



TOUR REPORT
NORFOLK SUMMER BREEDERS
21ST – 24TH JUNE 2022

www.oriolebirding.com

info@oriolebirding.com

WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE – *Warm and sunny in an easterly breeze, 24C*

There was of course only one place to start with this, the second of our June 'Summer Breeders' tours – and that was the celebrity **Bee-eaters** in North-east Norfolk! Gimingham quarry was a little over an hours drive from our base, but even as we parked up we could see two **European Bee-eaters** perched on the wires in the distance. We spent an hour or so down at the RSPB watchpoint, and while initially things were quiet with mainly just two birds visible and not much calling or flying around, we ended up seeing six birds, enjoying them flying almost overhead calling, and several phases of courtship were observed. This included a male catching and presenting a Norfolk Hawker dragonfly to one of the females (quite a pale bird, clearly smaller and slightly duller with paler yellow throat) and then mating was observed. Just amazing birds to watch and this would take some beating on the rest of the tour!



Two of the six European Bee-eaters seen today

Next up we headed onto the heaths to look for our next target bird which would be **Dartford Warbler**. It was very hot as we wandered slowly around the narrow paths scanning and listening for their distinctive calls. A family of Stonechats, the odd Yellowhammer and Common Whitethroat were seen, before we eventually found our quarry. Brief views initially of a juv **Dartford Warbler**, and then stonking views of a male which flew and landed on a fence right in front of us. It did this twice, clearly foraging in the bracken and then flying to feed a secreted youngster nearby. He even flew up into a small birch and sang for us. A **Woodlark** called and flew past us, dropping out of view behind some trees, but we couldn't relocate it – one for tomorrow perhaps.

Dropping down to the coast at Cley, we then mixed things up a bit with some waterbirds. An adult **Spoonbill** could be seen asleep on Pat's Pool from the Visitor Centre, surprisingly the only one we saw all afternoon. Walking down East Bank, we scoped a **Sedge Warbler** and had some brief flight

views of **Bearded Tits**. The Serpentine produced a close **Little-ringed Plover** and lots of Lapwing and Redshank, while Arnold's Marsh was more interesting with three early adult **Golden Plovers** and a party of eleven **Sanderling** which dropped in. We also saw **Sandwich Terns**, two **Little Gulls** (both 2cy), **Common Ringed Plover** and an assortment of gulls here. There was a surprisingly fresh breeze considering how hot it had been elsewhere, and it bordered on chilly at the beach! Here we had more close views of fishing **Sandwich Terns**, but not a great deal else.

Our day was rounded off at Wells North Point, where the undoubted highlight was eight stunning male **Ruff** still in full breeding dress. The remarkable variation between blonde-headed birds and those with glossy black ruff and orange facial skin was quite dramatic. About sixty **Black-tailed Godwits**, another **Little-ringed Plover** and three **Green Sandpipers** were seen here too, with a fine male **Marsh Harrier** which flew in and landed on the fenceline ahead of us being a particular group favourite. Back to Briarfields then for around 1745 at the end of a hot and exciting day.

THURSDAY 23RD JUNE – *Hot and sunny in light winds, 25C*

Another hot and muggy summers day as we headed south to explore the Brecks region for one or two of it's speciality birds. First up was **Stone Curlew**, and we were scoping a pair on an open area of grazed breck within moments of stepping out of the van. The overcast skies meant no heat haze, and we enjoyed some really good views of them. There seemed to be a nest changeover taking place, as both birds were stood with their tails pointing up in the air and slowly pirouetting around before one settles right down out of view. Checking some nearby scrub, we were hoping to maybe catch a snatch of **Nightingale** song though we knew really it was a bit late in the season. While we searched, a **Woodlark** flew in calling and dropped into some long grass. After a short wait it flew up again and burst into song, landing on top of a hawthorn where we were able to watch it singing in the scope for several minutes – such a superb bird! A short burst of **Nightingale** song was heard and we heard some contact calling too (both the high pitched note, and the guttural churr), but we didn't manage a sighting. Yellowhammer, Blackcap and the commoner tits were seen, plus a singing Chiffchaff.



Woodlark – a singing bird in the Brecks today

Next up was Lakenheath Fen reserve. We knew it would be hot and exposed here and so limited our walk as far as New Fen viewpoint, where we sat in the shade for a while and scanned the fen. Our main target was **Bittern**, and we did manage a short flight view of one over the reeds. A female **Cuckoo** flew over us bubbling too, and there were **Marsh Harrier**, Common Tern, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat about too. A flock of about two hundred Gadwall flying over was a bit of an odd one, no doubt they had flushed off the nearby washland which we would head towards on our walk back on the riverside path. There were masses of moulting Lapwing on there too, and a few Teal, Shoveler and Avocet – plus another **Cuckoo** flew by. After lunch back at the car park, it was on into the forest to look for a couple more target species.



Tree Pipit – this male was a real show-off!

Tree Pipit was first up and this one was nice and easy with a bird heard singing as soon as we arrived at our site, not far from Lynford Arboretum. The bird was a real performer, and we watched him for about half an hour parachuting off his favoured tree beside the path and allowing us to get some really good views. Two others could be heard singing also, with one visible on a distant big tree. Heading round to the Arboretum, we tried next for **Firecrest**, at a territory where we had some success recently. The bird showed pretty well, with a few bursts of song, as it foraged in some Holly bushes not too high up. With all our targets seen well, we had an hour to spare before heading back north – a raptor watch perhaps? Mid June is not exactly a great time of year to see **Goshawks**, but the population in the brecks is doing well and in any month it is possible to chance a sighting. We had to wait about half an hour at our chosen watchpoint before a 2cy **Goshawk** circled above the trees, and gave everyone some good long scope views as it soared up high into the sky before eventually plummeting down out of view. A great end to our day in the Brecks!

In the evening, we made the trip out to Dersingham Bog to look for **Nightjars**. It was a perfect evening – warm and muggy, with little wind. We certainly heard plenty of **Nightjars**, with 4-5 churring males, and heard lots of distant flight-calling, but views tonight were disappointing. A couple of very brief flight views for some of the group, and a very distant perched churring male on a dead branch through the scope. Still, the **Woodcocks** were brilliant with 6-7 views of roding birds including one right over our heads close enough for the ‘grunt’ to be audible before the squeak! On the way back to Titchwell, a **Tawny Owl** flew up from the roadside near Choseley to round off our day.

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE – *Fresh SW wind and sunny spells, 16C*

A cooler day on the coast today as we headed down The Wash coast to Snettisham. The walk north along the seawall between the coastal park and Ken Hill Marshes gave us the chance to look for the declining **Turtle Dove** in one of its last county strongholds. We saw a perched bird purring on top of a hawthorn, and also saw it perform a display flight, plus we heard another couple of birds further along. The scrub as usual was full of warbler song and we got our first decent view of a Reed Warbler in the scope – the warm up act for its larger cousin to come! Reaching the kissing gate about a mile north, we could hear the long-staying **Great Reed Warbler** giving its gravelly notes from deep in the windswept reeds. We waited for a while and could hear it singing loudly, but not see it. Eventually the bird flew along the dyke a bit and we had some good perched views of it on the far side, but generally it was keeping low and remaining elusive. Following the bank a little further and looking back finally enabled everyone to get a good scope view of the bird singing its head off in the open – what a unit! The wet areas on the grazing marsh are drying out fast now but we still saw a superb adult **Spoonbill**, and also watched a beautiful pale **Barn Owl** hunting over the fields.

Titchwell next, for a final fix of waterbirds to end the tour. The freshmarsh held a really good selection with lots of summery **Black-tailed Godwits**, half a dozen **Little-ringed Plover**, lots of Avocet families and Common Terns feeding chicks. A **Little Gull** was floating on the water and a first-summer **Mediterranean Gull** was also noted. Right at the back, we picked up a sooty black **Spotted Redshank** roosting on one leg and a **Wood Sandpiper** was picking along the soft mud edge, just about identifiable through the haze! The beach added a large flock of **Bar-tailed Godwits**, two **Knot**, some summer plumaged **Sanderling** and a **Gannet** flying offshore. Lots of terns were passing close in, on their way to the Scolt colony, and among them was our first **Little Tern** of the trip. Back at Parrinder Hide, we saw the **Wood Sandpiper** a little better with a Redshank next to it for size, and a **Great White Egret** lumbered over the reedbed. That was that, and after drop off back at the hotel, we ran across to King’s Lynn for the station drop-offs at the end of the tour.

Oriole Birding

Norfolk Summer Breeders & Late Migrants

21st - 24th June 2022

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	22	23	24	Comments
Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)						
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	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				
14	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	■		■	
15	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		■	■	
16	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)						
17	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		■	■	

#	Common Name	Scientific Name		22	23	24		Comments
18	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>						
19	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
<i>Procelariidae (Petrels)</i>								
20	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>						
21	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				▪		
22	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						
<i>Threskiornithidae and Ardeidae (Spoonbills, Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)</i>								
23	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		▪		▪		
24	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			▪			
25	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		▪	▪	▪		
26	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				▪		
27	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		▪	▪	▪		
<i>Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)</i>								
28	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		▪	▪	▪		
<i>Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)</i>								
29	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						
30	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
31	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						
32	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		▪		▪		
33	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		▪	▪	▪		
<i>Rallidae and Gruidae (Rails, Coots and Cranes)</i>								
34	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						
35	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			▪	▪		
36	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		▪	▪	▪		
37	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>						
<i>Burhinidae, Recurvirostridae and Charadriidae (Thick-knees, Avocets, Plovers and Allies)</i>								
38	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>			▪			

#	Common Name	Scientific Name		22	23	24		Comments
39	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
40	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		▪	▪	▪		
41	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
42	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		▪				
43	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						
44	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		▪				
45	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		▪		▪		
<i>Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)</i>								
46	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>						
47	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		▪	▪			
48	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				▪		
49	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		▪	▪	▪		
50	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						
51	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				▪		
52	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		▪				
53	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						
54	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						
55	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		▪		▪		
56	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						
57	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						
58	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</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>						

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<i>Laridae (Gulls and Terns)</i>								
66	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
67	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		▪		▪		
68	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>						
69	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		▪		▪		
70	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		▪				
71	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		▪		▪		
72	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						
73	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
74	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		▪		▪		
75	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				▪		
76	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		▪	▪	▪		
77	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>						
<i>Columbidae and Cuculidae (Pigeons, Doves and Cuckoos)</i>								
78	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>						
79	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		▪	▪			
80	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
81	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				▪		
82	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		▪	▪	▪		
83	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	▪	▪		
<i>Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)</i>								
84	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				▪		
85	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			▪			
86	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						
<i>Caprimulgidae and Apodidae (Nightjars and Swifts)</i>								
87	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>			▪			
88	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
<i>Alcedinidae and Picidae (Kingfishers and Woodpeckers)</i>								

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89	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						
90	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						
91	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>						
	Falconidae (Falcons)							
92	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			▪	▪		
93	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						
94	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						
	Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)							
95	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		▪	▪			
96	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		▪	▪	▪		
97	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		▪	▪	▪		
98	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
99	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		▪	▪	▪		
	Paridae and Panuridae (Tits and Reedlings)							
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>		▪				
	Alaudidae (Larks)							
105	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		▪	▪			
106	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		▪	▪			
	Hirundinidae (Swallows)							
107	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		▪	▪	▪		
108	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		▪				
109	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			▪	▪		
	Scotocercidae, Aegithalidae and Phylloscopidae (Bush Warblers, Bushtits and Leaf Warblers)							
110	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H			

#	Common Name	Scientific Name		22	23	24		Comments
111	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			▪			
112	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		H	H			
113	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	▪			
<i>Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)</i>								
114	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
115	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H	▪	▪		
116	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>						
117	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	▪			
118	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			H			
119	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						
120	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		▪	▪	▪		
121	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		▪				
<i>Regulidae (Kinglets)</i>								
122	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			▪			
123	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		▪	▪			
<i>Troglodytidae Sittidae and Certhiidae (Wrens, Nuthatches and Treecreepers)</i>								
124	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	▪			
125	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			▪			
126	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			▪			
<i>Turdidae and Sturnidae (Thrushes and Starlings)</i>								
127	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		▪	▪	▪		
128	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		▪	▪	▪		
129	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			▪	▪		
130	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						
<i>Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</i>								
131	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						
132	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			▪	▪		
133	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						

#	Common Name	Scientific Name		22	23	24		Comments
134	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		▪	▪			
<i>Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)</i>								
135	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
136	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						
<i>Prunellidae (Accentors)</i>								
137	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			▪			
<i>Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</i>								
138	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						
139	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						
140	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		▪	▪	▪		
141	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				▪		
142	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			▪			
<i>Fringillidae (Finches)</i>								
143	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		▪		▪		
144	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>						
145	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			▪			
146	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		▪		▪		
147	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		▪	▪	▪		
148	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>						
<i>Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)</i>								
149	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		▪				
150	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		▪	▪			
151	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			▪	▪		
ADDITIONAL SPECIES								
152	European Bee-eater			▪				
153	Goshawk				▪			
154	Great Reed Warbler					▪		

