Birds of The Suffolk Coast & Heaths

Holiday Report

22 - 25 May 2017

Led by Ed Hutchings

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Introduction

The county of Suffolk, like the rest of East Anglia, is a gem for birding. Few have mastered its diversity. From the River Stour in the south, to the River Waveney and the Broads in the north and from The Brecks in the west to the coast in the east, the county provides something for everyone. The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a stunning landscape, packed full of wildlife within 155 square miles of tranquil and unspoilt landscape, including wildlife-rich estuaries, ancient heaths, windswept shingle beaches and historic towns and villages. Birding in Suffolk is a joy as the landscape of the county is diverse, and so is the range of wildlife that inhabits it. This bird holiday would focus on spring birds in the wonderful habitats found on the Suffolk coast.

Group members: Nigel Baelz, Stuart Barnes and Louise Rowlands.

There now follows a summary of the activities and highlights from each day, a photo gallery, and a bird species list at the end.

Day 1: Monday 22nd May 2017

The guests were met on a hot sunny day at the Westleton Crown by their guide Ed Hutchings for an introduction and a quick bite to eat. The Westleton Crown is a friendly hotel on the Suffolk coast and would be our base for the break. After checking into the hotel after lunch, we headed south to North Warren RSPB near Aldeburgh for the afternoon. This is a wonderful reserve consisting of grazing marsh, lowland heath, reedbed and woodland, where we hoped to encounter breeding Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Hobby, Woodlark, Nightingale and Dartford Warbler. Potential invertebrates we might spot included Hairy Dragonfly, Red-eyed Damselfly and Green Hairstreak.

From the car park on the western side of the reserve, we struck out in a north-easterly direction across the grassland towards the heath to join the North Marsh circuit. At three miles long, this walk has stunning wetland views and scrub along the old railway. One returns via Thorpeness and has the chance to see woodland, open water and beach wildlife. The grassland is good for Yellowhammer and Linnet; the song of both accompanied us as we traversed it. As we made our way, a group of large mammals caught Louise's eye in the distance. Ed immediately assumed these were the Konik and Exmoor ponies that are used to manage the reserve. Looking through the scope, it transpired that they were in fact a small herd of Red Deer. Nearby, Stonechats perched upon gorse, Buzzards wheeled overhead, and a Kestrel teased us – a scarce Red-footed Flacon had recently been seen on the reserve. Nearing the edge of the grassland, a Nightingale burst into full song from the surrounding scrub. Stuart spotted Hairy Dragonflies and Red-eyed Damselflies patrolling the gorse.

The group moved into the woodland and along the route of the Old Railway that makes up the western section of the North March circuit. Here we listened to the song of various warblers and Ed gave a masterclass on how to separate Blackcap and Garden Warbler. Cetti's Warbler song exploded from both sides of the path as we made our way north. A short distance further on brought us to the viewpoint offering superb views over the reedbed to our left. Here we looked out for Bittern, Hobby and Marsh Harrier, especially hoping to see the rollercoaster display flights of the latter. Alas, no luck. The guests were offered the option of either walking the Reedbed Loop, which would have increased our chances of seeing these birds, or continue onto Thorpeness Mere for a cup of tea. Parched faces spoke volumes and the consensus plumped for the latter. Leaving the reserve and heading east, we skirted the immaculate Thorpeness Golf Course and familiarised ourselves with some of the more common birds. Just as Ed told the group that the Wren does not

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generally perch at the tops of trees, one duly did so, as did a Garden Warbler that he had previously described as a skulker. Before long, the House in the Clouds, a former water tower converted into a holiday home, towered above the trees. House Martins, Swallows and Swifts careered in the sky above.

Pausing for refreshments at the Mere Tearoom in Thorpeness, the group enjoyed a well-earned cup of tea as we gazed across the Mere at various wildfowl of dubious origin. Feeling reenergised, we continued south along the beach with the sight of Aldeburgh on the horizon. Suddenly, Stuart declared that he had lost the lens cap to his camera. Backtracking a short distance with him, Ed found the offending item on the side of the verge. Buoyed by our good luck we continued walking along on the grass that borders the beach. Not only was this less energy-sapping than walking on shingle, it eliminated the possibility of walking on the scarce shingle flowers. Approximately halfway to Aldeburgh, the group crossed the road and headed once more into North Warren reserve proper.

No sooner had we returned to the reserve, then we were serenaded by the gentle song of Reed Bunting from the tops of reed stems. The group stopped and admired the lovely views across the marshes. Soon the Reed Buntings were joined by both Reed and Sedge Warblers, some offering extraordinarily close views atop the scrub and reedbeds alongside the path. Before long, we had re-joined the old railway line with still no sign of the Red-footed Falcon. As we made our way north, two small birds with distinctive white rumps flew away from us. Ed identified these as Bullfinch and we soon discovered them perched up, offering a wonderful view. Ed also spotted a Green Hairstreak perched upon a Hawthorn branch. Eventually we reached the junction where we had joined the circular trail and retraced our steps to the car. As we did so, Nigel spotted an intriguing-looking bird flying along the hedgerow, which turned out to be a Cuckoo. Whilst we were enjoying this now uncommon encounter, Ed caught sight of a Fox making its way up the said hedgerow. Our group enjoyed a delicious meal in the hotel's restaurant that evening and had an early night.

Day 2: Tuesday 23rd May 2017

After a fortifying Suffolk breakfast, the group headed north to Carlton Marshes, a Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve on the edge of Lowestoft. This reserve consists of 120 acres of grazing marsh, peat pools and fen, is home to a wide range of wetland and Broadland birds including Reed, Sedge and Cetti's Warblers, Bearded Tit, Hobby and Marsh Harrier. Other notable flora and fauna we hoped to see included Water Vole, dragonflies and the rare Water Soldier and Raft Spider. On arrival at the reserve, Ed immediately spotted a Red Kite, at altitude and some distance.

We struck out clockwise on the circular Marsh Trail. Before long, a distant Marsh Harrier was spotted by Nigel quartering the marshes while Louise spied a Hobby scything overhead. For botanists, Carlton Marshes is one of the best places in north Suffolk for the sheer variety of plants, the grazing marshes alone supporting Marsh Pea, Yellow Loosestrife, Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin, Southern Marsh Orchid, Marsh Marigold, Marsh Valerian, Bogbean, Fen Bedstraw, Carnation Sedge and Tussock Sedge. The dykes traversing the marshes hold important aquatic plants such as Frogbit, Water Soldier and River Water Dropwort, while the species-rich fringes are home to Tubular Water Dropwort and Flowering Rush. The dykes provide sanctuary to seventeen species of dragonfly and damselfly, including nationally rare Red data book dragonflies – Norfolk Hawker and Scarce Chaser. Stuart spotted a female or immature male of the latter resting on a reed – they look very similar.

As we walked, Skylarks jettisoned skyward in song flight while Linnet parties bounced overhead. From the scrubbier areas, Reed, Sedge and Cetti's Warblers sang and the group spent a modicum of time trying to separate them, continually being tested by Ed. Grey Herons took off from the

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dykes, indignant at having their fishing disturbed. The occasional plop belied a Water Vole dropping unseen into the water. Scattered grazing cattle provided a timeless scene. They keep the marshes at just the right height for breeding waders. The group reached the other end of the reserve and a raised bank where we scanned some small pools of water. They proved quiet, apart from a handful of waders including Lapwing and Redshank, but the group enjoyed the view back across the reserve and over Oulton Marshes to the north. Having turned the corner, we would be accompanied by a large reedbed on our left the whole way to the visitor centre. Soon after, a Cuckoo called continuously from trees towering over the reedbed, though we were unable to clap eyes on it. Similarly, a distant calling Marsh Tit and a party of Bearded Tits remained frustratingly out of view.

More successful were the Reed Buntings that perched conveniently at the top of reed stems, while giving their delightful refrain. The group had received an earlier tipoff that rare Wall butterflies had been spotted in the reedbed and before long we came across them. The Wall gets its name from the characteristic behaviour of resting with wings two-thirds open on any bare surface, including bare ground and, of course, walls. Once widespread, this attractive species has suffered a severe decline over several decades and it is now primarily confined to coastal regions. Our group spent some time taking photos of the resting butterflies. Nearing the end of our loop, we spotted a small, brown bird actively making its way in a spiral up an Oak tree. This was a Treecreeper – always a delight.

Back at the reserve, Ed bumped into the affable and enthusiastic SWT Broads Warden Matt Gooch who told us that he could show us the Fen Raft Spider and Water Soldier. The latter is a rare native free-floating aquatic plant found mostly in central and eastern England. It grows beneath the water, staying submerged for most of the year, offering resting and sheltering places for aquatic insects such as dragonfly and damselfly larvae. The stiff leaves of Water Soldier are spear-shaped and saw-edged forming a rosette - they resemble the top of a pineapple. Amongst the plant may be found the Fen Raft Spider. Brought back from the brink of extinction through a project of captive breeding and translocation, the arachnid is now thriving at Carlton Marshes. With dark, cigar-shaped bodies highlighted by white or cream go-faster stripes, and reaching lengths of over two centimetres, the Fen Raft Spider is a striking creature. It lives around the margins of water bodies such as fen pools and grazing marsh ditches, where it sits and waits for prey. It is a formidable hunter above and below water, taking prey much larger than itself, including large dragonfly larvae and even sticklebacks. Matt explained to the group what to look for and a concentrated period of searching commenced. After ten minutes, the experienced eyes of Matt won the day. We were impressed by the size of the spider and before long we had located several more in the dykes.

While we were watching the spiders (no arachnophobes here), a Grasshopper Warbler's insect-like song reeled out on the rank scrub behind us. Alas, and true to form, this legendary ventriloquist remained out of sight. Before we bid Matt farewell, he took us to an old barn near the visitor centre - a reliable site for Little Owl which like to perch atop the buildings during the day. Unfortunately, there was no sign of the owl. We enjoyed our packed lunches overlooking the marshes and reflected on a successful morning while Ed explained the afternoon plans to the group over a map.

After lunch, we returned south to Benacre Broad National Nature Reserve near the impressive ruin of Covehithe church, where we explored coastal woodland, saline lagoons, reedbeds and heathland covering 393 hectares. Over 100 breeding bird species use this reserve including Marsh Harrier, Bearded Tit, Water Rail, wildfowl and in some years Bittern. Woodlark, Hobby and Wheatear breed on heathland areas and Little Tern fish off the coast. Other noteworthy species here include Lagoon Sand Shrimp, Starlet Sea Anemone and Grey Hair Grass, though it is a

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challenge to see the last three.

We struck off on another circular walk heading down between hedgerows through fields to the accompaniment of Goldfinches. Louise spotted some large ducks in a field which turned out to be Shelduck. Ed explained that they primarily nested in rabbit holes and that would explain their presence on this sandy soil. As we made our way closer to the sea, a reedbed opened on our right. A pair of Stonechats perched up on scrub between us and the said reedbed. A male Marsh Harrier appeared and gave us splendid views as it harried, dropping occasionally into the reedbed. Ed explained that was most likely the nest location where the female would be sitting tight as the male brought her food. Bearded Tits called yet again but remained tantalisingly out of sight.

On reaching the sandy beach, looking south towards Raydon Smear, we discovered a roped-off area of shingle and the reason for it - several breeding Avocet were in the vicinity. As we enjoyed the close-up views of these beautiful pied waders, Ed suspected that the attendant Ringer Plover were also breeding. Scanning the gravel carefully with his scope, he eventually found a bird sitting tight on eggs. Inviting the guests in turn to the scope, Ed explained what to look for and eventually everyone managed to see the exceptionally well-camouflaged wader, delighting in this display of cryptology. “How on earth did you find that?” exclaimed Peter. “It looks just like a bunch of stones.”

“Easy,” Ed replied, “if you know where to look.”

The group moved south along the beach towards Benacre Broad itself. A typical East Anglian shingle flora is found along the shore with Yellow Horned Poppy, Sea Kale, Sea Holly and Prickly Saltwort. The northern dunes support extensive areas of Sheep-bit and the rare Grey Hair Grass. Halfway along our beach we arrived at the thriving Sand Martin colony. We paused for a while and enjoyed the busy comings and goings of this delightful sight. Ed trained the scope on some of the nest holes to give good views of the occupants peering out over the sea. Just before the group reached Benacre Broad, a group of fallen trees, bleached by the sea and the sun, provided a wonderful photo opportunity. Shortly afterwards, we mounted the steps to the hide where we found ourselves looking out over the wide expanse of Benacre Broad, backed by woodland on all sides bar the sea.

Despite being a picturesque scene, the views from the hide over the broad are distant; the group struggled to see much of the waders and wildfowl present as they were mostly concentrated on the far side. Recent reports suggested that the local breeding Little Terns were in pitiful numbers this year and there was no sign of any on our arrival. However, Ed was sitting on the seaward side of the hide and eventually picked up a couple flying past over the beach. It was good to sit down after a decent stretch of walking, but the group concluded that there wasn’t much to see within the scope of our binoculars and therefore we headed back to the vehicle. Whilst returning along the top of the cliffs, Stuart spotted some Linnets perched on some gorse to our right. Ed found a male in the scope and the group enjoyed his attractively marked plumage with crimson forehead and breast.

As we moved on again, a black line appeared to be moving north over the sea – this was a flock of Common Scoter and we stopped to enjoy the long straggling line flying along the coast. Eventually we arrived back near the picturesque ruin of Covehithe church and the group stopped for a quick peek inside. The oldest fabric in the original large medieval church dates from the 14th century, although most of it is from the 15th century. During the Civil War much of the stained glass was destroyed by the local iconoclast William Dowsing. By the later part of that century the large church was too expensive for the parishioners to maintain and they were given permission in 1672 to remove the roof and to build a much smaller church within it. Outside the church, a male Kestrel

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perched on the tower. On our return, the group enjoyed another delicious dinner and an early night.

Day 3: Wednesday 24th May 2017

Our third day started dry and bright as we remained in the same locality. After another robust Suffolk breakfast, we headed to Hen Reedbed National Nature Reserve near Southwold. This is a delightful mixture of reedbed, grazing marsh, scrape and estuary where we hoped to see Marsh Harrier, Bittern, Bearded Tit, Hobby, Lapwing, Snipe, Avocet, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Reed and Sedge Warblers. Passage migrants such as Wood and Green Sandpipers are always possible, while Otter and Water Vole are frequently seen, as are Four-spot Chaser and Hairy Dragonfly. There is also a Brown Argus colony close to the car park, though they remained elusive on our visit. Soon after we left the car park, Cetti's Warbler song exploded from the nearby scrub, while Reed and Sedge Warblers sang from the large reedbed on our right. A male Marsh Harrier appeared to float above said reedbed, while a passing Red Kite high above it pleased Nigel as he had missed the one seen at Carlton Marshes. A Hobby dashed overhead making it a trio of raptors on view.

Having carefully negotiated the road that bisects the reserve, we struck out towards the viewing platform overlooking Wolsey Creek Marshes that gives the best views of the largest mere. This a good place to spot wildfowl and a few Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Shoveler were on the open water along with Little Grebe. The tantalising sound of 'pinging' Bearded Tits emanated from the large reedbed but they eluded us once more alas. Behind us lay the mudflats and being low-tide we scanned for feeding waders picking up distant Redshank and Avocet. Louise spotted several Lapwing feeding on the opposite grassy bank. Ed picked up a Common Sandpiper at the end of the creek, its presence betrayed by its three-note call which it gave as it flew off. He pointed out its key identification features such as its habit of bobbing up and down, known as 'teetering', and its distinctive flight with stiff, bowed wings. A nearby Grey Wagtail gleaned insects from the edges of the muddy creek. Further along Wolsey Creek are two hides overlooking smaller scrapes and islands, but both were unusually quiet for May. Nevertheless, we had good views of both godwits, Oystercatcher, Teal and Little Egret on our return leg. Ed picked up a distant Kingfisher on a post by call, but it didn't linger. On the brambles by the road Stuart spotted a male Azure Damselfly and a male Large Red Damselfly.

We headed south to Dingle Marshes to enjoy our packed lunch sitting on Dunwich beach. A screech of Black-headed Gulls surrounded us, eyeing our sandwiches with an unhealthy keenness. Dingle Marshes are a treasure of the Suffolk coast. A rich tapestry of grazing marsh, reedbed, shingle beach, fresh and saline lagoons, with forest and heath behind, hold breeding Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit. A terrific support cast of Lapwing, Avocet, Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Hobby and all manner of passage waders means that this site never disappoints. The marshes are internationally important for Starlet Sea Anemone – the rarest sea anemone in Britain. Otter and Water Vole are also found here. Once we had finished our lunch we headed off north towards Walberswick.

That spine-tingling experience of genuine wilderness is a pretty rare thing, but Dingle Marshes can get you breathtakingly close. Parking at Dunwich beach, it takes just a few steps to reach the mile-long shingle ridge that makes up the reserve's seaward side, a shifting path bordered by foaming waves and saline lagoons. It is these brackish pools that act as a magnet for waders and ducks. Before long we could see breeding Redshank and Lapwing on the grazing marshes and Avocet on the shore pools. Both Meadow Pipit and Skylark were launching display flights from the beach and Nigel asked Ed for advice on how to separate the two. Further inland the reserve's freshwater reedbeds – the biggest in Britain – support a wide range of birdlife, including a significant

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proportion of Britain's Bittern and Marsh Harrier populations. A pair of the latter 'sky danced' over said reedbed.

Both species Bittern and Marsh Harrier show well throughout May, though the group was most unfortunate in not seeing nor hearing a single Bittern during the trip. A throng of singing warblers emanated from the reedbed, protected from the North Sea winds by a large vegetated shingle bank that also provides habitat for Sea Kale, Yellow Horned Poppy and Little Tern. The shingle birds and flora are extremely vulnerable to disturbance, so parts of the shingle were fenced to reduce trampling. Alas, this appears not to have helped the Little Terns this year as none were in evidence, reflecting our earlier experience at Hen Reedbed. Nevertheless, the nesting Ringer Plover provide delightfully distracting regardless. The four-mile circuit of the marshes, which due to the hard-going nature of the shingle takes a couple of hours to complete, also takes in Exmoor Pony grazed heathland before dipping inside a section of Dunwich Forest. Just before the group turned the corner into the heathland and forest, we were presented with a wonderful view out over the vast reedbed of Walberswick National Nature Reserve. Suddenly, a party of Bearded Tits hurtled over the path, finally giving the whole group a view of these charismatic reed-dwellers.

On the heathland Stonechats perched atop the gorse flicking their wings while uttering their characteristic call that sounds like two stones being tapped together. A Chiffchaff sang nearby while a distant Green Woodpecker 'yaffled' down the scale. We headed into the woodland where, even beneath the mixed canopy, it was occasionally possible to get good views over the marshes. Stuart spotted a perched Speckled Wood butterfly and the group had a good look through the scope. Soon we were moving up onto higher ground where views to our right allowed us to appreciate the size of Westwood Marshes. The group paused to enjoy a pair of Marsh Harriers. Before long a couple approached us to ask whether the bird perched on a dead tree in the middle of the reedbed was a Red-footed Falcon. This scarce but annual species from the east had been spotted in the local area recently. Ed found the bird in the scope and determined that it was a Hobby, but wonderful nonetheless! The group continued towards Dunwich Forest, enjoying a flyover Cuckoo in the process. We entered the forest and headed back south towards Dunwich on a wide dusty track. This bit of the reserve can be a bit busier, but we didn't meet a soul. There is a good chance of seeing Crossbill along this stretch, but not this time. However, singing Goldcrest and warblers such as Whitethroat provided a pleasant backdrop as our tired legs took us back to the beach.

After dinner that evening Ed offered the option to visit the nearby Westleton Heath in the hope of encountering Nightjar. The group jumped at the chance and so we set off, arriving at dusk. On arrival, a distant Tree Pipit was still displaying while a Nightingale sang close to the car park. We made our way across to the centre of the heath where some local birders had gathered. Word had it that they had returned. Ed detected Dartford Warbler song nearby and before long he had located a singing male sitting atop a low gorse stem. He subsequently managed to find the small, dark and long-tailed warbler in the scope for the group, despite it bobbing between bushes. Attendant Stonechats also provided an avian overture before the main act. The light gradually fell away as the intensity of the biting midges increased. We hadn't anticipated such ferocity so early in the year. Just as the wonderful sunset eventually sank behind the trees, the characteristic churring of Nightjar began, rising and falling with a ventriloquial quality. This was a wonderful experience, especially for the first-timers, and we soon forgot about the mischievous midges. Alas, we didn't manage to see the birds and, as the light failed completely, we made our way back for a well-earned night's sleep.

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Day 4: Thursday 25th May 2017

Our last morning ended on a high note when we visited the important RSPB reserve at Minsmere. Between 2014 and 2016, the BBC's 'Springwatch' was filmed at the reserve amidst its venerated habitats, including coastal lagoons, 'the scrape', freshwater reedbed, grazing marsh, vegetated dunes, heathland, arable reversion and woodland. In May, it is possible to see over 100 species in a single day. Marsh Harrier, Bearded Tit, Bittern, Cetti's and Dartford Warblers, Little Egret, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers are present all year. Breeding species include Hobby, Avocet, Lapwing, Redshank, Common, Sandwich and Little Terns, Mediterranean Gull, Sand Martin, warblers, Nightingale, Nightjar, Woodlark and Stone Curlew. Passage waders include Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank and Ruff, whilst rarities are regular. You never quite know what you will see here.

On arrival the group struck out on the Coast Trail, a two-mile circular walk. The path took us through the North Bushes, where tired migrant birds refuel, and along the North Wall, which affords great views over the reedbeds. Migrants were not highly in evidence, but the group did have a wonderful view of a Water Vole swimming across one of the nearby ponds. North of the North Wall we scanned the rabbit-cropped heath for the nesting Stone Curlew, but they eluded us. Common Blues fluttered nearby, Bearded Tits flitted over the reedbeds, while various warbler song burst forth.

There are five hides overlooking the lagoons – known as the Scrape – where gulls, terns and a large colony of Avocet were nesting, while migrant waders fed. We popped into the East Hide which gave us excellent views of Mediterranean Gull and Kittiwake amongst the other larids. Continuing south along the trail Louise admired the scarce shingle flowers on the beach. On reaching The Sluice, Nigel pointed out Swallows nesting beneath the arches of the brick structure, before we headed back northwest towards the visitor centre through the reedbeds. The extensive reedbeds play host to several breeding Marsh Harriers and one was always on view throughout. To our left, past the Konik Ponies and Highland Cattle, stood the picturesque ruins of the 12th century Leiston Abbey.

We entered the South Hide and were rewarded with wonderful views of the Avocet Colony, as well as squabbling Common and Sandwich Terns. Ed pointed out the various species of wader dotted about the Scrape. Word had reached us that a Bittern was showing well at the Island Mere Hide, as well as a rare singing Savi's Warbler, so we headed off there. Minsmere holds a sizeable population of the British population of Bittern. Unfortunately, we seemed destined never to see this star bird of the Suffolk coast. Halfway through the beautiful deciduous woodland on the way, Stuart suddenly realised that his train was due to depart in half an hour. Beating a hasty retreat to the visitor centre, and subsequently The Westleton Crown, we said our goodbyes and parted company.

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Photo Gallery

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Avibase - Bird Checklists of the World

Country or region: Suffolk

Number of species: 417
Number of endemics: 0
Number of breeding endemics: 0
Number of globally threatened species: 20
Number of extinct species: 0
Number of introduced species: 10
Date last reviewed: 2009-02-28

Col	Location	Date	Start time	Duration	Distance
1	North Warren (pm)	22/5/17	13:30	5 hours	5 miles
2	Carlton Marshes / Benacre Broad	23/5/17	09:00	8 hours	4.5 miles
3	Hen Reedbeds / Dingle Marshes	24/5/17	09:00	8 hours	6.5 miles
4	Minsmere (am)	25/5/17	09:00	3 hours	2 miles
5					

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Make your observations count! Submit your data to ebird.org - Legend: [x] accidental [ex] extirpated [EX] extinct [EW] extinct in the wild [E] endemic [e] endemic (country/region)

Mute Swan	x	x	x	x		Pochard						Slavonian Grebe										
Bewick's Swan [x]						Ring-necked Duck [x]						Black-necked Grebe										
Whooper Swan						Ferruginous Duck						Black-browed Albatross [x]										
Bean Goose						Tufted Duck			x			Fulmar										
Pink-footed Goose						Scaup						Fea's Petrel [x]										
White-fronted Goose						Lesser Scaup [x]						Cory's Shearwater										
Lesser White-fronted Goose [x]						Eider						Great Shearwater										
Greylag Goose	x	x	x	x		King Eider [x]						Sooty Shearwater										
Snow Goose [x]						Long-tailed Duck						Manx Shearwater										
Canada Goose	x	x		x		Common Scoter		x				Balearic Shearwater										
Barnacle Goose				x		Velvet Scoter						Storm Petrel										
Brent Goose						Goldeneye						Leach's Petrel										
Red-breasted Goose [x]						Smew						Gannet										
Egyptian Goose	x	x				Red-breasted Merganser						Cormorant										
Ruddy Shelduck [x]						Goosander						Shag										
Shelduck	x	x	x	x		Ruddy Duck						Bittern										
Mandarin Duck						Red-legged Partridge		x	x	x		Little Bittern [x]										
Wigeon						Grey Partridge						Night-heron [x]										
American Wigeon [x]						Quail						Squacco Heron [x]										
Gadwall	x	x		x		Pheasant	x	x	x	x		Cattle Egret										
Teal						Golden Pheasant						Little Egret	x	x	x	x						
Green-winged Teal						Red-throated Diver						Great White Egret [x]										
Mallard	x	x	x	x		Black-throated Diver						Grey Heron	x	x	x	x						
Pintail						Great Northern Diver						Great Blue Heron [x]										
Garganey						White-billed Diver [x]						Purple Heron										
Blue-winged Teal [x]						Little Grebe				x		Black Stork [x]										
Shoveler		x	x	x		Great Crested Grebe		x				White Stork										
Red-crested Pochard						Red-necked Grebe						Glossy Ibis [x]										

Spoonbill						
Honey-buzzard						
Black Kite [x]						
Red Kite		x	x			
White-tailed Eagle						
Marsh Harrier	x	x	x	x		
Hen Harrier						
Pallid Harrier [x]						
Montagu's Harrier						
Goshawk						
Sparrowhawk						
Buzzard	x	x	x	x		
Rough-legged Buzzard						
Greater Spotted Eagle [x]						
Osprey						
Lesser Kestrel [x]						
Kestrel	x	x	x	x		
Red-footed Falcon [x]						
Merlin						
Hobby	x	x	x	x		
Eleonora's Falcon [x]						
Gyr Falcon [x]						
Peregrine						
Water Rail						
Spotted Crake						
Little Crake [x]						
Baillon's Crake [x]						
Corncrake						
Moorhen	x	x	x	x		
Allen's Gallinule [x]						
Coot	x		x	x		
Crane						
Sandhill Crane [x]						
Little Bustard [x]						
Macqueen's Bustard [x]						
Great Bustard [x]						
Oystercatcher		x	x	x		
Black-winged Stilt [x]						
Avocet		x	x	x		
Stone-curlew						
Cream-coloured Courser [x]						
Collared Pratincole [x]						
Oriental Pratincole [x]						
Black-winged Pratincole [x]						

Little Ringed Plover						
Ringed Plover		x	x	x		
Kentish Plover						
Greater Sand Plover [x]						
Dotterel						
Pacific Golden Plover [x]						
Golden Plover						
Grey Plover		x				
Sociable Plover [x]						
Lapwing	x	x	x	x		
Knot						
Sanderling						
Semipalmated Sandpiper [x]						
Little Stint						
Temminck's Stint						
Least Sandpiper [x]						
White-rumped Sandpiper [x]						
Baird's Sandpiper [x]						
Pectoral Sandpiper [x]						
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [x]						
Curlew Sandpiper						
Stilt Sandpiper [x]						
Purple Sandpiper						
Dunlin			x	x		
Broad-billed Sandpiper [x]						
Buff-breasted Sandpiper [x]						
Ruff						
Jack Snipe						
Snipe			x			
Great Snipe [x]						
Long-billed Dowitcher [x]						
Woodcock						
Black-tailed Godwit			x	x		
Bar-tailed Godwit						
Eskimo Curlew [EX?]						
Whimbrel						
Curlew				H		
Upland Sandpiper [x]						
Terek Sandpiper [x]						
Common Sandpiper			x			
Spotted Sandpiper [x]						
Green Sandpiper						
Spotted Redshank						
Greater Yellowlegs [x]						

Greenshank						
Lesser Yellowlegs [x]						
Marsh Sandpiper [x]						
Wood Sandpiper						
Redshank	H	x	x	x		
Turnstone						
Wilson's Phalarope [x]						
Red-necked Phalarope						
Grey Phalarope						
Pomarine Skua						
Arctic Skua						
Long-tailed Skua						
Great Skua						
Ivory Gull [x]						
Sabine's Gull						
Kittiwake				x		
Slender-billed Gull [x]						
Black-headed Gull	x	x	x	x		
Little Gull						
Ross's Gull [x]						
Laughing Gull [x]						
Franklin's Gull [x]						
Mediterranean Gull				x		
Audouin's Gull [x]						
Common Gull			x			
Ring-billed Gull [x]						
Lesser Black-backed Gull		x	x	x		
Herring Gull	x	x	x	x		
Yellow-legged Gull [x]						
Caspian Gull						
Iceland Gull						
Glaucous Gull						
Great Black-backed Gull						
Sooty Tern [x]						
Little Tern		x		x		
Gull-billed Tern						
Caspian Tern [x]						
Whiskered Tern [x]						
Black Tern						
White-winged Black Tern [x]						
Sandwich Tern				x		
Lesser Crested Tern [x]						
Forster's Tern [x]						
Common Tern		x	x	x		

Roseate Tern						
Arctic Tern						
Guillemot						
Razorbill						
Black Guillemot						
Little Auk						
Puffin						
Pallas's Sandgrouse [x]						
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	x	x				
Stock Dove	x	x				
Woodpigeon	x	x	x	x		
Collared Dove	x	x	x			
Turtle Dove				H		
Rufous Turtle Dove [x]						
Ring-necked Parakeet						
Great Spotted Cuckoo [x]						
Cuckoo	x	x	x			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo [x]						
Barn Owl						
Scops Owl [x]						
Snowy Owl [x]						
Little Owl						
Tawny Owl						
Long-eared Owl						
Short-eared Owl						
Tengmalm's Owl [x]						
Nightjar			H			
Swift	x	x	x	x		
Pallid Swift [x]						
Pacific Swift [x]						
Alpine Swift [x]						
Kingfisher			x			
Bee-eater						
Roller [x]						
Hoopoe						
Wryneck						
Green Woodpecker	x			H		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	x	x	H			
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker						
Short-toed Lark [x]						
Crested Lark [x]						
Woodlark						
Skylark	x	H	x	H		
Shore Lark						

Sand Martin	x	x	x	x		
Swallow	x	x	x	x		
House Martin	x	x	x	x		
Red-rumped Swallow [x]						
Cliff Swallow [x]						
Richard's Pipit						
Blyth's Pipit [x]						
Tawny Pipit						
Olive-backed Pipit [x]						
Tree Pipit						
Pechora Pipit [x]						
Meadow Pipit	x	H	x	H		
Red-throated Pipit [x]						
Rock Pipit						
Water Pipit						
Yellow Wagtail						
Citrine Wagtail [x]						
Grey Wagtail						
Pied Wagtail	x	x	x	H		
Waxwing						
Dipper						
Wren	H	H	H	H		
Dunnock	x	x	x			
Alpine Accentor [x]						
Robin	x	x	x	x		
Thrush Nightingale [x]						
Nightingale	H	H	H			
Bluethroat						
Siberian Blue Robin [x]						
Red-flanked Bluetail [x]						
Black Redstart						
Redstart						
Whinchat						
Stonechat	x	x	x			
Isabelline Wheatear [x]						
Wheatear						
Pied Wheatear [x]						
Desert Wheatear [x]						
White-crowned Black Wheatear [x]						
White's Thrush [x]						
Ring Ouzel						
Blackbird	x	x	x	x		
Fieldfare						
Song Thrush	H	H	H			

Redwing					
Mistle Thrush	x				
American Robin					
Cetti's Warbler	x	H	H	H	
Lanceolated Warbler [x]					
Grasshopper Warbler			H		
River Warbler [x]					
Savi's Warbler					
Aquatic Warbler					
Sedge Warbler	x	x	x	x	
Paddyfield Warbler [x]					
Blyth's Reed Warbler [x]					
Marsh Warbler					
Reed Warbler	x	x	x	x	
Great Reed Warbler [x]					
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler [x]					
Booted Warbler [x]					
Icterine Warbler					
Melodious Warbler					
Blackcap	x	H	H	H	
Garden Warbler	x		H		
Barred Warbler					
Lesser Whitethroat			H		
Whitethroat	x	x	H	x	
Spectacled Warbler					
Dartford Warbler			x		
Marmora's Warbler [x]					
Subalpine Warbler [x]					
Sardinian Warbler [x]					
Greenish Warbler [x]					
Arctic Warbler [x]					
Pallas's Warbler					
Yellow-browed Warbler					
Hume's Warbler [x]					
Radde's Warbler [x]					
Dusky Warbler [x]					
Western Bonelli's Warbler [x]					
Wood Warbler					
Chiffchaff	H	x	x	H	
Iberian Chiffchaff [x]					
Willow Warbler					
Goldcrest	x		H		
Firecrest					
Spotted Flycatcher					

Red-breasted Flycatcher						Magpie	x	x	x	x		Mealy Redpoll										
Collared Flycatcher [x]						Nutcracker [x]						Arctic Redpoll [x]										
Pied Flycatcher						Chough						Two-barred Crossbill [x]										
Bearded Tit		H	x	x		Jackdaw	x	x	x	x		Common Crossbill										
Long-tailed Tit	x	x				Rook	x	x	x	x		Parrot Crossbill [x]										
Blue Tit	x	x	x	x		Carrion Crow	x	x	x	x		Trumpeter Finch [x]										
Great Tit	x	x	x	x		Hooded Crow						Common Rosefinch										
Crested Tit						Raven						Bullfinch										
Coal Tit			x			Starling	x	x	x	x		Hawfinch										
Willow Tit						Rose-coloured Starling [x]						Lark Sparrow [x]										
Marsh Tit				H		House Sparrow	x	x	x			White-throated Sparrow [x]										
Nuthatch						Spanish Sparrow [x]						Lapland Bunting										
Treecreeper	H		H			Tree Sparrow						Snow Bunting										
Short-toed Treecreeper [x]						Red-eyed Vireo [x]						Pine Bunting [x]										
Penduline Tit [x]						Chaffinch						Yellowhammer			H	H						
Golden Oriole						Brambling						Cirl Bunting										
Isabelline Shrike [x]						Serin						Ortolan Bunting										
Red-backed Shrike						Greenfinch	x	x				Rustic Bunting [x]										
Lesser Grey Shrike [x]						Goldfinch	x	x	x	x		Little Bunting										
Great Grey Shrike						Siskin						Yellow-breasted Bunting [x]										
Southern Grey Shrike [x]						Linnet	x	x	x	x		Reed Bunting	x	x	x	x						
Woodchat Shrike [x]						Twite						Black-headed Bunting [x]										
Jay	x		x			Lesser Redpoll						Corn Bunting										

Birds of Suffolk Coast & Heaths 2017 Species List (additional records)

Butterflies

Orange-tip
Large White
Small White
Wall Brown
Speckled Wood
Small Heath
Red Admiral
Painted Lady
Peacock
Small Tortoiseshell
Small Copper
Green Hairstreak
Holly Blue
Common Blue

Mammals

Grey Squirrel
Water Vole
European Rabbit
Brown Hare
Pipistrelle Bat
Red Fox
European Roe Deer
Red Deer
Reeves' Muntjac

Moths

Green Carpet
Silver Y

Spiders

Great Raft Spider

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Hairy Dragonfly
Azure Damselfly
Red-eyed Damselfly
Scarce Chaser
Large Red Damselfly