

January Bittern



February Short-eared Owl



March Garganey



April Grasshopper Warbler



May Ring Ouzel



Cover Little Owl calling



NURTURED IN NORFOLK
2016 Bird Calendar - By Richard Brooks



June Red-backed Shrike



How long (noted as a breeding bird in East Angles, this particular male in the sandy plumage nevertheless spent most of the spring and summer months brightening up Westcott Down's gully falling to attract a mate. I know just how to breed!

June 2016

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18. Eastern Day	19
20. Western Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July Kingfisher



August Green Woodpecker



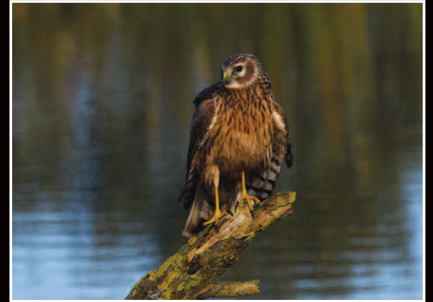
September Red-breasted Flycatcher



October Steppe Grey Shrike



November Hen Harrier



December Twite



I could have entitled this calendar 'Holme and Away' since four of the images were taken there and a fifth nearby! However, instead of that I settled on something with an alliterative feel to grab the attention. In the case of one of the star cover birds (a young Barn Owl recently fledged from my loft) this proved especially apt, as I doubt that (in another generally poor breeding season following a particularly cold spring) my birds would have succeeded in fledging five young had it not been for my ongoing supplementary feeding programme with day-old chicks - also in the process attracting a regular Tawny which has been 'mugging' me most nights and even grabbing chicks from my hand before I've had a chance to place them! I've tried to capture this on a strategically placed Trail Camera but it happens so quickly that it's usually all over before the video kicks in. I shall persevere nonetheless; as I did last autumn and winter with the systematic overhaul and cleaning out of the bulk of my 700+ owl boxes (for which funding remains tight if not non-existent!). With calendar sales now confined mainly to the private sector and photo royalties at rock-bottom, 'nurturing nature' in my part of North Norfolk is becoming an increasingly challenging task. I'll let you know next year if I'm still managing to rise to it (hopefully in the same spirit that my mother showed when celebrating her 100th birthday recently!).

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Sales of this calendar directly benefit my conservation work and feeding programme