

LINCOLNSHIRE RARE & SCARCE BIRD REPORT 1997-1999



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**

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THE FIRST LINCOLNSHIRE RARES REPORT

Lincolnshire Bird Club members will be only too well aware that we have not managed to produce a Lincolnshire Bird Report since 1996. In the intervening period Lincolnshire has suffered all the standard problems facing similar local societies: in general terms, just about everything in birding, as in so much else, is now available on-screen. This availability of immediate information seems to have brought a decreasing interest in patch-working or in taking part in surveys, a decreasing likelihood of observers submitting records and descriptions of the birds they do see (after all, the photos are on the web-site within an hour of the finding) and a decreasing willingness to put time into the dull graft of chasing and vetting records and writing and producing reports. All this has been exacerbated for us by the huge size of our recording area, loss of one of our two vice-county recorders, and Lincolnshire's very low density of population (and long may this latter continue!).

However, the LBC committee is very much aware that publication of records is essential to maintain the scientific record, and in the interim we have actually been working very hard on this front. The major achievement has been to get all our records from 1998 onwards (and WeBS counts since 1995) on to a proper database at last. As any county who has gone through this will know, this is rarely a simple process, and it is thanks to a few dedicated volunteers who have hung on through any number of re-writes and the loss of several computers that we now have a fully working system and that report production becomes a possibility again.

Taking a hard look at the availability of data and man-time however, the committee has decided that for the next few years production of full annual reports is probably neither possible, especially if we are to get back up to date, nor serving a useful purpose. This decision will be reviewed once we do get up to date, but in the meantime we shall produce Rare and Scarce Bird Reports covering three-year periods, and hope to produce five-year summaries of all species in the Status of Birds in Lincolnshire (SoBiL) series. These volumes will be expanded to include some papers and a five-year ringing report.

This report is therefore the first of the new series of Rare Reports, covering the years 1997-1998-1999. Its production has involved a huge amount of work for the current Records Committee, not least because it spans the period when writing descriptions - never a popular activity - went out of practice. Retrieving sufficient information to formally vet many of these records has been a mammoth task, and in some cases simply hasn't been possible. Where there is a strict requirement for a full written description this has sometimes meant that possibly good records cannot be published and we are aware that there are other records missing, or for which our information is incomplete. We hope production of this report will produce some of the missing records, or bring further information on incomplete records to light, or even correct some of the information we currently have. In any of these cases, we shall be happy to publish an addendum in the next report.

Work on chasing, retrieving and vetting the 2000-2001-2002 records has already begun, as has collation of data for SoBiL 2, covering the period 1996-2000. Once these move into the editing and production system, vetting and collating the 2003-2004-2005 Rare Report and SoBiL 3, for 2001-2005, will begin.

Meanwhile the database will continue to provide data for the increasing requests for records, from students, conservation bodies, developers and others. None of this would be possible without the hard work of a team of dedicated volunteers. Production of this report, and those now in the pipeline, would not have been possible without the input of John Badley, Steve Botham, Graham Catley, Kevin Durose, Janet Eastmead, Colin and Sheila Jennings, Ian Nixon, Keith Robertson, Neil Smith, Bill Sterling, Geoff Williams, Kevin Wilson, and not least, all the contributors of records, photographs and descriptions. To all of these, and anyone else who we have inadvertently omitted, on behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club, many thanks.

Anne Goodall, Hon Chair/Editor;
Steve Keightley, County Recorder

SUMMARY OF RARE AND SCARCE BIRDS IN LINCOLNSHIRE, 1997-1999

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1997

National Overview

In 1997 there were unprecedented numbers nationally of Pallas's warblers, the majority arriving on the east coast from 14th October to 6th November, and woodchat shrikes and bee-eaters similarly occurred in their greatest-ever numbers. Recorded in highest numbers since 1987 were shore lark and icterine warbler and there were also high numbers of Balearic shearwaters, spoonbills, Sabine's gulls, golden oriole, red-backed shrike, serin and common rosefinch.

There were fewer spotted crake, Kentish plover and red-necked phalarope, and great grey shrike continued the marked annual decline shown by this species since 1991. Other species with low national totals included Temminck's stint, pectoral sandpiper, hoopoe, bluethroat, Savi's warbler, red-breasted flycatcher and little bunting.

Lincolnshire month by month account

January

The driest January for 200 years. The year started with average numbers of divers and grebes at coastal localities. Bitterns were scarce with just a single at Messingham Sand Quarry, up to two at North Killingholme Pits and singles at Barton and Kirkby on Bain. A Slavonian grebe was at Barton Pits 7th-20th.

Peak counts of smew occurred this month, with 14 at Barton and four at Toft Newton. A minimum of 32 hen harriers was reported from 18 sites, 23 merlin from 20 sites and buzzards continued to increase with ten birds at eight sites. Fifteen glaucous gulls were reported from 11 sites and single water pipits were at Bardney Pits and Grimsby. Two waxwings were seen at Immingham with a further four at Boston and singles at Foston and Skegness. Nine bearded tits were reported at Boultham Mere and the highest count of Lapland buntings was 11 at Frampton Marsh. A handful of stonechats was reported and up to 50 shore larks and 125 snow bunting were seen at Gibraltar Point. There were four bean geese at Tattershall Pits and eight at Winteringham in mid-month. Three velvet scoters were inland at Covenham Reservoir on 4th and a spotted redshank at Frampton Marsh on 8th. There were 17 white-fronted geese at Covenham Reservoir on 8th, up to 14 pale-bellied brent at Barton until the 10th and 35 at Gibraltar Point on 26th. Also on 26th, a purple sandpiper was seen at Witham Mouth.

February

There was 36.7mm of rain this month, winds were predominantly south westerly and the temperature ranged from -3.5°C to 13°C. Nineteen hen harriers were reported from 11 sites, 14 peregrines from 12 sites and three short-eared owls at Gibraltar Point. A Slavonian grebe was at Barton Pits most of the month. Two hawfinches were

reported at Scawby Park on 1st and eight pale-bellied brent at Horseshoe Point on 2nd. There were 29 white-fronted geese at Baston Fen on 5th and four at Gibraltar Point on 27th. A red kite was at Willingham Woods on 11th, two black-throated divers were seen heading north at Saltfleetby on 15th and six Lapland buntings were reported at Witham Mouth on 23rd.

March

This was the warmest spring since 1992 with high pressure and winds from south-west and north-west. The month was warmer and dryer than average with occasional ground frosts. The highlight of the month was a female blue-winged teal at Messingham Gravel Pits from 11th March to mid April. This was the sixth county record, the last being in 1982.

Seven glaucous gulls were reported at six sites, 22 pairs of woodlark at five sites and 41 buzzards at 22 sites with at least five confirmed breeding pairs, but there was no evidence of black redstarts breeding. Four hawfinches were reported at Scawby Park on 1st, and a red-necked grebe at Witham Mouth same day. Three bean geese were seen at Sandilands on 2nd, three pale-bellied brent at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and one at Frampton Marsh on 5th. A goshawk was at Donna Nook on 13th and a great grey shrike at Navenby Low Fields from 13th March to 6th April. Three firecrests were seen at Gibraltar Point on 15th and white wagtails were at Witham Mouth from 16th. A black-necked grebe in full summer plumage was at Covenham between the 20th and 24th, and two Iceland gulls at Read's Island on 21st. The latest Lapland bunting was reported at Frampton Marsh on 21st and an adult male ring ouzel seen at Barton on 30th was the first of spring.

April

One of the driest Aprils on record, the month was uncharacteristically dominated by a high pressure system with light winds and very little precipitation.

This was a poor year for short-eared owls with a maximum of ten present at eight sites being the highest number recorded in the year. Spotted redshanks were scarce in spring with singles present at Huttoft Pits on 4th and at Tetney on 23rd. A red kite was reported at Gibraltar Point on 9th, a hoopoe at Sotby on 10th, and two long-tailed ducks at Witham Mouth on 12th. The first osprey of the spring was at Barton on 17th and a spoonbill was at Kirkby on Bain between 17th and 20th. A black-necked grebe was at Toft Newton Reservoir on 18th and a Cetti's warbler was trapped at Gibraltar Point on 19th. Wood sandpipers were also scarce this spring with two seen at Little Bytham on 24th. A wood warbler was reported inland at Scopwick on 25th and 26th. A male golden oriole was reported at Stixwold on 30th.

May

Early to mid May was cool with predominantly south westerly winds. The arrival of high pressure conditions during the latter part of the month brought bright, warm and dry weather with light north-easterly breezes.

Hobbies appeared to be increasing with 23 birds reported at 21 sites; 35 little ringed plovers were reported at 15 sites and 38 dotterels at five sites. There was a notable

increase in records of redstarts with possible breeding in at least one site. A wood warbler was reported at Messingham Sand Quarry on 2nd and another at Far Ings Blow Wells on 11th. A Cetti's warbler was at Langtoft Pits until 5th, and a black-winged stilt at Huttoft between 4th and 6th was the eighth county record, the last having been seen in 1993. Four ring ouzels were reported at Gibraltar Point on 4th and two shore larks, the latest ever recorded, on 10th. Also on 10th, a Temminck's stint was seen at Kirton Quarries.

On 14th a corncrake was seen at Swallow and there were 12 churring nightjars at Laughton Forest. Only two shags were recorded, one at the Humber Bridge on 16th and the other at Messingham Sand Quarry on 21st. A honey buzzard was seen at Donna Nook on 17th, and a spoonbill from 17th to 20th at Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits. At Gibraltar Point there was a red-backed shrike on 24th and 25th and a singing male rosefinch on 25th, following one found dead there on 24th. A golden oriole was reported at Seacroft Golf Course on 26th, a bee-eater was seen over the east dunes at Gibraltar Point on 29th and a marsh warbler was reported at Barton Far Ings from 31st into June.

June

Warm with light to moderate easterly winds and occasional rain. A lingering low pressure system in the latter half of the month brought prolonged wet and windy weather with three times the June average rainfall recorded at Gibraltar Point.

The Cetti's warbler remained at Saltfleetby from 23rd March to 7th June, the Marsh warbler at Barton Far Ings to 18th June and there were two Spoonbills at Huttoft between 7th and 14th June. A Temminck's stint was reported at Gibraltar Point on 17th and 18th and 2 ruddy shelducks were seen at South Ferriby on 29th. This was the only month with no record of merlins.

July

The month was warm with light winds from the west and a maximum temperature of 27°C on 29th. Records of 16 buzzards came from eight sites during the month and 21 Hobbies at 21 sites but with confirmed/probable breeding from only six sites. Eighteen Quail were reported from ten sites with a number of juveniles seen but proving breeding was difficult.

A sooty shearwater was reported at Donna Nook on 4th and a merlin at Gibraltar Point on 6th. A female garganey was at Barton Far Ings on 13th, an American golden plover was in the South Ferriby area between 24th July and 13th August, the eleventh county record, and two Temminck's stints were seen at Bardney Pits on 27th. No little egrets were reported after an immature at Gibraltar Point on 23rd.

August

The month was very warm with a maximum of 32°C, above average rainfall and light easterly winds. An increasing number of summering red kites was reported, involving at least ten birds.

Single wood warblers were reported at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 18th and an adult broad-billed sandpiper there on 4th was the eighth county record, the last having been seen in 1995. A ruddy shelduck was at Toft Newton on 7th and another two at Grainthorpe Haven on 13th. An icterine warbler was trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on 9th. A juvenile black-necked grebe was reported at Covenham on 14th and a juvenile red-backed shrike at North Cotes on 23rd. A juvenile spotted crane was at Boultham Mere from 28th August to 3rd September and a Temminck's stint was at Rimac on 30th.

September

Continuous high pressure brought warm and dry weather with predominantly south-westerly winds, turning to light north-easterlies later in the month. Highlight of the month was a juvenile blue-winged teal, the second of the year and the seventh county record, reported at North Somercotes Warren on 28th.

Seventeen buzzards were reported at 14 sites, 15 water rails at nine sites and the best monthly count of 27 hobbies came from 24 sites. Five or six purple sandpipers were reported from four sites and 20 long-tailed skuas were reported, also from four sites, throughout the month.

Two wrynecks were at Saltfleetby on 6th, a red-necked grebe was at Covenham Reservoir from 7th September to 17th December, with two at Mablethorpe on 7th, and a black-necked grebe was at Barton, also on 7th. There was a good sequence of records from 9th involving at least 56 sooty shearwaters, and at Gibraltar Point three Balearic shearwaters flew north on 9th, and there was a Sabine's gull between the 9th and 16th, two on 16th and another on 19th, all juveniles. A honey buzzard was at Gibraltar Point on 14th with another at Nene Mouth on 17th. A ring ouzel was seen at Keadby on 18th and seven at Gibraltar Point on 22nd; a Leach's petrel was seen at Chapel Point and eight flew north at Gibraltar Point on 19th. A storm petrel flew west at Barton on 20th and a single puffin south at Saltfleetby on 21st. On the latter date an icterine warbler was seen at Horseshoe Point, a flock of 11 bearded tits was at Barton Pits and a red-backed shrike at Anderby Creek. There was a black-throated diver at Gibraltar Point on 26th and a firecrest on 27th. Returning autumn Lapland buntings were present at Donna Nook from 28th.

October

The month started with low pressure, westerly winds and showers but became more unsettled, dry and cold with high pressure and easterly winds. Highlight of the month was an adult laughing gull at Cleethorpes on 21st, the fifth county record. Five long-tailed ducks were reported at four sites, up to 14 velvet scoters at three sites, 11 hen harriers at six sites and 20 buzzards at 13 sites. In total, 15 peregrines were reported, with 21 water rails at ten sites and 11 spotted redshanks at six sites.

At Gibraltar Point there were 29 sooty shearwaters on 2nd with the first jack snipe there on 3rd and a further three on 7th; two adult cranes were at Donna Nook on 3rd, and the last hobby was at Burton Stather on 4th. Returning white-fronted geese were reported from Theddlethorpe Dunes with 14 on 4th and a further 12 at Gibraltar Point on 8th. An adult male American wigeon was recorded at Read's Island on 5th, and

two redstarts were at Donna Nook on the same day. Ten returning shore larks were at Donna Nook on 7th with a further three at Gibraltar Point on 28th. A goshawk was reported at Donna Nook on 8th, 59 little auks were reported from 10th to the end of the month and three hawfinches were at South Witham on 12th. Grey phalarope were reported at Gibraltar Point on 12th and Nene Mouth on 13th and six ring ouzels at Gibraltar Point on 15th. A late garganey was at Messingham Sand Quarry on 16th, a flock of some eight bearded tits was seen at Barton Pits between 18th and 24th and a juvenile Sabine's gull at Gibraltar Point on 19th.

A Pallas's warbler was reported at Saltfleetby on 19th, singles at Rimac and Skegness on 21st, Donna Nook on 27th and Cleethorpes on 31st, with two at Gibraltar Point on 22nd. A yellow-browed warbler was at Seaview on 19th and another at Rimac on 21st. A Richard's pipit was at Gibraltar Point on 22nd and single firecrests were reported at Gibraltar Point on 22nd, 23rd and 26th, Crook Bank, Saltfleetby on 21st, Donna Nook on 24th and North Cotes on 28th. A ruddy shelduck was seen at Butterwick Marsh on 24th.

November

The month continued warm with light winds from the south and south-east; a maximum temperature of 15°C was recorded. It was a disappointing year for bitterns with just a handful of records across the county in November and December. Reports of 16 hen harriers came from 11 sites, with 17 buzzards at 12 sites, 16 merlin at 13 sites, single peregrines at 15 sites and 25 water rails at 10 sites. Single spotted redshanks were reported at Frampton Marsh and at Terrington. Four short-eared owls were seen during the month, single water pipits were at Gibraltar Point and Moulton Marsh and a handful of black redstarts were recorded at 12 sites in November and December.

A goshawk was reported at South Witham on 3rd, a firecrest was seen at North Cotes on 4th, a great grey shrike at Navenby Lowfields between 7th and 23rd and a woodlark flew south over Gibraltar Point on 12th. At least 12 white-fronted geese were present at Kirkby on Bain from 26th. A Slavonian grebe was reported at Covenham Reservoir on 24th, a long staying black-necked grebe was present at Barton from 26th into 1998 and a grey phalarope was seen at Skegness Pier on 26th. There were 35 shore larks at Gibraltar Point on 26th when a further three were at Skegness. Two black-throated divers were reported at Covenham Reservoir and a red-necked grebe at the Cleethorpes Boating Lake on 30th with the latter bird possibly seen at Grimsby Docks on the same day.

December

At Gibraltar Point 81.5mm of rainfall was recorded, and there were only six dry days. Winds were predominantly north-westerly in the early part of the month, then backed south-westerly and temperatures ranged from 0.8°C to 14.5°C. Twenty hen harriers were reported at ten sites, nine buzzards at eight sites, 12 merlin at 11 sites and ten peregrine at eight sites. In total, 43 water rails were seen at six sites and a spotted redshank was reported at Barton. There were seven reports of short-eared owls, and the one water pipit was at Rimac.

A goshawk was reported at Donna Nook on 10th, a Slavonian grebe at Gibraltar Point on 12th and a great northern diver at Covenham Reservoir on 13th. Three shore larks

were seen at Barton during the month and 17 at Donna Nook between 20th and 26th. There were 17 white-fronted geese at Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits on 23rd. A red-necked grebe was reported at Ashbyville between 21st and 31st, a black-throated diver at Covenham Reservoir on 25th and 26th, a hawfinch at Scawby Park on 27th and a green-winged teal at Read's Island on 27th and 28th.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1998

National Overview

This year saw all time record numbers of white stork, Balearic shearwater, wryneck, shore lark and great grey shrike. Purple heron and red-backed shrike occurred in their highest numbers for the last ten years and there were high national totals in autumn of honey buzzard and rough-legged buzzard.

Lincolnshire month by month account

January

Gibraltar Point recorded 90.6mm of rainfall, with south westerly winds at the start of the month, swinging round to easterly after 18th. Temperatures ranged from -1.5°C to 13.8°C. Highlight of the month was undoubtedly the adult whistling swan at Nocton Fen on 22nd. This was a first county record and only the second British record.

Early in the year there were reports of 19 lesser spotted woodpeckers at 17 sites and on the coast 15 shore larks between Howden's Pullover and Donna Nook. Six glaucous gulls were reported at five sites, 23 hen harriers at eight sites and 40 water rails at ten sites. There were eight bean geese (*rossicus*) at Winteringham 12th-19th. A ruddy shelduck was seen at Holbeach Marsh on 1st and early records of jack snipe involved single birds at Saxilby and Bardney Pits on 1st, with up to six at Bardney Pits between 17th and 31st. A great grey shrike was at Navenby Low Fields between 12th January and 8th February.

February

A mild and very dry month with a total of just 11.4mm of rain on only 11 days at Gibraltar Point and a maximum temperature of 17.8°C recorded on 13th. High pressure and south-westerly winds predominated all month.

There was an influx of rough-legged buzzards with up to 14 birds reported at nine sites and records of 17 peregrines from 12 sites including up to three birds at Read's Island in January and February. Up to five hawfinches were reported at Scawby Park. Four bean geese were at Witham Mouth on 1st, two black-throated divers at Gibraltar Point on 9th and two bitterns at Langtoft Pits on 13th.

March

Unusually high temperatures were recorded this month. Reports of 33 buzzards came from 16 sites, an avocet was present at the Read's Island colony from March and two bean geese (*rossicus*) were at Deeping High Bank between 23rd and 29th. A Cetti's warbler was at Rimac from 23rd March to 7th June and the first osprey passed through Gibraltar Point on 31st.

April

April weather proved to be cool and wet. In total, 32 little ringed plovers were recorded at ten sites, a white stork was seen at Gibraltar Point on 12th and three garganey were seen at Saltfleetby on 16th. A Richard's pipit was at Rimac on 16th, three shag were seen at Gibraltar Point on 24th and a black brant was at Butterwick Marsh on 26th.

May

The weather was dry and warm with a continuous high pressure and light winds. This was an exceptional month, with two county firsts: an adult Franklin's gull in full summer plumage was reported at Kirkby on Bain on 13th and 14th, and a river warbler at Gibraltar Point on 29th. The Franklin's gull was assumed to be the individual seen at Titchwell, Norfolk on 10th and at Hillwell, Shetland on 15th. A lesser scaup, the second county record, was reported on the river Trent at Torksey, Lincolnshire on 14th and 17th and black-necked grebes bred successfully in the county for the first time since 18th century, two pairs rearing three young.

Reports of 22 hobbies came from 21 sites. A white Stork was reported at Louth on 7th and another at Gibraltar Point on 16th. One or two spoonbills were seen between the 7th and 17th at Frampton Marsh with a further two at Messingham Sand Quarry on 25th. Two wood warblers were singing at Gibraltar Point on 8th and an American golden plover, the twelfth county record, was at Huttoft Bank on 9th. Nine bean geese were seen at Gibraltar Point on 10th and eight dotterel at Friskney same day. The first nightjar was seen at Laughton Forest on 12th and a singing male golden oriole at Gibraltar Point on 12th and 13th was the only record for the year. A honey buzzard was reported at Tetney on 17th. Three garganey were reported at Toft Newton Reservoir and a red-backed shrike at Gibraltar Point, both on 19th, and another nearby at Skegness on 29th. A bee-eater was reported at Gibraltar Point on 21st, an adult laughing gull in full summer plumage, the sixth county record, was at Kirkby on Bain on 24th, and a Temminck's stint was seen there between 26th and 27th.

June

The weather was wet with above average rainfall and winds predominantly from the south west. Another county first, a little swift, was seen at Barton on 26th. Three spoonbills were recorded at Read's Island between June and August, and two at Messingham on 25th June. A marsh warbler was seen at Gibraltar Point on 4th, a singing common rosefinch was heard at Gibraltar Point same day and three black-necked grebes were reported at Boultham Mere on 15th.

July

South westerly winds brought low rainfall and warm temperatures all month. There was a year maximum count of 61 ruddy ducks at Barton Pits and 97 avocets were reported at Read's Island where 12-13 pairs nested. Little ringed plovers were reported at eight sites, with a total of 30 birds. An adult roseate tern in summer plumage was reported at Gibraltar Point on 28th.

August

Weather in August was warm with dry north winds. Quail remain difficult to assess but a minimum of 16 birds was recorded at three sites. An adult white-rumped sandpiper in full summer plumage, the tenth county record, was reported at Read's Island on 7th and a honey buzzard was at Revesby Reservoir on 9th. A green-winged teal was seen at Gibraltar Point on 10th, with two adult roseate terns there on 22nd. The only record of a storm petrel was at Gibraltar Point on 26th and a red-necked phalarope was at Toft Newton Reservoir on 27th. This was a good year for osprey across the county with 25-30 birds reported, the majority in the autumn months, August to October.

September

Generally dry weather with winds from the west reaching force 6 in the first half of the month, becoming easterly in the latter part of the month. In total, 24 hobbies were recorded at 19 sites and 14 spotted redshanks were seen at eight sites.

Five velvet scoters were recorded at Gibraltar Point on 7th, a juvenile red-backed shrike at Cleethorpes on 7th and 8th and one at Chapel St Leonards on 29th. A wryneck was reported at Lincoln on 9th, and an adult male ring-necked duck was seen at Kirkby on Bain between 12th and 20th. A Balearic shearwater was at Huttoft on 13th, when 28 sooty shearwaters were recorded at Mablethorpe and Huttoft, and up to three garganey were at Kirkby on Bain Gravel Pits between 17th September and 2nd October. An adult Sabine's gull in summer plumage was reported at Gibraltar Point on 17th and a Leach's petrel was seen at Chapel Point on 20th.

October

North-easterly winds prevailed at the start of the month, changing to westerlies later. In the Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe area there were 17 bean geese this month; 24 merlin were recorded at 18 sites and 22 peregrines at ten sites.

There were only three reports of yellow-browed warbler, two at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 5th and one at Pye's Hall on 6th. A honey buzzard was reported at Gibraltar Point on 1st, a rose-ringed parakeet at Donna Nook on 2nd, a bluethroat at Pye's Hall on 3rd and 4th, and a corncrake at Gibraltar Point on 3rd. A hawfinch was at Pye's Hall on 6th and another at Gibraltar Point on 30th. Three great grey shrikes were seen at Gibraltar Point on 7th and another three at Frampton Marsh on the same day, one of which remained until 10th. A hoopoe was at Cleethorpes on 10th and an adult male ferruginous duck was reported at Kirkby on Bain between 18th October and 5th

November. There were four Richard's pipits in October including two in the Frampton Marsh/Witham Mouth area from 17th to the month end.

November

High pressure brought light to moderate winds from south and west and decreasing temperatures. Two Slavonian grebes were reported off Friskney Marsh on the WeBS count. There were reports of 23 merlin at 17 sites and 43 water rails at eight sites. Five jack snipes were reported at Huttoft and 28 short-eared owls were seen at 17 sites.

Purple sandpipers remained scarce with two reported at Chapel Point on 2nd. Six velvet scoters were seen at Saltfleetby on 2nd, three at Cleethorpes on 4th and six at Mablethorpe between 15th and 29th. Two rough-legged buzzards were reported at Sutterby from 7th to the end of the year and two long-tailed ducks were at Witham Mouth on 8th. There were only a handful of little auk sightings, the best count being seven at Huttoft on 15th. Inland there were two hawfinches at Metheringham on 26th.

December

Wet with generally light winds and average temperatures. Peak counts for smew included six birds at New Holland and five at Toft Newton Reservoir. Two purple sandpipers were seen at Cleethorpes until the end of the year and the largest number of Lapland buntings reported was up to seven in the North Cotes – Pye's Hall area.

Two long-tailed ducks were at Mablethorpe on 6th and 31 white-fronted geese were at Witham Mouth on the same day. It was a poor year for waxwing records with just one reported at Hobhole, Fishtoft on 6th and another at South Witham on 16th. An adult male ferruginous duck, possibly the bird seen in October and November, was reported at Kirkby on Bain on 10th. There was a peak site count of 42 shore larks at Donna Nook on 17th and at Gibraltar Point the peak count for the species was 88 on 3rd. Four bean geese (*fabalis*) were reported at Saltfleetby/Rimac on 20th, nine white-fronted geese were seen at Gibraltar Point on 21st and two Slavonian grebes were seen at North Hykeham Apex Pits on 30th.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1999

National Overview

Green-winged teal, ring-necked duck and red-necked phalarope all occurred in record numbers, with above average numbers of purple heron, pectoral sandpiper, bee-eater, short-toed lark and common crane. Below average numbers of hoopoe, wryneck, bluethroat, red-breasted flycatcher and red-backed shrike were recorded.

Lincolnshire month by month account

January

A mild start to the year with a cold snap mid month. Two Slavonian grebes were reported at Apex Pit, North Hykeham on 1st and another at Gibraltar Point on 13th. A red-necked grebe was seen at Saltfleetby on 2nd and another at Witham Mouth on 24th. There were reports of 28 short-eared owls from six sites with a high count of 20 at Binbrook Airfield on 3rd. An Iceland gull showing characteristics of Kumlien's gull was reported at Apex Pit between 16th and 27th and a male ring-necked duck was seen at Kirkby on Bain on 24th. A firecrest was inland at Kirkby on Bain Gravel Pits on 31st January - 1st February.

February

The month was dominated by northerly winds, up to force 5-6. There were 12 hen harriers at nine sites and 15 Merlin at 14 sites. A black brant was seen at Gibraltar Point between 2nd February and 22nd March, 12 Lapland buntings were at Tetney Marsh on 11th, two red-necked grebes at Witham Mouth on 21st and a puffin at Gibraltar Point on 22nd.

March

The weather was dominated by light winds from the west and south-west. One or two bitterns were present at Boultham Mere to 21st March. Seven jack snipe were at Grimsby Pyewipe on 8th and 1-2 waxwings at Louth from 9th-13th, with the last at Gibraltar Point on 20th. A black brant was at Frampton Marsh on 18th. Rough-legged buzzards seen at Bluestone Heath on 20th, Tetford 21st and Cawkwell Hill 28th, could relate to same bird.

April

A relatively warm month, whose highlight was an adult male lesser scaup in first summer plumage, the third county record, at Cleethorpes Country Park lake from 5th to 16th. A breeding pair of hawfinches was reported near Gainsborough and a red-necked grebe was seen at Apex Pit on 18th. Two cranes were at Tuetoos Wood, Laughton Forest, on 23rd and a spoonbill was seen at Read's Island on 24th.

May

The weather was warm, dry and dominated by light to moderate south westerly winds. There were 11 dotterel at Bigby on 8th with another seen on the same day at Wainfleet.

At Gibraltar Point there was an adult male red-footed falcon on 11th, a purple heron on 12th and a red-rumped swallow also on 12th. Three bean geese (*rossicus*) were at Wrangle Marsh on 15th, there were five records of honey buzzard along the Wash coast between 15th and 29th and a Temminck's stint was at Gibraltar Point on 15th, with a further three at Toft Newton Reservoir on 20th. A white-rumped sandpiper was seen at Holbeach Marsh on 16th, a red-breasted flycatcher at North Cotes Point on 19th and 20th and a bluethroat at Rimac on 27th. A blue-headed wagtail at Boultham Mere on 29th stayed into June, a marsh warbler at Gibraltar Point on 31st was possibly seen again on 6th June and a red-backed shrike was at Rimac on 31st.

June

The weather remained warm, dry and dominated by light south-westerly winds. The highlight of the month was an adult squacco heron in summer plumage at Messingham between 3rd and 11th. This was the third county record and the first since the 29th September 1910 bird at Great Cotes. A white stork was seen at Frampton Marsh on 5th, and a bittern was present at Barton Far Ings up to 19th at least.

July

The weather was dominated by high pressure with generally light south-westerly winds most of the month, then northerly from 25th. At Read's Island the 147 avocets present was the highest monthly count. A ruddy shelduck was reported at Fillingham on 27th.

August

The month was wet with above average rainfall and light winds. Highlight of the month was an adult spotted sandpiper in full summer plumage at Holbeach Marsh between 15th and 28th, the third county record and the first since 1971. The total count of hobby records was 28 and spotted redshanks were recorded at 14 sites involving at least 20 birds. An icterine warbler was seen at Donna Nook on 5th, a buff-breasted sandpiper at Nene Mouth on 12th, and there was an autumn influx of ruddy shelducks with at least five birds at Cleethorpes from 15th August into September and October. A single ruddy shelduck was also recorded at Read's Island on 15th and a further four birds at Kelsey Moor on 16th. A red-necked phalarope was seen at Bardney Pits on 26th and again on 28th and 29th.

September

Light south-westerly winds dominated the weather all month. Single peregrines were reported at 13 sites, a red-breasted flycatcher was at Gibraltar Point from 1st to 21st and another was at North Cotes Point on 26th. Four ruddy shelducks were recorded at New Holland and Goxhill Haven on 7th, with another at Read's Island between 8th September and 3rd October. Single puffins were recorded at Gibraltar Point on 23rd and at Chapel Point on 26th. A spotted crane was reported at Huttoft Pit on 9th, a juvenile white-winged black tern at North Cotes Point on 12th, a red-necked grebe at Kirkby on Bain on the same day, and another at Covenham Reservoir on 20th.

An icterine warbler was reported at North Cotes Point on 12th-16th. Juvenile barred warbler was trapped and ringed at Crook Bank on 14th and an unringed bird seen on 17th and 19th, and another on 20th at North Cotes Point. A great grey shrike was at Rimac on 19th, and on the same date there were three long-tailed skuas at Gibraltar Point with five at Barton, and another five at Barton on 20th. A juvenile Sabine's gull was at Gibraltar Point on 19th and two juvenile garganey were at Boultham Mere on 26th.

October

Light to moderate south westerly winds dominated for the first half of the month but by 17th winds were force 3-4 easterly, increasing to 6 on 19th. A red-flanked bluetail at Skegness on 22nd and 23rd was the highlight of the month and a fourth county record.

It was a better than average year for Pallas's warblers with up to eight birds reported and there were five yellow-browed warblers scattered along the coast between Huttoft and Gibraltar Point. There was a good set of records for little auks between 21st October and 20th November, comprising more than 180 birds. Five long-tailed skuas were reported at Nene Mouth on 3rd, a grey phalarope at Gibraltar Point on 8th and five sooty shearwaters at Gibraltar Point on 10th. A wryneck was recorded at Howden's Pullover on 10th and another at Donna Nook on 15th. A spotted crane was seen at Gibraltar Point on 12th, a red-necked grebe at Tetney on 16th and another at Gibraltar Point on the same day. At Grainthorpe there was a Richard's pipit on 17th with a ruddy shelduck at Barton the same day and a single puffin at Gibraltar Point on 19th. Two Leach's petrels were at Huttoft on 21st, and a hoopoe was at Barton between 23rd and 26th and again on 2nd November.

November

The first half of the month was dominated by moderate south-westerly winds but northerlies prevailed by the middle of the month. Highlight of the month was an adult male desert wheatear at Saltfleetby/Rimac on 13th-16th, the third record for the county.

A series of records for great northern divers at Gibraltar Point in November and December involved 11 birds. A Richard's pipit was seen at Nene Mouth on 6th, a storm petrel at Barton on 8th and red-necked grebes were recorded at Gibraltar Point on 8th, 11th and 18th. A Balearic shearwater was at Gibraltar Point on 10th, 33 little auks went north at Gibraltar Point on 10th with a further 80 at Mablethorpe on 19th. A Leach's petrel was seen at Barrow Haven and Barton on 15th, an American wigeon was at Hartsholme Country Park on 24th and a single bean goose was reported at West Halton on 28th.

December

Light to moderate south-westerly winds prevailed for most of the month, with the temperature occasionally dropping below freezing. Ten hen harriers were recorded at seven sites and a black brant was reported at Kirton/Frampton Marsh on 5th with another at Butterwick Marsh on 12th. A single bean goose was seen at Roxby on 7th and a ruddy shelduck at Kettleby on 13th.

Steve Keightley

SELECTED SYSTEMATIC LIST 1997-1999

Collated by Janet Eastmead, Anne Goodall, Ian Nixon, Geoff Williams

Key to Symbols:

- *B National Rarity: description required for submission to BBRC. Submitted records with decision still pending will indicate this in the entry.
- *L /*(L) Rare or scarce in Lincs; full description /supporting details of sighting required by LBRC
- *b Records in these categories may not be published without the required information.
- nationally scarce breeding species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds panel (RBBP); all breeding season sightings in suitable habitat should be reported to the County Recorder asap.
- (b) rare breeding species in Lincs; all breeding season sightings in suitable habitat should be reported to the County Recorder.

Note on Nomenclature

Since work on this report had begun before the BOU published its most recent revision of bird nomenclature and systematics, and since the years covered by this report all pre-date this revision, the Editorial Committee have taken the decision to continue with the system then in force. All future reports will be produced in line with the new system.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Rare/very scarce winter visitor mainly Sep-Apr.

1997: A now-average year with at least 10 individuals. The first was 1 at Huttoft Bank Jan 18th, then 1 at Gib Point Feb 3rd. The last spring sighting was of 2N at Saltfleetby Feb 15th. Return passage began with 1S at Gib Point Sep 26th, then singles at Mablethorpe Oct 7th, Gib Point Oct 15th, Skegness Nov 18th and Saltfleetby 23rd. The only inland records were of 2 at Covenham Res Nov 30th with 1 there Dec 25-26th.

1998: At least 8 individuals. In the early year there was 1 inland at Covenham Res Jan 20-Feb 7th and Gib Point had singles Feb 6th and 22nd, 2 on 9th. In autumn, singles at Gib Point Sep 13th and 29th, Oct 31st and Nov 5th, and 1 N Huttoft Bank 29th.

1999: At least 10 individuals, all but one, at Gib Point Jan 1st, in the late year. The first of these was at Huttoft Bank Nov 6th, followed by 1 Saltfleetby 15th, 1 Cleethorpes North 24th, 1 Gib Point 29th, 2 there Dec 5th; then singles at Butterwick Marsh 12th and 26th, Saltfleetby Rimac 18th, and Covenham Res Dec 27-29th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* * (L)

Previously rare winter visitor Aug-May, apparently becoming more frequent.

1997: A typical year with just two sightings reported. The first was 1N Huttoft Oct 20th (NAL) followed by a juv at Covenham Res Dec 13th (RNe).

1998: A better year with 7 individuals reported. The only bird in the early winter was 1 offshore at Gib Point Feb 2nd (WPB). First of the autumn flew S at Gib Point Aug 29th (MLE), then singles offshore there Oct 17th and Nov 13th (KMW, HEM, SE). Elsewhere, 1 SE at Horseshoe Point Nov 7th (KDR), 1 in the Wash off Butterwick on the Nov WeBS count, and 1 Covenham Res Nov 29-Dec 6th (DMJ, GPC, SJMe).

1999: A good year with a possible 20+ individuals involved. In the early year 1 Gib Point Feb 20th, 2 21st (KMW, SPB). 2 were at Witham Mouth Mar 6th and 1 there 21st (MHa, SK). A partial s-plumage bird was at Gib Point Sep 20th (EJM), then 1 at Mablethorpe Nov 14th (GPC, ND, SJMe), and an unprecedented number at Gib Point: 1N 8th, 2N 10th and 11th, 1S 18th, 1N 20th, up to 3 seen 27-28th and singles Dec 12th and 17th (KMW, HEM, RKW, SK). Elsewhere, 1 at Covenham Res Dec 2-5th (KA, RG), and Witham Mouth 12th and 26th (SK, RG).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* *B

Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* * b

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Mar.

1997: First of the year was 1 at Freiston Shore Feb 9th, then singles at Whisby NP 15th and Witham Mouth Mar 1st. Singles were at Covenham Res from Sep 7th to Dec 17th and 2 were at Mablethorpe Sep 10th. A single bird was at Cleethorpes Boating Lake in the morning of Nov 30th with possibly the same bird in the afternoon at Grimsby Dock. One was also present from Dec 21-31st at Ashbyville.

1998: The bird at Ashbyville Lake remained until Jan 25th. Other early records were singles at Witham Mouth Jan 31st, Toft Newton Res Mar 26th and Tetney Marsh Apr 5th. In autumn singles were recorded at Toft Newton Res Oct 7th, Gib Point Nov 13th and Saltfleet Haven area 16-17th.

1999: The first of the year was at Saltfleet Jan 2nd, then 1 at Witham Mouth 24th, 2 there Feb 21st, and 1 at North Hykeham Apex Pit Apr 18th. In the late year at Gib Point 1 Nov 8th, 15 11th, 1 18th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Rare/very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Aug-May.

1997: Six birds, all singles, with the first records of 2 different birds at Barton Pits Jan 7-20th and Feb 8th-Mar 3rd. Another was at Covenham Res Jan 18th. Year end records came from Witham Mouth Oct 21st, Covenham Res Nov 24th and Gib Point Dec 12th.

1998: An average 8 records in the year. Singles were at Pinchbeck Slupe NR Jan 14th, on the sea off Gib Point Apr 5th and Toft Newton Res 24th. In autumn 1 was at Covenham Res Oct 10th, 2 were in the Wash off Friskney on the Nov WeBS count and 2 at North Hykeham Apex Pit Dec 30th.

1999: Another average year with 8 individuals recorded. Two birds were at North Hykeham Apex Pits Jan 1st, 1 on the sea at Gib Point Jan 13th, 1 at Witham Mouth Mar 6th. Late year singles were at Kirkby Pits Sep 12th, Covenham Res 20th, Tetney Lock Oct 16th, and Gib Point same day.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* *b

Mainly a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, Apr-Jun and Aug-Nov, but bred from 1998.

1997: The first was a summer-plumaged adult at Covenham Res which stayed for at least 4 days Mar 20-23th. A single was at Toft Newton Res Apr 18th, with a further 2 at Covenham Res May 10th; a juv was seen here Aug 14th and another juv was found dead at Messingham SQ 8th. A single was at Barton Sep 7th, then one which stayed from Nov 26th into 1998.

1998: The first breeding record since the 18th century! At Site A a single was first seen on June 11th and numbers built up to 5 adults by Jul 9th. Two pairs bred with 5 juvs seen on Aug 1st and 3 full grown juvs on 29th. Elsewhere, the bird at Barton in Dec 1997 stayed until Mar 30th. Covenham Res had singles on Apr 30th, May 2nd and 29th, Jun 13th and Sep 12th and 26th. One was at Thurlby Sand & Gravel Pit Jun 5th, Boultham Mere 3 on 15th, and at Baston-Langtoft Pits there were singles on Jun 21st and Jul 24th. Whisby NP had 1, Aug 30th and finally 1 was seen at Welland Marsh in the Nov WeBS count, with possibly the same bird at Witham Mouth Dec 6th.

1999: The majority of sightings were at Site A with peak counts of 4 Apr 1st and 5 by Apr 4th. Up to 5 adults were seen there regularly from Apr to mid Aug, but only 1 juv was seen, Sep 6-24th. Single birds were at Langtoft Pits Apr 12th, Covenham Res Jun 3rd and Sep 9th, North Hykeham Apex Pits Aug 5th and 22nd, and Gib Point Nov 1st.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* *L

Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* *L

Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant, mainly Jul-Nov.

1997: Records span Jul 4th-Oct 21st with most sightings late Sep-early Oct. 1 Donna Nook Jul 4th; 1N Saltfleetby Aug 3rd; 1N Gib Point 31st, 9N there Sep 9th; 25N Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR 10th; 1 Gib Point 12th & 17th, 7 19th, 3N 20th; 8 Huttoft 19th and 1N Chapel Point

21st. At Gib Point 1N Sep 27th, 29 Oct 2nd, 1 13th; 3 Theddlethorpe 3rd; 4N Huttoft CT 12th; 2 Gib Point and 1 Nene Mouth 13th and 1N Huttoft CT 21st.

1998: Records started on Aug 23rd with 1 at Chapel Point then 1 Gib Point 24th. On Sep 13th 24N at Gib Point and 28 at both Mablethorpe and Huttoft Bank, 5N at Mablethorpe 14th. All Nov records were at Gib Point: 2N 2nd, 5N 25th, 1N 26th.

1999: One at Gib Point Aug 19th, and 2 20th, 1 Huttoft Sep 9th, 8N Gib Point 19th, 5N Gib Point Oct 10th, 3N 19th, 1 Mablethorpe Nov 6th and 11th, and 3N Gib Point Nov 6th.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* *L.

Vagrant

1997: Gib Point had its highest count, 3 N Sep 9th (KMW).

1998: Huttoft Bank 1 Sep 13th (GPC)

1999: 1N at Gib Point Nov 10th (KMW).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* *L.

Rare visitor; mainly Jul-Nov with others in Dec-Jan and Apr.

1997: One on the Humber at Barton Sep 20th, left flying west (ND, GPC).

1998: The only record was 1N at Gib Point Aug 26th (KMW, HEM).

1999: A single sighting at Barton Nov 8th (GPC).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare/scarse offshore migrant, mainly Sep-Nov. Only very occasionally seen inland.

1997: A remarkably good year with 6 sightings. Sep: 1N Gib Point 9th, 8N 19th; 1 Chapel Point 21st (this bird was seen twice and landed on the beach). Oct: 9N Gib Point 2nd; 1 over the Humber at Barton 20th and finally 1N Huttoft Bank 21st.

1998: Chapel Point 1N Sep 20th, the only record.

1999: Two birds were at Huttoft Oct 21st and a single bird was seen at Barrow Haven and Barton Nov 15th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Usually scarce winter visitor Aug-May, very rare in summer or inland. Larger influxes in some winters.

1997: Only two records, both singles from the north of the county in May. The first was at the Humber Bridge May 16th and the second at Messingham SQ on 21st.

1998: At Gib Point 3N Apr 24th, then an imm Sep 6th and 1 Nov 13th. Another imm was at Freiston Shore / Witham Mouth Nov 7-8th.

1999: Five records; 1 inland at Boultham Mere Jan 30th, 1S Gib Point Feb 8th, 1 at Witham Mouth Feb 21st, an imm at Gib Point Mar 14th, and 1 at Donna Nook Sep 11th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* * b

Mainly rare winter visitor; summer records unusual.

1997: A disappointing year with records well down on recent years and no record from Boultham Mere for the first time in 19 years. Messingham SQ: one over-wintered from Nov 1996, seen occasionally until Feb 27th; North Killingholme Pits: reports of a single from Jan 2nd-Feb 27th, with 2 on Jan 12th. Barton Pursuit Pit: 1 on Jan 11th and again 19th; Kirkby Pits 1 Jan 29th. Late year records again came from Barton, 1 on Pit 25 Dec 14th and on Pursuit Pit 24th, and Messingham SQ where a single returned. There was also a single bird at Bellau Bridge from Dec 4th to the year's end.

1998: Another poor year: 2 Langtoft Pits Feb 13th; then none until 1 at Barton Pits Oct 20th and Nov 14th, present until at least Dec 22nd. Finally 1 Boultham Mere Dec 28 and 31st.

1999: The bird at Boultham Mere at the end of 1998 was joined by another and both remained until Mar 21st. The Barton Pits bird remained until at least Jan 13th and the first summer bird for some years was present at Far Ings on Jun 19th. The first of the late winter arrived there Oct 10th but with no further records until 1 Dec 18th, present to the year end. One at Boultham Mere Dec 14th also remained to the year end, with 3 present on 28th, and there were singles at Messingham SQ Nov 9th and Dec 24th.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* *B
Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* *B (to 31.12.01, then L)
Vagrant.
1997: See Appendix
1998: No records.
1999: See Appendix

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* *B
Vagrant.
1997 / 1998: No records.
1999: An adult summer-plumaged bird at Messingham Jun 3-11th (KJo et al) was the 3rd county record and the first since 1910 (see photos). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:518.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* *B
Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* *b
Rare/very scarce visitor in all months with some birds apparently wintering.
1997: The number of sightings was down on previous years with none after July. A single bird stayed at Skidbrooke North End/Donna Nook from Jan 12th to at least Mar 11th, with presumably the same bird reported there Apr 6th. One flying south from Ashbyville Mar 31st was seen again 15 minutes later as it flew to the east of Messingham SQ and another flew west up the Humber from Cleethorpes on Apr 14th. Donna Nook had one May 11th and one was at Messingham SQ Jun 23-24th. Gib Point had three records, all singles: May 2nd, Jun 8th and an imm Jul 23rd.
1998: Singles in May at Gib Point 22nd, Read's Island 23-25th and North Killingholme Haven 23-24th. Then none until Aug when there were singles at Tetney Marsh 15th, Gib Point 23rd and Shep Whites Aug 28th. Most records were in Sep, though possibly only 1-2 birds involved: Gib Point 3-5th, Seacroft 4th, Shep Whites 6-7th. Donna Nook 12th, Holbeach Marsh 13th and at Gib Point on 5 dates Sep 29-Oct 11th. One inland record, 2 at Kirkby Pits Sep 8th.
1999: In the north singles at North Killingholme Haven May 23rd, Horseshoe Point Aug 14-23rd, Tetney Sep 19th. In the south: Gib Point, 1 Jackson's Marsh May 25th, 1 Mere and Tennyson Sands Jun 7-8th. A bird present Aug 15-Sep 12th around Nene Mouth was seen on both Gedney and Terrington Marsh during this period and was probably the bird seen at Shep Whites, Aug 24th. A single was seen on Dawsmere Marsh Nov 28th.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)
Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *L
Vagrant.
1997 / 1998: No records.
1999: One at Gib Point May 12th flew S over the Wash at 19:30 hrs (KMW, GH); 23rd county record.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* *B
Vagrant: no records in report period.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* * (L)
Vagrant.
1997: No records
1998: Two records: 1 flew over Gib Point on Apr 12th and one was at Louth May 7th (NC).
1999: One at Frampton Marsh Jun 5th (SK) and 1 at Gedney Apr 14th (BPi).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* *B
Vagrant: no records in report period.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* *(L)

Rare visitor, mainly coastal in Apr-May but with increasing records inland and in summer/autumn; exceptional in winter.

1997: An adult in breeding plumage was at Kirkby Pits Apr 17-20th (MH, SK, BHe et al) and 2 birds were at Huttoft Pits Jun 7-14th (hide log).

1998: Two at Gib Point (see photo) Apr 23-30 (PRM), with possibly the same 2 on May 7th (KMW). Up to 2 at Frampton Marsh May 7-17th (LJ, SK), a Dutch-ringed imm at Gib Point May 18-20th (PRM) and 2 Messingham SQ Jun 25th (ND). Three records from Read's Island, 1 Jun 7th, 2 26-27th and a 1st-w flying W, Aug 30th (GPC, ND, RHs).

1999: An ad s-plumaged bird was at Read's Island Apr 24th (GPC, ND).

Bewick's (Tundra) Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

C c bewickii: Fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Mar and exceptional in summer. Whistling Swan *C c columbianus* Vagrant. *B

1998: *C c columbianus* 1 ad Nocton Fen Jan 22nd (KDD); second British record of this subspecies and first confirmed Lincs record. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:561

1999: No records.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Rare/scarse winter visitor, mainly coastal, Oct-Apr. Both *A f fabalis* ('Taiga' bean goose) and *A f rossicus* ('Tundra' bean goose) recorded.

1997: Records came from 6 sites, all in the early part of the year. In Jan there were at least 2, probably 4, at Tattershall Pits 2nd; 8 *rossicus*, the year's highest count, at Winteringham 12-14th and 19th. A single was at Tetney-Grainthorpe Feb 2nd and 3 at Sandilands Mar 2nd. At Messingham SQ records on at least 10 dates Feb 14th-Apr 6th all referred to the same *rossicus* bird. The only other record, also *rossicus*, came from Baston Fen NR Feb 5th.

1998: In the early year there were 4 at Witham Mouth Feb 1st and 2 *rossicus* Deeping High Bank Mar 23-29th; at Gib Point 9 flew E out to sea on May 10th. In Oct there were 17 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, and 4 *fabalis* at Saltfleetby Rimac, Dec 20th.

1999: Three *rossicus* at Wrangle Marsh May 15th; 3 there on 16th also likely to be *rossicus* but were not identified to subsp. In the late year a single *rossicus*, associating with pinkfeet, was seen at West Halton Nov 28th and Roxby Dec 7th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarse winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasionally fairly common. Most *A a albifrons* with only a few Greenland race *flavirostris* recorded.

1997: Only 2 of the 10 sites recording this species had records in both winters:

Early year: 1 imm Gib Point Jan 5th and 16th; 17 Covenham Res and 2 Winteringham, both 8th; 1 Wrangle Marsh 12th; 1 Winteringham 14th; 1 1st-w South Ferriby Feb 1-8th, 4 2nd and 8th; 29 Baston Fen NR 5th, and the last 4 Gib Point 27th. First returning birds were 14 S Theddlethorpe Dunes Oct 4th followed by 12 Gib Point 8th; 1 over Donna Nook Nov 19th; 12 Kirkby Pits 26th, 7 29th; 2 North Cotes 30th. In Dec there were 9 at Kirkby Pits 5th, 10 7th, 8 12th, 17 23rd and 13 29th; 3 Winteringham 26th, 4 27th.

The only record of *A.a.flavirostris* was of 1 at Gib Point Mar 13th.

1998: An average to good year. Jan: 12 S at Gib Point 6th, 2 Coleby Scunthorpe 21st and 25th, up to 17 at Kirkby Pits from 1997 to 25th, 1 Tallington 31st. A flock of 4 at Gib Point Feb 22-23rd was seen on 7 further dates Mar 9th-Apr 1st. A single (feral or escape?) was at Barton Jun 4th. First autumn bird was 1 at Gib with pinkfeet in Sep, seen 4-16th, then 1 at Barton Oct 2nd, 5 Read's Island 11th; 9 at Gib Point Dec 21st and 31 at Witham Mouth 6th.

1999: At Kirkby Pits 3 Jan 1st and 2 21st. A single was at Read's Island Jan 3rd. Four at Revesby Res Jan 16th were still present Feb 12th, 3 on Mar 8th. At Barton Far Ings an ad of unknown origin was recorded May 31-Jul 16th and Sep 26th to the end of the year. At Winteringham four ad and a juv Nov 23rd increased to 4 ad and 3 juvs by Nov 28th and five birds were still present on Dec 7th.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* *B

Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare vagrant/escape, most birds probably the latter.

1997: A single bird was present in the Scunthorpe area all year commuting between Ashbyville and Messingham SQ. It paired with a Greylag Goose but the breeding attempt failed. The only other records were of one at Cadney Res May 5th and a feral bird at Kirkby Pits Nov 11th.

1998: The single bird remained in the Ashbyville Lake and Messingham SQ area throughout the year with a second seen at the latter site in June and the same or another seen at Alkborough Flats on Oct 11th.

1999: At Holywell Lake a bird was reported in Jan WeBS and a feral bird was reported there Sep 12th. At Messingham SQ/Ashbyville Lake the single bird remained and was joined in Mar by another. Both remained until the end of the year.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

(*B b bernicla* very common winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to Humber and Wash.

B b brota rare/scarcely visitor Oct-Mar. *B b nigricans* vagrant *B (to 30.06.05, then L).

1997: Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B. b. brota*: A good year with records from 8 sites: 5 ad, 9 1st-w Barton 1996-Jan 10th; 2 Donna Nook 5th, 4 8th; 5 Tetney 11th; 8 Horseshoe Point Feb 2nd; 1 Frampton Marsh Mar 5th; 1 Kirton Marsh May 5th and Nov 6th and 1 Saltfleet Nov 7th. This last bird had been colour ringed (Yellow over White, Left (with 1Y in black on the white ring) and Yellow over Orange over metal, right) as a juv on Holy Island, Northumberland, on Feb 2nd 1994 and subsequently resighted in Denmark each summer 1994-1997 and in England or Holland each winter. At Gib Point a peak count of 35 Jan 26th had reduced to 10 Feb 2nd and 3 Mar 2nd with the last on May 20th.

1998: *B. b. brota*. Tetney Marsh and Frampton Marsh both had 1 Feb 15th, then 1 Kirton Marsh Apr 19th, 1 Butterwick Marsh 26th and 1-2 at Gib Point Jan/Feb, seen on 7 dates. In Dec, 1 at Winteringham with pink-footed goose flock, 6-28th.

1999: *B. b. brota*. At Kirton Marsh 5 Feb 28th, 1 Apr 5-11th and in the late year 1 Dec 5th. Regularly seen in the Brent flock at Gib Point Jan 29-14th Mar with 6 Feb 15th. Also there 1 Jun 6th and 10th, and in the late year 1 Nov 17th..

B b nigricans. At Gib Point 1 Feb 2-Mar 22nd (SK, DMJ, ND, KMW) was the first reserve record. Singles were also at Frampton Marsh Mar 18th (PAH, SK); Kirton Marsh Apr 5-6th (SK) and Dec 5th (RG, SK) and Butterwick Marsh 12th (MHA). All accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:519

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* *B

Vagrant: no records in the report period.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Rare/scarcely feral resident or visitor from the Norfolk population. Some local releases also involved and has bred occasionally.

1997: Records in every month except Aug; mainly single birds. One was present at Tattershall Pits for most of the year and other singles were at Laughton village Jan 1st, Marston STW 1st-12th, South Somercotes Feb 5th, over Kirkby Moor Mar 15th, Kirkby Pits Nov 16th and Dec 7th, with 2 over Baston Fen NR Dec 5th.

1998: 1-2 were at Tattershall Pits again for most of the year. Elsewhere, 2 at Deeping St James Apr 11th; a single at Gib Point Jun 4th and 2 at Kirkby Pits Aug 31st.

1999: Apart from a sighting of 4 birds at Kirkby Pits Nov 26th, all records came from Tattershall. Between 1 and 7 birds were present at the Pits all summer and a pair bred at the Castle, fledging 5 goslings. In the late year 2 were present at the Pits Dec 18th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* *b

Rare vagrant, but most recent records have probably involved escaped birds.

1997: Four records all later in the year: 2 at South Ferriby Jun 29th, 1 ad F Toft Newton Res Aug 7th, 2 at Grainthorpe Haven 13th and a single with Shelduck at Butterwick Marsh Oct 24th.

1998: Holbeach Marsh, 1 Jan 1st.

1999: An autumn influx on the Humber, starting with 4 at Cleethorpes and later at North Cotes Aug 15th, 1 at Read's Island same day; 4 between New Holland and Goxhill Haven Sep 7th, and 4-5 at Read's Island /South Ferriby Sep 8-Oct 3rd were probably all the same group; 1E at Barton Oct 17th.. Inland 4 at North Kelsey Moor Aug 16th are likely to be the same party but 1 at Fillingham Lake Jul 27th and 1 at Kettleby Dec 13th were probably not related to the influx.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor. Increased numbers in recent years aided by local releases.

1997: Sightings from 5 sites, as follows: a male at Horncastle seen in most months; a pair at Witham on the Hill Mar 28th; a male at Huttoft Pits, seen May 11th, Jun 14-15th and Aug 11th; a female at Silica Lodge, Scunthorpe Nov 16th, and a male at Messingham SQ 17th and 30th.

1998: The Horncastle male was again seen throughout the year. Other sightings were 1 South Somercotes Jan 11th, 2 River Witham Grantham 26th, 1 at Huttoft Pit Mar 28th, 5 Nocton Heath Apr 19th, 1 River Witham Kirkstead/Chapel Hill May 17th and 2 June 15th, 2 Blankney Quarry May 30th, and 1 Culverthorpe Lakes Nov 8th.

1999: The Horncastle male was reported near the Co-op Mar 16th, May 7th and Oct 17th. An ad M was at Blankney Quarry May 3rd, three pairs were at Dunston Heath May 10th, 1 at Revesby Res Oct 16th and 2 at Grimsthorpe Lake Nov 28th.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* *B (to 31.12.01, then L)

Vagrant.

1997: An adult male in full plumage was seen in the Read's Island / South Ferriby area Oct 5th (GPC et al). The 5th county record. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 91:466

1998 / 1999: No records.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* *L

Vagrant; six previous Lincolnshire records.

1997: A male at Read's Island Dec 27th-28th (ND et al).

1998: A male was on the Mere at Gib Point Aug 10th (DW).

1999: No records.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* *b

Scarce passage migrant, rare summer visitor, breeding occasionally. Has occurred in winter (rarely).

1997: Records from Apr 8th (Toft Newton Res) to Oct 16th (Messingham SQ). All but two records concerned single birds and there was no evidence of breeding. Males were at Toft Newton Res Apr 8-10th, Metherringham Delph 12th, Barrow Haven 26th and later that day at Barton. First female was at Kirkby Pits May 9th. Other spring records were singles males at Covenham Res 18th; Messingham SQ 21st, Huttoft Pits 27th; and Kirkby Pits Jun 1st. Then in autumn at Barton: 1F Far Ings Jul 13th, 1M in eclipse Aug 4th, 1 Pit 25 14-16th, 3 including an eclipse M 17th, 1 Far Ings 22-23rd and 1 Barton 25th; 1 Messingham SQ 7th and 10th, 2 27-28th; 1M Kirkby Pits 12th; 1 Gib Point 25th and 31st; 1 Huttoft Pits 29th, 1M Boultham Mere Aug 25th-Oct 7th;. Later birds were 1M Barton Far Ings Sep 13th, and 1 Messingham SQ Oct 16th.

1998: From Apr 5th (Marton) to Oct 2nd (Kirkby Pits). Apr: 2 Marton 5th & 7th, 3 Saltfleetby 16th. May: 1M Gib Point 2nd and 29th, 1 Holbeach Marsh 4th, 1 Kirkby Pits 9th, 2 24th, 1-2 Messingham SQ 16-19th, 3 Toft Newton Res 19th. Jun: 1 Pinchbeck Slupe NR 2nd,

1 Messingham SQ 9th & 27th, 1 Barton Pits 19th, 2 Kirkby Pits 28th. Jul: 1 Barton Pits 11th, 13th and 26th, 1 Read's Island 21st, 1 Messingham SQ 27th and Aug 3rd, 1 Barton Pits Aug 10th. Later birds at Bardney Ponds, 1 Sep 8th and Kirkby Pits 1-3 between 17th and Oct 2nd. 1999: From Apr 4th (Grimsby) to Sep 26th (Boultham Mere), pos bred. After the first at Grimsby Apr 4th, 2M at Gib Point 11th, and 1M, 2F 25th. At Barton 1 May 8th, 1 19-29th, 1 Jul 27th increasing to 2 Aug 1st, 3 Aug 12-16th down to 1 23rd. At North Killingholme 3 Aug 14-15th. At Gib Point a juv Aug 22nd then 14 bird-days Sep 6th-25th including 3 13th and 4 15th. Finally, two juvs at Boultham Mere 26th

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* *B

Vagrant.

1997: A female was at Messingham SQ Mar 11-Apr 13th (see photo), often seen with a drake shoveler (WCN, CN, JH et al). A juv, possibly female, was at North Somercotes Warren Sep 28th (GPC). The 6th and 7th county records with the last in 1982. Both accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:565 Plate 231 *British Birds* 91:467.

1998 / 1999: No records.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* *b

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally in summer, but increasing numbers of escaped birds present in the county.

1997: Records, all presumed to be feral birds, came from 6 sites. A male was reported intermittently at North Somercotes Jan 2-Mar 15th, probably the same bird at Scupholme Pond Mar 25th; a female similarly seen occasionally at Kirkby Pits Jan 31-Mar 23rd. Tallington GP had 2 pairs on Jan 12th and at Langtoft Pits a female was reported Jan 12th and Feb 11th and a male 22nd. On Mar 16th there were 3M and 1F there, with two hybrid birds. In autumn there were 2 at Baston/Langtoft Pits Sep 14th and 6 Oct 19th.

1998: All records came from the south-west. Baston-Langtoft Pits had single figure counts all year, a max of 10 on Feb 1st, and 2-3 pairs bred. Langtoft West End Pits had 1F Feb 5th and 11 birds including 5M Sep 27th.

1999: Two eclipse M Gib Point, Mere July 2-4th; the second reserve record. All other records were at Baston/Langtoft Pits: a single ad M Jan 5th, 10 birds Mar 21st, 4M and 1F Apr 4th and a single M 12th, a F with 2 juvs Jul 13th and finally 4 birds Sep 11th.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* *L

Vagrant.

1997: No records.

1998: An ad M was present at Kirkby Pits Sep 12-20th (DMJ).

1999: A 1st-w M was present at Kirkby Pits Jan 24th (DMJ).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* *L/B (by BBRC 01.01.99-31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant.

1997: No records.

1998: An ad M was seen at Kirkby Pits on several dates Oct 18-Nov 5th and the same or another Dec 10th. (GPC, GH, KA, PAH and SK). The 12th county record; last recorded 1981.

1999: No records.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* *B

Vagrant.

1997: no records

1998: A male on the River Trent at Torksey flushed and flew over Lincs (twice!) on May 14th (DJ,KDD). Last seen flying N along the Trent on 17th (KDD). The 2nd county record. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:384, 566

1999: A 1st-s F was at Cleethorpes CP Lake Apr 5-16th (AIM, SJM), the 3rd county record (see photos). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:254,524 Plates 298, 299, 310

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

1997: A very poor year with records of probably 7 birds from only 5 sites. The only early year record was of 2F at Witham Mouth Apr 12th. All other records were in Oct with 1 Gib Point 4th, 2 at Nene Mouth 13th, 1W at Barton 14th and 1 seen on Chapman Pond Cleethorpes on 15th and 26th.

1998: Records of 8-10 birds from 6 sites, all in autumn. 1 Covenham Res Oct 15th, then 1-2 North Cotes/Tetney Marsh Nov 4-16th, 1 at Gib Point 6th and 1N there 8th; 1 Shep Whites, Holbeach, 7th, 2 Witham Mouth 8th, 1-2 Mablethorpe all month. In Dec, 2 Mablethorpe 6th and 1 Tetney Marsh 22nd.

1999: A rather better year than of late, with records from 4 sites to April and 10-11 from October, some involving the same birds but at least 16 involved. Early year records were 1 off Grainthorpe Marsh on the Jan WeBS, 1 at Witham Mouth Feb 21st, 1 Barton-Barrow Mar 6th-Apr 26th, and a male at Cleethorpes CP Lake Apr 10-24th. Autumn records were singles Gib Point Oct 9th and 16th and Nov 6th, 11th and 19th, 1 inland at Boultham Mere Oct 31st, a F at Chapman's Pond, Cleethorpes Oct 19-Nov 2nd, an imm inland at Kirkby Pits Nov 14th, an ad M Barton Nov 15th, and 2 at Huttoft Nov 19th. Sightings at Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea on Nov 14th and 2 at Saltfleetby on the next day probably involved the same 2 birds. One inland at Tattershall Pits Nov 26th and a female Dec 18th, 1 at Tetney Dec 13th, 1 inland at Boultham Mere Dec 16th and 1 at Barton Dec 26-31st.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland and summer.

1997: The only inland record was of 3 at Covenham Res Jan 4th. All other records in autumn: 1N Gib Point Sep 25th; 2 Witham Mouth Oct 2nd, ad M 12th; 1N with 6 Common Scoter Mablethorpe 13th; 2 at Gib Point 14th, 7N 15th and 1 20th; 3 Barton Nov 4th and 1S Huttoft Bank 29th.

1998: All records Aug-Dec: 1 Winteringham Haven Aug 29th, 2S Huttoft Bank Sep 4th, 5S Gib Point 7th and 1 Horseshoe Point 9th, 1N Mablethorpe and 1 Witham Mouth, both Oct 4th; 1 Barton and 6 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Nov 2nd, 3 Cleethorpes 4th, 1S Gib Point 6th, 2N 8th, 1S 21st, 5 offshore on 25th. At Tetney Marsh there were 2 10th, max 6 Mablethorpe 15-29th and 4S Killingholme Haven 23rd. Last were all at Mablethorpe: 4 Dec 6th, 313th.

1999: Early year records were 3 at Pye's Hall Jan 10th, 1 at Mablethorpe Jan 27th and 2 30th, a male N at Gib Point Jan 29th, and 2 Tetney Marsh Feb 20th. First of the late year records was 1 Huttoft Nov 11th; 4 at Sutton on Sea and Mablethorpe Nov 14th and 5 Saltfleetby Nov 15th probably involved the same birds; 8 at Huttoft Nov 20th and 1 Dec 4th, and 1 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe WeBS Dec. Gib Point recorded 29 bird-days Oct 9th-Dec 13th with 8N on Nov 11th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor (Oct-Apr) with occasional large influxes in hard weather.

1997: present to Apr 19th and from Nov 29th (both Toft Newton Res).

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow H	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	2
Toft Newton Res	4	4	1	1	0	0	1	2

The only other larger count was of 5 at Baston-Langtoft Pits in Feb. Otherwise there were 1-3 bird in Jan/Feb and/or Dec at a further 14 sites: North Killingholme Haven, Gib Point, Cadney Res, Messingham SQ, Scotter Bottom, Covenham Res, North Hykeham Apex Pit, Whisby Pits, Kirkby Pits, Tattershall Pits, Fulstow Pond, Thurlby SP, Baston Fen NR and Langtoft West End Pits. The late-staying bird at Toft Newton Res was a male (see photo), behaving as if paired with a female Tufted Duck Mar 22nd-Apr 19th.

1998:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow H	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
New Holland	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	6
Toft Newton Res	2	2	-	2	-	-	5	5

Elsewhere, 1-3 in Jan/Mar at North Killingholme, Gib Point, Swanholme Lakes; 5, Baston-Langtoft Feb-Mar and 1, Read's Island Apr. 1-4 in Nov/Dec at Read's Island, Barrow Haven, North Killingholme, North Hykeham (Apex Pit), Baston-Langtoft Pits.

1999:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow H	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
New Holland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toft Newton Res	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	2
Baston-Langtoft Pits	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	1

Elsewhere, 1-4 in Jan/Feb or Nov/Dec at Read's Island, Shep White's, Holbeach, Welland Marsh, Ashbyville Lake, North Kelsey Moor, Boultham Mere, Swanholme Lakes, North Hykham Apex Pit and Bardney Pits.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce feral resident/winter visitor, first recorded in 1964. Breeding regularly since 1984.

1997

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	9	10	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Messingham SQ	0	0	1	5	8	6	5	2	0	0	0	0
Whisby NP	-	-	2	7	4	2	3	2	-	-	-	-
Kirkby Pits	-	-	2	4	4	4	3	5	2	2	3	2
Tattershall Pits	2	2	-	-	2	-	2	2	1	2	2	3

Breeding confirmed at Barton/Barrow, min 14 pairs present, 7 broods seen; Boultham Mere, 2 pairs with 2 and 3 juvs; Whisby NP with 2 pairs, 2 juvs seen; Kirkby Pits 1 pair, 2 juvs; Little Bytham, 2 juvs surviving from 6 hatched. Summering birds at North Killingholme Pits, Messingham SQ and Tattershall Pits, and sightings of 1-3 birds from another 11 sites.

1998:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	46	51	-	9	16	16	61	44	45	21	3	4
Barrow Haven Pits	0	43	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Holland	4	3	9	0	0	0	6	5	2	0	3	0
Kirkby Pits	0	2	4	6	7	16	18	27	22	11	6	3
Tattershall Pits	3	-	2	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0

Breeding confirmed at Barton Pits, 44 juvs (18 fledged); Sutton Brick Pit 3 juvs; Boultham Mere 2 broods (1 and 4 juvs) and Kirkby Pits, 5 broods. Sightings of 1-7 birds from another 15 sites.

1999:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	25	41	-	-	-	-	41	57	53	52	67
Barton-Barrow WeBS	-	-	10	13	7	2	12	15	54	51	42	44
Barrow-N Holland WeBS	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	-	-
N Holland-GoxhillWeBS	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-
Huttoft Bank Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	1	-	-	-
Sutton Brick Pit	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	7	8	10	6	6	9	7	-	-	-
Kirkby Pits	4	7	12	10	9	11	21	23	44	42	18	5
Revesby Res	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-

Breeding confirmed at Barton Pits, 29 juvs (at least 17 fledged). Elsewhere, 1-9 reported from another 14 sites.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* *(L)b

Rare/scarce passage migrant. Occasional in summer.

Extreme dates: Apr 27th-Oct 27th.

1997: A poor year with only 3 sightings. A bird of the intermediate type with heavy barring on breast and underwing coverts was at Donna Nook May 17th (PT). A dark morph juv flew S at Gib Point on Sep 14th (J Cu) and the last bird flew W at Nene Mouth on 17th (GE).

1998: Only 3 records again: a pale-phase bird flew N at Tetney Marsh May 17th (TH), and singles flew S at Revesby Res Aug 9th (KDR) and at Gib Point Oct 1st (RH).

1999: A better year with probably 8 different birds. One was at Wrangle Marsh May 15th (PAH), 1 Kirton Marsh 23rd (SK), 1 Frampton Marsh 29th (SK), and 2 Gib Point same day (SJMe, HEM). In the autumn there were singles at Gib Point Aug 18th, Sep 20th and 25th (SJMe, KMW, DN)

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)
Vagrant: no accepted records in the period.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* *b

Rare/scarce; wandering birds present in most months though mainly winter to spring.

1997: A good year with sightings in most months, most from the middle of the county. First of the year was at Willingham Woods, seen from a train on Feb 11th, then a tagged bird at Caythorpe Mar 14th, 1 Gib Point Apr 9th and 1 Metheringham Heath May 31st. June birds were in the Stainfield area early in the month and Kirkby Green 7th and a tagged bird was at Ulceby Jul 27th-Aug 1st and 2nd (when no tag was reported). Then 1 S at Hagworthingham 10th; 1 with tag and aerial Nocton Fen and 2 Harrington, all Sep 21st, and singles at Blankney Barff Oct 6th, Metheringham 23rd, Navenby 24th; over Ostlers Plantation (with red tags) 28th; 1 S Gib Point Nov 12th and 1 NW of Mareham le Fen 5th and Dec 14th.

1998: Another good year, but with all records in the south. A wing-tagged bird was in the Kirkby-on-Bain area Feb 8-15th, and a bird with a red-tag (No 10) was around Denton Feb-Mar, seen again at Osbournby May 4th. Presumably a different bird (no tag seen) was at Stoke Rochford Apr 22nd. In May singles were at Nocton Fen 23rd and Whisby NP 26th, perhaps the same bird (no tag seen) and 1 was at Dembleby Jun 6th. Then 1 at Kirkby Pits Aug 19th and an imm at Stainby 22nd, after which none until an untagged bird at Irnham Oct 15th, 1 at Hardy Gang Wood, Newball, Nov 11th and the last at Postland Fen, Spalding, Dec 18th.

1999: Fewer individuals than in previous years and no records in summer. An ad was at Leasingham Mill Mar 31st; then 1 at Colsterworth Apr 15th and 1 South Witham 16th, possibly the same bird, and last of the spring was 1 at Moulton Marsh 25th. In the autumn 1 was at Humberside Airport Aug 6th, and singles at Ancaster and Cranwell on Oct 27th were possibly the same bird.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* *B/L (considered by BBRC to 31.12.98)
Vagrant, no records in the period.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; occasional in summer.

1997:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Donna Nk-Skidbrooke	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	3	2	2
Nocton Fen	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
Gib Point	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1
Frampton Marsh	4	4	1	5	0	0	1	2	3	4
Total Sites	18	11	9	6			4	6	11	10
Min birds	32	19	11	12			4	11	16	20

Elsewhere, April birds were reported from Scotter/Messingham SQ and Bardney Abbey. There were no records of summering birds and the first returning bird was at Nocton Fen, Jul 28th. A wing-tagged male (yellow right, blue left) was at South Ferriby Dec 29th. This individual was ringed as a nestling at Langholm, Dumfriesshire in the summer of 1995; the latest of several records connecting Langholm birds with the Humber estuary.

1998:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney-Grainthorpe	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
Donna Nk-Saltfleet H	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	3
Nocton Fen	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Gib Point	2	1	3	2	2	0	0	3	4	3
Frampton Marsh	5	4	5	1	-	-	-	2	4	1

Total Sites	8	12	8	6	2	1	2	7	14	15
Min birds	23	14	14	7	3	1	2	12	21	18

The other April bird was in Metheringham Fen, 19th and the last of the 'spring' was an ad F at North Cotes Jun 3rd.

1999:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Donna Nook-Skidbrooke	1	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Saltfleet-Rimac	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	6
Nocton Fen	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0

Total sites	10	9	6	3	1	1	5	3	7	7
Min birds	12	12	7	3	1	1	6	5	9	10

Records from 20 sites, mostly 1-2 birds but 3 at Frampton (Jan), Rimac and Saltfleet (Dec). Gib Point had almost daily ringtails to mid-May, and late year birds from Oct 10th, with 2 1st-w M and a ringtail roosting 26th. One male roosted regularly to end of year.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and regular summer visitor, though breeding irregularly.

Extreme dates: Apr 23rd-Oct 19th.

1997: The only spring record was a female E at Gedney Range Apr 27th. Then single females at Kirton Marsh Jun 29th and Gib Point Jul 1st and 15th, and 2 (1F, 1 sub-ad M) there 30-31st. A ringtail was at Shep Whites 5th and 1M Frampton Marsh 6th, 1F 9-10th. All August records came from Gib Point: 1F 1st, 3 (1pr, 1 imm M) 2nd, 3 3rd, 1M 9th and finally 1F 18th. No nesting attempt was reported this year.

1998: First of the year was an ad M at Tetney Marsh Apr 23-26th, a new earliest date, and probably the same bird was at Donna Nook 29th. A ringtail was at Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe NNR May 2-17th, a F at Metheringham 11th and 1 on Frampton Fen 20th. At Gib Point a 2nd-yr M was present Jun 10-11th. In Jul 1 was at Dunston Fen 6th, and a pair was seen talon-locking at Site A 26th, with an ad F there 29th but no other evidence of breeding was reported. The only Aug bird was a juv at Potterhanworth Fen 19th.

1999: First returning bird was at Holbeach Marsh Apr 25th, with possibly the same bird seen at Moulton Marsh same day. A F was at Bourne Wood May 5th, and ad males were at Gib Point 8th and Algarkirk 23rd; 1st-s males at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh 31st were possibly the same bird. At Gib Point a 1st-y M was present Jun 1-6th; 1 was at Shep Whites Jul 17th, and an ad M there 28-29th. Two juvs were at Nene Mouth Aug 15th, a M at Holbeach Marsh Aug 17th and another bird there 24th.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* *(L)b

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn to spring; has increased in recent years.

1997: Only four records for the year and from only 2 sites. The only one in spring was a very tired bird at Donna Nook Mar 13th (SL), then late year sightings of 1 at Quad 3, Donna Nook Oct 8th (NAL); 1F over South Witham NR Nov 3rd (ES) and 1 at Donna Nook Dec 10th (SL).

1998: Up to 8 birds at 8 sites, in addition to a presumed escapee: a female with jesses seen displaying over Tumby Woods Mar 1-14th. A pair, neither with jesses, was displaying over Fulsby Wood Apr 14th (GCS) but no summering or breeding birds reported. In Aug a M flew NW over Louth 21st (KA) and a F was at Boston 25th (PAH). 1 was at North Cotes Oct 5th (RL), a M at Saltfleetby 12th (KA) and an ad F on Osgodby Moor 12th (SJMe). An ad F was at South Witham Nov 11th and 25th (ES), and the last of the year was an ad M at Ewerby Pond 29th (GH).

1999: At least 7 birds from 5 sites. A single was at Boultham Mere Feb 6th (SPB). Seven sightings came from the Stenigot/Donington on Bain area: 2 Mar 20th (SJMe), 1 M Apr 1st and 3rd (KA), 1 F May 8th (GAM), 1 M Jul 9th (KA), 1 Aug 30th (GAM), and 1 M Sep 3rd (KA). A M was also seen at Louth Jun 6th (KA). At Gib Point there was an ad M Oct 17th (LJM), and an ad and imm 23rd (JCN). Potterhanworth Wood had singles Aug 1st and Sep 16th (DT).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

1997: An excellent year for this species with records from 75 sites. Monthly records as follows

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	12	22	9	13	7	8	7	14	13	12	8
Min no of birds	10	16	41	13	26	9	16	10	17	20	17	9

Talon grappling/displaying was seen at Asterby/Red Hill, Greetwell/Manton, Fulsby/Tumby Woods and Appleby Carrs/Keb Wood. Breeding was confirmed at Risby Warren: 2 pairs feeding young in May; Santon Wood: one pair feeding young in May; and Stoke Rochford, where there were 2 pairs, one on a nest with at least one juv Jul 15-16th.

1998: Recorded from 76 sites, in all parts of the county except the Fens.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	15	16	18	14	10	3	18	12	14	11	12
Min no of birds	14	25	33	25	19	12	5	31	29	32	30	17

Displaying pairs, or family parties or juveniles were reported from Haverholme/Twigmoor, Greetwell/ Manton, Swallow, Goulceby/Stenigot, Asterby, Sutterby, Tumby Woods, Marston, Aisby, Denton/ Woolsthorpe and Stoke Rochford.

1999: Records from 81 sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	12	5	13	14	11	10	10	14	23	17	8	8
Min no of birds	19	8	29	28	12	10	13	20	39	28	10	12

Talon grappling/displaying was seen at Black Walk Nook and Manton Warren, and a juv was reported at Stenigot in Sep.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* *(L)

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

1997: no accepted records

1998: Records of 14 birds from 9 sites. An early record was a single at South Witham Feb 1st (ES), and 2 flew N at Gib Point Apr 20th (TW et al) but most records were in autumn. 1 at Gib Point Oct 4-12th was joined by another on the last date (EJM), and a single was there on 26th (NAL). A juv was on Nocton Heath Oct 18th (DMJ) and singles were at Saltfleetby Rimac 22nd (AN) and Kirkby Pits Nov 10th, with a juv at Tetford 11th (PAH, SK, WPB, GPC). Also in Nov, singles were at Thurlby SP (PBH) and Tumby Woods (DMJ) on 22nd. Two birds at Sutterby from Nov 7th remained until the end of Dec (DMJ, JDM, PRG, SJMe).

1999: Records from 5 sites probably involving only 3 birds. First record for the year came from Bluestone Heath Mar 20th (KA, SJMe); a juv at Tetford next day (DMJ) and a 1st-w at Cawkwell Hill 28th (GPC) may have involved the same bird. At Gib Point an ad F was present Apr 4-5th (HEM, DN) and in the late year 1 was at Humberston Dec 26th (GAM).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* *L

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* *b

Scarce passage migrant with occasional summer records.

1997: Records fell between Apr 17th and Sep 19th, involving up to 9 birds in spring and 8 in autumn seen at 17 sites. First of the spring was 1 W at Barton Apr 17th, being mobbed by crows. Arriving single birds at coastal sites in May were at Tetney 3rd; Saltfleetby Rimac 4th and 13th; Read's Island 11th, Barton Far Ings 14th; Gib Point 14th and 18th and another was inland at Messingham SQ on 25th. The first returning bird was at Read's Island Aug 3rd flying south up the River Ancholme, and the same or other birds were seen the same day at Keb Wood, Broughton and by the Ancholme Bridge at Worlaby Carrs 6th. A juv at Witham Mouth 17th flew out to sea but returned inland an hour later, then 1 was at Dunston Fen 21-23rd and 29th and possibly the same bird on Metherringham Fen 25th. In September there was a probable imm over

the River Bain near Kirkby Pits 3rd; 1 S Gib Point and 1 Brothertoft/Langrick over River Witham both 5th; 1 S Whisby NP 8th and 1 Thorpe St. Peter 15th. Finally the last sighting was of a single bird (prob F) at Friskney, reportedly present for a fortnight (making use of a handy supply of Koi carp) before leaving on Sep 19th.

1998: Records between Mar 31st and Oct 10th, in all months except July; between 25 and 30 birds involved, seen at 16 sites. Spring passage was both earlier and more protracted than usual, with 1 N at Gib Point Mar 31st and Apr birds, all singles, at Lincoln 3rd, Barton 11th, 18th and 20th, Whisby NP 12th and 24th, Alvingham and Great Carlton 16th, Raithby 18th, and Sandilands 24th. In May singles again were at Whisby NP 2nd, Gib Point 2-13th, Toft Newton 6th, Wainfleet Bank 11th and Kirkby Pits 17th. Unusually there were Jun records at Barton, 1 S 7th and 1 W 14th, and at Tetney Marsh 18th. First Aug bird was at Alvingham 8th, then 2 at Grimsthorpe Park 20th, 1 Barton 23rd, and 1 Read's Island 30th; singles in Sep were at Gib Point 6th and 11th (with red leg-band), Marston STW 10th, Winterringham 11th and Kirkby Pits 18th. There were single birds at Gib Point Oct 2nd and 3rd, and the last was at Donna Nook 10th.

1999: Records between Apr 7th and Oct 16th, involving 1-3 birds in spring and perhaps 16 in autumn, from 13 sites. First in spring was at Messingham SQ Apr 7th then 1 there May 16th and 25th. In July 2 were at Grimsthorpe Park Lake 15th and 2 at Croxby Ponds 20th. In Aug 1 was at Gib Point 3rd and 14th, 1 S at Horseshoe Point 14th, 1 Carey Wood 23rd and 1 Boultham Mere 28th, then in Sep 1 Butterwick Marsh 12th, 1 Keb Wood 25th and a juv found dead Thornton Abbey 27th. Finally there were singles at Caistor Oct 3rd, Thornton Curtis 4th, Revesby Res (a juv) 5-6th and Gib Point 9th and 16th.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant: 23 previous county records.

1997 / 1998: No accepted records.

1999: An ad M at Gib Point May 11th (ADo et al). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:527

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer.

1997: A fairly typical year with records from 68 sites, most being of singles. Present to May 24th and from Jul 6th (both at Gib Point).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	20	18	11	7	4	-	4	6	15	16	13	11
Min no of birds	23	21	15	7	4	-	4	6	16	17	16	12

1998: Reported from 64 sites, most singles but with 2-3 birds in one or more months at South Ferriby, Tetney Marsh, North Cotes, Pye's Hall, Howden's Pullover, Gib Point, Frampton Fen, Roxby, and Nocton Fen. Present to Jun 8th and from Jul 25th (both Gib Point)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	17	13	8	3	4	1	1	7	6	18	17	18
Min no of birds	21	16	10	3	4	1	1	7	6	24	23	22

1999: Records from 44 sites; present to Jun 27th (Grainthorpe Haven) and from Aug 9th (Tetney). Most records of singles but 2-3 occasionally at Gib Point, where the species was absent only May to early Sep.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	10	14	5	6	3	1	-	5	7	7	12	12
Min no of birds	12	15	5	6	4	1	-	5	7	9	15	12

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* *b

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

1997: Present from Apr 22nd (South Witham NR) to Oct 4th (Burton Stather) with records from 66 sites. Probable/confirmed breeding was reported from only six sites.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	2	21	20	21	20	24	1
Min no of birds	2	23	22	21	25	27	1

1998: Present from Apr 17th (Wragby) to Oct 17th (Welbourn Heath). Records from 59 sites, most of single birds. Probable/confirmed breeding at four sites.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	3	21	12	17	16	19	2
Min no of birds	3	22	12	17	16	24	2

1999: : Records from 51 sites. Present from Apr 25th (Kirkby Moor) to Sep 30th (Nocton Fen). Breeding confirmed on the Doddington Hall Estate, one pair fledging 3 young. Juveniles were also seen at Blankney Heath (2) and an adult with a juv at New Holland.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	3	12	9	11	22	12	-
Min no of birds	4	12	10	11	28	16	-

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* (b)

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records.

1997: Present to Apr 30th (North Cotes) and from Jul 21st (Kirkton Marsh), with a record of a 1st-s bird in moult at Barton June 19th. Recorded from 39 sites, almost all in the north of the county. Most records were of single birds, but there were 3 at Read's Island in both February and December.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	10	12	6	4	1	2	5	10	14	15	8
Min no of birds	10	14	7	5	1	2	5	10	15	15	10

1998: Records from 37 sites and in all months, mostly in the north of the county, and mainly singles but with a few 2s, 3 at Read's Island in January and February and 4 at North Cotes in December. Present to May 16th (Barton) and from Jul 18th (North Cotes).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	10	12	4	8	2	2	2	5	9	10	6	8
Min no of birds	13	17	5	9	2	2	2	5	11	22	7	13

1999: Records from 40 sites, again mostly in the north of the county, and mainly singles but with a few twos. Present to May 31st (S Ferriby Cement Works) and from Jul 10th (Tetney).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	5	3	3	2	3	5	13	11	9	8
Min no of birds	10	7	6	3	3	3	6	13	13	9	10

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* *L

Former resident; no records in the report period.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix* *b

Scarce summer visitor Apr-Sep, occasional in winter.

1997: Present from May 1st (South Witham) with two very late records: 2 flushed in front of a sugar beet harvester at Dunston Heath Oct 13th (JSM) and 1 at Deeping Fen Nov 20th (PNW). Records came from 24 sites holding a minimum of 39 birds, but there were no confirmed breeding records and no juveniles reported.

TOTALS	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites	7	7	10	7	-	1	1
Min no of birds	11	12	18	9	-	2	1

1998: Present from May 7th (Frampton Marsh). Records from 11 sites but no confirmed breeding and no juveniles reported. All reports were of singles except 7 at Sleaford (GH) and 8 at Folkingham (ERJ).

TOTALS	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites	3	4	2	3	-	-	-
Min no of birds	3	4	2	16	-	-	-

1999: Present from May 12th (North Cotes). Records from 17 sites but no confirmed breeding and no juveniles reported. Greatest number at one site was c8 at North Rauceby Jun 14-17th (EJR).

TOTALS	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites	5	9	3	3	-	-	-
Min no of birds	5	20	5	4	-	-	-

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

1997: Records came from 23 sites. Breeding records were of 4-5 pairs from Barton West Lakes, an ad F and juv at Boultham Mere in Jun, an ad and juv at Messingham SQ in Aug and a juv at North Killingholme in Aug.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	6	3	5	2	2	1	-	5	9	10	10	6
Min no of birds	7	3	8	3	2	1	-	6	15	21	25	43

1998: Records from 20 sites. Three pairs remained throughout the year at Baston Fen NR, 4 confirmed pairs were at Barton and brood calls were heard there, and juveniles were seen at Boultham Mere and Gib Point. Twenty birds were reported from Barton in both January and November.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	10	6	6	4	3	5	4	4	6	10	8	5
Min no of birds	40	13	17	17	8	12	16	11	13	28	43	12

1999: Records from 21 sites. Barton reedbeds had 11 pairs and 4 broods were seen. Single juveniles were also seen at Messingham SQ Jul 9th and Aug 2nd.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	5	5	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	4	2	8
Min no of birds	10	10	7	3	4	3	25	7	4	8	11	23

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* *Lb

Vagrant.

1997: The only record was of a single juvenile at Boultham Mere Aug 28th-Sep 3rd (SPB et al).

1998: No records.

1999: One at Huttoft Bank Pit Sep 9th (PCo) and 1 at Gib Point Oct 12th (JCN).

Little Crake *Porzana parva* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Corncrake *Crex crex* *Lb

Vagrant.

1997: A bird was heard calling from a rape field at Swallow May 14th (AN); the first record since 1992.

1998: A bird was seen at Gib Point in the late afternoon of Oct 3rd (SDo).

1999: No records

Crane *Grus grus* *(L)

Vagrant.

1997: The only record of the year was of 2 adults at Donna Nook Oct 3rd (SL).

1998: No records.

1999: A single record of 2 near Tuetoes Hill Wood, Laughton Forest, Apr 23rd (GPC).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Blue-winged Teal, Messingham, March 1997.
Main image: John Harriman, Inset: Roy Harvey (video Grab).



Left: Smew and Garganey, Toft Newton Reservoir, April 1997. Image: John Harriman.
Right: Black-winged Stilt, Huttoft pit, May 1997. Image: John Harriman.



Left: Marsh Warbler, Far Ings, May 1997. Image: Roy Harvey (video Grab).
Right: Dotterel, Owmbly (by Searby), May 1997. Image: Roy Harvey.



Spoonbills, Gibraltar Point, April 1998. Image: John Harriman.



Left: Little Swift, Barton, June 1998. Images: Roy Harvey (video Grab) and John Harriman.
Right: Red-necked Phalarope, Toft Newton, August 1998. Image: John Harriman.



Left: Long-tailed Skua, Bardney, September 1998. Image: Graham Catley.
Right: Richard's Pipit, Frampton Marsh, October 1998. Image: John Harriman.



Lesser Scaup, Cleethorpes, April 1999. Images: (left) Graham Catley, (right) John Harriman.



Left: Temminck's Stint, Toft Newton Reservoir, May 1999. Image: John Harriman.
Right and below: Squacco Heron, Messingham, June 1999. Images: Graham Catley.





Left: Glaucous Gull, North Kelsey Moor, August 1999. Image: Roy Harvey.
Right: Hoopoe, Barton, October 1999. Image: Graham Catley.



Left: Pallas's Warbler, Gibraltar Point, October 1999. Image: Neil Smith.
Centre & Right: Red-flanked Bluetail, Skegness, October 1999. Images: Graham Catley.



Desert Wheatear, Rimac, November 1999. Images: Graham Catley.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* *B
Vagrant

1997: A single bird was at Huttoft, first seen flying S over the car terrace May 4th then at the pits until 5th (MHa, ACS, SK, HB). General consensus was that it was a 1st-s bird and possibly female (see photo). This is the 8th record for Lincs and the first since 1993. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:529

1998 / 1999: No records.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* *b

Rare/scarse passage migrant, rare in winter to 1997; now a scarce coastal breeder. Formerly bred to early 19th century and again in 1991 and perhaps 1992.

1997: Sightings were well down on previous years with only four sites involved. The first was Tetney Marsh on Apr 9th, 2 birds which flew off W. Two were at Read's Island May 31st then 2 at Barton Far Ings Jun 8th. In autumn there were 2 at Read's Island Jul 12th, max 6 on 14th, 1 to 23rd; 1 flew S over Gib Point 13th.

1998: Records from 6 sites: bred at Read's Island where an estimated 12-13 broods produced 36-39 juvs, and broods of 4 and 3 were seen between Winteringham and S Ferriby.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Is-S Ferriby	0	0	2	9	8	12	97	93	55	31	3	0

Elsewhere: 2 were at N Killingholme Pits Mar 29th, 1 at Tetney Marsh Apr 5th, 1 at Gib Point 30th, 2 at Frampton Marsh May 14th, 1 at Gib Point Jun 22nd, and single birds were at Barton Pits Jul 9th, Gib Point (S) Aug 16th, and N Killingholme Pits Nov 22-23rd.

1999: Records from 11 sites: bred at Read's Island, where an estimated 14-15 broods were seen.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Is-S Ferriby	0	25	24	22	7	102	147	115	81	58	0	2

Elsewhere: singles were at Winteringham Haven on the Apr WeBS, at Gib Point May 13-15th and 29th, Killingholme Haven Pits 30th, Messingham SQ and Toft Newton Res 22nd. At Gib Point 1 Jun 27th, at Barton Pits 5 Jul 10th, at Wainfleet Marsh 4 Jul 18th, at Donna Nook 2 Aug 18th and at Frampton Marsh North, 26 on Sep 12th.

Stone-curlew *Burbinus oedichnemus* *(L)b
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* *b

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Extreme dates, Mar 7th-Nov 29th.

1997: Present from Mar 22nd (Messingham SQ) to Sep 26th (Covenham Res).

TOTALS	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of sites	4	15	10	6	11	5	1
Min no of birds	6	35	30	18	31	8	2

Breeding confirmed at S Ferriby Cement Works, Covenham Res, Skelton Lake and Little Bytham and probable at Messingham SQ, Mavis Enderby, Sandford Pit, Bourne and Langtoft Common Pits. A colour-ringed juv at Winteringham Aug 10th had been ringed in North Yorks and was still present at the breeding site on Jul 2nd.

1998: Records from 22 sites. Present from Mar 30th (Tetney Marsh) to Sep 10th (Toft Newton Res).

TOTALS	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of sites	1	10	13	9	8	9	2
Min no of birds	1	32	27	11	30	17	2

Breeding was confirmed at Blankney Quarry where two broods were ringed, at Bardney Pits and Kirkby Pits, and probable at Kirton Lindsey Quarries, but no evidence of breeding was found at Marston STW this year.

1999: Records from 19 sites. Present from Mar 21st (New Holland & Kirkby Pits) to Sep 19th (Kirkby Pits).

TOTALS	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of sites	2	7	10	4	8	4	2
Min no of birds	3	18	24	11	34	20	3

Breeding was confirmed at S Ferriby Cement Works, Yarborough Quarry, Messingham SQ, Blankney Quarry, and site of old works Cowbit Road, Spalding.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* *Lb

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* *(L)

Rare/scarse passage migrant, mainly spring.

1997: All records were in May. A trip of 2 at Bonby Top 4th (ND, JH, GPC) increased to 4 7-9th and flew off NE together on 10th. Four were at North Cotes 5th (GAM) and 12th (RNe). Ten were in a field at Horseshoe Point with 3 more on the beach 10th-11th (GAM), 8 on 13th (SM). A trip of 17 was at Grasby Top (see photo) 13-14th (RH, JH, GPC) reducing to 3 on 15th and finally 1 on 16th. The last sighting of the year came on 18th from a field to the west of Leggat's Quarry, South Ferriby (WG).

1998: Only two records: a single bird in winter plumage was with Golden Plover at Bonby Carrs Apr 14-21st (GPC, ND), and a trip of 8 was at Friskney May 10th (AR).

1999: Only two records: a trip of 11 at Bigby (GPC, RH) May 8th and one of 9 at Wainfleet Marsh (NAL), same day.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant; 10 previous county records.

1997: The only record was of a bird seen at South Ferriby/Read's Island and described as adult or 1st-s, possibly F, between Jul 24th and Aug 13th (GPC, ND, JH). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 91:472

1998: The single record was of a 1st-s bird seen at Huttoft Bank May 9th (DHur, TRo, KA).

Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:530

1999: No records

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Sociable Plover *Vanellus gregarius* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* B*

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* * (L)

Rare passage migrant.

1997: A better than average year for this species: 4 records involving 5 birds. The first was at Kirton Quarries May 10th (ND), then Gib Point had a s-plumaged bird Jun 17-18th (MRA et al), 2 were at Bardney Pits Jul 27th (JWa) and the last was an adult at Saltfleetby Rimac Aug 30th (ACS).

1998: The single record was of a bird seen at Kirkby Pits May 26-27th (KDD, PRG, DMJ).

1999: Only two records, at Gib Point a partial s-plumaged bird was on Tennyson Sands May 15th (KMW), and 3 birds at Toft Newton Res (see photo) May 20th (JRN, RHa, AN).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant; 9 previous county records.

1997: No records.

1998: An adult in full summer plumage was at Read's Island Aug 7th (GPC, AGr). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:574

1999: One at Holbeach Marsh May 16th (AHJH). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:532

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* * (L)

Vagrant.

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999: One seen at Tetney Sep 13th (GAM).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal.

1997: The only record in the early year was a single at Witham Mouth Jan 26th. In September there were records from 4 sites, involving 5-6 individuals: 2 N Mablethorpe and 1 juv Saltfleetby Rimac both 10th, 1 juv Witham Mouth 21st and 1 juv Gib Point 24-25th, possibly seen again on Oct 3rd. A very tame bird was feeding on the beach at Anderby Creek Oct 23rd and the last of the year was 1 at Cleethorpes Nov 23rd.

1998: All records were in the late year: singles were at Huttoft Bank Sep 13th, Gib Point Oct 11th, Toft Newton Res 13th, New Holland-Goxhill Haven Nov 1st and 7th, Barton 2nd (these three sightings possibly involving just one bird), 2 at Chapel Point 2nd, 1 at Cleethorpes North Nov 7th and 2 there Dec 19th and 28th.

1999: Early year records were all at Cleethorpes: 2 Jan 1-22nd, 2 Feb 1-23rd, 2 Mar 1-29th. In the late year singles were at Gib Point Oct 8th and 10th, possibly same bird, and Oct 28th, Cleethorpes Nov 2nd, Huttoft 21st, Cleethorpes Dec 1-17th and 2 18-31st.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* *B

Vagrant.

1997: An adult was in a large wader roost on the Fenland Lagoon, Gib Point, between 0715 and 1015 Aug 4th (KMW): the 8th county record. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 91:475.

1998 / 1999: No records.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* *L
Vagrant.

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999: One at Nene Mouth Aug 12th (JMo).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, probably much under-recorded.

1997: Early year records were as follows (single birds unless stated). Jan: Greetwell Hollow 1st-2nd, Whisby 3rd, Gib Point 3-4th, Goxhill 5-11th, Ewerby Thorpe/Ewerby Fen 13-14th, Scunthorpe 17th, Saltfleetby 18th, Messingham SQ 21st; Feb: 2 at Gib Point 3rd, and 1 23rd; Mar: at Baston Fen 9th, 17th, 31st; Messingham SQ 9th and 29th; Gib Point 19th and 30th; Apr: Kirkby Pits 8th, Gib Point 15th and 19th. The first returning bird was at Gib Point Oct 3-5th, then 3 7th, 2 8th, 1 12th, 2 15th, and 1 21st; others in October at Messingham SQ 5th and 12th, Huttoft Pit 8th, Barton Far Ings 15-18th, Winteringham Marsh 17th. In Nov: singles were at Whisby NP 6th, Messingham SQ 9th and 25th, South Kelsey 10th, 7 at Bardney Pits 13th, 2 16th, 5 30th, and 1 at Humberson 23rd. In Dec, 1 was at Bardney Pits 13th, and MSQ 27th.

1998: Early year singles were at Bardney Pits and Saxilby Jan 1st, North Cotes and Tetney Marsh and Gib Point 5th and another there 16th; 4-6 were at Bardney Pits 17-31st and 2 there Feb 8th and Apr 12th; singles were seen at Saltfleetby on three occasions between Feb 1st and Mar 29th; 1 was at Kirkby Moor Mar 15th, and at Gib Point 1 31st, 3 Apr 1st and singles 2nd, 24th and 26th, and 1 May 3rd. In the late year the first bird was at Gib Point Sep 28th and there were almost daily records of up to 3 birds there in October with 5 7th and 4 8-9th. Elsewhere in October 1-2 birds were at Barton, Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, and Frampton Marsh. In November 5 were at Huttoft Bank Pit and 4 at Saltfleetby 1st, 1 at Whisby NP 2nd and Baston Fen 8th, 2 at Thurlby (Bassingham) 18th, and 1 at Bardney Pits 24th. In December 2 were at Whisby NP 10th, and 1 Huttoft Bank Pit 13th.

1999: Early year singles were at Boultham Mere Jan 11-Feb 21st, Pyewipe Feb 26th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Feb, Manby and Carlton Washes Feb, 7 at Pyewipe Mar 8th, 2 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Mar, Gib Point singles on 4 dates Mar 4th-Apr 17th. In the late year 1 Huttoft Bank Pit Sep 16th, 1 Pye's Hall Oct 16th, up to 3 regularly at Gib Point Mere Sep 22-Nov 17th, 1 Barton Nov 4th, 2 Donna Nook 14th, 3 Pyewipe Dec 14th, 1 Boultham Mere 16th, 1 Bardney Pits 18-24th, 1 Gib Point 9th.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* *B

Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, rare/very scarce in spring, scarce in autumn. Rare but regular in winter.

1997: A poor year with few spring records and only Gib Point having more than 3 in autumn. The first of the year was 1 Frampton Marsh NR Jan 8th with no more until a single at Huttoft Pits Apr 4th and 1 Tetney 23rd. In May singles were at Far Ings 5th and Tetney 7th. A single at Gib Point Jun 18th preceded the main autumn passage in which records came from only 13 sites. The only winter records were of singles at Frampton Marsh NR Nov 1st, Terrington Marsh 16th, and Barton Dec 9-23rd.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Summed peak all sites	1	0	0	3	3	1	2	18	13	11	2	1
Number of sites	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	9	6	6	2	1

1998: The first of the year was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Jan 1st, then 1-2 birds were seen along the Humber each month until April. The single May bird was at Gib Point 20th. Autumn passage began in Jun and involved 12 sites; mostly 1-3 birds except for Frampton Marsh which

had 6 on Jun 28th. Winter records were singles at Donna Nook Nov 28th, Nene Mouth Dec 6th and on the River Witham Kirkstead to Chapel Hill the same day.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Summed peak all sites	3	2	4	3	1	9	4	6	14	5	1	2
Number of sites	3	2	3	3	1	4	4	4	8	5	1	2

1999: The first of the year was at Read's Island Feb 13th, then 1 at Halton Marsh in March. Other early year records were at Gib Point, and Manby and Carlton Washes. The main autumn passage began in August and involved a total of 19 sites; mostly 1-2 birds but Frampton Marsh South had 5 Sep 12th, and Kirton Marsh and Kirkby Pits had 4 Aug 15th and Sep 12th respectively. Winter records were 1 at Gib Point Nov 22nd (latest for reserve), and 7 at Gedney Drove End Dec 12th.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Summed peak all sites	0	1	1	2	3	3	2	20	18	7	1	7
Number of sites	0	1	1	2	3	2	2	14	10	5	1	1

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Passage migrant, usually rare in spring and scarce in autumn. Extreme dates: Apr 17th-Oct 23rd.

1997: Records came from 11 sites. The only spring records were 2 at Little Bytham Apr 24th, 1 Messingham SQ May 5th, 1 Boutham Mere 10th and 1 Marston STW 25-26th. In the late year records began with singles at Gib Point Aug 6th and 8th, then a juv at Read's Island 9th, 1 Little Bytham 11th and 1 Marston STW 13th. These were followed by a juv at Gib Point Aug 23rd, possibly a different bird next day, then 1-3 birds on 9 dates between 2-17th. A juv was at North Killingholme 7th and 1 North Cotes MOD Pools 19th. At Covenham Res singles 19th, 21st, 22nd and 24th may all refer to one bird. Finally WeBS sites at Holbeach and Kirton Marshes had 1 and 2 respectively on the late Sep count.

1998: Records from 11 sites. Early year records were 1 at Gib Point Apr 22nd, 1 Marston STW May 9-10th and 2 12-13th, 2 MSQ 12-13th and 1 14th, singles at Gib Point 15th, Kirton Lindsey Quarries 16th, MSQ 18th, and Read's Island Jun 30th. Autumn passage began with 1 S at Gib Point Jul 8th, then a juv at North Kelsey Moor Aug 2-4th, 1 Frampton Marsh 5th, 1 Bardney Pits 8th and 11th, 2 Tetney Marsh 11th and 1 17th, 1 Read's Island 12th, 1 MSQ 20th and 24th, 1 North Killingholme Pits 25th, and 1 Horseshoe Point Slurry Pit Sep 9th.

1999: Records from 10 sites. Four singles in May, at Gib Point 3rd, Kirkby Pits 16th, Messingham SQ 19-22nd, Marston STW 23rd. Late year records began with singles at Gib Point Aug 1-9th, Messingham SQ 6th, Horseshoe Point Slurry Pit, North Kelsey Moor and Pinchbeck Slupe 8th, Huttoft Bank Pit 9th, 3 at Marston STW 10th, 1 Bardney Pits 12-15th, 2S at Gib Point 20th and 1 Tetney 31st. Two were at Kirton Marsh Sep 12th, 1 Bardney Pits 18th, and a juv North Kelsey Moor Oct 10th.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* *B
Vagrant.

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999: An adult summer-plumaged bird was seen at Shep Whites/Holbeach Marsh intermittently Aug 15-28th (JMo et al). The 3rd county record, following birds in 1970 and 1971. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:535

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* *B
Vagrant; no records in the report period.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *(L)

Rare autumn passage migrant; occasional in spring.

Extreme dates: May 12th-Nov 19th.

1997: No records.

1998: One was at Toft Newton Res (see photo) Aug 27th (RHa).

1999: A juvenile was seen at Bardney Pits Aug 26-29th (DMJ, JSM et al).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* *(L)

Rare migrant/winter visitor.

1997: There were 3 records in 1997, the first being a slightly oiled bird just offshore at Gib Point during the afternoon of Oct 12th (RKW). The following day one was seen at Nene Mouth (GE) and the third was at Skegness Pier Nov 26th (NL).

1998: No records.

1999: A 1st-w bird at Gib Point Oct 8th (BBC).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* *(L)

Rare/scarse passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Occasional inland.

1997: A 'middling' year for this species with records of 20 birds from 4 sites only. Off Nene Mouth there were singles Sep 9th and Oct 13th (GE) and Gib Point had juvs Sep 14th and 22nd, an ad and 2 juvs 19th and a sub-adult 27th. At Huttoft CT there were 2 on 20th, one landing on the beach (PRG, NL), and between Mablethorpe and Rimac there were 3 juvs Sep 10th (GPC), a juv S 14th (ACS), 1 Oct 12th (GPC) and 5 S, including a full-tailed ad, 13th (SJMe).

1998: A poor year although passage started early with a juv S off Huttoft Bank on Aug 12th (WPB), followed by further singles on 31st (CJJ, SK) and Sep 13th (GPC) and 20th (SML). Another juv flew west at Holbeach Marsh on Sep 13th (AHJH), and one was inland at Bardney (see photo) 20-22nd (TML et al). There was a probable 2nd-s at Barton Sep 30th (GPC), and at Gib Point a juv N on 1st Oct and another S Nov 7th (NAL).

1999: Another average year, with 28 birds reported from 4 sites: at Gib Point, during heavy skua passage, there were 2 juvs and a sub-ad S Sep 19th (KMW), single juvs 20th, 22nd (KMW) and 1 S 23rd (HEM). Five juvs moved W at Barton Sep 19th with another 5 S and SW 20th (GPC), and 5 at Nene Mouth Oct 3rd (JMo); at Gib Point there were 2N 4th (HEM, EJM), and single juvs 6th (HEM) and 8th (BBC), and the last were 3 S at Huttoft Nov 6th (WPB, GAM).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* *b

Scarce visitor throughout the year, but most in autumn. Hybrid breeding with black-headed gulls has occurred in some years.

1997: Recorded from 14 sites and in every month except March, but except at Gib Point, records were generally down on previous years. In the first winter period there was a 1st-w at Marston STW Jan 1st, an ad at Whitton 5th, 1 on the Jan WeBS count at Terrington, a 1st-w Boultham Mere 17th; at least 2 different 2nd-w birds at North Hykeham Apex Pits 11-12th with 2 different 1st-w birds there 26th-Feb 7th, and 1st-w birds at Thurlby SP 23rd and Gib Point 27th. In Apr there was a 1st-s bird at Kirkby Pits 8-27th, a 1st-w at North Killingholme 17th and a pair of s-plumaged ads 21st. The only summer records came from Gib Point: a 1st-s bird May 25th and Jun 19th. In July there was an ad 16-17th and a 2nd-w 19th and 21st at Gib Point, ads at Kirkby Pits 4th and Barton 18th. Then in autumn, 2 w-plumaged ads Aug 17th and 22nd and a 2nd-s 28-29th at Gib Point, and at Huttoft an ad in winter plumage 23rd; 1st-winters at Gib Point Sep 5-6th, Saltfleetby 10th and Huttoft CT 13th, and an ad Huttoft Pits 29th; ads at Gib Point Oct 1st and 5th and a 1st-w 3rd, an ad Huttoft Pits 8th, and singles at Pyewipe, Grimsby 6th, Barton 14th, and Kirkby Pits 19th. Occasional ads were seen at Nene Mouth from Sep to the year's end, and a 1st-w at Apex Pit Dec 28th.

1998: Records from 17 sites. In the first half of the year there was an ad at Barton Feb 4th and a 2nd-w 11th, then an ad at Read's Island Mar 8th, a s-plumaged ad at North Kelsey Moor 15th, a 1st-s at Kirkby Pits Apr 18th and a 1st-s S at Gib Point Jun 18th. Then in late summer single ads were at Read's Island Jul 7th and 20th with 5 (mostly adults) 25th and single ads Cleethorpes 12th, West Halton 25th, Covenham Res Aug 19th and 24th, and a Dutch-ringed 2nd-w Sep 10-12th, single juvs at Huttoft Bank and Holbeach Marsh 13th and an ad at Nene Mouth same day.

Single ads seen at South Ferriby and Barton 19th were probably the same bird. There was a 1st-w at Navenby Low Fields Oct 8th, a 2nd-w at Chapel Point Nov 7th and another at Winthorpe 9th, a 1st-w at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) 28th, a 2nd-w at Gib Point 27th, a 2nd-w at Immingham Docks Dec 11th and an ad at Winterton 29th.

1999: A 2-w was at Apex Pit Jan 1st and a 1st-w at Skegness 10th-Feb 28th. At Gib Point there was a 1st-w and a 2nd-w at the roost Jan 22nd and 3 singles on various dates in Jan. A 1st-w was at Thurlby SP Feb 7th, a 1st-w and a 2nd-w at North Hykeham Apex Pit 14th, a 1st-w at Skegness Mar 3rd, another at Kirkby Pits 28th, a 2nd-s and an ad at Messingham SQ Apr 9th, an ad at Barton 16th and a 1st-s at Goxhill 18th. At Gib Point there were singles May 14th and 31st and 3 1st-s 21st. A 1st-s was at Saltfleetby Rimac Jun 17th, 2 at S Ferriby Jul 10th and an ad 23rd, and another at North Cotes Point 28th. In autumn there were 14 birds at Gib Point Aug 1st-Sep 21st, but elsewhere they were scarce: an ad at Huttoft Bank Pit Aug 5th and 1 Tetney 28th, then none until 1 Chapel Pit Oct 4th, 1 S Killingholme Haven 8th, and a 1st-w at Boultham Mere 11th. There were 5 Gib Point Oct 9th-Nov 6th, an ad and an imm Nene Mouth 6th, an ad Grimsby Pyewipe 12-24th, a 2nd-w North Hykeham Apex Pit 28th, 1 Dec 5th, another 2nd-w 28th, and an ad on a school playing-field in Holbeach Dec 31st.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* *B

Vagrant.

1997: An adult at Cleethorpes Oct 21st (CJM) was the 5th county record and the first since 1984. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 91:478

1998: An ad in summer plumage at Kirkby Pits May 24th (KDR), the 6th county record. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:579

1999: No records.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* *B

Vagrant

1997 No records.

1998 A first summer at Kirkby Pits May 13th (KDD et al) was a new county record. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 91:579

1999 No records.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* *L

Rare autumn passage migrant, mainly coastal, from Jul-Oct.

1997: All records, involving probably 4 birds, from Gib Point: a juv at Greenshank's Creek Sep 9th (KMW) seen next day on the estuary (NAL) and back at Greenshank's Creek on 13th (KMW, MC) and 16th (D&SB). Also on 16th 2 juvs moved N (KMW) and a juv flew N on Oct 19th (KMW).

1998: A single record of an s-plumaged ad at Gib Point Sep 17th (DN).

1999: At Gib Point a juv S Sep 19th (KMW).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* *L

Vagrant: no records during the report period.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellii* *b

Scarce visitor, mainly in autumn.

1997: At Gib Point there were ads Jul 15th, 17th and 19th, 3 20th, 1 21st and 4 28th. Elsewhere in Jul, 1 at Kirton Holme 17th, a 3rd-s Read's Island 24th and a 3rd-yr Kirkby Pits 27th. In August there were 2ads, 1 3rd-s at Gib Point 1st and a 3rd-s 8th, an ad South Ferriby 2nd, 2 ads Whitton 3rd and 1 10th, 2 ads Boultham Mere 10th, and 1 at Winterton Tip 11th. Then 1 Leadenham Tip Sep 21st, 3 Oct 12th and 20th, 2 21st and 3 22nd. A single was at Kirkby Pits Nov 16th and an ad and 2nd-w there Dec 12th.

1998: In spring there were ads at Gib Point Mar 15th and 27th, and a 2nd-s at Barton Jun 7th. Most records as usual from July onward, starting with singles at Kirkby Pits Jul 9th, 12th and

24th, 2 15th and 4 26th; 2 3rd-w at Gib Point 9th, and an ad and a 3rd-w 29th, and 2 West Halton 25th. In August there was 1 at Kirkby Pits 2nd and 3 9th, then an ad at Read's Island 7th, 2 West Halton 9th, 2 Immingham 20th, followed by an ad at Gib Point Sep 3rd, 2 Kirkby Pits 5th and a 3rd-s and 2 ads 11-27th, 2 at North Hykeham Apex Pit 12th, single ads Huttoft Bank 13th and Whitton 14th. Singles at Boultham Mere 17th and Whisby 18th may have been the same bird. Ads were at Gib Point Oct 2nd, Kirkby Pits 2nd and 24th; at Navenby Low Fields there were 2 different ads in winter plumage 9th and 12th, and at Basingham another on 17th. 1999: Unusually there were early winter records: at North Hykeham Apex Pit an ad Jan 16th, 2 31st, 1 Feb 14th; and ad at Kirkby Pits Jan 31st, 1 at Cleethorpes Feb 23rd, singles at Boultham Mere in Jan and Feb and 1 at Skegness Mar 3rd. A summer record came from North Hykeham Apex Pit: a 2nd-s Jun 23rd, and in autumn there were 3 at S Ferriby Cement Works Jul 16th and 30th, ads at Saltfleetby and Goxhill Haven 17th, 1-2 at Gib Point 23-28th, then 3ads and a juv Aug 4th. with 2 ads 10th and singles (mostly ads) present on 5 other dates in the month. Also in August, 1 at Kirton Lindsey Quarries 6th and 2, an ad and a 2nd-s, at North Hykeham Apex Pit 24th. In September there were 3 ads 3rd, 2 12th and 28th, 1 23rd at Gib Point, and in October ads there on 8th and 14th. Monthly max at Boultham Mere in autumn were 1 Sep, 3 Oct, 6 Nov and 4 Dec.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* *(L)

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May.

1997: A better year than of late, but with most records from the north of the county. A 2nd-w was at Read's Island Jan 5th and 2, probably a 1st-w and 3rd-w, on Mar 21st (ND). At Grimsby/Cleethorpes there was a 1st-w Jan 11-12th, 1 26th; a 1st-w Feb 2nd, 1st/2nd-w 9th, and further singles Apr 4th and 19th (AJH, WPB, RH, JRN). Gib Point had a 1st-s on the River Steeping Feb 9-10th (KMW, RKW). All remaining birds were inland: Winterton Tip had a 1st-w Jan 14th and Feb 9th, a 2nd-w Feb 28th and Mar 2nd, and a 'very pale and faded' 1st-s Apr 25th (GPC, ND, JH). Boultham Mere had 1 Feb 15th (SPB), and North Hykeham Apex Pits a 1st-w Jan 5th and 11th (MH, DMJ, ACS).

1998: Ads at Read's Island Jan 29th (GPC), and Feb 15th and 22nd (GPC, ND), an ad at Winterton Feb 8th (GPC) may have been the same bird as that seen at Roxby 10th, 14th and 20th (GPC, ND), also at Roxby a 1st-w 28th (GPC). At Read's Island a 1st-w Mar 1st, an ad 8th (seen later that day at Roxby), and 15th, a 1st-s 22nd, and a 3rd-s Apr 9-11th (GPC, ND), and at Gib Point an ad May 22nd (MLE).

1999: One with the characteristics of *L. g. kumlieni* was reported at Apex Pit, North Hykeham Jan 16th (DMJ, MJG) and 26-27th (PRG, DMJ). Pending decision from BBRC.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* *(L)

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.

1997: A good year for this species with records from 22 sites, most in the early year.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	11	5	6	2	2	1	-	-	-	2	3	-
Min no of birds	15	6	7	2	2	1	-	-	-	2	3	-

Most records came from the Humber and North Sea coast, between Alkborough Flats and Gib Point, with singles at Witham Mouth and Terrington on the Feb WeBS count. Inland records came from Winterton Tip (Jan-Mar), North Kelsey Moor (Oct-Nov), Covenham Res (Jan), North Hykeham Apex Pits (Jan), Kirkby Pits (Jan) and Baston Fen (Mar).

1998: Records from 8 sites, only three of which were coastal: Read's Island, Cleethorpes and Gib Point. Inland records from Winterton Tip/Roxby, North Kelsey Moor, Apex Pit (North Hykeham), Kirkby Pits and Leadham Tip.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	5	3	5	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
Min no of birds	6	4	5	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	3

1999: Records from 9 sites, all in the north: from Alkborough Flats round to Saltfleet and inland from Bagmoor/Winterton Tip/Roxby, and North Kelsey Moor (see photo) which had records in all months except May and June.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	7	5	4	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Min no of birds	6	6	4	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* *Lb

Rare passage migrant in May and Jul-Sep.

1997: No records

1998: An ad in summer plumage S at Gib Point Jul 28th (KMW) and 2 ads Aug 22nd (KMW).

1999: No records

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* *B (to 31.12.05, then LBC)

Vagrant.

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999: A juvenile at North Cotes Point Sep 12th (HB). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 94:480

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.

1997: An average year; all records coastal and most in the second half of the year. In the early year there were singles at Witham Mouth Jan 5th, Skidbrooke, Feb 2nd and Gib Point, 27th. In July 1 flew past Anderby Creek 16th, then 4 N at Gib Point 18th and 2 at sea off Saltfleetby Rimac 20th. In autumn there were singles at Gib Point Sep 1st and 19th, Oct 5th, 2 12th and 1 21st, 10 N Huttoft Bank Oct 2nd, 2 12th; 3 Chapel Point 4th and 1 Witham Mouth 5th.

1998: In the early year two N at Gib Point Jan 15th, a single at Witham Mouth 31st and 3 at Saltfleetby Feb 15th, then a single S at Gib Point Jun 7th. In the late year 12 N at Gib Point Oct 1st and 1 S Nov 20th.

1999: In the early year 5S Gib Point Feb 20th, then 1 at Rimac Jun 17th. In the late year 1 Mablethorpe Nov 14th, 1 Gib Point 26th.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional inland and exceptional in summer.

1997: Records were scarce, comprising two main coastal movements and a later passage up the Humber. In the first movement there were 23N at Huttoft Bank Oct 12th, 1 14th and 1N 21st, 3N Gib Point 13th, 1N 15th, singles there 21st, 23rd and 26th, and at Huttoft 24th and 25th, 5N Saltfleetby Rimac 25th, and 14, including a flock of 12, were at the Humber Bridge Nov 4th.

1998: A poor year with 1 Frampton Marsh Jan 24th, and in November, 2 Barton 1st. On the east coast 2 at Huttoft Bank 1st, 2 at Mablethorpe 3rd, 1 Chapel Point 7th, 3 Huttoft Bank 15th and 7 there next day may have involved some of the same birds.

1999: All records in the last quarter, but numbers then fairly typical. The first was at Huttoft Oct 21st, then 1 Nov 6th and 14th, and 80 19th (GAM), 1 N Mablethorpe 10th, 1 Witham Mouth 11th; singles at Grimsby Pyewipe and Cleethorpes on 12th may have been same bird. On 14th there were 4 North Cotes Point, 4 Sutton on Sea and 6 Mablethorpe, then 2 Barton 15th, 2 Humber Bridge 20th, and 5 Saltfleet Haven 21st. At Gib Point 1N Nov 8th, 33N 10th (1 in plumage), 13N 11th, 4N 12th, 1N 14th, 17N 19th, and 2N 20th.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.
1997: The only record for the year was 1S at Saltfleetby Rimac Sep 21st.

1998: No records.

1999: At Gib Point singles N Feb 22nd, Sep 23rd and Oct 19th. Elsewhere 1 Chapel Point Sep 26th.

Unidentified Auk sp

1997: Saltfleetby Rimac 1 Jul 6th; Mablethorpe ca90 S Oct 12th; Huttoft Bank ca1400 S between 07.30 and 09.30 Oct 2nd; Gib Point 4 Aug 29th, 20 Sep 26th, 21 Oct 12th.

1998: At Gib Point 54 N Oct 1st, 12 N 2nd, 12 N Nov 8th, and 36 13th.

1999: At Gib Point 235 N Nov 11th.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrhaptes paradoxus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (b)

Occasional vagrant from feral populations, although some records involve locally escaped birds

1997: No records.

1998: One at Donna Nook Oct 2nd (RL-S).

1999: No records.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Scops Owl *Otus scops* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* (b)

Rare/scarse resident and scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

1997: A poor year. All records were of 1-2 birds except for 3 at Gib Point in February.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	6	5	6	8	5	1	4	2	4	4	4	7
Min no of birds	7	8	6	10	6	2	4	3	4	4	4	7

1998: Scarce again in the first winter period, with better numbers arriving in autumn for the last quarter.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	3	5	6	2	4	1	2	4	3	14	17	10
Min no of birds	5	6	8	3	4	1	2	4	5	22	28	28

Largest concentration was at Binbrook Airfield which had 17 birds Dec 20th.

1999: Good numbers remained in spring, but there was again a poor arrival in autumn.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	6	6	8	12	6	1	-	5	1	4	4	6
Min no of birds	28	21	18	18	6	1	-	5	1	4	6	8

Largest concentration was again at Binbrook Airfield which had c20 Jan 3rd, next highest was 5 at Holbeach Range Feb 9th.

Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (b)

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

1997: Churring males at Laughton Forest from May 14th, max 12 on 25th; Broughton Keb Wood from 17th, max 3 on 31st; Laughton Common 5M Jun 10th, Ostlers Plantation 1M 12th; Gib Point 1M Jul 1st, Scotton Common 3M 14th. Latest record was of 2 at Laughton Woods Jul 31st.

1998: First arrival was May 12th (Laughton Forest) and latest record Nov 21st (Doddington). Laughton Forest had at least 25 churring males, and Broughton/Keb Wood 1. A bird was found in the middle of the road near Newell Wood Jul 7th.

1999: First arrivals were mid-May and latest record Aug 4th. Records from five areas: Laughton Forest/Scotton Common area had 27 churring males, Broughton/Keb Wood 3, Crowle Waste 3, and Ostler's Plantation 1.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* *B

Vagrant

1997: no records

1998: One at Barton Jun 26th (GPC) was the first county record (see photo). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:276, 586

1999: no records.

Blue-checked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (*L)

Vagrant: 22 previous Lincs records

1997: 1 S at Gib Point at 11.15 May 29th (KMW) was probably the same bird seen leaving Spurn earlier the same day.

1998: An ad at Gib Point May 21st (RKW, JJC).

1999: No records.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* *Lb

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-Oct but occasionally to Dec.

1997: One at Sotby Apr 10th (KW)

1998: One at Cleethorpes Oct 10th in scrub to south of docks (GAM).

1999: A single bird at Barton (see photo) Oct 23-26th and Nov 2nd (GPC, ND).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* *b

Rare/scarce passage migrant Apr-May and Aug-Oct, mainly coastal.

1997: Two at Saltfleetby Rimac/Sea View Farm, Sep 6th.

1998: No records.

1999: Singles at Howden's Pullover Oct 10th and Donna Nook Oct 15th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* (b)

Scarce resident.

1997: Recorded from 16 sites. Breeding evidence from Rippingale, South Willingham and Linwood Warren; present all year at Burton Pits, Chambers Farm Woods, Moor Farm, Kirkby on Bain; Scunthorpe Kingsway Woods and occasionally seen at Boultham Mere. Other records from Twigmoor Woods, Belton Park and Woodhall Spa Jan; Weelsby Woods Feb; Haverholme Park Apr; Kirton Skeldyke and flying between Messingham SQ and Black Walk Nook in May.

1998: Nineteen records from 17 sites. Singles at Roxton Woods Jan 31st, Laughton Forest Feb 15th, Neville Wood 23rd, Linwood Warren Mar 22nd, a male at Brumby Common and a pair at Kingsway Woods (both Scunthorpe) same day. One at Moor Farm Apr 5th, a F at Belton Park 19th and a pair at Woodwell Head Wood, Lobthorpe same day, and 1 at Martin Wood 27th. One at Welton, Lincoln May 6th, a M seen in a nesthole at Scunthorpe Kingsway Woods 17th, singles at Holywell Lake Jun 6th, Whisby NP Aug 26th, Boston Sep 2nd, Skellingthorpe Old Wood 29th and Grimsby same day, and Ruskington Oct 13th. A pair was present in Swanpool Wood all year but there was no proof of breeding.

1999: Eleven records from 10 sites, all singles: a F at Boultham Park Mar 11th, then 1 at Twigmoor 15th, Hoplands Wood 29th, Welton, Lincoln May 6th, Grimsthorpe Park 23rd, Moor Farm NR Oct 17th, Barrow upon Humber Nov 5th, Little Scrubbs Wood 12th, Boultham Mere 14th and Dec 26th and South Witham NR Dec 7th.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* *b

Scarce resident and passage migrant.

1997: At Gib Point there were records of single birds on 6 dates in March, up to 4 birds involved, then 1S Apr 2nd. In the NW of the county, 22 pairs were located during the breeding season at 5 broad localities, with 3 additional unpaired males and one unsexed bird at one site, 3 unpaired males at another and 2 unpaired males at other sites. In central Lincs there were 2-3 pairs at one site and singing males at 3 others. One flew S at Gib Point Nov 12th.

1998: First record was 2 at Kirkby Moor Feb 11th and there were 6 other records in Feb including 18 at Laughton Forest 15th. Three S at Gib Point Feb 22nd, 2 S 26th, 1 N Mar 1st, and 1 Apr 12th, single birds at Risby Warren Feb 28th, and Keb Wood Mar 1st, 3 at Broughton 4th, 2 at Haverholme Common Mar 13th and 22nd. In the NW 24 pairs were estimated to have bred and there were 7 or 8 additional unpaired males, and in central Lincs 3 pairs were found. Birds flew over S Witham NR on 6 occasions in October, and 1 S at Gib Point Oct 29th.

1999: Records from 8 sites: early records were of a single bird at Laughton Forest Feb 5th and 2 at Moor Farm NR Mar 3rd. There were estimated to be 34 breeding pairs in Lincolnshire, mainly in the NW. In the late year 1 at Gib Point Oct 23rd, then up to 4 there from late Nov to the year end. 1 Grimsby Pyewipe Dec 5th..

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Exceptional inland.

1997: The early year records came from Gib Point where the wintering flock was 50 strong in January and still at 39 in late April, the last 2 leaving May 10th, and Donna Nook, where the flock peaked at 20 Jan 5th. First of the late year were 10 back at Donna Nook Oct 7th, numbers there peaking at 17 Dec 20-26th with up to 10 of these seen at Pye's Hall. First back at Gib Point were 3 on Oct 28th, peaking at 35, Nov 26th, when 3 were seen at Skegness, then 32 to the year end. Three were at Barton Dec 13th with one remaining to 14th which then flew NW across the Humber.

1998: In the early year counts of the NE flock were 15 between Howden's Pullover and Donna Nook Jan 25th, 15 at Donna Nook Feb 14th and 14 at Grainthorpe Haven 20th. By Apr 29th numbers at Donna Nook had dwindled to 3. At Gib Point the winter flock held up to 31 birds

until Apr 23rd and last of the spring were 5 May 5th. In the late year 2 returned to Donna Nook by Oct 2nd, with numbers peaking at 42 Dec 17th. At Gib Point 11 Oct 6th, rising to 33 on 25th, a Nov peak of 48, and an influx in Dec brought 88 on 3rd. Counts of 60+ continued there to the year's end. Elsewhere 3 at Huttoft Bank Oct 3-4th, 1 North Cotes 6th, 6 Freiston Shore 9th, 7 Humberston Fitties 16th, an exceptional record of 1 inland at Toft Newton Res Nov 8th (PBH), 8 Tetney Marsh same day, 1 North Cotes 16th, a peak of 24 at Rimac Nov 29th, a peak of 28 at Pye's Hall Dec 3rd, and 1 Barton Dec 5th.

1999: Reported from four sites: NE coast, present from Jan-Feb 7th (max 34 Grainthorpe-Donna Nook Jan 3-4th), 10 at Rimac Jan 23rd. At Gib Point 50-70 were present Jan-mid-Mar with max 80 Feb 21st, 3 still present May 23rd. In the late year, at Gib Point present from Oct 19th building to a flock of 20-24 with a peak of 30 Nov 29th; elsewhere a single at North Cotes Oct 26-Nov 4th, a max. of 10 at Rimac Nov 2nd, and a max. of 14 at Donna Nook Dec 6th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant: 9 previous Lincs records.

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999: Gib Point 2 different birds flew south on May 12th (KMW, SJM). Both accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:546

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* (*L)

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, occasionally Dec-Jan and Apr-May; once inland. Over 100 records, nearly all recent.

1997: One at Gib Point Oct 22nd, and possibly the same bird seen again on 26th.

1998: One spring record of a single at Saltfleetby Sea View Farm/Rimac Apr 16th (JDM). In autumn, 1 at Grainthorpe Marsh Oct 1st (HB), 1 at Gib Point 3rd (KMW), 1 at Frampton Marsh 17th (LJ), 2 at Witham Mouth 17th (SK, PAH), and 18th (see photo) (GPC), Frampton Marsh 25th (LJ), and 2 Witham Mouth Nov 1st (SK).

1999: Singles at Grainthorpe Oct 17th (GAM), Donna Nook 30th (SL), and Nene Mouth Nov 6th (JMo).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* * (L)

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal.

1997: Singles at Bardney SBF Pits Jan 19-Mar 31st (ACS, DMJ, JSM) and Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 23-Feb 4th (DJB); 2 East Halton Skitter Feb 2nd (GF). In the late year 1 at Bardney Pits Nov 2-16th (ACS, PRG, DMJ), 1 Jackson's Marsh, Gib Point 15th (NAL) remained until the year's end, and 1 Donna Nook South Dec 14th (RNe).

1998: Five at Donna Nook Jan 7th (RL-S), 2 Marston STW 25th (IPM), 1 Frampton Marsh Feb 19th (GJF), 2 Saltfleetby Rimac Mar 29th (GAM), singles at Baston Fen NR Nov 8th and Dec 12th (EJR).

1999: Gib Point had 2, seen regularly, Jan-Mar, 3 end Mar, 7 Apr 1-2nd with 5 by 3rd, and 1 by 10th. In the second winter period there were singles at Gib Point Oct 20th, Nov 11th (DT) and Dec 20th (GPBO), Moulton Marsh Nov 13th (ACL), and Saltfleetby Rimac Dec 18th (GAM).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

M.f.flava (Blue-headed Wagtail): scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. Has bred sporadically. *M.f.thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail): rare and irregular spring migrant. *M.f.cinereocapilla* (Ashy-headed Wagtail): vagrant. Males of other races occasionally reported, possibly hybrids.

1997: Blue-headed wagtail: All singles unless otherwise stated. Reported in Apr from Barton 26th, Gedney Drove End 27th, Marston STW 27-28th (4F May 1st and one bred with *M.f.flavissima*) and Toft Newton Res 29th, and in May, 1 at Donna Nook 4th. A pair bred at Butterwick Hale.

1998: Blue-headed wagtail: a M at Toft Newton Res Apr 12th, singles there May 10th and 13th and at Marston STW 10th, a M on Huttoft Golf Course 28th, and a F at Marston STW Jul 18th.

1999: Blue-headed wagtail: 1 at Boultham Mere May 29th stayed until June.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

M.a.alba: scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun.

1997: White wagtails at Witham Mouth from Mar 16th; Kirkby Pits from 22nd (6); Barton from 27th, max 9 28th; Toft Newton Res from Apr 6th, max 11 26th; Covenham Res from 16th, Marston from 20th, 2 27th. Also in Mar, 2 Tattershall Pits 22nd, and in Apr singles Gib Point 6th, Saltfleet 8th; Cleethorpes CP 20th, Gedney Drove End 27th, 3 Barrow 26th, 1 MSQ 28th. Also 1 Gib Point May 13th, 1 Boultham Mere 29th, and 1 MSQ Jun 13-14th.

1998: White wagtails: 1 at Roughton Mar 27th, at Gib Point 1-4 birds from Apr 3rd-May 22nd, at Toft Newton Res from Apr 11th (10) to May 12th (2), 1 Read's Island Apr 14th, a M at Kirkby Pits 19th, 1 at Rimac same day, 2 at Covenham Res 22nd, 3 at Ashbyville Lake May 12th, 1 Boultham Mere 13th, 1 at Frampton Marsh Sep 11th and 1 Gib Point Oct 6th.

1999: White wagtails totalled 12 bird-days at Gib Point Mar 18-May 19th in ones and twos except 3 May 19th. Elsewhere all records were in April: 2 Kirkby on Bain 7th, 1 Cleethorpes Country Park 8th and 3 14th, 1 North Kelsey Moor 10th, 1 Grimsby Pyewipe 12th, 3 Toft Newton Res 16th, 1 Boultham Mere 18-19th, 1 Barton 24th, 1 Kirton Marsh 25th, and 3 Covenham Res 26th.

Waxwing *Bombus garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, Oct-Apr, with one Jun record. Rare/scarcely most winters but fairly common/ common during large-scale irruptions.

1997: Four records in Jan: 2 at Immingham 5th, 4 at Boston 6th, 1 at Foston 15th, and 1 at Skegness 25th.

1998: A poor year with only two records of single birds at Hobhole, Fishtoft Dec 6th, and at South Witham 16th.

1999: Present to Mar 20th and from Nov 6th. In the early year singles were at Skendleby Feb 26-28th, Louth Mar 9-13th with 2 16th, and Gib Point, Sykes Farm 20th. In the late year singles Gib Point Nov 6th and 16th and 2 22nd, 2 Thurlby Fen 10th, 9 North Killingholme village and pits 12th, 1 Humberston 19th, 2 Barton Far Ings 20th, 1 Briggsley 23rd. A single was at Willingham by Stow Dec 3rd and 10 Great Coates 16th with 2 remaining in Grimsby to the end of the year. Singles at Far Ings 16th and Barton 24th may have been same bird, and finally 1 Gib Point Dec 28th.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* *L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* *B
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* *Lb

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-May and Aug-Oct. Mostly *L s svecica* (Red-spotted) but *L s cyanecula* (White-spotted) has occurred exceptionally, including a territorial male in Jun-Jul 1987.

1997: No records

1998: A 1st-w was at Pye's Hall Oct 3-4th (GPC, KA, WPB, AHJH).

1999: One was at Rimac May 27th (PCo).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* *B

Vagrant

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999: One at Skegness Oct 22-23rd (KDD et al) was the 4th county record and the first since 1988 (see photos). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 94:486

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* *b

Scarce passage migrant and rare and irregular winter visitor. Now only an occasional breeder.

1997: A fairly typical year but no evidence of breeding. In spring a M and F were at North Somercotes Mar 12-13th, then at Gib Point 3F and a M between 15th and Apr 2nd, 1 at Grimsby Docks Mar 25th, 1 South Hykeham last week in March, a F at Kirton Holme Apr 7th, 1 singing at Grimsby Pyewipe 22nd, 1 at Saltfleet 27th, and a F at Gib Point Jun 9th. In autumn, 1 was at Grimsby Aug 9th, 2 Gib Point Sep 4-8th, and singles there Oct 21st, 30-31st, and Nov 5th. Elsewhere a M at Huttoft Oct 21st, 1 New Holland 29th and 2 Nov 6th, 1 Saltfleet village 31st, and 1 North Cleethorpes Dec 23rd.

1998: Average numbers again but summering and probably breeding. A F at Ingoldmells Jan 29th, 1 Cleethorpes Mar 14th, a F at Kirton Holme and a pair at Gib Point 29th, singles there Apr 3rd, 5th and 29th and Jun 12th, at Stapleford Apr 13th (trapped in shed), Tetney Lock 14th, and Eagle Barnsdale 24th, females at Raithby, Louth 29th, Grimsby Pyewipe Jun 23rd and Jul 6th, a pair feeding fledged young at RAF Scampton Jul 20th. In autumn, singles at Gib Point Sep 11th, 24th and 29th and Oct 3rd, 1 at Tetney Marsh 10th, and 1 Humberston Fitties Nov 21st.

1999: Poor in both passage seasons but possible breeding again in a traditional area. Singles at Frampton Marsh Mar 27th, Donna Nook Apr 2nd, Grimsby Pyewipe May 4th, and at Gib Point 5 singles Apr 2-May 11th. A 1st-s M and 4 juvs were at Grimsby Pyewipe Aug 20-31st, then singles at Tetney Sep 19th, Pye's Hall Oct 16-17th, Gib Point 17th, 25th and 29th, Anderby Creek 18th and Donna Nook 26th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* b

Rare/very scarce summer visitor and scarce passage migrant in spring, fairly common/common in autumn.

1997: A good year with possible breeding. First was at Woodhall Spa Apr 7th, 2M at Twigmoor 20th, 2M singing Laughton Forest 20th and 23rd, a M at Rimac and a M singing at Barton 27th, 1-2 at Gib Point on 9 dates between 13th and 28th, a M in a different part of Laughton Forest May 1st and 2 13th, 1 at Twigmoor Woods 13th, 2M at Linwood Warren 3rd and 1 Jun 3rd, and 1 New Holland Jun 5th, 1 agitated, possibly breeding, Linwood Warren mid-July. First of autumn passage at Donna Nook Jul 19th, a F at North Kelsey Moor Aug 4th, and a good passage in September with 1-4 birds at Anderby Creek, Chapel St Leonards, Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, Horseshoe Point, Huttoft, Saltfleetby, Skegness, Whisby NP, and Witham Mouth, at least 10 at Theddlethorpe (28-29th) and 19 at Gib Point (20th). The latest were 2 Theddlethorpe Oct 4th and 2 Donna Nook 5th.

1998: A good year overall, but no evidence of breeding. Spring singles were at Barton Apr 22nd, a M Boultham Mere 24th, Gib Point May 2nd with 2 on 11th, Ostler's Plantation 4th and 6th, North Cotes 8th, Welbourn Heath 15th, Laughton Forest 17-19th and Jun 1st. Autumn passage began early with 1 at Gib Point Jul 25th, then 1 there Aug 21st, a juv at Boultham Mere 27th and singles at Whisby NP 30th and Marston STW 31st. In September there was 1 Saltfleetby Rimac 2nd, 3 at Donna Nook 4th, 1 Witham Mouth 6th, a max of 34 at Gib Point 13th, 6 at

Pye's Hall and Rimac 23rd, 5 Theddlethorpe 24th, 5 Donna Nook 25th and 28th, 6 Chapel Six Marshes 26th, and 9 Pye's Hall 27th. In October 5 Saltfleetby 1st, 4 Huttoft Bank, 1 Kirton Holme, 4 Pye's Hall, and 5 Donna Nook 3rd, a max of 51 at Gib Point 3rd, 4 Anderby Creek 5th, 1 Chapel St Leonards and 3 Donna Nook 6th, 1 Moulton Marsh, 6 Frampton Marsh and 1 Immingham Docks 7th, 1 Mablethorpe 8th, and 1 Donna Nook 30th.

1999: Relatively poor passage in both spring and autumn, again no evidence of breeding. Singles at Castle Bytham and Grimsthorpe Park Apr 14th, a male at Laughton Forest May 14th, and single at Gib Point May 19th. In autumn, singles at Gib Point from Aug 27-Sep30th with 11 Sep 20th, 9 21st and 6 26th. One at Crook Bank Sep 14-19th, 2 at Huttoft Bank Pit 16th, 10 trapped and ringed at Theddlethorpe St Helen Sep 20th and a further 7 on 25th, 11 North Cotes Point 21st, and 1 Sea View 25th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr. Mostly *S t hibernans*, but six recent records of *S.t.mauralstejnegeri* (eastern races) in May and Oct/Nov.

1997: Males were at Baston Fen NR Jan 1st, Thurlby Fen Mar 7th and Nettleton 8th. In autumn an early M was at North Kelsey Moor Aug 4th, then singles at Gib Point Sep 23rd, Rimac 27th, Donna Nook 28th, Frampton Marsh Oct 1st, Grasby 2nd, 1 Boultham Moor 7th, 2 at Gib Point 11th, 1 12th and 1 23rd. Wintering birds included a M and F at Nocton Fen Nov 9th, singles at North Kelsey Moor 10th, a F at Barton 15th, North Cotes and Gib Point 23rd. A pair or the M were seen at Baston Fen from Nov 14th-Dec 21st and a M was at Saltfleetby Rimac Dec 20th and Saltfleetby 31st.

1998: A poor year with records from only four sites. Reports of a M and a F on 6 dates Jan 1st-Feb 15th in the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe area are likely to refer to just one pair. A M and F were at Risby Warren Feb 28th, and a F on the shore by Barton West Lakes Mar 25th. At Gib Point there were singles Jan 14th, Feb 1st and 5th, then none until 2 Sep 26th, 1-3 on several days in October and 5 on 9-10th.

1999: A more typical year: in the early winter a pair was at Messingham SQ Jan 1-24th, the M to Feb 2nd; 1 was at Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 1st-Feb 26th, 2 Deeping High Bank Jan 5th and a M 31st, 1 North Kelsey Moor 9th and 24th and a M Kirton village Feb 11th with a F Cleethorpes Mar 15th. Autumn passage began with 1 Nocton Fen Sep 27-28th and 5 Gib Point Sep 28th, then 6 there Oct 3rd and 15th, 1 Pinchbeck Slipi Oct 3rd, and Nov 14th, 3 Chapel Six Marshes Oct 4th, a M Barton 11th and a F 30-31st, 3 Cleethorpes 14th-Nov 2nd, a M at Messingham SQ Nov 9th, 1 Mogg's Eye 12th, a M and F Baston Fen 14th-Dec 1st, a M and F Barton Pits Nov 21-Dec 31st, M and F Marston STW Nov 27th and Dec 5th, a F Gedney Drove End Dec 12th and a M and F Cleethorpes 18th.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* *B

Vagrant

1997 / 1998: No records.

1999 A male at Saltfleetby Rimac Nov 13-16th (KAH, RAH, et al) was the 3rd county record (see photos); previous records were in 1970 and 1991. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 93:550

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant Mar-May and Sep-Nov; rare and irregular in winter.

1997: Spring passage began with a M at Barton Mar 30th, then another at Coleby Apr 4th, 1 Saltfleetby Sea View 11th and a M Rimac 13th (likely to have been same bird), 1 Humberston 19th, 7 Gib Point 26th and 2 27th, 2M and a F Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe and a single at Potterhanwoth Booths 27th, and 4 Gib Point May 4th. First of the autumn was 1 Keadby Sep 18th, 7 Gib Point 22nd and 1 24th, 1 Rimac 27th, 1 Anderby Creek 28th. In October 6 Gib Point 15th, then 5 singles 11-19th, singles Saltfleetby Sea View 17th, Donna Nook 18th and Theddlethorpe 18-19th, Horseshoe Point 19th, and Donna Nook 25th.

1998: In March a M was at Ivy Wood, Bardney Forest, and 1 at Gib Point 29th and 1 at Horseshoe Point 31st. One was ringed at Donna Nook Apr 1st, singles seen there 14th and 16th, 2 Gib Point 11th, 1 16-19th and 2 24th, 25th and 30th, 2 at Saltfleetby Sea View 20th, a M Boultham Mere 23rd, 2 at Cleethorpes 25th, and a M at Tetney Marsh 27th. In May, 2 at Gib Point 1st, 3 2nd and 5 4th, 1 Roxby Gullet, 12th, and 1 Huttoft Golf Course 28th. Autumn

passage began with 2 at Pye's Hall Sep 23rd, 1 Oct 3rd and 4 Oct 6th; 1 Gib Point Sep 28-29th was followed by an unprecedented influx with a max of at least 49 there by Oct 5th, the last one seen on Nov 4th; also 1 at Anderby Creek Oct 3rd and 5th, 2 at Frampton Marsh 6-7th, 1 8th, and 2 at Mablethorpe 8th.

1999: A poor spring with just a M at Ashbyville Mar 26-27th, singles at Gib Point 26-27th and May 4th, 6th and 8th, a M at Searby Apr 19th, 1 at Cleethorpes 23rd, a F at Wragby 26th, and 1 at Covenham Res May 3rd. In the late year all records were coastal and in October: 2 at Gib Point 6th, 6 22nd and 1-3 on 10 other dates, 1 Huttoft 15th and a juvenile at Barton 26th. Three at Donna Nook 15th, singles Horseshoe Point and Crook Bank (trapped and ringed) and 2 Rimac 17th, 3 Pye's Hall 18th, 1 Rimac/Sea View/Theddlethorpe 22nd and Saltfleet 23rd may involve some duplication.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* *Lb

Vagrant

1997: A M singing at Langtoft Pits Apr 13th and May 5th (AHJH), and 1 trapped at Gib Point Apr 19th (RJC).

1998: A singing male was recorded at Rimac on 12 occasions from Mar 23rd (JRW) to June 7th.

1999: No records.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* *B

Vagrant

1997: no records.

1998: A singing male in the dunes south of Seacroft Lagoon May 29th (KDD), was the first record for Lincolnshire. Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 92:594

1999: no records.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* *Bb (all records B from 01.01.99)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* *Lb

Vagrant

1997: A singing M (see photo) at Far Ings May 31st to Jun 18th (GPC et al).

1998: A singing M at Gib Point Jun 4th (RKW, KMW).

1999: Two records at Gib Point, probably the same bird: an adult M May 31st (SMA et al) and Jun 6th (JDM).

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *b

Rare passage migrant May-Oct, though mainly Aug-Sep; exceptional inland.

1997: Two records: 1 ringed at Donna Nook Aug 9th, 1 at Horseshoe Point Sep 21st.

1998: No records.

1999: One at Donna Nook Aug 5-Sep 20th, and at North Cotes Point Sep 12th.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* *L
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* *B
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* *L
Rare coastal passage migrant Aug-Dec, though mainly Aug-Sep.
1997 / 1998: No records.
1999: Two trapped and ringed Crook Bank (the first on Sep 14th, another 17th, retrapped 19th) (BRG). Singles at North Cotes Point (GAM) and Theddlethorpe 20th (GAM).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* *B (to 31.12.06, then L)
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* *B
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* *L
Vagrant.
1997: One at Saltfleetby Sea View Oct 19th (KA, ACS et al); 1 Rimac 21st (MSG); 1 Skegness Oct 21st (GPC), 2 Gib Point 22nd (KMW); 1 ringed at Donna Nook 27th, and 1 Cleethorpes 31st (JN).
1998: No records.
1999: Gib Point possibly 5 individuals (see photo): 2 East Dunes Oct 16th (HEM, KMW), one staying to 18th, and 1 there 23rd (GPC, DH, ND), 1 Plantation 20th (PAH), 1 West Dunes 25th (EJM). Singles at Rimac 16th (GPC, WPB), Huttoft Bank (WPB) and Anderby Creek 17th (GAM).

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* *B
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* *(L)
Rare/scarc passage migrant Sep-Nov; exceptional inland.
1997: One at Seaview Oct 19th (GPC) and 1 Rimac Oct 21st (MJG).
1998: Singles at Gib Point Oct 2nd (JN) and 5th (MRA, AJH) were probably the same bird; 1 at Pye's Hall Oct 6th (JDS).
1999: Gib Point, 1 near Mere hide Oct 5th (HEM, GH), 1 Plantation 15-17th (HEM), and 1 Sykes Farm 23rd (JT). Singles Huttoft Bank and Anderby Creek 15th (WPB).

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* * B (to 31.12.05, then L)
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (b)
Rare/scarc passage migrant. A scarce breeder to the early 20th century but no recent breeding records, despite some territorial males in recent years.
1997: One at Scopwick Apr 25-26th, 1 at Messingham SQ May 2nd, a singing M at Far Ings Blow Wells 11th, singles Gib Point Aug 2nd and 18th.

1998: Two singing Ms at Gib Point May 8th, 1 on 10th, and 1 30th. One at North Cotes Sep 6th and 1 Saltfleetby Sea View next day.

1999: No records

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Occasional summer records and territorial behaviour, but no proof of breeding.

1997: In spring, 3 at Gib Point (2 ringed) Mar 15th, a M singing 18-19th, a F ringed 22nd, a M ringed 28th, 1 29-30th, and a singing M Apr 18-21st. In the late year singles at Gib Point Sep 27th, Oct 22-23rd and 26th, Crook Bank Oct 21st, Donna Nook 24th, North Cotes 28th and Nov 4th.

1998: In spring: at Gib Point 1 Feb 8-Mar 1st, Apr 3rd, 6th, 26th, and 27-29th, 1 May 2nd, 8th, 17th and a summer record Jun 1st. One at Frampton Marsh Mar 27th, and 1 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 29th. In autumn, singles at Brackenborough Hall, Louth Sep 1st (ringed); Gib Point 24th, 28th Oct 2nd, 3rd, 6-8th, 14th and Nov 4th; Donna Nook 26th, 1 ringed there 28th.

1999: A wintering bird was at Kirkby Pits Jan 31-Feb 1st, but passage began at Gib Point with the first Mar 18-19th, singles 22nd, 25th and 30th, 2 Shoveler's Pool 29th, further singles Apr 4th, 5th and 7th, May 7th, 9th and 12th. The only record elsewhere was a M at North Cotes Point Mar 31st. First of the autumn was also at Gib Point Sep 25th with main arrival mid-Oct: 9 22nd and 10 23rd. Elsewhere, 1 at Donna Nook Oct 18th, 1 Theddlethorpe 22nd, perhaps the same bird at Trusthorpe 22-24th, 2 Skegness North Shore 22-23rd, and 1 Anderby Creek 24th. The last of the year was inland at South Witham NR Nov 17th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* *(L)

Rare passage migrant in May and Sep-Nov. Exceptional inland and very irregular in spring.

1997 / 1998: No records

1999: In May, a female or imm M at North Cotes Point 19-20th (GAM). In Sep a 1st-w F at Gib Point West Dunes 21st (JCN) remained in the sycamores to 23rd. Another at North Cotes Point 26th (GAM).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* b

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

1997: At Barton Pits 6 present from Feb 9th, and 5-6 pairs considered to have bred; a flock of 11 seen Sep 21st and c8 Oct 18-24th, 3-4 still present in late December. At Boultham Mere up to 9 present in January, fewer in February and the last one seen Mar 16th.

1998: At Barton Pits 4 birds were present from Jan 11th, and by Mar 28th there were at least 3 pairs; 4M, 1F seen May 21st and a brood of 4 Jun 6th. In autumn a pair was seen at Boultham Mere Sep 24th and Oct 11th, 16 at Kirkby Pits 18th, 11 Barton Pits Oct 22nd, and 10 there Nov 19th and Dec 3rd.

1999: At Barrow Haven Pits probably 4 birds Jan-Feb; ca 10 at Barton Pits Apr 25th and at least 3 pairs bred there. At Far Ings 3 juvs Jul 10th, 6 Aug 7th, 4 birds Sep 25th, and 6 Dec 27th. Elsewhere 1 at Donna Nook Oct 7th, 2 inland at Boultham Mere 10th, and 2 Gib Point 26th.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *b

Rare migrant, mainly spring/early summer, but recorded Apr-Aug.

1997: A M at Stixwold Apr 30th, 1 S over Seacroft Golf Course May 26th.

1998: A singing M at Gib Point 12-13th May.

1999: No records

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *b

Rare/scarse passage migrant, May-Jun and Jul-Oct; last bred 1978.

1997: A M at Gib Point Freshwater Marsh May 24th and Mill Hill 25th. A juv at North Cotes Aug 23rd and a F at Anderby Creek Sep 21st.

1998: A singing M at Gib Point May 19th and 1 at Skegness May 29th, a juv at Cleethorpes Country Park Sep 7-8th, and a juv at Chapel St Leonards 29th.

1999: A single bird at Saltfleetby Rimac May 31st.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* *(L)

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Exceptional in summer.

1997: One at Navenby Low Fields Mar 13-Apr 6th (DMJ et al), and again Nov 7-23rd (JSM et al). Elsewhere 1 North Cotes Oct 18-19th (ARo), and 1 Anderby 20th (AB).

1998: Singles at Navenby Low Fields Jan 12-Feb 8th (GH et al); and Gib Point Apr 12-21st. One at Marshchapel Oct 4th (GAM), 1 at Gib Point 6th and 3 on 7th, 3 at Frampton Marsh 7th (LJ, SK), one remaining until 10th, 1 North Cotes (JL), and 1 Tetney Marsh (RL-S) same day.

1999: A single bird at Saltfleetby Rimac Sep 19th (GAM).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *(L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Raven *Corvus corax* *Lb

Formerly more common (resident to 18th century) but now a rare vagrant; no records during the report period.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* *B (to 31.12.01, then L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Serín *Serinus serinus* *(L)b

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period. *C b excilipes* B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* *Bb

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *Lb

Vagrant

1997: A freshly-dead 1st-s M at Gib Point May 24th (RJC), and a singing M there next day (MRA).

1998: One singing at Gib Point Jun 4th (KMW).

1999: No records.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (b)

Scarce local resident and rare passage migrant.

1997: Two at Scawby Park Feb 1st and 4 Mar 1st, and 1 at North Cotes May 17th. Three at South Witham Oct 12th, and 1 Scawby Park Dec 27th.

1998: One Scawby Park Feb 1st, 5 on 3rd and 3 on 15th. One Pye's Hall Oct 6th, 1 feeding on hawthorn berries at Gib Point 30th, 2 Metheringham Nov 26th, 1 South Witham Dec 16th.

1999: One pair bred near Gainsborough.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Lapland Bunting *Calciarius lapponicus* *

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Very rare inland.

1997: In Jan, singles were at Gib Point Jan 12th and 16th, 2-3 at Donna Nook 20th, 2 at Moulton Marsh 28th and a max of 11 at Frampton Marsh 29th. In Feb 1 was at Witham Mouth 9th, 6 23rd, and the longest stayers were 1-2 daily at Frampton Marsh NR until Mar 21st. The first autumn arrival was at Donna Nook Sep 28th, then 1 there Nov 16th and 2 27th; at Gib Point 1-2 flew S on 6 occasions Oct 3rd-Nov 16th with a M and F present Dec 5th; singles present at Witham Mouth Oct 12th and Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe 18th and 31st, 2 at Frampton Marsh Oct 26th, Nov 1st and 10th and 4 16th; singles at North Cotes/Tetney Nov 4th and Dec 30th.

1998: Early winter birds were 1 at Holbeach Marsh Jan 1st, 1 Tetney Marsh 19th and 2 Feb 3rd, 1 Frampton Marsh Feb 1st, 1 Gib Point 7th, and the last at Frampton Marsh 9th. First autumn arrival was at Skidbrooke Sep 29th and in Oct 1-5 were in the Tetney-Donna Nook area, and singles at Winteringham Haven, Gib Point, and Frampton Marsh. In Nov 1-2 were at Gib Point, singles Barton, Huttoft Bank, and Freiston Shore, and 3-5 at North Cotes and Pye's Hall. In Dec up to 7 were at North Cotes and Pye's Hall, singles at Horseshoe Point, Donna Nook, Rimac, and inland at Worlaby Carrs (GPC), and 2 at Witham Mouth.

1999: There were 11 at Tetney Jan 7th, 1 at Pye's Hall 10th, 12 at Tetney Marsh Feb 11th, and 1 at Butterwick Marsh Mar 17th. First of the autumn was a single at North Cotes Sep 22nd, then singles at Horseshoe Point Oct 12-13th, Pye's Hall 16th and 30th, Rimac Nov 2nd, North Cotes Point 4th, Donna Nook 14th, and 2 at Grainthorpe Marsh Dec 15th.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* *B

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* *(L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* *B (to 31.12.05, then L)

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* *L

Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* *B
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* *B
Vagrant; no records during the report period.

BBRC Decisions on species listed in earlier reports

- 1978: the male Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola torquata .mauralstejnegeri* at Donna Nook May 23rd was **CONFIRMED AS STILL ACCEPTABLE** following the 2004 review.
- 1992: White-winged Black Tern at Covenham Res May 31st **ACCEPTED** 2003.
- 1993: Rustic Bunting at Gib Point Sep 25th **rejected** 1998.
- 1994: Black Kite at Frampton Fen/Skegness May 2-6th **rejected** 1998.
Pratincole sp at Wrangle Jun 14th **rejected** 1998.
- 1995: Saker Falcon (Category E) at Kirkby on Bain GP Apr 22nd **ACCEPTED** 1999.
- 1996: American Wigeon at Toft Newton Res Mar 14th **ACCEPTED** 1999.
Red-footed Falcon at Donna Nook Jul 3rd **rejected** 1998.
American Golden Plover at Witham Mouth Mar 10th **rejected** 2002.
American Golden Plover at Butterwick Marsh Mar 24th **rejected** 2002.
White-winged Black Tern at Covenham Res Jun 1-2nd **ACCEPTED** 2003.
Alpine Swift at Skegness May 19th **ACCEPTED** 1999.
Arctic Redpoll at Gib Point Jan 14-15th **ACCEPTED** 1998.

Appendix 1: Escapes and Hybrids

ESCAPES

1997:

Reeves's Pheasant *Symaticus reevesii* A F at Gib Point all year met with a road traffic accident Jul 28th.

Falcon sp One with jesses Gib Point Dec 4th.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* Singles at Gib Point May 17th and Sep 18th.

1998:

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* One at Read's Island Aug 7th and Whitton Sep 14th.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* Three at Butterwick Marsh Apr 28th, 1 Gib Point Oct 3rd, 2 at New Holland 10-29th, 1 remaining to Dec 12th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* One at Revesby Res Jan 31st, Feb 13th and Mar 19th, and 1 at Kirkby Pits Feb 22nd to Apr 22nd.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* One at Whisby NP Feb 9th, 2 males at West Ashby Pits Apr 19th.

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix* A male at Barton Nov 2nd.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys* A male (from adjacent wildfowl collection) at Huttoft Pit Mar 28th.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* A pale-phase, with jesses at Kirkby Pits May 3rd.

Falcon sp One "Lanner type falcon", with jesses at Sutterby Feb 28th.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* A male at South Witham May 16-23rd.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* One at Gib Point Jan 1st.

Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus* One at Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby Apr 16th.

Parakeet sp One S at Gib Point Oct 17th.

Waxbill sp An exhausted or sick individual at Gib Point Aug 13th.

1999:

Blue-winged Goose *Cyanochen cyanopterus* Two at Holbeach Marsh Feb 14th.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* A free-flying 1st w F at Huttoft Bank Pit Apr 15th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*: A male at Huttoft Pit May 27th.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* At Barrow Haven Jul 21st and (presumably same bird) New Holland Sep 4th.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius eximius*: One at Pinchbeck Jun 5th.

Red-billed (Silky) Starling *Sturnus sericeus*: A M with colour ring at Dawson City LWT NR, May 23-25th.

Chinese Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*: One at Saltfleetby Rimac Jun 9th.

HYBRIDS

1997:

American Wigeon/Eurasian Wigeon: A single male was reported at Barton Sep 11th.

Pochard/Tufted Duck: males were present at Langtoft Pits Jan 12th and Feb 11th and Kirkby Pits Nov 22-Dec 6th.

Redhead type: A male was present at Barton New Diggings May 15th.

Red-crested Pochard/Rosybill (or possibly Southern Pochard) a F at Tallington GP Jan 22nd.

1998:

Canada Goose/Greylag Goose: 8at Kirkby Pits Jan 15th and 7 Jul 24th, 1 Tallington Lakes Mar 15th, and 7 Revesby Res Jul 14th.

Pochard/Tufted Duck: 1 Tattershall Pits "resembled male Scaup" Jan 15th, a M Langtoft Pits Feb 1st, and 1 North Kelsey Moor reported as "Pochard hybrid" Feb 14-28th.

1999:

Canada Goose/Greylag Goose: At Far Ings up to 3 Jul-Sep, 3-6 early Oct, 2 late Oct-Dec.

Pochard/Ferruginous Duck (type): A female at Boultham Mere Feb 2nd.

Appendix 2: Records not (yet) submitted to BBRC or no description received for LBC.

The following records were submitted without descriptions and have therefore not been admitted to the county records. If descriptions are submitted by the finder or anyone else who saw these birds, and accepted by LBRC, they will be entered into the database and published in the next report.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* *L

1997: One at Tallington May 16th.

1999: One at South Ormsby Oct 27th.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* *B/L

1999: One at Hartsholme CP Nov 24th.

ACCOUNTS OF LINCOLNSHIRE RARITIES 1997-1999

WHISTLING SWAN AT NOCTON FEN, JANUARY 22ND 1998

On January 22nd I was making one of my regular visits to Nocton Fen with the main aim of looking for raptors. At around 13.00 hrs I noticed a group of Bewick's swans feeding unusually close to the road. After a couple of minutes I noticed that one of the birds appeared to have an all-dark bill. I realised that the bird could well be a whistling swan, the North American counterpart of Bewick's swan. I studied the bird and the accompanying Bewick's swans for about 10 minutes, and noticed the limited amount of yellow on the bill, which appeared to be about right for whistling swan. I drove a little closer to the bird and could see the clearly defined and symmetrical yellow 'tear drop' in front of the both eyes. The only reservation I had was the possibility of discolouration due to some kind of staining although the Bewick's swans and the bird in question showed no abnormalities in feather colouration, in fact all the birds appeared to be in a clean condition.

I decided to get even closer and carefully reversed my car along the farm track, with my telescope set up on the passenger seat. Getting closer all of the time, within a few minutes I had the swan down to around 100 metres, and obtained excellent views through my 27x telescope. At this range any form of bill staining was ruled out, the bird showed the classic bill pattern for whistling swan. I studied the swan for about an hour, until the bird was eventually lost from view as the group worked their way across the fen (which is surprisingly undulating). The farm tracks on the Fen are private and as the Swan by now was out of view and the light was fading fast I decided not to release the news.



In general appearance the bird appeared identical to adult Bewick's apart from bill pattern. Yellow on the bill was restricted to a small yellow teardrop in front of eye, the extent of which appeared to be more or less identical on both sides of the bill (see sketch). Next morning I visited the fen but unfortunately the whistling swan was not present with the Bewick's swan herd.

Kevin Durose

FRANKLIN'S GULL AT KIRKBY-ON-BAIN, MAY 13TH 1998

On May 13th 1998 I decided to visit Kirkby-on-Bain gravel pits, partly to look for passage waders and terns but also in the back of my mind to look for the Franklin's gull that had disappeared from Titchwell a couple of days earlier.

I arrived at the southern pits at about 6pm and began checking the gull flock roosting on a sandbar. Within a few seconds I had it, 1st summer Franklin's gull, slightly smaller than black-headed gull, shorter legs, darker mantle, white scapular and secondary crescents. Unfortunately the bird was asleep and after 15 minutes I still had not seen the head and bill. I was sure of the identification so I decided to nip to a nearby telephone to alert other observers, and on return the bird had woken up. The bird remained in the area until dusk, and was seen by about 35 local birders.

This was the first record for Lincolnshire, hopefully the next may stay a little longer. What was almost certainly the same bird turned up in Shetland a couple of days later. In general appearance it was slightly darker and smaller than black headed gull with shorter legs. At rest the dark grey upperparts emphasised the white scapular and tertial crescents.

Head	White head with partially developed black hood, emphasising broad white eye crescents most obvious at rear of eye. Bill dark short and fairly stubby, very similar to Mediterranean gull but a little less drooping.
Upperparts	Mantle and scapulars dark grey, similar to common gull.
Underparts	White.
Tail	White below, in flight showed greyish tinge to centre of tail but no real tail band discernible.
Wings	Outerwings blackish with no sign of any whitish tips. Wing coverts similar to mantle colour but with hint of dark leading edge to the wing. Secondaries appeared to be a similar colour to primaries but with pale trailing edge.
Legs	Appeared very dark red, slightly shorter than Black headed Gull.

Kevin Durose

RIVER WARBLER AT SKEGNESS, MAY 29TH 1998

On May 29th 1998, I visited the Seacroft area of Skegness to look for migrants. Weather conditions were sea mist with a strong easterly breeze. I decided to walk down to Gibraltar Point along the landward side of the dunes. As I approached the Gibraltar Point reserve boundary, I heard a distinctive song 'tze-tze-tze-tze..' coming from some elder and sea buckthorn scrub about 15m away. I realised the bird was a river warbler and as I moved closer to get a view of the bird, I saw it singing from the top of an elder bush. Although partially hidden by sea buckthorn I could see the streaked throat, and broadly barred under-tail coverts as well as the general structural and plumage features.

After about 10 minutes I moved forward trying to get a closer view but unfortunately the bird immediately darted for cover. After about 5 minutes the bird started to sing again from another position about 10m further back. I attempted to locate it by moving forward, and again the bird stopped singing. I then retreated about 30m to give the bird some space. After about an hour, nothing; I decided to drive down to the Observatory to find other birders and BirdLine North-East was also alerted at this point. By 8pm about 15 observers had assembled, including Kevin Wilson and Andrew Lound.

Just as every one was giving up and the light was fading the bird started singing, unfortunately only for about two minutes. It had still not been seen by anyone else but myself. However several of the assembled observers, including KMW, had experience of river warbler and agreed that the bird was undoubtedly this species based on the distinctive song.

General	Typical Locustella shape, with fairly short curved wings graduated tail and long undertail coverts, seemed more robust than grasshopper warbler.
Head	Grey brown and fairly nondescript; the eye was fairly prominent due to the fact the supercilium was indistinct and barely detectable. Bill colour not really seen but pinkish inside gape.
Upperparts	Fairly concolourous olive grey/ brown, slightly paler on rump. The rump was puffed out while the bird was singing, almost enveloping the uppertail.
Underparts	Throat: dirty white, with belly a similar colour to the throat. The upperbreast was streaked brown, the marks gradually becoming bolder and larger further down the breast until eventually becoming distinct spots. Flanks: olive grey/ brown. Undertail coverts: very long and broad, reaching well down tail, brown with white tips giving about five or six broad bars of equal width.
Tail	Broad and rounded and a similar colour to upperparts.

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wings | A similar colour to the upperparts, and held in a fairly low and relaxed position while the bird was singing, allowing a good view of the curved primaries. |
| Legs | pale pinkish. |
| Voice | The song was very distinctive and totally different to Savi's or grasshopper warbler. A loud mechanical buzz, tze-tze-tze-tze-tze... with each syllable distinct, producing a rhythm similar to a sewing machine or steam train. The song was given in long bursts and the bird was easily audible from 100m. At close range, a separate high-pitched ticking could be heard in the song. |

Kevin Durose

LITTLE SWIFT AT BARTON, JUNE 26TH 1998

At about 14.30hrs on June 26th I was sitting in the hide looking west over Barrow Haven reedbed as yet another downpour threatened. Good numbers of swifts were feeding low over the Humber embankment which borders the next pit, Pit 25. Suddenly a bird with a bright white rump flew through my field of view at over 1km range. A quick scan soon found the bird again; it showed a bright white rump and a blackish belly and silvery underwings but estimating size was difficult as it did not appear strikingly different from the nearby swifts.

In the past I had located three swifts with white rumps: one with a white belly and a couple with white areas elsewhere but this bird looked too precise and distinct to suggest an partial albino swift and its immediate jizz was more reminiscent of a little swift. I raced down to the ski pit access and relocated the swift still 700m away. At this range with a 30x eyepiece I could see a broad white rump, short square ended tail and shorter more rounded tipped wings than the nearby swifts and, convinced it was a little swift, I set out to get nearer. On the way I left a message with BLNE to put it out as a probable until I made 100% certain. Arriving by the sailing pit at about 15.10hrs a 10 minutes search relocated it flying towards me in bright light backed by a black sky. It fed over the water for about 20 minutes and then began to climb with the swifts and I lost sight of it. At this point nothing had come on the pager so I rang Birdline again and returned to watch the bird. From 15.50 I watched it to 16.04 when it again disappeared and I left.

Later that evening it was relocated flying back from the Barrow Haven direction and was then seen almost continually until about 19.15, after which it was not seen again. On 26th over 500 swifts were estimated to be present compared to about 300 over the previous 2-3 weeks and it would appear that the little swift arrived with a flock of common swifts in association with the thundery weather system affecting the area at the time. This is the first record of little swift for Lincolnshire.

- Size and jizz Obviously smaller than common swifts but not as small as house martin or swallow. Wings shorter and blunter tipped, more rounded at the point and tail noticeably short and square-tipped appearing cut off from the body by the large white rump. Flight fluttering with frequent glides, more like house martin than common swift. Several times it was noted preening in flight, stalling with tail spread as it did so. Usually flying at about 20-50 feet but going higher in sunny spells and also fed 2-3 feet over the water surface when the weather was dull.
- Head Neat and rounded with small dark bill, clearly visible when close, against pale fore-crown and chin/face. Whole front of head pale when seen head-on apart from a dark line through to the eyes. Ear coverts and fore-crown pale, contrasting with dark grey lores and dark eye, eye socket and eye-stripe.
- Back and tail Mid crown back to uppertail coverts all blackish-brown, darker than upperwings. Rump patch strikingly white, broad and wrapped round onto the flanks; visible from all angles even directly below the bird. Tail short and square-ended, looked brown but when close it had a narrow pale tip and showed a pale outline along the outer web of the outermost feathers.
- Wings Upperwings appeared all dark brown but when seen close in good light all the coverts seemed to have pale tips forming a scaly pattern with a very narrow pale trailing edge to the secondaries in particular. In more distant views dark brown upperwings still contrasted slightly with blacker mantle.
- Underparts Chin and throat pale, sullied with grey, not strikingly white. Breast, belly and underwing coverts were blackish, the darkest parts of the bird, contrasting with the underside of the flight feathers and tail which all appeared greyish and almost translucent against the light. The white of the rump sides, was striking as it flew away against a dark sky and created a very storm petrel like impression.

Graham Catley

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL AT SKEGNESS, OCTOBER 22ND 1999

At first light on October 22nd 1999 I arrived at Skegness full of anticipation. During the previous week several red-flanked bluetails and other eastern vagrants had been found on the east-coast. As usual the dream bird was bluetail, but even the prospect of finding lesser rarities meant the drive up to Lincolnshire from London was going to be worthwhile.

I started by checking my favourite spot, a small group of sycamores at the north end of amusement arcades. Under the trees I immediately noticed a flycatcher-like bird flicking about inside the canopy. The light was still poor and the bird was virtually in silhouette but although resembling a red-breasted flycatcher it did not quite look right. I could just make out a pale eye-ring; alarm bells were ringing - surely not a red-flanked bluetail? The excitement was mounting, I would have to see the tail before I could breathe a sigh of relief. The bird was directly above me and I was praying that it would move down lower so that I could see the upper tail. Eventually the bird flew out and round to the other end of the sycamores. I quickly moved in the same direction; yes, it was feeding amongst ivy at the base of a sycamore trunk, now I could see colour, bright blue rump and tail and a pale eye-ring. I took notes and enjoyed the bird as the light improved. After about an hour I decided to alert other birdwatchers as the bird was showing well on public land.

The bird showed well for the rest of the day and was still present the following day. The bluetail was photographed and seen by many observers over the two days that it was present. It was reported that the bird may have been taken by a Sparrowhawk on the afternoon of the 23rd as the bird was never seen again after it was seen being chased by the hawk. This is the fourth record for Lincolnshire, and the first since October 1988.

General Similar size and shape to a Robin, but slightly slimmer and more agile, recalling a Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Head/upperparts Dull brown, similar to a Robin. When the bird was foraging in ivy there was a greenish tinge, however this may have been reflected light from the green foliage. The eye was dark, emphasising a pale whitish eye-ring.

Under parts Slightly paler than the upperparts but of a similar dull brown colour. The small area of the throat underneath the bill was dirty white, forming an indistinct whitish bib. This was made more prominent by being framed by the hint of a suffused brownish malar stripe on either side. The brownish breast and belly contrasted with the much paler dirty white undertail coverts. The flanks were bright orange, this being at its most intense towards the front of the flanks gradually fading to the point at which this merged into the blue of the rump sides.

Tail and rump Dark blue with a slight metallic tint, brightest blue on rump with the central tail feather being the darkest with a browner tinge. The tail appeared to be brownish below, but this was hard to see for sure.

Bare Parts Bill and eye blackish, legs dark brown.

Kevin Durose

Contributors to the County Records for 1997, 1998 and 1999, with the initials used in the text

D Adlard	B M Crowther	Richard Holland	John Molson
M Akerman	John Cudworth (JCu)	John Hollis	A S Moore
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