

# Hickling Broad & Potter Heigham (Day Trip)

Naturetrek Tour Report

July Day Trips

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Black-winged Stilt



White Admiral



Southern Hawker



Holly-leaved Najad

Report and images by Mike Crewe



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Tour Participants: Mike Crewe (Naturetrek tour leader) and 19 clients over three Day Trips.

Our July 2021 day trips to Hickling Broad were certainly very varied, with the weather playing a part in what we were to see on each visit, but despite this, there was always plenty to enjoy. Wetter days produced fewer insects, but that meant more time to focus on birds, plants, or whatever our fancy decided.

As summer progressed, birds mostly got on with the process of producing youngsters and there was much activity in the hedgerows from families of Common Whitethroats, in the woods with Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs, and in the reedbeds as Sedge and Reed Warblers searched for food. Glimpses of Bearded Reedlings were brief but welcome on two of the days and a male Yellow Wagtail graced the wet meadows on 1st. Duck numbers are always at a low ebb during summer, but it was noticeable how the numbers of Common Teal steadily built up as birds returned to go through their summer moult. In contrast, Greylag Geese reach a peak as families of youngsters munch their way through the grass on the retaining banks – and some seemed set on joining us on our walks at times!

Waders put on a good show as the season's first returning migrants began to appear (yes, even this early in the season!). Perhaps most obvious were the Ruffs, with a number of adult males still sporting their impressive headwear and giving us a good opportunity to note the remarkable variation in colours that exists in this species. Along with the Ruff on 1st came a Common Ringed Plover and two Wood Sandpipers, while the 6th brought the first returning Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipe, Greenshank and smart Spotted Redshank in breeding plumage. A pair of Little Ringed Plovers with young probably bred on-site, but the star waders were a pair of Black-winged Stilts that graced Brendan's Marsh for several weeks and competed with the Avocets for our attentions.

Common Cranes are always much desired by visitors and we did quite well for this, considering they can be difficult to find at this time of year, with the vegetation being so high. Best of the bunch was a group of three that passed quietly right over the reserve against a dramatic sky on 22nd. Marsh Harrier numbers steadily increased as youngsters began to take their first, unsteady flights and the 22nd provided a rather distant Bittern (they seem to be a little elusive this year). Herons and relatives seem to go from strength to strength in Norfolk these days, with up to two Great Egrets, 10 Little Egrets and 14 Spoonbills gracing us with their presence during the month. Other 'celebrity' appearances included a Red Kite (still scarce in Broadland), three Mediterranean Gulls and a very welcome Kingfisher.

As is to be expected, insect activity was very much weather dependent with a total of 16 butterfly species recorded, including a late Swallowtail on 6th and an amazing gathering of at least Purple Hairstreaks at a sap-laden Ash on 22nd. Dragonflies were similarly entertaining and included some good sightings of the nationally scarce Variable Bluet and Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker. Seeking out dragonflies meant spending time around the flowering brambles and this allowed us to turn up a nice range of other insects, especially bees, hoverflies and bush-crickets, while a spectacular, metallic green Musk Beetle was a highlight on 22nd. Also on 22nd, we encountered a small colony of Fen Mason Wasps attending the little chimney entrances to their homes. This wasp is nationally rare and currently only known from a small handful of locations in the Norfolk Broads.

High summer is a good time to take a look at some of the flora of the region and Broadland specialities included Marsh Sow-thistle, Common Milk-parsley (larval foodplant for Swallowtails), Small-flowered Sweet-briar, the

stingless Fen Nettle (yes, the leader really did rub it on his face!) and the very rare Holly-leaved Najad, which is restricted to just three sections of the Norfolk Broads in the UK.

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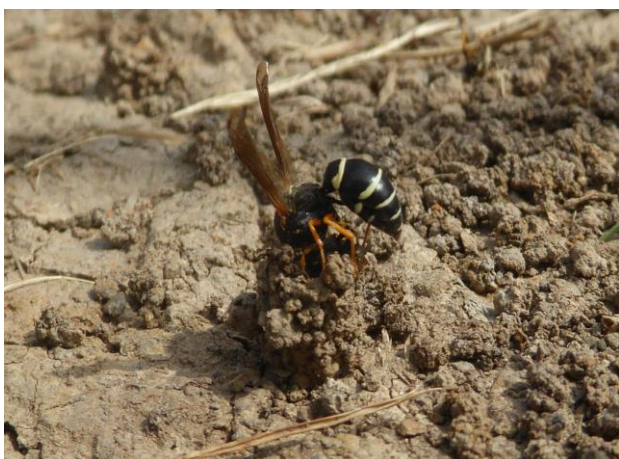
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Peacock



Purple Hairstreak



Fen Mason Wasp



Ruddy Darter

## Checklist

		01/07/2021	06/07/2021	22/07/2021
<b>Birds</b>				
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1	
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	4	4	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	1	2	3
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓	3	✓
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			2
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	3	1	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	30	✓	✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1	2	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	50	✓	1
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	2		2
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	h		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	2	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		1	3
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	h	2	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	4	1	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	2	2	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	✓	✓	3
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2	6	4
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		8	30+
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	9	11	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	4	1	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		1	1
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	3	3	2
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2		
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		1	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			3
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	3		3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1	2	3
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	8	6	12
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	2	1
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	4	4	14
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3	2	2
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1	2
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	6	10	2
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	12	12	8
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		1	

		01/07/2021	06/07/2021	22/07/2021
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2		
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	h		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			2
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	h		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	2	1
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			2
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		2	
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	1		15
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	6	✓	4
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			h
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			h
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	3		2
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	h	h	h
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	15	2	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	4	4	4
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	2	6	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	h		h+1
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	h	h	h
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	h+1	✓	✓
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	✓	h	
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	h	h	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	✓	✓	4
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			1
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	15	15	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	3	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2		1
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		1	2
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	1		
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	4	8	4
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	3	✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	4	2	h
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	3		
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	5	✓	2
<b>Mammals</b>				
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			✓
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>			✓
Chinese Water Deer	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>	✓		
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	✓		
<b>Butterflies</b>				
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓



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Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	L	L	✓
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		✓	✓
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓	✓
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>			✓
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>			✓
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓	✓
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>			✓
<b>Moths</b>				
Brown China-mark	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	✓		
Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>		L	L
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>		L	
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>			L
Silver-Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>		✓	
<b>Dragons &amp; Damsels</b>				
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		✓	✓
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓	✓	✓
Variable Bluet	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	✓	✓	
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓	✓	✓
Large Redeye	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	✓		
Common Spreadwing	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>		✓	✓
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>			✓
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>		✓	
Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>			✓
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>		✓	✓
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓	✓
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>			✓
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	✓	✓	✓
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>		✓	✓
<b>Other Beasties</b>				
Rozel's Bush-cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>			✓
Common Scorpion Fly	<i>Panorpa communis</i>	✓		
Semaphore Fly	<i>Poecilobothrus nobilitatus</i>	✓	✓	
Furry Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis intricaria</i>	✓		
Bumblebee Hoverfly	<i>Volucella bombylans</i>		✓	
A hoverfly	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>		✓	
A hoverfly	<i>Helophilus trivittatus</i>		✓	
European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>		✓	
Fen Mason Wasp	<i>Odynerus simillimus</i>		✓	✓
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>		✓	
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>		✓	
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>		✓	
Musk Beetle	<i>Aromia moschata</i>			✓

		01/07/2021	06/07/2021	22/07/2021
<b>Plants</b>				
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>			✓
Broad Buckler Fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>			✓
Intermediate Polypody	<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>			✓
Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>			✓
Holly-leaved Naiad	<i>Najas marina</i>			✓
Curled Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>			✓
Lesser Bulrush	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>			✓
Great Fen-sedge (Saw Sedge)	<i>Cladium mariscus</i>			✓
False Fox Sedge	<i>Carex otrubae</i>			✓
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>			✓
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>			✓
Purple Small-reed	<i>Calamagrostis canescens</i>			✓
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>			✓
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>			✓
Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis ssp. pratensis</i>			✓
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>			✓
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>			✓
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>			✓
Common Fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>			✓
Celery-leaved Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>			✓
New Zealand Pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>			✓
Whorled Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>			✓
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>			✓
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>			✓
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>			✓
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa ssp. segetalis</i>			✓
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>			✓
Common Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>			✓
Common Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>			✓
Common Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>			✓
Common Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>			✓
Common Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>			✓
Elm-leaved Bramble	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>			✓
Trailing Tormentil	<i>Potentilla anglica</i>			✓
Common Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>			✓
Harsh Downy Rose	<i>Rosa tomentosa</i>			✓
Small-flowered Sweet-briar	<i>Rosa micrantha</i>			✓
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>			✓
[Fen Nettle]	<i>Urtica dioica subsp. galeopsifolia</i>			✓
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>			✓
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>			✓
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>			✓
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>			✓
European Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>			✓
European Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>			✓
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>			✓
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>			✓
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>			✓
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>			✓
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>			✓



		01/07/2021	06/07/2021	22/07/2021
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>			✓
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>			✓
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>			✓
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>			✓
Field Penny-cress	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>			✓
Amphibious Bistort	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>			✓
Common Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>			✓
Water Dock	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>			✓
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>			✓
Spear-leaved Orache	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>			✓
European Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>			✓
Yellow Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>			✓
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>			✓
Common Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>			✓
Common Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>			✓
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>			✓
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>			✓
European Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>			✓
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>			✓
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>			✓
Common Mare's-tail	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>			✓
Common Water-starwort	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>			✓
Greater Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>			✓
European Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>			✓
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>			✓
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>			✓
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>			✓
Common Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>			✓
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>			✓
Common Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>			✓
Marsh Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>			✓
Perennial Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>			✓
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>			✓
Scented Mayweed	<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>			✓
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>			✓
Yellow Buttonweed	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>			✓
Common Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>			✓
Common Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>			✓
Hemp-agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>			✓
European Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>			✓
Common Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>			✓
Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>			✓
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>			✓
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>			✓
Parsley Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>			✓
Common Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>			✓
Common Milk-parsley	<i>Thysselinum palustre</i>			✓