

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Introduction

Once more we have attempted to document the breeding species on Cley Marshes. This report is based on sightings made during visits to the NWT reserve and areas between E Bank and Iron Road during Spring and Summer 2010. It also includes sightings that have been passed to us by other local observers.

It was not a scientific survey, but most areas were visited regularly. We merely took records of nesting birds and youngsters seen, and tried to follow the progress of each family. All sightings were from the hides and public footpaths around the reserve and eastern area.

The following species notes give our interpretation of these sightings together with our best guesses of the total numbers breeding and young that fledged.

## Summary

This first table lists birds which bred, or tried to, in our area this year with counts where known.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Pairs</u>	<u>Min. young fledged</u>	<u>Earliest chicks seen</u>
Mute Swan	4	7	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Greylag Goose	45	100	16 <sup>th</sup> April
Canada Goose	1	5	24 <sup>th</sup> May
Egyptian Goose	0		
Shelduck	10	35	21 <sup>st</sup> May
Gadwall	17	23	10 <sup>th</sup> June
Mallard	33	48	28 <sup>th</sup> April
Shoveler	5	8	31 <sup>st</sup> May
Pochard	4	1	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Tufted Duck	4	6	4 <sup>th</sup> July
Little Grebe	5	3	13 <sup>th</sup> July
Bittern	0		
Little Egret	1	2	14 <sup>th</sup> June
Grey Heron	3-4	4	1 <sup>st</sup> June
Marsh Harrier	6	15	28 <sup>th</sup> June
Sparrowhawk	0		
Water Rail	1?		
Moorhen	21	24	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Coot	13	5	15 <sup>th</sup> May
Oystercatcher	13	0	
Avocet	62	10	14 <sup>th</sup> May
Little Ringed Plover	1		
Ringed Plover	3	3-4	8 <sup>th</sup> July
Lapwing	40	7-10	26 <sup>th</sup> April
Common Snipe	1?	-	
Redshank	17	13	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Black-headed Gull	57	0	26 <sup>th</sup> June
Common Tern	0	0	

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

The following species also bred, or are thought to have, but numbers are unknown:

Common Pheasant	Meadow Pipit	Reed Warbler
Wood Pigeon	Pied Wagtail	Great Tit (N Foreland)
Skylark	Wren	Bearded Tit
Swallow	Dunnock	Goldfinch
House Martin (houses along Coast Rd)	Cetti's Warbler	Linnet
	Sedge Warbler	Reed Bunting

The following may have bred but we have no proof

Kestrel (N Foreland)	Willow Warbler (N Foreland)
Tawny Owl (N Foreland)	Long-tailed Tit (N Foreland)
Grasshopper Warbler	Greenfinch

Each year we have been monitoring breeding is different and gives us surprises and more insight into breeding behaviour. This year was no exception.

The weather this year caused a few problems. To start with we had wondered whether the cold winter we had suffered would have reduced the number of breeding birds but this did not seem to be the case. In general the breeding season was very dry with no water in the Serpentine throughout. In contrast though, Arnold's Marsh had a very high water level due to the sluice being kept closed to try to back water up to Salthouse for the cattle. There were cold strong northerly winds at the beginning of May which may have affected nesting attempts. Also unusually cold strong northerly winds which reached near-gale and gave maximum temperatures of only 12/13°C on 19/20<sup>th</sup> June caused tidal seep giving extra high water levels on Arnold's, the Brackish and Eye Pool. This caused the demise of some nests and the death of a brood of Swallows in North Hide.

At least one pair of Little Egrets bred for the first time this year in North Foreland Wood raising at least 2 young and a pair of Canada Geese raised a brood of 5 being the first actually in our area since we have been recording. Bittern failed to breed again and no Egyptian goslings were seen. Marsh Harriers seemed to do poorly probably due to the weather, but an unusually late brood in early September improved their record and caused a lot of debate as to why they were this late.

The Avocets again added interest, we had less birds nesting and less chicks than in 2009 but more fledged. The numbers were actually very similar to 2008. An oddity this year was the number of birds appearing to be sitting on eggs in the grass on Eye Field but no nests lasted long so we don't know if they actually had eggs. Stoats appeared to be a problem being seen regularly east of E Bank where all but 2 nests failed and the young that did hatch were lost within 2 days. Later in the season Stoats were also seen on the Central Scrapes and one was even photographed carrying an Avocet egg.

The Mute Swans as usual created interest. One pair produced 7 young, 2 of which were white (Polish). This family all fledged but their history could rival any soap opera with family feuds and the two white young being ostracized. Another pair produced what we (and they?) first believed to be 3 cygnets, but after a few days it became obvious to us, at least, that these were goslings(!), we never worked out if the Swans knew this as they continued to care for them like any cygnets.

Moorhens did better this year, which is good news as the number of these on the reserve has been falling over the last few years, but Coots did poorly. The Catchwater Drain which runs parallel to the Coast Road is often cleared out during the winter making the banks bare. This wasn't done last winter and there was a lot of vegetation along most of its length. This appeared to benefit Moorhens but not Coots.

Of the shingle nesting birds, Ring Plovers managed to raise two broods but the Oystercatchers all failed again despite the wardens roping off some nests.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

The following table shows comparisons with previous years for all species.

Species	Minimum Pairs breeding					Minimum Young fledged			
	2010	2009	2008	2007		2010	2009	2008	2007
Mute Swan	4	3	2	3		7	7	6	7
Greylag	45+	57+	c.70	c.120		c.100	c.150		100+
Canada Goose	1	0	0	0		5			
Egyptian Goose	0	5	2	4		0	7	4	11
Shelduck	10	5	3	5		35	33	29	26-36
Gadwall	17	14	14	5		23	65-73	17+	6+
Mallard	33	34	21	15 <sup>+</sup>		48	76-94	52	42+
Shoveler	5	1	5	0		8	4	9	0
Pochard	4	4	1	1-2		1+	8	2	2+
Tufted Duck	4	4	2	1		6	7-17	3	0-4
Little Grebe	5	3	3	2		3	7	6	3+
Bittern	0	0	1	0				?	
Little Egret	1	0	0	0		2			
Grey Heron	3	4	1+	1+		4	5+	4+	2+
Marsh Harrier	6?	6	7	4		15	20	21	8
Sparrowhawk	?	?	?	?					
Water Rail	?	?	1+?	1+					?
Moorhen	21	15	6	10		24	19-31	4	15+
Coot	13	19	11	17		5	21-30	16	32
Oystercatcher	13	13	10+	7+		0	0	0	1
Avocet	62	96	60	85		10	3	10	25
Little Ringed Plover	1	2	0	1-2		0	0	0	0
Ringed Plover	3	4	5	9		3	3	0	5
Lapwing	40	35	12+	22		7-10	5	6+	4
Common Snipe	1?	?		?					
Redshank	17	15	10+	15+		13	5	14	12
Black-headed Gull	57	77	80+	c.100		0	11	0	22?
Common Tern	0	1	3	3		0	0	0	0

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Species Details

### Mute Swan

4 pairs, 7 young fledged

Once more the Swans try to steal the highlight with one brood of "Polish" Swans and one brood of goslings!

		N°. fledged
1	<b>Popes Marsh</b> Pair nest building from 18 <sup>th</sup> April, last seen sitting on nest 30 <sup>th</sup> April. Adults then often present here until 23 <sup>rd</sup> May but no cygnets seen.	0
2	<b>Catchwater Drain</b> Sitting from mid April. 7 cygnets (5 normal grey colour, 2 white or so-called "Polish") hatched 17 <sup>th</sup> May and continued to be seen together in the drain and on the scrapes. The whole family stayed together until 27 <sup>th</sup> July (when the male led them onto the road for a while). On 30 <sup>th</sup> July the two white cygnets were found together, but without the family, in the Catchwater Drain west of the bridge to Daukes Hide; the family were not found that day. The adults + 5 normal cygnets were found in the Catchwater Drain on 31 <sup>st</sup> July. The 2 white cygnets remained together in Catchwater Drain around Beach Road area until 9 <sup>th</sup> August. Thereafter they SPLIT and each was found alone, one using the drain West of the bridge to Daukes and the other using the drain East of here up to the bridge to Bishop's Hide, being seen on and off through September. The white cygnets remained separate. On the 11 <sup>th</sup> the 'west' white cygnet was seen in the company of an adult swan and these were seen feeding together again on the 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> , we don't think this was one of the parents as these were still being seen with the 5 grey cygnets. The 'east' white cygnet continued to be seen near the Visitor Centre. In late September the two whites got together again and remained so until mid October when one of them was seen flapping its wings a lot but not seen to fly. After that only one was seen. The 5 grey young continued to be seen with the parents and if these met one of the white cygnets they would chase it off. From mid October a maximum of 4 grey cygnets were seen with the parents, a single one being seen at the opposite side of the reserve on one occasion; had this fledged early? The 2 white cygnets and the 4 grey ones with the parents were all seen flying on 24 <sup>th</sup> October.	6-7
3	<b>Cricket Marsh</b> A pair were nesting on an island in the drain between Cricket & Bull Marsh. They appeared to have hatched 2+ chicks on 17 <sup>th</sup> May. They were seen the next day on Billy's Wash with 3 young which appeared yellowish and then continued to be seen there till the 1 <sup>st</sup> June. However by 23 <sup>rd</sup> May it became obvious that these young were not cygnets but <b>goslings!</b> Had the swans been sitting on Greylag eggs or had they adopted the chicks very soon after hatching? At least 2 goslings stayed with the swans till 2 <sup>nd</sup> July.	0
4	<b>Keepers Marsh, near the Visitor Centre.</b> An adult was sitting on a nest until at least 1st June. No sign of pair since or of any cygnets from this nest.	0

### Greylag Goose

At least 45 pairs bred raising 100 to fledging

As usual our earliest breeders. The first confirmed nest was seen by E Bank on 26<sup>th</sup> March, and the first brood, 2 goslings, were seen on Popes Marsh on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Over the period at least 45 different broods were seen involving at least 209 goslings but there could have been many more. The maximum count of goslings on any one day during the period was 102. As Greylags soon form crèches it is difficult to keep track of individual broods but probably at least 100 of these survived to fledge.

### Canada Goose

1 pair bred, 5 young fledged

A pair with 5 small goslings were first seen in the Main Drain E of E Bank on 24<sup>th</sup> May. They continued to be seen by the Serpentine and off E Bank. Although still not seen to fly they must have fledged but were still with the parents at the end of July.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Egyptian Goose

None this year.

## Shelduck

10 pairs, 35+ fledged

Shelducklings can form crèches when still very young and also can become independent within 15 days of hatching while still quite small. This can make following the progress of individual broods tricky, but the following gives our best view of this year's broods.

		N <sup>o</sup> . fledged
<b>Main Reserve</b>		
<b>1</b>	North Scrape. A pair with a brood of 6 small were on N Scrape on 29 <sup>th</sup> May where they continued to be seen regularly till mid July when they had fledged.	6
<b>2</b>	A brood of 3 small were seen on Simmond's on 17 <sup>th</sup> June. A brood of 3 small/medium on North Scrape on the 30 <sup>th</sup> were probably these. They were on Simmond's again on 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> July then back on North on the 16 <sup>th</sup> where they stayed reducing to 2 by the 23 <sup>rd</sup> . They were last recorded on the 26 <sup>th</sup> when they had probably fledged.	2
<b>3</b>	A brood of 8 tiny and 1 slightly larger ducklings were first seen on Simmond's Scrape on 9 <sup>th</sup> July. By the 13 <sup>th</sup> the brood had reduced to 8 but still including 1 slightly larger bird. On the 15 <sup>th</sup> there were only 7, all the same size. These 7 were seen regularly on Simmond's until the 27 <sup>th</sup> . On the 28 <sup>th</sup> they were on North Scrape, and on the 30 <sup>th</sup> they were seen first on Simmond's and later on North. 6 or 7 were seen on several days during August on Simmond's and then Pat's which were thought to be these. Assume 7 fledged	7
<b>4</b>	A brood of 9 small were first seen on North Scrape on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July with 11 there on the 24 <sup>th</sup> . On 3 <sup>rd</sup> August a brood of 10 were seen in the Main Drain between North Hide and East Bank.	4
<b>5</b>	On the 25 <sup>th</sup> July a brood of 6 small were seen on North Scrape, they were initially thought to be brood 4. These 6 continued to be seen on and off till 2 <sup>nd</sup> August. After this broods 4 & 5 seemed to get mixed. Also during August it becomes difficult to tell large ducklings from moulting adults but 8 young were identified on 24 <sup>th</sup> August, 4 slightly larger. So we will assume that at least 4 fledged from each of these broods.	4
<b>East of East Bank</b>		
<b>6</b>	A brood of 8 small ducklings were first seen in Main Drain behind Arnold's on 21 <sup>st</sup> May. Moved to the Serpentine and reduced to 7 by 4 <sup>th</sup> June. On 9 <sup>th</sup> there were only 6, these continued to be seen until the 29 <sup>th</sup> . In early July only 5 were seen but they had probably then fledged.	6
<b>7</b>	A brood of 8 on Serpentine on 2 <sup>nd</sup> June reduced to 6 by the 4 <sup>th</sup> and to 3 by the 10 <sup>th</sup> . These continued to be seen in the area till 24 <sup>th</sup> July when they would have fledged	3
<b>8</b>	5 small on Arnold's on 26 <sup>th</sup> May were seen on and off till 6 <sup>th</sup> June. On 13 <sup>th</sup> only 4 remained and this reduced to 3 by the 15 <sup>th</sup> . These were last seen on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July when quite large, so it is assumed they will have fledged.	3
<b>9</b>	3 tiny on sub-Serpentine on 6 <sup>th</sup> June, with 4 there on 7 <sup>th</sup> when they were later seen on Arnold's. On the 13 <sup>th</sup> 4 small ducklings were seen alone on the sub-Serpentine and later that morning 4, which were probably the same, were seen on Arnold's. They were seen again on Arnold's on the 15 <sup>th</sup> but not again, although 2 there on the 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> may have been these.	-
<b>10</b>	A brood of 9 tiny were on Arnold's on 7 <sup>th</sup> June then in the Main Drain on 10 <sup>th</sup> . A brood of 7 medium ducklings on the Serpentine 13 <sup>th</sup> , then 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> June were probably these.	0-7

2 adults with 10 large (or fledged) ducklings on Arnold's may have been a crèche of any of the above broods or an additional brood.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Gadwall

17 pairs bred, at least 23 fledged

Many small ducklings were seen but by mid July when many get to three-quarter size they become difficult to tell from the groups of eclipse ducks on the scrapes so can get lost. All broods roam widely around the scrapes and the drains in the reedbeds (which cannot be seen) so often go for days without sightings and ones not seen again could just be keeping out of sight. Therefore these counts are probably an underestimate. Also this year we were away most of August so late broods could not be followed.

		Brood size	First seen	Notes	N°. fledged
1	Pat's	7 tiny	10/6	Reduced to 5 by the 11 <sup>th</sup> . Last recorded as 5 med/lge by Daukes on 13/7.	5
2	North	10 or 11 tiny	12/6	Reduced to 9 by 24 <sup>th</sup> . Last seen on North on 5 <sup>th</sup> July but 9 sm/m on Simmond's on the 7 <sup>th</sup> were probably these – then not seen again.	-
3	North	6 sm	13/6	Reduced to 5 by the 14 <sup>th</sup> . A brood of 5 seen on Billy's Wash later that day were probably these but not seen again.	-
4	Pat's	2 sm	14/6	Seen regularly in June but then a single sighting of 2 sm/med on 10 <sup>th</sup> July could have been these. There were no further sightings.	-
5	North	4 tiny	14/6	A brood of 2 small on the 21 <sup>st</sup> were probably these but not seen again.	-
6	Simmond's & Pat's	3 sm	15/6	Seen regularly till the end of June when they were medium sized. On 30 <sup>th</sup> June they were on Richardson's. A female with 3 large ducklings in the Catchwater Drain east of Bishops Hide on 14 <sup>th</sup> August and 1 <sup>st</sup> September could have been these.	3
7	Pat's	8 tiny	22/6	These were seen regularly on Pat's and Simmond's until the 30 <sup>th</sup> June when still small but not again.	-
8	Whitwell	4 small	25/6	Seen on Whitwell and in front of Daukes until 4 <sup>th</sup> August when quite large	4
9	Pat's	6 small	26/6	They were not seen again till the 7 <sup>th</sup> July but then seen regularly till the 23 <sup>rd</sup> . Still only medium sized they weren't seen again	-
10	Daukes	7 small	27/6	Seen on and off till 9 <sup>th</sup> July. A brood of 6 med/lge in front of Daukes on the 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> were thought to be these.	6
11	North	7 tiny	27/6	Seen regularly until the 7 <sup>th</sup> July when still small then not seen again.	-
12	North	5 small	28/6	Seen on and off on N scrape until 3 <sup>rd</sup> July. A brood of 5 small on Pat's on the 8 <sup>th</sup> were thought to be these they were seen again there on the 13 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> . On the 22 <sup>nd</sup> only 4 were seen. They were still only medium sized and not seen again.	-
13	Whitwell	2 tiny	29/6	Not seen again	-
14	North	4 tiny	5/7	Seen regularly on North until the 18 <sup>th</sup> . 4 medium on Whitwell on 4 <sup>th</sup> August were thought to be these. Not seen again.	-
15	North	5 tiny	12/7	Reduced to 4 by the 20 <sup>th</sup> then seen daily until the 24 <sup>th</sup> when still small. Not seen again.	-
<b>East of East Bank</b>					
E1	Catchwater drain Iron Rd	7sm	3/7	Not seen again until 5 <sup>th</sup> August when a brood of 5 Large were thought to be these.	5
E2	Iron Rd W drain	6+ sm	3/7	Not seen again.	-

### Single Sightings

A single medium duckling on Pat's on 4<sup>th</sup> July could have been from many broods.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Teal

*No breeding*

About 20 birds were present throughout the summer but no sign of breeding.

## Mallard

*33 broods were seen, at least 48 fledged*

This year we had a lot of difficulty following broods, so there were probably more fledged than we have recorded.

Mallard take at least 50 days to fledge but can become independent before this which means that broods can break up before fledging and hence become difficult to follow. Some of the large ducklings are difficult to tell from adults if on their own. In general if ducklings have reached a medium/large size we assume that they will survive to fledging.

		<b>Brood size</b>	<b>First seen</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>N<sup>o</sup>. Fledged</b>
1	<b>Billy's Wash</b>	12 tiny	28/4	Seen on Bull Marsh on the 30 <sup>th</sup> then North Scrape on the 1 <sup>st</sup> May but then not seen again	-
2	<b>Pat's</b>	11 tiny	29/4	Reduced to 10 on 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> May then not seen again	-
3	<b>North</b>	5 tiny	5/5	Present till the 7 <sup>th</sup> . 4 at the back of North Scrape on 25 <sup>th</sup> may have been these and 3 of these continued to be seen till 24 <sup>th</sup> June when probably fledged.	3
4	<b>Pat's</b>	6 small	6/5	5 on the 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> then not seen again	-
5	<b>Daukes drain</b>	7+ small	6/5	Seen again on the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> when also on South Pool then not again	-
6	<b>Teal Hide</b>	4 small	14/5	Reduced to 2 on 17 <sup>th</sup> then seen regularly till 25 <sup>th</sup> , but only 1 on 26 <sup>th</sup> . Then not seen again but single large ducklings on the 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> June may have been this one.	1
7	<b>Main Drain (Eye Field)</b>	8 small	18/5	6 seen here on the 20 <sup>th</sup> but not again	-
8	<b>Pat's</b>	8 small	27/5	Reduced to 6 by the 30 <sup>th</sup> . 6 on Whitwell on 9 <sup>th</sup> June were probably the same and so were 5 med/large in front of Daukes on 8 <sup>th</sup> July. Then 5 large there again on 23 <sup>rd</sup> July by which time they had probably fledged	5
9	<b>Catchwater Drain (Keepers)</b>	9 tiny	27/5	Not seen again	-
10	<b>Pat's</b>	3 small	1/6	Reduced to 2 by 12 <sup>th</sup> June and these continued to be seen on Pat's till 14 <sup>th</sup> June. These or a similar sized brood were seen on N Scrape on the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> , on Pat's on the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> and then on North until 20 <sup>th</sup> July when fledged.	2
11	<b>Simmond's</b>	10	2/6	Reduced to 8 by the 11 <sup>th</sup> . 6 medium on Pat's on 25 <sup>th</sup> June could have been these but not seen again	-
12	<b>Simmond's</b>	5	4/6	5 seen regularly until the 18 <sup>th</sup> , with a few sightings in early July. Last seen on Pat's on 9 <sup>th</sup> July when medium sized.	-
13	<b>Pat's</b>	4 tiny	6/6	Reduced to 3 by 12 <sup>th</sup> . These continued to be seen on and off till 3 <sup>rd</sup> July but not again.	-
14	<b>Pat's</b>	7 tiny	6/6	Not seen again till the 13 <sup>th</sup> then only 6 on the 14 <sup>th</sup> . These continued to be seen on and off 19 <sup>th</sup> July when probably fledged	6
15	<b>Simmond's</b>	3 small	14/6	Seen on and off during June, then 2 (thought to be these) present on 7 <sup>th</sup> July were seen until the 23 <sup>rd</sup> when medium sized but not again.	2?
16	<b>Main Drain E of N Hide</b>	5 small	14/6	A brood of 4 then 3 then 2 seen occasionally on N Scrape during July were possibly these. Last seen 20 <sup>th</sup> July when large.	2
17	<b>Pat's</b>	1	14/6	This single tiny duckling was not seen again.	-
18	<b>Main Drain W of E Bank</b>	6 med/lge	21/6	These cannot be assigned to any of the above broods so must be treated as a separate brood	6
19	<b>Simmond's</b>	3 tiny	22/6	Seen occasionally on Pat's or Simmond's till 3 <sup>rd</sup> August when med/large.	3

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

		Brood size	First seen	Notes	N <sup>o</sup> . Fledged
20	Pat's	8 small	29/6	Reduced to 7 by 10 <sup>th</sup> July and 6 by 15 <sup>th</sup> . These continued to be seen on and off till the 31 <sup>st</sup> when quite large.	6
21	North Scrape	7 sm	29/6	Not seen again	-
22	Simmond's	4 sm/med	30/6	Continued to be seen on and off on Simmond's till 21 <sup>st</sup> July when quite large	4
23	Pat's	9 small	2/7	Reduced to 7 by 8 <sup>th</sup> , not seen again after 10th	-
24	North	4 tiny	12/7	Only 3 on the 13 <sup>th</sup> but these continued to be seen until 1 <sup>st</sup> August, lost track of while we were away.	-
<b>East of East Bank</b>					
E1	Main Drain W of Iron Rd	4+ sm	5/5	Not seen again	-
E2	Popes Marsh	5 tiny	17/5	4 medium on 9 <sup>th</sup> June were probably these but not seen again	-
E3	Catchwater Drain opp Walsey	8 tiny	17/5	Not seen again	5
E4	Popes (Walsey-Iron Rd)	6 tiny	19/5	Not seen again but 5 lge on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July could have been these or E3 brood	
E5	Serpentine	4 small	1/6	Seen again on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> walking across the meadow just S of the Serpentine where they disappeared into a drain. 2 small/medium ducklings in the same area on 14 <sup>th</sup> June could have been these, but they weren't seen again.	-
E6	Serpentine	8-9 tiny	2/6	Reduced to 6 small/med by the 14 <sup>th</sup> . Not seen again although 3 med/lge seen in the Main Drain north of here on the 4 <sup>th</sup> July could have been these.	3
E7	Catchwater Drain opp Walsey	4 tiny	3/6	2 medium on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July may have been these but not seen again	-
E8	Meadows opp Walsey	5 tiny	9/6	2 on 9 <sup>th</sup> July may have been these, but not seen again	-
E9	Serpentine	2 tiny	14/6	2 small/med on the 25 <sup>th</sup> could have been these, but not seen again	-

### Garganey

No evidence of breeding this year.

### Shoveler

5+ pairs, 8 fledged

A slight improvement on last year.

		Brood size	First seen	Notes	N <sup>o</sup> . fledged
1	Pat's	6	31/5	A brood of 5 sm/med on Whitwell on 14 <sup>th</sup> June were thought to be these. On 21 <sup>st</sup> there were 4 med/lge there and they continued to be seen there or on Simmond's until late July when fledged.	4
2	North	8 tiny	7/6	There were only 7 on the 8 <sup>th</sup> and they were not seen again	-
3	Pat's	3 tiny	8/6	A brood of 3 on North Scrape on the 15 <sup>th</sup> were probably these but they weren't seen again	-
4	Pat's	10 sm	21/6	Seen on and off till the end of June. On 1 <sup>st</sup> July there were only 9 but these were seen daily on Pat's & Simmond's till the 8 <sup>th</sup> . There were 6 on the 15 <sup>th</sup> , then 4 from the 21 <sup>st</sup> when quite well grown	4
5	Simmond's /Daukes	5 tiny	22/6	Not seen again on scrapes but 5 sm/med in the Catchwater Drain by Richardson's on 13 <sup>th</sup> July were probably these. Then not seen again.	-

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Pochard

4 pairs, at least 1 fledged

Numbers continue to increase. This species is interesting in that we don't see them often outside the breeding season, but pairs are regularly seen from early March. In April this year, 5 pairs were seen regularly around the reserve with 6 males on a couple of days. In previous years females have been seen with small young for a few days then not seen again till the young were large or even fledged. This year very few fledged birds were seen so we don't know how successful they were

		Brood size	First seen	Notes	N°. fledged
1	Snipe's	9 tiny	17/5	Only 5 or 6 were seen on the 19 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, and 3 on the 24 <sup>th</sup> . Then not seen again	-
2	South Pool	7 tiny	20/5	Seen by Bishop's on the 21 <sup>st</sup> but not again.	-
3	Snipe's	4 tiny	22/5	There were only 2 there on the 24 <sup>th</sup> . These were then seen again 30 <sup>th</sup> May till 1 <sup>st</sup> June and again on 14 <sup>th</sup> June when med sized. They weren't seen again but a single fledged juvenile on Simmond's Scrape on the 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> July could have been one of these.	1
4	Catchwater Drain Iron Rd	4 tiny	21/6	There were only 2 by the 23 <sup>rd</sup> . These were also seen on the 24 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> . On 3 <sup>rd</sup> July a female was seen that looked like she had young but we couldn't see them in the reeds. On the 14 <sup>th</sup> a female was seen with 2 medium duckling east of Iron Rd. They weren't seen again but may have moved along to Salthouse.	-

## Tufted Duck

4 pairs, 6 fledged

Late breeders, these broods always get lost in the reeds growing in the drains. This year the the drains were heavily vegetated and there were very few sightings apart from small ducklings.

		Brood size	First seen	Notes	N°. fledged
<b>Main Reserve</b>					
1	Catchwater Drain opposite Vis Centre	4 tiny	4/7	A single small duckling W of Bishops on 16 <sup>th</sup> July was probably the remains of this brood	-
2	Daukes	2 tiny	23/7	Female seen without any young on the 25 <sup>th</sup> .	-
<b>East of East Bank</b>					
3	Catchwater Drain W of Iron Rd also goes East of Iron Rd.	4-7 sm	16/7	Difficult to follow as mixed with brood 4 which were slightly younger but believe orig. 7 down to 5 med/lge by 17 <sup>th</sup> August. Probably these 5 fledged.	Probably 6 fledged from these 2 broods
4	Catchwater Drain By Popes	3 sm	30/7	Difficult to follow as mixed with brood 3. A group of 8 ducklings here on 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug was thought to be the two broods. 1 Large with female on 1 <sup>st</sup> September was probably this brood.	

## Ruddy Duck

None seen this year.

## Red-legged Partridge

No young seen this year

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Common Pheasant

*A few bred on or around the reserve*

A female with 3 small but fledged chicks on railings of bridge opposite Watcher's Cottage 14/6

Female with 4 small chicks on 9 July Beach Road/Bull Marsh.

Female with 3 small-medium chicks in front of North Hide on 18<sup>th</sup> August:

Family with large young on E Bank during September (probable source of Corncrake reports!).

## Little Grebe

*5 pairs, 3 fledged*

			N <sup>o</sup> . fledged
1	<b>Catchwater Drain East of East Bank</b>	Nest found 3 <sup>rd</sup> July. Hatched 3 chicks 13 <sup>th</sup> July. At least 2 remained to 23 <sup>rd</sup> July, then from 9 Aug only 1 chick seen. Last sighting 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept when due to fledge	1
2	<b>Catchwater Drain near Visitor Centre</b>	Nest found 4 <sup>th</sup> July near Visitor Centre, probably still sitting 9 <sup>th</sup> July. Then bramble collapsed over nest site and?nest lost. Adults remained in area but no chicks seen	-
3	<b>Catchwater Drain nr Pope's entrance</b>	Adult carrying tiny fish into reeds (several times, same spot) on 9 <sup>th</sup> June. Ads heard in vicinity until early June but no chicks seen.	-
4	<b>Snipes</b>	Snipes. Pair taking food into reeds from c.6 <sup>th</sup> July. First sighting was of 1 chick on 14 <sup>th</sup> July. Last sighting 14 <sup>th</sup> August when near to fledging.	1
5	<b>Catchwater Drain W of Iron Rd</b>	Catchwater Drain W of Iron Rd: 1 <sup>st</sup> August 3 very small chicks with ads; estimate 1 week old. 3 remained to at least 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. Then, 1 only on 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug. when near to fledging..	1

A juvenile on Snipes on 1<sup>st</sup> August might have come in from elsewhere, or could perhaps have been from brood 3 above which were never actually seen, only heard, in the Catchwater Drain. Dates would fit.

## Bittern

*Did not breed this year.*

It is thought that the bird heard booming occasionally during the spring/summer was the same as the bird heard at Blakeney Freshes.

## Little Egret

*At least 1 pair bred, at least 2 fledged in North Foreland Wood*

The first breeding for the Cley Square.

2-4 birds seen regularly entering N Foreland from 19<sup>th</sup> April

Bernard Bishop reported 1 nest with at least 2 chicks on 14<sup>th</sup> June, but there could have been another.

3 juveniles were present together on the marshes on 1<sup>st</sup> July with singles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. These were probably the young from the N Foreland nest(s) but we cannot be sure. The nearest other breeding we know of is at Holkham.

## Grey Heron

*3-4 nests 4+ fledged in North Foreland Wood*

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2 juvs made a brief, awkward flight up from conifers/nest site in N Foreland, then crashed down again.

Bernard Bishop reported 3-4 nests in N Foreland on 14<sup>th</sup> June and on the same day 2 juvs were seen on N Scrape.

An adult was seen with 4 juvs on 23<sup>rd</sup> June on the same day as 7 were reported on Billy's Wash. 4 juvs were seen together off E Bank on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Marsh Harrier

*3-4 nests on main reserve + 2 on Popes Marsh, 9 + 6 fledging*

### Reserve

3 pairs nested here, 2 east of the scrapes and 1 on Cricket Marsh. The pair at the NE corner of the main reedbed were both young birds, the female being very dark.

There were several reports of juvenile birds during June and a report in the log on 21<sup>st</sup> June of a 'recently fledged juv over N Scrape crash landing into water, then scrambling ashore & skulking off, no doubt embarrassed'. These reports were very early especially considering the poor spring weather. Some of these reports may have been of the young female.

A juvenile was reported flying with 2 other birds on 28<sup>th</sup> June, but then there were no other reports here until 5<sup>th</sup> July when a single was then seen regularly, this was thought to be from the NE nest. A group of 3 young were seen being fed on the 12<sup>th</sup> and they were joined by a 4<sup>th</sup> on the 13<sup>th</sup>. These all appeared to be one family, maybe from the 2<sup>nd</sup> (SE) nest. On the 20<sup>th</sup> 5 youngsters were seen over the reedbed and 4 continued to be seen regularly until the end of July with 1 or 2 being reported during August. During this period there appeared to be no activity from the nest on Cricket Marsh.

In early September, 4 young were being fed over the reserve. They behaved as if they were recently fledged, but we don't know which nest they came from, could they have been from the Cricket nest, the nest having failed earlier and they re-laid during July? These gradually dispersed towards the end of the month. We have never had a brood fledge this late before and do not know why this happened.

### Popes

There were 2 nests (possibly with only 1 male) in the reedbed on Pope's Marsh.

The first 3 young were seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> July with 4 there on 4<sup>th</sup>. 3 or 4 continued to be seen regularly throughout July with 6 seen there on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There may have been broods of 4 and 2.

## Sparrowhawk

*No evidence of breeding*

There were frequent sightings of single birds in late summer but none carrying food.

## Kestrel

*Possible breeding*

A male was seen to catch prey off E Bank and carry into North Foreland on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July; circling 3-4 times before entering wood. There were continued sightings of adults, with increasingly worn plumage, around N Foreland and Iron Road but no proof of breeding.

## Water Rail

*Probable breeding*

One was calling by E Bank on 27<sup>th</sup> April with 2 calling there 29<sup>th</sup>. In mid to late July a lot of squealing was heard, with lot of movement in reeds halfway up E Bank and on the 27<sup>th</sup> squeals and rhythmic creaky, squeaky calls which might have been chicks.

## Moorhen

*21 pairs, at least 24 fledged*

A welcome increase on previous years.

We seemed to have had more broods in the Catchwater Drain this year, and definitely nest sites were closer together than last year. The drains had not been cleaned out/dredged over the winter, so there was much more vegetation this summer, which suits Moorhens more than Coot.

It was often difficult to determine the number of chicks in a brood whilst chicks were small as the reeds were very dense in the Catchwater Drain where most of the broods were. Also, broods were rather close together here, so it was

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

not always clear which brood we were watching. Figures shown for brood size and number fledged are best guess minimum.

		Brood	First Seen	Notes	N <sup>o</sup> Fledged
<b>Main Reserve</b>					
1	Catchwater Drain, Keepers	7 tiny	17/5	<u>First Brood</u> 7 hatched probably over two days. Reduced to ?2 by 8 <sup>th</sup> June and 1 only by 10 July when ready to fledge. This Juv. remained near its parents until 2 <sup>nd</sup> August. From 16 <sup>th</sup> July it was always seen with/feeding one of the new brood chicks.	1
		<u>Second brood</u> 4 sm	25/7	<u>Second Brood</u> 4 hatched; 3 (2 by 28th Aug) remaining with parents and 1 chick attached to/being fed only by previous-brood Juv. This chick did not thrive as well as the 3 being fed by parents, those 3 became noticeably bigger. Last sighting of the smaller chick and Juv. was 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug. The other 2 were last seen, with parents, 1 <sup>st</sup> September when Large.	2
2	Catchwater Drain, opp. Vis Centre	(4) 6 sm	19/5 (21/5)	Probably incomplete brood seen on 19 <sup>th</sup> May; 6 small on 21 <sup>st</sup> May. Reduced to 2 by 24 <sup>th</sup> May. 1 by 12 <sup>th</sup> June, when Large. Continued sightings until 31 <sup>st</sup> July.	1
3	Catchwater Drain, nr Beach Rd	2 tiny	28/5	Reduced to 1 by 3 <sup>rd</sup> July. Last seen 14 <sup>th</sup> August when fledged.	1
4	Catchwater Drain, Bishop's – E Bank	1+ tiny	3/6	N <sup>o</sup> . hatched uncertain; several broods in vicinity and initially difficult but sightings through to 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept suggest two fledged from this brood.	2
5	Whitwell	1 tiny	8/6	Pair (mating) with sm chick	-
6	Catchwater Drain, W of E Bank	2 sm	15/6	Sightings continued until late August when fledged	2
7	Drain W side of E Bank just S of Main Drain	5 sm	15/6	Not seen again	-
8	Catchwater Drain, Keepers	1 sm	3/7	Seen only once more on 4 <sup>th</sup> July.	-
9	Catchwater Drain, opp. Vis Centre	1 med	4/7	Not seen again.	-
10	Catchwater Drain, by E Bank CPk	(1) 2 sm/med	9/7 (10/7)	Sightings of 2 from 10 <sup>th</sup> July. Probably using drain on West side of East Bank as well as Catchwater Drain. Sightings in this area until 1 <sup>st</sup> September suggest 2 fledged from this brood.	2
11	Catchwater Drain, Carters	? med	31/7	Several broods along this stretch of Catchwater Drain and initially number of broods unclear. Repeated sightings until 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug confirmed 2 from this area, not included elsewhere, reached full size.	2
12	Catchwater Drain, Richardson's	5 tiny	17/8	Probably down to 4 by 28 <sup>th</sup> August. Last sighting of 4 sm/med on 19 Sept.	-
<b>Snipes Marsh</b>					
13	Snipes	(1) 2 sm/med	4/7 (9/7)	Sightings of 2 from 9 <sup>th</sup> July to 24 <sup>th</sup> August when Large.	2
<b>East of E Bank</b>					
E1	Catchwater Drain - Popes	3 tiny	24/5	Reduced to 2 by 9 <sup>th</sup> June. Last sighting of 2 Juvs 19 <sup>th</sup> July	2

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

		Brood	First Seen	Notes	N <sup>o</sup> Fledged
E2	Catchwater Drain, Popes	(7) tiny	27/5 (28/5)	Hatched probably over two days. Reduced to 2 by July. These two fledged, continued sightings until 24 <sup>th</sup> August.	2
E3	Sm pool/drain btw Serp & sub-Serp	3 sm	12/6	Reduced to 2 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 1 on 9 <sup>th</sup> July. Continued to be seen on the sub-Serpentine until 28 <sup>th</sup> July when fully grown.	1
E4	Catchwater Drain, opp. Walsey	1 sm	8/7	Seen until 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept when fledged.	1
E5	Catchwater Drain, Popes	2 <sup>+</sup> sm	3/7	Not seen again.	-
E6	Catchwater Drain, opp Walsey	(1) 2 tiny	27/7 (30/7)	Sightings of 2 from 30 <sup>th</sup> July. Reduced to 1 by 31 <sup>st</sup> July. Continued sightings to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept when fledged.	1
E7	Catchwater Drain, Popes	3 tiny	24/8	Reduced to 2 by 28 <sup>th</sup> August. Further sightings of 2 to 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct when Large.	2
E8	Catchwater Drain, W of Iron Rd	? 2 sm	1/9	2 seen again 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept when sm/med. No further sightings	-

In addition, young were heard from 31<sup>st</sup> July-17<sup>th</sup> August in reedy channel opposite the Visitor Centre but were always out of sight.

### Coot

*13 pairs, 5<sup>+</sup> fledged*

A significant reduction in numbers from the last few years.

We only had one brood in the whole length of the Catchwater Drain and this was opposite the Visitor Centre (the most open stretch of water along the drain). The drain wasn't cleaned out/dredged over the winter and there was a lot of vegetation along most of its length, probably too dense for this species which requires a degree of open water.

		Brood size	First seen	Notes	N <sup>o</sup> Fledged
<b>Main Reserve</b>					
1	Carter's	3 tiny	16/5	Reduced to 2 sm/med by 30 <sup>th</sup> . These 2 continued to be seen until 23 <sup>rd</sup> June when med. After that only 1 was seen but this remained till mid July when fledged	1
2	Whitwell	4	25/5	1 sitting 28 <sup>th</sup> April – 20 <sup>th</sup> May – presume hatched but no young seen. 4 sm by boardwalk to hides on 25 <sup>th</sup> May were probably from this nest. 2 small seen in the Catchwater Drain 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> June were also probably these, but they were not seen again.	-
3	North	4 sm	8/6	Reduced to 3 by the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 2 by the 14 <sup>th</sup> . These continued to be seen till the 22 <sup>nd</sup> when still small. (2 sm seen on Billy's Wash on the 14 <sup>th</sup> were probably also these). Not seen again.	-
4	Richardson's	1 tiny	14/6	Also seen on 17 <sup>th</sup> . A tiny chick seen on Pat's on the 17 <sup>th</sup> was probably the same, then not seen again.	-
5	Richardson's	3	15/6	Pr with 2 med & 1 smaller chick were on Richardson's 15 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June. It was initially thought the smaller bird may have been a second brood but this would be unlikely so we now think it was a runt bird. The 3 continued to be seen until mid July when fledged.	3
6	Billy's Wash	1 med	18/6	Seen here until 22 <sup>nd</sup> then moved to Simmond's where it remained until fledged on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	1
7	Richardson's	2 tiny	23/6	Seen on and off till 18 <sup>th</sup> July when still only medium sized.	-

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

		<b>Brood size</b>	<b>First seen</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>N<sup>o</sup> Fledged</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Daukes Drain</b>	2 <sup>+</sup> tiny	24/6	Seen on and off there till 2 <sup>nd</sup> July, After that only 1 was seen. It was last seen on 19 <sup>th</sup> July when still only medium sized.	-
<b>9</b>	<b>Whitwell</b>	5 tiny	25/6	On 29 <sup>th</sup> June 4 tiny in front of Daukes Hide were probably these. Only 3 remained on the 30 <sup>th</sup> and they were not seen again.	-
<b>Snipes Marsh</b>					
<b>10</b>	<b>Snipes</b>	4 tiny	15/5	They were rarely seen as they kept in the reeds, but 4 medium on 11 <sup>th</sup> June were probably these. They were not seen again.	-
<b>11</b>	<b>Snipes</b>	1 small	26/7	Seen regularly till 1 <sup>st</sup> August then no more.	-
<b>East of E Bank</b>					
<b>E1</b>	<b>Popes Meadows</b>	4 tiny	16/5	4 tiny chicks were seen in the pools on Popes Meadow opposite Walsey Hills on 16 <sup>th</sup> May. There were only 3 on the 17 <sup>th</sup> . The only other sighting was of 1 medium chick there on 9 <sup>th</sup> June.	-
<b>E2</b>	<b>Popes Meadows</b>	1 med	3/7	1 medium chick was in the parallel drains opposite Walsey Hills on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> July. It wasn't seen again.	-

Additionally a large chick was seen in the Borrow Pit off Beach Road on 7<sup>th</sup> August, this could have been from one of the lost broods above or even have been a fledged bird from elsewhere.

## Oystercatcher

*At least 13 pairs bred, no young seen*

Oystercatchers like to nest on shingle, so as in previous years most nests were situated on or near the shingle bank where there is a lot of disturbance from birders, walkers and dogs. Attempts were made this year to tape off nests but this did not seem to improve their success rates. There were some nesting attempts in the meadows but, as before, none succeeded.

		<b>hatched</b>
<b>East of E Bank</b>		
<b>1</b>	A pair were nesting in northernmost loop of Serpentine from 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> May. Probably the same pair then sat nearby from 24 <sup>th</sup> May to 7 <sup>th</sup> June. Then gone.	0
<b>2</b>	A pair were sitting on a nest in the meadow between Arnold's & Sea Pool on 15 <sup>th</sup> May. It was not seen again till 23 <sup>rd</sup> May but then seen regularly till the 31 <sup>st</sup> .	0
<b>3</b>	A pair were sitting on the beach behind Arnold's in line with the 1 <sup>st</sup> gap from 18 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> May. On 31 <sup>st</sup> May what was probably the same pair were sitting on the south side of the shingle bank by the 1 <sup>st</sup> gap where they stayed until 7 <sup>th</sup> June.	0
<b>4</b>	Another pair were sitting on the seaward side of the shingle bank at the east end of Arnold's from 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> June.	0
<b>5</b>	A pair were on a nest on the beach behind the 2 <sup>nd</sup> gap on Arnolds from 13 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> June	0
<b>6</b>	A pair were sitting on the inland side of the shingle bank c.50m E of E Bank from 13 <sup>th</sup> June-5 <sup>th</sup> July when the eggs would have been almost due to hatch but no young were seen. This or 5 above could have been another attempt by pair 3.	0
<b>7</b>	A pair were sitting on the inland side of the shingle bank behind the W end of Sea Pool on the 16 <sup>th</sup> June and still on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> . The area wasn't visited again till 1 <sup>st</sup> July when there was no sign of them.	0
<b>8</b>	Another pair were sitting on the beach at the E end of Sea Pool on 16 <sup>th</sup> June but were not there on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	0
<b>Main Reserve</b>		
<b>9</b>	A pair were sitting on the shingle bank below the path at the east end of the Brackish Pools from 18 <sup>th</sup> May till 17 <sup>th</sup> June when the eggs should have been only a few days off hatching. No young were seen.	0
<b>10</b>	A pair were sitting at the W end of the Brackish 4 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> June.	0

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

		<b>hatched</b>
<b>11</b>	A pair appeared to be sitting on Cricket Marsh on 20 <sup>th</sup> May and again on the 30 <sup>th</sup> . They were then seen regularly from 7 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June. If this had been the same nest for the whole time, then it would have been due to hatch but we are not sure that it was. No young were seen and the adults were not seen again in the area.	0
<b>12</b>	A pair were sitting at the E end of Eye Field from 20 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> May and then they or another pair were seen sitting elsewhere in Eye Field on the 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> .	0
<b>13</b>	A pair were sitting on the shingle at the top of the beach just W of N Hide from 7 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> June.	0

Other birds were seen sitting on what may have been eggs but only for one or two days – this could have involved 1-5 pairs in addition to those shown above

### Avocet

*At least 62 pairs bred, 10 fledged*

There was a reduction in pairs breeding this year but, although still poor, the number of young that fledged was a great improvement on the 3 that fledged last year. This years figures were very similar to 2008.

The fledging dates were spread from 15<sup>th</sup> June to early September so there was no pattern to show whether early or late attempts were more successful. All nests east of E Bank failed except 2 where the young were lost within 2 days, this may have been caused by Stoats which were seen regularly in the area. Stoats were also a problem on Simmond's Scrape where one was photographed on 6<sup>th</sup> July carrying an Avocet's egg and then on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> one swam out to an island and caused havoc dancing around before swimming back. There were good numbers of nests on N Scrape in late April but all disappeared over a two day period at the end of the month, was this also Stoats? An oddity this year was the number of birds appearing to be sitting on eggs in the grass on Eye Field but no nests lasted long. Strong N winds over the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> June caused high water levels on all the brackish pools and one of the nests on Eye Pool was almost floating, but the adults persevered and hatched 4 chicks ten days later (these were later lost).

Nesting attempts on each scrape were noted. Many attempts only lasted a few days, either because no eggs were laid, the nest was predated or the birds just gave up. These birds would then try again elsewhere either nearby or in different areas. Avocets do re-lay if the eggs and nest fail but in general they do not have another attempt if the young hatch but in previous years we have been fairly certain that this does happen if the young are lost in the first day or two. From the number of nests at various times we have determined the number of pairs attempting to nest on each scrape and then overall.

The following table shows details of the nests on each scrape.

Avocets	Earliest nest	Max nests at one time	Date max nests seen	Earliest hatchings	Nº. Broods hatched	Nº. chicks seen to hatch	Min Nº. Pairs involved
<b>Pat's Pool</b>	16Apr	12	6 May	27 May	3	7	13
<b>Simmond's</b>	18 Apr	22	25 June	14 May	13	39	24
<b>Whitwell</b>	25 Apr	10	17 May	14 May	1	4	11
<b>Billy's Wash</b>	24 Apr	6	28 Apr		0	0	6
<b>North Scrape</b>	17 Apr	28	28 Apr	15 July	1	3	30
<b>Eye Field/Pool</b>	16 Apr	15	23 May	1 July	1	4	15
<b>Brackish Pool</b>	1 Jun	6	22 June	2 July	2	3	6
<b>Arnolds/Serpentine</b>	1 May	8	30 May	2 July	2	3	9
<b>E of Arnold's</b>	23 May	2	4 June		0	0	4
<b>Pope's</b>					0	0	0
<b>W Bank</b>	16 May	3	6 June	7 June	1	1+	3

From these figures we believe that the minimum number of pairs attempting to nest was 62, but could be much higher if some of the later nesting pairs were not those that were retrying after losing their nests. A total of 24 broods hatched with 64 chicks being seen. Only 10 of these survived to fledge.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

The following table gives details of the successful broods:

	<u>All Main Reserve</u>	N <sup>o</sup> . Fledged
1.	A brood of 4 chicks were first seen on <b>Whitwell Scrape</b> on the morning of <b>14<sup>th</sup> May</b> , they had possibly hatched the previous day. They moved to Simmond's on the 5 <sup>th</sup> where they remained. One was lost by 23 <sup>rd</sup> May but the remaining 3 thrived and fledged on 15 <sup>th</sup> June.	3
2.	A brood of 2 were first seen on <b>Pat's Pool</b> on <b>27<sup>th</sup> May</b> , there may have been more but, if so, these were lost before we saw them. Another was lost on the 31 <sup>st</sup> but the remaining bird continued to be seen on Pat's and fledged on 4 <sup>th</sup> July.	1
3.	Another brood hatched on <b>Simmond's Scrape</b> on <b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b> . Initially only 3 were seen but on the 7 <sup>th</sup> there were 4. On the 10 <sup>th</sup> these chicks were moved to Pat's Pool and on the 11 <sup>th</sup> only 3 could be found. These 3 continued to be seen daily until 25 <sup>th</sup> June when only 2 remained. These 2 continued to be seen until they fledged on 13 <sup>th</sup> July.	2
4.	3 tiny chicks were first seen on one of the islands at the NW corner of <b>Simmond's</b> on <b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b> . The position of this brood meant they were often behind the islands and sightings over the next week were erratic. 1 was seen on the 30 <sup>th</sup> then 4 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> July. It is therefore assumed that 4 had hatched. After this they became more visible but reduced to 3 on the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 7 <sup>th</sup> . These 2 continued to grow and became more mobile. On 17 <sup>th</sup> July they moved to Whitwell. On the 19 <sup>th</sup> 1 moved back to Simmond's but on the 20 <sup>th</sup> it was back on Whitwell. On 24 <sup>th</sup> they were on Pat's Pool where they stayed until the beginning of August when fledged.	2
5.	2 recently hatched chicks were seen on <b>Simmond's Scrape</b> on <b>24<sup>th</sup> July</b> but only 1 was there on the 25 <sup>th</sup> . On the 27 <sup>th</sup> this chick was moved to N Scrape where it continued to be seen until late August when fledged.	1
6.	2 more chicks hatched on <b>Simmond's Scrape</b> on <b>1<sup>st</sup> August</b> , with only 1 present on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> . This remained on Simmond's until the end of the month. On 2 <sup>nd</sup> September it was on Pat's Pool where it fledged.	1

## Little Ringed Plover

*1 pair attempted to breed*

A pair were defending territory on Pat's on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and scrape making there on the 5<sup>th</sup>. They were present till 8<sup>th</sup>, then moved on.

## Ringed Plover

*3 pairs bred, 3-4 young fledged*

	Nest Site	N <sup>o</sup> . Fledged	
1	<b>Eye Pool</b>	A pair were seen displaying near Eye Pool regularly from late March through April but no nesting seen. These could have been one of the following pairs	
2	<b>Simmond's Scrape</b>	A nest was first found on an island on Simmond's Scrape on 21st June though it had probably been present for a few days. On <b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b> 3 tiny chicks were seen but the female was still sitting on the nest. On the 9 <sup>th</sup> there were 4 chicks with both parents in attendance. They were then seen daily but one was lost by the 14 <sup>th</sup> and another by the 16 <sup>th</sup> . These two continued to run around the scrape until the 26 <sup>th</sup> when only 1 could be found. It was only a few days off the predicted fledging date so we like to think it had fledged but cannot be sure. The other one stayed around with the male in attendance, often flapping its wings but refusing to fly for a further 10 days. On 5 <sup>th</sup> August it was gone.	1-2
3	<b>Sea Pool</b>	A bird was sitting on the shingle about 1-2m north of the fence by Sea Pool from at least 23 <sup>rd</sup> June until 7 <sup>th</sup> July. On the 9 <sup>th</sup> the nest had gone and there was no sign of any eggs or chicks. The two adults were sitting on Sea Pool, but obviously had no chicks. We don't visit this area daily so are not sure when the eggs were laid, so it could have gone full term. This area is heavily disturbed by walkers so it is surprising the nest lasted so long. One day I was watching the nest when 3 walkers went close by, the female walked slowly away from the nest but returned within a few minutes once they had passed.	0

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

	Nest Site		N <sup>o</sup> Fledged
4	<b>Beach nr E Bank</b>	A nest was found on the beach at the end of E Bank on 28 <sup>th</sup> June, it had 3-4 eggs. Initially the sitting bird was disturbed every time someone walked along the path at the top of the bank behind Arnold's but eventually they just stayed put. On 23 <sup>rd</sup> July the 2 adults were seen near but not on the nest. They were not present later and no chicks were seen. On the 24 <sup>th</sup> 2 adults plus 3 tiny chicks were on the small brackish pool just W of the top of E Bank and they stayed there until the 30 <sup>th</sup> . On the 31 <sup>st</sup> they had moved further west to the shingle area just north of the fence of the main brackish pool. On 7 <sup>th</sup> August only 2 could be found but 1 was reported on the 6 <sup>th</sup> on the seaward side of the shingle bank making a lot of noise. These 2 continued to be seen until the 20 <sup>th</sup> . Only 1 was present on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> , the other had probably fledged, and on the 24 <sup>th</sup> they had both gone.	2

### Lapwing

*40 pairs, 7-10 fledged*

This year the grass was longer than last in some of the meadows, making it more difficult to see sitting birds and find chicks.

The weather this year gave cold and wet as well as dry conditions and this probably affected Lapwing chick survival. In dry spells small chicks had to move considerable distances to feed making them more vulnerable. Very wet/cold days would have affected the amount of time chicks were able to feed. We lost track of several broods after bad weather.

Adult Lapwing seemed able to draw cows away from a nest but inquisitive/playful calves were more of a problem, keeping adults off the nest longer and more frequently and making the nest more vulnerable and possibly alerting predators (e.g. corvids) to a nest site. This problem seems to be exacerbated by the size of the meadows. Most are very small and although the cattle can move freely between many of them, the whole herd often congregates for long periods and the lapwing are repeatedly drawn off the nest.

We suspected polygyny for some nests. At least one male was definitely associated with two nesting females.

	LOCATION	NOTES	N <sup>o</sup> Hatched	N <sup>o</sup> Fledged
<b>Main Reserve</b>				
1	<b>Bull Marsh</b>	Nest found 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 3 approx. <b>28<sup>th</sup> Apr.</b> Only 2 chicks by 1 <sup>st</sup> May, then 1 only from 15 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> May when med+. Fledging unknown.	3	1?
2	<b>Bull Marsh</b>	Nest found 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 2 chicks north of nest site on <b>29<sup>th</sup> Apr.</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> May presumed from this nest. Fledging unknown.	2	?
3	<b>Bull Marsh</b>	Nest found 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 3 on <b>1<sup>st</sup> May.</b> No further sightings. Poor weather. Outcome unknown.	3	-
4	<b>Cricket Marsh</b>	Nest found 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Possibly hatched by <b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b> (adult behaviour) but no chicks seen. 1 Medium chick at NW of here on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May might have been from this brood. Fledging unknown.	?	? 0-1
5	<b>Pat's Pool</b>	3 small chicks on Pat's <b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b> , 2 fledged by 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	3	2
6	<b>Billy's Wash</b>	An adult was seen brooding young on <b>29<sup>th</sup> May.</b> Between 1 & 3 chicks were then regularly until 25 <sup>th</sup> June when at least 1 quite large. Assume 1 fledged	3	1
7	<b>Simmond's</b>	Nest found on E bank of Simmond's on 5 <sup>th</sup> May. 1 chick hatched on <b>2<sup>nd</sup> June</b> and this stayed in area till the 8 <sup>th</sup> then lost.	1	-
8	<b>Simmond's</b>	Nest found 25 <sup>th</sup> May. Hatched 2 on <b>21<sup>st</sup> June</b> , last seen 30 <sup>th</sup> June	2	-
9	<b>Keepers Marsh</b>	Nest not visible (vegetation obscuring view) but pair defending site 28 <sup>th</sup> May to 8 <sup>th</sup> June. Behaviour strongly suggests nest or chicks but outcome unknown.	?	

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

	LOCATION	NOTES	N <sup>o</sup> Hatched	N <sup>o</sup> Fledged
<b>East of East Bank</b>				
E1	<b>East Bank Meadow (South)</b>	Nest found 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 4 on <b>26<sup>th</sup> Apr.</b> and moved East. Down to 2 chicks by 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Last seen 22 <sup>nd</sup> May when Medium. Fledging unknown.	<b>4</b>	<b>? 0-1</b>
E2	<b>East Bank Meadow (mid)</b>	Nest found 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 3 on <b>29<sup>th</sup> Apr.</b> Last seen 9 May when Medium, fledging unknown.	<b>3</b>	<b>?</b>
E3	<b>East Bank Meadow (mid)</b>	Nest found 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 4 on <b>30<sup>th</sup> Apr.</b> Last sighting of 1, probably this brood, further east, on 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Presume lost.	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
E4	<b>E Bank Meadow (mid)</b>	Nest found 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 4 by <b>4<sup>th</sup> May.</b> Last seen 8 <sup>th</sup> May. Presume chicks lost.	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
E5	<b>Popes Meadow, W of entrance</b>	Nest found 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 4 on <b>5<sup>th</sup> May.</b> Last seen 12 <sup>th</sup> May. Presume chicks lost.	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
E6	<b>East Bank Meadow (East)</b>	Nest found 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 2 on <b>15<sup>th</sup> May.</b> Moved further NE by 17 <sup>th</sup> May and probably this brood around Serpentine 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> June, and 12 <sup>th</sup> June when Large. Assume fledged.	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
E7	<b>Sub-Serp Pool</b>	Nest site unknown. 1 small chick, few days old, <b>15<sup>th</sup> May</b> feeding at edge of pool with female. Continued observations here until 9 <sup>th</sup> Jun when full-size. Fledged bird seen nearby on 12 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Jun could have been this juv.	<b>?</b>	<b>1</b>
E8	<b>Popes Meadow, opp. Walsey</b>	Nest found 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Hatched 2 on <b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b> (+1 predated egg visible at nest site). Reduced to 1 chick by 24 <sup>th</sup> May. No further sightings.	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>
E9	<b>Popes Meadow, W of entrance</b>	Nest found 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Observations continued, almost daily, of what appeared to be the same male and female at the same, or very close, location beyond the normal incubation period. Perhaps original nest failed/eggs lost. Hatched at least 2 chicks approx. <b>11<sup>th</sup> June.</b> By 4 <sup>th</sup> July one Large chick remained. Presume fledged.	<b>?2</b>	<b>1</b>
E10	<b>Popes Meadow, W of entrance</b>	Nest found 20 <sup>th</sup> May. Incubating until 11 <sup>th</sup> Jun. Possibly hatched <b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b> (female behaviour on 12 <sup>th</sup> +13 <sup>th</sup> Jun) but no chicks seen. Outcome unknown.	<b>?</b>	
E11	<b>East Bank Meadow</b>	Nest found 24 <sup>th</sup> May. Hatched 3 on <b>22<sup>nd</sup> June.</b> Reduced to 2 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jun. These two last seen on 25 <sup>th</sup> June.	<b>3</b>	

In addition 16 nests were found which failed either within a short period or went full term but no young were seen. Nests are not always easy to find so a bird could have been sitting for quite a while before we found it.

<b>Main Reserve</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Bull Marsh</b>	Nest found 19th May. Observed until 21st May only. ? Nesting attempt failed or hatched and chicks moved immediately? Outcome unknown.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Bull Marsh</b>	Nest found 23rd May. Incubating until 28th May then lost. Outcome unknown.		
<b>East of East Bank</b>				
<b>3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Male and female observed on nest for prolonged periods 5th/11th Apr. only. Nesting attempt failed. POSSIBLE SECOND ATTEMPT by (?one of) this pair Nest found 28th Apr. Apparently incubating until at least 2nd May, then gone. Nesting attempt failed.		
<b>5</b>	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Nest found 11th Apr. Observations until 1st May. Nesting attempt failed.		
<b>6</b>	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Nest found 18th Apr. Observed until 26th Apr. Nesting attempt failed.		

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

7	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Nest found 27th Apr. Observed until 24th May. Nesting attempt failed.
8	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Nest found 29th Apr. Observed until 2nd May. Nesting attempt failed.
9 - 11	<b>Between Arnold's &amp; Sea Pool</b>	At least 3 pairs were seen sitting on nests between 12th May & 11th June but none of these seemed to stay in the same place for much more than a week at a time and all nests appeared to fail.
12	<b>Field beside E Bank</b>	Nest found 19th May. Observed until 11th Jun. Nesting attempt failed.
13	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Nest found 20th May. Observed until 11 June. ? Nesting failed or hatched and chicks moved immediately? Outcome unknown
14	<b>Popes Meadow</b>	Nest found 9th Jun. Apparently on eggs 11th Jun. Gone by 14th Jun. Outcome unknown.
15	<b>Meadow E of Serpentine</b>	Nest found 8th Jun. Still there 14th Jun then seen till 29th but gone on 30th . Outcome unknown.
<b>West of West Bank</b>		
16	<b>West of West Bank</b>	Nest found 12th Jun. Still there 14th Jun but no further sightings. Outcome unknown.

In some areas the growth of vegetation made it impossible to continue watching nests so the outcome is unknown. However no chicks were seen which could be associated with these nests.

	<b>Cut reeds west of East Bank</b>	Nest found 12th Apr. Observations of incubating bird continued to 26th Apr. when reed growth blocked view.
	<b>Cut reeds west of East Bank</b>	Nest found 18th Apr. Observations of incubating bird continued to 29th Apr. when reed growth blocked view.
	<b>Cut reeds west of East Bank</b>	Nest found 18th Apr. Observations of incubating bird continued to 29th Apr. when reed growth blocked view. Adults calling to chicks on 24th May but not visible.
	<b>Bu1 Field</b>	Nest found 12th Jun. Seen again 14th Jun. but thistles and grass obscured site. Not visible after this date. Outcome unknown.

### Common Snipe

*1 pair possibly bred*

On 26<sup>th</sup> April one appeared to be nest building on Popes Marsh but the vegetation soon got too tall to continue observations. No drumming was heard this year.

### Redshank

*17 pairs, 13 fledged*

Redshank tend to keep their chicks in the reeds only coming out to the waters edge on the scrapes occasionally for short periods which makes it difficult to follow their progress. We seemed to have more redshank in the meadows than last year. Could this have been because longer vegetation in some of these meadows gave more cover and they did not need to move chicks immediately into the reedy areas?

			<b>N<sup>o</sup> fledged</b>
<b>Main Reserve</b>			
1	<b>Central Hides</b>	Pr with 2 tiny chicks were on the board walk near the hides on <b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b> . 2 med chicks on Pat's 26 <sup>th</sup> May- 9 <sup>th</sup> June were probably these. Only 1 was seen 12 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> June and this fledged by the 19 <sup>th</sup> .	1-2
2	<b>Billy's Wash</b>	A chick was reported on Billy's Wash on <b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b> with 2 there on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> then 1 seen on and off. 2 fledged birds from 13 <sup>th</sup> June were very likely to have been these.	2
3	<b>North Scrape</b>	2 sm on N edge of N scrape on <b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b> moved to NE corner of the scrape and were seen regularly. Possibly the 2 that fledged here on 13 <sup>th</sup> June.	2
4	<b>North Scrape</b>	3 tiny in NW corner of N Scrape on <b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b> , reduced to 2 by the 26 <sup>th</sup> . by 28 <sup>th</sup> only 1 was seen. It was not seen again until 18 <sup>th</sup> June when a single large chick was on North, this was seen again until 26 <sup>th</sup> June when probably fledged.	1
5	<b>North Scrape</b>	Another 4 tiny were seen on the W edge of N Scrape on <b>4<sup>th</sup> June</b> . 3 remained on the 9 <sup>th</sup> but only 2 from the 12 <sup>th</sup> . 2 large chicks still being seen at the end of June were probably these and they fledged around 4 <sup>th</sup> July.	2

## Cley Breeding Records 2010

			N <sup>o</sup> fledged
6	<b>Cut reeds</b>	A pair apparently nest-building then sitting in southern cleared reeds (burnt) area to the west of East Bank from 25 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> April then reeds became too tall to monitor progress.	-
7	<b>Cut reeds</b>	Second pair apparently nest-building then sitting in cleared reeds (burnt) north of No.6 / East Bank from 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> April then reeds became too tall to monitor progress.	-
8	<b>Cut reeds</b>	Third pair apparently nesting in cleared reeds (burnt) area closer to East Bank than No.6 and No.7, probably started before 26 <sup>th</sup> April. Seen until 30 <sup>th</sup> April when reeds became too tall to monitor progress.	-
9	<b>Cricket Marsh</b>	At least 1 small chick with adult on 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>June</b> . No further sightings.	-
<b>East of East Bank</b>			
E1	<b>Popes Meadow, W of entrance</b>	Nest building observed on Popes meadows (Po3) from 26 <sup>th</sup> April and a bird was seen sitting from 28 <sup>th</sup> April to at least 1 <sup>st</sup> May. Chicks probably hatched by 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>May</b> . 1-2 chicks seen on several dates between 24 <sup>th</sup> May and 12 <sup>th</sup> June.	2
E2	<b>Popes Meadow, opp Walsey</b>	At least 1 chick seen with adults in Po4 from 17 <sup>th</sup> –23 <sup>rd</sup> <b>May</b> (when medium). Probably fledged.	1?
E3	<b>Serpentine</b>	2 tiny chicks were first seen just east of E Bank, north of the Serpentine on 19 <sup>th</sup> <b>May</b> . 3 small chicks on the Serpentine on 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> May were probably these. 1 was missing on the 29 <sup>th</sup> but the 2 were then seen until 3 <sup>rd</sup> June when medium sized. After that only 1 was seen until the 14 <sup>th</sup> . A recently fledged bird there on 17 <sup>th</sup> could have been this.	1
E4	<b>Serpentine</b>	A brood of 3 tiny chicks were in the northern arm of the Serpentine from 27 <sup>th</sup> <b>May</b> till 3 <sup>rd</sup> June. 2 on the sub-Serpentine on 4 <sup>th</sup> were probably these. A med/lge chick on the sub-Serpentine on the 18 <sup>th</sup> may have been 1 of these and if so it probably fledged.	1
E5	<b>Popes Meadow, W of entrance</b>	At least 1 chick with adults from 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> June.	-
E6	<b>Popes Meadow, opp Walsey</b>	3 newly-hatched chicks being brooded by adult on 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>June</b> . Probably this brood moved East by the 12 <sup>th</sup> and last seen on the 14 <sup>th</sup> .	-
E7	<b>Serpentine</b>	4 tiny chicks were seen on the Serpentine on 14 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>June</b> but not seen again	-
E8	<b>Serpentine</b>	1 tiny chick was on the Serpentine on 7 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>July</b> but not seen again.	-

### Black-headed Gull

*c.57 pairs attempted to breed, no young fledged.*

At least 57 pairs were sitting on nests during the spring with a maximum count of 49 on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Once more they tried to nest on the stony island on Arnold's Marsh but this year the water levels here were always high and they failed to get settled. The only chick seen was 1 small one on Simmond's Scrape, on the island in front of Daukes Hide, from the 26<sup>th</sup> June. It was last seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> July which was the day a Stoat was photographed with an Avocet egg on the same island.

### Common Tern

*None this year*

As in previous years 2 –3 birds attempted to find nest sites on Arnold's Marsh, but with the high water levels this year they failed to settle.

### Wood Pigeon

*Bred in N Foreland wood and attempted to breed on the reserve, numbers unknown*

2 or 3 birds were seen nest building in elders around the reserve but no other evidence of breeding there. Many do breed in N Foreland wood.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Tawny Owl

Often heard calling from North Foreland but never seen

## Skylark

*Bred. Numbers unknown*

Birds seen carrying food or with young on Popes meadows, off E Bank and on Eye field.

## Swallow

*4 pairs bred, at least 11 fledged*

		<b>N<sup>o</sup> fledged</b>
<b>1</b>	At least 1 pair nested in the <b>pillbox</b> near Beach car park. 5 young seen being fed on fence by Eye Pool 6 <sup>th</sup> June. Adults were seen going in and out of the shelter later so assume at least 2 broods.	2 broods (5 <sup>+</sup> young in first)
<b>2</b>	1 pair nested in the south side of the <b>beach shelter</b> . These fledged 1 brood before the end of June and were later seen taking food into a second brood.	2 broods
<b>3</b>	1 pair were around <b>N Hide</b> from 26 <sup>th</sup> April. They built a new nest in the entrance to N Hide and were sitting on eggs on 31 <sup>st</sup> May. Fairly large young were being fed on 19 <sup>th</sup> June but following strong, cold NE winds there was no sign of them on the 20 <sup>th</sup> . They were all dead when the nest was checked on the 21 <sup>st</sup> . The female was back sitting on the nest on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July and was feeding young on the 26 <sup>th</sup> . On 8 <sup>th</sup> August 3 full-size chicks were on the edge of nest. The nest was empty on the 9 <sup>th</sup> so we assume they all fledged.	1 brood (3 <sup>+</sup> young)
<b>4</b>	1 pair built nest in entrance to <b>Bishop's Hide</b> . Large young were seen in the nest on 16 <sup>th</sup> July and 3 fledged birds were seen on the 24 <sup>th</sup> .	1 brood (3 <sup>+</sup> young)

## House Martin

Nested in the houses along the Coast Road, numbers unknown but less than usual.

## Meadow Pipit

*Bred but numbers unknown.*

## Pied Wagtail

*Bred, numbers unknown*

It is thought 1 pair nested in the roof of the shelter in Beach Car-park. Young were seen being fed on the reserve from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

## Wren

*Bred, numbers unknown.*

## Dunnock

*Bred along the roadside*

1 pair bred in the Old Visitor Centre Car Park where on 13<sup>th</sup> June an adult was seen carrying, and dropping, faecal sac, from vegetation on north edge of the car-park.

## Cetti's Warbler

*Probably bred*

The only bird heard singing after mid April was from the Snipe's Marsh / Walsey Hills area. It is assumed the cold winter reduced the numbers from last year. A juvenile bird was seen in brambles opposite Old Woman's Lane on 29<sup>th</sup> June, but this could have come from anywhere.

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Grasshopper Warbler

*Possibly bred*

- 1 was initially heard reeling from Beach Rd near the sluice on 18<sup>th</sup> April and then at various places along Beach road over the next few days. By late April it had settled in the area at the south end of Beach Rd near the old gun emplacement where it continued to sing until late July. No other evidence of breeding.
- Another bird was heard and seen along the Coast Rd from 18<sup>th</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> June, ranging between the boardwalk and Bishop's Hide. No other evidence of breeding.

## Sedge Warbler

*Bred, numbers unknown*

A full circuit of the reserve on 26<sup>th</sup> April gave 24 singing males, with a similar number in late May.

Family parties or young being fed were seen:

- Richardson's Scrape on 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Near E Bank car-park on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June
- Behind Daukes Hide on 25<sup>th</sup> June
- Catchwater Drain between Bishop's Hide and E Bank on 10<sup>th</sup> July
- By the bridge to Bishop's Hide on 26<sup>th</sup> July

## Reed Warbler

*Bred, numbers unknown but at least 13 pairs*

Numbers appeared to be down a bit this year except along the Catchwater Drain where we had more than we can recall seeing over the past few years. Maybe this was due to thicker reed growth along the drain?

A full circuit of the reserve on 26<sup>th</sup> April only gave 3 singing males, but this was a bit early. Another check on 27<sup>th</sup> May also only gave 3 singing birds but a further 2 pairs were seen which were not singing.

Family parties or young being fed were seen:

Main reserve

- Fledged young behind Daukes on 22<sup>nd</sup> June
- 1 fledgling being fed by Catchwater Drain near Carters Scrape on 4<sup>th</sup> July
- East Bank Adult with 2 fledged young on 9<sup>th</sup> June
- Fledgling being fed by Catchwater Drain between Bishop's and Swan Bridge on 8<sup>th</sup> July
- Adults seen carrying food into patch of reed in Catchwater Drain by Keepers Marsh on 9<sup>th</sup> July
- 3 Juvs with adults near Swan Bridge on 19<sup>th</sup> July
- 1 Juv being fed by adult west of East Bank on 23<sup>rd</sup> July

East of E Bank

- Iron Road, S end of east drain, 1 adult and 2 fledglings "chasing" adult on 7<sup>th</sup> June
- 2 fledglings by Catchwater Drain between Popes entrance & Iron rd on 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Two adults carrying food into reeds along Catchwater Drain by Iron Rd on 9<sup>th</sup> July
- 2 adults seen carrying faecal sacs from same patch of reed along Catchwater Drain between Walsey Hills & Popes entrance on 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Pair behaving as if they had a nest, to and from same spot and very agitated when we got close. SE corner of field in bank reeds between Popes entrance and Iron Rd on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

## Willow Warbler

*Do not breed on reserve, but probable in N Foreland woods*

## Great Tit

*Do not breed on reserve, but at least 1 pair in N Foreland woods*

# Cley Breeding Records 2010

## Long-tailed Tit

*Do not breed on reserve, but probable in N Foreland woods*

## Bearded Tit

*Bred. Numbers unknown*

There were a lot of birds around this year with family parties and feeding being seen:

- Pr with fledged young behind central hides 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Another male feeding young further down boardwalk 14<sup>th</sup> June
- At least 2 broods E Bank late June.
- Pair with 3 fledglings on 9<sup>th</sup> June near Swan Bridge/Catchwater Drain
- Two separate groups: Pair with 3 Juvs; Pair with 2 Juvs near bridge to Bishop's Hide on 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Family feeding parties on boardwalk, E Bank and around N Hide in September

## Greenfinch

*Possibly bred*

Not usually thought of as a breeding bird on the reserve but may do so in bushes along the Coast Rd and also in N Foreland.

On **1<sup>st</sup> June** a male was behaving rather "furtively", possibly with nesting material in bill by the Catchwater Drain opposite the Visitor Centre. Eventually it went into a Hawthorn bush and didn't reappear for at least 5 minutes. On the 12<sup>th</sup> a male disappeared into same spot as before.

## Goldfinch

*1<sup>+</sup> pairs bred*

- Catchwater Drain west of East Bank Car Park. On 1<sup>st</sup> June an adult was seen apparently going down to nest in an Elder bush; seen three times during morning. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> two adults came out of this bush about 30 seconds apart. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 4 juvenile Goldfinches, newly-fledged, begging and being fed were west of East Bank
- 1 was singing behind Daukes Hide on 16<sup>th</sup> June but no other signs of breeding there this year.

## Linnet

*Probably bred*

## Reed Bunting

*5<sup>+</sup> pairs bred*

- 1 pair around N Hide on 17<sup>th</sup> April, young seen here later in year
- Pair at north end Iron Rd
- 2 males singing by boardwalk 25<sup>th</sup> April. Adults seen with young here later in year. Probably 2 pairs along the length of the boardwalk.
- Pair tending nest by Beach Road/Bull Marsh late May/ early June

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## Notes:

Once more we would like to thank the wardens, Bernard Bishop and Paul Seymour, and all local birders who told us of their sightings of nests and young birds around the reserve thus helping to complete the picture.

We would like to repeat this exercise again next year so any observations or other input will be gratefully received. Holidays during the breeding season next year will make it difficult for us to follow some of the early nesting species, so if anyone feels they could help, either by giving us details of general sightings or perhaps taking an interest in a particular species, do please contact us. Also there are still many species, especially the passerines, for which we never manage to collect enough data to give firm results and would like to improve on this in the future. So if you think it is worthwhile and would like to help we would love to hear from you.

Copies of this report are sent to interested local birders, the County Recorder, the NWT, BTO and RSPB. A summary is published in the Cley Bird Club newsletter.

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