

EAST YORKSHIRE



"The area we are visiting is being described as the 'Yorkshire nature triangle'. You never know what might turn up - spectacular numbers of common species, great views of local residents such as Bearded Tit or Marsh Harrier, or an unexpected migrant."
Sally Nowell

Dates Sat 29 Sep - Sat 6 Oct 2018
Price £1,695
Deposit £300 Single Supp £150

Leaders Sally Nowell and Julian Sykes

Weather Can be extremely variable at this time of year; so come prepared for everything from rain and wind, to calm autumnal sunshine!

Walking Mostly easy walking on level paths up to 3 miles, with perhaps a little more if rarities require it!

Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8

Insects Unlikely to be a problem at this time of year

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite
A lovely rural venue in the heart of East Yorkshire in a stunning location. A transfer can be arranged from York train station

Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

Brambling	Water Rail
Winter thrushes	Red-throated Diver
Redstart	Pink-footed Goose
Bearded Tit	Velvet Scoter
Marsh Harrier	Scarce migrants such as..
Sooty Shearwater	Yellow-browed Warbler
Pomarine Skua	Ring Ouzel
Little Gull	Firecrest
Jack Snipe	Wryneck
Shore Lark	Lapland Bunting
Black Redstart	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Barn Owl	Little Bunting
Short-eared Owl	Rarities - anything could turn up!
Woodcock	

An excellent chance to witness migration in action, as thousands of birds are on the move - from waders and warblers, to pipits, thrushes and seabirds - and a chance of rarities too!

- Yorkshire's autumn migration hotspots - Spurn, Flamborough and Filey
- Witness migration of thousands of pipits, finches, thrushes and more
- Flexible itinerary just in case any major rarities turn up nearby
- Visit key Yorkshire birding sites such as Blacktoft Sands and Bempton Cliffs
- An evening visit to a local reserve to witness a starling mummuration if conditions allow
- Scarce migrants such as Yellow-browed Warbler, Lapland Bunting and Wryneck
- See ringing first hand at a Spurn Bird Observatory ringing demonstration

We meet up at our hotel in time for dinner and a chance to discuss the coming week. Our well placed accommodation means that most of the sites we shall visit are an hour or less away.

2-7 The Yorkshire coast at this time of year is a thrilling place!! Thousands of birds are on the move and to witness this mass migration as birds head south along the coast is a wonderful experience. We have timed this trip to enjoy migration in action, with common migrants still passing through in good numbers, but also the chance of something a bit rarer - or with luck - very rare indeed!!

East Yorkshire has become renowned as the place to witness autumn migration and has several sites from which to experience this massive annual movement of birds. Spurn Point is perhaps the most famous - its unusual shape acting as a funnel,



which concentrates birds as they move towards the point. Whilst this can be weather dependent, the birding here can be astonishing, with large numbers of common migrants such as pipits, thrushes, finches, Robins and Goldcrests and often plenty of scarcer species too, with double figure numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers and the chance of species such as Richard's Pipit, Firecrest, Wryneck, Shorelark, Lapland Bunting and more. What is more, we shall get an insight into how research on migration is carried out and see birds in the hand, with a ringing demonstration at Spurn Bird Observatory.

We shall also cast our eyes seawards as, at this time of year, Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head provide excellent sea-watching opportunities. We'll look out for Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, Arctic, Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas, divers and flocks of seaduck and geese. Like Spurn, these sites can



"Since I was a child this area has excited me. Driving out towards Spurn Point filled me with anticipation, though a flat and apparently featureless landscape, there was something mysterious about it. Swarms of Starlings going to roost, a Barn Owl flying across the road, or a field full of Golden Plover, there was always an surprise in store somewhere on the journey." Sally Nowell



also be first landfall for high numbers of birds, with thrushes and Bramblings coming in off the sea and all three sites have had more than their fair share of national rarities.

Each day we shall be keeping an eye on 'what's about' and will be in touch with local birders, so plans may alter rapidly if something very special is found. Anything can turn up, but some years are incredible, such as 2016 when Siberian Accentor, White's Thrush, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Isabelline Wheatear and Black-browed Albatross were exceptional finds. We can't promise the same rarities necessarily, but we can promise an exciting time searching for the unexpected, with the opportunity to polish our skills when it comes to our less familiar warblers, whilst looking out for gems including Pallas's and Dusky Warbler.

Yorkshire has some fabulous Reserves and habitats, wetlands, cliffs, forest, coast and estuarine marsh. We'll visit Blacktoft Sands, where the wetlands and reedbeds are superb at this time of year. Wader passage will include common species such as Dunlin, but should also include Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff. Marsh Harriers hunt over the reeds, where 'pinging' flocks of Bearded Tits can be seen and if we are very lucky, perhaps a Water Rail or Bittern will appear.

At Bempton Cliffs, the huge seabird colonies will have departed, but this spectacular place can also provide chances to see migration and amongst

the common migrants, we'll be on the lookout for shrikes, flycatchers, or scarcer warblers. We shall also introduce you to some newer and less well known, but equally impressive, birding hot spots on our daily outings.

East Yorkshire is a varied county, with rich agricultural land providing ideal feeding grounds for large numbers of Lapwing and Golden Plover. The subtly rolling hills of the Yorkshire Wolds, providing habitat for Barn Owls, Skylarks, Red Kite and Brown Hare, feature in a lot of David Hockney's recent work. We plan to visit Robert Fuller's wildlife art gallery and get a 'behind the scenes' tour of some of the ingenious ways he spies on his local wildlife. His paintings sell all over the world and his trademark, highly-detailed images, have been adopted by the RSPB and the National Trust.

After breakfast on our final day we say our fond farewells. You may wish to extend your holiday by spending time in Yorkshire's historic county town, or explore further up Yorkshire's east coast, to places such as Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay.



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1 Meet at our hotel in time for our evening meal
7 nights at Rudstone Walk, Brough
- Days 2-7 Exploration of the migration hotspots of Spurn Point, Flamborough Head, Filey Brigg and Bempton Cliffs. We'll also seawatch from headlands and visit Blacktoft Sands for wetland and reedbed birds, plus visit the Yorkshire Wolds and the David Fuller Art Gallery
- Day 8 After breakfast we say our farewells and depart

James Stevens: Shore Lark
Simon Eaves: Red-breasted Flycatcher, Marsh Harrier, Spotted Redshank
David Constantine: Dunlin, Sanderling, Yellow-browed Warbler
Ian Smith: Lapland Bunting

