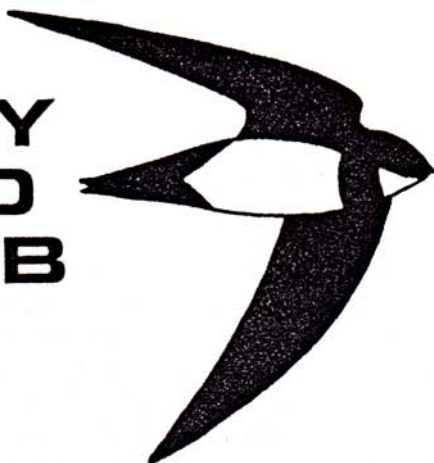


# CLEY BIRD CLUB



C/o Driftwood Cottage  
Longhouse Yard  
Cley-next-the-sea  
Holt, Norfolk  
NR25 7RU

0263-740-095

Hello,

Well, the Cley Bird Club is now well and truly off the ground with this, the second of our quarterly news-letters. There are now four meetings / slide-shows behind us, with an excellent turn-out for the second slide show. I hope you like the new logo and letter-head, many thanks must go to Steve Gantlett for the drawing and design. You may ask or wonder what the connection is between Cley and an Alpine Swift. It is that Cley has had more records than any other area in Britain, fourteen in all. Also, all the records have been in recent times, with the first as recent as 14th June 1962. If it isn't on your Cley list yet, then get out into the field and look for the next one! The pure simplicity of the design makes it a perfect choice, it will reproduce well on the planned car-sticker, scope-sticker, button badge and tee-shirt.

## SLIDE-SHOWS AND MEETINGS

It was hoped to hold a slide-show on the first Saturday in each and every month at the Wiveton village hall. However, due to the time of year and lack of volunteers we have had to cancel one or two at short notice. There will be a meeting of the Cley Bird Club at the *George and Dragon* Hotel in Cley village after (or in place of) the slide show, starting at 9.30 p.m. So even if the slide show has been cancelled, please attend the meeting to air your views. We will discuss the contents of the last and next news-letters and any new ideas.

If there is anyone who has an interesting set of bird slides, particularly from an overseas trip, that they would like to show to an appreciative and knowledgeable audience, please let Eddie Myers or Steve Gantlett know so that we can arrange a date, please. Also, volunteers are needed to organise the hall when ETM is away. In the absence of such, slide-shows will only be when ETM is in residence! Details of forthcoming slide-shows will be posted on the notice-board in Nancy's Café, and elsewhere.

## CAR STICKERS AND TEE-SHIRTS

We are planning to get a car sticker made up with the Cley Bird Club Alpine Swift logo on it, with the club's address included in the design. This way we can show that we are members of the club, and hopefully recruit new members at the same time. At the next meeting we will discuss the possibility of us producing a tee-shirt or sweat shirt with the same design on the chest. We will try to get a cost estimate and find out how many members might be interested in buying one or both.

## SALTHOUSE HEATH

During the Bank Holiday 24th-26th May a large number of birdwatchers went to see the Nightjars on Salthouse Heath, and the birds put on a good performance. Although the vast majority of birders stayed on the roads, quite a few went out onto the heath. Due to the sheer numbers of observers, disturbance to the birds is now reaching a critical level. These birds have enough problems to cope with in the form of picnicing dudes, dog-walkers, fires and vehicles\*, without us disturbing them in the evenings. You can obtain excellent views from the roads so please stay on them, and ask others to do the same. Also daylight disturbance of this species and other nocturnal birds is not on. If over-enthusiastic birders persist in 'going in' then we may well lose the Nightjar and Long-eared Owl as breeding birds in the 10km square. Salthouse Heath has become probably the best-known and most-watched Nightjar site in Britain: let's keep it that way and protect this important site from ourselves before it's too late. With the ever increasing numbers of birdwatchers the problem will only get worse, unless we do something now.

### KEEP TO THE ROADS PLEASE

#### 1986 ARRIVAL DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS INTO THE CLEY 10 KM SQUARE

GARGANEY	8th March
WHEATEAR	2nd April
KENTISH PLOVER	9th April
SANDWICH TERN	10th April
SWALLOW	16th April
YELLOW WAGTAIL	16th April
ARCTIC TERN	16th April
RING OUZEL	19th April
WILLOW WARBLER	21st April
SEDGE WARBLER	21st April
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	22nd April
COMMON TERN	24th April
TURTLE DOVE	24th April
HOUSE MARTIN	24th April
SAND MARTIN	24th April
WHITETHROAT	24th April
LESSER WHITETHROAT	25th April
NIGHTINGALE	25th April
WHINCHAT	26th April
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	26th April
LITTLE TERN	28th April
REED WARBLER	30th April
TREE PIPIT	30th April
TEMMINCK'S STINT	2nd May
BLACK TERN	2nd May
CUCKOO	3rd May
SWIFT	4th May
WRYNECK	5th May
WOOD WARBLER	5th May
OSPREY	6th May
GARDEN WARBLER	6th May

\* See Newsletter for June

PIED FLYCATCHER	6th May
WOOD SANDPIPER	14th May
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	15th May
REDSTART	17th May
NIGHTJAR	17th May
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	16th June

LIST OF CLEY BIRD CLUB MEMBERS

<del>R. ABEL</del>	B.D. GEE	B. MOORE
R.H. ABERDEIN	T. GITTINGS	E.T. MYERS
T. ABERDEIN	<del>P. GOODEN</del>	P. NOMS
J. APPLETON	G. GORDEN	S. NORMAN
M. AUSDEN	R. GRIMMETT	C. POOLE
T. BAGWORTH	D. HAMPS	P. PRATLEY
S. BEAL	MRS J. HAMPS	S.F. ROBERTS
J.T. BELSEY	J. HAMPSHIRE	R. ROBINSON
B. BLAND	K.K. HARRISON	R.J. ROWE
R.J. BOON	J. HARTLEY	D.H. SADLER
K. BOYLE	P. HIGSON	D. SALT
S.T. BUCKTON	<del>D.A. ILLINGWORTH</del>	S. SAXTON
D. BUFFEY	MRS C. INSKIPP	R.W. SAUNDERS
MISS M.D. BULLER	<del>J.J. JOHNSON</del>	A. SHERWIN
B. CARTHY	<del>DR F.D. KELSEY</del>	S. SPOONER
R. CHIDWICK	MRS B. KIGHTLEY	DR M.P. TAYLOR
S. CHIDWICK	C. KIGHTLEY	R. THOMAS
MISS W. COOPER	P. KINSELA	<del>G. TYE</del>
<del>J.T. CORCORAN</del>	A.J. LAST	MRS R. VOTIER
D. CURSON	M.P. LEE	S. VOTIER
<del>MISS R. DAMON</del>	A. LEWIS	K. WARMINGTON
<del>H. ELLIS</del>	J. LIGGINS	R. WEBB
<del>MRS M. ELLIS</del>	MRS M. LONGSTAFF	R.J. WHITE
M. FISZER	<del>T. LUBBOCK</del>	<del>C. WILBOURN</del>
<del>MISS E. FORSTER</del>	C. LUCAS	M. WILLIAMS
F.J. GATES	R.G. MILLINGTON	T. WRIGHT
S.J.M. GANTLETT	N. MOODY	S. YOUNG

## APRIL BIRD NEWS.

Not the best of months for weather but quite good for birds, no BBRC rarities but a number of local rare and uncommon species. One Manx Shearwater was seen off the Coast-guards during a strong North-easterly wind on the 9th, TL. A nice performing Bittern showed its self off to the crowds in a dyke in front of the Look-out above the main car-park on the 12th. And again on the 15th in the same place, the first time for 45 minutes. Grey Herons breeding in the area at only The Hangs, were there are 5 pairs, and another 2 or 3 pairs at Wiveton Hall woods.

Brent geese were still in good numbers in the first half of the month, with 320 on the Eye field on the 11th which included 3 light-bellied birds. Falling to only 30 in Blakeney Harbour on the 30th.

A single female Garganey was at Salthouse from the 12th to the 21st, it remained hidden in the reedy dykes for days on end and may still be down there. A female Scaup stayed on the Beach Road pool from the beginning of the month to at least the 14th. Only one Common Scoter was seen flying east off the Coast-guards on the 11th. BM had 2 Velvet Scoter on the sea off Salthouse, and later flying off eastwards on the 29th. The nice male Red-breasted Merganser was back on the reserve pools from the 10th to the 13th, it was seen on Snipes marsh on one occasion, a very nice bird.

Two female Marsh Harriers hung around the area from the 22nd, and could be seen quartering the reed-bed every day usually, since then. Only three sightings of Hen Harriers in the square for April which were, a female at Wiveton on the 10th. Another female over the reserve on the 16th, and a ring-tail in off the sea on the 30th. A female Goshawk flew west between Walsey hill and the Hangs on the 30th, RR. One sighting of Common Buzzard, an uncommon bird in East Anglia, one soaring over Blakeney harbour on the 22nd, TL.

Sorry we did have one BBRC rarity a Crane, TL had one fly over Walsey hill from the south-east and off west-wards over the reserve. It alighted in the Blakeney Eye field and stayed there up to dusk were it was seen by most of the locals, one was seen to fly out to sea off Holme the next day.

Little-ringed plovers were again in short supply with only the following sightings, one at Salthouse on the 22nd and probably the same bird on Simmond's scrape the same day. Two others were seen in flight over the NNT centre on the 28th, and they landed in a ploughed field just beyond but were not seen again. The bird of the month for most people was a male Kentish plover on the fields off the Iron road from the 9th to the 11th, it gave some superb views on the first day but became a bit elusive after that. Also seen on the North scrape on the 10th, and seen to fly off to -wards Blakeney harbour on the same date and was missing for a few hours. Golden plover numbers built up on the Eye field on the 4th, when there was a flock off 300 but this tailed off to 150 on the 11th. JTC heard some over Old Womans Lane at 02.30 hrs on the 11th, no wonder he spends most of the day in bed, its cos he's a nocturnal birder.

Numbers of Grey plover fell during the month, but there were still 30 or more in Blakeney harbour on the 30th. A single Purple sandpiper frequented the Eye field pool from the 11th to the 14th, a good bird for Cley due to the lack of habitat. Ruff were seen daily on or near the Reserve but down in numbers with peak counts being only, 5 on Pat's pool on the 2nd and 6 on the 22nd. Black-tailed godwits were also seen daily through-out the month, but peak count for this species was 61 on Pat's pool on the 16th. The first Whimbrel was seen on the 11th at Salthouse and then daily up to the end of the month in small numbers. Spotted Redshanks were seen most days and peak count was of 8 on Simmond's scrape on the 24th. Greenshank numbers were low with only singles recorded on the following dates, 13th, 16th, 20th, 26th and the 28th. The first Green sandpiper was seen on the 15th, none seemed to winter in our area. Common sandpipers first appeared on the 21st, with one seen down Marsh lane.

On the 11th a first summer Arctic Skua flew east along the beach off the Coast-guards, the only skua recorded. Four records of Little gull's for the month, adults in winter plumage or moulting into summer plumage were seen on the following dates all on the North scrape, 9th, 17th and the 22nd. An immature bird was on Pat's pool on the 24th, probably a first summer. Lesser black-backed gull's were seen daily, with a peak count of 10 on Pat's pool on the 22nd which included 2 Scandinavian birds, JTC.

The first Sandwich tern's were seen on the 10th, but soon built up in numbers to hundreds on the 24th roosting on Arnold's marsh. Common tern's were rather late this year with the first on the 24th. An Arctic tern was on the North scrape on the 16th, seen by JTC. Only two Little tern's were recorded in the month when BM had 2 at Salthouse and later on Arnold's marsh on the 28th.

An oiled Puffin was on the beach at the Coast-guards on 8th, but it was killed by a Herring gull. This species is the most irregular of the Auks on this part of the coast, but not the rarest, that species is the Black guillemot.

A near albino Wood - pigeon was seen at Salthouse on the 12th and the 15th, and in the Iron road area on the 19th. The first sightings of Turtle dove was of one flying west over Weybourne camp on the 24th, and JTC had one over Old Womans Lane on the same date. BM saw the first Cuckoo on Gramborough hill on the 26th, another late date.

A Long-eared Owl was flushed from its roosting bush on Salthouse heath by ETM and MDB while they were searching for singing Nightingale. Up to 3 Short-eared Owl's frequented the area to the end of the month and displayed over both Blakeney Eye and Salthouse marshes, but didn't stop to breed.

The Shorelark's were still present at the end of the month on Blakeney point, with a single bird seen on the shingle ridge at the back of the North hide on the 17th and again on the 19th.

The first Sand martin was seen by JTC over the reserve on the

24th, and the first Swallow was seen flying west over the marshes on the 16th by SJMG. The earliest House martin was one feeding over the marshes on the 24th, JTC.

The first Tree pipit just made it in April when one was seen on Salthouse heath on the 30th by JTC. The summer plumaged Water pipit was seen up to the 21st, and seemed to spend most of its time on the Glaven between Cley and Coast-guards with the Windmill area the favored spot.

Spring 1986 will be remembered for the large numbers of Yellow wagtail's, after the first on the 16th they were seen daily up to the end of the month. BB saw between 400 and 500 on the Eye field, and a few Blue-headed on the 24th. Blue-headed wagtail's were recorded on the following dates, 24th to the 30th with at least 2 on each day. White wagtail's were seen on the following dates, a male on the North scrape on the 20th, four on Pat's pool on the 24th and, 2 on the Eye field on the 25th.

Just out-side the recording square were 2 Black-bellied Dipper's on the Glaven at Little Thornage from the 11th to the 14th, a very rare bird away from the Norwich area, they were'nt the only dipper's in North Norfolk, they were gone when I got home.

The Nightingale's started to arrive back from the 25th, with the first being seen on Salthouse heath by JTC.

A female Black redstart was seen on Weybourne camp on the 5th. a male was seen on the camp on the following dates, 6th, 10th, 13th and the 30th. A single bird was around the Windmill from the 4th to the 10th, and 2 others on Blakeney point on the 25th. First Whinchat was seen at Salthouse on the 26th, when there were three birds present. Two Wheatear's on the Eye field on the 2nd were the earliest this spring, it would be nice to compare them to past years records.

Only one Ring Ouzel was seen on our recording area this April, a male seen by SJMG on Weybourne camp on the 19th. Quite a number of Fieldfare were seen during the month, with a flock of <sup>c</sup>40 on Blakeney point on the 27th, there were 4 Redwing's on the point at the same time.

Warblers were in short supply with very few in our area up to the end of the month, most getting in a few days late and some not making it in April. The only Grasshopper warbler seen in the square was one found by the UEABC in the base of a hedge at the top of Bard hill on Salthouse heath, on the 26th. The first Sedge warbler was one at Walsey hill on the 21st, BM. A Reed warbler was seen by JTC at Snipes marsh on the 30th. A very good year for Lesser-Whitethroat's with more earlier and numbers up on other years, the first one was at Walsey hill on the 25th. Whitethroat's on the other hand are down in numbers with very few in our area up to the end of the month, the earliest one was seen by JTC in a hedge along Old Womans Lane on the 24th. No Garden or Wood warblers in the square in April, I hope that dos'nt mean the Wood Warblers will be hard to find singing in North Norfolk as they have been over the last few years. The first Chiffchaff was seen at the

North Foreland plantation on the 3rd by JTC, though this may have been a wintering bird moving up from inland. The earliest Willow warbler was one on Walsey hill on the 21st by BM.

A superb Firecrest was at Walsey hill from the 3rd for a couple of days, no-matter how many you see in a year its still nice to see another Firecrest.

The last date for the Great-grey shrike on Salthouse heath was the 19th, if any-one has a later sighting please let me know for the annual report.

Quite a good number of Brambling passed through our area on route to the north in April, numbers as follows. 5 Quags track and c35 on Salthouse heath on the 6th, c50 down Marsh lane on the 10th. 4 in Taylor's wood on Salthouse heath on the 19th, and 3 near the Dun Cow pub in Salthouse on the 21st. The only Siskin seen were a flock of c30 in the woods at the Triangle in Kelling on the 30th. The last noted Twite were 4 on the Serpentine on the 4th, please send in any late dates for both winter and summer visitors as most people dont really notice late birds especially ones as boring as Twite.

The latest Snow bunting was one on the Eye field on the 18th. The Corn bunting an uncommon bird in the Cley square was seen four times in April, 1 off the West bank on the 2nd, 1 down Marsh lane on the 4th. One on the West bank on the 12th and another singing at Morston on the 26th.

#### MAY BIRD NEWS.

Well I'm glad thats over, May must have been the worst one for many years. As far as we know there were only four BB rarities seen in the county during the month, unless theres been some supression. These were two each of Little Egret and Common Crane, the Cranes were probably two from Horsey on a spring fly-about.

Still a few Red-throated divers on the sea off Cley during May with many claimed in Nancy's log, but only 3 records confirmed by members of the CBC. These were two on the 8th off Coastguards and one on the 17th.

KKH had 7 Manx shearwaters flying east off the Coastguards at 17.40 hrs on the 26th, another one west on the 30th but no initials on this one.

A good spring for Spoonbills though with the first one turning up on the 1st, when ETM found it on the North scrape at 07.00 hrs. The first bird dissapeared in the morning of the 4th, it returned at dusk closely followed by a second bird both of which were adults in breeding plumage. They were joined by a third adult early in the morning of the 6th, all three stayed up to the 10th when there was only one left. This bird stayed up to the 18th, there was one present at Titchwell to the end of the month probably the same bird.

Quite a number of Brent geese stayed on to the end of the month, with 25 fly-ing off eastwards on the 22nd, and a flock of a 100 were seen in Blakeney harbour on the 7th was the highest count.

Only one Garganey seen in May a male on Simmond's scrape on the 10th, again no initials so if any one else saw this bird let me know for the Bird report. As if to mirror the poor spring we still had 5 Eider on Blakeney point on the 28th, rather late. A flock of 20 Common scoter flew east off the Coastguards on the 8th.

Two female Marsh harriers hung around the area off and on up to the end of the month, and an immature male was seen over the reserve on the 16th. Only one Hen harrier was seen during the month a male, which flew in off the sea on the 5th late in the afternoon and headed inland over Walsey hill. A female Montagu's harrier flew west over the West bank on the 20th seen by a number of people including Martin Elliot, a male was reported flying west past the Hangs on the 31st ? Two Common buzzards were seen in May, SJMG had one heading off southwards over the reserve on the 4th at 08.00 hrs. Another was reported on the 15th but again no initials. A Rough-legged buzzard was seen on Blakeney point on the 4th but again no initials or details, this could have been the Common buzzard seen at Cley unless you know better. A very good spring for Osprey in Norfolk this year with the tame one at Gressenhall for a week or so, and 7 or 8 in the county as far as I know. Three birds were seen at Cley, one on the 6th over the reserve at 07.20 hrs which flew off westwards. One claimed on the 29th but no details. Another flew west along the line of the beach on the 30th at 19.40 hrs, this was seen by ETM, KKH and MF. The first bird was also seen by ETM. A late female Merlin was seen by Martin Elliot, definitely not a Cuckoo he says we only asked not implied. A Hobby flew over Nancy's on the afternoon of the 24th, causing a riot as birders rushed out to see it. JTC saw one over Glandford on the 28th, so one may be hanging about the area or even breeding so keep your eyes open.

A Quail was heard calling on the edge of Salthouse heath in the evening of the 28th but was not heard on subsequent evenings, though a claim of some at Holme may lead to us all ticking them off again this year.

Two Common cranes were seen over Cley village while ETM and RHA were getting in the washing off the line as it had just started to rain, as ETM was phoning round the news RHA rushed round to tell him of the birds. So when its raining in Cley in May keep an eye on the sky, or better still get the washing in off the line. JTC saw the same birds thanks to the prompt phone call, they flew off south-eastwards over Salthouse heath.

Avocets are again up in number again this year with c40 pairs on the reserve, the first young hatched out on the 18th on Pat's pool. A Stone curlew was seen to fly west over the West bank on the 4th by Peter Wolstenholme. Little-ringed plovers were present on the reserve throughout the month, with 3 birds on the 25th a pair may be breeding in the area but not on the reserve. A poor month for waders with every species in smaller numbers than usual, Little stints seen on most dates but only singles except on the following dates, 4 on the 13th, 2 on the 14th and 2 on the 20th. A poor showing for this species but Temminck's stints had a good May, with birds seen on most dates up to the 28th. The first was found on Simmond's scrape at dusk on the 2nd by ETM, the second was discovered the following day by Little Richard. --



A really superb female, as to size, Pectoral sandpiper was found by John Miller on the new scrape at Salthouse. A nice tame bird with everyone on the track nearby it had to be, didn't stay too long it flew off in mid-afternoon. Curlew sandpipers were also down in number with singles seen most days up to the 19th, and 2 on the 9th and 4 on the 11th. Up to 3 Woodcock were "roding" up on Salthouse heath most evenings, none reported from elsewhere. Bar-tailed godwits were present through-out the month, with peak numbers on the 2nd when c40 were present. Black-tailed godwits were also present all month with 11 on the 27th, none bred as far as we know even though a few pairs displayed well earlier on in the month. Whimbrel numbers were down on past years, with no large counts noted. Spotted redshanks were quite numerous earlier in the month up to the 9th, peak count was of 25 on the 5th. After the 9th they were few and far between, did any one see any after this date? Peak count of Greenshank were 9 on the 24th, and 3 on the 30th. Very few Green sandpipers were seen, a poor May for this species. Wood sandpipers were seen from the 14th, with 5 on the 20th the peak count.

An Arctic skua was seen off the Coastguards on the 30th, chasing Terns and Kittiwakes it flew off westwards.

Little gulls put on a good show in May with some really superb adults on Pat's pool earlier on in the month, on the 3rd there were 3 adults and 2 first summer birds and 4 first summer birds on the 18th to the 20th. I watched a Kittiwake being mollected by c30 Avocet for over an hour, I wonder why they hate Kittiwakes so much?

JTC saw a single Arctic tern on Blakeney point on the 7th. Black terns were seen on the following dates, mostly on Pat's pool, 2 on the 3rd, 4 on the 2nd, 1 on the 4th, 8 east on the 5th, 1 each on the 17th, 20 and 22nd and 5 east on the 6th. All were in superb summer plumage, and most stayed over Pat's pool hawking for insects, good views from the hides.

Turtle doves seemed not to be bothered by the weather too much and passed through Cley in good numbers most days, with largest flocks of 52 flying west on the 12th and 41 also flying west on the 26th.

Long-eared owls bred at least two young to the flying stage in the 10km square and could be heard squeaking from dusk, the young that is from the breeding area. Short-eared owls were seen up to the 17th, displaying over both Salthouse and Blakeney marshes but didn't stop to breed.

Nightjars returned to Salthouse heath on the 17th, and put on a good show most evenings. Two males "churring" each evening with four birds reported.

Only two Wrynecks were seen in the square both in Kelling, one in a garden on the main street but not seen by any of the membership.

Shore larks were still on Blakeney point early in the month, with four on the 5th and five on the 7th.

A pair of Black redstarts bred in the Cley square for the first time this year, still waiting on info of breeding success.

Warbler numbers did'nt seem to be effected by the poor spring weather but we did'nt see many rare ones. Grasshopper warblers were heard from numerous places in the Cley square and must be the best year for this species for a few years, they're usually hard to get to grips with in this area. The bird of the month was a female Dartford warbler found by RGM, RHA and RJR, after it flew out of the Plantation on Blakeney point on the 17th, it stayed on the point up to the 19th and was seen well by most of the local birders. This was the first record for the 10km square and only the third record this century for Norfolk, the last record was one at Sheringham on the 9th of January 1928. Wood warblers passed through in small numbers as usual, with singles on the following dates. At Walsey hill on the 5th, Marsh lane on the 6th, and others in the area on the 16th, 22nd and the 24th. No singing birds in the area this year, or none reported.

A Firecrest was seen in the Plantation on the 18th, its amazing what is turned up when theres a rare bird in an area for a few days.

The first Spotted flycatcher was'nt seen untill the 15th of the month, and the first Pied flycatcher turned up on the 6th. The Red-breasted flycatcher which drew the birders up to the Point to find the Dartford warbler, may have been a male as it was claimed to have been heard singing by Enid on one occasion. It was there on the 17th and 18th only.

A Golden oriole was claimed from the Iron road area on the 15th, flushed from a dyke and it flew off in the direction of Cley?

Rook a \ species I have never seen on Cley marshes before was noted on two dates when one flew in off the sea on the 6th, and 10 were feeding on the Eye field on the 30th. Magpies used to be uncommon in the area once, maybe Rooks are making a comeback.

A claim of three male and a female Common crossbill on Salthouse heath was in the log at Nancy's, no initials, did any one else see these birds. JTC had a Hawfinch fly over a Glandford garden, calling on the 29th.

#### JUNES BIRD NEWS.

Another quite month overall, but with a few goodies to brighten up the dull periods of which there were many.

No divers but 2 Great-crested grebes off the Coast-guards on the 23rd were in good summer plumage.

A Bittern was booming off and on through-out the month, and single birds were seen in flight most days. The Great-white egret that was at the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the 23rd, flew off south-east wards at dusk probably to roost. It was claimed flying west over Cley marshes the next morning at 06.30, by Mark "Deputy Dog" Wickins.

The only geese sightings of any note were of a Barnacle and two Brent geese flying in off the sea at the Coast-guards on the 8th, they then flew off

north-east wards out to sea again.

RA found a male Green-winged teal on Pats pool, which stayed from the 27th to the 28th only. A female Garganey was also on Pats pool on the 28th. A female Eider was seen off Blakeney point on the 16th, and a Red-breasted merganser was on the North scrape on the 4th.

A single female Marsh harrier flew west over the reserve on the 9th. JTC had a male Montagu's harrier flying west over the reserve on the 12th, a good year for this species in Norfolk. After a few sightings of a Hobby earlier in the month, one was seen over the reserve in the evenings from the 23rd to the 28th. Much to the delight of the local birders an uncommon bird at Cley, and a Norfolk tick for a few.

Avocet's continued to increase in the area with more than 50 pairs in the Cley square, and more at Titchwell and Holme. The second record for nesting Little-ringed plovers in the Cley square and the first for Cley reserve, came to a premature end on the 28th when the eggs from the nest on Pats pool were taken by a predator. The nest was on the island in front of the Irene hide, and gave superb views for any one who found the nest site. From the 16th to the 20th a group of 6 or so Ringed plovers of the Arctic race, Tundrae, were on the North scrape. These birds were picked out by SJMG, as being smaller and darker overall. This is the sort of record that goes unrecorded due to the fact that most people don't bother to identify such common birds as to races, or even sex in some cases. A few Little stints were noted during the month with two birds present on the 4th and the 10th, and single birds on the following dates 3rd, 9th, 11th and the 13th. Three Curlew sandpipers were seen all singles on the following dates, 4th, 15th and the 18th. One of the birds of the month was found by RJR on the 29th on the new scrape at Salthouse, this was the Broad-billed sandpiper which stayed into July. This bird showed characteristics of the eastern race "Siberica", in showing only one supercillium and brighter rufous fringes to the upperparts. It spent most of its time on the North scrape showing well on occasions, was seen to fly off towards Blakeney harbour on two dates. It was last seen in the evening of the 2nd of July, flying off in that direction. The numbers of Ruff started to build up from the 20th, reaching the mid-thirties in number by the start of July. Most were to be seen from Daukes hide, but most of the males had lost their breeding plumage but could still be seen displaying. Whimbrel started to move through the Cley Square in small numbers, from the 26th onwards. Spotted redshanks started to build up in numbers from the 11th when there were two, to a maximum of 15 on the 29th. Greenshank numbers were low with only one on the 22nd, and three on the 27th. Green sandpipers started to reappear on the 28th when there were two, and one on the 29th and 30th. The bird of the month was the Spotted sandpiper found by JTC on the 11th, another full summer plumaged bird the third record for Cley. The bird stayed to the 13th, and frequented the Pats pool / Simmonds scrape area where it gave most people a decent view. A female Red-necked phalarope put in a brief appearance on the North scrape on the 16th, from 16.45 to 18.10 but was still twitchable from a fair distance because the finder got the news out quickly, many thanks

SJMG. A very nice bird for those who managed to see it before the Avocet chased it off, last seen flying west over the Eye field at a rate of knots.

Only one Skua was reported in the month this was an Arctic skua, a dark phase adult off the Kelling Quag field flying west on the 28th. RA and JTC had an adult summer plumaged Mediterranean gull on Pats pool on the 27th. Three immature Little gulls were present throughout the month on Pats pool, with four seen on the 18th. Arctic tern an uncommon bird off the Cley square was seen on the following dates, 6 on Blakeney point on the 15th with 2 off the Coastguards on the same date. One on the North scrape and another off the Coastguards on the 19th, and another off the Coastguards on the 23rd. John Kemp had a "Portlandica" Arctic tern on the North scrape on the 30th, possibly the suppressed Aleutian tern at Hickling for a few days which had left that morning. Two Black terns were seen during the month both full summer plumaged adults, one over the North scrape on the 22nd and the other over Pats pool on the 29th.

On the 8th a male Nightjar was hit by a car on the roads through Salthouse heath, the bird survived but lost its outer tail feathers. A young Long-eared owl was not so lucky it was killed on the road near the nest site, this was probably due to birders going in and flushing the bird out of the safe nesting scrub to the unsafe roadside hedges. Please leave these two species alone they have a hard enough time as it is, with-out us adding to their problems.

Passerines were few and far between, though a 100+ Sand martins over the reserve at dusk on the 3rd was noteworthy they must be building up in numbers again unless this was the whole of the Norfolk population. A male Common crossbill was seen on a number of occasions on the 22nd, flying around Walsey hills and back into the North foreland plantation. And a female Snow bunting was seen on Blakeney point on the 8th, a rather late record.

STOP PRESS.  
-----

New members, M.Elliot. R.Martins. T.Fletcher.