

NATURETREK DAY WALK REPORT



Suffolk: Aldeburgh & Iken Cliff (Guide: Brian Small)

Saturday 9th March 2024

Highlights

- **An array of wildfowl on North Warren marshes, including fine Pintail...**
- **...fine views of Gadwall, Teal, Wigeon and Shoveler...**
- **...plus three Goosander and a drake Ring-necked Duck**
- **162 White-fronted Geese and many Curlew on the town marshes**
- **Many Avocet, both Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits at Iken**
- **A grand finale of a fine Peregrine and Crane at Snape**

We met at Slaughden at 9am and with a last-minute change to the morning's itinerary immediately headed to Church Farm marshes at North Warren, where with the light behind us we had fine views of many wildfowl. Initially, many Pintail and Shoveler were wheeling about having been disturbed by a male Marsh Harrier, but they had settled by the time we reached the first hide. From here we scanned the pools seeing plenty of Wigeon and Teal, in addition to a first-winter Caspian Gull and a pair of Goosander. On the middle pool we were lucky to find the over-wintering Ring-necked Duck – a vagrant from North America.

Moving to the second hide produced even better views of the aforementioned ducks, plus Snipe, Little and Great Egrets, iridescent displaying Lapwing as well as Stonechats and singing Cetti's Warblers in the bushes.

Back at Slaughden, we walked west along the bank of the River Alde, picking up numerous Curlew, singing Skylark and Meadow Pipit, several Great Crested and a single Little Grebe. More Stonechat sat atop the brambles, but more impressive was a large flock of White-fronted Geese that flew north over the town, before turning and heading back over our heads to land on the fields. We walked on to the main pools, where on the high tide over 900 Dunlin had gathered along with Ringed Plover and nearly 200 Curlew; the flock of White-fronts were

counted (162). Heading back to the coast, a few had fish and chips for lunch, then we drove round to Iken Cliff for a walk along the river.

Though the winds were holding the tide in a bit, we were able to see a large flock of Avocet on the river, plus many Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Shelduck. Further searching and a walk west towards Snape Maltings produced Knot, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin; back at the car park a pair of Woodlark took off and flew to the field from which we had heard them singing on arrival.

The fun was not over, as we visited the new RSPB Snape Wetlands at Botany Marsh, where numerous Buzzard and Marsh Harriers were joined by a lovely Peregrine that flew past to settle on a post. We ended the afternoon with a Crane out amongst the reedmead.



Checklists

North Warren

Greylag Goose	120	Common Redshank	2
Barnacle Goose	20	Black-headed Gull	5
Canada Goose	5	Caspian Gull	1
Mute Swan	2	Herring Gull	20
Common Shelduck	10	Great Black-backed Gull	20
Northern Shoveler	65	Lesser Black-backed Gull	6
Gadwall	4	Northern Gannet	5
Eurasian Wigeon	140	Great Cormorant	4
Mallard	3	Little Egret	5
Northern Pintail	60	Great White Egret	1
Eurasian Teal	95	Grey Heron	2
Ring-necked Duck	1	Western Marsh Harrier	3
Goosander	3	Common Buzzard	3
Common Pheasant	1	Common Magpie	2
Feral Pigeon	10	Eurasian Jackdaw	5
Common Woodpigeon	60	Carrion Crow	6
Collared Dove	2	Eurasian Blue Tit	2
Common Moorhen	1 H	Eurasian Skylark	15
Northern Lapwing	15	Cetti's Warbler	3 H
Common Snipe	8	Eurasian Wren	3

Common Starling	45
Eurasian Blackbird	2
European Robin	2
European Stonechat	2
Dunnock	3
House Sparrow	3
Pied Wagtail	4
Meadow Pipit	1

Aldeburgh Town Marsh

Greylag Goose	20
Greater White-fronted Goose	162
Barnacle Goose	2
Canada Goose	60
Mute Swan	2
Common Shelduck	35
Mallard	3
Common Pheasant	1
Little Grebe	1
Great Crested Grebe	3
Common Woodpigeon	5
Common Moorhen	1
Eurasian Oystercatcher	6
Common Ringed Plover	12
Northern Lapwing	35
Eurasian Curlew	190
Common Snipe	6
Common Redshank	25
Ruddy Turnstone	1
Dunlin	900
Black-headed Gull	10

Iken Cliff

Mute Swan	2
Common Shelduck	225
Eurasian Wigeon	60
Eurasian Teal	25
Common Woodpigeon	10
Pied Avocet	220
Eurasian Oystercatcher	30
Grey Plover	10
Northern Lapwing	35
Eurasian Curlew	40
Bar-tailed Godwit	8
Black-tailed Godwit	450
Common Redshank	325
Red Knot	6
Dunlin	40
Black-headed Gull	45
Common Gull	5

Snape Wetlands

Greylag Goose	20
Mute Swan	2
Northern Shoveler	2
Eurasian Teal	10
Common Woodpigeon	10
Eurasian Coot	1
Common Crane	1

Water Pipit	1
Common Chaffinch	2
European Greenfinch	3
Common Linnet	1
European Goldfinch	5
Eurasian Siskin	1 H
Common Reed Bunting	5

Herring Gull	10
Great Cormorant	2
Little Egret	2
Grey Heron	2
Common Kestrel	1
Common Magpie	4
Eurasian Jackdaw	20
Rook	8
Carrion Crow	6
Eurasian Blue Tit	2
Eurasian Skylark	6
Common Starling	300
European Stonechat	4
Dunnock	2
Pied Wagtail	8
Meadow Pipit	4
Rock Pipit	2
Common Linnet	2
European Goldfinch	3
Common Reed Bunting	8

Herring Gull	10
Lesser Black-backed Gull	5
Great Cormorant	2
Little Egret	2
Grey Heron	1
Western Marsh Harrier	3
Eurasian Jackdaw	4
Rook	5
Carrion Crow	2
Eurasian Blue Tit	3
Great Tit	1
Woodlark	2
Eurasian Skylark	2
Eurasian Wren	3
Rock Pipit	1
Common Chaffinch	5
Common Reed Bunting	2

Herring Gull	45
Lesser Black-backed Gull	15
Great Cormorant	5
Western Marsh Harrier	4
Common Buzzard	2
Peregrine Falcon	1
Long-tailed Tit	2