



TOUR REPORT
NORTH-EAST ENGLAND
15TH – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2022

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THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER – *Overcast with a moderate Northerly breeze, 18C*

Our custom tour to the North-east for Marylebone Birdwatching Society kicked off today from King's Lynn, and saw us head north as far as Frampton Marsh for a birding stop en route to our first base in East Yorkshire. Frampton of course never disappoints on the shorebird front, especially in September, and with recent big counts of young waders fresh from the Arctic tundra we were confident of a good session. On reedbed lagoon we soon notched our first juvenile **Curlew Sandpipers**, with a brace patrolling the muddy margins and looking suitably clean, smart and peachy! We ended up seeing about seven in total with the best views from the raised mound just by the turning down to 360 hide – we saw three **Little Stints** from here too, all really close in front of us. A scattering of **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Ruff**, **Dunlin**, **Avocet**, **Snipe** and an adult **Little-ringed Plover** were also added in quick succession, before we turned round and spotted two **Cattle Egrets** in the field behind us! A good start!



Little Stint at Frampton, 15th September

360 hide itself was rather quieter as the tide was on the ebb and a lot of birds had already gone back out to The Wash. Of dubious origin, but nonetheless stunning to see, was a family party of **Red-breasted Geese** in front of the hide – two adults escorting five pristine goslings. Another **Little Stint** was seen from here, with six together back at the mound, plus a scattering of the commoner wildfowl. On our walk back several **Yellow Wagtails** were seen among the feet of the cattle, two **Green Sandpipers** were scoped up right at the back and among other species noted around the reserve was a brief **Peregrine**. From here, we had 2.5hrs to drive north, over the Humber bridge and to our base for the next two nights near Brandesburton.



Red-breasted Goose family of 'unknown origin'

FRIDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER– *Overcast with heavy showers and strong NW winds. 15C*

We spent the whole day in the Spurn area today, with the forecast suggesting it would be seabirds and waders on the cards, rather than migrant passerines – and so it materialised. We reached The Bluebell car park around 9.30am and started with a quick look at the sea there to gauge what was moving. The breakers were crashing onto the beach just yards from the car park with a dramatic foaming sea and hordes of little waders scurrying on the last remaining stretch of beach as high tide reached its zenith. **Dunlin, Ringed Plover** and **Sanderling** numbered hundreds here, and really close views too.



Ringed Plovers and North Sea surf, Spurn 16th September

Offshore, the odd **Arctic Skua** was noted but most of the birds we could see were passing very distantly – with the wind veering slightly later on, we figured that would be a more productive time for seawatching. Walking along a bit to try and get closer to the waders on the beach, seven **Curlew Sandpipers** shot through calling from The Humber, and headed north.



Spoonbill showing well at Kilnsea Wetlands

Kilnsea Wetlands was clearly where all the action was taking place today with both **Red-necked Phalarope** and **Temminck's Stint** seen there already today. We wanted to invest a good bit of time here over the tide so headed back there and walked up to the viewing screen on the south side. The **Temminck's Stint** was picked up right away, scurrying furtively on its own along the shore just out from the screen. It was really jumpy, making several short flights before eventually disappearing up the channel off to our left. There were lots of gulls, ducks and waders on the wetland with several **Pintail** picked out among the hordes of Teal and Wigeon. We then spotted the juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope**, spinning frantically on the water among some Teal – the light was with us so despite the distance, we could see the gold stripes down its back and fine bill which separates it from the similar Grey. Repositioning onto the embankment for a different angle, two more **Curlew Sandpipers** were seen and much better, closer views of the Phalarope. A juvenile **Kittiwake** had also appeared and among the hundreds of Redshank we saw a few **Knot**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and Avocet. Behind us on Beacon Ponds, the throngs of **Dunlin** were just starting to stir and head back to The Humber in flocks, so that by the time we had finished watching virtually all had gone.

Heading back to the hide, we managed to all squeeze in and just in time too as a heavy storm passed through. The **Temminck's Stint** showed well out the right (yellow legs easily visible!) and we had great views of four **Spoonbills** feeding right in front of the hide. As the gathered birds started to thin out, a lot of **Mediterranean Gulls** moved out onto the water to bathe in front of us before heading out to The Humber. The throng of Redshank started to thin out too – making it easier to pick two fine **Spotted Redshanks** out among them. **Yellow Wagtail**, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern and of

course, lots of **Black-tailed Godwits** were among the other species noted on what was a really, really good birding session here.

Lunch at the Discovery Centre was next up, and again we timed this well as it poured with rain while we were in there! A break in the weather afterwards though allowed us to head back up to Kilnsea and check the sheltered spots at the churchyard and the Crown car park. It was, sadly (but predictably) entirely devoid of migrants though and with more rain approaching, we hot-footed it back to the vans. We wanted to end the day with a seawatch from the hide at The Warren, and so headed down there a little after 3pm. The light was great now and we were soon enjoying a steady passage of **Arctic Skuas** – at least thirty were seen on our watch, with several harrying the terns high up over the sea. Soon the **Sooty Shearwaters** began to pass north, and we saw one flock of five together at a nice distance, allowing for some pretty good views. We nudged into double figures on these, and also enjoyed some nice **Kittiwakes**, several **Red-throated Divers**, Gannets and a single **Fulmar**. A **Wheatear** hopping around in front of us meant we hadn't, after all, gone all day without seeing a passerine migrant! Back to base from here, ready for another hearty dinner out in Brandesburton.

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER – *Sunny day in strong northerly winds, 18C*

A very slow day today with no migration going on and even the sea (which we'd had high hopes for) being disappointing. We spent our morning birding at Flamborough Head, kicking off with a short seawatch from the foghorn. The light wasn't great in the sunny conditions but there was a steady stream of Gannets heading north, a few **Red-throated Divers**, **Kittiwakes**, **Sandwich Terns** and auks. Otherwise though, it was fairly slim pickings. We set off on a circular walk of the outer head, making our way along 'Motorway hedge' with its new cover crop. Lots of Linnets and Goldfinches were flocking here and we finally saw a warbler on the trip with two **Common Whitethroats** bouncing around – a **Willow Warbler** was heard only. The walk along the clifftop was quiet in the strong winds, so the only new species added was a **Great Crested Grebe** before we turned north and headed along Old Fall. The sum total of the entire hedge and copse – two **Tree Sparrows**! We returned to the car park, and made our way along to South Landing.



Tree Sparrow at Flamborough

Lunch in the sunshine on the picnic tables outside the Living Seas centre was rather pleasant, and then we took a stroll down the wooded ravine towards the lifeboat station. **Bullfinch, Chiffchaff** and **Yellowhammer** were among the species noted, and the beach was decent for waders – Dunlin, Ringed Plover, **Sanderling** and **Bar-tailed Godwit** all in excellent light and close too. A couple of **Stonechats** at the top of the beach were surprisingly a list addition! From here, we had three hours to run north up to our next base in Amble, Northumberland, where we arrived just after 6pm.

SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER – *Overcast with fresh North-west winds. 14C*

A much better days birding today as we headed up to Holy Island, stopping first at Bamburgh with a session at Stag Rocks. The tide was still fairly high and there were loads of birds out on the sea here, together with a dramatic backdrop of the Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle. Loads of Gannets and Kittiwakes, several Guillemots and **Razorbills, Red-throated Diver** and an **Arctic Skua** close inshore kept us entertained as we scanned the rocks hoping for a **Purple Sandpiper** or two. There were plenty of Turnstones roosting, and a big flock of **Golden Plovers** came over us too. Heading up towards the lighthouse we found an adult **Arctic Tern** resting on the rocks and then three **Purple Sandpipers**, scurrying around among the weed and over the rocks where they were extremely well camouflaged.

Heading up to the Holy Island causeway, we crossed over and headed along past The Snook to stop and scan the large bay to our right hand side. There were masses of waders here on the dropping tide – Dunlin, Knot, Golden Plover and several smart **Grey Plover**, plus the real highlight – a flock of about fifty **Pale-bellied Brent Geese**. There were two small groups of ‘decked’ **Pink-footed Geese** too, plus we had seen three other small groups all bizarrely heading north – perhaps they had decided they didn’t fancy the trip down to Norfolk given the weather and were heading back to somewhere to feed. Parking at Chare Ends, we then headed off down into the village for lunch, before continuing to overlook St Cuthbert’s Island. **Red-breasted Merganser** was new for the list, plus we had close views of Golden Plover and hundreds of Atlantic Grey Seals. From here, we headed off on a long circular walk along the Straight Lonnen and round the eastern side of the island, but it was desperately quiet other than two **Goldcrest** and a few Teal, Wigeon and Snipe.

As we walked back along the Crooked Lonnen towards the village, we got news of a **Red-necked Grebe** in the harbour – we could actually see it from where we were but very, very distantly through the scope! There was only one thing for it, to walk round there and get better views which most of the group did, not only seeing the bird extremely well but finding a second one in the process too. Those that hung back by St Coombs farm located a **Black Redstart** and so everyone got to see this as well once the group had all reconvened – a very confiding first-winter bird feeding along a fence line close to the car park. Two good birds to end the day and there was even time for one more as a **Merlin** flashed over the vans as we drove off over the causeway. Not a bad day!

MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Our final morning would be spent checking out three of the Druridge Bay reserves, only a stone’s throw from our accommodation base in Amble. East Chevington always has plenty to offer and with low water levels and lots of mud, it was full of birds today. Among a scattering of waders were the odd Dunlin and Ringed Plover, Ruff and Black-tailed Godwit. A steady trickle of gulls coming and going to bathe produced a young **Mediterranean Gull**, but also a very nice 2cy **Little Gull** which was a new species for the trip. A variety of common wildfowl were also seen, including two **Goldeneye**.

Next up was Druridge Pools, and even lower water levels here meant fairly slim pickings – the main marshy pools holding a couple of Snipe, Ruff, and a small Dunlin flock. The deep pool on the north side was better with a clutch of **Mediterranean Gulls**, two **Pintail** and our first **Pochards** of the trip. We also had a wonderful close view of a male **Migrant Hawker** dragonfly hanging on some brambles beside the path. We took a short walk north along the cycle path to look for small birds, noting a few Skylarks, Meadow Pipits, Reed Buntings and a **Wheatear**.

Our trip was rounded off at Cresswell Pond, but in contrast to the other two sites this held loads of water! We didn't see much but a reedy pool near the parking srea hosted a **Water Rail** which was a last minute list addition. From here we had a straightforward trip back to King's Lynn, dropping the group off around 6pm.

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
2	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>					▪	▪
3	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>					▪	
4	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>						
5	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		▪	▪			▪
6	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		▪	▪		▪	▪
7	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		▪	▪			▪
8	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>						
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		▪	▪			▪
10	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		▪				▪
11	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
12	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		▪	▪		▪	▪
13	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			▪			▪
14	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		▪	▪		▪	▪
15	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						▪
16	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		▪				▪
17	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>					▪	
18	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>					▪	
19	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>						▪
20	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>					▪	
21	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						
22	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
23	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>						
24	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			▪	▪	▪	
25	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		▪	▪		▪	▪
26	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				▪		▪
27	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			▪	▪		
28	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>			▪			
29	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>						
30	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>			▪	▪	▪	

#	Common Name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19
31	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
32	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			▪	▪	
33	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	▪			▪	▪
34	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		▪			
35	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	▪	▪	▪		▪
36	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	▪				
37	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					
38	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		▪	▪		
39	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					▪
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
41	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					▪
42	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	▪	▪		▪	▪
43	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	▪			▪	▪
44	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	▪	▪			
45	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		▪	▪	▪	
46	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		▪		▪	
47	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				▪	
48	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	▪	▪		▪	▪
49	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪
50	Little-ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	▪				
51	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					
52	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		▪		▪	▪
53	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		▪	▪	▪	
54	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	▪	▪			▪
55	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				▪	
56	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		▪		▪	
57	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	▪	▪			▪
58	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	▪	▪			
59	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		▪	▪		
60	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
61	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	▪				
62	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	▪			▪	▪
63	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	▪				
64	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	▪				
65	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		▪			
66	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		H			
67	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
68	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>					
69	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		▪		▪	
70	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>			▪	▪	
71	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>				▪	
72	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		▪	▪	▪	
73	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19
74	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			▪			▪
75	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>			▪			▪
76	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>			▪		▪	▪
77	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
78	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		▪	▪	▪		▪
79	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪
80	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>						
81	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					▪	
82	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			▪			
83	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>					▪	
84	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			▪	▪	▪	
85	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>						
86	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			▪			
87	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
88	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
89	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>						
90	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						
91	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>						
92	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>						
93	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						
94	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						
95	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						
96	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					▪	
97	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
98	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>					▪	
99	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		▪				
100	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				▪	▪	
101	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
102	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
103	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
104	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
105	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>					H	▪
106	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		▪	▪			
107	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
108	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		▪	▪	▪		
109	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>						
110	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>						
111	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>						
112	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪
113	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				▪		▪
114	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						▪

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19
115	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						
116	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>						
117	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H	▪		▪
118	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			H		▪	
119	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						
120	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				H		
121	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				▪		▪
122	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>						
123	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						
124	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>						
125	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>						
126	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						
127	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						
128	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				▪		
129	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						
130	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				▪	▪	▪
131	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						
132	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						
133	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					▪	
134	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>						
135	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				▪	▪	▪
136	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			▪			▪
137	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>						
138	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪
139	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>						
140	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>						
141	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>						
142	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						
143	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
144	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				▪		▪
145	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		▪	▪			
146	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						
147	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
148	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
149	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>						
150	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>					▪	
151	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>						
152	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>						
153	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				▪		
154	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					▪	▪
155	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>						
156	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			▪	▪	▪	
157	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>						

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19
158	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				▪		
159	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			▪	▪		
160	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
161	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>						
162	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
163	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>				H		
164	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
165	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				▪		
	ADDITIONAL SPECIES							
166	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		▪				
167	Red-breasted Goose	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>		▪				
168	Temminck's Stint				▪			
169	Red-necked Phalarope				▪			
170	Purple Sandpiper						▪	
171	Red-necked Grebe						▪	