



NORFOLK 19-23rd OCTOBER 2025 AUTUMN TOUR



Yellow-browed warbler & Jack Snipe both great birds to see!

Day One – 19th October 2025

The group arrived at Whitehouse Farm, Hindolveston on Sunday 19th October settled into the accommodation with an evening meal.

Day Two – 20th October 2025

The group were collected at 8.15am on the Monday and we set off coastward bound on a slightly dull and drizzly morning for the North Norfolk coast.

Before we left the accommodation our first skeins of noisy **Pink-footed geese** were seen passing over the house, along with **1-2 Redwing and Blackbirds**. The journey north encountered **Buzzard, 2 Red Kite** and a large covey of **Red-legged Partridge!**

Our first birding destination was Holkham and we were greeted by more **Pink-footed Geese**, plus the grazing cows also held a group of **3 Cattle Egrets** and we were soon enjoying our first **Marsh harriers** hunting low over the marsh.

We then walked down the Westward woodland track and were soon encountering small numbers of **Goldcrest**, followed by a **Chiff-chaff**, that was moving very slowly and stealthily around in a holme oak, the bird appeared quite pale and possibly was a **Siberian Chiff-chaff**, but it stubbornly refused to show well or call! We then caught up with our first proper tit flock, with **Long-tailed** and **Blue tits**, but whilst there were more **Goldcrest** and a **Treecreeper** this flock didn't provide anything unusual. We then had a sharp shower and we sought refuge in the hide, which actually proved fortuitous! Out on the pool in front of us were two unexpected **Spotted Redshank**, rather typically feeding rapidly up to their bellies in the deeper water, a nice surprise! The shower abated and nearby another flock of Crests and tits were sifted through, this one with several **Coal Tits**, plus a few **Siskin** flew overhead calling.

We next reached the crossroads area and another flock of its appeared and it wasn't too long before the distinctive "tse-u-weet" call of **Yellow-browed warbler** was heard, this bird played hide and seek in the hawthorn and sycamore, as it moved amongst the foliage. We next headed to the Jordan Hide and had a relaxing 45 minutes looking out over the marsh, from here there was **Great White** and **Little Egret**, several **Red Kite**, **Marsh Harrier** and **Buzzard**, plus on the water **Common Shelduck**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Northern Lapwing**, **Eurasian Curlew** and **Black-tailed Godwit** and a briefly perched **Kingfisher**. Also noticed were parties of **Starlings** passing Westwards, migrants arriving from Eastern origins.

We then did a walk along the next trail and tracked down yet another tit flock, this one also contained a calling **Yellow-browed warbler**, though again this bird remained elusive giving brief views! Finally, as we headed back to the crossroads a third **Yellow-browed Warbler** was heard and this one eventually perched and sat still long enough to get good views and some quick snapshots, before it flew and disappeared again! It was now approaching lunchtime, so we started the return walk back to the Visitor centre, stopping on the way for a smart soaring **Sparrowhawk** calling and flyover **Redpoll** and **Crossbill!**

The showery weather had cleared, and we were able to take lunch outside, watching the Marsh Harriers and Kites over the marshes.

After lunch we drove Westwards to Cley and headed out to the centre hides. From here there was a lovely selection of waders and wildfowl. Lots of **Eurasian Teal c200**, plus smaller number of **Wigeon, Shoveler, Shelduck and Gadwall**. There was a nice group of **12 Dunlin**, plus **2 Ruff, 20 Black-tailed Godwit, 12 Common Snipe, 6 Avocet, 20 Northern Lapwing, 4 Curlew** and also **3 Little Stints**.

Whilst enjoying the pleasure of scanning through all the birds from the hide we received a notice that there had been a report of a Great Grey Shrike near the Visitor Centre area and Walsey Hills, though there was no local confirmation. So I rather casually scanned up and down several hedgerows, musing there was an outside chance I might see it if there was one actually present. I was amazed when my second sweep picked out, albeit distant, distinctive shape and crisp monochrome colours of a **Great Grey Shrike**! We all soon had our scopes trained on the bird and after a few minutes we decided to head over and get better views. By the time we arrived the news had spread and there was group of birders watching the Shrike in the hedgerow as it sallied from its chosen perch up into the air, occasionally hovering and picking off large insects and returning to the hedge with its prey! A lovely surprise and literally a great bird to see, as they have become much scarcer in the last decade. As it started raining again, we retreated to the Visitor centre and celebrated the Shrike over a cup of tea. The rain abated though the skies looked heavy, and we had just enough time to head over to Bishop's Hide. From here we enjoyed better views of the **Ruff and Black-tailed Godwit**, but also a calling 'Pipit' overhead sounded good for **Water Pipit** and was joined by a second bird landing as you might expect on the cut reeds, allowing us to enjoy good scope views of one of the Water Pipits as it fed in amongst the low cut vegetation.

It had been thoroughly enjoyable day, and we headed back just as the light was starting to fade, just in time to see **5 Whooper Swans** plus a **Ruddy Shelduck with 3 Egyptian Geese** and **c1000 Pink-footed Geese** dropping onto the fields.

Evening meals and overnight at Whitehouse Farm Guest House.



Dark-bellied Brents passing offshore



Whooper Swans



The Great Grey Shrike Cley sat atop of the hedgerow.



Pink-footed Geese



Red Kite

Day Three – 21st October 2025

This morning, we set off towards Hunstanton, where we took refuge from a gusting Westerly wind using the glass promenade shelters as shelter! We fairly quickly located a drake **Eider** flying past and several **Great crested Grebes** and **Red-throated Divers** on the sea, but the target birds, **3 Velvet Scoter** were eventually found sitting on the sea. It was beneficial when they all took flight and flew in closer, showing off their strong white wing panels, though as they came and sat closer the white around the eye was also just visible. Other seabirds were a **Razorbill** and **2 Guillemots**. The shoreline also offered up **100 Oystercatcher**, **1-2 Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Redshank** and **Ruddy Turnstone** and **2-3 Rock Pipits**.

We then headed to Holme, where we headed for the shoreline, where there was a good selection of close shorebirds and geese on the dropping tide. The pools held **50 Red Knot**, **10 Sanderling**, **Ringed plover**, **Dunlin** and **Bar-tailed Godwit** alongside nice flock of **Oystercatcher**. Also passing along the shoreline and sitting out the sandbars were **100+ Dark-bellied Brent Geese**. Out on the sea there was a **Common scoter**, **Red-throated diver**, a distant **Gannet** and several **Great Crested Grebe**. Finally, just as we were about to leave the shore, Ken picked out a raptor sat on a sandbar, a super adult male **Peregrine** feeding on recently caught prey!

We next headed to the NWT hide overlooking the broadwater area, where a shallow area of cut reed had been holding Jack Snipe. When we arrived several birders already there had been unable to find them. After a while of fruitless scanning, I moved positions to enable me to search right into the corner of the area, and I could just see a single **Jack Snipe**, the distinctive gold stripes on black silhouette, with their distinctive bouncing habit! It was just a case of getting everyone on to the bird, though eventually it appeared into a more open area, and everyone got good scope views. We were about to leave the hide when a 'brown' **Merlin** shot low across the marsh, nice views if you could latch on to it as it shot across in pursuit of a **Meadow Pipit**.

It was now lunchtime, and we headed back to the Visitor Centre and out of the wind we were able to sit outside and have lunch. We then took a short walk up the Broadwater, where a couple of **Pintail** were showing nicely, also **130 Teal**, **10 Wigeon** and **Shovelers**. Also out on the rest of the grazing marsh were **6 Cattle Egret**, **Great White Egret** and **1000+ Pink-footed Geese**.

We then headed to Titchwell, around the car park there was a Tit flock complete with **Goldcrest** and a female **Blackcap**. Just as we were arriving at the main fresh marsh unfortunately, around **200 Golden Plover** took to the skies and headed inland, leaving a few for less to enjoy, such attractive birds, lovely golden backs huddled together on an island. Other birds on the marsh included **15 Avocet**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **6 Ruff**, several **Dunlin** and a single **Greenshank**.

We then headed to the seashore, an adult Mediterranean Gull passed overhead, it was quiet on the sea save for two late **Sandwich Terns** just fishing offshore. The shoreline held plenty of birds with our first **Grey Plovers** amongst **Redshank**, **Bar-and Black-tailed Godwit**, **Sanderling** and **Dunlin**.

We then headed back to the main freshmarsh and took time to scan through the birds again, where an adult **Curlew Sandpiper** appeared, plus a group of c20 **Lesser black-backed Gulls**.

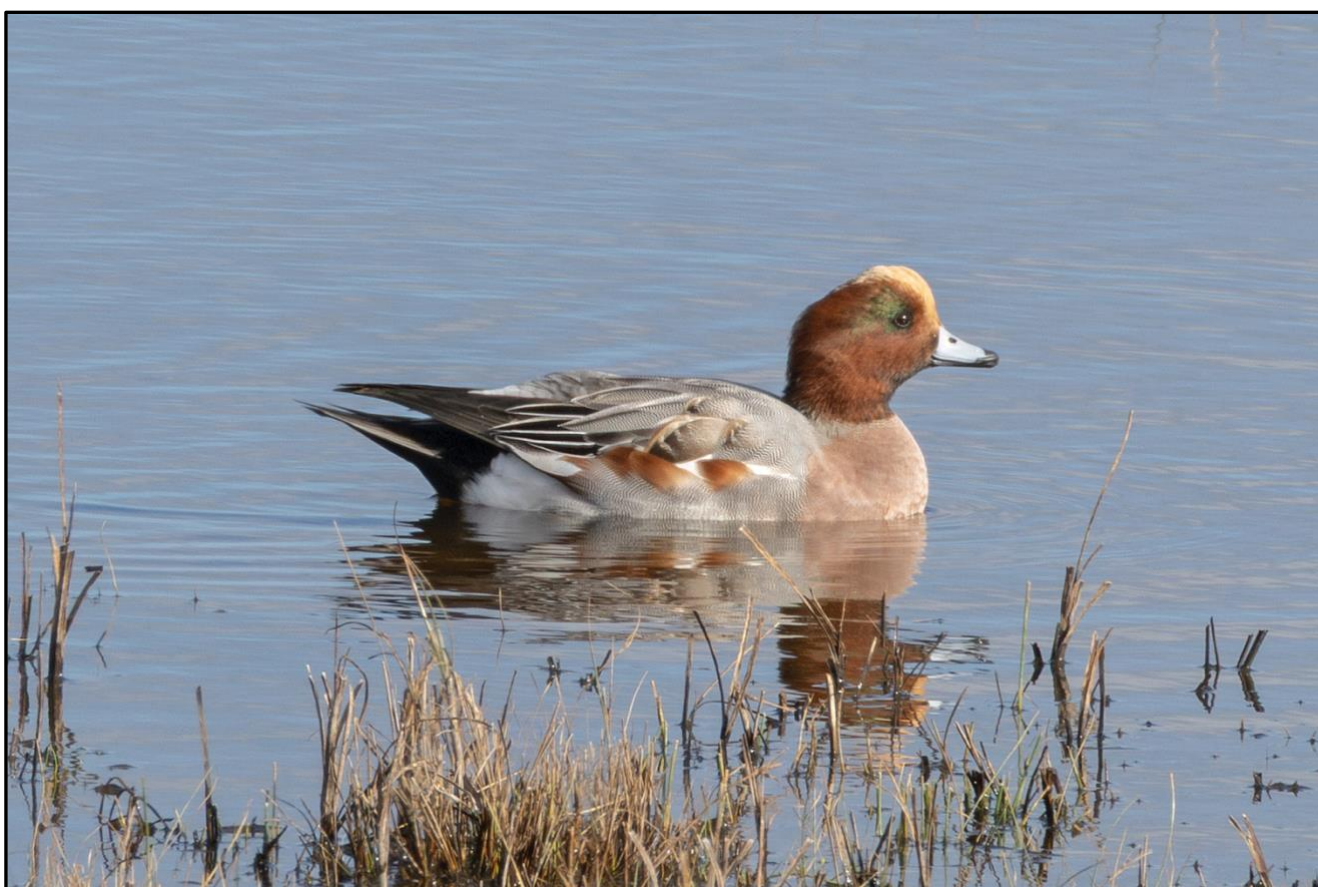
Another great day with several highlights and a good selection of birds. Evening meals and overnight at Whitehouse Farm Guest House.



Jack Snipe



Adult Curlew Sandpiper



Eurasian Wigeon

Day Four – 22nd October

Today dawned dry and bright with light winds, and I decided after consulting with the group that on a bit of variety in some nearby woodland and farmland would be a nice change this morning. So we headed on to Swanton Novers Great wood, we initially did a short circular walk, and were soon adding to some birds that we hadn't seen on the previous coastal days with a two handsome male **Bullfinches** up and along a nearby hedgerow, plus **Yellowhammers** and good views of **5 Stock Dove**. Nearby a **Mistle Thrush** was sat atop a tree giving it's trilling call, whilst a few small groups of **Redwing and Fieldfare** flew overhead.

On entering the woods there was a nice tit flock that also held **2 Marsh Tit, also Nuthatch, Goldcrest and Treecreeper** alongside **Goldcrest, Long-tailed, Coal, Great and Blue tits**.

After the walk we scanned across the woodland top looking for the possibility of raptors and in particular Goshawk, although it wasn't the best time of year, as this raptor has increased there's always a chance in the right conditions, though this morning we actually could have done with a bit more breeze and they didn't appear! It was far from wasted time though, as other birds gave a good show on the field in front of us with lovely perched views of **Fieldfare, Yellowhammer, c50 Linnets, c20 Skylarks, 15 Chaffinch, Buzzard, Kestrel** and eventually a lovely male **Crossbill**. Plus a single **Raven** flew over and 3 more **Crossbills** also flying over.

From here we headed up the coast with enough time to take a walk along the East bank at Cley. We were greeted with vast flocks of **c350 Wigeon** and a scattering of other wildfowl mixed amongst them, **2-3 Cetti's Warblers** were heard. **Bearded Tits** were soon heard 'pinging' from the reeds and a wait of a few minutes eventually resulted in some flight views, we repeated this experience with another group unfortunately they didn't want to perch up and we had to be satisfied with slightly distant 'brown arrows' darting over the reeds! At least the local **Stonechats** were sitting right up in front of us affording nice easy views.

The pools held some nice **Ruff** and **Snipe**, sand the saline lagoon held a nice, perched **Kingfisher**, plus several **Pintail, Little Grebe, Teal** and **Snipe**, but our attention was soon taken more by the skies! A juvenile **Peregrine** did a couple of super-fast dives but without catching any prey, it then soared up high, and we suddenly realised it had joined **5 Marsh harriers** soared high overhead and interacted them as they all drifted East! We had barely finished watching these when another raptor went through fast and low...a brown female (based on size) **Merlin**, it swept up twice and then headed off Westwards.

It was a lovely day and we headed back to the Visitor Centre for lunch. With good light whilst eating lunch we were able to also scan some of the birds on the nearest scrape and we managed to pick out a juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper** and 2 juvenile **Little Stints**.

We decided to try a look at the sea after lunch, though the sea proved very quiet, save **2 Razorbills** and a **Guillemot** just offshore. So, we headed off to Salthouse and took a look at the pools at the Iron road. There was a good group of **Cattle Egrets** with the cattle and **14 Cattle Egret** were counted when they took to the air. The pools didn't really hold anything more than we had already seen, but a nice male **Sparrowhawk** gave great scope views perched up on a post. We then took a walk around towards the Babcock hide and were pleased to catch nice flight views of **2 Glossy Ibis**, these two birds were quite mobile and over next half hour flew past us several times giving us much better views than day one!

A total of 123 species recorded over the 3 days.



Group at Holme Bird observatory

Systematic List of Birds

	English name	Scientific name
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
2	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>
3	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
4	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
6	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
7	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
8	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
9	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
10	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
11	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
12	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
14	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
15	Eurasian/Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>
16	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>
17	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
18	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>
19	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
20	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
21	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (Feral Pigeon)</i>
22	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
23	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
24	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
25	Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
26	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
27	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
28	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
29	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
30	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
31	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
32	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
33	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>

34	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
35	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
36	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
37	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
38	Jack Snipe	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>
39	Common Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>
40	Common Redshank	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
41	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
42	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
43	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
44	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
45	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
46	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
47	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
48	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
49	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
50	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>
51	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>
52	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
53	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>
54	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
55	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
56	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
57	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
58	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
59	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
60	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
61	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>
62	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
63	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
65	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
66	Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
67	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
68	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
69	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
70	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
71	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
72	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>

73	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
74	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
75	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
76	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
77	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
78	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
79	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
80	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
81	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
82	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
83	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
84	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
85	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
86	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
87	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
88	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
89	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
90	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
91	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
92	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
93	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
94	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
95	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
96	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
97	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
98	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
99	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
100	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
101	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
102	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
103	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
104	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
105	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
106	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
107	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
108	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
109	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
110	Pied Wagtail/White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>
111	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
112	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>

113	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>
114	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
115	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
116	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
117	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
118	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
119	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
120	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>
121	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
122	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
123	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

Other Wildlife Recorded

	Other Wildlife recorded	
1	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
2	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
3	Chinese Water Deer	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>
4	Reeves' Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
5	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
6	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>
7	Common Dart	
8	Migrant Hawker	