



# RSPB Snettisham Spectaculars 2021

We have handpicked these dates and times for you to observe the best parts of the spectacles.

The time given is when to leave the RSPB car park (not the time of high tide).

## Whirling Waders:

January 2021		February 2021		March 2021		April 2021	
<i>No Spectacles.</i>		<i>No Spectacles.</i>		Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	5.45am	Thur 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.45am
				Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30am	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	4.45pm
				Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	5.15am and 5.30pm
				Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00am and 5.45pm	Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.00am and 5.45pm
				Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	6.30am and 5.45pm	Thur 29 <sup>th</sup>	6.45am and 7.00pm
				Weds 31 <sup>st</sup>	7.00am	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am
May 2021		June 2021		July 2021		August 2021	
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	4.15pm	<i>No Spectacles.</i>		Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	6.00am	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	6.30am
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm			Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30am	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup>	5.45am and 6.00pm			Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am	Thur 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.15am and 6.45pm					Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am					Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5.45am
						Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.15am
						Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am
						Thur 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am

September 2021		October 2021		November 2021		December 2021	
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.00am and 6.30pm	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.15am	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30am	<i>No Spectacles.</i>	
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.15am	Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.15am				
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am				
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.45am	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.45am				
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am						
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00am						
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30am						
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am						

### Pink-footed geese:

December 2020		January 2021		November 2021		December 2021	
6 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	6.15 am	5 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	6.30am	25 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	6:30 am	1 <sup>st</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> inclusive	6:30 am

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the birds in the Whirling Wader Spectacle?

Most of the birds that you see are small wading birds called 'knot'. The Wash is an incredibly important habitat for these and similar birds such as dunlin and oystercatchers, as the mudflats contain substantial amounts of their food, mainly shellfish and worms. See our RSPB bird guide for more information [rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/knot/](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/knot/)

### What causes the birds to whirl like that?

The highest of high tides (Spring tides) push the birds from their feeding grounds on the mudflats of The Wash onto the lagoons of the RSPB Snettisham nature reserve. The tide height usually needs to be 6.8m or higher as this is the point at which the bay of The Wash is filled with seawater and there is no more room for these wading birds to stand and feed on the mud.

### When should I go to see the Whirling Wader Spectacle?

These spectacles do not happen every day. They are special because they are infrequent occurrences, so do make sure that you plan your trip to avoid disappointment. They require a Spring tide to occur in the daylight during late autumn or early spring (when large numbers of birds are migrating). . The dates and times given above are the time you will need to leave the car park to observe the best parts of the spectacle.

# Frequently Asked Questions Continued...

## What about seeing the pink-footed geese?

In the winter months pink-footed geese arrive to spend the winter away from the harsh conditions of their breeding ground in Iceland. RSPB Snettisham can host thousands of pink footed geese which roost on the mudflats of The Wash at night between November and January. At sunrise, you can witness the geese leaving their roost in extraordinarily large flocks.

The tide does not affect the geese, but the and moon phase does. Movement of geese can be erratic and unpredictable five days either side of a full moon.

## Where should I go?...

The small car park can only hold around 80 cars and has a height barrier of 2.1m. Parking is pay and display via a machine in the main car park: Free for RSPB members, £3 for non-members. There is space for up to three taller vehicles before the barrier. Parking charges still apply. Please respect our neighbours and other visitors by parking responsibly onsite.

Please do not cross fence lines or climb shingle screening as this will cause disturbance to the internationally important wader roost (and spoil everyone else's experience).

## What Covid restrictions are in place?

Covid-19 restrictions are currently in place for using the hides. Each hide has a set capacity (clearly signposted near the entrance) and face coverings are required for those who can wear them (so remember your mask if you want to use the hides). Hides fill quite quickly as the birds move into the lagoon, but you can continue to enjoy the spectacle from the Wader Watch Point. For a trail guide of the reserve, visit our website at [rspb.org.uk/snettisham](https://rspb.org.uk/snettisham).

## I'm concerned about the ongoing nature crisis. What can I do to support conservation and the RSPB?

These amazing wader spectacles only happen because of the international network of protected sites that support these long-distance migratory birds. As the largest conservation charity in the UK, managing reserves such as the one at Snettisham supports space for wildlife. For more information and to find out what you can do to support the RSPB, visit [rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/our-mission](https://rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/our-mission)