



TOUR REPORT

East Yorkshire 21st – 26th Oct 2024

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Monday 21st October

We assembled as a group at Great Rybugh, loaded the luggage into the bus, then set off promptly as planned. Our mid-way stop on our journey to Yorkshire was Frampton Marsh RSPB reserve, and on arrival we headed straight to the café for lunch. The café looks out over a large lagoon and whilst we ate it wasn't hard to note the large numbers of birds on show, mainly Wigeon and Teal but also large numbers of Lapwing, and a quick look through them revealed several Ruff and Avocet. After lunch we went for a walk around the reserve, pausing by the café again to look out over the nearby fields where some Cattle Egrets had been feeding alongside a herd of cows. An initial first glance revealed nothing there, then we realised the birds were now all sat on top of the roof of the nearby cattle barn, the last place we would have thought to look! With time to a degree against us our options were somewhat limited as to the route we could take around the reserve, and we opted to head to the large '360 degree' hide and then on to the adjacent hide overlooking the main lagoon. Our first stop though was to look properly through the feeding and loafing Wigeon and Teal, which revealed several Pintail, Shoveler and Gadwall also present. Ruff and Avocet were found amongst the Lapwing, and other wading species seen during the walk included at least forty Black-tailed Godwits, ten Snipe and a Curlew. A small flock of Whooper Swans were also present, which included several young birds.



The small flock Whooper Swans at Frampton Marsh.

Other more interesting species seen during our visit included a flock of forty Pink-footed Geese, four Dark-bellied Brent Geese, two Marsh Harriers and single Tufted Duck, Little Grebe and a Swallow. Our time had run out, so we returned to the bus to start the remainder of the journey to Yorkshire, with us arriving at our accommodation for the next five nights at Brandesburton shortly after 6.00pm.

Tuesday 22nd October

Our first full day in the field, and with a Red-flanked Bluetail still present at Bempton Cliffs RSPB it seemed the obvious place to start our day. With a bright, sunny almost windless day forecast, we hoped the Bluetail would still be present. We arrived at the site, with a small crowd of assembled birders immediately giving us a clue as to where we needed to start our search. We quickly joined them, to find the bird had been seen ten minutes earlier but had now disappeared. We chatted to several birders that Gary knew and learnt the bird could be quite mobile but had several favoured areas. We spent some time working our way around these, searching with unfortunately no success. Tree Sparrows were numerous and seemingly everywhere, a species which is always nice to see. A male Blackcap, female Bullfinch and a Goldcrest were the best birds we could find, as we searched in the scrub and collection of the small trees in and around the carpark area. We decided to take a break and walk out to the coast, joining the coastal path then stopping at the northern most viewpoints for a look out over the sea. With wind from the south the birds were a long way offshore, and although we managed decent views of Gannets, the Guillemots were far more challenging! We returned to the visitor centre to the news that the Bluetail had been showing well only minutes beforehand. We rushed round to join the obvious crowd, with the bird having been seen nearby in the Dell, a large, vegetated depression which also fortunately gives good viewing opportunities. Within minutes of our arrival the bird reappeared, success! But only half the group managed to get on it before it was chased off by a Robin. A tense five minutes followed before it reappeared again, this time posing in full view for everyone to see.



Red-flanked Bluetail, voted bird of the trip there and then!

Lunch followed next, with a lookout from our seating at the back of the café and visitor centre revealing several Stonechats perched on the bramble bushes nearby. We then had one last walk around the immediate area which proved a good move, with a Barn owl found perched on a fence post in a nearby field. The light was excellent, and we enjoyed some views watching it hunt on occasion too.



Barn Owl, always a much-appreciated species.

Leaving Bempton we made a short drive to an area nearby, close to South Landing, where we'd been told there was a Jack Snipe. Arriving at the site there seemed to be several options as to where to go, and we initially took the footpath that leads on to the coast. This proved a good move with a selection of birds noted along the way, the best being half a dozen Yellowhammer in the adjacent field hedgerow, two Sparrowhawks, an obvious adult male and a larger female, and a flyover Grey Wagtail. We retraced our steps to try another route, and although this looked more favourable from a habitat perspective there was no sign of the bird, the best we could manage was a heard only Siskin. We had time for one last stop, this time to nearby Flamborough head. We parked near the Lighthouse and then walked out onto the foghorn and the area adjacent to the sea watching hide. Viewing here out over the sea was slightly more favourable than Bempton, with birds slightly closer in. This resulted in us seeing several Red-throated Divers, Guillemots and three late Common Terns fishing offshore. We were just about to leave, after spending some time watching and listening to the Grey Seals basking on the exposed rocks below us, when Geoff found a small wader feeding in the rock pools on the most distant exposed rocks. It was a long way off so a good find, a Purple Sandpiper, something we weren't expecting to see.

Wednesday 23rd October

We woke to a forecasted foggy start, though fortunately short-lived, with it clearing almost as soon as we left the guesthouse after breakfast. Our destination today was Spurn, and on arrival our first stop was Kilnsea Wetlands. A short walk took us to the hide, and with the tide having risen on the Humber we'd hoped birds would have been displaced from there. The tide clearly wasn't an overly high one, with very few waders on view, although two Greenshank were a welcome addition to the trip list. A small flock of Golden Plover, around twenty birds, flew over, and a small flock of around twenty-five feeding Black-tailed Godwit were noted on the wetland itself. We returned to the bus heading on next to the nearby Bird observatory, where we walked round to Church Field to catch up with Paul the site warden. They were doing some ringing this morning and they had just caught a Reed Warbler, which he duly showed us. October is a late date for this species, a young bird with a fault bar in its tail, although a healthy weight at just over 15 grams. With the ringing quiet we returned to the wetlands, but this time we walked past the hide and up onto a raised bank to view an area called Beacon Ponds. There were a few more birds on there, with a larger number and variety of wading species such as Dunlin, Ringed Plover and Sanderling, but also a single Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. We'd been told that there had been some Snow Bunting further along the path feeding along the edge of Easington pools, the next pools along, so we decided to see if we could see them. The walk was a bit further than we'd thought but fortunately the birds were there, making the walk worthwhile. Three birds in total, with all three showing large amounts of white in the wing when they flew so the presumption was, they were all likely to be males.



One of the three Snow Buntings that we saw.

With the morning having turned into early afternoon, we returned to the bus with lunch very much now on our minds and arguably overdue. Our walk back had been interrupted with a cursory check through a small flock of Brent Geese feeding on the nearby field, revealing a Ruddy Shelduck and a strikingly pale leucistic Brent Goose amongst them.



This leucistic bird stood out, in amongst the regular dark-bellied Brents.

Lunch at the Discovery Centre was followed by a visit to the nearby canal scrape hide. Thirty or so Teal were the most numerous and obvious birds seen on our arrival, with a solitary Shoveler and two Little Egrets nearby too. A Merlin flew over, a very brief view but seen by most of the group, which was followed a short while later by a Marsh Harrier. We left the hide and carried on down the peninsula to the Warren, where we looked out at the sea and then out onto the Humber. We then walked back, to finish the afternoon with a short walk along the canal path. Singing Cetti's Warbler and a calling Water Rail were noted, before we turned and made our way back towards the bus. Then we bumped into some other birders who said they had seen a Yellow-browed Warbler in the bushes enroute to the carpark. We joined the search, and it was quickly apparent other birds had appeared in the area too. Over the next half hour or so we logged at least five Chiffchaffs, one of which was a washed out sandy looking bird with a very white belly and a good candidate for 'tristis' Siberian Chiffchaff. Two Blackcaps and a Goldcrest were also seen, and after a degree of perseverance we all managed to get satisfactory views of the Yellow-browed Warbler too.

Thursday 24th October

Our first destination today was the East Yorkshire reserve of Tophill Low, with us setting off promptly after breakfast and arriving at the site just after 9.00am. We started off by heading onto the main hide and reception centre, but being mainly glass fronted the view out over the reservoir in front of us was disappointingly poor. Fortunately, there is still a large old-fashioned type of wooden hide with viewing flaps, which is where we headed too next. Viewing from here was good with the sun behind us, and we settled down to look through the large numbers of wildfowl present on the water. To the relief of one of the group members there was a large number of Coots present, and other species easily picked out included Pochard, Tufted Duck, Shoveler and Wigeon. Both Great Crested and Little Grebes were also easily seen, but several Goldeneye frustratingly did their best to dive as soon as a telescope was trained on them! A surprise here was a small flock of Red-crested Pochard, the majority males which made for an impressive sight, though their origin as always is questionable.



Red-crested Pochard, seven of the nine birds we saw this morning.

We made our way through the reserve towards the other reservoir, a large circular one, noting a path side Great spotted Woodpecker along the way. A short diversion then took us to an area called South Marsh, and as the name suggests a small wetland area with several hides overlooking it. A couple of hundred sleeping Teal were dotted around the site, largely on the various small islands. A dozen or so Common Snipe, the majority again sleeping, were noted and thirty-five Curlew and a couple of Redshanks were also present in the slightly deeper water. A flock of around fifteen vocal Whooper Swans flew over, and a calling Kingfisher appeared, flying rapidly low over the water and around the edge of the marsh. We continued around the circular reservoir eventually reaching a viewing hide. The light by now wasn't ideal for the position the hide was in, but a scan over the water appeared to confirm we weren't missing anything. Lunch back at the bus was followed by us returning to Flamborough Lighthouse to walk along the coastal path, something we'd failed to do on our last visit. It was windier at the site than we'd

anticipated, though the sun being out helped make the walk quite pleasant. A look out over the sea revealed plenty of white horses visible, and at first glance little sign of any birds. We manage to pick out several Red-throated Divers and Guillemots though, along with several distant flying Gannets. With the strong wind there was little to be seen on a small bird front, save a handful of mobile Linnets, so we turned our attention to the gulls following two tractors that were ploughing up the adjacent field. Initially there seemed to be just largely Herring Gulls present, but closer scrutiny revealed a glaring white headed, long necked bird, with a dark slim bill, a 1CY Caspian Gull.

Friday 25th October

We started the day at nearby Hornsea Mere, driving down to the sailing club car park to view the mere from there. A low mist hung over a large percentage of the mere, which was to be a feature of the day unfortunately at all the sites we visited. Birds seen were a selection of commoner birds that we'd previously encountered, largely gulls and wildfowl, with both vocal Cetti's Warbler and Water Rail calling from the reed fringed edges as well. A reported Black Redstart had us diverting marginally off our journey to our destination for the day, Spurn, and although finding the site was straightforward there was no sign of the bird. Arriving at Spurn we started at the northern end near the gas terminal where we walked along Vicars Lane, checking the tree and bushes that lined the lane. Once again there was little of note, the highlights single Chiffchaffs and Coal Tit and a handful of Redwings. We headed down to the Warren again next but with a thick fog enveloping the area our viewing options were limited. We noted a few more Redwings in the nearby bushes before deciding on an early lunch in the Discovery Centre again. We checked out the Canal Scrape, then headed back up to Kilnsea, having received news the Black Redstart that had been ringed the night before there, was showing along the edge of the Humber shore. We quickly located the bird, an adult male, and we enjoyed some nice views of it as it searched for food between the rocks, and on the beach.



We enjoyed some great views of this male Black Redstart

A look through the fog at the closer shorebirds on the mud revealed a new bird for the trip, Knot, with a birds noted in amongst the Redshank and Dunlin. A walk-through Church field followed next, and on returning through the site we realised some of the nets had been opened again. Paul, the warden, soon appeared clutching several bags that clearly had birds in them. We were then treated to a ringing Demo, with the birds in the bags proving to be Redwings, which gave the members of the group that had missed them earlier, views at point blank range. After giving our thanks to Paul, and with our options limited from a visibility perspective, we decided to head to nearby Sammy's Point to finish the day. We disembarked from the bus, noting a flyby Marsh Harrier, only to find the path we were planning to take impassable due to works that we being carried out on the banks. Instead, we took a short walk the other way, noting several Bar-tailed Godwits on the nearby mud, which were new birds for the day.

Saturday 26th October

Our last day together, with the journey back to Norfolk too making it a relatively short one. With this in mind, we packed everything in the bus after breakfast, said our goodbyes and thanks to the guest house staff, and headed off south, with the best use of our time felt to be a return visit to Frampton Marsh. A stop along the fields before the reserve revealed hundreds of Pink-footed Geese feeding in the adjacent stubble fields along with at least fifty Whooper Swans. Arriving at Frampton we then headed to the visitor centre, stopping to scan over the fields there.



This Wood Sandpiper was one of the main highlights of our visit to Frampton Marsh.

The Cattle Egrets were present as before with the Cattle, with us noting four birds, and a scan along the nearby fence line revealed two perched Peregrines, seemingly a pair,

with one bigger and bulkier than the other. The route we took today was along the main path to the seawall, making regular stops along the way to view the pools adjacent wet fields and marsh. To say it was impressive was an understatement, with literally thousands of birds present. The large majority were Wigeon and Greylag Geese, but their numbers swelled with Teal, Shoveler and a variety of wading species. Most of the latter were Lapwing, but again other species were present, such as Golden Plover, Snipe, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit and Dunlin. The most noteworthy though was a Wood Sandpiper which showed admirably on one of the nearby pools, a rather late date for this species. Two Greenshank were also seen along with a single Avocet. We had two encounters with Bearded Tits, the first a calling bird that disappeared quickly into a nearby small reedbed, the second a more obliging bird, a male, that perched out for a while giving us nice views. One of the Peregrines had moved off the fence posts and onto the ground and could be seen dismembering presumably an unfortunate bird it had caught. We climbed onto the seawall which gave us an impressive vista out over the site, noting several small flocks Brent Geese and a Merlin, the latter picked out perched on a small post on the saltmarsh.

Returning to the centre, we had a short break for lunch before reboarding the bus to complete our journey to Great Ryburgh, which signalled the end of the trip.

ORIOLE BIRDING EAST YORKSHIRE AUTUMN OCTOBER 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	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	X		X	X	X	X
2	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	X		X		X	X
4	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				X	X	X
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	X		X	X	X	X
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	X		X		X	X
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	X		X	X	X	X
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	X		X	X		X
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	X		X	X	X	X
10	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X		X	X	X	X
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	X					X
12	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	X		X	X	X	X
13	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				X		
14	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	X			X	X	
15	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				X		
16	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
17	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X		X		

#	Common Name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	
18	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X		X	X	X	X	
19	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				X			
20	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		X		X			
21	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X		X	X	X	X	
23	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X		X	X	X	X	
24	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	X		X		X	X	
25	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		X					
26	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	X						
27	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	X	X	X		X	
28	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			H	H	H		
29	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	
30	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				X	X		
31	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	X					X	
32	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			X	X			
33	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			X		X		
34	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			X		X	X	
35	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
36	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			X				
37	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	X		X	X	X	X	
38	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			X		X		
39	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	X		X		X	X	
40	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>					X		
41	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	X					X	
42	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			X				
43	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			X		X	X	
44	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	X		X	X		X	
45	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			X			X	
46	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			X	X	X	X	
47	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		X		X			
48	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
49	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			X				
50	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
51	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
52	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			X			X	
53	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		X	X	X	X		
54	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		X					
55	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
56	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		X	X		X		
57	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	

#	Common Name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	
58	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X			X	X	
59	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		X					
60	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H					
61	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				X			
62	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				X			
63	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
64	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			X			X	
65	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						X	
66	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	X				H		
67	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
68	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
69	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
70	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
71	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
72	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X						
73	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				X	X		
74	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		
75	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X		
76	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
77	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
78	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		X	X	X			
79	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H		H	H	H	H	
80	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			X		X		
81	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>			X				
82	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			X				
83	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		X	X	X			
84	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
85	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					X		
86	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		X	X			X	
87	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	X	X		
88	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>					X		
89	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
90	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		X	X	X	X		
91	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		X		X	X		
92	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
93	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
94	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>			X				
95	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		X					
96	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			X	X	X	X	
97	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X	X	X	X	X		
98	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		X					
99	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	X		X	X	X	X	
100	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		X	X	X	X	X	

[illegible]