August Migration Extravaganza
19-25 August 2027



Red Knot by Christine Whiffen

There are few more special places than Norfolk for late summer birding. This is a time of changing seasons, bringing with it diversity and abundance. The county's coastline offers a crucial refuelling station for passing migrants, while still being filled with resident species and breeding summer visitors alike. Expect swirling flocks of shorebirds on the tidal mudflats, marshes bustling with waterbirds and, if the weather is right, the potential for migratory songbirds stopping off on their way south. With the addition of excursions to the Broads and the Brecks, this tour will give us the opportunity to the huge variety of birds that Norfolk has to offer at this time of year.

Itinerary

Join us for a seven-day late summer birding tour across Norfolk, exploring the county's diverse habitats, from coastal beaches and tidal mudflats to saltmarshes, wetlands, the Broads and the Brecks. We'll search for waders gathering in impressive flocks, waterbirds and resident species, alongside migratory birds stopping to rest and refuel on their journeys south. With a flexible approach shaped by seasonal movements, local conditions and real-time updates from the BirdGuides sightings team, we'll maximise our chances of encountering the wealth of birdlife Norfolk has to offer at this exciting time of year.

Accommodation will be at the boutique 3* Briarfields Hotel, located in Titchwell for six nights.

Day 1: Arrival

Location: Briarfields Hotel, Titchwell
We'll meet at the hotel at 12 pm, then head out for an afternoon of birding around the nearby area. The location and targets will depend on recent sightings and weather conditions.

We shall then return to the hotel, allowing you time to settle into our base for the week. On the first evening, you will join the group and be greeted by your guide, who will go through the exciting plan for the week ahead.

Day 2: Norfolk Broads
The trip begins in the beautiful Norfolk Broads. A vast expanse of reedbeds creates the perfect habitat for some of Britain's more elusive species. We will visit Strumpshaw Fen RSPB to search for Eurasian Bittern, Bearded Tit, Eurasian Otter and Chinese Water Deer. If we are fortunate, Britain's most spectacular butterfly – the graceful Swallowtail – may be on the wing, as a second brood appears in some years. This will be a relaxed but species-rich introduction to Norfolk birding.

In the afternoon, we will head back along the coast, keeping an eye on BirdGuides for any interesting migrants that may have arrived. There will also be the opportunity to visit Cromer for a gull identification workshop, where we will pick out the scarce Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls among the gathered commoner species around the pier.

Day 3: Cley Marshes
Cley Marshes is Norfolk Wildlife Trust's oldest and best-known nature reserve. The shingle beach and saline lagoons, along with the grazing marsh and reedbeds, support large numbers of waterbirds, especially waders.

We will scan the lagoons for an assortment of waders. Among the commoner species, we hope to find the likes of Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stint and Continental Black-tailed Godwit. Rarer species may also occur, with exciting visitors such as Pectoral Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope not out the question if we are lucky.

Day 4: Snettisham RSPB
The vast mudflats at Snettisham RSPB can seem almost empty at first glance, but as the tide begins to push in, waders gather and tighten into dense flocks. Our visit here will be timed to coincide with a rising tide to get the best of the action.

Thousands of Red Knot, Dunlin, Eurasian Oystercatcher and Bar-tailed Godwit gather, with many still in their breeding finery. As the water rises, the birds take off in swirling formations before settling again on higher ground. Once the mudflats have been submerged, the flocks are pushed into the lagoons where we can scan from several well-positioned hides. Previous more sought-after sightings have included Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper and Roseate Tern, while Eurasian Spoonbill is usually present in good numbers.

Day 5: Titchwell Marsh RSPB
Today we will visit the famous Titchwell Marsh RSPB. The scrapes here can be full of birds, including hundreds of Avocets and Black-tailed Godwits. A wide array of shorebirds may be encountered, while the path-side reedbeds should give us a great opportunity to see the charismatic Bearded Tit up close.

Little and Sandwich Terns patrol the shoreline, occasionally diving into the shallows. We may see the odd Arctic Skua chasing them. Northern Gannet, Northern Fulmar, Razorbill and Guillemot may be seen offshore if the winds are productive for seawatching.

Day 6: The Brecks
The Brecks feel very different from the coast – dry, open, sandy and expansive. Here, we will target the iconic Eurasian Stone-curlew. Thetford Forest can add Crossbill, Firecrest and possibly Hawfinch if we are lucky.

Day 7: Blakeney Point and departure
Blakeney Point is a wild and windswept long shingle spit stretching into the North Sea. A morning boat trip out to the sandbanks reveals one of England's largest seal colonies. Grey and Harbour Seal will be seen up close, with the latter species having pups during the summer months.

August may still offer opportunities for the last of the breeding seabirds. Sandwich, Common and Little Terns can still be seen around the shingle beaches, alongside potentially hundreds of Mediterranean Gulls.

We will aim to be back by 2 pm to reflect on the week's highlights and say our goodbyes after a memorable trip to Norfolk.

Pricing

Our Norfolk birding tour offers exceptional value, with the price covering comfortable accommodation, ground transportation, entrance fees to all scheduled sites and reserves, and the expertise of an experienced birding guide.

Priced at £1,749 per person, a single supplement is an additional £250.

A non-refundable deposit of 20% of the total trip price, per person, is required to secure the booking. The final balance is due 60 days before the tour start date.

Included in the price:

- Accommodation throughout the tour at Briarfields Hotel;
- All evening meals from Day 1 to Day 6, and breakfast from Day 2 through to Day 7;
- Ground transportation during the tour (minibus);
- Services of an experienced birding guide;
- Entrance fees to all scheduled sites and reserves.

Not included:

- International flights to and from the UK;
- Visa fees, if applicable;
- Travel insurance;
- Beverages and lunch;
- Optional activities not specified in the itinerary.

Trip Information

Tour leader
This tour is run exclusively for BirdGuides Travel by WildSpace. Your tour leader will be John Hague.

Group size
Eight, plus tour leader.

Minimum participants
This tour requires a minimum of five confirmed participants. If we do not have the minimum required number of participants, we reserve the right to cancel this tour. We will notify you not less than 30 days before the start of the tour should this be necessary.

Recommended items
- Binoculars;
- Telescope for scanning waders and wildfowl. Your guide will have a scope that will be shared with the group;
- Camera and waterproof camera cover;
- Water bottle and fridge bag for lunches on the go;
- Walking poles;
- Comfortable walking shoes;
- Clothing to suit the weather including a hat and sun protection, as well as water/windproof coat in case of rain and chilly sea breezes.

Is this tour for me?
- Several nature reserves we visit will have adapted walking trails of hard standing and gravel tracks. Other areas can be uneven underfoot;
- We will be walking on average 3 miles per day with plenty of breaks;
- The hotel is adaptable and ground floor rooms can be requested;
- The hotel can adapt to dietary requirements however cannot guarantee the absence of any allergens due to them being prepared in a kitchen containing allergens. The live menu can be found HERE;
- BirdGuides Travel tours are unsuitable for persons under the age of 16 years old. Please talk to us before booking your trip should you require further information.

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