

**THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY STRUMPSHAW FEN RSPB**

Six members attended on an overcast day with a keen northerly blowing. There were several highlights as we walked the boundaries, with an early Cuckoo, booming Bittern and Cranes bugling from the reedbed. Bittern was the real find while we watched one from Tower Hide with a second bird flying in to the same area. This bird later flew up to attack a Marsh Harrier which was getting too close to the nest. Just over 50 species recorded over the visit.

**FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE SOUTHREPPS COMMON NWT**

An enjoyable walk around this new site on a very hot day but with several areas of shade, which were greatly appreciated. Bird were generally predictable but an Oystercatcher calling was a surprise and a couple of Goldcrests and a Treecreeper in the Warren were good finds.

**TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY KELLING QUAGS NOA & MUCKLEBURGH HILL**

A very successful walk given the time of year. The six members managed to find 35 species on this relatively short walk, which in the end missed Muckleburgh. Among the highlights were a couple of Common Sandpipers along with Mediterranean Gull.

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST FELBRIGG NT**

An enjoyable walk on another very warm day. Just 29 species found but we ended with 8 Buzzard over the hall

**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER BURNHAM OVERY STAITHE**

Six members had an enjoyable walk out to the beach and dunes. Nothing out of the ordinary but over 50 species found consisting mainly of geese, duck and waders, with the smaller birds proving hard to find in the strong westerly wind.

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER NORTHREPPS to OVERSTRAND**

Six members met on a grey but calm morning to witness autumn migration happening around us. The playing field at the Village Hall was alive with flocks of thrushes and finches. Nothing that unusual was found but 5 Goldcrest was a surprise as was a Grey Wagtail. The sea at Overstrand boosted the species count with Gannet and Common Scoter as well as gulls. Finishing the walk three hours later with a count of 45 species.

**TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER CLEY MARSHES NWT**

On an improving morning there were 13 of us to enjoy this local reserve. We started in Bishops Hide which offered a good range of duck and waders but a Water Pipit close to the hide and a Peregrine overhead were the highlights. We walked the Skirts path to East Bank adding species along the way. I had to leave early but we already had forty species on the list!

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER MORSTON QUAY NT**

On a bright but windy day there were just three of us for a walk to Stiffkey Fen. The route was difficult in places with areas of flood but given the high tide there were plenty of ducks, gulls and waders reasonably close. We ended the walk with roughly 40 species. The highlights were a Goosander and three Red-breasted Merganser in the harbour.

## u3a BIRDWATCHING GROUP 2025/26

### **THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY TITCHWELL RSPB**

Just five members on what promised to be a wet day. Although a disappointing number of species seen there were several highlights. A female Scaup close to the beach plus a Great Northern Diver on the sea but a Kingfisher and Water Rail were also enjoyed. The final count was just 52 species.

### **FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY BLICKLING HALL NT**

Given the forecast of heavy rain, we opted for a shorter walk and abandoned the refreshment stop as it was full, being half-term. A pair of Kingfishers at the hall end of the lake were the highlight of the 33 species seen.

### **TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH HOLT LOWES NWT**

A brilliant day with seven members having close views of a pair of Firecrest in the car park and later a couple of sightings of Goshawk. Several Chiffchaff were singing along the way with a Tawny Owl heard from the Country Park. Never a walk for great numbers of birds, so a count of 28 was a success.

### **WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL SYDERSTONE COMMON NWT**

A good turn out of members on a bright warm morning. Before we left the car park several warblers had been enjoyed singing close by. Given the prolonged dry spell the ponds were all dry so no chance of Natterjack Toads but plenty of butterflies to compensate. Bird were difficult to see given the early leaf cover but we managed a total of 27 species.