



**12th to 14th May, 2006
(Organised trip to Norfolk)**

A total of 122 different species of birds were seen on this three day trip to Norfolk / Suffolk. Some of the highlights were as follows:

Dunwich Heath near Minsmere provided us with good, but brief views of **Nightingale** (3), **Dartford Warbler** (3) and **Cettis Warbler** (5), which were all quickly located by listening for their distinctive calls. At least two **Bitterns** were heard booming and two **Marsh Harriers** were seen over the marsh. Five **Barnacle Geese** flew north, whilst seawatching. **Cuckoo** was heard from at least five different locations. Two **Woodlarks** were located on the outskirts of the reserve.



Two **Stone Curlews** were seen flying westward from Weeting. At Laken Heath a drake **Garganey** and a single **Common Sandpiper** were seen before spending the next two hours searching for Golden Oriole. At least fifteen **Hobbies** were seen above Laken Heath, before we eventually found and viewed a single male **Golden Oriole** (a possible female was also seen). Two **Cuckoos** were also seen there.

A male and female **Montagu's Harrier** provided excellent views at a site situated towards the north of the county. A second visit to this location found that there was at least two males in the same area. **Common Buzzard** (1), **Marsh harrier** (2+), **Hobby** (2) and **Whinchat** (1 female) were also added to the trip list at this location.

Three **Bearded Tits** showed very well at Titchwell. **Avocet** (50+), **Ruff** (1), **Grey Plover** (7+), **Common Sandpiper** (2), **Temmincks Stint** (1) and a single **Whimbrel** were the pick of the waders found at Titchwell. Five **Little Gull**, two **Little Egret** and four **Little Terns** were also showing nicely. Several **Corn Bunting** and three **Turtle Doves** were found at the nearby Chorsley Drying Barns.



Nightjar (1 heard), **Woodcock** (1) and at least one more **Nightingale** were at Salthouse Heath.

Four **Spoonbill** and a single **Greenshank** were seen at Holkham. **Egyptian Goose** (16+), **Brent Goose** (7+), **Marsh Harrier** (2m & 2f), **Bar-tailed Godwit** (1), **Black-tailed Godwit** (20+), **Little Egret** (7+) and **Cormorant** (30+) were also seen at this location.

Good numbers of **Red-legged Partridge** (20+), **Turtle Dove** (7+) and **Barn Owl** (10+) were seen throughout the weekend.

All target birds were found, with the only disappointment being the failure to connect with Honey Buzzard (possibly too early) and the elusive Purple Heron at Titchwell. Sixteen **Dotterel** and a single **Little Ringed Plover** were seen at North Cotes on the return journey.