **Spotted Crake** had been seen over the last couple of days. With this in mind we headed straight for Island Hide and after an hour's vigil there had been no sign of the crake. Water levels had risen

overnight after heavy rain and the muddy edge was now pushed back into the reedbed. We did however see a **Cetti's Warbler** outside the hide, a flock of at least 20 **Spoonbills** sleeping on the freshmarsh and large numbers of resting **Black-tailed Godwits** on the islands. These included some beautiful fresh juvenile Icelandic birds, and also a few **Avocets**. Two **Great White Egrets** were lumbering around over the reedbed and a **Common Sandpiper** was also noted.

Further on we headed to the shore where a couple of **Great Crested Grebes** were seen, along with Common and **Sandwich Terns**, a few **Bar-tailed Godwits** and a large roost of **Oystercatcher**. Parrinder Hide was quiet, but the muddy corner of the freshmarsh by the west bank path was great for close views of a mixed flock of waders including **Ruffs** of various sizes, a few **Dunlin** and two lovely juvenile **Curlew Sandpipers**. News filtered through of a juv Honey Buzzard west over Holkham so we set up to scan in that direction – but the bird never came as far as us. The **Spotted Crake**, however, had been seen again so we returned to Island Hide and this time we were lucky as the bird was visible as we arrived. It made one long dash along the front of the reeds but then after that remained extremely elusive. We had a couple more tiny glimpses, but basically it was mostly hidden from view.

Our meals would be flipped around today with our main meal at lunchtime, at The Lodge in Old Hunstanton. This was in preparation for our evening visit to Snettisham for the high tide, and meant we had a two hour break then from 3-5pm. A low pressure system moving up from the south-west was now bringing rain for the rest of the day but we planned to make the most of it anyway! We arrived at Snettisham two hours before high water and started up by the chalets where there were already a large number of birds in the bay – mostly **Bar-tailed Godwits** and a large number of **Common Terns**. In fact the tern roost was the most spectacular part of the evening as an assembly of approximately 5000 **Common Terns** built up on the ever-receding mud. The huge numbers of **Knot** were shuffling into an increasingly tight flock but remained stubbornly settled on the distant flats and did not come over onto the pits this evening. Still the many other waders were feeding close to us and we had great views of **Grey Plover**, **Golden Plover** and large numbers of **Ringed Plovers** plus **Dunlin**, **Sanderling** and **Turnstone**. A single **Curlew Sandpiper** was seen briefly and a **Whimbrel** flew by calling. The persistent rain failed to dampen our spirits in view of the 50,000+ waterbirds spread out in front of us and not another single person in sight. We stayed until dusk and the top of the tide, eventually heading back to base for 8.30pm.

#### **SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST** – *Sunny spells and SW winds, 20C*

We decided to head back to Snettisham this morning for another crack at the tide, though this time on the ebb. There had been a slightly larger tide but the **Knot** flocks were still keeping well out on The Wash and had not come to the pits. The ebb tide is always a bit less rushed and it was really nice to enjoy the superb light and better weather than last night! A nice flock of **Grey Plovers** included several very smart birds still sporting breeding plumage, and we also picked up what we thought were just a handful of **Golden Plovers** hiding in the dips and runnels of the exposed mud. However when they eventually took off there were at least seventy birds there! We had some close views of a scattering of small waders which included another **Little Stint**, and there was a **Yellow Wagtail** chasing around the beach. **Spoonbills** had risen to a whopping 62 birds, mainly juveniles with some still begging from

the adults. Six **Spotted Redshanks** were also on the main pit, with one dusky juvenile bird among them.



**Spoonbills at Snettisham**

To round off the tour we took a walk out along Burnham Overy bank. While busy with holiday-makers, the seawall gave us a view of Overy Broad and east across Holkham freshmarsh. A **Hobby** was hunting over the fields and distantly, we saw a flock of 14 **Cattle Egrets** flying about. The broad has lots of mud this year after the drought and so is attracting a number of small waders – five more **Little Stints**, several **Dunlin** and a couple of **Green Sandpipers**. We didn't see much at all up around the boardwalk bushes where we had lunch in the dunes looking back across the marsh. The walk back produced a brace of lovely **Whinchats**, perching along a rose hedge by the seawall and joined briefly by a Common **Whitethroat**. We got back to the staithe just after 2pm and from here made our way back to the hotel.



**Whinchat at Burnham Overy**

# ORIOLE BIRDING NORFOLK SHOREBIRD SPECTACULAR 27TH TO 30TH AUGUST 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               | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 1  | Barnacle Goose       | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>       | .  |    |    |
| 2  | Canada Goose         | <i>Branta canadensis</i>      |    | .  |    |
| 3  | Greylag Goose        | <i>Anser anser</i>            | .  | .  | .  |
| 4  | Mute Swan            | <i>Cygnus olor</i>            | .  |    | .  |
| 5  | Egyptian Goose       | <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>   |    | .  | .  |
| 6  | Shelduck             | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>        | .  | .  | .  |
| 7  | Garganey             | <i>Spatula querquedula</i>    | .  |    |    |
| 8  | Shoveler             | <i>Spatula clypeata</i>       | .  | .  |    |
| 9  | Gadwall              | <i>Mareca strepera</i>        | .  | .  | .  |
| 10 | Wigeon               | <i>Mareca penelope</i>        | .  | .  |    |
| 11 | Mallard              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>     | .  | .  | .  |
| 12 | Pintail              | <i>Anas acuta</i>             | .  |    |    |
| 13 | Teal                 | <i>Anas crecca</i>            | .  | .  | .  |
| 14 | Pochard              | <i>Aythya ferina</i>          |    | .  |    |
| 15 | Tufted Duck          | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>        |    |    |    |
| 16 | Common Scoter        | <i>Melanitta nigra</i>        |    |    |    |
| 17 | Red-legged Partridge | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>         |    | .  |    |
| 18 | Grey Partridge       | <i>Perdix perdix</i>          |    |    |    |
| 19 | Pheasant             | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>    |    |    |    |
| 20 | Red-throated Diver   | <i>Gavia stellata</i>         |    |    |    |
| 21 | Fulmar               | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>     |    |    |    |
| 22 | Sooty Shearwater     | <i>Ardenna griseus</i>        |    |    |    |
| 23 | Manx Shearwater      | <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>      |    |    |    |
| 24 | Little Grebe         | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | .  |    |    |
| 25 | Great Crested Grebe  | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>     |    | .  |    |
| 26 | Spoonbill            | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>    |    | .  | .  |
| 27 | Bittern              | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>     |    |    |    |
| 28 | Grey Heron           | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>          |    | .  | .  |
| 29 | Western Cattle Egret | <i>Ardea ibis</i>             |    |    | .  |
| 30 | Great White Egret    | <i>Ardea alba</i>             |    | .  | .  |
| 31 | Little Egret         | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>       | .  | .  | .  |
| 32 | Gannet               | <i>Morus bassanus</i>         |    | .  |    |
| 33 | Cormorant            | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>    | .  | .  | .  |
| 34 | Sparrowhawk          | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>        |    |    | .  |
| 35 | Marsh Harrier        | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>     | .  | .  | .  |
| 36 | Red Kite             | <i>Milvus milvus</i>          | .  | .  | .  |
| 37 | Buzzard              | <i>Buteo buteo</i>            |    | .  | .  |

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|----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 38 | Water Rail               | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>           |    |    |    |
| 39 | Moorhen                  | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>        | .  | .  | .  |
| 40 | Coot                     | <i>Fulica atra</i>                |    | .  |    |
| 41 | Crane                    | <i>Grus grus</i>                  |    |    |    |
| 42 | Stone-curlew             | <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>       |    |    |    |
| 43 | Oystercatcher            | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>      |    | .  | .  |
| 44 | Avocet                   | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>     | .  | .  |    |
| 45 | Lapwing                  | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>          | .  | .  |    |
| 46 | Golden Plover            | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>        |    | .  | .  |
| 47 | Grey Plover              | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>       |    | .  | .  |
| 48 | Ringed Plover            | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>       | .  | .  | .  |
| 49 | Little Ringed Plover     | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>          | .  |    |    |
| 50 | Whimbrel                 | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>          |    | .  |    |
| 51 | Curlew                   | <i>Numenius arquata</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 52 | Bar-tailed Godwit        | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>           |    | .  | .  |
| 53 | Black-tailed Godwit      | <i>Limosa limosa</i>              | .  | .  | .  |
| 54 | Turnstone                | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>         | .  | .  | .  |
| 55 | Knot                     | <i>Calidris canutus</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 56 | Ruff                     | <i>Calidris pugnax</i>            | .  | .  | .  |
| 57 | Curlew Sandpiper         | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>        | .  | .  |    |
| 58 | Sanderling               | <i>Calidris alba</i>              |    | .  | .  |
| 59 | Dunlin                   | <i>Calidris alpina</i>            | .  | .  | .  |
| 60 | Little Stint             | <i>Calidris minuta</i>            | .  |    | .  |
| 61 | Snipe                    | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>        | .  |    |    |
| 62 | Common Sandpiper         | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>         | .  | .  |    |
| 63 | Green Sandpiper          | <i>Tringa ochropus</i>            | .  |    |    |
| 64 | Redshank                 | <i>Tringa totanus</i>             | .  | .  | .  |
| 65 | Wood Sandpiper           | <i>Tringa glareola</i>            |    |    |    |
| 66 | Spotted Redshank         | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>          | .  |    |    |
| 67 | Greenshank               | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>           |    | H  |    |
| 68 | Kittiwake                | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>           |    |    |    |
| 69 | Black-headed Gull        | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | .  | .  | .  |
| 70 | Mediterranean Gull       | <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>       | .  | .  |    |
| 71 | Common Gull              | <i>Larus canus</i>                |    | .  |    |
| 72 | Great Black-backed Gull  | <i>Larus marinus</i>              | .  | .  |    |
| 73 | Herring Gull             | <i>Larus argentatus</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 74 | Yellow-legged Gull       | <i>Larus michahellis</i>          | .  |    |    |
| 75 | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i>               | .  | .  | .  |
| 76 | Sandwich Tern            | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>    | .  | .  |    |
| 77 | Little Tern              | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>         |    |    |    |
| 78 | Common Tern              | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>             |    | .  |    |
| 79 | Great Skua               | <i>Stercorarius skua</i>          |    |    |    |
| 80 | Arctic Skua              | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>   |    |    |    |
| 81 | Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) | <i>Columba livia</i>              |    |    |    |

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|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 82  | Stock Dove               | <i>Columba oenas</i>              | .  |    |    |
| 83  | Woodpigeon               | <i>Columba palumbus</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 84  | Turtle Dove              | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>        |    | .  |    |
| 85  | Collared Dove            | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>      | .  | .  | .  |
| 86  | Barn Owl                 | <i>Tyto alba</i>                  |    | .  |    |
| 87  | Tawny Owl                | <i>Strix aluco</i>                |    |    |    |
| 88  | Little Owl               | <i>Athene noctua</i>              |    |    |    |
| 89  | Swift                    | <i>Apus apus</i>                  | .  |    |    |
| 90  | Kingfisher               | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>              |    |    |    |
| 91  | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>          | H  |    |    |
| 92  | Green Woodpecker         | <i>Picus viridis</i>              |    |    |    |
| 93  | Kestrel                  | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>          | .  | .  | .  |
| 94  | Hobby                    | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>             |    |    | .  |
| 95  | Peregrine                | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>           |    |    |    |
| 96  | Jay                      | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>        | .  |    |    |
| 97  | Magpie                   | <i>Pica pica</i>                  | .  |    | .  |
| 98  | Jackdaw                  | <i>Coloeus monedula</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 99  | Rook                     | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>          | .  |    | .  |
| 100 | Carrion Crow             | <i>Corvus corone</i>              | .  | .  | .  |
| 101 | Coal Tit                 | <i>Parus ater</i>                 |    |    |    |
| 102 | Marsh Tit                | <i>Poecile palustris</i>          |    |    |    |
| 103 | Blue Tit                 | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>        | .  | .  | .  |
| 104 | Great Tit                | <i>Parus major</i>                | .  | .  | .  |
| 105 | Bearded Tit              | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>          |    | H  | H  |
| 106 | Skylark                  | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>            | .  |    |    |
| 107 | Swallow                  | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>            | .  | .  | .  |
| 108 | Sand Martin              | <i>Riparia riparia</i>            |    |    |    |
| 109 | House Martin             | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 110 | Cetti's Warbler          | <i>Cettia cetti</i>               |    | .  |    |
| 111 | Long-tailed Tit          | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>        | .  |    |    |
| 112 | Willow Warbler           | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>     | .  |    |    |
| 113 | Chiffchaff               | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>     | .  | H  |    |
| 114 | Sedge Warbler            | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> |    |    |    |
| 115 | Reed Warbler             | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>    |    |    |    |
| 116 | Blackcap                 | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>         |    |    |    |
| 117 | Garden Warbler           | <i>Sylvia borin</i>               |    |    |    |
| 118 | Lesser Whitethroat       | <i>Sylvia curruca</i>             |    |    |    |
| 119 | Whitethroat              | <i>Sylvia communis</i>            | .  |    | .  |
| 120 | Goldcrest                | <i>Regulus regulus</i>            | H  |    |    |
| 121 | Wren                     | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>    | .  |    |    |
| 122 | Nuthatch                 | <i>Sitta europaea</i>             |    |    |    |
| 123 | Treecreeper              | <i>Certhia familiaris</i>         |    |    |    |
| 124 | Starling                 | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>           | .  | .  | .  |
| 125 | Blackbird                | <i>Turdus merula</i>              | .  | .  | .  |

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|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----|----|
| 126 | Song Thrush               | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>    |    |    |    |
| 127 | Mistle Thrush             | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>    |    |    |    |
| 128 | Spotted Flycatcher        | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>    |    |    |    |
| 129 | Robin                     | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>   | .  | .  |    |
| 130 | Whinchat                  | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>     | .  |    | .  |
| 131 | Stonechat                 | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>    |    | .  | .  |
| 132 | Wheatear                  | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>    | .  |    | .  |
| 133 | House Sparrow             | <i>Passer domesticus</i>    | .  | .  | .  |
| 134 | Tree Sparrow              | <i>Passer montanus</i>      |    |    |    |
| 135 | Duncock                   | <i>Prunella modularis</i>   | .  |    |    |
| 136 | Yellow Wagtail            | <i>Motacilla flava</i>      | .  | .  |    |
| 137 | Grey Wagtail              | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>    |    |    |    |
| 138 | Pied Wagtail              | <i>Motacilla alba</i>       | .  | .  | .  |
| 139 | Meadow Pipit              | <i>Anthus pratensis</i>     | .  |    |    |
| 140 | Chaffinch                 | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>    |    |    | .  |
| 141 | Bullfinch                 | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>    | .  |    |    |
| 142 | Greenfinch                | <i>Chloris chloris</i>      |    |    | .  |
| 143 | Linnet                    | <i>Linaria cannabina</i>    | .  | .  | .  |
| 144 | Goldfinch                 | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>  | .  | .  | .  |
| 145 | Siskin                    | <i>Spinus spinus</i>        |    |    |    |
| 146 | Corn Bunting              | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>    |    |    |    |
| 147 | Yellowhammer              | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>  |    |    |    |
| 148 | Reed Bunting              | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> |    | .  | .  |
|     | <b>ADDITIONAL SPECIES</b> |                             |    |    |    |
| 149 | Red-necked Phalarope      |                             | .  |    |    |
| 150 | Pied Flycatcher           |                             | .  |    |    |
| 151 | Common Redstart           |                             | .  |    |    |
| 152 | Spotted Crake             |                             |    | .  |    |