



Beccles Wildlife Group

Formerly Beccles Bird Society

Formed in 1973

OFFICERS: Nina Roffey (Chair) 01502 393956
Charles Fortt (Secretary) 01502 471094
Mervyn Aldis (Treasurer) 01502 715615



Summer 2022

Introduction

Nina Roffey

HELLO again, I bet you're all saying "here she goes again, banging on about her garden birds"! Well you're right. Things are improving all the time from when my garden, front and back, was just a shingle and concrete desert to now.

Full of flowers, wild and garden varieties, shrubs and small trees with birds feeders and a small pond. The latter, I've only spotted a cat drinking from it but there are snails and a large frog but no spawn. I'm getting birds back and front daily now and am feeling a lot happier.

We are feeling a lot more at ease now over covid but it's the weather I'm grumbling about now. Well, someone's got to. You just don't know what to wear, where to go for a break from house

and garden. I mean it's the solstice soon and hopefully a proper summer will arrive.

You will have received notice that we are asking how many of you would attend an indoor meeting should we start. Have you replied?

Obviously it would depend on whatever restrictions might be imposed. If you haven't, let us know please so we can arrange things.

It would be so lovely to meet up again and get even more normality in our lives. Until then scones, jam and cream are in order to celebrate the longest reign in our history. Nina.

Right time, right place!

Garry Nicolaou

I WAS at Minsmere on Thursday, May 19th with some friends and was lucky enough to catch the tail-end of a ringing demonstration being carried out by the Waveney Bird Club.

As we approached the demo the bird ringer, Carl Powell, released a green woodpecker and then brought the last bag of the day to the table.

There was a gasp of amazement from the assembled crowd as Carl removed and then paraded the contents of the bag – a male kingfisher!

After its vital statistics were taken and the crowd had photographed it, the bird was released.



Events Diary



Friday 17th June

Upton Broad and Marshes

Leader: Chris Adams, Tel: 01508 548708

Meet at the car park at 10:30. Parking is limited so please car share if you can.

Location: NR13 6EQ, What3Words: paradise.irony.ponies,
OS NGR: TG 380 137, Google map link:
<https://google/maps/5vxsC94yfPJk9Mnf8>

Please let Chris know you're planning to attend email
cad2852@outlook.com by the Wednesday, 15th.

Tuesday 12th July

Broadland Country Park, Horsford,

Chris to arrange a guide

Meet in the car park, NR10 4DF

Leader: Chris Adams, 01508 548708

Carlton Marshes

Nina Roffey

WELL, the right day was set for the walk around Carlton Marshes on Tuesday March 22nd. I arrived early and sat in the picnic area where I watched a bobbing pied wagtail just a few feet away. Suddenly swooping down behind it came another and immediately mated, the male shaking his feathers proudly and flew off. The female didn't see that coming!

Eight members and myself made our way around the reserve in warm sunshine without wind. Two members stayed far ahead with garganey in their sights but the rest of us never caught up with them as birds were constantly showing themselves along the route.

I had booked a table for us at 12.30 as a few needed to leave early, so after two and a half hours we turned round and all enjoyed a snack at the table outside. It was lovely meeting up with birders again and there were several laughs to be had and a run through with species being named.

After lunch three of us walked a different route and enjoyed the weather and more sightings. Altogether we had over 50 species. Great white egret, little egret, buzzard, grey heron, red kite, marsh harrier, greylag, Canada, barnacle, Egyptian geese, Cormorant, kestrel, redshank and greenshank, tufted, shoveler, Widgeon, mallard, teal, pintail, coot, moorhen, little grebe, ruff, snipe, oyster catcher, golden plover in great numbers all facing the same way.

Lesser and great black backed, black headed and herring gulls. Magpie, rooks, jays and crows. Gold and chaffinch, robin, wren, Cetti's warbler. Great, blue and long tail tits, chiffchaff, linnet,



Look, over there! Helga points out a sighting.

Skylark, lapwing, reed bunting males and females courting, green woodpecker and stonechat. Three species of butterfly; brimstone, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, an unidentifiable dragonfly and many water deer.

Thank you to all who came, it made my day and made me realise I must go birding more often. Happy spring when it stays warm!

Minsmere

Charles Fortt

A GROUP of eight BWG members met in Minsmere car park at 4pm on a chilly but dry afternoon with light cloud and sunny intervals.

Checking in at the hides in a clockwise direction, the scrapes hosted a good variety of geese, waders and other birds, including the following: greylag geese and goslings, barnacle geese, Canada geese, lapwing, shelduck, teal, gadwall, shoveler, gulls including black-headed and Mediterranean.



It was good to catch up with bar-tailed as well as black-tailed godwit, a single green-shank was spotted over to one side, redshank, pied wagtail, oyster

catcher, avocet, marsh harrier, moorhen, mallard, kittiwake, dunlin, Sandwich tern, turnstone, grey heron, and a common snipe landed right in front of our hide which gave Garry a good chance of a photo.

The East Hide had a new extension and whilst there was only us in the hide, I guess the extra space would be welcome during the day.

Not seen but heard were bittern and Cetti's warbler. John totted up as we went and he reports we ended up with around 52 species.

Included with these was an impressive number of Sandwich terns. There were 400 on the sightings board but we estimated less than that - I guess some were out feeding.

This is not an exhaustive list of birds to be found that day, but what the author managed to scribble down as identifications were made by himself and various members of the group.

As usual, it was good to meet up with BWG members and enjoy learning from each other.



Look, over there! David points out a possible addition to our tally.

[Pictures: Garry Nicolaou]

Reserve Report

Chris Adams

At this time of year, we are restricted to the amount and type of management we can do on the reserve. Therefore, our volunteer efforts turn to surveys and maintenance tasks.

Several freshwater invertebrate samples have been taken and sorted and early indications show healthy invertebrate communities in the duckweed excluded areas.

The field part of this survey has been completed. We have found the rare and protected Shining Ramshorn Snail in the main dyke. There is still the identification of more difficult species and then the final analysis of the data.

The reptile survey has been commenced by Derek and Will who have also taken on butterfly surveying at the same time. John and David Fox are in charge of bird nest surveying and Mickey and Anne have made further discoveries of water vole presences in the dykes.

Our botanist volunteers have located more Broadleaved Helleborine plants and we are having to increase the fencing to protect them from deer.

We now have a third duckweed enclosure installed where overshading trees were cut back from the main dyke. The ex-closures have less duckweed, and frogbit, in particular, is beginning to flourish.

Rhododendron and laurel have encroached to a point where we are obliged by our management agreement with Natural England to take action. These non-native plants are attractive but suppress native flora and fauna and add little to the ecology of natural habitats in Britain. Cutting these plants is ineffective so control is by poisoning with herbicide injected into stems at ground level to kill off the roots. Not all of it is controlled, just back to acceptable levels.



Our new storage box, courtesy of David Fox.

The long dry spell this Spring has reduced the amount of path maintenance but now that the rain has come plant growth is accelerating. Michael and Merve have done an excellent job of managing our hay piles and keeping the paths in good order.

Covering the hay piles with tarpaulin has meant the hay has remained dry throughout and as a consequence has lasted longer on the paths. Thanks to David Fox we now have a dedicated path mower for the reserve.

Toby has mown a new route through the Wildflower Meadow for visitor access. Up to now George has loaned his own mower to cut this path and we thank him for all the years he has undertaken this task.

The reserve now has its own defibrillator in case anyone suffers a heart attack. We have three volunteers who are trained in first-aid and we were all given onsite training on how to safely use a defibrillator. Hopefully we will not have to use it. David Fox has constructed a storage box in the decoy hide to keep it and the box is big enough to hold some of our tools.

Looking ahead we have arranged a course, in July, on how to use and maintain the Austrian Scythe. Up to eight people will attend the course and should become proficient mowers. This will enable us to mow the Summerhouse Ride where access is difficult for mechanical mowers.

Ben has been successful in securing funds to purchase a hay cutting and bailing machine for the Wildflower and Boathouse meadows.

All we need now is good harvesting weather!



Cardinal beetle. [C.A.]



A rare find – shining Ram's-horn snail. [Chris Adams]

Reserve Report

John Trew



AFTER Mervyn, Charles and I attended our top-up First Aid course, it became apparent that we ought to consider a defibrillator for the North Cove volunteers (most are over 70 after all!).

Investigations showed that retrieving the one from the village was not a practical proposition (not if we wanted the patient to survive!), thus we set out to raise funds to purchase our own.

That's when Caroline Topping came in and, thanks to Charles, she came up with a substantial funding towards the cost. Several club members also contributed from our Funding page on Facebook.

Following that, Michele Judd from MJ Training came onto the reserve recently and gave all the volunteers training on the use of the defibrillator.

Pictured above are Nina, Charles, myself, Anne and Mickey Cooke receiving the cheque from Caroline.

Tales of the Riverbank

John Trew

IT was nice to see the Trust had the digger out on Castle Marsh again, re-defining the wader scrapes, ready for the spring. They are somewhat distant from the river wall so, I guess, come April I'll be lugging the 'scope down with my doggy walkies.

Back at Barsham for a change, a barn owl was in the owl box once again so, hopefully, they'll be breeding in there this year.

The river wall was now brightening up with bright yellow coltsfoot starting to appear with lots of celandines along the footpath up to the river. My first chiff-chaff of the year called on the 13th and it, or another, made it to the river wall on the 15th. A marsh harrier was sky diving over Castle on the 14th taking advantage of the glorious weather, and the first hare I'd seen on Castle for a while ran across near the mill.

On the 15th, there was something white, around a foot high on the wall. Only when I pulled focus I realised it was a stoat which, as soon as it saw me, promptly disappeared into the reeds. A few paces further down the wall and we put up a woodcock. Two herons were taking great interest in the newly exposed scrapes on Castle.

Ten redwings flew across on the 18th and a possible jack snipe flew up and quickly down from the wall on the 19th - shame I didn't get a better look, I rarely get to grips with a jack snipe. A tree-creeper was a nice spot on the way to the river wall on the 20th and the first oystercatchers of the year were on Castle on the 25th. The newly created scrape proved an attraction for herons with three or four regularly on site.

A runner came puffing past on the 27th and I do wonder if their ankles would survive the uneven terrain. Marsh marigolds were now well in flower, brightening up the riverside. Two Egyptian geese were on Castle on the 28th - an unusual sight these days. Turning to check that Meg was still close by, I caught an all-to-brief view of a bittern flying into the reeds - let's hope it finds a mate and stays.

Some 15 or so waders were flying high on the 29th but in the cloudy conditions I would only guess they were probably godwits. Five stock doves flew out from Castle Mill, it must be getting crowded in there. A female marsh harrier flew up from the reeds so perhaps they're breeding again this year. On the way back to the car, there were a good number of siskins in the alders and a tree-creeper perched for some time on an alder trunk.

There was at least one black tailed godwit on Aldeby - it's such a shame that the guy who fishes over there, hasn't, thus the reeds haven't been cut down so making it extremely difficult and frustrating to see across there this year. Some 35 redwings flew over as I made my way back. There were certainly four avocets over there on the 2nd and, day later, I found some otter spraint where the old pump house used to be. Two Egyptian geese flew over on the 6th, a bit of a rarity on Castle these days.



My first sedge warbler of the year was on the 14th with many of them singing away in the reeds. A brimstone flew along, one doesn't see many of them along the river wall. A little egret was on Castle's pools and eight black tailed godwits flew over on the 17th. Try as I did, I couldn't yet persuade any whimbrel to turn up as yet, but I keep trying even though it is a tad early (I guess it's just me being impatient!).

April trundled on with nothing spectacular to report on though another eight black-tailed godwits flying over was a nice surprise. Orange Tips were about - I think they're my favourite butterfly - a real sign that Spring is here despite the cold weather. A kingfisher flew across the river on the 19th and the marsh harriers were displaying over Castle.

My first river wall swallows were noted on the 25th as were my first cuckoos of the year, two individuals perched on the fence posts on Castle giving me good views. A pair of avocets were on the Castle scrapes so here's hoping they stay.

Despite much wishing they'd arrive early, the first whimbrel did what they always do and turned up two days before the end of the month. Eight birds were noted at the western end of Castle Marsh but had flown on when I came back from my walk.

Two great crested grebes were on the river on the 29th, not unusual in winter but less so this time of year. Curiously, a dead roach around 6in long was on the river wall - a cormorant's dropped catch perhaps, I don't think it was otter.

Whimbrel stayed quite distant on Castle this year, making it tricky to count without the 'scope. I did manage 15-20 on May Day but this rather paled with the report I heard that someone had some 40 on North Cove marshes. St Mark's flies were abundant and so made mental note not to breathe in too much!

May 2nd was notable as I'm pretty sure I caught up with a ring ouzel in the trees near Castle Mill. Just when I was able to get near enough to check it out, it flew off further down and I couldn't get another good view.

The last of the whimbrel came through with four present on Castle on the sixth, three more two days later and two on the ninth. My first swift of the year flew over on the 13th and great spotted woodpecker was a regular sighting, flying to and from the Norfolk bank. A female stonechat was just beyond Castle - I see them frequently in the winter, not so this time of year.

Two cuckoos in the same tree was a nice sight, giving really nice views. A female, with its extraordinary call, was there on the 21st as was a plume moth that fluttered along the river wall just in front of me. A wall brown butterfly was my first of the year.

I finally caught up with a garden warbler on the 22nd, by the staithe as usual. Several reed warblers showed quite well the same day.



Orange tip a real sign that spring is here. [JT]

Member, Jeremy Horngold took this photo of a grasshopper warbler along the Waveney.

Birding Round-up

Tony Butler

MY REPORT will cover the highlights seen for the three-monthly period March to the end of May.

As per normal, my main focus will centre on the area comprising a five-mile radius of Beccles but will also conclude with the main highlights seen a bit further afield in Suffolk for the term covered.

With regard to March, a juv Caspian gull was on the roof of V C Cooke's at the Ellough Industrial Estate on the first and I had a red kite just south of the A46 on the seventh.

The eighth saw a barn owl over the bullfield, Ringsfield Road and three grey partridges were at Ellough airfield on the 10th. A woodcock was reported at Brampton on the 11th.

Nina reported a little egret at Park Drive, Worlingham and a red kite over the Stockton roundabout. Finally Daphne enjoyed a nuthatch calling from behind her Gosford Road garden.

Into April and Nina reported a grey wagtail on her Worlingham sunbed on the 5th and a red kite over Shadingfield the following day. I enjoyed a red kite over Kilbrack, Beccles on the 8th.

A ring ouzel was seen at Worlingham marshes on the 13th with a further three reported from the same location on the 24th. It is worth noting that this spring has been exceptional for ring ouzels generally.

Neville had a little owl at Beccles marshes on the 20th and his first reed warbler of the year along the Waveney riverbank. Also, on the 20th, a grasshopper warbler was heard reeling at Beccles Quay near the sailing club and one was photographed near the swing bridge. A red kite was over the Ellough crematorium and I had my first blackcap singing in the garden.

Finally on the 30th, I personally enjoyed five whimbrel, two cuckoos, whitethroats, garden warblers and blackcaps on Beccles Marshes and 20 whimbrel on Worlingham marshes down Marsh Lane with 40 whimbrel and two cuckoos on North Cove marshes.

May saw a cuckoo calling on Gillingham marshes on the first with three common cranes flying north over Earsham on the 9th and a red kite over Ringsfield Road bullfield on the same date.

Up to three turtle doves were reported in the Sandy Lane area, Hulver on the 10th on the 17th. Helga and Paul reported yellowhammers seen frequently in the Ringsfield Road area.



Member Jeremy Horngold captured this group of whimbrel on Beccles marshes.

On the following day, they saw a male merlin along Hall Road leading to Ringsfield Hall and a cuckoo heard from their Ringsfield Road garden.

At the end of the month, Daphne had a red kite near Sotterly Park, a turtle dove was on the wires at Mutford and a white-tailed sea eagle was seen south east of Mutford flying over Rushmere.

Common buzzards continue to be seen in reasonable numbers and I've heard at least four different song thrushes this spring to date, Doris Trew heard one by North Cove church.

John T ticked off his first "from the garden" red kite when one flew over the field at the back of his house and over Queen Elizabeth Drive.

A bit further afield for the period but remaining in Suffolk, highlights have included little bunting at Knettishall; white stork, Eastbridge and Carlton; two smew, Minsmere; lesser yellowlegs, Minsmere and Southwold; six glossy ibis, Walberswick, Minsmere and Carlton; long-eared owl, Benacre; white wagails, Benacre; seven shorelarks, Kessingland; five black-necked grebes, Trimley and Carlton, white tailed eagle, various locations; several garganey, various locations.

Two Slavonian grebes, Alton; Pacific golden plover, Carlton; black kite, various locations; three black-winged stilts, Orfordness; four red-rumped swallows, Alton Water, Dunwich, Ramsholt.

Good numbers of ring ouzels, various locations. A drake ring-necked duck, Minsmere; two hoopoes, Woolverstone and Dunwich; four wood warblers, Sizewell, Great Barton, Aldeburgh and Easton Bavents; two Timmick's stints; 28 bee-eaters Minsmere and Fressingfield; three little stints, Carlton, Southwold and Hollesley; two ospreys, Minsmere, two purple herons, Minsmere and Felixstowe, golden oriole, Minsmere; drake American wigeon, Minsmere, red-footed falcon, Boyton, quail, Lowestoft.

My phone numbers for reporting are 01502 712649 or 07762 300053.

Jeremy Horngold photographed this tree-creeper down by the old swing bridge.



Looking for Invertebrates

Jeff Wood-Brignall

A novice's perspective

WHO would have thought, having flunked biology at school, that 40+ years later I would be looking (sorting) for invertebrates in dyke/pond water samples? Well I am, and it's just one of the varied tasks I have turned my hand to as a volunteer at the North Cove nature reserve.



Chris ponders the pondlife.
[Ben Blower]

This survey is undertaken, in various waterways within the site, on a 4-yearly cycle as a means to understanding life cycles within those water bodies.

How is it undertaken? For each water body a timed two-minute sample is netted and the 'catch' placed in a bucket. Those of us assigned to sorting on the day transfer a sample

from the bucket into a light-coloured tray and then look for signs of life.

The sorters are always keen to share their finds, particularly as the sorting process requires focus, keen eyes and patience. Large enough invertebrates are placed in separate containers (see photos for an example) for further analysis i.e., exact species, male/female, etc.

In some areas snails may be the dominant species, in others they may be hard to find. Instead, we may find chironomid (midge) larvae, water boatmen, sticklebacks and dragonfly and damselfly larvae, among much more. The expert in our group is always on hand with the Latin names for each invertebrate. Retaining that name is hard for someone like me who has trouble remembering people's names!!

Water boatman and
dragonfly nymph.



Turtle Dove Recovery

John Trew

BACK in my early days living on the northern edge of Luton, I frequently used to walk my then spaniel, up and over Telegraph Hill to the wonderful Pegsden Hills.

Often, when down in the valley section, I would listen to the gentle purring of the local turtle dove and, apart from enjoying its song, I was just happy to tick it off my birding list. Little did I know how they were to decline over the next 25 years.

Whilst much has been done by the RSPB in particular, to research and try to halt the decline, the population continues to decline and we very much blame the continentals for shooting them.

There is one exception, however. On the Knepp estate in Sussex, where they have been re-wilding for some 20 years, their population is increasing which makes one think that we in the UK must take some of the blame.

Now I read in the EDP that three conservationists (Chris Knights, Bill Makins and Ed Pope) have formed the Turtle Dove Trust based at Pensthorpe aiming to spearhead a recovery by rearing locally bred birds to be released into the wild.

The Trust hopes to create a flock of captive bred birds able to survive in the UK without the need to migrate.

They have to date bred over 300 doves with some 52 being released. A further 263 being over-wintered here.

Let's hope those released birds fly over this way on their way back to the continent. [Source: EDP, Dec 2021]

• I note in the latest RSPB magazine that 2022 was the first year that no shooting of turtle doves was permitted in France, Spain and Portugal (their UK migration route). Let's hope the locals know it!



Trail Camera

Mickey Cooke

AFTER seeing pictures and videos of wildlife on BBC programmes, I thought of investing in a new toy - a trail camera, as I've always been interested in trying to take good photos of nature.

For the first few attempts, the results have been a mixed bag as I get to grips with the technology.

The best so far has been daylight video of a water vole while other captures gave me a reason to smile.

To date the list of animals has been water vole, muntjac deer, fox, pheasant, grass snake, slow worms and humans, but I think there is more to discover. Who knows what goes on at the reserve when we're not around?

If you have any ideas of places to set the camera up, let's get together and see what results we can get.



"Ratty" on North Cove's water vole raft.

Scottish community buys out land for rewilding

The people of Langholm completed the largest ever community buyout of land in southern Scotland in March, through a hugely successful crowd funding campaign. What was formerly grouse moor and woodland is now a nature reserve providing a home for wildlife, a place to learn, and local jobs – and they're looking to double the size of it!

Government gets behind species reintroductions

The return to England of lost species such as the wildcat is looking a lot less fantastical with the establishment of Natural England's species reintroductions task force. Rewilding Britain is one of the expert organisations in the partnership, which will also reintroduce declining species into new areas such as pine marten, dormice and many more.

Radical new approach to woodland grants adopted

We made a real breakthrough on the potential for financing rewilding this summer when the government agreed to fund natural regeneration – the creation of trees and woodland through natural processes (e.g. seed dispersal) – alongside tree planting. Letting nature lead like this is one of the key principles of rewilding, and we're proud that our Natural Regeneration report, backed up by high level meetings with the CEO of the Forestry Commission and Lord Goldsmith, was key in securing this new approach.

Call for world's first 'Rewilding Nation'

In a historic move, the Scottish Rewilding Alliance — a coalition of over 20 environmental organisations including Rewilding Britain — called on the Scottish government to declare Scotland the world's first Rewilding Nation. The campaign wants to see the rewilding of 30% of the country's land and sea within a decade. Some 80,000 hectares of Scottish land, managed by landowners, farmers, land managers, community groups and local authorities, is already on its way as part of the Rewilding Network.

We prove rewilding boosts jobs

After some serious number-crunching with the visionary members of the Rewilding Network, we were able to report that rewilding on 33,327 hectares of land across 33 projects in England had increased full-time equivalent roles by a whopping 54% over an average of 10 years! Our Nature-Based Economies report showed that not only had rewilding boosted jobs, but diversified them too.

Beavers take a giant leap forward

After many years of evidence-gathering by Rewilding Britain and other organisations eager to see the return of Eurasian beavers to the wild, the government finally confirmed that it would consider this under license and issued a public consultation in October. In Scotland, where they're a few steps ahead, November saw the first ever translocation of a family of beavers, following a court case win by Trees for Life.

UK's largest urban rewilding project approved

Rewilding Britain is all about enabling large-scale ecosystem restoration with enough space to allow nature to drive the changes and shape the living systems on which we all depend. So when Derby City Council unanimously approved to turn over 130 hectares of land at Allestree Park – a former golf course – to rewilding, after we supported Derbyshire Wildlife Trust with their proposal, we knew this was something big to celebrate.

30,000 people call for Wilder National Parks

By November some 30,000 people had signed our petition calling on the government to make Britain's national parks wilder — including 10% core rewilding areas – so that these precious places can play a vital role in tackling the extinction crisis and climate emergency. Each one of us want to see them teeming with wildlife, where healthy ecosystems help absorb carbon and control flooding, and local people thrive.

Daphne Notes

Pat and I had a morning at the reserve and partly filled the feeders. It is amazing how quick the birds realise the food is back. I am amazed how much work the volunteers have done since I last walked around so is there a way this can be passed on?

I heard a loud trilling coming from the oak in Roy's car park last Weds and it was a nuthatch. As I walked towards the tree it flew in the direction of the Redwood in Grove Road, possibly from the Common. Last week, I watched a pair of robins mating near my lounge window and had a first rook taking bread from my lawn.

I came home recently at about 4pm and saw a female sparrowhawk mantling on my lawn. Too late for me to do anything as the porch door was still locked. I watched her de-feather the bird for 25 minutes and tear strips of flesh. She was obviously hungry.

Then she flew off carrying the remnants. I was left with masses of tiny feathers scattered on the grass. She normally catches a wood pigeon every six weeks early in the morning as the feathers tell the tale.

A friend in the next road had a wood pigeon taken the week after.

Visit to Lynford Arboretum

We went on Easter Monday but traffic was light each way. A cafe has been set up just as you enter which surprised me as I last went a few years ago. We only saw two other birders.

Normally you hear lots of nuthatch but not this time. We stopped at the feeder gate but only one feeder used. There were three stunning yellowhammers on the ground with chaffinches and blue tits.

We walked to the bridge where lots of birds would fly to the food provided by birders. Nothing there as all the shrubs and trees removed around the bridge.

We did see a song thrush. We walked around the circular track and spotted a lone swallow on a dead tree. Reaching the large lake at the end, all the trees and saplings along the edge had been removed to "tidy".

Unfortunately, as we know, nature doesn't do "tidy" so we didn't see or hear the grey wagtails which nested there. It was very disheartening to nature lovers and my last visit.

Ringling

David Fox



Great spotted woodpecker.

SINCE writing in the last newsletter the weather has not been the best for ringing sessions due to the strong winds.

However, when able to, a good number of birds have been caught and ringed. During the session on March 26th we had our first blackcaps including a previously ringed bird that had been caught and ringed in August 2021 in North Norfolk.

Also captured were several Cetti's warblers, chiffchaffs, a sedge warbler and three willow warblers.

On April 27th, Julie and Pat came to my house, as I had starlings nesting in a box, which I had made for swifts. Obviously the starlings paid no attention and commandeered it for themselves.

On inspection we found five young starlings which were just at the right age, about fourteen days since hatching, so we were able to ring them.



Male blackcap.



Goldcrest.



Juvenile starlings.



Green woodpecker.



Redwing.



Linnet



Cetti's warbler.