



TOUR REPORT
NORFOLK BIRDING
9TH – 12TH NOV 2025

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MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER – *Moderate S wind, showers early, heavy rain late pm- 13c.*

We left early heading for Titchwell. The weather was a little unpromising as we drove northwest, but by the time we reached Choseley it had cheered up considerably. On a recently tilled field there were between 2,000 and 3,000 **Pink-footed Geese**. Ordinarily, we would have stopped to grill them, but they were close to the road and wary, so we drove on. At Titchwell there was a high tide at 0930, so we wanted to reach the beach as soon as possible to take advantage of it. It was obviously a big tide because the Volunteer Marsh was full of water. We paused on the Tidal Marsh picking up a **Greenshank** and good comparisons between **Bar-tailed** and **Black-tailed Godwits**. By the time we reached the beach the sun was out and with a fairly flat sea the viewing conditions were close to perfect. The sea was full of **Red-throated Divers** and **Great Crested Grebes**, but the star bird was a winter plumaged **Slavonian Grebe**. Its red eye shone out in the sun. A few **Red-breasted Mergansers** were about and we added some distant common waders to our list. Just then a very welcome bonus arrived in the form of a small group of **Snow Buntings** that flew past us at close range and landed in the dunes. They were tricky to view on uneven ground, but we could see a couple of young males amongst them. They weren't about long before they flew off strongly towards Brancaster. Good stuff!



American Golden Plover at Titchwell

A message came through that the juvenile **American Golden Plover** had been re-found on the Fresh Marsh. We walked back and there it was close to the beach path in the company of no more than half a dozen **Golden Plovers**. Over about twenty minutes we enjoyed

fantastic views. Walking around to the Parrinder Hide we found an adult **Curlew Sandpiper** with a badly damaged left leg. The poor thing was hopping around, but at least still feeding. There were about twenty **Ruffs** here, a handful of **Dunlins** and a couple of **Avocets** too. We looked for Water Pipits whilst here but could not do better than Meadow.



An unseasonal Curlew Sandpiper

By now the weather was overcast and we turned to walk the Fen Trail. Our quarry here were **Firecrest** and **Yellow-browed Warbler**. Both species had been reported earlier. It was not long before we had a brief glimpse of the former, but it was with a tit flock and moved through before everyone connected. It was now starting to rain so we took a break in the Fen Hide, enjoying swirling **Golden Plovers** and a **Marsh Harrier**. The rain abated so we walked on to Patsy's Pool. There was a **Great Egret** here but not a lot else, so we retraced our steps. It was not long before we heard a **Firecrest**. This one was much more cooperative and showed above our heads. We also heard the penetrating call of a Yellow-brow. It was fairly close but in deep cover and a glimpse was all we managed, but at least we had heard it clearly. After a busy morning it was time for lunch before heading east.

The weather was now closing in as forecast. We were hoping to watch raptors at Warham, but the weather made this seem unlikely. We called in at Burnham Norton, where another **Yellow-browed Warbler** had been reported the day before. As we exited the van, we heard it call three times, but then it stopped. We scanned a couple of isolated willow clumps where we thought it might be, but in the strengthening wind we could not pick it up.

By now it was starting to drizzle, so raptor watching was off the menu. Instead, we stopped at North Point Pools where a **Dusky Warbler** had been found a couple of days previously. It was dark, damp and windy so we were not optimistic. We walked out to the seawall past the pools. We met a couple of birders who had been looking without luck but said they had seen a Glossy Ibis on the salt marsh. We decided to give that a go, but there was no sign, and it was now raining heavily. We gave it up as a bad job and headed back. Just then we heard the tell tale *teck* call of the Dusky. Sadly, it was in an impenetrable bramble bush and despite giving it time it did not show. Frustrating, but there we go. We were now wet as an otter's pocket, so it was time to head home. We just had time to scope the eastern pool adding a very incongruous pair of exotic Black Swans. A strange end to a bird-filled day.

TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER – *Fresh Southerly winds and sunny spells, 13C*

Our second day saw us head first of all up to the North-east corner of the county, as a couple of Pallid Swifts had been seen the previous day in the Cromer area. With no news since around 2.30pm yesterday, it was a bit of a long shot but we wanted to give it a go, and so made for the clifftop car park at Overstrand. We spent the next two hours slowly working the clifftop to the west as far as Cromer lighthouse, birding the vegetated undercliff as we went. Here there was a substantial tit flock with several **Goldcrests** in tow, and we saw a couple of **Song Thrush** and a **Chiffchaff** too. On the sea, a **Razorbill** was close in shore and a **Gannet** flew by. Almost up at the lighthouse, we picked up a hirundine over the sea – it was a **Swallow**! Somewhat unseasonal, but no doubt attracted to the cliffs by the same warm southerly winds that had brought the swifts. No sign of the latter sadly, so we then made our way along to Wells.



Raven at Wells

Yesterday the Dusky Warbler had remained heard but not seen so we wanted to give that another go. Unfortunately it seemed to have moved on, or was at least silent in the strong winds. Out on the saltmarsh we were watching one of the numerous Red Kites when a **Raven** came in and dislodged it from its perch – an ever-increasing sight in the county. A single **Great White Egret** and several **Brent Geese** were seen here too, while North Point Pools held lots of the common wildfowl again.



Arctic Tern in Holkham Bay (pic by Adrian Bromley)

Holkham next where we had lunch by Lady Anne's Drive before taking a walk out to the shore. The stiff offshore wind meant the sea was very calm and we were able to scan for divers, grebes and scoter. There wasn't a huge amount to see with most of the fifty or so **Common Scoter** being very distant, but three females close inshore were nice. A very close **Red-throated Diver**, single **Great Crested Grebe** and **Red-breasted Merganser**, and a distant **Great Northern Diver** added to the interest. The most amazing sighting of the day though was a first-winter **Arctic Tern** that was moving up and down the shore with some Black-headed Gulls, giving tremendous close-range views.

We then circled back round to the far end of the pines to come back along the landward side to look through some tit flocks, but the wind was strong here and we struggled to find much. A few **Goldcrests** and **Treecreeper** were about the best of it through the pines, and so once back at the drive we had a quick decision to make in the fading light. We had just enough time to drive to Titchwell and try for the **Hoopoe** (apparently present c3 weeks!) which has settled into a routine of roosting in the hedges around the overflow car park but viewable from the main coast road. We pulled up in the gateway overlooking the paddocks and a small crowd was already gathered – we were just applying the handbrake when the **Hoopoe** flew over the road above the van and we just managed to see it before it disappeared.

behind a barn! It hadn't gone into its usual roosting trees though so we disembarked and joined the crew, hoping it might cross the track. Moments later it did just that, doing a lovely circuit of the hedge before flying directly towards us and landing on a muck pile. It sat there for five minutes, allowing us great scope views, before it flew up and perched in the hedge. A superb way to end the day – it was now virtually dark as we headed back to Hindolveston.

WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER – *Wet start but dry later with sunny spells in strong southerlies, 13C*

We dodged a bullet on the weather today as it was windy, dark and throwing it down as we set off from Hindolveston this morning to head up to Holme. As we rounded Fakenham though we could see some brighter sky creeping in from the south-west and by the time we got to Holme, the rain had stopped altogether and we didn't see any more all day! Just shy of the coast, we found a large resting flock of probably 5000 **Pink-footed Geese** which had just been flushed by a farmer from fields near Choseley. The light was superb and they were a perfect distance from the road, so we spent some time scanning through them for any rarer congeners, without success. Down at Holme, we walked up to Gore Point, as the sea here had been quite productive in recent days. Once again the offshore wind made for a calm sea but other than a lot of **Great Crested Grebes** it was rather quieter than hoped. We did manage two **Great Northern Divers** though, both distant, two smart drake **Eider**, and about 20 **Red-breasted Mergansers**. **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Sanderling** and two **Great White Egrets** were also noted here.



Pink-footed Geese near Holme

Moving on, we wanted to head east so we could be within striking distance if any news came out on the **Pallid Swift**. This took us to Wells Pinewoods, where we had a largely

unproductive walk round listening for tit flocks. We eventually found a small one back near the car park but the best we could manage with them was **Goldcrest** and **Treecreeper**. Two **Redpolls** showed very nicely for us though, buzzing in and perching nicely in some hawthorns beside the track. We were just about to leave Wells then, when news came through that the **Pallid Swift** was indeed still present at West Runton – twitch on!



An overexposed image of the Pallid Swift at West Runton to show the large white throat patch, 'alien eye' and pale wing panels.

We headed to the clifftop car park only to find a couple of birders scanning but not seeing the bird. We then received an update that the bird was actually feeding over the A149 coast road along the front of the houses, and on scanning that way we could see it, albeit distantly and nothing more than 'swift sp'. We decided to move round to the road, where we joined a small crowd and enjoyed watching the swift for almost an hour scything back and forth above the rooftops, though always staying rather high and to our south, meaning the light was never great. Its somehow more fluid flight action could be appreciated though, and a couple of times we could just see a pale panel in the wing and sandier brown upperparts.

With light fading we decided to dash back to Cley and just finish the day with a quick visit to Bishop's Hide. The regular **Water Pipit** flew in calling and landed close by on an area of cut reed, giving excellent views. Otherwise the scrape held lots of Lapwing, **Dunlin** and **Ruff**, plus ten **Cattle Egrets** which gathered briefly before heading to their roost at North Foreland. The most bizarre sighting though was of a **Sand Martin**, feeding over the pool as dusk fell – the first November one any of us had ever seen! Back to Hindolveston then, at the end of an enjoyable three days Norfolk birding.

Norfolk Birding Autumn Tour

November 2025

*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	10	11	12
1	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	x	x	x
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			
3	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	x	x	x
5	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>			
6	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	x	x	x
7	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	x	x	x
8	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	x	x	x
9	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	x	x	x
10	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	x		
11	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	x	x	x
12	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	x	x	x
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x	x	x
14	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	x		x
15	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	x	x	x
16	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			
17	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	x		
18	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>			x
19	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>			
20	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		x	x
21	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			
22	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	x	x	x
23	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	x		
24	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>			
25	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	x	x	x
26	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	x	x	x
27	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			
28	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	x	x	x
29	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>			
30	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	x	x	x
31	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	x		
32	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			
33	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			
34	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			
35	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x		x
36	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		x	x
37	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	x	x	x
38	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		x	x
39	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		x	
40	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	x	x	x

#	Common Name	Scientific name	10	11	12
41	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
42	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	x	x	x
43	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	x	x	x
44	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			
45	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	x	x	x
46	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	x	x	x
47	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	x		H
48	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	x		x
49	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	x		x
50	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			
51	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>			
52	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	x	x	x
53	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	x		
54	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	x	x	x
55	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	x	x	
56	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	x		
57	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	x		
58	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	x	x	x
59	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	x		x
60	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	x	x	
61	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	x		
62	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	x		
63	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	x		x
64	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	x	x	x
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	x		x
66	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			
67	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			
68	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>			
69	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	x		x
70	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			
71	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	x	x	x
72	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			
73	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	x		
74	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			
75	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	x	x	x
76	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			
77	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	x		x
78	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			
79	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	x	x	x
80	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	x	x	x
81	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	x		
82	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>			
83	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	x	x	x
84	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	x	x	x

#	Common Name	Scientific name	10	11	12
85	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	x		
86	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	x	x	x
87	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	x	x	x
88	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			
89	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			
90	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			
91	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			
92	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			
93	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	x		
94	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	H		
95	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			
96	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	x	x	x
97	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			
98	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			x
99	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	x	x	x
100	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	x	x	x
101	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	x	x	x
102	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	x	x	x
103	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	x	x	x
104	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		x	
105	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	x	x	x
106	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			
107	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	x	x	x
108	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	x	x	x
109	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			
110	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	x	x	x
111	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H	H
112	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	x	x	x
113	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	x	x	
114	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	x		
115	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			
116	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	x		
117	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	x	x	x
118	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	x	x	x
119	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			
120	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		x	x
121	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	x	x	x
122	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	x	x	x
123	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		x	x
124	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	x	x	x
125	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		x	
126	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			
127	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	x	x	x
128	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			

#	Common Name	Scientific name	10	11	12
129	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			
128	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	x	x	
131	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			
132	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			x
133	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			
134	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		x	x
135	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			
136	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	x	x	x
137	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	x	x	x
138	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>			x
139	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			
140	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	x	x	x
141	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			
142	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			H
143	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		x	x
144	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	x		x
145	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>			x
146	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	x	x	x
147	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	x		x
148	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			
149	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			
150	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	x		
151	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	x		
	ADDITIONAL SPECIES				
152	American Golden Plover		x		
153	Curlew Sandpiper		x		
154	Dusky Warbler		H		
155	Black Swan		x		
156	Arctic Tern			x	
157	Great Northern Diver			x	x
158	Hoopoe			x	
159	Pallid Swift				x
160	Swallow			x	
161	Sand Martin				x