

CLEY BIRD CLUB



C/O "COBBLES"
HOLT ROAD
CLEY-NEXT-SEA
Nr HOLT
NORFOLK NR25 7TU

NEWS-LETTER NUMBER 7.

OCTOBER 1987.

Dear Members,

A lot has happened to the Cley Bird Club and to myself since the last news-letter, and I've had a lot on my mind and on my hands, so I've had no time to put into the Cley Bird Club. I'm afraid the Cley Bird Club's Ansafove Service has now finished, due to personal problems I had to move out of Driftwood Cottage and the phone was cut off, so the Ansafove is now no more. I hope to pay back at least half of the money to the members who subscribed to the setting up of the service, and pay back all the yearly members in full. All cheques and postal orders received since the last news-letter, will be returned to the senders along with this news-letter. All plans for the Cley 10km square Bird Report have been shelved for the foreseeable future, and all cheques and postal orders will also be returned. I hope that you will continue to support the Cley Bird Club as members, through this difficult patch, and hopefully the club will return to normal as soon as possible!

As you can see from the address on the the letter-head, it has now changed. This is now just a postal address, there will be a group of four or five local birders taking care of news-letters number 8 and 9, until I can sort out a local address for myself.

I'm sorry this news-letter is late out this quarter, but it was a bit touch and go that it's out at all, I've slaved over a hot word processor for hours to sort it out.

Good Birding,
E T Myers.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A FIRST FOR CLEY.

With the weather forecast on the morning of Wednesday the 16th of September 1987 indicating a showery day ahead, I decided to take my party of visiting birders to Cley. Here the well-situated hides would inevitably provide some good birding and afford at least some shelter from the predicted rain. At about 11am we made Irene Hide our first port of call.

Squeezing into the last available spaces, we began to check through the expected autumn waders and a motley collection of several hundred 'eclipse'

wildfowl. Most of the latter were 'asleep', but after some minutes of casual scanning my attention was drawn by a momentary flash of blue in the wing of a roosting duck about 125 metres away. One in the line of a dowdy dozen had quickly shuffled its feathers before tucking its head smartly down again. Clearly too small for a Shoveller, the blue was surely too intense for any Garganey? Moreover, having had brief in-flight views of a Blue-winged Teal at Minsmere just two days earlier, this species was still fresh in my mind and I alerted the other birders in the hide to the possibility.

Typically, for the next half-an-hour the bird steadfastly refused to move! Interest began to wane, and some birders began to leave the hide. However, we continued to watch and, eventually, the duck began to preen. The 'wrong' wing was repeatedly flexed, but without so much as a tantalisingly brief glimpse of colour. Still, the apparently dull yellowish or orange legs and feet, dark brown crown and upperparts, and pale spot at the base of the long grey bill looked good. I checked the bill shape to eliminate the vague possibility of an escape Cinnamon Teal. Finally, came the conformatory flash of bright sky-blue, whereupon I hastened to Nancy's Cafe in Cley village to spread the word and to telephone 'Birdline'.

On returning to the hide, I was pleased to find that the duck was now actively feeding. Occasionally, it would pause, looking alert. Then the 'up-periscope' head and neck were especially striking. We continued to take notes, then left for lunch.

Later that afternoon, we saw the bird again. This time—appropriately enough—from the Teal Hide, at various ranges down to just 50 feet. Initially at rest, the leg colour and the generally dark plumage tone once more gave the bird away. Shortly afterwards the bird began to bathe, diving beneath the water with wings half-open, the surfacing and preening vigourously to give superb views of the bright blue forewing, bold white central stripe (indicating the bird to be a drake), and green speculum lacking a white trailing edge. An eclipse Garganey nearby provided a timely comparison, enabling us to note in particular the differing wing and head patterns.

This sighting came hard on the heels of the Minsmere bird and a probable at Little Paxton (Cambs) on the 13th. Two more were found in Corneall on the 21st, with another there on the 24th, and yet another at Minsmere on the 25th. Perhaps surprisingly, the Cley bird was a 'first' for this remarkable 10km square, which now boasts an incredible 325 plus species list!

The bird was still present on the reserve to the middle of October, when it was seen on the Bittern Pool. Due to management work on the reserve, the duck feed out of the reserve and its harder to find and check out the Teal, so it may still be present at the time of writing! A welcome addition to the Cley 10km square check-list, may there be more in the near future.

Chris Kightley.

THE AUGUST BIG FALL.

On Tuesday the 25th of August there was a large fall of migrants on Blakeney Point, but due to the northeasterly gale and driving rain very little was positively identified. A Greenish Warbler and Icterine Warbler were found by Rob Aberdein before the 'Watch House', also seen were four Wryneck, Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers, Reed Warblers, Garden Warblers, 2 Whinchat and numerous Willow Warblers. The heavy rain made it near impossible to use your binoculars, and a lot of birds went un-identified. A large snipe was glimpsed by Tommy Corcoran

near the Watch house, but due to the weather he lost sight of it, or where it had flown off to.

The following day, the 26th, the fall was much larger than first thought with birds all along the North Norfolk coast. At Wells woods there was another Greenish Warbler found in the bushes opposite the car-park. Also in the woods there were the following list of birds, c10 Wryneck, c15 Pied Flycatchers, c35 Garden Warblers and hundreds of Willow Warblers. The Great Snipe was re-found out on Blakeney Point, along with c15 Wryneck and a second Greenish Warbler on the 'Yankee Ridge'.

Also found in Norfolk during the 25th to the 27th of August were the following birds, another Greenish Warbler under the rubbish bin at the cafe at the Cley Coastguards on the 25th, this bird was found by Dave Abdulla. On the 26th an Icterine Warbler was found in the Orchard near the Salt Pan in Cley village. Two Wrynecks at Gramborough Hill at Salthouse. Wryneck at Walsey Hill. Two Greenish Warblers, 2 Barred warblers, 2 Icterine Warblers, 4 Wryneck and a Red-backed Shrike were found at Waxham. Red-backed Shrike and 2 Wryneck on Sheringham Golf Course. On the 27th numbers slackened off with the following birds reported, Greenish Warbler still on Blakeney Point. Red-backed Shrike and 6 Wryneck at Holme, and a Barred Warbler at Wells.

Another Greenish Warbler was found at Stiffkey on the 28th, and on the 29th off the Blakeney Bank there was, a Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Icterine Warbler and 3 Wryneck. There were also numerous other records of Wrynecks from around the Norfolk coast, far too many to mention in detail, but at least 60 birds were involved.

GREAT SNIPE ON BLAKENEY POINT.

On Tuesday the 25th of August, the afternoon was a very wet one with strong north-easterly winds, a large snipe was glimpsed by Tommy Corcoran in flight near the 'Watch House' on Blakeney Point. The next day a juvenile Great Snipe was found at 'The Hood' on Blakeney Point, by Bryan Bland and John Kemp.

The news got back to Cley rather quickly, and numerous birders saw the bird before dusk that evening. The bird spent most of that day in the sand dunes, then later at 'The Hood', where it was seen up to dusk.

The following day, 27th of August, the bird was still present and it had moved nearer to Cley and it was re-found near the 'Watch House'. Where, as on the previous day excellent views were obtained from very close range. The bird was very tame and it continued to feed, even when watched by dozens of birders only yards away.

The weather overnight improved, and the following day the bird had disappeared, much to the disappointment of the week-end birders. This was the first record of this species in Norfolk since 1976, when there were four records, which included two Cley square records. One on Blakeney Point on the 28th of August and another was shot at Salthouse on the 18th of September.

NORFOLK BIRD NEWS.

JULY BIRD NEWS.

The month started off well with a moulting adult Whiskered Tern at Pentney Gravel pits, on the 1st of July and the previous evening. The Purple Heron remained at Welney Wildfowl Trust Reserve from June, and it was still present well into August. One of the Black-winged Stilt chicks disappeared from Holme, but the other two chicks fledged successfully and all four birds were present into August. The Serin was still present in Wells, and was singing throughout the month from the area of the Field Study Centre.

A Red-necked Phalarope was seen briefly at Holme on the 2nd, but it was not seen subsequently. Two Caspian Terns were at Breydon Water near GT Yarmouth, off and on from the 4th to the 7th. A Hooded Crow was seen at Breydon Water on the 14th, an unusual sighting? Another Red-necked Phalarope was at Breydon Water from the 17th to the 20th.

A pair of adult Mediterranean Gulls were seen regularly at Snettisham RSPB reserve, during mid-month. A large influx of Wood Sandpipers was noted towards the end of the month, and a flock of 15 on a roadside pool near Stiffkey was the largest single flock. A female Red-backed Shrike was at Snettisham Country Park, near the car park on the 19th.

A Crane was seen on the 26th, flying over Overstrand. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen briefly at the Snettisham RSPB reserve, in the evening of the 27th. A Temminck's Stint was on the Cadbury scrape at Hickling, on the 31st.

AUGUST BIRD NEWS.

The Wells Serin was still present to at least the 1st, and the Welney Purple Heron was present throughout the month. The adult Red-necked Phalarope was seen again at the Snettisham RSPB, in the evenings of the 1st to the 4th. A Yellow-legged Herring Gull was seen on the 1st, at Brancaster near the Golf Club House.

A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Hickling on the 2nd, it was on the Rush Hills scrape and could be viewed from the Weavers Way footpath. The Marsh Sandpiper was refound at Titchwell RSPB reserve on the 3rd, where the Black-winged Stilt family could be seen to mid-month. A Temminck's Stint was found at Hickling on the 3rd.

Two Golden Orioles were seen at Welney, on the 4th. A Night Heron was seen at Welney, on the 7th. A Spoonbill was at Ouse Mouth, also on the 7th. A Sabine's Gull was seen off Caister on the 14th. A Wilson's Phalarope was at Breydon Water, on the 16th.

The two adult Black-winged Stilts disappeared from Holme on the 18th, leaving the juveniles behind to at least the end of the month. A Caspian Tern was seen for 15 minutes on Arnold's Marsh, in the evening of the 20th. An eclipse Falcated Duck arrived back at Welney with the returning Wigeon, and the Purple Heron was relocated on the 20th, both remained to the months end.

A juvenile Red-backed Shrike was seen at Holme on the 22nd, in the Paddocks off the approach road to the reserve. Another Red-backed Shrike was found at Snettisham, on the 23rd. A juvenile Long-tailed Skua was seen off Lynn Point on the 24th, and 9 Sooty Shearwaters were noted off Paston on the same date.

A fall of Greenish Warblers occurred in Norfolk on the 25th, there were 3 in the Cley square, others were seen at Wells, 2 more at Waxham on the 26th, 1 at Stiffkey on the 28th and another at Mundesley on the same date. Also at Waxham on the 26th there was 2 Barred Warblers and 6 Wrynecks. Two other Wrynecks were seen at Holme, on the same date.

A Red-necked Phalarope was at Titchwell, on the 27th. Two Red-backed Shrikes were found at Bacton Gas Terminal, on the same date. A Red-breasted Flycatcher was seen at Wells on the 28th. A Barred Warbler and a Red-backed Shrike were at Snettisham. An Icterine Warbler, 2 Wrynecks and 2 Red-backed Shrikes were at Holme, on the same date. The 2 juvenile Black-winged Stilts were still present at Holme and Titchwell to the end of the month.

A Night Heron was seen at Breydon Water, and a Wilson's Phalarope was reported from Snettisham RSPB reserve on the 29th. At Holkham on the same date there were, a Barred Warbler, 4 Wryneck and 2 Red-backed Shrikes. A Barred Warbler at Hunstanton and 3 Wryneck at Holme.

A Dotterel was at Waxham, on the 30th. Two Reports of Black Kites were at North Creake on the 30th and another at Burnham Overy on the 31st.

SEPTEMBER BIRD NEWS.

September as has been the norm over the past ten years or so, was a rather quiet month overall but with a few good birds to liven up a dull period.

The Falcatated teal was present at the Wildfowl Trust reserve at Welney throughout the month, its a male but in eclipse plumage, so some times not easy to pick out amongst the masses of Wigeon. A Gull-billed Tern was claimed off Cley on the 1st, then 40 minutes later off Holme, so it must have been a real one! The two juvenile Black-winged Stilts departed Holme, and they were relocated in the Midlands. A first winter Wilson's Phalarope performed at the high tide roost to the 3rd, at the RSPB reserve at Snettisham, the third Norfolk record this year. A Dotterel was at Waxham, on the ploughed fields near the Church.

A Wryneck appeared at Snettisham on the 4th, feeding in the scrub just north of the Beach car park. A Spotted Crake was found at Holme, on Christie's Scrape, it remained to the 9th.

A Red-backed Shrike joined the Wryneck at Snettisham Country Park on the 8th, again in the scrub just north of the car park.

A Richard's Pipit was noted on the 20th, flying over Holkham Meals. A Mediterranean Gull was at Overstrand on the same date.

Two Yellow-browed Warblers were found in Holkham Meals on the 26th, the first of the autumn.

A Rough-legged Buzzard was seen flying east over Wells woods on the 27th, it was later reported from the Stiffkey area, but not reliably?

A White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from Weybourne Camp, but as it was a Monday there were no other birders about to verify this record.

More Yellow-browed Warblers arrived at Wells Woods on the 30th, with claims of up to three in the Dell area, and another two at the Holkham end.

CLEY SQUARE MONTHLY BIRD NEWS.

JULY BIRD NEWS.

This was a rather quiet month, the only BB rarities were, a Red-footed Falcon found at the Iron Road near Salthouse on the 3rd and a Marsh Sandpiper on Pat's Pool on the 22nd. The wader numbers were the main feature of the month, with Wood Sandpipers being more numerous than over the past 5 or 6 years.

The only diver reported during the month, was a single Red-throated Diver on the sea off the Coastguards on the 13th.

There was a Red-necked Grebe on the sea off the Coastguards on the 19th, another unseasonal species.

A single Manx Shearwater was seen off Blakeney Point in the morning of the 19th, July has seen the largest counts for this species in other years, but not this one.

The only duck of note seen in the square during the month, were three to five (juvenile) Garganey on Pat's Pool from the 28th. A group of four drake Scaup were on the Beach Road Pool (Borrpow Pit) on the 29th and 30th, all were moulting into eclipse, and were rather early for this species?

A Hobby was seen on two occasions during the month, over Cley reserve on the 2nd, and over Blakeney village in the evening of the 8th. A female Red-footed Falcon was found on the fields off the Iron Road at Salthouse on the 3rd, by Robin Abel and Tommy Corcoran. The bird flew up from the fields and across the road and perched up on some fence posts, it hunted there for a few minutes before the finders went to Salthouse to phone in the news. On returning the bird was no where to be found, and after numerous hours of fruitless searching, we gave up and adjourned to the pub to drown our sorrows.

The waders were the main feature of the month, with a Marsh Sandpiper as the star bird. Little Ringed Plovers again bred in the 10km square, and brought their young, when able to fly, onto the reserve. There were 5 on the 16th, all adults, and 10 on Pat's Pool on the 19th. Little Stints were present in small numbers from the 21st, when there were 2 on Pat's pool. 5 were present on the reserve on the 23rd. Then only ones and twos to the end of the month. Temminck's Stints were recorded from the 14th, when there was one on Pat's Pool. This bird was present to the 16th. Another was on Pat's pool on the 23rd, this was joined by a second bird on the 25th, these were the only records. Curlew Sandpipers were in fairly good numbers from the 19th, when there were 5 on Pat's Pool. There were c17 on the reserve on the 21st and the 24th. C14 on the 25th, c10 on the 26th, and 5 on Pat's pool on the 29th. A small number of Ruff were present throughout the month, with peak numbers of c35 on the 9th and c50 on the 26th. The peak count of Black-tailed Godwit, was of 32 on the North Scrape on the 11th, but smaller numbers were seen most days. A few Whimbrel started to pass through Cley towards the end of the month, but in small numbers. Spotted Redshank numbers were as follows, 18 on the 1st, 12 on the 2nd and 3rd, c20 on the 8th, c25 on the 9th and the 11th, 10 on the 17th to the 19th, only 5 or 6 on the 21st, 29 on

the 25th, c25 on the 26th, c20 on the 28th, c15 on the 29th and 30th, and finally c30 on the 31st. The Marsh Sandpiper was found in front of Irene Hide at mid-day on the 22nd, after the finder had let the news out the bird disappeared, but returned to Pat's Pool where it was seen very well and rather close to the hide on occasions. The bird was present to the 2nd of August, it was then seen at Titchwell on the 3rd. During its stay at Cley it visited all the pools on the reserve, and spent most of its time on the Big Pool where it showed well to numerous birders. A few Greenshank passed through the reserve during the month, with peak count of 5 on Pat's Pool on the 21st, but ones and twos could be seen daily from mid-month. Green Sandpipers were seen on the reserve from mid-month, with 10 on Pat's Pool on the 17th, then almost daily to the end of the month in ever decreasing numbers. The Wood Sandpiper influx started on the 4th, when a single bird was found on Carters Scrape, numbers soon grew and the records were as follows: 1 on Whitwell Scrape on the 16th, 1 on Pat's Pool on the 17th, 4 there on the 19th, 6 or 7 on the 21st, 8 on the 24th and 25th, 5 or 6 on the 26th, 6 or 7 on the 28th, only 1 on the 29th, 4 on the 30th and 2 on the 31st.

A small number of Arctic Skuas started to pass through the Cley square towards the end of the month, with 5 seen in the evening of the 25th, along with a single Bonxie.

A small group of Little Gulls stayed with us throughout the month, they frequented the North Scrape but they were also seen on other pools around the reserve. Records were as follows, 8 immes on North Scrape on the 1st to the 3rd, 3 immes on the 8th, 4 the 9th, 3 on the 11th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 2 on the 21st, 4 on the 25th, 2 on the 26th, 3 on 6th 28th and 2 on the 31st.

A summer plumage Black Guillemot was seen off the Coastguards during an evenings sea-watch on the 20th, this bird was seen by Rob Aberdein.

A Red-backed Shrike appeared briefly at the back of Snipe's Marsh on the 18th, and it was seen to fly off up the hedge towards Salthouse Heath after only a few minutes. It was not seen again.

AUGUST BIRD NEWS.

This is the month when things start to happen, as long as we get the right weather conditions. This August saw one of the best falls of migrants on Blakeney Point for many years, with 3 Greenish Warblers and a Great Snipe leading an allstar cast.

On the 25th during a strong north-westerly a small number of Manx Shearwaters were seen off the Coastguards, these were the first of the month, and the only decent sea-watching weather to occur all month. Also on the 25th the first Sooty Shearwaters were seen off the Coastguards, with c15 reported during the day.

An adult Bittern took to feeding in front of both Dauke's and Teal hides from early in the month, and it could be seen there most days to the end of the month, at very close quarters. A juvenile Spoonbill arrived on the 21st, it was sporting a grand selection of colour rings on each leg, above the joint. This bird was present to the end of the month, frequenting Pat's Pool, Whitwell and

North Scrapes. We hope to publish details of the origins of this bird, it came from Holland, as they all do of course.

A number of Garganey were present on the reserve throughout the month with numbers as follows, 1 on the 1st. 3 on the 7th. 4 on the 8th to the 11th. 3 on the 12th to the 18th. 2 on the 19th. 3 on the 20th to the end of the month. A drake Velvet Scoter flew west past the Coastguards on the 27th, during a morning sea-watch, the only one reported.

A female and two juvenile Marsh Harriers passed through Cley on the 16th, the female flew west at 9.05am, one juvenile with a pale head flew west over the reserve and off over Blakeney Fresh marsh at mid-day. A very dark juvenile flew east over the reserve at 6.10pm, post breeding dispersal?

Little Ringed Plover were present throughout the month, mostly juveniles were seen, and the peak count was of 4 juveniles on Pat's Pool on the 8th. A Dotterel was found at the Watch House on Blakeney Point, on the 30th and the 31st, a juvenile. Little Stint were also present in small number throughout the month, peak counts were as follows; 3 on the 14th and 3 on the 29th. The first Temminck's Stints appeared on the Whitwell Scrape on the 28th, when there were two birds. On the 29th there were three birds present on the same scrape, these stayed through into September. Curlew Sandpiper were present throughout the month, starting with 3 adults on the 1st. Other records were as follows; 7 on the 4th, 16 on the 8th, c23 on Pat's Pool on the 9th and the 12th. A Great Snipe was glimpsed during the heavy wind driven rain on the 25th, at the Watch House on Blakeney Point. It was seen much better on the 26th and 27th, and it was identified as a juvenile, see story for fuller details. Spotted Redshank were in good numbers all month, peak count was of c20 on the 1st. The first juvenile arrived on the 9th, when there was one on Pat's pool. The Marsh Sandpiper stayed into the month, and flew off west in the evening of the 2nd, it was relocated at Titchwell on the 3rd. The Wood Sandpiper numbers continued into August, and were seen daily to the end of the month. Numbers were as follows; 3 or 4 on the 4th, 1 on the 5th, 3 on the 14th, 4 on the 21st, 5 on the 22nd and 1 on the 29th to the 31st.

A small number of Pomarine Skuas were noted from the 24th off the Coastguards, when Eddie Myers and Richard Millington saw a group of 6 adults of which 3 birds were sporting 'spoons'. Another dozen were seen later during the same day. Two more were seen in the morning of the 25th. A smaller number of Arctic Skua were noted during the meagre sea-watching, due to the unseasonal good weather. Two juvenile Long-tailed Skuas were seen off the Coastguards during a morning sea-watch on the 25th. Both were close inshore, and easily identified by the smaller size and paler plumage. Bonxies were seen during sea-watches from the 25th, but in small numbers.

An adult Mediterranean Gull started to frequent the Cley area from the 8th, when it was seen in flight over Irene Hide on the reserve. It was seen on the following dates; 15th in the evening on Pat's Pool, 18th on Pat's Pool at 10.30 am before flying off inland over the Hangs. 21st on Pat's Pool again. Two or three first summer Little Gulls were present throughout the month, frequenting the North Scrape. The regular wintering Glaucous Gull, our own 'Boy George' was back on the 31st, and it was seen cruising east along the beach in the early afternoon. Welcome back.

A Caspian Tern was reported from Arnold's Marsh in the evening of the 20th, it flew off westwards towards the point after staying for 15 minutes around 6.45 pm. A small number of Arctic Terns bred successfully on Blakeney Point during the summer, but adults seem rather scarce off the Coastguards until well into the autumn. Two adults off the Coastguards on the 4th. A Black Tern was seen over Pat's Pool on the 29th.

A lot of Wryneck were noted during the big fall of the 25th to the 30th, with over 15 on Blakeney Point on the 25/26th. Others were found in Cley village, Walsey Hill, Weybourne Camp, Blakeney Bank and Gramborough Hill at Salthouse. A very good showing, with over 50 birds seen in Norfolk during the period.

A number of Icterine Warblers arrived over the few days following the 25th, records were as follows; One at the Watch House on Blakeney Point on the 25th, 1 in the Orchard near the Salt Pan in Cley Village on the 26th and another was found off the Blakeney Bank near the Barnett on the 30th. The only Barred Warbler record was of one off the Blakeney Bank on the 30th, a very poor year for this species in Norfolk. A very good month for Greenish Warblers with 3 birds recorded within the Cley 10km square, and another 5 or 6 elsewhere in Norfolk. The Cley records all arrived on the same date, the 25th, a day of strong north-easterly winds and heavy rain. The first was found in the sea bushes on the Marrams on Blakeney Point by Rob Aberdein, this was present to the 29th. The second bird was found by Dave Abdulla hiding under the large Rubbish bin at the Coastguards Cafe, it then flew off over the West Bank and into the area of Gorse bushes. The third record was of one on the Yankee Ridge on Blakeney Point, this was present to the 28th. A Wood Warbler was found on Walsey Hill on the 26th, a very bright yellowish bird.

The only Red-backed Shrike recorded was a juvenile off the Blakeney Bank, on the 30th and 31st. There were a dozen or so others recorded in Norfolk over the 25th to the 31st.

SEPTEMBER BIRD NEWS.

There were four Red-necked grebes on the sea off Weybourne Camp, on the 23rd, the only record this month.

A Leach's Petrel was seen off the Coastguards in the evening of the 26th, the bird was present for over an hour to dusk, and never farther out than 250 yards.

There was at least one Shag off the Coastguards, on the 27th in the evening and another there on the 30th, but one observer, who shall remain nameless, after a heavy night on the Kronenburg claimed every thing as a Shag, until he sobbered up that was.

The juvenile Spoonbill was present to the end of the month, but on occasions it was seen out in Blakeney Harbour feeding in the channel near the Watch House, though the North Scrape was its favored patch.

Garganey were again present through to the end of the month, with at least one seen daily. They were almost always seen on Pat's Pool, North Scrape was the

only other pool they were noted on. There were five birds together on the 6th, feeding out on Pat's Pool. A juvenile male Blue-winged Teal was found by Chris Keightly, on Pat's Pool on the 16th, a full write up appeared earlier in this news-letter.

A male Merlin was seen flying west over the marshes at Salthouse on the 27th, by Jon Guest. A Hobby flew over Pat's Pool on the 4th at 8.20 am, scaring the waders on the pool into a panic, it then flew off inland over the Hangs. Another was seen over Cley village on the 11th, hunting hirundines at 7.15 pm.

A few juvenile Little Ringed Plover were present in the first week of the month, but there were none noted after the 7th. A juvenile Dotterel was seen on the North Scrape on the 5th, but proved to be very elusive until it arrived onto the Eye Field on the 17th, where it was seen well feeding quite close to the Beach Road. Little Stints were seen on each day of the month, with peak counts on the following dates; 4 on the 4th, 8 on the 27th and 5 on the 30th. Temminck's Stints numbers increased on the 1st to four birds found on Pat's Pool, records for the month are as follows: 4 on the 2nd, 2 or 3 on the 3rd, 3 on the 4th and 1 on the 5th was the last recorded. A Pectoral Sandpiper was found on Pat's Pool on the 11th by Steve Gantlett, it was only present for 15 minutes or so and it was last seen flying off high over the Coastguards, never to be seen again. Curlew Sandpiper had a good month and small numbers were present through into October, with peak counts on the following dates; 4 on the 6th, 7 on the 10th, 8 on the 11th, 6 on the 18th, 6 on the 25th, 7 on the 27th and 3 on the 30th. The first juvenile was seen on the 4th. Purple Sandpipers were seen on the Eye Field Pool in the morning, and another was seen in flight over the North Scrape in the evening of the 30th. Whimbrel numbers fell off and just a steady trickle passed through to the end of the month, though one or two could be found feeding out in the Eye Field. Spotted Redshank numbers were impressive throughout the month, with good numbers of juveniles. Wood Sandpipers were present to mid-month, with peak numbers of 8 on the 6th, a very good year for this species. A juvenile Red-necked Phalarope was found on Pat's Pool on the 1st, this was present to the 6th, spending almost all of its time on Pat's Pool.

The winter plumaged adult Mediterranean Gull was present throughout the month, and it fed on the ploughed field above the reserve, coming to Pat's Pool to bathe, preen and roost. The Glaucous Gull settled into its usual routine of patrolling the beach, and bathing in the Eye Field pool on occasions.

A Gull-billed Tern was claimed off Blakeney Point on the 1st, it was also seen off Holme some 40 minutes later, so it was probably a real one.

A Tawny Pipit was found on Blakeney Point on the 1st, but proved to be rather elusive, so there were not many observers.

Lapland buntings were noted from the third week, with records as follows; 2 west at Weybourne Camp on the 23rd, 2 on the Shingle ridge above the Eye Field Pool on the 25th, 4 between the East Bank and the North Hide on the 26th and 2-3 at the back of the North hide on the Shingle ridge on the 27th.

P.S, That's all for now, have a good winter, I will be in India and Nepal, the Cley Bird club will be in the hands of some caretaker editors until I return in the spring. The next news-letter I will be editing, will be the July 1988, so until then Good Birding,
Eddie Myers.

BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY
Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR

From: 4 Heath Road
Sheringham
Norfolk
NR26 8JH

B.T.O. East Anglian Regional Conference
University of East Anglia, Norwich
Saturday 19th March 1988

On behalf of the British Trust for Ornithology I have arranged another one-day Regional Conference at the University of East Anglia. The Conference is open to all those interested, whether or not they are BTO members.

The theme of the Conference will be 'Conservation Through Research'. Speakers from the BTO staff will be Mike Moser and David Gibbons who will present papers on the present and future role of the BTO and the next Breeding Bird Atlas, due to start in 1988. From Suffolk, Rex Beecroft and Derek Moore will talk about Landguard Point Bird Observatory and the Orwell Estuary, while Rhys Green will describe his work on Stone Curlews. Les Street will talk about his role as RSPB warden on the new Berney Marsh Reserve and the conference will close with an Introduction to East Anglian Dragonflies by Paul Pratley. I hope you will agree that it sounds like a most interesting day.

A member of the Sales Staff from Beech Grove will also attend with a selection of BTO publications and material, while it is hoped to be able to mount some displays of ornithological interest.

The Conference will start at 10.30 am and finish at about 5.15 pm. In order to keep the cost down I have decided not to include lunch in the price, but the Refectory will be open for meals, which can be purchased individually, while liquid refreshment will be available at the University Bar. The cost of the Conference will be £5.00 which will include coffee on arrival and afternoon tea. This compares favourably with the cost of £4.00 in 1982.

I hope the Conference will be of interest to some of your members and I wondered whether you would be prepared include a mention of it in your next newsletter and at your winter meetings.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from me at the above address and I very much hope to be able to welcome you and some of your members to the Conference next March.

Yours sincerely



Moss Taylor
Regional Representative BTO.

BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY

East Anglian One-day Conference at University of East Anglia

Saturday 19th March 1988

CONSERVATION THROUGH RESEARCH

THE ROLE OF THE BTO

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| 09.45 am. | Assemble and morning coffee | |
| 10.30 am. | Opening of the Conference by the Chairman | Moss Taylor |
| 10.40 am. | Birds, the BTO and Beyond | Mike Moser |
| 11.25 am. | Landguard Point Bird Observatory | Rex Beecroft |
| 12.10 pm. | Threats to the Orwell Estuary | Derek Moore |
| 12.40 pm. | Lunch | |
| 02.00 pm. | The New Breeding Bird Atlas in Britain & Ireland | David Gibbons |
| 02.45 pm. | The Conservation of Stone Curlews | Rhys Green |
| 03.30 pm. | Tea | |
| 04.00 pm. | Berney Marshes - Reinstating a Natural Wetland | Les Street |
| 04.45 pm. | An Introduction to the Dragonflies of East Anglia | Paul Pratley |
| 05.15 pm | Close of conference | |

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, NORWICH

Saturday 19th March 1988

APPLICATION

Please reserve..... place(s) at £5.00 each, for me and those named below.

Please acknowledge this application to:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) and Address (Capitals please).....

.....

.....

.....

Names of Guests

.....

.....

I enclose a postal order/cheque for £....., and an sae please.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Dr. M. Taylor.

SignedDate.....

Please return to: Dr Moss Taylor, 4 Heath Road, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8JH.