

LINCOLNSHIRE RARE & SCARCE BIRD REPORT 2000-2002



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2000-2002

Hon President: Mr Eric Simms

Vice Presidents: Mr C Whittles, Mrs A L Goodall

Chairwoman: Anne Goodall

Secretary: Matthew Harrison

Treasurer: A Malkinson

Membership Secretary: Michael Harrison

Committee Members: I Nixon, P Porter, I G Shepherd

Ex officio: Country Recorders, Gib Point BO Warden, LNU Representative

County Recorders

North: H Bunn

South: S Keightley

Editorial Committee: H Bunn, A L Goodall (Editor, LBR), S Keightley,

To contact current officers, please visit our website:
www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk

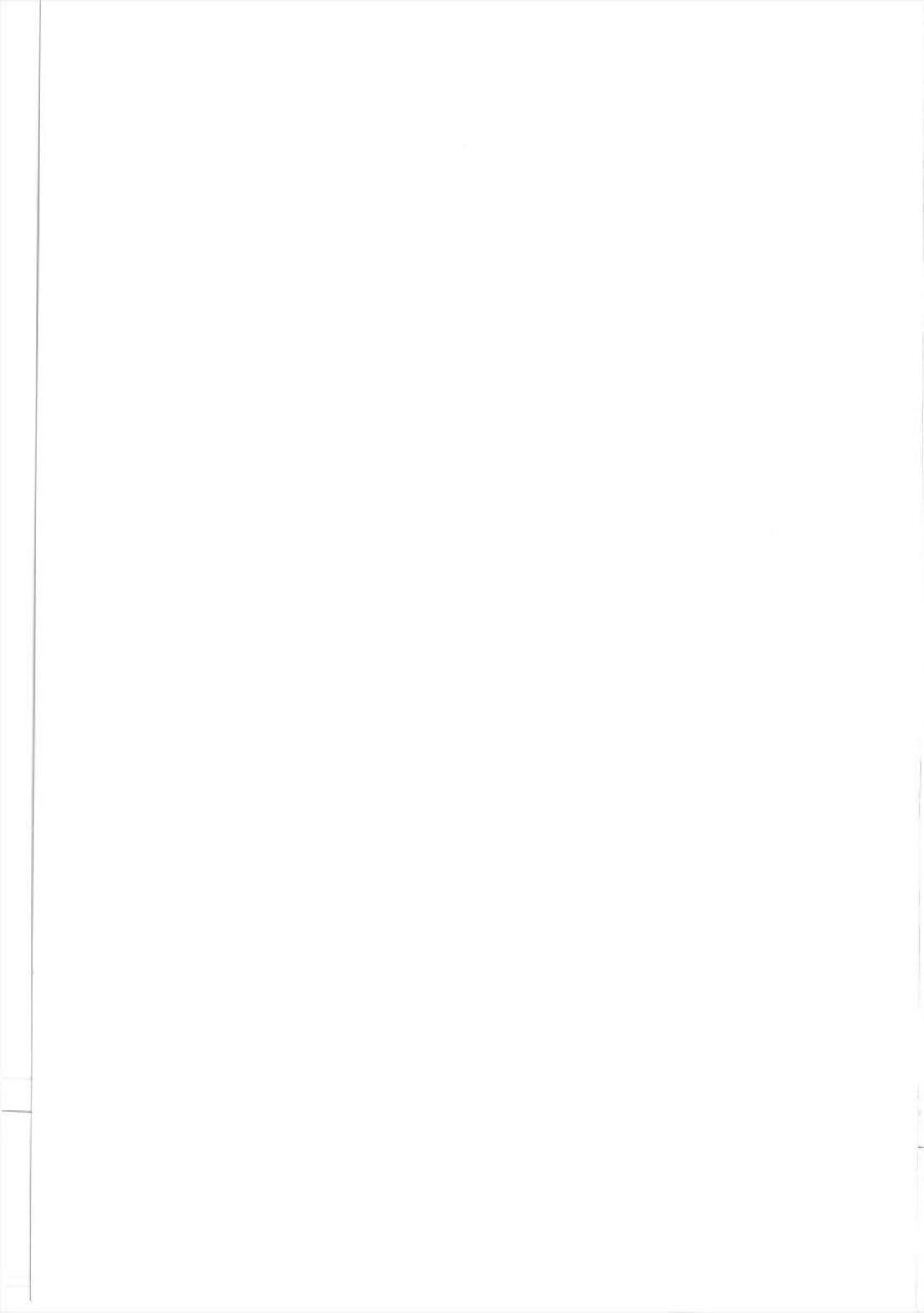
CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	
<i>Steve Keightley</i>	1
Summary of Rare and Scarce Birds in Lincolnshire for the Years 2000-2002	
<i>Phil Hyde</i>	
Review of the Year 2000	2
Review of the Year 2001	7
Review of the Year 2002	11
Selected Systematic List 2000-2002	
<i>Paul French</i>	17
Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities 2000-2002	
Pied Wheatear, November 2000 <i>Kevin Wilson</i>	67
Green Heron, September 2001 <i>Andrew Stanworth</i>	69
Lesser Sand Plover, May 2002 <i>Barry Clarkson</i>	69
Little Swift, June 2002 <i>Kevin Wilson</i>	71
Ross's Goose, November 2002 <i>Graham Catley</i>	73
List of Contributors	
Compiled by <i>Janet Eastmead</i>	75

Front Cover design and Rear Cover map: *Neil Smith* (Photo Editor)

Cover Photograph: Lesser Sand Plover *Barry Clarkson*

Other Photographs: *Graham Catley, Barry Clarkson, John Harriman, Roy Harvey, Neil Smith*



THE LINCOLNSHIRE RARES REPORT 2000-2002

This is the second rare and scarce report, covering the period 2000-2002.

As with the previous report, 1997-1999, we have continued to encourage written descriptions or supporting details for a number of rare and scarce species within the county. Unfortunately the problem of obtaining descriptions and supporting details for records which are up to eight years old is increasingly difficult to resolve. The 2000-2002 database contains in excess of 63,000 records and applying current criteria, this would equate to a requirement to obtain and vet some 500+ descriptions or sets of supporting details. This would not be achievable to a reasonable timescale, and it is doubtful that with the passage of time some descriptions would ever be forthcoming. The records committee therefore proposed, and LBC committee agreed, that for this period, at least one of the parameters below must be met before any record could be accepted for assessment. The parameters are listed in descending order of preference. As each three-year Rares report is completed and we move to the next, the intention is to tighten these requirements.

Full written description provided by observers.

Photograph(s) of the bird available from one or more observers.

Supporting details of the observation available from observers.

Record provided by an observer of proven competence, known to

Lincolnshire Records Committee members.

Bird reported independently by 3+ observers.

The current Records Committee consists of Steve Keightley, County Recorder, John Badley, Steve Botham, Bill Sterling and Kevin Durose. Wayne Gillatt has recently agreed to join the committee to represent the northwest of the county. Kevin Wilson assists with records for Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory. Additional assistance with records has been provided by Janet Eastmead, Paul French, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, Colin and Sheila Jennings, Neil Smith and Roy Harvey. Special thanks also to Phil Hyde, for providing the annual reviews, and to the Hon Chair/Editor Anne Goodall for pulling it all together.

A number of records which require submission and vetting by BBRC (British Birds Rarities Committee) are still outstanding ie. several Black Brants and Pacific Golden Plovers. These records and other species that require descriptions at County level are included in the Appendix to the Systematic List.

Steve Keightley, County Recorder.

SUMMARY OF RARE AND SCARCE BIRDS IN LINCOLNSHIRE, 2000-2002

by Phil Hyde

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2000

National Overview

One of the highlights was the largest and most extensive movement of European honey-buzzards ever seen in Britain, reflected in the highest UK annual total yet recorded – somewhere in the region of 2000 birds. There were also notably large numbers of Cory's shearwaters, green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks and surf scoters. Common rosefinches and little buntings occurred in record numbers in autumn. In contrast, it was the worst year ever for both hoopoes and icterine warblers. Kentish plovers, melodious warblers, barred warblers, red-breasted flycatchers and ortolan buntings were also very thin on the ground. There were two additions to the British list – Siberian blue robin (Suffolk) and long-tailed shrike (South Uist). The controversial booted eagle found in Cornwall in 1999 was last seen in the south-west in March, and now inexplicably resides in category D/E.

Lincolnshire month by month account

January

The weather was dry, sunny and generally mild but rather cold and frosty around the middle of the month. The closing days were very mild but with severe gales in the North of England. The sunniest January since 1991.

A tundra bean goose and 3 white-fronted geese were at Roxby on 4th, and a blue-phase snow goose flew up the Humber on 9th with pink-feet. Kirton Marsh was the site for rarer brent geese with up to 5 pale-bellied and at least 2 black brant. Sea duck included a few inland greater scaup, 2 long-tailed ducks and 3 velvet scoter. Smew numbered about seven, and ruddy ducks at Barton peaked at 73. A firecrest was seen in Kirkby on Bain on 9th and a hooded crow was at Kirkby on Bain GP from 10th. A black-throated diver was at Covenham Res most of the month, and a great northern was off Butterwick Marsh on 16th and 23rd, but a Slavonian grebe at Baston-Langtoft GP on 15th was the only scarce grebe reported. Shag continues to be a scarce visitor, with one seen occasionally at Grimsby Docks. Great bitterns were at 3 sites during the month but a red kite at Fillingham on 23-24th was the only record. At least 18 merlins were reported but just 5 peregrines, surely an under-estimate? Barton and Marston STW each held at least 20 water rails. At least 10 short-eared owls were reported and up to 31 shore larks were at Gib Point, but just one was seen at Donna Nook. Only 9 waxwings were seen at 3 sites, 2 common redpolls at Boultham Mere to 13th were the only records, but at least 10 stonechats wintered.

February

A generally mild month, changeable and windy at times with some snow in the second week but sunny and dry away from the west. The 10th sunniest February since 1961.

The status of barnacle goose in the region is clouded by the presence of feral birds, but a flock of 11 arriving at Barton from the NE on 13th may have had genuine wild credentials. The pale-bellied brent flock at Kirton Marsh increased to 9 with scattered singles seen elsewhere along the coast. A greater scaup was at Baston-Langtoft GP on 20th and smew remained at Toft Newton and Barton, with 3 at Tallington and 2 at

Langtoft West End Pits. A black-necked grebe at Baston-Langtoft GP on 20th was the first of the year. Great bitterns were still at Boultham Mere mid-month and one roosted at Far Ings on 4th. Of wintering raptors, 8 hen harriers were seen at 9 sites; 34 common buzzards at 15 sites; 9 merlins at 8 sites; 11 peregrines at 10 sites. Three early avocets were at Winteringham Haven. Several Caspian gulls were reported from 11th and Read's Island-Winterton Tip had up to 3 Iceland gulls during the month as well as 2 immature glaucous. Just 3 short-eared owls were reported and the Gib Point shore lark flock decreased to 21. At least 8 stonechats were still present on the coast and 2 firecrests were at Gib Point most of the month. Five common redpolls were at Boultham Mere on 5th and 5 hawfinches were found at Scawby Park on 19th.

March

A very dry month, generally sunny and mild. The second week was exceptionally mild, but there were overnight frosts in the first and third weeks. Later in the month it became unsettled, and the end of the month was rather cold. The 7th consecutive March to have above average sunshine and the 9th in succession to be warmer than normal.

A jack snipe at Gib Point on 6th was the only record. The first black-necked grebe was back at breeding Site A on 15th; another 2 were at Toft Newton on 21st with one to 25th. Gib Point saw the first black redstart of the year, a female, on 19th, there was a white-fronted goose on 20th and a waxwing flew west on 23rd. Two drake smew remained at Toft Newton until 21st and 3 birds remained at Tallington, with 2 at Langtoft West End Pits and 5 redheads at Barton; ruddy ducks totalled 72 at 3 sites. Great bitterns were at Boultham and Far Ings, a male booming at the latter site on 28th. A common buzzard found at Thurlby on 9th had been shot. Away from breeding sites, a single avocet was seen at Terrington and 6 little plovers returned during the month, the first at Kirkby on Bain GP on 17th. Up to 3 adult Mediterranean gulls were seen at Read's Island and a 2nd-w was at Boultham Mere on 22nd. Read's Island/Winterton Tip continued to host 1-2 1st-w Iceland gulls and several imm glaucous gulls. Lesser spotted woodpeckers became evident at up to 14 sites. At least 16 stonechats were present and a firecrest at Gib Point from February stayed until 14th.

April

The wettest April since records began in 1766, and the coldest since 1989. Average rainfall for April is 62mm, but at 142mm, the total precipitation was more than double this. Early in the month there were some overnight frosts and snow. The second half was warmer and sunshine hours were 96% of the average.

Great bitterns were booming at 2 sites on 1st and breeding was later confirmed at one. The first osprey was seen at Wainfleet St Mary on 8th, with 6 other records during the month. Two Nearctic ducks were seen in April - a drake American wigeon, 6 -7th and a drake green-winged teal 9-16th. Four black-necked grebes were at breeding Site A by 14th and at least 2 pairs bred. An impressive flock of 7 arrived at Covenham Res 18-19th, with 2 or 3 others elsewhere. A common crane was seen over Far Ings on 17th. Just 4 ring ouzels were found and firecrests were similarly scarce, but included 2 singing males at Gib Point 18-19th. At least 6 hen harriers and 27 common buzzards were reported; a rough-legged buzzard was seen 19-27th with a second on 24th. The first hobbies were seen on 23rd and eventually reported from 60 sites, but breeding was confirmed or suspected at just five. Only 3 garganey were reported and there were no breeding records for 2000 but there was a very unusual record of a spotted crane

at Baston Fen on 24th. The first whinchat was seen on 25th, 6 early dotterel appeared on 26th and a stone-curlew was seen on 27th. At Barton, 23 water rail territories were located, and up to 6 calling males were present at Boultham Mere. There was a rare spring record of pectoral sandpiper at Messingham SQ on 29th. A single blue-headed wagtail occurred at Marston STW on 29th. Only 3 black redstarts were reported but a male common redstart was singing at Twigmoor and a pair fledged 3 chicks later in the spring at a traditional site in the south of the county. Two great grey shrikes were found on 22nd and 30th and the county's earliest nightjar was churring on territory on 30th.

May

May continued wet, with almost 50% more rain than average, the wettest May since 1983. Temperatures and sunshine were near normal. The first half of the month was very warm, but it was colder thereafter.

Apart from the small breeding population, 3 other black-necked grebes were seen from 1st, and 6 pale-bellied brent lingered into May at Grainthorpe Marsh. A female Montagu's harrier came in off the sea at Gib Point on 6th with 3-4 others recorded elsewhere; there were eventually 5 breeding attempts, 2 of which were successful. Three bee-eaters were seen briefly on 7th and shore larks remained at Gib Point until 8th. Six curlew sandpipers arrived from 12th onwards, with 5 garganey during the month and quail were calling at 9 sites, the first on 14th. Two common cranes flew south over Rimac and later Gib Point on 14th. Whinchats were scarce with just 11 records all month and a singing male black redstart was reported on 21st. A male golden oriole was at Gib Point and a honey buzzard in the Ancholme Valley, both on 24th. Red kites continued to be reported from the south Wolds, several ospreys were seen and the last 2 peregrines were reported on 25th. At the Humber Claypits at least 4 broods of bearded tits fledged 13 young, and 55 pairs of avocets bred on Read's Island. Eight wood sandpipers passed through the county, along with another 30 dotterel. Little Stints, with 2 on 18th, were rarer than Temminck's stints, 4 of which were present mid-month. To round off the month, the seventh county record of great reed warbler, a singing male, was found at Chapel Pit on 29th, and a broad-billed sandpiper on the Humber the same day stayed until 31st.

June

June was mainly unsettled although temperatures rose during the 3rd week. It was the driest June since 1995 with just over half the average rainfall, and the warmest since 1992.

A scattering of exotic wildfowl bred, including Egyptian geese, mandarin and red-crested pochard. Two drake garganey remained at Kirkby until 2nd with one or two singles seen elsewhere in the county. A single greater scaup off the Witham Mouth was an unusual summer record, as was a long-tailed duck on 6th – sick or injured individuals perhaps? An immature purple heron in the Chapel area, seen later flying south over Gib Point, was a good find. A red kite was in the northern Fens and 2 (non-breeding) Montagu's harriers on the Wash. Two honey-buzzards were noted on 10th, a lone osprey on 11th, and then an impressive list of county rarities: single stone-curlew, corn crake, marsh warbler, the great reed warbler remaining from May, penduline tit, golden oriole, and red-backed shrike.

July

July was cool and often cloudy in the east, but sunnier and warmer in the west. Thunderstorms caused local flooding in Surrey and Sussex in the first week and spread to Lincolnshire in the last week. The dullest July since 1992 and the wettest since 1993.

A quiet month, with a sprinkling of garganey and a lone sooty shearwater marking the start of the autumn. A female red-backed shrike was at Fishtoft on 3rd – a summering non-breeder or returning migrant? Single red kite and osprey were seen, with up to 6 Montagu's harriers. There was a notable post-breeding flock of 303 avocets at Read's Island. Migrant waders were scarce: just a few little stints, curlew sandpipers and wood sandpipers. Another purple heron turned up on 26th and a family of black redstarts was seen on 27th. Finally, a juvenile common redstart at Barton on 28th was an unusual site record.

August

A changeable and warm month, thundery outbreaks alternating with warm dry spells and hot at times in the south. Not a statistically significant month.

A few of last month's garganey remained but just two quail were heard calling all month. Whinchats appeared from 11th onwards, with counts of 5-10 at several sites. The last Montagu's harrier of the year was seen on 22nd. Up to 25 spotted redshanks were seen along the coast and possibly a dozen wood sandpipers. A wryneck on 17th was the sole autumn record, a few common redstarts moved through and a wood lark was at Gib Point on 27th. The main arrival of curlew sandpipers began on 29th with around 30 birds seen. Not a vintage month for sea-birds, with the first pomarine and long-tailed skuas appearing at the end of the month, so the county's 3rd Cory's shearwater flying north past Gib Point on 30th was a bonus.

September

An unsettled month with frequent outbreaks of heavy, thundery rain. The second week brought a hot and sunny spell, but there was also local flooding. The dullest September since 1994 and the wettest since 1995.

Migration picked up this month with the record influx of honey-buzzards on strong easterly winds from 17th. At least 97 individuals were seen, many of them dark morph juveniles. Around 20 common buzzards were also associated with this influx. A common crane went south at Gib Point with a single honey-buzzard, and a second was there on 25th. Otherwise, there was a trickle of sooty shearwaters through the month, 3 roseate terns flew south on 7th and a juvenile Sabine's gull on 11th, when small numbers of Lapland buntings also arrived. The county's 3rd purple heron of the year turned up on 9th, ospreys were seen at 10 sites between 16-28th and the first hen harrier returned on 23rd. Corn crakes on 5th and 20th were excellent finds. Passage of the scarcer skuas was muted; 14 pomarines on 14th was notable, but there was just a handful of long-tailed skuas. A pectoral sandpiper was at Sandilands on 18th, on which date the only Leach's storm-petrel of the year flew past Huttoft. A juvenile rosy starling was trapped on 21st, a tawny pipit was found on the same day, a stone-curlew on 22nd, and there was a notable passage of common redstarts, a single wood warbler, a few firecrests and the only red-backed shrike of the autumn. At the end of the month, single black-throated and great northern divers appeared on the coast.

October

The wettest October since 1987 with twice the annual average rainfall; the last week was very stormy with widespread flooding. Ambient temperature and sunshine were about average.

The month began well, with 2 Radde's warblers and 2 Richard's pipits arriving on 1st, together with a female or 1st-w Siberian stonechat and a small influx of yellow-browed warblers. The last honey-buzzard was seen on 4th and 4 velvet scoters on 14th, when the last quail of the year was also recorded. A few ospreys, red kites and up to 12 peregrines were recorded, 1-2 hen harriers and a dozen or so merlins returned, and the last hobby was seen on 10th. A spotted crane at Marston was the sole autumn record and another corn crane was found on 9th, completing an excellent year. There was a scattering of both common and black redstarts from 6th, at least a dozen ring ouzels, a few firecrests, 2 further yellow-browed warblers, and at least 21 stonechats arrived.

November

A wet and stormy month with widespread flooding. Temperatures were near normal with some overnight frost mid-month, but very mild by the end. The wettest November since 1970 and the wettest autumn period (September, October, November) since 1766.

A grey phalarope was in the Wash on 2nd, and 2 ring-necked ducks, a 1st-w male and an adult female, were a good find at Far Ings on 5th, when 5 shore larks were also reported. An impressive flock of 204 greater scaup was reported on 6th, when a long-tailed and 2 pomarine skuas were also seen. An olive-backed pipit was found at Gib Point on 8th. The last osprey was recorded on 10th and the last Avocet on 26th. There was a late whinchat on 19th and an exceptionally late common redstart on 20th. Eastern vagrants continued to arrive, with a Pallas' warbler on 15th, a 1st-w female pied wheatear on 18th (first county record, on a fairly typical date), another Richard's pipit on 21st and a very late barred warbler on 27th. An unusual report was of 100 razorbills in the Roaring Middle of the Wash on 24th. During the month, stonechat numbers rose to at least 35 but Lapland buntings numbered just 2-3. Small numbers of Mediterranean gulls were seen but no white-winged gulls were reported. Smew, long-tailed duck and velvet scoter were recorded in small numbers, and 127 ruddy duck were counted at the main sites.

December

The first half was mild and wet, with frequent gales and squally showers. Fog and frost descended in the third week, turning to snow in the last week. The mildest December since 1988 and the duller since 1994.

Fifty greater scaup off Nene mouth on 2nd was easily the biggest flock seen this month. A Slavonian grebe and a black-throated diver were seen on 3rd and there were several great northern during the month. A grey phalarope was at Covenham Res on 5th, and an exceptional 16 jack snipes were at Humberston on 7th. The last pomarine skua of the year was seen on 10th. Up to 4 shags were present by 25th and a small arrival of waxwings occurred from 26th with 1-8 birds reported from 8 sites, involving perhaps 25 birds. An interesting chiffchaff at Marston STW on 26th was thought to be of the Siberian race *tristis*. Peregrines and merlins were present in the usual areas and 87 water eels were counted at five of the main sites. Short-eared owls peaked for the autumn-winter with 12 birds reported. Scarce passerines seen included just 3 shore larks and a sprinkling of water pipits and Lapland buntings, the latter mainly on the Wash.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2001

National Overview

The spring of 2001 saw movement restrictions due to foot-and-mouth disease with many areas under-recorded as a result. Nevertheless, 2001 was a record year for ring-necked ducks, grey phalaropes and white-spotted bluethroats while records of Temminck's stints, Richard's pipits and barred warblers were well above average. Contrastingly, woodchat shrikes and ortolan buntings were very scarce in both spring and autumn and icterine warbler, a traditional east coast autumn migrant, had a very poor year. These disappointments notwithstanding, the UK recorded its first red-billed tropicbird, snowy egret, grey catbird and two Siberian blue robins. Weather-wise, 2001 was set to become the second warmest in the past 142 years. The copious rains continued into early 2001, and the 24-month period up to March 2001 was the wettest in the England and Wales precipitation series that began in 1766.

Lincolnshire month by month account

January

A very sunny month, the best since 1959, and with average rainfall. Although beginning wet and mild, mid-month was colder with some snow. Frost and fog had returned by the month's end.

A common redpoll was still present on 1st and the waxwing presence continued, with a peak day of 64 birds reported on 1st; the months total was around 234. Nine razorbills were seen in January and, unusually, a summer-plumaged little auk off Gib Point on 12th. Five pale-bellied brent geese and a black brant were present in the first half of the month. A drake green-winged teal was found on the 12th, 1-2 long-tailed ducks and greater scaup were present all month, and 2 velvet scoters were seen on the 14th. Up to 4 smews were present at the usual sites and ruddy ducks peaked at 144. Three black-throated and 3 great northern divers flew past Gib Point on 1st. Also on 1st there was a red-necked grebe, 1-2 Slavonian grebes, 1-2 glaucous gulls, an Iceland gull, and a shag (one of only four county records for 2001). Great bitterns were seen at 4 sites, with 1-3 individuals present. Common buzzards were in evidence at many sites from January onwards and eventually 81 sites recorded them, with breeding confirmed at a minimum of 8 sites. A rough-legged buzzard was seen at 2 sites in mid-month. A greater white-fronted goose lingered at Kirkby and one of the Greenland race *A.a. flavirostris* was seen in north of the county 24-29th. Merlin records were received from a total of 55 sites, mostly of single birds, and peregrines were seen all year but no breeding activity was reported. Mediterranean gulls were seen from the start of the year at several sites; in the end at least 14 sites reported a minimum of 30 birds throughout 2001. A notable flock of 13 over-wintering wood larks were reported on 28th but just 8 Lapland buntings were seen throughout the month.

February

Wet and unsettled in the first half, exceptionally so in South East England and East Anglia, February then became drier with fog and frost at night, turning colder during the last week and with some snow. Despite this, sunshine hours were well above average.

A smattering of waxwings remained all month, a few greater scaup were seen up to 12th only, 3 velvet scoter on 4th and 3 smews all month. Divers were again scarce, with a single black-throated and 4 great northern seen. A Slavonian grebe was off Gib Point on 6th and very unusually, a sooty shearwater flew north on 8th. A common crane was noted on 11th and a red kite on 12th was the first of only 9 county records through into June. The first avocet returned on 13th and the 13th county record of ferruginous duck, an adult male, was found on 16th and stayed into mid-April. An unusual record was of a singing wood lark on 16th in the east dunes at Gib Point. 1-2 purple sandpipers were on the Humber all month, an exhausted little auk was picked up on 24th and an immature Pomarine skua was seen on 28th.

March

The wettest March in Lincolnshire since 1988. Sunshine hours and temperature were both near average.

Waxwings continued to be reported, a single smew remained at Asterby and a Slavonian grebe was again noted off Gib Point on 18th. Up to 5 great bitterns were at Barton on 5-6th, and the two departing after dark on 9th and 14th were probably continental migrants. Two nests were subsequently located at Barton with 2-3 young fledging later in the year. The first little plover of the year was seen on 25th. Avocets peaked at 126 at Read's Island and a purple sandpiper remained on the Humber all month.

Goshawks displayed over 3 woods in the Wolds and the first of 8 spring ospreys appeared on 31st when a common crane was also seen. Lesser spotted woodpeckers were drumming at 5 sites, a poor total.. Wood larks continued to do well and at least 47 territorial males were recorded. There was a small arrival of black redstarts and firecrests at the end of the month.

April

The month began wet and thundery followed by a short dry sunny spell. Cold northerlies and wintry showers then resumed with frequent outbreaks of rain, thundery showers and hail for the remainder of the month.

A female garganey arrived at Boultham Mere on 1st, the sole April record, and a smew stayed at Toft Res until 13th, the last date on which waxwings were reported. An adult male penduline tit was found on 10th. Up to 6 black-necked grebes were at Site A from 15th with at least 2 pairs breeding and a migrant was at Boultham Mere 27-30th. The last hen harriers lingered into April, with 5 birds seen at 4 sites, and the first hobby returned on 28th; hobbies were recorded from 50 sites over the year, but breeding was confirmed at just 4. The first wood sandpiper was noted on 30th. Two of the 3 over-wintering shore larks at Gib Point remained until 22nd, the third staying into early May. Ring ouzels arrived from 3rd, but just 7 were seen in total, going into May, and a maximum of 4 firecrests were recorded all month.

May

A very warm month with some thunder after a chilly start, progressing to a cool wet spell with thunderstorms in mid-month. Mostly dry, sunny and very warm thereafter, more changeable towards the end of month with temperatures moderated by onshore breezes.

Bird of the month was a singing thrush nightingale at Gib Point on 15th. Other eastern arrivals included small numbers of spoonbills, little stints, wood sandpipers, garganeys and a single honey-buzzard seen between 9th and 19th. Although seen at 8 sites, garganeys were not thought to have bred. The only record of wood warbler was a singing male on 5th and a singing great reed warbler was found on 16th for the second year running. Two common cranes were seen on 17th and again on 20th. Unusually, a 1st-s Iceland gull was present on 18th, making a contrast with the arrival of 2 Montagu's harriers which presaged a total of 5 nesting attempts in the county, three of which fledged 8 young. A Temminck's stint was found on 22nd and a male ring-necked duck on 30th. Water rails were present all year and bred on several sites, most at Barton where 18 pairs bred. Another scarce breeder, little plover, bred at 6 sites involving at least 6 pairs and a single pair of black redstarts fledged 3 young. Very low numbers of common redstarts were reported although breeding was confirmed at Kirkby Moor. Up to 4 firecrests were at Gib Point, one remaining into June.

June

A dry sunny month, the driest since 1996, although cool in the first half with some thunderstorms followed by a wet thundery spell mid month. A heat wave during the last week ended with an outbreak of scattered thunderstorms.

Ruddy ducks produced 15 broods of 48 young at Barton, at least 26 of which fledged. Gib Point had a male garganey on 3rd, the only June record, and unusually there was a long-tailed skua on 6th and a long-tailed duck on 8th. A rosy starling was in song in Louth 13th-15th, a honey-buzzard was seen on 15th and a black-necked grebe was at Bagmoor 22-30th. A real surprise was a hawfinch coming to a Fishtoft bird-table 11-16th. On Read's Island 55 pairs of avocets bred, fledging at least 140 young; and breeding attempts also occurred at 3 other sites. No census of nightjars was done and only 8 churring males were reported from 3 sites, surely a gross underestimate.

July

Almost a normal month statistically. A hot, thundery first week was followed by cool wet unsettled conditions during the middle fortnight, with some heavy thundery downpours later. The last week saw dry, sunny, hot weather almost everywhere for most of the time.

Far Ings hosted a purple heron on 1-2nd. A black-necked grebe was at Freiston Shore 20-26th and a female garganey at Kirkby on 29th. One or two calling quail were heard at 10 sites. Sooty shearwaters appeared from 17th, with a summer-plumaged roseate tern and 2 long-tailed skuas. In total, 316 avocets were counted at Read's Island on 22nd. The year's highest total of little plovers, 53, was recorded this month and the first wood sandpipers, little stints and curlew sandpipers appeared. Bearded tits bred again at Barton, the only site, and at least 10 juveniles were seen.

August

A near 'normal' month, hot days alternating with cooler unsettled conditions when hail and thunderstorms affected many places. Mostly wet in SE England and East Anglia.

Avocet numbers peaked at 408 on Read's Island on 2nd. Two ruddy shelducks were seen at Huttoft Pit on 15-17th and later at Gib Point on 19th, when a white stork was found near the A1. A few garganeys arrived mid-month with a maximum of 4 at Gib

Point from 28th. The post-breeding ruddy duck numbers peaked at 116 this month. Just a single sooty shearwater was seen and 2 ospreys were the first of 9 during the autumn. A small influx of little stints and curlew sandpipers began mid-month with double-figure counts of both at several sites to the end of the month. They were joined by a pectoral sandpiper on 16th and a Temminck's stint on 19th. Wood sandpipers were also seen at the usual sites, mostly 1-2 birds. The first red-backed shrike of the autumn was found on 28th.

September

Very unsettled with frequent outbreaks of rain, heavy and thundery at times. There was short hot sunny spell in the second week, and local flooding in places.

Two garganeys were at Gib Point on 6th with 1-2 at Waters Edge CP 5-8th. Red-crested pochards peaked at 16 at Baston-Langtoft Pits and the first greater scaup returned. Five purple sandpipers and a great northern diver were seen on 9th, a red-necked grebe on 18th and a black-necked grebe was on the Wash 16-24th. Sea-birds appearing from 1st included some good counts of Leach's storm-petrels, Sabine's gulls, sooty shearwaters, long-tailed skuas, Balearic shearwaters and European storm petrels. Seven purple sandpipers flew north past Sutton on Sea on 18th and a juvenile red-backed shrike was at Brinkhill on the same date. The little stint and curlew sandpiper influx continued with most on the Wash at Freiston and at Gib Point, and on the Humber at Read's Island. Pectoral sandpipers appeared on 4th and 14th (possibly the same birds), spotted redshanks peaked at 35 during the month, a grey phalarope was at Bagmoor on 21st and the last wood sandpiper of the autumn was at Frampton Marsh on 22nd. A large movement of several hundred common redstarts occurred from 21st onwards, when the first yellow-browed warbler was found; subsequently some 4-5 were present. Two Richard's pipits were found together on 23rd but the outstanding find was the county's first green heron at Messingham on 24th, staying into early October. The 25th was a good day with 2 dusky warblers, another red-backed shrike, a goshawk, a hoopoe and a common rosefinch all reported. Two firecrests were seen on 26th and a juvenile white-winged black tern on 27th. Ring ouzels began to arrive from 21st and altogether 23 were reported from 9 sites going into October, an above average autumn. To close the month, a juvenile rosy starling was found on 30th.

October

The warmest on record but unsettled throughout with frequent spells of rain and showers.

A tawny pipit was found on 1st and 1-2 black-throated divers, with red-necked and Slavonian grebes, were seen off Gib Point, which also had a Leach's storm-petrel on 6th. A hawfinch flew south on 13th, the second goshawk of the autumn, a juvenile, was seen on 14th and the last hobby of the year was at Gib Point on 15th. Another grey phalarope was seen on 18th and little stint and curlew sandpiper numbers tailed off, with most having departed by 19th. A Cetti's warbler was trapped and ringed on 23rd when a red-breasted flycatcher was also present. The county's 6th olive-backed pipit was located on 26th. Two yellow-browed warblers remained late in the month, but firecrests were scarce. At Cadney there were 14 Bewick's swans on 28th, the only notable flock of the year. Maxima of 5 greater scaup were seen on two dates at Gib Point and just 1-3 velvet scoters.

November

Mainly dry, mild and anti-cyclonic. After a warm start there was a little snow during the second week followed by a dull and gloomy third week. The month ended changeable, wet and unsettled but very mild and the driest November since 1989.

The last osprey of the autumn was seen on the 1st. Just one Bewick's swan was noted, and up to 3 bean geese. Sixteen greater scaup and 4 grey phalaropes flew past Gib Point on 9th. There were up to 6 greater scaup elsewhere, and smaller numbers of long-tailed ducks, velvet scoters and Slavonian grebes. The largest number of Pomarine skuas of the autumn, 69 at 2 sites was seen on 8th, together with 4 puffins and a 1st-w Iceland gull. A small movement of little auks occurred with a maximum of 121 seen off Gib Point. A storm petrel on 9th was a good find, a further 35 Pomarine skuas were counted and up to 3 black-throated divers went past Gib Point, with 1-2 great northern divers there late month. A rough-legged buzzard was seen on 14th, the only late year record, and a red-necked grebe arrived at Covenham on 16th. Hen harriers peaked this month for the autumn/winter period with a minimum of 19 birds at 14 sites, and short-eared owls were also numerous with 22 reported from 11 sites, including at least 7 at East Halton Skitter. By 28th, 5 shore larks had returned, with a late Richard's pipit on the same date.

December

The month began mild and unsettled with Atlantic fronts crossing the country and a low-pressure system moving east over northern England. High pressure became firmly established but also gave patchy mist and overnight frost. In the second half of the month deep depressions moving SSE from the Norwegian sea brought cold northerly outbreaks with widespread snow to the month's end.

Of the scarcer wildfowl, there were just 8 Bewick's swans, a notable flock of 19 greater white-fronted geese at Gib Point on 31st, and one or two barnacle geese, thought to be genuine wild birds. Sixteen red-crested pochards remained at Baston-Langtoft GP all month and the only winter smew records occurred in December with singles at a few sites only. The last red-necked grebe of the year flew south past Gib Point on 13th and just 2 Slavonian grebes were noted. The max count of 60 water rails was at Barton on 23rd. An exceptionally late little stint was found at Freiston on the WeBS count and 10 jack snipe were at Humberston Fitties. Two Iceland gulls were seen at Bagmoor, an adult and a 1st-w, and up to 3 glaucous gulls. Six shore larks remained at Gib Point all month. Interesting finds in the second half of the month were 2 chiffchaffs of the form *P.c. tristis*.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2002

National Overview

An interesting year with 6 species - Ascension frigatebird, Allen's gallinule, Macqueen's bustard, Caspian gull *L.c. cachinnans*, eastern olivaceous warbler, and Sykes's warbler - figuring prominently in the national rarity files. Taxonomic research and DNA analysis conferred species status on the bustard and two warblers, something which we will see much more of. Other highlights included two red-billed tropicbirds, lesser sand plover, tree swallow, two oriental turtle doves and the first lesser kestrel since 1992. It was the best year ever for green-winged teal, barred warbler and rosy starling. It was also a very good one for ring-necked duck, white stork, common crane, American wigeon, honey-buzzard, European bee-eater, wryneck, and woodchat shrike.

Conversely, there were fewer buff-breasted sandpipers, purple herons, tawny pipits and aquatic warblers than in many recent years. Note that American wigeon and night heron ceased to be considered by BBRC at the end of 2001.

Lincolnshire month by month account

January

The month began cold and frosty with high pressure over Europe. It remained dry until mid month and then became unsettled as Atlantic depressions pushed in giving a milder and wetter third week. A very stormy fourth week brought severe gales and heavy rain but was also exceptionally mild towards the end of month with temperatures reaching 15°C in some areas.

One or two black-throated divers were seen and 2 great northern divers flew south at Gib Point. There were also 1-2 red-necked grebes there, and up to 4 Slavonian grebes. Two Siberian chiffchaffs were reported, a wintering little stint was present until 16th at least, there was a small southerly movement of Bewick's swans and 6 pale-bellied brents remained from 2001. An American wigeon was found on 12th, ruddy ducks peaked at 68 and red-crested pochards at 15. Small numbers of smew were recorded at various sites, with 6 at Tallington/West Deeping lakes on 24th. A black-bellied dipper was also found on 24th. Up to 8 great bitterns wintered, as did a minimum of 17 hen harriers. Two Mediterranean gulls at Bagmoor on 13th were the first records of what was to be a good year, 61 birds from 20 sites across the county in all (although no reports of breeding activity). Three or four glaucous gulls were also found after a nearly blank year in 2001. It was a poor year for shore larks, with about 14 in January being the highest total, and also for waxwings with 2 of the year's total of 3 being seen this month!

February

The wettest February since 1990, and the dullest since 1997. A deep low-pressure system between Iceland and Scotland brought very wet, windy and thundery weather. This moved into Finland by the 12th and pressure rose over the UK but it was only a brief respite. Wet and windy conditions returned on 19th with snow showers down to East Anglia. Another low tracked eastwards across Scotland on 25-26th, the month ending with more gales and heavy rain.

Wintering merlins were reported from 56 sites in the county and peregrines were again well-represented with at least 35 birds wintering but no reports of any breeding activity. Two black brants were still present on the Wash and a drake green-winged teal returned on 9th. The first avocets returned on 7th, with 11 on Read's Island. Seven hawfinches were found in Scauby Park on 10th.

March

The month began with weak fronts crossing the UK; low pressure moved eastwards on 9th, with gales and some snow, moving away into Biscay by 12-13th. An anticyclone over Scandinavia then gave chilly easterlies and thundery showers but more low pressure returned on 16th with mild southerlies and thundery rain. Dry, anti-cyclonic weather thereafter saw temperatures reach 18°C but as the high pressure receded Atlantic fronts brought patchy rain to many areas on the 31st.

There were 136 avocets on Read's Island on 4th, but no breeding data this year. A common crane on 9th presaged a good spring for this species with 1-2 elsewhere later in March and an impressive 9 through Gib Point on 19th. A Slavonian grebe in near-summer plumage was found at Barton on 11th and at least 6 red kites were reported from various sites. A number of garganey appeared from 24th in what was to be a good spring, with 25 being reported from 14 locations by mid-May, although with no proof of breeding. The first little plover was seen on 23rd, as was the first ring ouzel, the first of 11 spring records. There was a great grey shrike and a female goshawk at Gib Point on 25th and displaying male goshawks were again reported over 3 woods in the Wolds, including three at one site. The first of 5 spring ospreys appeared on 30th. There was an exceptionally early hobby on 27th, the forerunner of a good year with records from 81 sites, but with confirmed breeding from just four of these.

April

The warmest since 1993. The month started with easterlies but sunshine prevailed and temperatures were near normal. Changeable weather appeared mid-month and weak fronts brought rain on the 18th but thereafter the month was mainly dry and warm. London had its warmest April day (23.7°C) since 1987 but Atlantic depressions brought hail and thunder from the 26th onwards.

Although up to 8 greater scaup were reported in several months, 92 on the Wash was the largest total for some years. Four adult black-necked grebes were present at site A with breeding suspected there but not proven; elsewhere there were 3 spring records of single birds. The first spoonbill turned up on 23rd and in what was a good year nationally for white storks, one duly arrived on 24th. There were five other records during May-August, possibly all due to the same wide-ranging individual. An April influx of little plovers totalled 54 with 11 at Kirkby-on-Bain. Wood warblers appeared at the end of the month with 3 or 4 between 25-29th.

May

The coolest May since 1997. Low pressure over the Mediterranean and high pressure over Scandinavia brought easterlies in on 6th. An Atlantic low then moved NE over the UK with wind, rain and scattered blustery showers to mid-month. High pressure over Europe brought a brief spell of hot weather but was followed by thundery rain and more low pressure and rain, hail and thunder continued to 30th. On the 31st high pressure built up, giving warm, sunny and dry weather.

A wryneck was found inland on 7th but the star bird was a stunning summer-plumaged lesser sand plover found at Rimac on 11th, only the 2nd British record and a county first. Two little stints at Freiston on 13th were the only spring records and there were just 4 curlew sandpipers but no wood sandpipers. A honey-buzzard flew north at Gib Point on 15th and the sole purple heron of the year turned up at Messingham on 20th. Breeding records of water rails came from several sites, with Barton reporting a record 25 territories. A male nightjar was churring at Gib Point on 30th and a lesser yellowlegs on 31st was the 10th county record.

June

A cold front on the 3rd brought thundery showers, rain, hail, patchy fog and SW winds from 9-11th. It then became drier but chilly with some thundery rain but by 17th was brighter and warmer with temperatures to 29°C. More thunderstorms

followed before the Azores high extended over the UK briefly. A cold front brought rain and cool NW winds from 26th. It was briefly sunny and dry on 30th but Atlantic fronts then brought more rain.

It was a quiet month for migrants but a golden oriole was seen briefly and in sub-song on 4th and an adult rosy starling on 16th. Ruddy ducks produced 20 broods of 89 young at Barton, at least 54 of which fledged. 2002 was a much better "quail year" with 26 calling males reported across the county. Great bitterns again bred in the county with 2-3 females nesting. There were several sightings of lingering hen harriers, but no reports of breeding activity. Montagu's harriers returned to the county and there were 4 nesting attempts, all of them successful, and 11 young fledged. Three pairs of common redstarts bred and avocets attempted to breed at Gib Point, but failed and a pair with 3 juveniles reported from Kirton marsh in August may have been local breeders. In a good year for spoonbills, three headed for the Wash from Gib Point on 1st and there were five at Tetney marsh on 30th.

July

Low-pressure systems traversed the region bringing heavy rain and thunder until 12th when a ridge of high pressure extended from the Azores bringing drier, warmer weather. There was occasional light rain between 13-17th as fronts crossed the UK but a small low crossing central UK on 19-20th brought heavy rain and thunder. It then became very warm, reaching 33°C in the SE on 29th, the hottest July day since 1989. More storms set in, drifting N towards the Wash and 30-31st saw heavy thunderstorms, torrential downpours and local flooding in places.

Common buzzards were seen throughout the year at 116 sites, the best year since the mid-19th century, with breeding confirmed at 6 sites. The spoonbill group at Gib Point had increased to 4 by 1st and stayed until August 8th. On 15th, Gib Point had a male honey-buzzard and avocet numbers at Read's Island reached 336. An adult Pomarine skua was off Gib Point on 26th and the first wood sandpipers arrived on 27th. The first of 16 autumn garganey arrived on 29th in what proved to be a protracted autumn for them, the last on October 9th. Curlew sandpipers also appeared in small numbers at the end of the month.

August

The month began with low pressure, thundery rain and flash floods until 12th when the Azores high gave dry sunny periods. There were thunderstorms on the 10th and 15th with temperatures up to 31°C. Most thundery activity occurred as fronts moved eastwards and it remained unsettled. The 25th was drier as the Azores high again extended and sun followed in most parts after early mist cleared. A low moved away towards Scandinavia on 30th.

The post-breeding ruddy duck count peaked this month at 133 and a Slavonian grebe in near-summer plumage was found at Barton Waters' Edge on 2nd. Avocets had increased to 355 on 11th at Read's Island. Two honey-buzzards were noted on 13th and 15th and the first red-backed shrike of the autumn, a juvenile, was recorded on 17th. There were 6 autumn Montagu's harrier records, the last of the year on 28th. Little stints were scarce, the most being six at the Nene mouth and it was a similar picture for curlew sandpipers. The first autumn shag was seen on 25th and an adult summer plumage Sabine's gull was a good find at Gib Point on 26th. The autumn's first sooty shearwaters were also seen late month off Gib Point. Spotted redshanks

were recorded in all months, but peaked this month with a minimum of 29 present. Wood sandpipers arrived en masse this month with 42 reported and about 63 during the autumn as a whole.

September

Dry and sunny at the start of the month as high pressure drifted east but a low formed over the North Sea by the 4th. Further low pressure moved to the Irish Sea by the 7th and a depression from Biscay on the 8th brought squally winds and torrential rain. By 10th, high-pressure had built from Scandinavia with drier, cooler weather. There was occasional rain from the 16th onwards but high pressure continued to dominate. It was the sunniest September since 1991.

Sooty shearwaters appeared in numbers from 1st with 70 off Huttoft and double-figure counts at several of the usual sites on 22nd and 23rd. A further 4 Sabine's gulls (all juvenile or 1st-s) were seen. Three red kites were reported during the month, a goshawk was seen on 8th and 3 ospreys were over Worlaby on 8-9th. A ruddy shelduck was found on 7th and 10-13th provided some good birding with corn crake, wryneck (2), Richard's pipit, red-breasted flycatchers (c.4), yellow-browed and wood warblers, and a large influx of common redstarts (270+) and whinchats (80+) along the coast. On 20th, 22 bean geese went south, a notable county record. The first bluethroat at Gib Point for 6 years was found on 22nd, there were 2 more red-backed shrikes and a common rosefinch was trapped on 28th.. The peak autumn count of little egrets on the Wash was 10, with many records of 1-5 birds elsewhere. Skua numbers peaked, with about 37 Pomarine and 11 long-tailed skuas noted.

October

Dry with sunny spells early in the month, as low pressure moved away to Denmark and a weak ridge of high pressure settled over the region for a few days. Atlantic fronts then brought rain on 8-9th and it was cold, very wet and windy. Further low pressure systems tracked across the country and heavy rain on the 15th gave some areas their wettest October day on record. On 27th a depression moving from SW Ireland brought severe storms.

A few Slavonian grebes were seen from 10th onwards and just 6 long-tailed ducks were reported, most staying until the end of the year. Sooty shearwaters continued to show with 60 past Gib Point on 6th and 31 off Huttoft as well as a single Balearic shearwater and a Leach's storm-petrel. There was a fall of ring ouzels on the coast 8-12th, with 34 at Gib Point on the latter date. Coastal sites also reported small numbers of bearded tits during this period and also noted during the month were 4 great grey shrikes, 4 yellow-browed warblers, a hawfinch, up to 4 Lapland buntings at several sites and at least 41 firecrests. A rough-legged buzzard was in the Rimac area 17-19th, with a second bird at Worlaby on 19th remaining over-winter. It was a much better autumn for velvet scoters with some 109 birds reported from early October onwards; the biggest flock was of 15 on 20th. A 1st-w great northern diver turned up inland at Ashbyville lake on 19th, and more unusually, one in summer plumage was seen off Gib Point on 24th. A great egret was found on 19th at Holbeach and it or another ranged widely around the north-east coastal marshes from 28th and on into December, being last seen on 31st. Two grey phalaropes were seen offshore, a Richard's pipit was found on 23rd and 28 short-eared owls were seen during the month.

November

Unsettled, wet and mild, with record rainfall and flooding in some south and southwest areas. Atlantic depressions brought wet and windy weather but it was mild and 17.2°C was recorded in the SW. During the 13-14th a very deep low produced 80mm rain in Penzance, with severe flooding. Atlantic fronts brought yet more rain during 27-28th with thundery showers and more flooding.

The month got off to a good start with a juvenile long-billed dowitcher on 1st, and 18 greater scaup were at Barton on the same date, in what was a lean autumn for this species. A superb find was a female or immature red-flanked bluetail at Gib Point on 15th. At least 6 great bitterns were wintering at 4 sites by the month's end. A well-watched 1st-w rosy starling turned up at an inland bird table on 22nd. Jack snipes were seen at many sites across the county, the maximum count being of 12 at Tetney Marsh on 3rd and 19th. Up to 7 pale-bellied brents were present all month and there was a black brant on 26th. No more than 15 shore larks were reported in total, another poor winter for them in the county, and 3 black-necked grebes were off Gib Point on 28th.

December

Changeable, with some cold/dry periods in the first week. High pressure over Scandinavia brought cold E winds and sunny periods but also patchy rain, drizzle and sleet. A depression over Biscay on the 10th strengthened the E winds, and deposited snow on high ground. This continued until 21st when Atlantic lows swept mild moist air across the region and the three-day Christmas period was one of the mildest for at least a decade.

Small numbers of Bewick's swans were present all month and 7 bean geese appeared in the Huttoft area late in the month. An unusual find was a hawfinch at Donna Nook on 7th. Smew returned in mainly small numbers although flocks of 8 and 7 were at Toft Newton on 20th and Langtoft West End Pits on 22nd, respectively. There was a late Balearic shearwater off Gib Point on 7th. In what was a poor year for them overall, the highest number reported was 6 north past Gib Point on 15th.

SELECTED SYSTEMATIC LIST 2000-2002

Collated by Paul French

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 Rare or scarce in Lincs; full description required for consideration by LBRC
Records in these categories may not be published without the required information.
- *b 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.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Winter visitor, mainly coastal, Oct-Apr. Two races. *A. f. fabalis* ('Taiga' bean goose) is rare. *A. f. rossicus* ('Tundra' bean goose) is scarce.

2000: A single bird of the tundra race was with pink-footed geese at Roxby on Jan 4th. A flock of 4, not assigned to race, was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in October.

2001: One was on Frampton Marsh during October, and 2 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits Nov 19th were joined by a third bird the following day.

2002: Three were at Huttoft Pit on Jan 28th, and one was with the pink-footed geese on Read's Island on Feb 17th. In the latter half of the year, a flock of 22 flew S over Gib Point on Sep 20th and were later seen arriving in Norfolk. In November, one was at Winterton on 10th and it or another was at Tetney Marsh on 26th. An adult *serrirostris* was with the Humber pink-footed goose flock from 17th to the year's end. In December a flock of 6 arrived at Sutton on Sea on 22nd, moving to Huttoft Pit on 25-28th. Seven were seen there on 27th, but only five could be found again on 28th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* *L

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

2000: *A. a. albifrons*: Two ads and a juv were with the pink-footed geese at Roxby on Jan 4th, and one was at Gib Point on Mar 20th. In the autumn, one was at Kirkby on Bain GP from Aug 17th until Dec 29th at least, and what may have been the same bird was seen at Tattershall Pits on Dec 21st.

A. a. flavirostris: A single adult was with the pink-footed geese around the Winteringham/Read's Island area, Oct 8-26th (GPC).

2001: *A. a. albifrons*: The over-wintering bird at Kirkby on Bain GP was seen on Jan 8th and 27th, and a single was at Gib Point on Feb 22nd. A flock of 19 landed at Gib Point on Dec 31st. *A. a. flavirostris*: A 1st-w was at Winteringham Jan 24th and then at Roxby Jan 28-29th (GPC, WG).

2002: *A. a. albifrons*: At Gib Point, one flew E on Jan 1st. In October, one went N at Gib Point on 23rd and a flock of 100 flew NW over Boston on 25th. Seven were seen at Saltfleet Haven in November. Eight were found at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 11th, staying until 28th at least, 6 were between West Halton and Coleby on 24-26th, and 5 flew E at Gib Point 27th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* *L

Rare. Vagrant/escaped birds recorded most years, probably mainly the latter category.

2000: A blue phase bird flying up the Humber at Read's Island with a small group of pink-footed geese on Jan 9th was possibly of wild origin (RLi). See also escapes section.

2001/2002: No records.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor, mainly to the coast, Oct-May. A small feral population has bred irregularly since the late 1980s.

2000: Reported from several locations, but most, if not all records will refer to feral birds. Two between Humberston Fitties and Tetney Haven on Feb 1st and then at North Cotes Point on Feb 13th, and a flock of 11 arriving from the NE at Barton on Humber on Nov 6th would seem to have the best credentials for being of wild origin.

2001: An established feral population on Whitton Sands is likely to account for the majority of sightings in the Humber, but one with the Humber pink-footed geese, Oct 28th-Nov 1st at least, was probably wild. One was with brent geese at Gib Point on Dec 8th and 17th at least. Feral birds were reported from several scattered locations.

2002: Genuine migrants were hard to tell from feral birds as usual, but the following had the best credentials. Nine flew W at Barton on Apr 19th. In autumn, 6 were at Tetney Marsh on Sep 9th and may have then split up, as 5 arrived high from the NE at Barton on Humber on 19th, and one was found at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Nov 2nd into December. Two between Winteringham and Read's Island on Sep 28th may have been wild. In October, one was at Gib Point on 20th and another was with the pink-footed geese at Horkstow Top on 27th and then on Read's Island the next day. The feral flock at Whitton peaked at 72 on Sep 16th.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

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

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

2000: *B. b. hrota*: A good year, with birds reported from 8 localities. In the first winter period, Kirton Marsh held up to 5 birds in January, increasing to 9 (7 ads and 2 1st-w) on Feb 13th. There were singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in February, Gib Point Feb 6-Mar 6th and Holbeach Marsh on Mar 26th. Two were at Frampton Marsh and Witham Mouth Apr 27-30th and 6 were seen at Grainthorpe Marsh in May. During the second winter period, 5 were seen at Cleethorpes on Nov 10th and then at Humberston village on Dec 1st, 3 were at Kirton Marsh on Nov 25th, rising to 6 by Dec 3rd and 7 (inc two 1st-w) on 26th.

B. b. nigricans: An average year with at least 2 birds, although it is difficult to determine the exact movements of individuals. An ad was at Kirton Marsh Jan 15-16th (SK, RLi), with it or another at Holbeach Marsh on Mar 26th (AHJH). One was at Cleethorpes from Nov 9th into 2001 (SDW, DHur). All accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 94 p460; 96 p555 and 97 p561

2001: *B. b. hrota*: Five at Kirton Marsh Jan 5-7th comprised 3 ads and 2 juvs. Singles were then at Frampton Marsh on Jan 15th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in February and Kirton Marsh on Feb 11th, and 1-2 birds were at Gib Point Feb 5-Apr 13th. On Sep 9th, a series of records involved between 11-21 birds moving along the coast. There were singles at Chapel Point and Mablethorpe, 11 flew N past Sutton on Sea and 8 flew N past Huttoft Car Terrace. An adult was at Freiston Shore Sep 16-28th and back there again on Oct 29th. On Oct 28th 3 ads were at Kirton Marsh, with single birds seen there intermittently to the year's end, increasing to a flock of 6 on Dec 22nd and 5 on 29th. Elsewhere, one was at Humberston Fitties on Dec 15th.

B. b. nigricans: An adult was at Holbeach Marsh on Jan 7th (AHJH), while one at Gib Point on Feb 20th was joined by a second bird there the following day (SE, AM, KMW). All accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95 p484 and 97 p561

2002: *B. b. hrota*: Two were at Gib Point on Jan 2nd and at least 5 birds remained in the Kirton Marsh/Frampton Marsh area during January, with one seen there on Feb 2nd and one at Freiston Shore on Feb 18th. Elsewhere, one was again at Gib Point Feb 7-14th. During March, what may have been the same bird was seen at Witham Mouth on 3rd and Frampton Marsh on 16th. There were further sightings of singles at Freiston Shore on Apr 10th and 24th and on May 1st, and a late bird was noted at Gib Point on May 22nd. During the autumn, 3 were at Saltfleetby on Oct 6th, while 2 flew N at Huttoft Car Terrace on the same day and 3 ads were again found on Kirton Marsh on 19th. In November, one was at Humberston Fitties on 6th, 2 were seen at Kirton Marsh on 17th and 3 were at Tetney Marsh on 19th, increasing to 6 on 26th; 7 at Horseshoe

Point on the latter date may have been the same birds. In December, 2 were at Tetney Marsh on 24th and one was seen at Gib Point on 27th.

B. b. nigricans: Four records: in the first half of the year a juvenile was at Gib Point Jan 7-Feb 14th (KMW) and one was at Witham Mouth on Feb 3rd (SK). In autumn there were singles at Holbeach Marsh on Oct 26th (PT) and at Tetney Marsh on Nov 26th (SDW). All accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96 p555 and 97 p562

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

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

2000: Recorded in all months and from at least 12 locations. The only report of breeding came from Tattershall, where 9 birds on Jun 26th comprised a female with 6 young and 2 separate adults; the male was killed by a predator. Other birds were at Boston Jan 1-Jun 30th (2), Kirkstead/Chapel Hill in January (4), Billingham May 16th (2), Whisby Pits Complex Sep 2-4th (2), Messingham SQ on Oct 29th and Nov 5th, Apex Pit in November (2), Holdingham Nov 7-9th (7), Grainthorpe Haven Dec 3rd (4), Boultham Mere Dec 10th (4) and Nocton Fen Dec 17th (4). Elsewhere, birds on the move included one S at Gib Point on May 17th and 3 S at Horseshoe Point on Oct 11th.

2001: Recorded in all months, but from only six locations. A pair was present throughout the year at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits where they bred, producing 6 young. Elsewhere, singles were at the confluence of the rivers Witham and Brant on Jan 28th and Bardney Pits Feb 23-Mar 25th, and 4 arrived at Boultham Mere on Apr 8th, decreasing to one May 3-12th, with 2 there on May 13th. In the autumn, 2 were at Hartsholme CP in September, with possibly the same 2 at Boultham Mere briefly on 8th, one was at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Oct 7th and 2 were at Hartsholme CP in November and December.

2002: Recorded in all months, with records from at least eight locations. Up to 2 were at Hartsholme CP during January-March and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, 1-4 birds were present throughout the year. Other spring records were singles at Boultham Mere on Apr 6th and Butterwick Hale on May 10th. In the second half of the year, one was at Messingham SQ Aug 20-Nov 24th, 3 were at Revesby Res on Sep 17th, 4 were at Boultham Mere on Sep 28th, 2 were again at Hartsholme CP in November-December, with possibly the same 2 at Swanpool on Nov 18th, and 2 were at Hagnaby Lock/Fen Dec 21-23rd.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* *b

Rare. Vagrant/feral birds are recorded in most years, probably mainly the latter category.

2000: One of unknown origin at Winteringham Haven on Jun 25th.

2001: Two at Huttoft Pit Aug 15-17th conformed to the usual summer arrival period of birds into Britain, and may have then relocated to Gib Point, where 2 birds were seen on Aug 19th.

2002: One flew S past Gib Point on Sep 7th, and one at Wroot on the unusual date of Dec 26th was almost certainly an escapee.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor.

2000: One was at Marston STW throughout January, and breeding was confirmed at Blankney Quarry where a female and 5 juveniles were seen in June.

2001: A female was at Barton Far Ings on Apr 7th, and one was in Boultham Park in October.

2002: A female was again in the Barton area Feb 9-Mar 4th. Two pairs were noted at North Somercotes Mar 1-Apr 12th, and 2 males were then seen flying S at Gib Point on Apr 26th.

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

Vagrant.

2000: One was at Marston STW Apr 6-7th (ACL et al). Accepted by BBRC: *British Birds* 94 p461

2001: No records.

2002: A male was at Marston STW Jan 12-27th (BJ et al).

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* *L

Vagrant; 8 previous Lincolnshire records.

2000: A male was at Far Ings Apr 9-16th (JTH), and another was at Gib Point on May 22nd (GWA)

2001: A male was at Far Ings on Jan 12th and then at Waters' Edge CP on Jan 28th (GPC et al). It or another was then at Messingham SQ Apr 30-May 1st (ND et al).

2002: The (presumed) returning male was at Far Ings on Feb 9th (GPC, ND).

Garganey *Anas querquedula* *b

Scarce passage migrant, rare summer visitor, breeding occasionally. Exceptional in winter.

2000: There were no reports of breeding this year. A pair was at Kirkby on Bain GP on Apr 27th, with the male staying until Jun 2nd. A second male was also present on the last date and on May 8th. Other spring records came from Waters' Edge CP on Apr 29th, Cadney Res on May 9th, Marston STW on 21st and Far Ings on 29th. The first autumn bird was one at Butterwick Hale on Jul 9th, followed by an eclipse male at Far Ings 11-13th with a female there 23-26th. A pair was on Read's Island on 23rd and a female at Messingham SQ Jul 27-Aug 2nd. A juv was at Far Ings on Aug 23rd and 2 juvs were at Marston STW on Sep 20th with the final bird of the year at Gib Point on Oct 3rd.

2001: Recorded from just 8 locations this year, with no reports of breeding. The first arrival was a female at Boultham Mere Apr 1-9th. This was followed by single males at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits May 10-11th, Gib Point on 10th, Butterwick Hale on 11th, Gib Point on 17th and Far Ings on 19th. A further individual (unsexed) was at Messingham SQ on May 12th. A male was at Gib Point on Jun 3rd. The only July record was a female at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 29th. Later autumn records came mainly from Gib Point and the Barton area. A juv was at Waters' Edge CP Aug 13-Sep 8th being joined by an eclipse male Sep 5-8th, and there were a further 2 eclipse males on Pit 25, Barton on Aug 27th. At least 4 birds were at Gib Point, with singles seen frequently Aug 28-Oct 31st and 2 on Sep 6th.

2002: A good year for the species, recorded from at least 14 locations, although there were again no reports of breeding. The first of the springs 25 individuals was a female at Marston STW Mar 24-28th. Other early arrivals were single males at Pinchbeck Slie NR and Boultham Mere on Mar 30th and Hagnaby Lock/Fen Mar 31-Apr 6th. The Boultham Mere bird was joined by another male and a female on Mar 31st, and these three remained until Apr 14th at least. A male was at Far Ings on Apr 4th and a male arrived at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 5th and stayed until May 7th. A pair was at Witham Mouth on Apr 14th, and another male was found at Marston STW on 21st. Possibly new males were at Boultham Mere on May 5th and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 7th. Two were at Messingham SQ on May 11th, with one staying until 23rd and singles were at Tetney Marsh on May 11th and 13th. A male was at Freiston Shore May 12-18th, 2 at Huttoft Pit on 13th and a male at Waters' Edge CP on 25th. Also in May, 4 males were seen at Gib Point. The only summer sighting was a female on the River Witham/South Delph on Jul 3rd. Autumn passage was more protracted, but involved fewer birds, with at least 16 individuals seen. The first was at Gib Point on Jul 29th, with a further 3 birds there during the autumn. One at Deeping Lakes NR on Aug 4th was the first of just 5 August records away from Gib Point. Of these, one was at Messingham SQ Aug 7-24th; 2 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits stayed from 14-25th, with one bird present on 28th; one was at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on 26th and a female and eclipse male were at Boultham Mere on 30th, with the male staying until Oct 7th at least. A group of 3 juvs at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Sep 2nd increased to 4 on the 7th; decreasing to one on Sep 10th, with probably this bird then seen until Oct 9th. Another was seen at Messingham SQ on Sep 10th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* *b

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer. Increasing numbers of feral birds present in the county.

2000: The peak at Baston-Langtoft GP was 17 birds on Nov 25th; breeding was confirmed from this site with at least one pair nesting. Elsewhere, singles were at Read's Island in May,

Messingham SQ Jun 17-30th, Tattershall Pits Jul 12-Aug 8th, Kirkby on Bain GP Aug 27-28th, and 2 at Cleethorpes CP on Dec 19th.

2001: At Baston-Langtoft Pits, the peak count of 16 birds was made in September and December and breeding was confirmed. The only report elsewhere was of one at Gib Point on Sep 22nd.

2002: Reported from 3 sites this year, with breeding again confirmed at Baston-Langtoft Pits where the peak count of 15 was made in January. Elsewhere, a male at Bagmoor May 24-Aug 11th moulted into eclipse plumage during its stay, and a female was at Messingham SQ Jun 4-Aug 21st.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* *L

Vagrant.

2000: A 1st-w male and a female were at Far Ings on Nov 5th, with the female still there the following day (GPC, ND, JTH).

2001: A male was at Waters' Edge CP, Barton May 30-31st and again Jun 3-5th (GPC).

2002: No records.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* *B (from 01.01.99-31.12.05, then *L)

Vagrant.

2000: No records.

2001: The 13th county record, an adult male was at Waters' Edge CP, Feb 16-Apr 18th (GPC et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95 p488

2002: No records.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer.

2000: Inland singles were at Cadney Res Jan 1-31st, Tanvats 4th, on the River Witham at Kirkstead/Chapel Hill on 26th and at Baston-Langtoft GP Feb 20th, Mar 11th and Sep 3rd. Coastal birds were noted as follows: 5 off Gedney Drove End on Mar 12th; 6 females on the Humber off Far Ings on Apr 16th with another female on the pits there 16-24th; an unusual summer record at Witham Mouth on Jun 4th and 25th; one off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Aug and Nov; one off Freiston Shore Sep 25th, 2 on the Humber off Barton on 26th, one at Barton on Oct 3rd, a female at Far Ings on 8th; one off Skegness 10th, 9 off Bennington on 22nd, an impressive 204 on the Humber off Barton on Nov 6th, a decent 50 off Nene Mouth on Dec 2nd, 2 males at Barton on 16th and finally 5 at Barton on 22nd.

2001: At Gib Point, the first of the year was present offshore on Jan 1st, then one was at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) Jan 6-7th and again on 21st. One at New Holland on Jan 13th increased to 2 on 31st and at least 3 by Feb 12th; 2 were at Saltfleet Haven and one at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 14th and a female was at Langtoft Fen on Feb 4th. Two went N past Gib Point on May 19th and, as last year, there were a handful of summer records. Two males on the Humber off Barton on Jul 3rd were possibly the same birds seen at Waters' Edge CP Aug 19-24th, and 2 were at Freiston Shore on Jul 7th. Autumn birds were generally more coastal. In September there was a male on the Humber off Barton 5-8th, a male at Covenham Res 10th, 2 N past Sutton on Sea and 2 at Witham Mouth 18th, one at Sandilands 19th, 2 at Gib Point 21st, one at Freiston Shore 24th and another at Gib Point 29th. A series of records came from Gib Point in October, involving singles on 6th and 15th and 5 on 20th and 31st. Singles were also at Terrington Marsh and Grainthorpe Marsh during the month, and 2 were at Freiston Shore on 18th. One at Waters' Edge CP Oct 22-28th was joined by another Oct 28-Nov 11th. At Gib Point 16 flew N on Nov 9th; and back on the Humber, 4 were at the Humber Bridge on 10th with another single on the Outdoor Pursuit Pit, Barton on 23rd. Six were then at Witham Mouth on 25th. An ad female was at Covenham Res Nov 26-Dec 23rd at least, and was joined by another female on Dec 3rd and 11th. Further singles were at Freiston Shore on Dec 4th and on the Hobhole Drain at Fishtoft on 9th.

2002: The ad female remained at Covenham Res from 2001 until Nov 30th and was joined by other singles on Jan 11th and Nov 26-29th. Elsewhere in Jan, 8 were at New Holland-Goxhill Haven, 6 flew S past Gib Point on 4th, 2 were at Barton on 11th, and a male at Freiston Shore 10-23rd was joined by a female on 14th, which then stayed until Mar 27th. Other sightings in Feb were of 3 in the Barton area, 4 offshore at Gib Point on 25th and on at East Butterwick on 15th. The highest count of the year was 92 off Leverton Marsh in April, while the only other new birds in April were at South Ferriby and then at Waters' Edge CP on 24th. The only summer record was of a female at Gib Point on Jul 7th. The first bird of the autumn was one off Horseshoe Point on Aug 26th. This was followed by 2 past Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Sep 15th, one at Gib Point on 22nd and a single at Barton and 6 at Read's Island on 28th. During Oct, there were 9 in the Barton area and singles at Saltfleet Haven-Paradise and Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace. At Freiston Shore 3 on 31st stayed until Nov 13th. Another good count of 18 was at Barton on Nov 1st, with 3 S past Gib Point on 3rd and a single at Tetney Marsh on 13th. Smaller numbers were recorded in Dec: 7 were in the Barton area, one was offshore from Freiston Shore and another was at New Holland-Goxhill Haven during the month, while 3 were at Covenham Res on 12th, but only one on 23rd and then two on 27th; 4 flew N at Gib Point on 14th and finally singles were at Huttoft Pit and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 19th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

2000: In a poor year for sea duck, this was no exception. A female was at Barton Jan 1-Apr 26th, by which time it had moulted into summer plumage. Singles were at Wharton's Wharf on Jan 23rd, Witham Mouth on the unusual date of Jun 6th, Sea View on Nov 4th and Gib Point on Dec 23rd.

2001: The first of the year were 2 at Saltfleet Haven and one at Gib Point on Jan 14th, with an ad male at Nene Mouth on 28th. A lone bird on Covenham Res on Jun 8th was noteworthy. At the year end there were 2 off Freiston Shore in Nov and 3 at New Holland on Nov 9th.

2002: A better year than of late with up to 22 birds seen, although still only reported from just 7 locations. There were no reports from the first half of the year, the first report being of a single at Sandilands and past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 1st. The next were 2 past Gib Point on Oct 24th, one S at Huttoft Car Terrace and 3 S at Anderby Creek on 27th and one at Freiston Shore on 31st. During Nov, 2 at Humberstone Fitties on 1st dwindled to one on 3rd with 2 seen again on 6th; one was at Freiston Shore on 2nd and 2 were at Tetney Marsh 6-28th, with one remaining until Dec 11th. Singles were at Freiston Shore on Nov 17th and 24th, Dec 9th and 22nd, and 2 males were off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 19th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare inland and in summer.

2000: Three were off Theddlethorpe in Jan, 2 on the Humber off Far Ings on Apr 16th, and 2 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Nov. All other records were from Gib Point: 2 on Sep 7th, one on 30th, 4 on Oct 14th, 2 on Nov 9th and one S on Dec 28th.

2001: The only early winter records were 2 off Saltfleet Haven on Jan 14th and 3 by the Humber Bridge on Feb 4th. In spring, 2 flew S at Gib Point on May 3rd, and one N there on 14th. During the autumn, one was off Cleethorpes on Aug 21st, another went S at Gib Point on Oct 16th and 3 were by the Humber Bridge on 21st. Finally, the winter produced 3 over the Humber Bridge and 5 off Gib Point on Nov 9th, one at Covenham Res on 11-Dec 2nd and one at Gib Point on Dec 16th.

2002: A better year with at least 109 birds seen, although unusually, all records were from the last 3 months of the year. The first were 7 off Gib Point on Sep 22nd, followed in Oct by 11 past Huttoft Car Terrace on 6th, 10 past Gib Point on 18th, 15 past Chapel St Leonards on 20th, 9 past Mablethorpe on 23rd, one at Barton on 30th and 15 past Gib Point on 31st. A good series of records in Nov consisted of 8 past Gib Point on 3rd, 4 in Boston Deepes (The Wash) on 4th, 3 S at Gib Point on 5th, 8 off Mablethorpe on 9th, 2 at Barton on 10th and 5 off Gib Point on 11th, with singles in Nov at Barton on 14th, Covenham Res on 15-Dec 27th, Gib Point on 18th and Grimsby Pyewipe on 28th. In Dec there were 7 off Wrangle Marsh, singles N at Gib Point

on 3rd and 13th, one at Cadney Res on 8th, 3 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 19th and 6 off Gib Point on 30th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

2000: A rather poor year with most records from Toft Newton Res, where 2 males from 1999 were present intermittently until Mar 21st, then one until Apr 5th, with a redhead intermittently Jan 7-Feb 6th. Elsewhere, a redhead was on Read's Island on Jan 1st with up to 5 in the Barton area Jan-Apr. One was at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 16th, and there were 3 at Tallington Lakes and 2 at Langtoft West End Pits in Feb-Mar. In the second winter period there were singles at Boultham Mere on Nov 22nd and Toft Newton Res Dec 25-31st, and up to 5 birds were again in the Barton area during Dec.

2001: Four redheads remained in the Barton area during Jan, with one bird remaining at Far Ings until Mar 31st. Elsewhere, a redhead was at Baston-Langtoft Pits and another was at Langtoft West End Pits on Jan 1st, while a male at Toft Newton Res Jan 1st-Jan 29th, was joined by a second male on several dates throughout the month. A redhead was on the River Witham & South Delph on Jan 22nd, two were still at Barton on Feb 2nd, with one remaining to Feb 14th, and one was at Asterby on Feb 23rd-Mar 15th. One was seen again at Toft Newton Res on Apr 13th. During the latter winter period, singles were at Toft Newton Res, Boultham Mere and South Ferriby Ness-Chowder Ness during Dec, with one back at Far Ings on 7-30th.

2002: Two males were at Toft Newton Res until Jan 27th when a redhead joined them, seen intermittently until Mar 3rd; then just one male was seen there into Apr. One at South Ferriby Cliff-Chowder Ness from 2001 stayed into Mar, and further singles were at Tetney Lock on Jan 5th, and at Deeping Lakes NR and Tallington/West Deeping Lakes on 19th. This increased to 2, 20-21st and 6 on 24th, then decreased to 4, 25-26th and 3 on Feb 24th. One was at Stowe GP on Jan 20th and 2 were at Messingham SQ on 22nd. During Feb, 2 were at Deeping Lakes NR on 9th, with one there on 10th. One was at Asterby Feb 15-Mar 1st, and in the Barton area, last year's female stayed until Feb 25th, with another female present at Hoe Hill 18-22nd. On Oct 2nd the female returned to Far Ings, remaining to the year's end. In Dec, 2 were at Boultham Mere, one was on the Water-ski Pit at Barton on 4th, a male was at Thurlby Sand Pit on 7th, 4 were found at Tallington/West Deeping Lakes on 10th, an excellent flock of 8 was at Toft Newton Res on 20th, almost equalled by 7 at Langtoft West End Pits on 22nd. One at Huttoft Pit 27-28th was thought to be wild, but was attracted by the captive smew in the adjacent wildfowl collection! Less controversial were the single male at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 28th and flock of 6 at Baston-Langtoft Pits on 31st.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce feral breeder, fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow	73	45	48	35	2			19	33	53	114	127
Huttoft Bank	-	-	-	1	2	3	5	4	-	-	-	1
MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boultham Mere	-	-	3	13	36	14	14	18	4	1	2	-
Apex Pit	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	11
Whisby NP	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	5	4
Kirkby Pits	9	14	21	22	19	18	13	24	23	24	8	3
Tattershall Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	1
Revesby Res	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	2	4	-	-	-

Breeding was confirmed from Barton (at least 35 males and 25 females resulting in at least 11 broods totalling 38 young, of which at least 18 fledged), Boultham Mere, Kirkby on Bain GP and North Killingholme Pits NR. There were reports of 1-2 birds from a further 11 sites, with 8 birds at New Holland-Goxhill Haven in Aug. (Breeding birds from Barton have been omitted from these tables.)

2001:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow	125	34	40	-	-	-	-	76	44	25	13	10
Huttoft Bank	-	-	-	6	2	2	-	1	-	-	4	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	-	10	10	4	-	-	-	1	3	1
Apex Pit	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby Pits	2	3	4	13	7	15	19	39	44	20	9	5
Tattershall Pits	4	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
Marston STW	-	-	-	-	4	2	9	-	-	-	-	-

Breeding was confirmed from Barton, (22 females producing 15 broods with at least 48 young, of which at least 26 fledged), Marston STW and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. There were a further 1-2 birds at 8 other sites, with 3 at North Killingholme Haven Pits in Jun and 5 at Dawson City Pits in Jul.

2002:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow	64	-	31	20	-	-	-	121	-	26	19	12
N Killingholme Pits	-	-	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huttoft Bank	-	3	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	5	6	6	5	4	4	-	2	-	-
Whisby NP	-	3	7	1	1	-	4	-	-	2	1	15
Kirkby Pits	3	-	9	10	10	12	13	8	14	14	6	5
Tattershall Pits	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Breeding was confirmed from Barton (21 females, 20 broods with 89 young, of which at least 54 fledged), Bagmoor, Fulstow, Kirkby Pits and Boultham Mere. Other good counts included 9 at Halton Marshes in Mar and 6 there in Apr, 5 at Messingham SQ on Aug 6th and 4 at Chapel Pit on Jun 28th. Elsewhere, there were sightings of 1-2 birds at around 20 sites.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* *b

Scarce summer visitor Apr-Sep, rare in winter. Probably much under-recorded.

2000: A very poor year. The first calling bird was at Frampton Marsh on May 14th, with 2 birds calling there in Jun. Other single calling birds were at Haugham, Nettleton, South Ferriby, Blankney Fen, Crowland Fens, Nocton, Pinchbeck North Fen and Gibraltar Point. Two called at Swallow in early Aug. The only autumn migrant recorded was at Skidbrooke on Oct 14th.

2001: There were no records of any migrants this year. Calling males were heard at Frampton Marsh, Silk Willoughby, Donington on Bain, Laughton, Branston Fen, near Owmbly, Horkstow and Humberstone Fitties NR. There were 2 calling at Scotterthorpe on Jul 8th, with one there on Jul 13th and 2 at Swallow on Aug 13th.

2002: A much better year than the last two, with at least 26 calling males. Single calling males were at Freiston Shore, Nocton Fen, Withcall, Fishtoft, Tathwell, Scotterthorpe, Manton Warren, Thurlby Fen, Bardney Pits, Branston Fen, Owmbly on the Wolds, near Barton, Covenham St Mary, Bourne and Messingham SQ. Two were heard at Gib Point in May, Wasps Nest on May 31st and by the River Witham & South Delph at Fiskerton on Jun 20th, and 5 were 5 calling at Swallow on Jun 6th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Scarce winter visitor to coastal and inland waters. Mainly Sep-Apr, rare in summer.

2000: A below average showing, with a maximum of 8 individuals. The only record in the first half of the year was one at Covenham Res from Jan 2-25th. A series of autumn records from Gib Point started with one on Sep 29th, with records on Oct 10th, 11th and 12th all thought to relate to different birds. Winter records started with one at Pye's Hall on Dec 3rd, followed by one at Nene Mouth on 16th and the last of the year was one at Gib Point on Dec 21st.

2001: All but one record came from Gib Point. There were 3 S on Jan 1st and one S on Feb 10th. An ad offshore on Oct 24th was joined by a second bird the following day and one was seen again on 27th. During Nov, one flew N on 8th, 2 N on 9th, 3 N on 18th one S on 30th. The last bird

of the year was one N on Dec 5th. Elsewhere, a tideline corpse was picked up on Kirton Marsh on Jan 24th.

2002: A better year than 2000, although most records were again from Gib Point. One present at Covenham Res on Jan 1st stayed until Nov 11th. Singles went past Gib Point on Jan 1st, 3rd and 8th and 2 were reported from Nene Mouth on Mar 2nd. Two were off Anderby Creek on Sep 15th, and another went past Gib Point on 22nd. In the winter period, one was off Gib Point on Nov 3rd and 2 were off Donna Nook on Dec 28th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Rare/scarse winter visitor Aug-May. Mainly coastal and exceptional in summer.

2000: Just 6 individuals reported this year. The first was off Butterwick Marsh on Jan 16th and 23rd, with it or another off Holbeach Marsh on Feb 12th. One was reported off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Sep, while in Dec there were singles off Freiston Shore on 14th, Temeby Marsh on 19th and Witham Mouth on 30th.

2001: A good year with 18 individuals reported, although duplication is always possible with birds moving along the coast. Three flew S at Gib Point on Jan 1st, with 2 past on 12th and 2 N on 30th. One arrived at Toft Newton Res on Jan 27th, staying until Feb 3rd; one went S at Gib Point on Feb 5th and 3 N at Mablethorpe on 16th. The only autumn record was one past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 9th. In Nov, 2 were off Gib Point on 2nd, followed by singles on 10th and 17th and the final bird of the year was an ad off Witham Mouth on 18th.

2002: Nine records, just 2 of which were in the early part of the year, both at Gib Point: 2 S on Jan 1st and one S on Mar 19th. In autumn, there were 3 off Mablethorpe on Sep 22nd, a s-plu ad off Gib Point on Oct 24th and one S at Huttoft Car Terrace on 28th. A 1st-w was at Ashbyville Lake Nov 19-Dec 18th, singles were at Gib Point on Dec 6th and 7th, and one was off Donna Nook on Dec 28th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* *b

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

2000: A poor year, with only one record, a single at Toft Newton Res on Dec 24-31st.

2001: The Toft Newton Res bird remained until Jan 2nd and there were no other records until a single off Freiston Shore on Sep 18th. This was followed by singles off Gib Point on Oct 8th and 24th, and then one at Covenham Res Nov 16-28th. The final bird of the year went S at Gib Point on Dec 13th.

2002: One bird remained off Gib Point on Jan 3rd, with 2 on 5th. One at Toft Newton Res on Jan 27th was already showing signs of breeding plumage. Autumn records comprised singles off Gib Point on Sep 9th and Oct 9th, then one off Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 24-25th. Finally there was one off Freiston Shore on Nov 24th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

2000: A below average year, with only 5 individuals: one at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 15th, 2 off Friskney Marsh on 16th, one at Barton on Dec 3-13th and one at Witham Mouth on 29th.

2001: Up to 7 individuals made for a slightly better year. One off Gib Point on Jan 1st was joined by another on 6th, and singles were seen there on Feb 6th and Mar 18th. In the autumn/winter period, there were singles off Gib Point on Oct 27th, Freiston Shore in Nov, Bagmoor on Nov 24-Dec 1st and Gib Point on Dec 13th.

2002: An above-average year, with 17-19 birds reported. The first were 2 S at Gib Point on Jan 5th, with another 2 S there on 12th. One was at Covenham Res Jan 27-Feb 16th and another was off Gib Point on Feb 2nd. An unusual record was of one in near complete breeding plumage at Barton on Mar 11th, and it or another was also seen on Apr 2nd. During the autumn there was a s-plu ad at Waters Edge CP Aug 2-10th and further singles at Covenham Res on Sep 26th, on the Humber at Barton on Sep 28th and Oct 10th, Toft Newton Res Oct 10-11th and 23rd,

Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 13th, Barton Oct 23-Nov 4th and Covenham Res on Nov 22nd and Dec 18th. There was also a good record of 2 together at Slippery Gowt in Oct.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* *b

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

2000: The first record of the year was at Baston-Langtoft GP on Feb 20th. Most records were from Site A, where breeding was once again confirmed. The first bird was seen here Mar 15th, increasing to 4 by Apr 14th and at least 2 pairs bred. Elsewhere, there were records from a further 8 sites. Two at Toft Newton Res on Mar 21st, were down to one by Mar 25th with another on Apr 24-25th; one was at Tattershall Pits on Apr 10th with it or another there on Jul 18th; an impressive flock of 7 at Covenham Res on Apr 18-19th had decreased to 2 by 23rd, with singles on Apr 30th and May 12th. Two were at Boultham Mere May 1-2nd, with a single there on Jun 6th, and there were 2 at Bardney Pits on May 3rd. The only autumn records were of singles at Marston STW on Sep 9th and Freiston Shore Dec 9th.

2001: Up to 6 ads were seen at Site A on Apr 15 and at least 2 pairs bred here. Singles were at Boultham Mere Apr 27-30th, Bagmoor Jun 22-30th, Freiston Shore Jul 20-26th and then possibly the same itinerant bird off Holbeach St Matthew on Sep 16th, Frampton Marsh on 22nd and Freiston Shore on 24th.

2002: A peak of 4 ads were at Site A in Apr and breeding was suspected but not proven. Other spring records were singles at Deeping Lakes NR on Apr 4th, Covenham Res on May 19th and North Kelsey Moor on Jun 10th. September birds were only noted from three sites: Bardney Pits, Covenham Res 5-20th and Gib Point 14th and 20th. Three were off Gib Point on Nov 28th.

Addendum: Pearson, the egg-thief recently convicted at Cleethorpes, had 5 clutches each of 4 black-necked grebe eggs in his collection and accompanying data for 3 of these, stating that they were taken from Site A on Jun 14th 1999, Jun 24th 1999 and Jun 3rd 2001. The other 2 clutches were undocumented but it is strongly suspected that these also came from Site A. He also took 8 clutches of little plover eggs from this site between 1997 and 2000, and many of the 180 reed warbler eggs also came from here. (Ed)

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant Jul-Nov, mostly Sep. A few winter records, Dec-Jan.

2000: An extremely poor year, with only 6 birds seen, 5 of them flying N at Gib Point: an early bird on Jul 11th, singles on Sep 3rd and 10th and 2 on 16th. The only other record was of a single on the Humber off Barton on Sep 23rd.

2001: A most unusual record was of one N at Sutton on Sea on Feb 8th, when most of the population is in the south Atlantic. First birds of the autumn were 10 past Gib Point on Jul 17th and 7 past Huttoft Car Terrace on 18th. The only record in Aug was of one off Gib Point on 31st. There then followed a decent run of records in Sep. At Gib Point (all going north), there was one on 3rd, 2 on 4th, one on 8th, 16 on 9th, 4 on 17th, 2 on 18th and finally one on 23rd. Elsewhere, there were singles past Chapel Point and Mablethorpe on 9th, 17 past Sutton on Sea and 4 past Huttoft Car Terrace also on 9th, 5 off Mablethorpe on 10th, one past Sutton on Sea on 16th and 14 on 18th and finally 8 past Mablethorpe on 19th.

2002: An excellent series of records this year began with singles off Gib Point on Aug 25th and 27th. On Sep 1st there were 22 past Anderby Creek, 4 off Chapel Point, 70 off Huttoft Car Terrace and 40 off Sandilands. A drop in numbers then followed, with one past Gib Point on 2nd and 2 there on 3rd. There were then 3 off Huttoft Car Terrace on 13th and 8 on 14th with 2 past Sandilands and 5 off Trusthorpe on the same date. On 15th 3 were off Sandilands and Huttoft Car Terrace; on 22nd there were 18 past Gib Point, one past Mablethorpe and 15 off Huttoft Car Terrace, then 15 off Gib Point on 23rd and 2 past Huttoft Car Terrace on 25th. During Oct, an impressive 60 went N past Gib Point and 31 were off Huttoft Car Terrace on 6th, 3 on 15th. One off Chapel St Leonards on 20th was the final bird of the year.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* *L.

Vagrant

2000: No records.

2001: One went S past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 9th (DP, SPB).

2002: One flew N at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 6th (SPB) and a very late individual was off Gib Point on Dec 7th (JCN).

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* *L.

Rare, offshore mainly Jul-Nov.

2000: No records.

2001: A good year by recent standards, with 2 records. One went past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 18th (DP), with another N at Gib Point on Nov 9th (NAL).

2002: No records.

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* *L.

Rare offshore migrant, generally Sep-Nov, but also May and Dec-Jan. Exceptional inland.

2000: Almost a blank year, but one bird flew past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 18th (DP).

2001: Two records involving 5 individuals: 3 N at Huttoft Car Terrace (SPB) and 2 past Sandilands (GAM) on Sep 1st.

2002: One was off Gib Point on Oct 6th (KMW).

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Usually rare/scarce winter visitor Aug-May to coast and inland but with occasional larger influxes. Exceptional in summer.

2000: Four records of at least 7 birds. One was at Grimsby Docks on Jan 17th and 20th, with it, or another on Feb 1st and 3rd. Two went S at Anderby Creek on Dec 16th, and 4 were at Grimsby Docks on Dec 25th.

2001: Just four records again this year: singles at Gib Point on Jan 8th, Stanton's Pit (Witham on the Hill) on Apr 23rd, Gib Point on Nov 17th and Witham Mouth on Nov 25th.

2002: The first in a good year for this species was at Cleethorpes CP on Jan 14th, followed by 3 at Covenham Res on Feb 18th. In the autumn and winter period, singles were off Gib Point on Aug 25th, Anderby Creek Sep 14th, Trusthorpe Oct 27th, Huttoft Car Terrace Oct 28th, New Holland Nov 24th, Covenham Res Nov 26th and Horseshoe Point on Dec 14th, and finally 2 were at Grimsby Docks on Dec 24th.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* * b

Rare breeder, rare winter visitor. Previously bred to early 19th century and from 1940s-1979.

2000: There were 2, possibly 3, birds at Boultham Mere Jan 1-Feb 19th with at least one remaining until Mar 30th. At Barton, 4 roosted on the OPC Pit on Jan 6th and 13th, 2 on 15th and one on 17th. At Far Ings one roosted on the East Pit on Feb 4th, Mar 5th and 18th. One was booming at Far Ings on Mar 28th and Apr 1st, with a second bird also booming at Barton on this date. Successful breeding was confirmed at Far Ings for the first time on the Humber Bank Pits since 1981, with at least one young reared. A second female was seen on Jun 2nd. Further singles were seen at Messingham SQ on at least 11 occasions Jan 1-Feb 22nd, Boultham Mere Sep 24th until Dec 24th at least, Barton on Dec 10th and Far Ings on Dec 30th.

2001: During the early winter period singles were seen at Boultham Mere on Jan 9th and Feb 19th at least, Messingham SQ on Feb 20th, and Gib Point on 24th, with it or another seen there on Mar 30th. One was at Huttoft Pit on Feb 28th and at Barton, 1-3 birds came into roost throughout Jan-Feb, increasing to 5 birds on Mar 5-6th; 2 birds seen to depart after dark and fly east on Mar 9th, with another doing the same on Mar 14th were likely to be migrants departing for the Continent. Breeding was again confirmed at Barton, with one booming male and two females. The first nest fledged at least 2, possibly 3, young but the second nest was predated: probably by mink. One was seen in the Barton area Sep-Dec, with 2 on Dec 30th. At Boultham Mere, the first bird of the winter was seen on Oct 7th, and 1-2 remained there to the year's end.

2002: Two birds remained at Boultham Mere to Feb 24th at least, with one at least until Mar 9th. Elsewhere, there was a wintering bird at Messingham SQ in Jan-Mar with two there Mar 17-19th and singles at Donna Nook on Jan 12th, Branston Booths on 13th, Riseholme Park 13-14th and Whisby NP on Feb 28th. At Barton, 1-2 were seen regularly throughout the early winter and breeding was confirmed, with 2-3 females nesting. In the autumn and winter period, one at Huttoft Pit Aug 8-Dec 29th was joined by a second bird on Nov 24th and a third bird on Nov 26th. There were then regular sightings of at least 2 birds to the year's end. The first bird back at Boultham Mere was seen on Aug 28th, joined by a second bird on Nov 9th with both staying to the end of the year. The first returning bird to Messingham SQ on Oct 18th and also stayed until the year end.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* *B
Vagrant.

2001: The outstanding event of the year was the discovery of this small Nearctic heron at Messingham SQ on Sep 24th, staying until Oct 2nd (AS, AT et al). This was the first county record, and the first live individual of this species in Britain since 1982. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95, p 481

2002: No records.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* *b
Rare/scarce visitor in all months, a few wintering since 1993/94.

2000: Only one record was away from the coast or tidal areas, a single at Baston Fen on May 7th. Other winter and spring records of singles came from Tetney Lock on Jan 29th, the River Welland at Spalding on Mar 11th, Grimsby Docks on May 10th and then Gib Point from May 14-Jun 17th; a juv was then seen here Aug 3-Sep 12th. During the summer and autumn period, there were 16 records from around the Wash and singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Barton and Read's Island.

2001: Just 4 records away from tidal areas: one flying up the Wold Valley on Jul 11th, another over Messingham SQ and Bagmoor "during the summer" and one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits Aug 18th and in Oct. The majority of records came from the Wash, with 9 at Freiston Shore on Sep 2nd and records of 1-6 birds from at least 9 other sites around the Wash throughout the year. Elsewhere there were singles at Barton on May 31st and Oct 18th and at North Killingholme Haven Pits NR on several dates between Jun 2nd and Nov 10th.

2002: Inland sightings comprised birds at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Apr 24th, over Laughton Forest on Apr 25th, Marston STW on May 2nd and Messingham SQ May 28th. Most other records came from the Wash area with 1-3 birds at 8 sites between Jan-Sep. Other notable records included up to 9 roosting on the Hobhole Drain on Feb 3rd, 7 there on Mar 5th and eight on Nov 22nd. The peak autumn count on the Wash was 10 at Witham Mouth on Sep 27th, and there were regular counts of 2-5 birds throughout Sep-Dec in the Frampton Marsh area. Elsewhere, 1-3 birds were at scattered sites along the coast throughout the year, with records from Far Ings, Humberston Fitties, Tetney Marsh, Horseshoe Point, Grainthorpe Haven, Donna Nook, Saltfleet Haven, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Gib Point and also at Wroot and Hagnaby Lock/Fen.

Great Egret *Egretta alba* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L)
Vagrant

2000/2001: No records.

2002: Probably two separate birds seen, although the possibility of one bird cannot be excluded. One at Holbeach Marsh on Oct 19th (AHJH) was followed by sightings of a wide-ranging individual around the north east marshes. It was seen at Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 28-Nov 4th (KRo et al) and again Nov 11-27th. It was then at Tetney Marshes on Dec 18th (JH, IHi, PCS et al) before moving back to Grainthorpe on Dec 31st (GAM). Both birds accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p552

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *L

Vagrant /rare passage migrant, mainly in spring.

2000: In Jun, an immature was at Chapel Six Marshes 1-3rd (DJB), and at Chapel Pit/Wolla bank on 3rd (CJJ), with surely the same bird then seen flying S over Gib Point calling on 4th (KMW).

2001: One was at Far Ings Jul 1-2nd (GPC).

2002: One was at Messingham SQ May 20-21st (ND, WCN, KAP, TPo et al).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* * L

Vagrant.

2000: No records.

2001: On seen just inside the county boundary, in fields beside the A1 near to South Witham on Aug 19th (NAL).

2002: Six sightings make this a good year, although all records could feasibly relate to one wide-ranging bird. Singles were reported at Gib Point on Apr 24th (TSy, KMW, AM), at Lincoln on May 16th (BGU), Walcott on 25th (JDM), Kirkby on Bain on 28th (BGU), Donna Nook on Jun 3rd (BGU) and finally at Gib Point on Aug 10th (GJC, JCo).

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* *L

Rare visitor, mainly coastal in Apr-May, with a few summer/autumn and exceptionally in winter.

2000: One flew E along the Humber on Apr 16th (TPo) and one flew S over Gib Point on Jun 23rd (DN). The last bird of the year was an ad on Read's Island on Oct 5th (GPC).

2001: One flew S over Gib Point on May 12th (KMW) and 3 SE there on 26th (KMW). One was at Butterwick Hale in May (JH), with it or another at North Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Jun 1-2nd (CA,DJB,GAM,AJH). A juv was at Frampton Marsh on Sep 5th and Freiston Shore on 6th (JB).

2002: An excellent year with 13 records involving at least 20 birds. In the spring, there were singles at Barton on Apr 23rd (RH), over Read's Island on May 5th (ND) and Tetney Marsh on May 13th and 28th (GAM). On Jun 30th 5 were at Tetney Marsh (GAM), with one at Cleethorpes LNR on Jul 10th. There was a good series of records from Gib Point, involving one on Apr 26th, 2 N on May 3rd, one S on 14th, one present 23-31st, 3 circled the reserve before heading out over the Wash on Jun 1st, 4 there on Jul 1st with 1-4 of this group seen until 26th and all 4 seen again Aug 7-8th. The final bird of the year was a single S there on Aug 17th.

European Honey-Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* *L*b

Rare/scarce passage migrant.

Extreme dates: Apr 27th-Oct 27th.

2000: In the spring, one was over the Ancholme Valley on May 24th (GPC) and 2 were over Frampton on Jun 10th (SK). The only summer record was from Scamblesby on Jul 8th (DS). This year was notable for a record influx of Honey Buzzards into Britain, the displacement of birds across the North Sea being associated with a static anticyclone centred over Scandinavia and strong easterly winds along its southern edge. Approximately 500 individuals were reported nationwide, although the exact totals are impossible to know due to replication and the possibility of confusion with common buzzards which were also caught up in the movement. The autumn's total in Lincs, an amazing 97 birds, exceeded the total for the previous 150 years! The first bird of the autumn was a dark phase juv in off the sea at Huttoft on Sep 17th, with probably the same bird seen 2.5 hours later heading S over Gib Point in company with a common crane. A second bird appeared at Saltfleetby on Sep 19th, heading off SW inland. The main passage occurred on Sep 20th, with the first 4 birds seen just after dawn at Saltfleetby. This was followed by 25, mostly dark morph juvs, flying SSW at Gib Point, and mostly passing through between 09:15-10:15 (KMW, EJM, AP). Some of these birds seem to have skirted the Wash, as there were then records from Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, Moulton and Holbeach St Mathew during the morning. Further birds were seen inland, with singles at Kenwick Top (Louth) and Marston STW and 2 at Ewerby. An impressive flock of 7 birds together was seen at Cherry Willingham

heading towards Lincoln at 13:15 hrs. On 21st 3 more flew S at Gib Point (KMW), with a further 8 birds seen inland in the county that day. On 22nd, 4 flew SW over Gib Point (LB, JCN) with another 11 seen elsewhere during the day. Just 4 birds were seen in the county on 23rd, and only 2 on 24th. Another smaller arrival then seems to have occurred, with 8 birds seen on 25th (including a flock of 7 over Laughton Forest); 6 on 26th comprised singles at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Stenigot with 3 over Laughton Forest. Two on 27th were at Broughton Woods and Risby Warren with one over Tattershall on the same date and the influx was concluded by a pale phase juv at Gib Point on Oct 4th (JCN).

2001: In stark contrast to last year there were just 2 records. An ad was over South Witham NR on May 10th (ES) and another ad was seen over Far Ings at 11:00 hrs (SRo) and then over Bagmoor at 13:10 hrs (WG) on Jun 15th.

2002: At Gib Point, one went N on May 15th (KMW) and a male flew low through on Jul 15th (TSy et al). In the autumn, one was seen flying NW high over the Humber at Barton on Aug 13th (GPC) and one went NE high over Boston on Aug 16th (SK).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* *b

Scarce, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; increasing due to re-introduced birds. Bred to 19th century.

2000: With records from 7 months, this was a slightly below average year. There were no coastal sightings. All records were presumed to originate from the reintroduction site in Northamptonshire, and may have involved only 4 individuals. The only winter record was at Fillingham, Jan 23-24th. At least one was around the southern Wolds from Apr 7th, being first seen at Spilsby, then Revesby on 23rd, Stenigot May 14th, Welton le Wold Jun 16th back at Stenigot Jul 4th and finally at Ludford Aug 2nd. The Revesby bird was seen to have a red wing-tag, and the Welton le Wold bird was also thought to be wing-tagged. One was in the northern Fens area from Jun 16th, being first seen at South Kyme, then over Potterhanworth Jul 2nd, Bardney Pits and Nocton Fen 11th, back over Potterhanworth 14th and Bardney Pits again 18th. A juv was seen over Boultham Mere on Oct 8th and the final sighting of the year was at Spalding on Oct 19th.

2001: A poor year with only 9 records of perhaps 7 individuals, all of them in the early spring-summer. Singles were over Butterwick Marsh on Feb 12th and Mar 19th, Gib Point Apr 26-27th, Broughton and Frampton Fen May 29th, Messingham SQ Jun 19th and then over Goxhill on Jun 20th. Two were together at Mareham le Fen on Jun 21st, with probably one of these being seen at South Ormsby on Jun 28th.

2002: First of the year was one at Kirkby Underwood on Mar 16th, followed by one at Gib Point 19-20th, one at Stamford on 23rd and then 3 over Temple Wood on 24th. In Apr, there were singles at Ingoldsby Wood on 9th, Belton Park on 14th and Great Gonerby on 20th. The only summer sighting was of one at Walcott on Jun 16th. In the autumn, singles were at Worlaby Carrs on Sep 4th, Lincoln on 10th, Chambers Woods on 11th and finally over Mareham le Fen on Dec 17th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; rare in summer. Bred to 1872.

2000:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Rimac	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Nocton Fen	-	1	-	-	1	3	3	-
Gib Point	1	1	1	2	-	2	3	-
Frampton Marsh	5	4	2	-	-	2	1	-
Holbeach Marsh	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Sites	14	10	5	5	1	6	9	8
Min birds	18	11	6	6	1	8	12	8

A rather average year. The only significant roost was the 8 ringtails at Holbeach Marsh on Jan 17th. Summer records were at Frampton Marsh on Jun 23th and Gibraltar Point on Aug 5th. The first returning wintering bird was at Nocton Fen on Sep 23rd.

2001:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rimac	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Nocton Fen	1	2	2	-	1	2	1	1
Gib Point	2	2	2	3	1	4	4	2
Frampton Marsh	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Freiston Shore	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-
Total Sites	14	8	5	4	3	7	14	13
Min birds	11	10	7	5	3	11	19	14

The only significant roost was 4 at Rimac on Nov 4th. The only summer records were singles at Gib Point on Jun 21st and Jul 15th, and a male at Kirton in Lindsey on Aug 24th. The first returning wintering bird was at Nocton Fen on Sep 11th.

2002:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rimac	3	4	1	1	-	2	-	-
Nocton Fen	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	6
Gib Point	3	2	1	2	-	3	4	3
Frampton Marsh	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Sites	15	14	17	11	1	8	15	12
Min birds	17	17	18	11	1	12	21	19

Roosts reported were of 4 at Rimac on Feb 3rd, 5 at Holbeach Marsh on Feb 16th, 4 and 6 at Nocton Fen on Dec 23rd and 29th. There were several sightings in Jun this year, but no reports of breeding. One was seen at New Bolingbroke on Jul 6th. First of the autumn was on one at Whitton on Sep 21st.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* *b

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

Extreme dates: Apr 23rd-Oct 19th.

2000: The first of the year was a female in off the sea at Gib Point on May 6th. There were 5 breeding attempts this year, 2 of which were successful resulting in 6 fledged young. Elsewhere, a female was at Gib Point on May 12th, a 2nd-s male was at Fishtoft and Witham Mouth on May 14th and an unsexed bird was reported at Frampton Marsh attacking a Common Buzzard on May 31st. The only June records were a single at Frampton Marsh and a 1st-s male at Gib Point both on the 23rd. Records in Jul included a 1st-s male at Gib Point on 19th, ringtails at Frampton Marsh and Scopwick on 20th and Gib Point 30-31st, and an ad male at Anton's Gowt on 26th and Frampton Fen 27th. During Aug, the ringtail was at Gib Point 3-8th, and an ad female at Metherringham Fen on 5th. Last of the year was a female that flew SE at Normanby by Spital on 22nd.

2001: There was a slight increase in breeding success this year. Of 5 nesting attempts 3 were successful and 8 juveniles fledged. Away from breeding sites, the first returning birds were 2 seen at Gib Point on May 18th. These were followed by a female at Tetney Marsh on May 20th, one or 2 in the Frampton Marsh area May 29-Aug 19th, a female at Gib Point on May 31st and Jun 1st, 8th and 17th, a male at Baumber on Jun 3rd and a male at Welton on Jun 12th.

2002: Four nesting attempts, all successful, resulted in 11 fledged young. Migrants or wandering birds included singles at Deeping St James on May 4th, Stonebridge 8th, Tetney Marsh May 10th, 14th and 21st, Rimac 14th and Jun 19th, Donna Nook May 19th, Mablethorpe 25th, in the Ancholme Valley Jun 20th and Metherringham Jun 26th. At Gib Point, there was a female May 21-May 30th, and 6 autumn sightings between Jul 13-Aug 28th involving an ad male and a 1st-male. The only other autumn migrants were at Nocton Fen on Aug 18th and Saltfleet on 19th.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* *L/*b

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

2000: Displaying birds reported from one site in the Wolds. No other accepted records, but see Appendix 2.

2001: Displaying birds were again reported from 3 woods in the Wolds. One was seen at Sea View on Sep 25th (CJJ, SJ), while a juv was seen over Boultham Mere on Oct 14th (SPB).

2002: One flew south-east at Gib Point on Mar 25th (JCN, FC) and a female was over Gib Point on May 11th (TSy, KMW et al). Displaying birds were again reported from 3 sites in the Wolds, with 3 males reported at one site. The only autumn migrant reported was from Humberston Fitties on Sep 8th (GAM).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	10	15	10	15	10	7	9	14	20	16	4	7
Min birds	17	34	17	27	15	10	17	30	52	28	5	8

Recorded from 68 sites, representing a slight decline on the last 3 years. No reports of confirmed breeding were received. A sad indication of persecution was one bird found dead at Thurlby on Mar 9th with 4 pellets inside it. The RSPB were informed. The influx in Sep involved birds associated with the honey-buzzard movement.

2001:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	6	11	10	12	5	27	10	17	21	17	13	8
Min birds	10	31	18	27	7	64	18	28	57	53	35	25

Recorded from 81 sites this year equalling the best year for this species. Breeding was confirmed from at least 8 sites, and suspected from at least 2 more.

2002:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	11	26	38	27	21	23	21	19	20	32	15	14
Min birds	25	71	85	51	23	46	39	43	68	72	25	20

Recorded from 116 sites, making this the best year since the mid-19th century at least. Breeding was confirmed from at least 6 sites, with an additional site near Lincoln having a female common buzzard paired with an escaped male red-tailed hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* *L

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000: One at Gib Point intermittently Apr 19-27th (KMW, RL, STT) and another at Thornton Curtis, nr Ulceby on Apr 24th (GAM).

2001: An ad flew low NW over Kirton End on Jan 14th (SK), with what seems likely to have been the same bird seen up river at Branston on Jan 17th (ABl).

2002: A juv was seen at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 17th (CJJ) and 19th (GW) with it or another over Withcall on 18th (DS). A juv was then found at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 19th (DJ et al) and remained there until the year's end.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* *b

Scarce passage migrant, rare in summer.

2000: Twelve birds reported in the spring, one in mid-summer and up to 17 birds in the autumn making a good year total of 29 records. The first of the year was on Apr 8th at Wainfleet St. Mary. This was followed by further records at Deeping High Bank on 14th, Welbourn Heath 17th, Barrow Haven 21st, Tetney Marsh 23rd, Scotterthorpe 29th and Messingham SQ 29-Jun 4th. During May, there were singles at Toft Newton Res on 7th, over Gib Point 20th, Revesby

Res 24th, and Blankney 31st. A late spring bird was at Biscathorpe Lake on Jun 11th and an early migrant at Donnington on Bain on Jul 31st. A series of records in late Sep involved singles at Gib Point on 16th, Frampton Marsh and Marston STW 20th, Barton 22nd with another 2 there on 23rd, North Thoresby and Risby Warren 23rd, Tattershall Pits 24th, Frampton Marsh/Witham Mouth, Laughton Forest and Gib Point all on 25th, between Worlaby and Broughton bridge 27th and Toft Newton Res 28th. A single at Tetney Blow Wells from Oct 3-Nov 10th was joined by a second bird from Oct 14-Nov 2nd, with possibly a third bird present on Oct 29th. Another bird was present at Holton le Moor on Oct 8th.

2001: Eleven birds on spring passage this year, and 9 in autumn was a poor total by recent standards. The first of the year was over Donna Nook on Mar 31st, followed in Apr by singles at Gib Point on 14th, Boultham Mere 15th, Gib Point 28-30th, with a second bird there on 30th. During May, there were singles at Ashby cum Fenby on 6th and Gib Point on 27th. One at Messingham SQ on May 29-30th and possibly again on Jun 3rd could also have been responsible for sightings at Winterton Road Lakes and Winterton Tip on May 31st. Also in Jun, singles at South Witham NR on 6th and near Brigg on 11th. Aug birds were at Marston STW on 4th and at Gib Point 16th and 24th, and then in Sep there were singles at Stenigot on 18th, Freiston Shore 23rd and Moulton Marsh 26th. Late birds at Waters Edge CP on Oct 9th, Gib Point Oct 10th and Tattershall Lakes CP on Nov 1st.

2002: Five birds in spring were followed by at least 16 birds in the autumn. The first of the year was Mar 30-Apr 6th at Anton's Gowt/Boston. Further singles were at Freiston Shore on Apr 17th, Grantham May 1st, Tetney Marsh May 2nd and Pinchbeck West May 12th. The autumn passage began early with one at Bagmoor on Jul 8th, then Aug singles at Barton on 13th, Cleethorpes NR 15th, Moulton Marsh 16th, Boston and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 24th and Revesby Res on 28th. In Sep, there were singles at Worlaby Carrs intermittently 1-11th, Donna Nook Sep 4-Nov 9th, on the River Ancholme Sep 5-9th, Walcott and Gib Point 7th and Shep Whites 8th. A most unusual record was of 3 over Worlaby Carrs Sep 8-9th, with possibly the same 3 then seen heading south over Gib Point on Sep 10th.

Merlin Falco columbarius

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer. Bred sporadically in the 19th century.

2000:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	16	8	7	6	2	1	1	5	8	11	13	13
Min birds	18	9	8	7	2	1	1	5	12	14	14	15

Recorded from 50 sites with most records involving single birds. Two or more birds were seen in one or more month at Tetney Lock, Horseshoe Point, Rimac, Gib Point, Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, Nene Mouth and on the River Sleas at Halfpenny Toll.

2001:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	17	12	4	6	1	-	-	5	9	9	18	17
Min birds	19	15	6	7	1	-	-	6	11	11	19	20

Recorded from 55 sites, a slight increase on last year. Most records were of singles, but there were 2 at South Ferriby in Jan, Frampton Marsh in Feb and Freiston Shore in Aug, 1-2 at Gib Point Jan-Apr, and again Sep-Oct with 3 on Oct 9th and Dec 31st.

2002:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	18	17	13	7	2	-	1	10	15	13	17	10
Min birds	20	19	15	7	10	-	1	10	17	14	20	14

Recorded from 56 sites. All singles, apart from 2 at Gib Point in Jan-Apr, 3 at Shep Whites in Sep, 2 at Gib Point in Oct-Dec with 3 there on Nov 24th and finally 2 in the Tetney area in Nov-Dec.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* *b

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to early 1900s and sporadically in the 1970s, regularly from the mid-1980s. Exceptional in winter.

Extreme dates: Jan 20th-Oct 31st.

2000:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total Sites	7	20	17	16	19	15	6
Min birds	8	21	20	17	23	16	7

The first records were on Apr 23rd at Gib Point and heading N at South Witham. Records came from 60 sites with the last of the year on Oct 10th at Marston STW. Breeding confirmed or strongly suspected at 5 sites.

2001:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total Sites	2	16	18	18	16	22	6
Min birds	2	22	18	19	16	28	7

The first returning bird was at Fulbeck on Apr 28th. Records came from 50 sites, with the last at Gib Point on Oct 15th. Breeding was confirmed from 4 sites, but several more were suspected.

2002:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total Sites	3	27	28	20	24	29	4
Min birds	3	32	28	22	35	38	5

An exceptionally early bird was at RAF Waddington on Mar 27th (BRE), the forerunner of a good year for this species. Recorded from 81 sites, with breeding again confirmed from 4. The last of the year was one S at Gib Point on Oct 31st (KRW), 6 days later than the previous latest.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* *(b)

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records. Has summered since 1998.

2000:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	4	10	8	4	2	-	3	6	8	12	10	12
Min birds	5	11	11	4	2	-	3	6	8	12	10	12

The last birds of the spring were at Owston Ferry and Read's Island on May 25th, while the first of the autumn was a Butterwick Marsh on Jul 24th.. Recorded from 45 sites, representing an increase on the last 3 years.

2001:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	12	9	7	4	1	2	2	7	13	9	15	15
Min birds	12	10	7	5	1	2	2	7	15	14	18	16

Recorded throughout the year, although there were no reports of any breeding activity. Another slight increase in distribution was recorded, being reported from 49 sites.

2002:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	25	22	13	7	5	3	3	4	11	25	24	20
Min birds	35	25	15	7	5	3	3	5	13	27	31	26

Recorded in all months. There were no reports of breeding, but again an increase in distribution was noted with records from 64 sites.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce resident, fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Much under-recorded.

2000:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton	21	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Gib Point	4	2	3	3	1	-	-	1	2	7	12	12
Boultham Mere	4	6	4	6	3	1	2	3	2	4	6	7
Marston STW	20	-	8	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	6
Baston Fen	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2

At Barton, 23 territories were located; up to 6 calling birds were reported from Boultham Mere in April and one pair bred at Messingham SQ, but there were no other reports of breeding activity. At least birds were at Barton in the first winter period, and at least 32 in the late winter period, with an estimated 60 on Dec 23rd. The only other multiple record was 2 at Howdens Pullover Jan 16th.

2001:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton	35	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	80
Gib Point	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	12	2
Boultham Mere	12	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	2
N Killingholme	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Baston Fen	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3

Recorded from 19 sites. At least 18 pairs bred in the Barton area; at Messingham SQ one pair and 2 juveniles were seen, and at West Marsh, Grimsby 2 pairs were located. A juv was also seen at North Killingholme Pits NR, suggestive of local breeding. The 12 at Gib Point in Nov all arrived on 14th.

2002:

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton	40	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	12	1
Boultham Mere	5	5	8	1	1	-	1	3	1	2	3	3
Huttoft Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	10
Baston Fen	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	2	4

Recorded from 27 sites. Breeding was confirmed from Barton, with a record number of 25 territories. This was the only breeding report this year, although a juv was seen at Rimac on Aug 21st.

Corn Crane *Crex crex* *L/*b

Vagrant. Former summer visitor, declined in 19th century and ceased breeding early 20th.

2000: An excellent year, with records from Haugham Jun 8-11th (AJH et al), Nocton Fen Sep 5th (JSM), Rimac Sep 20th (GPC) and Tetney Marsh Oct 9th (RL).

2001: No records.

2002: One was on the roadside at Sandilands/Huttoft Golf Course on Sep 13th (JDM).

Common Crane *Grus grus* *L

Vagrant/rare, has been recorded in most months.

2000: Four records of 5 birds. One soared over Far Ings on Apr 17th (GPC, JRN). Two flew over Rimac (CJJ) and then SE over Gib Point visitor centre on May 14th (KMW). In the autumn, one flew south over Gib Point on Sep 17th (GW), while the final bird of the year flew in to Gib Point from the south-west before heading out to Norfolk on Sep 25th (KMW).

2001: An early individual flew over North Cotes Point on Feb 11th (CA, GAM, AJH), another flew past Boultham Mere on Apr 4th (SPB, MW) while 2 were seen at Gainsborough on May 20th (MJG).

2002: At least 18 individuals make this the best year since large flocks visited the county in the middle of the 17th century. The first of the year on Mar 9th flew NW over Gib Point (JCN) and was then seen coming in from the SE at Barton at 0950hrs and then drifting NW over the Humber Bridge (GPC, ND); 3 were then seen flying S over Cleethorpes NR (GAM) and then over Gib Point (CWG) on Mar 16th. On 19th, a flock of 7 flew S at Gib Point followed by 2 a few minutes later, then one was found at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 23rd, with a second bird discovered on 30th. These 2, an adult and a 1st-s stayed in the area until Apr 4th (SPB, KDR, KSc et al). What were possibly the same birds were then reported near Bassingham on Apr 10th. Singles were noted at Fenton (Kettlethorpe) on Mar 27th (IB), Nettleton May 7th (GAM), Gib Point 11th (TSy), Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the May WeBS count (JRW) and at Rimac 10th (RHa) and 12th (DMJ). During the autumn, one was first located in a stubble field 2 miles east of Faxfleet on the north bank of the Humber on Aug 12th. It eventually flew south to Whitton Sands thus just crossing the Lincolnshire County boundary (WG).

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* *b

Scarce breeder, fairly common passage migrant, rare in winter and inland.

2000: Records from 9 sites. Away from breeding sites, there were records of 3 from Winteringham Haven in Feb, one at Terrington Marsh Mar on 12th, 2 at Frampton Marsh Apr 27th, one at Winteringham May 4th, 2 at Far Ings Jun 1st and 2 at North Cotes Point Jun 3rd. Breeding occurred at Read's Island, with approx 55 pairs there in May rearing at least 120 young. A pair nested at Gib Point laying 3 eggs which were predated on Jun 4th. Post-breeding records from Read's Island were 303 on Jul 27th falling to just 24 on Oct 19th. A late bird was at Rimac on Nov 26th.

2001: Recorded from just 6 sites. At the main site, Read's Island, the first returning birds were 7 on Feb 13th, with numbers then rising rapidly to 47 on Feb 17th and 126 by Mar 11th. A breeding survey found a total of 55 pairs breeding, rearing at least 140 young. Numbers increased when birds from Blacktoft Sands joined the colony producing counts of 316 on Jul 22nd and a peak of 408 on Aug 2nd. Numbers dropped thereafter with birds departing the area for wintering grounds further south, to 130 on Sep 6th, 102 on Oct 7th and just 26 by Oct 31st. Birds from Read's Island were occasionally seen at 3 other sites along the Humber. Breeding elsewhere was confined to 2 pairs at Freiston Shore, one of which produced 4 young, an unsuccessful pair at Gib Point and a pair that attempted to nest on a flooded area between West Halton and Winteringham but without success.

2002: The first 11 birds were back on Read's Island on Feb 7th and had increased to 136 by Mar 4th. No breeding data was received from Read's Island, although there were counts of 336 on Jul 15th and 355 on Aug 11th. Breeding was attempted once again at Gib Point by a pair in 2 locations, but both attempts failed due to predation. At Freiston Shore 17 pairs bred. Elsewhere, migrants or wandering birds were seen at several sites. Two at North Killingholme Haven Pits NR increased to 6 on Apr 13th, but were down to 5 on Apr 23rd and just 2 on May 6th. One was at Butterwick Marsh on Mar 23rd, 2 were at Tetney Marsh on May 2nd, and singles were at Marston STW May 7-8th and Rimac on May 12th. There were then 2 at Pye's Hall on May 25th, 2 at Bardney Pits Jun 4th, one at Tetney Marsh Jun 10th, 3 at Holbeach Marsh Aug 25th and 5 (inc 3 juvs) on Kirton Marsh Aug 28th.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus* *L/*b

Vagrant

2000: A good year, with 3 records. Singles at Gib Point on Apr 27th (PGa, BRe), Langtoft Fen Jun 1st (PNW) and Cowbit Sep 2nd (IH).

2001/2002: No records.

Little Plover *Charadrius dubius* *b

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Extreme dates: Mar 7th-Nov 29th.

2000:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Total Sites	3	9	9	10	7	5	3
Min birds	6	23	20	33	29	13	5

The first record was on Mar 17th at Kirkby on Bain GP, and the last was on Sep 22nd at RAF Waddington. Confirmed breeding was reported as follows: up to 3 pairs at Messingham SQ, 2 pairs at Langholme, and single pairs at Gib Point, Waters' Edge CP, Butterwick Hale, Kirton Quarries and Owston Ferry. Breeding was suspected at Lea Marsh and Kettleby.

2001:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Total Sites	3	8	7	8	9	10	8
Min birds	5	14	12	20	53	44	39

The first returning bird was one at Cadney Res on Mar 25th; the latest were 2 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Oct 9th. Breeding was confirmed from the following sites: 2 pairs at Waters Edge CP and Freiston Shore, and at least one pair at Messingham SQ, Bardney and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits.

2002:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Total Sites	8	17	15	16	13	10	3
Min birds	13	54	42	41	45	17	9

The first of the year was a single at Butterwick Marsh on Mar 23rd. The last birds seen were 5 on the rather early date of Sep 11th at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. Breeding was confirmed from Freiston Shore (4 pairs) and suspected at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Messingham SQ and Butterwick Hale, while a pair attempted to nest at Gib Point but were unsuccessful. The influx in April included 11 birds at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 22nd.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* *B

Vagrant

2002: A female discovered on the beach at Rimac May 11-15th was the second British record, and the first for Lincolnshire (BMC, MJTa). Accepted by BBRC *British Birds* 96 p566

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* *L

Rare/scarce passage migrant, mainly spring.

2000: A decent showing this year. The first birds were a trip of 6 at Grainthorpe Marsh on the early date of Apr 26th (GAM). These were followed by 4 further trips in May: 5 at Burnham on 5th (GPC), 11 at Bigby 6th (RHa), 10 at Holdingham/Evedon 8th (BHe, GH et al) and 4 at North Cotes Point 27th (GAM, RL).

2001: No records

2002: Just one record involving a trip of 19 birds at Wainfleet Marsh on May 16th (DH).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn with rare winter records.

2000: Just one spring record of one, possibly 2 birds at Holbeach Marsh on May 18th. The first returning bird was noted at Gib Point on Jul 17th, and was followed by singles there 25-27th and 31st, and Holbeach Marsh 30th. Just 12 birds in Aug were distributed along the coast, with 2 at Winteringham, one at Tetney Marsh 4 at Theddlethorpe and up to 5 at Gib Point. During Sep, there were peaks of 4 birds at Gib Point on 2nd and 9th, with at least one bird present for most of the month. Elsewhere, there were 3 at Butterwick Hale 10-12th, one at Freiston Low 17th followed by an influx of 10 juvs at Freiston Shore on 25th rising to 11 the next day. The

only inland record was at Cadney Res on the 27th, while the number at Freiston Shore dwindled to 7 by 28th, and just 2 by Oct 3rd. Late birds were 2 at Gib Point on Oct 17th and 2 at Freiston Low on 22nd.

2001: An increase in numbers on last year but just 4 spring records though: singles at Gib Point on Apr 8th and May 9th, one at Apex Pit North Hykeham on May 11th and one at Read's Island on 12th. The first of the autumn was at Freiston Shore on Jul 26th and 2 there on Aug 2nd, followed by a lull in records until an influx started on Aug 18th with one at Freiston Shore and 11 at Sutton Bridge. There were then 1-5 at Freiston Shore for the remainder of Aug. Elsewhere, there were 3 on the Humber at Barton on 19th, 2 at Humberston Yacht Club Pools and one at Gib Point on 20th, one at Pyewipe on 21st, 4 at South Ferriby and 2 at Gib Point on 22nd, 2 at Covenham Res on 25th and one at Waters' Edge CP on 30th. During Sep, most records were from Freiston Shore and Gib Point. At Freiston Shore birds were present all month in low single-figure numbers, but there were 6 on 11-14th, 10 on 16th, 17 on 18th, 12 on 20-21st, 13 on 22nd, 10 on 25th and 13 on 30th. At Gib Point one 5-12th increased to 4 19-20th. An arrival of 19 on 21-22nd increased to 24 on 23rd and then 25 on 25th. Just one was seen on 26th followed by 11 on 27th and then 1-3 to the month's end. Elsewhere in Sep there were: one at Nene Mouth and 8 at Sutton Bridge on 1st, one at Messingham SQ 6th, one on Read's Island 8th, 2 at Covenham Res 13th, one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 14th, rising to 6 on 19th, 8 on 20th and 12 on 21st, singles at Waters' Edge CP on 15th, 19th and 22nd, one at Bardney Pits 16th rising to 7 there on 22nd, 13 at Donna Nook 23rd, one on Read's Island 28th and 4 at Seacroft Golf Course 30th. The influx tailed off in Oct, but there were still birds about; one still at Waters' Edge CP until 7th was joined by a second bird for its last day, one was at Gib Point 2-18th with 3 there on 4th, 7 at Freiston Shore 3rd falling to one on 5th and then 5 on 7th and 19th, 2 at Bardney Pits on 3rd rising to 4 the following day, one at Sutton Bridge on 14th, one at Covenham Res 17th with 2 there on 19th. All Nov records came from Freiston Shore, with 1-2 all month. One was recorded at Freiston Shore on the Dec WeBS count.

2002: A much quieter year than 2001. The wintering bird at Freiston Shore was seen on Jan 16th and 2 were at Freiston Shore May 13-22nd. In the autumn, the Aug WeBS counts produced 2 at Bennington Marsh, one at Grainthorpe Marsh and 2 at Theddlethorpe St Helen. One was at Horseshoe Point and 6 were at Nene Mouth on Aug 11th with just 2 there on 22nd, 3 were at Freiston Shore on 17th with one there on 25th, one at Gib Point 20-23rd, rising to 2 on 30th. Only 6 records from Sep comprised one at Gib Point on 4th, with another there 20-21st, one at Barton 16th, 2 at Nene Mouth 21st and one at Covenham Res 26th. During Oct, there were 2 at Saltfleetby on 2nd, singles at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 6-8th and Freiston Shore 9-11th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* *L.
Rare passage migrant.

2000: Four records probably involving 3 birds. At Gib Point one was on Tennyson Sands on May 8th (KMW) with it or another on Jackson's Marsh on May 10th (IW). Another was at Kettleby on May 10th (SRo). The final bird of the year was at Kirkby on Bain GP May 11-13th (SK, KRo).

2001: The only spring record was of one at Freiston Shore on May 22nd (JB). Another was at Freiston Shore Aug 19-24th (JB, SK).

2002: One at Gib Point May 14-16th (KMW) and one at Messingham SQ on May 20th (WCN, TPo) were the only records.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* *L.
Vagrant.

2000: One was at Messingham SQ on Apr 29th (ND, JTH) and one at Sandilands on Sep 18th (RL).

2001: An ad was at Gib Point on Aug 16th (PMT), with single juvs at Waters' Edge CP Sep 4-9th (GPC) and Gib Point Sep 14-15th and 20th (MEI, NAL)

2002: Singles were at Waters' Edge CP Aug 2-7th (GPC, ND et al), Boatmere Scrape near Gedney Drove End Aug 11th (PT et al), Freiston Shore Aug 15-17th (SK, MHar, PHar) and Tetney Marsh on Sep 22nd (GAM).



Left: Iceland Gull, Near Winteringham, May 2000. Image: John Harriman.

Right: Black-necked Grebe, Toft Newton Reservoir, April 2000. Image: John Harriman.



Left: Great Reed Warbler, Chapel St. Leonards, June 2000. Image: Roy Harvey (video grab).

Right: Tawny Pipit, Rimac, September 2000. Image: John Harriman.



Left: Pied Wheatear, Gibraltar Point, November 2000. Image: Neil Smith. (Insert: Graham Catley).

Right: Penduline Tit, Waters Edge, Barton, April 2001. Image: Roy Harvey (video grab).



Ring-necked Duck, Far Ings, May 2001.
Image: Graham Catley.



Left: Rose-coloured Starling, Louth, June 2001. Image: Graham Catley.
Right: Green Heron, Messingham Sand Quarry, September 2001. Image: John Harriman.



Left: Dusky Warbler, Donna Nook, September 2001
Right: Hoopoe, Seacroft GC, Skegness, October 2001. Image: John Harriman.



Left: 'Black-bellied' Dipper (*C. c. cinclus*), Hubbards Hills, February 2002. Image: Barry Clarkson.
Right: Green-winged Teal with Common Teal, Far Ings, February 2002. Image: Barry Clarkson.



Lesser Sand Plover, Rimac, May 2002. Left image: Barry Clarkson. Right image: Graham Catley.



Left: Pacific Golden Plover (pending BBRC acceptance), Horseshoe Point, July 2002. Image: Barry Clarkson.
Centre: Caspian Tern, North Hykeham, August 2002. Image: Graham Catley.
Right: Pectoral Sandpiper, Barton-on-Humber, August 2002. Image: Graham Catley.



Top left: Greenish Warbler, Pyes Hall, September 2002. Image: Graham Catley. Bottom left: Barred Warbler, Cleethorpes, October 2002. Image: Roy Harvey (video grab). Right: Long-billed Dowitcher, Saltfleet Haven, November 2002. Image: Barry Clarkson.



Top left: Icterine Warbler, Donna Nook, November 2002. Bottom left: Great White Egret, Grainthorpe, November 2002. Images: Roy Harvey (video grabs). Right: Red-flanked Bluetail, Gibraltar Point, November 2002. Image: Graham Catley.



Left: Rough-legged Buzzard, Woralby Carrs, November 2002. Images: Graham Catley. Right: Rose-coloured Starling, Cranwell, November 2002. Image: Roy Harvey (video grab).

Curllew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant, rare in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn. Very rare in winter.

2000: Spring passage was comparatively good, with records of 6 birds. Singles were at Butterwick Common/Hale on May 12th and Gib Point 15th. Four breeding plumage birds were around Read's Island and South Ferryby on 29th with 2 still there on 31st. The first of the autumn were 3 at Read's Island on Jul 23rd. Other Jul records included singles at Gib Point and Cleethorpes LNR on 31st, with 2 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. During Aug, there were 1-2 regularly at Gib Point, one at Messingham SQ 4th, one at Tetney Marsh 23rd, 4 at both Gib Point and Butterwick Hale and 19 at Read's Island all 29th, 2 at Holbeach Marsh and 9 at Nene Mouth 30th and 3 at Frampton Marsh 31st. There was an increase in records during Sep, with up to 17 seen at Cleethorpes during the month, 11 at Gib Point on 1st and 20 at Nene Mouth 20th. Elsewhere, there were single figure counts from a further 9 sites, all of them coastal.

2001: Just 2 spring records, both from Gib Point: one on Apr 8th and 2 on May 20th. Autumn passage commenced on Jul 20th with 2 at Bardney, then 2 at Cleethorpes on 21st with one there 24th, one at Gib Point 22nd increasing to 3 on 23rd and 2 at Read's Island 29th increasing to 3 on 31st. An influx in Aug comprised small flocks at a small number of sites. A flock of 10 was at Kirton Marsh during the month. Four at Freiston Shore on 2nd were followed by presumed new arrivals of 13 on 19th, 7 22nd, 12 on 25th and 11 on 30th. Read's Island held 4 on the 4th, with singles later in the month and one was at Gib Point for much of the month with 5 on 24th. There were 2 at Humberston Fitties on 18th, 5 at Barton 19th, 10 at Cleethorpes 19th and one at North Killingholme Haven Pits NR 20-22nd. In Sep, birds were again concentrated at 3 major sites. At Freiston Shore, there was a peak of 10 on 11th with single figure counts 1-16th. On Read's Island, there were 3 on 6th, 7 on 16th and 8 on 28th. At Gib Point, single figures were present all month, with peaks of 9 on 13th and 16th and numbers tailing off towards the month's end. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Frampton Marsh and one at Toft Newton Res during the month, 2 at Cleethorpes on 6th and 11th, one at Witham Mouth 18th, one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 19-20th and finally one at Donna Nook 23rd. In Oct, Gib Point enjoyed the lion's share of these, with 2 1-7th, one 7-11th and then finally 4 on 12th. At Barton, there was one on 7th, 4 on 13th and one again 16th and 24th.

2002: Just 4 spring records. One was on Read's Island in May, while 2 were at Freiston Shore on 18th with one there 22-27th. Unusually, one was at Gib Point Jun 21-Jul 2nd. Autumn passage began at the end of Jul, with one at Gib Point on 20th and 3 there 28th, one at Read's Island 21st, one at Cleethorpes 29th and 5 at Leverton sometime during the month. Aug passage was weaker than last year. At Gib Point, 1-3 were present all month, while on Read's Island there were 3 on 8th, 4 25th, 5 28th and just one 31st. There were also 2 at Tetney Marsh on 3rd, 5 at Kirton Marsh 11th with singles at Cleethorpes LNR, Saltfleet Haven and Rimac the same day, 5 at Witham mouth on 12th, 12 at Freiston Shore and 4 at Holbeach Marsh 23rd, falling to 5 at Freiston Shore 25th and one at Holbeach Marsh 26th and one at North Killingholme Haven 26th. In Sep, there were daily records from Gib Point with a peak of 8 on 15th. There were just 2 records from Read's Island: 4 on 15th and one 28th, but 3 from Barton: singles on 12th and 30th, 2 on 16th. Elsewhere, there were 3 at Butterwick Marsh, one at Tetney Marsh on 4th, 3 at Saltfleet 6th, one at Freiston Shore 10-13th, 2 at Donna Nook and 3 at Whitton 15th. A small arrival in Oct comprised 2 at Frampton Marsh, one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, one at Read's Island on 4th, 3 at North Killingholme Haven 4-6th, and singles at Barton 4-6th, Freiston Shore 9th and Bardney Pits from 24th into Nov.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

2000: Just 5 records. In the first winter period one was at Clee North Wall, Grimsby, in Jan and one at Cleethorpes North on Mar 21st. During the second half of the year, one was again at Cleethorpes North Nov 9th- Dec 21st, with 2 there Dec 21-31st, and one at Witham Mouth Nov 19th.

2001: Two were at Clee North Wall, Grimsby in Feb, presumably the same 2 at Cleethorpes on Feb 11th, then a single at Cleethorpes North Mar 1-30th. In Sep, singles flew past Chapel Point

and Mablethorpe on 9th, with 5 N past Huttoft Car Terrace the same day. On Sep 18th 7 flew N past Sutton on Sea and one was at Wrangle Marsh in Oct. Singles were at Clee North Wall, Grimsby in Nov-Dec and Toft Newton Res on Nov 4th, while 2 flew north at Gib Point Nov 9th.

2002: Two remained at Clee North Wall, Grimsby to Feb 2nd. An early returning or passage bird was noted at Cleethorpes on Aug 28th. Seawatching produced 25 past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 13th, 4 off there Sep 15th, one past Sandilands Sep 22nd, 2 N past Huttoft Car Terrace Sep 22nd and one N there Oct 6th. Singles were noted at Crook Bank on Oct 16th, Covenham Res Nov 3rd, Mablethorpe 9th, Cleethorpes North 17th, Gib Point 30th and back at Clee North Wall, Grimsby in Dec.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* *B

Vagrant.

2000: An ad on the mudflats around Read's Island and South Ferriby May 29-31st was only the ninth county record (GPC, ND, WCN). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95, p494

2001/2002: No records.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* *L

Vagrant.

2000/2001: No records.

2002: One at Gib Point on Sep 13th was surprisingly the first record for this site (PRB).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

2000: A rather poor year. The only records in the first half of the year were at Gib Point, singles on Jan 10th and Mar 6th. The only early autumn records were again from Gib Point, one on Sept 29th and 2 on 30th. November records comprised singles at Gib point on 3rd, North Killingholme Pits NR 8th and Pyewipe 19th. Dec birds were at Killingholme Marshes, Pyewipe, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Goxhill Haven on 27th and Greetwell Hollow Quarry 28th. A count of 16 birds was made at Humberston Yacht Club Pools on 7th.

2001: A better year than 2000, with several reports from the early part of the year. Singles were at Pyewipe on Jan 3rd, Humberston Fitties NR and Mareham Le Fen 21st, Gib Point 29th, Greetwell Hollow Quarry 31st, Deeping St Nicholas Feb 25th, Langtoft Fen Mar 29th, Gib Point Apr 11th and 21st, Boultham Mere Apr 22nd and Donna Nook on the unusual date of May 6th. Two were seen at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Feb and Gib Point on Apr 3rd. A good second half began with one at Gib Point Sep 22-Oct 19th, with 3 there Sep 28th and 2 on 30th, Oct 5th and Oct 19th. Elsewhere, there were singles in Sep at Howden's Pullover on 23rd, Far Ings 24th and Donna Nook 25th. During Oct there were 2 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and singles at Goxhill Marsh and Nocton Fen, and at Barton on 7th, Whisby NP 13th, Nocton Fen 16th and Far Ings 19th; also, 2 at Wyberton 13-18th, 2 at Messingham SQ on 19th and 5 together on flooded stubble near the Target Pit at Barton 20th. In Nov, there was one at Saltfleet Haven and 2 at Cleethorpes, 2 near Tetney Haven on 1st, 4 at Benington on 7th, 2 at Whitton Marsh 17th and one at Barton 29th, then singles at Deeping Lakes NR Dec 2nd and Greetwell Hollow Quarry Dec 22nd and an impressive 10 at Humberston Fitties Dec 15th.

2002: Much more widespread in the first winter period than in the previous 2 years. One remained at Barton from 2001 until Jan 11th at least, with other Jan-Mar sightings coming from Gib Point (3), Saltfleet Haven, North Somercotes (2), Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Greetwell Hollow Quarry, Humberston Fitties, Donna Nook and Tetney Marsh (6), Deeping Lakes NR (2), Cleethorpes LNR, Baston Fen NR, Whisby NP, East Butterwick (2) and Pye's Hall. In Apr, late wintering birds or migrants were seen at Rimac on 1st, with 2 there on 16th and another 18th, Deeping Lakes NR 5th, Trent Port, Marton 9th, Gib Point 17th, Boultham Mere 20th, Messingham SQ 21st and finally 4 at Tetney Marsh 22nd. The first of the autumn were at Deeping High Bank and East Butterwick on Sep 27th, and 2 at Deeping Lakes NR Sep 28th. Oct saw a number of sightings, including 1-3 at Gib Point all month from 6th and 3 at Far Ings on 6th, with 2 there 10th and one 14th. Also in Oct, there were 2 at Humberston Fitties on 1st, 3 at Tetney Marsh 14th with 7 there 22nd, and singles at Kirton Marsh on 6th, Messingham SQ 7-

8th, Waters' Edge CP 5th and 12th, Crook Bank 16th, Donna Nook 19-23rd and Pye's Hall 19th. Wintering birds were noted at 9 sites, with multiple counts of 12 at Tetney Marsh on Nov 3rd and 19th and 2 there Dec 13th, 4 at Humberston Fitties Nov 1st, 2 at Saltfleet Haven Nov 9th, 2 at Gib Point on several dates in Nov, and 2 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Dec 20th. Singles were noted at North Somercotes in Nov and Dec, Trent Port (Marton) on Nov 25th, Bardney Pits Dec 3rd and 20th and Donna Nook Dec 8th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

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

2000:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	1	2	1	3	-	1	6	12	13	1	-	-
Min birds	1	2	1	3	-	1	25	23	37	1	-	-

Wintering birds were located at Terrington Marsh, North Killingholme Pits NR and Hagnaby Lock/Fen. A poor spring passage consisted of just one bird at Tetney Marsh on Apr 23rd. The last bird of the year was at Gib Point on Oct 2nd.

2001:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	13	8	7	2	2
Min birds	1	2	3	3	2	1	5	28	35	13	2	2

Wintering birds were found at North Killingholme Haven and Hagnaby Lock/Fen. A couple of birds stayed on to winter in Nov and Dec: one at North Killingholme Haven Nov 10-Dec 5th and one at Baston Fen Dec 11-13th.

2002:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	2	3	4	4	2	1	3	12	9	4	3	2
Min birds	2	3	5	5	2	1	4	29	12	8	4	2

Records from every month, with wintering birds recorded from Humberston Fitties, North Killingholme Haven, Hagnaby Lock/Fen and Gedney Marsh in the early part of the year and from Deeping Lakes and Hagnaby Lock/Fen in Dec. Autumn passage was poorer this year, with slightly more birds recorded in Aug, but these quickly tailed off in Sep and Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* *B

Vagrant

2000/2001: No records

2002: The 10th county record was at Freiston Shore on May 31st (SK et al). Accepted by BBRC.

British Birds 96 p571

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Passage migrant, usually rare in spring and scarce in autumn. Extreme dates: Apr 17th-Nov 9th.

2000: In spring, there were 8 records. The first was at Gib Point on May 2nd. This was followed by 2 at both Butterwick Hale and Kirkby on Bain GP, and singles at Hagnaby Lock Fen and Frampton Marsh with a second bird at Gib Point. Autumn passage was more protracted, and involved approximately 28 individuals. The first bird was at Gib Point on Jul 16th, followed by singles on 20th, 29th and 31st, and one on Read's Island on 29th. At Gib Point during Aug there were almost daily records of at least one bird 2-18th, with further singles on Sep 2nd and 9th. Elsewhere, there was one at Marston STW on Jul 25th, while in Aug there were singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Bardney Pits, Marston STW, Butterwick Hale, Pinchbeck Slupe NR, Nene Mouth and North Kelsey Moor, with 2 at Kirton Marsh on 20th. In Sep, the bird at Kelsey Moor remained until the 7th, while a late bird was at Marston STW 20th.

2001: Just 6 spring records this year: singles at Messingham SQ Apr 30-May 2nd, Butterwick Hale and Hagnaby Lock Fen on May 11th, Gib Point May 15-16th and Humberston May 16th. The first bird of the autumn was an early bird at Bagmoor on Jun 25th. This was followed in Jul by singles at Butterwick Hale, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 8th and 19th, Bardney Pits 16th, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 19th and 22nd, Freiston Shore 21st and 30-31st and Gib Point 28-31st. There were also 2 at Marston STW 21-24th and 2 at Gib Point 27th. The main passage occurred in Aug, with counts of 2 at Terrington Marsh, 2 at Gib Point on 1st, 4th, 8th and 19th, 2 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 18th, 2 at Freiston Shore 21st, increasing to 3 22nd, then 2 again 29-30th. Two flew over Pye's Hall on 29th. Singles were seen at Gib Point all month, Freiston Shore on 2nd, 19th, 26-27th, Cleethorpes and Humberston Fitties 18th, Waters' Edge CP 19-24th, Marston STW 24th and Horseshoe Point 29th. Only 5 birds were seen in Sep: 2 lingering at Marston STW until 2nd and singles at Gib Point on 1st and 10th, Freiston Shore 5th and Frampton Marsh 22nd. Approximately 31 individuals make this a slightly better autumn than 2000.

2002: Approximately 63 birds made this a good year, but unusually, there were no spring records. First of the autumn were 2 at Gib Point on Jul 27th, and there were one or two birds most days at this site from then until Sep 10th with peaks of 3 on Aug 1st and 8th. Elsewhere in Jul, there were singles at North Killingholme Haven on 28th and Tetney Haven and Messingham SQ 31st, with 2 at Wroot 31st. A decent passage occurred in Aug, comprising approximately 42 birds. WeBS counts produced an excellent flock of 14 at North Killingholme Haven and singles at Frampton Marsh, Spalding and Terrington Marsh. Multiple counts comprised 3 at Messingham SQ on 2nd, 2 at Donna Nook 4th, 3 at Broughton 6-10th with 2 there 13th and 2 at Pyes Hall 10th. Singles were seen at Waters' Edge CP and Tetney Marsh on 2nd, Horseshoe Point, Pyewipe and Stallingborough 3rd, Deeping Lakes NR 3-6th, Freiston Shore 4th, 6th, 24th and 25th, Boatmere Scrape 11-12th, Marston STW 15th, Baston-Langtoft Pits and Killingholme Marshes 18th, Hagnaby Lock/Fen 19th, Tetney Marsh 22-23rd and Scunthorpe 28th. A few Sep records comprised singles at Gib Point on 1st and 10th, Freiston Shore 13th and 2 at Pye's Hall 10th. A most unusual record concerned one lingering at Freiston Shore, being seen on Oct 11th and 31st and then until Nov 9th (JB), making it the latest ever.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* *L.

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn, exceptional in winter.

2000: One was at Witham Mouth on Nov 2nd (NS) and one at Covenham Res on Dec 5-17th (CJJ, SJ, GH et al)

2001: A 1st-w was at Bagmoor on Sep 21st (ND et al). An excellent series of records from Gib Point began with one S on Oct 18th (JCN), then one sitting offshore on Nov 8th (JCN) and 4 S on Nov 9th (JCN). One was on the Humber off Barton also on Nov 9th (GPC).

2002: One was seen from the Wash boat trip off Skegness on Oct 3rd (SK et al), and there were 2 records from Gib Point: one N on Oct 22nd (JCN) and a 1st-w flying out to sea on Nov 2nd (JCN).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Generally scarce but occasionally fairly common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring. Exceptional inland.

2000: A rather poor year. The first birds reported were 4 at Nene Mouth on Aug 25th, then in Sep, 14 flew past Huttoft Bank on 2nd and one on 6th, with one at Tetney Marsh on 16th. Late autumn records were restricted to singles at Barton and Chapel Point on Nov 6th and another at Barton on 27th, with the final bird of the year at Cleethorpes North on Dec 10th.

2001: Just one record from the first half of the year: an imm off Gib Point on Feb 28th. Autumn passage started early, with 3 birds past Huttoft Car Terrace on Jul 17th, but then no records until an ad went past Gib Point on Aug 29th. A light passage occurred in Sep, with 2 past Gib Point on 2nd and 3rd, one there on 4th and 3 on 9th. At Huttoft Car Terrace, there was one on 4th, 2 on 9th and 2 on 18th; 4 went N at Mablethorpe and one S at Sutton on Sea on 9th. Oct records were restricted to Gib Point, with singles there on 6th, 9th, 18th and 20th. A movement in Nov

started with 4 past Gib Point on 4th and 2 there on 7th before an impressive 51 went S past Mablethorpe and 18 were off Gib Point on 8th. On 9th, just one was seen off Mablethorpe, but 35 went N past Gib Point.

2002: Another summer record this year, an ad off Gib Point on Jul 26th. Autumn passage began at Huttoft Car Terrace with 3 on Aug 5th and one on 6th, and singles were off Gib Point on 6th and 19th. During Sep there was one past Huttoft Car Terrace on 1st, 5 on 14th and 2 on 22nd; at Gib Point there were singles on 2nd and 23rd; and an impressive 21 were reported off Holbeach Marsh on 22nd. During Oct, there were singles at Huttoft Car Terrace, Gib Point, Saltfleetby and on the Humber off Barton on 6th, 2 off Sandilands and 3 past Huttoft Car Terrace and Anderby Creek on 27th and finally one off Gib Point on 30th. Last birds of the year were singles at Witham Mouth on 11th and off Gib Point on 24th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* *L.
Rare/scarse passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Rare inland.

2000: At Gib Point an ad flew N over the New Saltmarsh on May 7th (RKW), an ad lacking tail streamers went past on Aug 29th (KMW), another ad flew N on Sep 2nd (JCN) and two juvs went S on Sep 16th (KMW). Elsewhere, singles went past Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 2nd and 6th (GAM), Nene Mouth on 16th (JM) and Chapel Point on Nov 6th (CJJ, EM)

2001: A most unusual record was of an ad flying E over Far Ings and then soaring over the area on Jun 6th (GPC). Almost as unusual were the 2 off Huttoft Car Terrace on Jul 17th (NAL). The only Aug record was of an ad past Gib Point on 7th (JCN). In Sep there was one S past Mablethorpe on 7th (WPB), 7 S and 2 N past Sutton on Sea on 9th (GPC), with 6 off Huttoft Car Terrace on the same date (SPB). A juv flew NE over the Gib Point Freshwater Marsh calling on 10th (KMW), and there was a further record from Gib Point on 17th (KMW, NAL). One went N past Mablethorpe on 15th (WPB), 6 juvs and an ad were off Sutton on Sea (GPC) and 6 went past Huttoft Car Terrace on 18th (DP), and 3 went S past Mablethorpe on 19th (WPB). At Gib Point, a juv was on the beach on Oct 20th and finally a late juv flew S there on 31st (NAL).

2002: On Aug 6th, 2 flew S past Huttoft Car Terrace (GH). A juv went N at Gib Point on Sep 14th (KMW), 4 juvs were off Huttoft Car Terrace on 22nd (IN, SPB), and 6 juvs flew N at Gib Point on 29th (KMW et al). In Oct, a juv went N past Huttoft Car Terrace on 6th (SPB) and last of the year was a late bird off Mablethorpe on 23rd (ACS).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* *b
Scarce visitor throughout the year, but most in autumn.

2000: Up to 40 birds recorded from at least 12 localities. In Jan there was an ad on George Farmer School playing fields, Holbeach 1-3rd, another at Covenham Res on 10th, a 1st-w and 2nd-w at Apex Pit North Hykeham 17th, and an ad at Grimsby Docks on 21st. Two ads were at Read's Island on Mar 15th with a third there on 16th; a 2nd-w was at Boultham Mere on 22nd, with probably the same bird present there until Apr 10th. Also in April, 2 ads went S at Gib Point on 4th, a 1st year was at Far Ings and an ad at Witham Mouth on 8th, and an ad went N at Gib Point on 15th. There were no records from May, but in June a single was at Skegness Funcoast World on 14th. A 1st-s was at Barton on Jul 1st, a series of records from Gib Point involved 1-2 ads 8-19th, 2 ads were at Read's Island 15-21st with a 2nd-s there on 18th, and a 2nd-s was at Welland Mouth on 31st. Up to 3 ads were present at Gib Point in Aug, with a 2nd-s also on 16th, and elsewhere, ads were at Huttoft Bank on 3rd and Boultham Mere 21st. In Sep, single ads were at Skegness on 3rd, Anderby Creek on 6th and Huttoft Pit on 24th, with 1st-ws at Barton on 15th and 16-23rd. An ad was at Gib Point through Sep until Oct 3rd, a 2nd-w was at Barton on Oct 12th and 21st and an ad was also seen at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Oct. Finally, ads were at Chapel Point on Nov 6th and Far Ings on Dec 31st.

2001: Recorded from at least 14 locations with perhaps 30 birds seen. In Jan there was a 2nd-w at Apex Pit (North Hykeham), 2 ads at Chapel Point on 10th and a 2nd-w at Grimsby Docks on 25th, then in Feb, 1st-w at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on 3-4th and North Killingholme Haven on 10th. Just 2 spring birds were seen; a 1st-w at Bagmoor on Mar 26th and a 2nd-s on Read's Island on Apr 8th. There were no more records until a 1st-s at Gib Point on Jun 2nd, 2 ads there

on 6th and single ads there on 11th and 30th, a 1st-s at Freiston Shore on 21-22nd and a 1st-s at Boultham Mere on 27th. In Jul there were 2 ads at Gib Point on 1-3rd, an ad at Freiston Shore on 4th, an ad on Read's Island 15-29th and an ad at Gib Point on 21st. Records in Aug comprised a 1st-s on Read's Island 2nd, 2 ads at Gib Point on 9th, an ad at North Killingholme Haven on 20th, an ad at Gib Point on 21st, a 2nd-w there on 23rd and a juv there on 26th. A juv flew past Far Ings on 24th. A 2nd-w was at Bagmoor on Sep 3rd with a 1st-w there on 27th; a juv was at Gib Point on 4th and an ad on 6th; and an ad at Mablethorpe on 15th was perhaps the same bird as one at Chapel St Leonards on 30th. The last birds of the year were ads at Gib Point and East Halton Skitter on Nov 2nd.

2002: A distinct upturn in records, with up to 61 birds recorded from 20 sites, although there is likely to be some duplication of records. First of the year was a 2nd-w at Bagmoor Jan 12-13th, joined by an ad on the latter date. An ad was at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on 21st and 26th, with a 1st-w also on the latter date. In Feb there were single ads at Gib Point and Bagmoor on 5th, 2 ads at Chapel Point on 8th and a 1st-w at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on 10th. During Mar there was a single bird at Freiston Shore, an ad at Gib Point on 18th, a 1st-s at Boultham Mere on 26th and an ad and 1st-s at Gib Point on 31-Apr 1st. The only other Apr record was of an ad S at Gib Point on 20th. Later spring records comprised a 1st-s at Frampton Marsh on May 8th, a 1st-s at Gib Point 14-16th, a 1st-s at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 19th and an ad at Frampton Marsh on Jun 7th. In Jul there were at least 3 birds at Bagmoor on 1-16th (ad, 1st-s and 2nd-s); at Gib Point there was an ad on 7th, 18th and 30th, a 1st-s there on 13th followed by a 2nd-s on 21st, and on Read's Island there was an ad on 6th and 19th and a 2nd-s on 13th. Elsewhere, there was a 2nd-s at Messingham SQ on 7th, one at Tetney Marsh on 8th, a 2nd-s at Cleethorpes on 10-11th and an ad at North Killingholme Haven on 24th. During Aug there were 2 ads at Gib Point on 3-5th with a 2nd-s there on 8th, an ad at Cleethorpes on 6th and 2 ads at Welland Mouth on 25th. In Sep there was an ad at Gib Point and a 1st-w at Friskney on 7th, a 2nd-w at Gib Point on 19th, an ad at Barton on 23rd and an ad at Gib Point on 28th. Later autumn records comprised ads at Barton on Oct 7-9th, Bagmoor on 17th, Chapel St Leonards on 20th, Gib Point on 23rd, Chapel Point on Nov 6-13th, Bagmoor on 14th, Covenham Res and Huttoft Pit on 24th and at Cleethorpes on Dec 2nd. Further records in Dec were a 1st-w at Bagmoor on 1st, another at Grimsby on 3rd, an ad S at Gib Point on 3rd, 2 1st-w at Thurlby Sand Pit on 7-17th, with an ad also on the latter date, ads at Gib Point and Chapel Point on 27th and ads at Cleethorpes on 28th and Thurlby Sand Pit on 29th.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* *L

Rare passage migrant from Jul-Oct. Exceptional inland.

2000: Just one record, of a juv flying S at Gib Point on Sep 11th (MC, SD).

2001: Three records of 4 birds. Two juvs flew N at Freiston Shore on Sep 18th (JB), one juv went S off Mablethorpe on Sep 19th (WPB) and ad was off Shep Whites on Oct 4th and 7th (KDR, RG).

2002: Five records was well above the recent average. A s-plu ad roosted with Kittiwakes *Rissa tridactyla* at Gib Point on Aug 26th (KMW), a juv flew N off Huttoft Car Terrace following a shrimp trawler on Sep 8th (SPB), a 1st-s was at Gib Point on 13th (JCN, EM), a juv was off Trusthorpe on 14th (DMJ) and a juv flew N off Gib Point on 23rd (KMW).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* *b

Scarce visitor, mainly in autumn.

2000: Recorded from 10 sites, including an unusual series of records from North Hykeham Apex Pit in the early winter period. In Jan an ad was present 1st-25th at least, joined by a second ad on 17th, a 2nd-w, a 3rd-w and a further "immature" on 18th and 2 3rd-w and an "immature" on 25th. Up to 4 individuals were present at this site throughout Feb, with possibly some of these birds also visiting Boultham Mere, where there were 3 on Feb 5th and an ad Mar 1-3rd and 6th, then a 'sub-adult' on May 7th. A 1st-s flew W at Barton on May 23rd and 2nd-s were at Rimac on May 20th and Holbeach Marsh on Jul 2nd. Ads were at Read's Island on Jul 18th, Aug 5th and 20th and singles were at Gib Point on Aug 24th and at Boultham Mere on Sep 6th and 13th,

with 4 at Leadenham Tip on 23rd. Further singles were at Barton on Oct 3rd, Boultham Mere on 21st and Gib Point on 22nd. In Nov, there were singles at Holdingham on 9th and Boultham Mere on 12th.

2001: A number of early records were reported, mainly from Apex Pit (North Hykeham). The peak of 6 was recorded on the Jan WeBS count, with 3 on 7th, 2 on 18th, 3 on 31st and two on Feb 3-4th. Elsewhere there were singles at Pyewipe on Jan 17th and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 28th. Spring records comprised singles at Boultham Mere on Apr 15th and May 6th and an ad at Bagmoor on Apr 21st. Early summer records came from Bagmoor, with two 2nd-s and a 3rd-s on Jun 26th and 30th. A spurt of records during the summer started with an ad at Gib Point on Jul 4th and 16th, and was followed by singles at Bagmoor on Jul 28th and 30th and a 2nd-s there on Aug 1st, then an ad at Gib Point on 3rd, 15th and 16th, 3 ads at Bagmoor on 4th with one there on 5th, an ad off Barton on 18th and an impressive 6 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 20th. Sep records were restricted to 2 ads and a 2nd-w at Gib Point during the month, an ad at Sutton on Sea on 18th and an ad at Boultham Mere on 27th. Records for the last quarter of the year were an ad at Gib Point on Oct 20th, 2 at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on 27th, ads at Boultham Mere on Nov 3rd and Bagmoor on 3rd and 11th, 2 ads at Leadenham Tip on 7th, an ad at Deeping Lakes NR on 10th and finally one at RAF Waddington on Dec 12th.

2002: An increase in records this year, perhaps associated with an increased awareness of this relatively "new" species. In the first winter period, some 21 individuals were seen at 7 sites. Peak counts were 4 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Feb 10th, 3 at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on Jan 21st and 3 at Bagmoor on Feb 17th. During the spring and summer there were 7 more records collectively from Apex Pit (North Hykeham), Boultham Mere, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Gib Point (4), Messingham SQ, Whisby NP and Welland Mouth. A series of records from Bagmoor comprised at least 5 birds between Jun 21-Aug 23rd, and at least 2 visited Barton over the same period. From Sep, there was an ad at Gib Point on Sep 4th, 2 ads at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Sep 18th and 28th, one ad at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 4th, 3 ads at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 5th, with singles on 6th, 8th, 11th and Nov 3rd, and one at Boultham Mere on Oct 19th. All these sites were eclipsed by 12 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Nov 7th, and 7 at this site on Dec 7th included at least 5 new birds. Other winter records came from Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Covenham Res and Bagmoor, involving at least 6 birds.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* *L

Rare visitor, mainly autumn and winter.

2000/2001: no accepted records (see Appendix 2)

2002: A 1st-w was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jan 27th (JWr) and a 3rd-w was at Thorpe on the Hill on Jan 27th and Feb 2-3rd (JWr). One was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Feb 2nd (DMJ) and at the same site there was a 2nd-w on Nov 5th (JWr), and an ad on 9th (DMJ, JWr). At Thurlby Sand Pit there was a 4th-w on Nov 7th (JWr) and an ad on Dec 7th (JWr).

Ice Land Gull *Larus glaucooides* *L

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May.

2000: There were at least 4 individuals in the Read's Island/Winterton Tip area during the early part of the year. A 1st-w on Jan 26th and Feb 12-15th was followed by an ad and 2 1st-w on Feb 19th, 2 1st-w on Mar 4th and one 1st-w on Mar 15th. A 1st-s was seen regularly Apr 16-May 16th (JTH). A 1st-w was at Grimsby Docks on Jan 16-Feb 3rd (GAM) with it or another at Pyewipe on Mar 9th (GAM).

2001: Five records this year. One was at Boultham Mere on Jan 1st (SPB). A 1st-s at Gib Point on May 18th (KMW) was an unusual record but more typical were the 1st-w there Nov 8-9th (JCN, KMW), 1st-w at Bagmoor Dec 15-29th (GPC, ND, WG) and ad at Bagmoor Dec 23-25th (GPC, ND).

2002: Approximately 7 birds made a good annual total. A 1st-w was at Gib Point on Jan 4th and 8-9th (KMW). At Bagmoor there was a 1st-w Jan 12-Mar 9th (GPC, DA), joined by another bird on Jan 17th (ND), 2 birds on 19th (ND) one on 20th (ND) and Feb 3rd (ND, CN) and 2 on Feb 23rd (ND), all 1st-w. A 1st-w was at Grimsby Docks intermittently Jan 13-Mar 3rd (RHa *et al*). A 1st-w was at Thorpe Lake on Feb 3rd (SPB *et al*) and a 2nd-w on Feb (DMJ). A 1st-w on Jan 27th at Bagmoor/Winterton Tip showed characteristics of Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni* (GPC, SPB).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

2000: Up to 8 individuals were in the Read's Island/Winterton Tip area in the first quarter, starting with a 2nd-w Jan 24-Feb 26th, a 1st-w Feb 6-19th, a 3rd-w Feb 12-15th and possibly the same bird on Mar 15th. Also in Mar. there was a 1st-w 1-18th, two 2nd-w and another 1st-w 3-19th and finally a 4th-s bird on Apr 30th. Elsewhere, there was 1st-w at Grimsby Docks on Jan 5th, a 1st-w at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) 17-18th, one at North Kelsey Moor on 23rd, a 1st-w at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 27th, an ad at North Kelsey Moor on Feb 26th and Mar 18th, a 1st-w at Gib Point on Mar 4th and an ad there on 6-7th, a 1st-w at Witham Mouth on Apr 8th and finally one at Pye's Hall on Dec 16th.

2001: In the Bagmoor area, there was a 2nd-w on Jan 2nd, two 1st-w 30th-31st, a 1st-w Feb 10-24th and again Mar 11-30th, and a 1st-s Apr 8-16th. At the year's end, a 1st-w was present at Bagmoor Dec 20-29th, joined by another 1st-w and an ad 27-30th. An ad was at Gib Point on 31st. The only other report this year concerned a 1st-w hybrid Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Apr 3rd.

2002: A small influx in Jan is in stark contrast to the lack of records from late last year. A 1st-w was at Thorpe Lake on Jan 1st. At Bagmoor there was a 1st-w Jan 11-Feb 23rd which was joined by a 2nd-w on Jan 12th, two 1st-w and a 2nd-w on 13th, one on 17th, a 1st-w and a 2nd-w on 18th, 3 on 19th, and 1st-w on Feb 3rd and 23rd. A 2nd-w flew N at Gib Point on Feb 25th. A 1st-w was on Read's Island on Mar 13th and Apr 4th and a 1st-s was at Barton on Mar 20th. A 1st-w was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 16th. Un-aged singles were at Alkborough Flats on Apr 16th and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Dec 8th.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* *B

Vagrant

2000/2001: No records.

2002: An ad was found at Boultham Mere on the morning of Aug 10th (SPB) before relocating briefly to Apex Pit (North Hykeham) later that day (DJM). The 9th county record. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96 p580.

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

Vagrant.

2000: No records.

2001: A juv was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits Sep 27-Oct 4th (KDR *et al*). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96 p581

2002: No records.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* *L/*b

Rare passage migrant in May and Jul-Sep.

2000: Three ads were in a group of 5 terns heading S at Gib Point on Sep 7th (KMW).

2001: A s-plu ad was at Gib Point on Jul 17th (JCN) and another flew N at Gib Point on Sep 17th (JCN).

2002: No records.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

2000: Only one record was away from Gib Point. In Jan, there were 2 on 8th and singles on 14th and 15th. In May there were 4 S on 17th and one S on 23rd. The only summer record was of one on Jul 10th. One on Sep 10th was followed by 3 in Nov; singles on 14th, 18th and 30th. The only other report received was of 100 in the Roaring Middle of the Wash on Nov 24th.

2001: Most records were again from Gib Point, with 9 in Jan, 8 in May, 4 in Jun, 5 in Sep, 3 in Oct and Nov and one in Dec. Elsewhere there was one off Cleethorpes on Jan 13th, 2 off Nene Mouth on Jan 28th and 10 there on Feb 21st, singles off Rimac on Jul 29th, Sutton on Sea on Sep 9th, Freiston Shore and Sutton on Sea on Sep 18th and 2 off Nene Mouth on Dec 2nd.

2002: At Gib Point there were 2 in Jan, 4 in May, 6 in Sep, 2 in Oct and 3 in Dec. Records elsewhere comprised 5 off Moggs Eye on Jul 7th, one off Sandilands and 4 off Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 15th, 2 off Rimac and 4 off Witham Mouth on Oct 3rd and an impressive 51 off Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 6th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

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

2000: A year notable for the complete lack of any records.

2001: Two records from the first half of the year: a s-plu bird off Gib Point on Jan 12th and one found exhausted at Cleethorpes on Feb 24th and later released. There were no further records until a small movement in Nov, with 2 off Barton and singles off Gib Point on 1st and 3rd and 9 on 7th; 11 off Mablethorpe and 2 off Barton on 8th, 121 off Gib Point, 24 off Anderby Creek, 13 off Barton and 8 off Mablethorpe on 9th, 10 off Barton on 10th and 2 off Gib Point on 13th.

2002: Just 4 records involving 11 birds. One flew N at Gib Point on Jan 13th with another there on Feb 4th. Three went past Mablethorpe on Nov 9th and 6 went N past Gib Point on Dec 15th.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* *L

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.

2000: The only record was of an oiled bird found at Gib Point on Jan 15th and taken to Natureland, Skegness (KMW).

2001: Four flew N at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 8th (KDR) and one went N past Anderby Creek on Nov 9th (KDR).

2002: One was off Anderby Creek on Sep 14th (GAM), 2 were off Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 22nd (SPB) and one was at Witham Mouth on Oct 3rd (SK).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* *L/*b

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations or local escapes.

2000: One was at Gib Point on Oct 25th (KMW).

2001: No records.

2002: A series of records this year. Two in the Frampton area on Jan 12th (SK), one at Gib Point on Feb 13th and 27th (KMW), then a single in the Boston Dock area Apr 9-10th (SPB) and Frampton Fen on Jul 6th (SK). Another was at Humberston Fitties on Oct 6th (GAM).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* *(b)

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

2000:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	7	3	7	9	2	4	1	2	4	3	8	7
Min birds	10	3	7	10	4	5	2	3	5	4	11	12

A rather poor year, with most sites only holding 1-2 birds, except for Gib Point and Frampton Marsh with up to 3 in the first half of the year, and Freiston Shore with 5 present in Dec.

2001:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	8	7	7	5	1	2	3	5	5	4	11	13
Min birds	9	10	10	7	4	1	3	4	6	7	22	14

Most sites only had 1-2 birds, but there were 3 at Butterwick in Jan, 3 at Gib Point in Mar and Oct, at least 7 at East Halton Skitter in Nov and 3 at both Moulton Marsh and Frampton Marsh in Dec.

2002:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	5	12	14	8	5	3	1	7	5	14	12	14
Min birds	6	19	18	12	6	3	2	9	7	28	27	31

Five at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 20th increased to a peak of 13 on Dec 1st and there were probably 15 birds in the area. The only other sites with more than 2 birds were Holbeach Marsh with 3 in Feb, Donna Nook with 3 in Nov and Baston Fen, Grainthorpe Marsh, Horseshoe Point and Tetney Marsh all with 3 in Dec.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* * (b)

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant. Extreme dates: Apr 30th-Nov 28th.

2000: No migrants were recorded this year. A churring male was in Laughton Forest on Apr 30th, a new earliest Lincs record. A census of the forest produced 28 churring males. Other sites with territorial birds were Ostler's Plantation, Keb Wood, and Kirkby Moor, with one bird in Willingham Woods on Aug 9th.

2001: A full census was not carried out in Laughton Forest, and only 5 males were reported. Elsewhere, two territorial birds were at Ostlers Plantation and one was at Keb Wood.

2002: A male churring briefly at Gib Point on May 30th was a migrant. Records of territorial birds came from 7 sites this year, although only limited information was received from Laughton Forest. Ostler's Plantation held at least one churring male, Laughton Forest held at least 4, Walesby also held 4, Willingham Woods held 3 and there were 2 at Keb Wood.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* * B

Vagrant

2000/2001: No records.

2002: The second for Lincs and first for Gib Point paused briefly to hawk insects over the Freshwater Mere on Jun 25th (KMW). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 97, p589

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* * L

Vagrant

2000: Three were over the Storm Ridge, Gib Point for 3 minutes with hirundines on May 7th (KMW).

2001: No records.

2002: Three flew over Rimac on Jun 25th (JRW) and 5 were at Ewerby on Jul 3rd (GPr)

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* * L * b

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-Oct, rarely to Dec.

2000: No records.

2001: One was on Seacroft Golf Course, Skegness Sep 24-Oct 8th (APa).

2002: One was on Seacroft Golf Course Jun 18-26th (DW).

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* * b

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

2000: The only record was of one in a garden at Colsterworth on Aug 17th (AA).

2001: No records.

2002: A most unusual sighting was of one at Stamford on May 7th (CM). One was at Gib Point on Sep 10th (KMW, TJS) and another was at Sea View Farm, Saltfleet on Sep 11th-12th (GW).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* *(b)

Scarce resident.

2000: Records of 16 birds came from 14 sites. In Mar, a pair was seen regularly at Belton Park and 2 were at Weelsby Woods. There were also singles at Boultham Mere, Boultham Park, Surfleet Lows, Canwick, Laughton Forest, Kingsway Woods, Keb Wood, Swallow, Normanby Park, Black Walk Nook, Messingham SQ and Moulton Chapel.

2001: A very poor year with records from just 5 sites. A male was in Brumby Woods on Feb 13th and possibly the same bird at Kingsway Woods on Mar 15th where drumming and display to a female occurred on Mar 26th. One was at Crowle Waste/Moors on Feb 18th. A pair was in Laughton Forest on Mar 25th with display recorded on Apr 4th. The only autumn record was of one at South Hykeham on Nov 18th.

2002: In Jan and Feb singles were recorded from Boston, Bradley Woods, South Hykeham, Laughton and Great West Wood. In the summer, 2 were in Laughton Forest, one was at Swallow and another was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. One was with a tit flock at Boultham Mere on Sep 14th, while one in the West Dunes at Gib Point on Oct 19th was only the fifth record for the reserve.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea* *b

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and from 1984, steadily increasing and spreading.

2000: A flock of 4 present from 1999 at Gib Point were joined by another on Feb 18th; the group remained into early Mar, with occasional song and display recorded. Four remained until Mar 9th with 2 leaving the following day. In NW Lincs, a flock of 9 at one site on Feb 13th were the first of the year. A total of 49 males and 41 confirmed pairs at one site, 2 males at another site and one male at a third represented the highest ever total for that area. Elsewhere, 14 territorial birds were recorded from 6 sites. The sole autumn record was of one at Gib Point on Aug 27th.

2001: At Gib Point, one flew S on Jan 24th, followed by one singing in the East Dunes Feb 16-Mar 11th when it was joined by a second bird, but there were no further records until one Apr 28-29th. In NW Lincs, a flock of 9 was discovered overwintering near Laughton on Jan 27th, increasing to 13 the next day. A total of 33 males, of which at least 21 were paired, was confirmed at one site, with 1-2 pairs at a second site and one pair at a third. Elsewhere, at least 14 territorial males were located around the county. Two were at Messingham SQ on Apr 15th with one there on 18th. A flock was again in fields near Laughton on Nov 4th looking set to overwinter.

2002: Migrants at Gib Point were well recorded, with one on Mar 12th, 2 on 17th, 2 on Sep 11th and one Oct 29-30th. Elsewhere, single migrants were reported at Donna Nook on Oct 12th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Dec 17-18th. Breeding records this year were under-represented with no survey of the core area and only 23 territorial males reported from the whole county.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Currently low numbers compared with those of the 1960s and 1970s, when fairly common. Exceptional inland.

2000: The only record away from Gib Point was at Donna Nook on Jan 16th. The winter flock at Gib Point numbered up to 31 in Jan and up to 21 in Feb-Mar. During Apr, numbers gradually dwindled until there were only 8 left by the month's end, with these 8 last seen on May 3rd. The first autumn bird was one S on Oct 22nd. Returning wintering birds began with 2 on Oct 29th, but only peaked at 5 on Nov 5th before dropping to 4 Nov 10-27th and then 3 until the years end.

2001: All records this year were from Gib Point. The overwintering 3 from 2000 remained until Apr 22nd, with one staying until May 10th. Two returned on Oct 5th and were joined by a third on Nov 5th. There were 5 by Nov 28th and then 6 from Dec 10th until the years end.

2002: At Gib Point, the overwintering 6 from 2001 were joined by a seventh bird on Jan 12-Apr 14th; there were then 6 birds until Apr 18th, 3 until 24th and one until May 12th. Elsewhere in

the first winter period, there was one bird at Cleethorpes on Jan 2nd, 2 at Donna Nook on 6th, 3 at Freiston Shore on Jan 16th and Feb 12th and one at Crook Bank on Mar 7th. The first bird of the later winter was at Humberston on Oct 16th, followed by one at Tetney Marsh on 23rd and 5 at Gib Point 24-25th. For the rest of the year there were single figure counts at Gib Point peaking at 9 on Nov 25th, with 4 birds resident from Dec 19th to the years end. Elsewhere there were 2 at Rimac on Oct 31st, 2 at Donna Nook on Nov 2nd, increasing to 6 on Nov 10th but down to just one by Dec 24th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* *L

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, exceptionally Dec-Jan and Apr-May; once inland.

2000: Three records: singles at Donna Nook (GPC, ND) and Frampton Marsh (SK) on Oct 1st and one at Gib Point on Nov 21st (KMW, LSB).

2001: Two records of 3 birds. Two at Paradise/Saltfleet Haven on Sep 23rd (GPC, GAM) was an unusual occurrence, then a rather late bird was at Far Ings on Nov 28th (GPC).

2002: Singles were at Donna Nook on Sep 10th-13th (SL et al) and Gib Point on Oct 23rd (NAL).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* *L

Vagrant

2000: One was at Rimac on Sep 20-21st (GPC, GAM, RL).

2001: One was at Garthorpe on Oct 1st (GPC).

2002: No records.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* *B

Vagrant

2000: One record of a late bird at Gib Point on Nov 8th was the 5th county record (PMT, KMW et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 94, p483.

2001: The 6th record closely followed the 5th, with a bird at Gib Point on Sep 26th (KMW). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95, p504.

2002: No records.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing.

2000: All reports came from Gib Point. Singles were present on Jan 29th and Mar 18-22nd. Four were seen on Mar 24th, 1-3 from then until Apr 18th, with an exceptional count of 7 on Apr 1st. In the autumn, the first bird was seen on Oct 24th, with 1-2 birds present until the years end.

2001: At Gib Point there was one on Jan 2-6th, 2 on 11th, 3 on 13th and then 1-2 present until Apr 18th. A s-plu bird was at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on Apr 4th. In the last quarter a single at Gib Point from Oct 16th to the years end was joined by a second bird on Oct 24th.

2002: At Gib Point, one remained from 2001 until Apr 13th with 4 on Mar 25th, 5 on 27th, 2 on 29th and 2 on Apr 13th. Elsewhere there were singles at Marston STW on Jan 12th, Donna Nook on Jan 19th and Humberston-Tetney Marsh on Mar 15th. During the autumn and winter there was a single at Gib Point Oct 16-Nov 19th with 2 there on Oct 24th and a late sighting on Dec 22nd. The only other report was of one at Donna Nook on Dec 26th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* *B/*L

(Blue-headed Wagtail): scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. Has bred sporadically.

M.f.thumbergi (Grey-headed Wagtail): rare and irregular spring migrant.

M.f.cinereocapilla (Ashy-headed Wagtail): two spring records.

Males resembling other races have occurred, but are most likely to be hybrids.

2000: *M.f.flava*: Just two birds were assigned to this race, one at Marston STW on Apr 29th (BJ) and one at Toft Newton Res on May 3rd (JTH).

2001: *M.f.flava*: A male was at North Kelsey Moor on May 2nd (RH).

2002: No records.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

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

2000: The first record was of one at Toft Newton Res on Apr 5th, staying until 12th. This was followed by 12 records, all in Apr: 3 at Marston STW on 7th and then singles at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on 8th, Deeping High Bank on 9th, Gib Point 14-27th and Messingham SQ on 27th and 29th. There were 2 at Butterwick Hale on 23rd and Boultham Mere on 27th, while the last bird of a short spring passage was at Messingham SQ on 29th. The only autumn records came from Gib Point, singles on Aug 28th, Sep 2nd and 11th and 4 on Sep 25th.

2001: First of the year was at Humberston Fitties on Mar 25th, followed by one at Barton Blow Wells on Mar 31st. In Apr, there was one at Gib Point on 1st, 2 at Horseshoe Point on 8th, 2 at Marston STW on 15th, 4 on 16th and 2 again on 21st, 2 at Gib Point on 9th, with 6 there on 11th, 2 on 12th and one on 14th, one at Covenham Res on 22nd and finally one at Gib Point on 28th. Just three records in May, 2 at Boultham Mere 2-4th with one on 6th, one at Covenham Res on 2nd and 2 at Messingham SQ on 6th. One autumn bird was reported, a female at Mablethorpe on Oct 21st.

2002: A decent year, with approximately 20 records. First of the year were 2 at Gib Point on Apr 1st, followed by singles at Boultham Mere on 3rd, Freiston Shore on 3rd and 6th, Donna Nook and Marston STW on 7th, Far Ings on 11th and Whitton on 19th. At Freiston Shore, 3 on 16th increased to 4 on 18th and 6 on 24th, and there were singles at Witham Mouth on 28th and Humberston on 30th. In May there were 3 on 1st at Freiston Shore, one 2-6th and 2 on 7th. At Gib Point there were just 2 May records; one on 6th and one on 18th. Most autumn records were from Gib Point, with 2 on Aug 25th and singles on Sep 1st, 3rd, 8th and 23rd. There was also one at Fulbeck on Aug 27th.

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

2000: One was at Far Ings on Jan 4th and 5 flew S over Gib Point on 16th heading for Norfolk, while 3 in Dunholme on the same date stayed there until the end of Feb. The only other record in the first half of the year was of one W over Gib Point on Mar 23rd. In Dec, one was at Burton Stather on 26th, 3 were at Gib Point 29-30th, just one on 31st; 7 were at Searby and 4 at Far Ings on 30th, and on 31st 8 were at Holton le Moor and 6 at both Kirkby on Bain GP and Louth.

2001: The arrival that started in Dec 2000 continued throughout the early part of the year, with records from 25 sites during Jan; allowing for birds moving inland, at least 234 birds were involved in this month. The best day was Jan 1st with 64 birds seen at 7 sites, flocks of 20 at Louth and Mablethorpe being notable. There were then 12 in Louth on 2nd, 26 in Grimsby on 3rd, 23 in Skegness and 11 in Winthorpe on 4th, 11 in Boston on 5th, 31 in Grimsby on 6th, 33 in Mablethorpe and 39 in Grimsby on 7th, 10 in Barton on 11th with 14 there on 16th. Feb was much quieter, with 2 at Grimsby on 3rd, one at Humberston on 12th, 3 in Minting Park on 13th, 6 at Messingham SQ on 14th, 8 at Brigg on 19th, 22 at Winteringham on 24th and 11 at Brigg on 25th. During Mar, there were 24 at Brigg on 1st with 9 there on 13th and 13 at Ashbyville on 8th. The last birds of the influx were 6 at Boultham Mere on Apr 10th and then nearby in Lincoln on Apr 13th.

2002: In stark contrast to last year, just 3 birds were reported: 2 at Wyberton on Jan 18th and one at Gib Point on Dec 31st.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* *L

Vagrant

2000/2001: No records.

2002: One of the nominate Continental race *C. c. cinclus* ("black-bellied" dipper) was present at Hubbard's Hill, Louth from Jan 24th-Feb 10th (KA *et al*).

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* *B

Vagrant

2000: No records.

2001: The 6th county record, a male was in song all morning around the ringing hollow at Gib Point on May 15th and was recorded (NAL, KMW *et al*). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95, p505

2002: No records.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* *L/*b

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

2000/2001: No records.

2002: One at Gib Point on Sep 22nd was the first there for six years (PA, MK)

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* *B

Vagrant

2000/2001: No records.

2002: A female/immature was found in the ringing hollow at Gib Point on the evening of Nov 15th (JPS). It was present the following day and constitutes the 5th county record. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p587

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* *b

Scarce passage migrant, rare and irregular breeder and winter visitor.

2000: The first of the year was a female at Gib Point from Mar 19th, possibly present until Apr 21st, and joined by a male on Apr 1st. Also in spring, there was a single at Rimac on Apr 9th and a male singing at Pyewipe on May 21st. A female and 4 juvs were seen at this site on Jul 27th with singles occasionally seen here until the years end. Autumn passage began with a single at Gib Point Oct 6th, followed by singles here on Oct 14-15th, and 21st, and another at Grimsby on 26th. In Nov, there were 2 at Gib Point on the 6th and 7 on 7th, singles at Cleethorpes and Kettleby on the 9th, North Kelsey Moor 9-10th, Gib Point on 14-15th and Blyton on 27th.

2001: One was at Ingoldmells on Jan 10th, then a male at Kettleby on Mar 3rd. Three at Gib Point on Mar 24th decreased to a male 25-28th, then a female was there Apr 5-6th, followed by a male on 25th and singles on 26th and 27th. A female was at Hallington on 28th. In May, one was at Gib Point on 25th. The only breeding record was from Grimsby where 3 juvs fledged, although a bird was at Gib Point on Jul 2nd. The only autumn record was of one at North Killingholme Haven on Nov 6th.

2002: A wintering bird was at Pyewipe on Jan 15th. The next sighting was not until Mar 17th, with singles at both Donna Nook and Gib Point. Most sightings then came from Grimsby, with 2 birds seen intermittently Mar 19-Jul 16th, while elsewhere there were single migrants at Barton on Apr 3rd, Sea View on 6th, Gib Point on 7th and Donna Nook on 19th, with 2 at Donna Nook on 7th. Autumn migration was slightly more widespread, with singles at Gib Point on Sep 10th and 25th, Pyes Hall on Sep 11th and Oct 9th, Gib Point on Oct 7th, 10th, 13th, 28th and 31st, Donna Nook on Oct 12th and 21st, Rimac and Seacroft Golf Course on 13th, Donna Nook and Gib Point on Nov 16th, Sandilands on Nov 18th and Lincoln on Nov 24th. A female was in Grimsby on Dec 11th at least.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* *(b)

Rare/scarce summer visitor and scarce passage migrant in spring, fairly common/common in autumn. Extreme dates: Mar 23rd-Nov 10th.

2000: A very poor spring passage was followed by successful breeding and a localised fall in the autumn. The only spring records were of singing males at Twigmoor on Apr 28-May 1st and in Laughton Forest on May 6-14th. Breeding was confirmed from Kirkby Moor with 3 chicks fledging. The first bird of the autumn was at Gib Point on Jul 17-26th, and a juv at Barton on Jul 28th was unusual. This was followed by a run of Aug records at Gib Point starting with one

on 22nd, 4 on 23rd, 2 on 26th, 6 on 27th and one 28-29th. The main passage was in Sep, with 1-6 birds at Gib Point throughout the month. Elsewhere, an influx of 50 at Donna Nook on 24th had dwindled to 20 the following day and just 14 on 27th. One was at Kettleby also on 27th. In Oct, there were 5 at Gib Point on 1st, one on 4th, 3 on 6th, singles on 7th and 14th. Late records consisted of 2 at Gib Point on Nov 7th, 2 at Rimac on 9th and a very late bird inland at Boultham Mere on Nov 20th.

2001: One at Greetwell Hollow Quarry on Mar 23rd was a new earliest record for Lincs, but then no more until one at Kirton Meeres on Apr 28th and a female at Gib Point on May 11-12th. Breeding was confirmed at Kirkby Moor NR. Autumn passage began with one at Gib Point on Sep 19th, 20 there and 12 arriving on 20th, increasing to 132 on 21st. On 22nd there were 10 at Pye's Hall, 9 in Skegness and 6 at Gib Point. Ten at Gib Point on 23rd were followed by 11 there and one at Horseshoe Point on 24th. Another arrival on 25th consisted of 80 at Gib Point, 9 at Donna Nook and 7 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. On 26th there were ca 30 between Pyes Hall and Donna Nook, 6 at Saltfleet and 10 between Paradise and Rimac; then 4 at Donna Nook and 2 at Skegness on 27th, 4 at Cleethorpes on 28th and singles at Pye's Hall and Paradise on 30th. Numbers at Gib Point tailed off over this period with just 3 left by 30th. During Oct, 2 were at Gib Point on 2nd with one there until 14th and singles at Marston STW on 4th and Moggs Eye on 21st. Over the autumn period, 39 birds were ringed at Crook Bank, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR.

2002: Spring passage was poor, with an early bird at Barton on Mar 29th and just 3 records in Apr: singles at Riseholme on 23rd and Gib Point on 25th and 28th. Only 2 migrants were noted in May, singles at Gib Point on 7th and Horseshoe Point on 10th. Breeding was confirmed again with two pairs at Kirkby Moor NR and a pair at Linwood Warren. An unusual record was of one at Gib Point on Jul 4th. Autumn migration began early, with singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 6th, Humberston Fitties on 22nd and Donna Nook on 24th. Two at Gib Point on 18th preceded near daily records of 1-4 there until Sep 3rd. In Sep, the main arrival occurred from 9th with 10 at Gib Point, followed on 10th by 10 at Pyewipe, 16 at North Cotes Point, 12 at Horseshoe Point, 50 at Pye's Hall, 60 at Donna Nook, 120 at Gib Point and 3 at Freiston Shore. Numbers then gradually dwindled, but new arrivals included 10 at Tetney Marsh and 2 at Cleethorpes LNR on 11th, 6 at Saltfleet and 3 at Anderby Creek on 12th, 7 at Humberston Fitties, 2 at Rimac and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 13th and the only inland bird of the movement at Baston Fen NR on 22nd. At Gib Point in Oct there were up to 3 birds present in the first half of the month, with the last one seen on 21st.

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra

Fairly common passage migrant and rare summer visitor. Formerly bred, but no proven records in the 1990s. Extreme dates: Apr 2nd-Nov 22nd.

2000: Spring passage began on Apr 25th with one at Theddlethorpe St Helen, followed by one at Ashbyville Lake on 27th. Just 11 birds were noted in May from seven sites, and one was at Pye's Hall on Jun 3rd. Autumn passage began on Aug 10th with a single at Frampton Marsh, then 1-4 were reported from 16 sites between Aug 18-Sep 30th, with counts of 10 at Gib Point on Aug 18th and 28th, 6 at Holbeach Marsh on Sep 3rd, 6 at Gib Point on Sep 4th and 5 at Donna Nook on Sep 25th. Late birds were at Gib Point on Nov 4th and Pyewipe on Nov 19th.

2001: First of the year was inland at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Apr 29th. This was followed by 12 birds at 7 sites sporadically until May 15th. Autumn passage began with one at Witheringham on Aug 4th, and was followed by up to 3 birds at 18 sites between Aug 18-Oct 12th. The only higher counts were 4 at Gib Point on Sep 2nd, 5 on 3rd, 6 on 6th, then 5 again on 14th; 4 at Witham Mouth on 17th; 10 at Gib Point on 21st and 6 at Donna Nook on 26th. In Oct, there were 2 at Sea View on 3rd and singles at Gib Point 4-5th, Marston STW 4-7th, RAF Waddington on 9th, Rimac on 12th and Holbeach Marsh on 27th.

2002: A better year than the previous two, with a marked arrival in autumn. Spring passage began on Apr 24th with one at Fiskerton. There then followed 30 records from 16 sites with peak counts of 4 at Anderby Creek on May 8th and 5 at Pye's Hall on 10th. Autumn passage began on Jul 20th with one at Gib Point. During Aug there were records from 7 sites, although

the only multiple counts were at Gib Point with 3 on 14th, 5 on 21st, 3 on 26th, 7 on 27th, 8 on 29th and 6 on 31st. In Sep there were 1-2 at 6 sites until the 7th, then 3 at Barton on 8th signalled the arrival of 80 in the Marshchapel/ North Cotes Point area and 20 at Pye's Hall on 10th. At Gib Point there were 15 on 9th and single figure counts until the last one there on 27th. Further arrivals included 35 at Rimac on 12th and single figure counts at 15 sites until the final one on Oct 3rd, again at Rimac.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr. Sporadic breeder in last 50 years (last 1980) but formerly bred more commonly. Mostly *S. t. hibernans* but 6 recent records of *S. t. maura/stejneger* in May and Oct-Nov.

2000:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	5	5	12	2	-	-	-	-	3	9	13	11
Min birds	10	8	16	2	-	-	-	-	6	21	35	15

Most records came from the coast, where the largest count was 8 at Gib Point on Nov 3rd. Inland records were 2 at Marston STW and 4 at Baston Fen throughout Jan, one at Sibsey on Mar 5th, one at Binbrook on Mar 17th, 2 at Baston Fen on Oct 14th, 3 at Boultham Mere on Oct 15th down to one on 27th and a new bird on 28th, 2 at Searby on Oct 19th, one at Boultham Mere on Nov 2nd, 2 at Marston STW on 5th, 2 at Searby on 7th, one at Ashbyville Lake on 10th, 2 at Bardney Pits on 12th and one there on 19th, one at Greetwell Hollow Quarry on 16th, 2 Baston Fen on Nov 20-Dec 9th at least, one at Searby on Dec 2nd and one at Nocton Fen on Dec 15th.

S. t. maurus *B

2000: A female or 1st-w male was at Saltfleet 1-3rd Oct (SD et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 94 p 486

2001:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	10	4	7	1	-	-	-	-	6	17	12	12
Min birds	15	4	10	1	-	-	-	-	12	64	32	27

The year was marked by a notable arrival in Oct, with about half of the records coming from Gib Point, including peak counts of 10 on 6th, 13 on 11th and 22 on 13th. Elsewhere, there were 5 at Saltfleetby on 5th, 3 at Rimac on 12th and 6 at Holbeach Marsh on 27th. Inland records during the early part of the year were as follows: one at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) on Jan 6-7th, 2 at Owmbly on 13th, 2 at Baston Fen on 14th, one at Skellingthorpe on 19th, one at Marston STW on Jan 27-Feb 2nd, one at Branston Fen on Feb 10th and one at Worlby Top on Mar 10th. From Oct onwards, there was one at Long Bennington on Oct 4th, 1-2 at Marston STW from Oct 4th until the years end with 3 there on Nov 24th, singles at Saxby Wold on Oct 12th, Nocton Fen and Thurlby Fen Slips NR on 27th and at Kirton on 28th, 2 at Marton on Nov 3rd, 5 at Laughton on 4th, 2 each at Silk Willoughby on 11th, Nocton Fen on 19th, Baston-Langtoft GP on Dec 2nd, Caythorpe and Keisby on 6th and Gosberton on 16th and one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Dec 20th.

2002:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Sites	17	15	8	2	-	-	-	1	9	21	14	11
Min birds	32	28	18	2	-	-	-	1	26	41	26	18

The steady increase in the numbers and distribution of this species continues, although this year there were no individual counts as high as last. Peak counts were 6 at Gib Point on Sep 22nd, 6 at Rimac on Oct 3rd and 8 at East Halton Skitter on Nov 6th. There was a much more widespread distribution of records this year, with 23 inland locations hosting birds.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* *B

Vagrant

2000: A 1st-w female was at Gib Point Nov 18-26th (GWA, SPet, KMW et al), the first county record of this eastern species. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 94 p 486

2001/2002: No records.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

2000: The first bird of the spring was a male at Gib Point on Apr 1st, followed by just 4 other spring birds: one at Gib Point on Apr 18th, a male at Far Ings on 19th, a male at Tetney Marsh on 24th and a female at Gib Point on May 1st. Autumn passage was better, but virtually restricted to Gib Point with the only record from elsewhere being a single at North Cotes Point on Nov 2nd. At Gib Point, the first bird of the autumn was a single on Sep 26th, with at least 12 birds in Oct and 13 birds in Nov. Notable arrivals were 7 on Oct 12th and 6 on Nov 6th, with the last bird on Nov 18th.

2001: Another below average spring, with just 7 birds reported. First of the year were singles at Butterwick Marsh and Gib Point on Apr 3rd, followed by singles at Barton on Apr 25th, Gib Point on 26-27th, Boultham Mere on May 2nd and Gib Point on 4th and 13-15th. Autumn passage began with one at Gib Point on Sep 21st followed by 3 there on 23rd and 4 on 25th. Singles were at Mablethorpe on 23rd, Horseshoe Point on 25th and Waters Edge CP on 27th. During Oct there was one at Gib Point 9-10th and 2 there on 14th, and singles at Pye's Hall, Rimac and Saltfleet on 14th, Saltfleet and Mablethorpe on 21st and Gedney Drove End, Rimac and Gib Point on 22nd. A final bird was at Gib Point on Nov 1st. With 23 birds from 9 sites, this was an above average autumn.

2002: First of the year was an early single at Barrowby on Mar 23rd. This was followed by 11 other singles: Nettleton on Apr 4th, Moulton Marsh NR on 7th and 14th, RAF Waddington on 11th and 16th, Barton on 19th, West Ashby on 20th, Humberston on 26th, Risby Warren on 28th, Tetney Marsh on May 1st and Gib Point on 16th. An early returning bird was at Gib Point on Aug 29th. All of the Sep records came from Gib Point, and these were 3 on 1st, one 2-3rd, 2 on 4-10th and 2 on 29th. Oct records were more widespread, with 2 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 8-12th, singles at Gib Point and Saltfleetby on 9th and Saltfleet Haven on 10th, then a localised fall at Gib Point, with 3 on 10th, 19 on 11th and 34 on 12th. Numbers then dwindled quickly with the last bird there on 20th. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Donna Nook on 12th and one there on 13th, singles at Rimac, Seacroft Golf Course and Nettleton, with 4 at Sea View and 2 at Anderby Creek on 13th and one at Horseshoe Point on 17th.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* *L/*b

Vagrant

2000: No records.

2001: An ad female was trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on Oct 23rd (MLRG).

2002: A female was trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Oct 1st (MGB) and one was at Huttoft Pit from Nov 16-Dec 30th at least (SML et al).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* *L/*b

Vagrant

2000 : No records

2001 : A male was in song on the River Witham/South Delph at Fiskerton, Jun 25-Jul 12th (JEE).

2002 : No records

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* *B

Vagrant

2000: A male was in song at Chapel Pit May 29-Jun 13th (per SK). This was the seventh county record, but the first since 1990. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p594

2001: For the second year running a male was in song in the county, this time at Deeping Lakes NR on May 16th-22nd (SK, TW). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p594

2002: No records.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *b

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

2000/2001: No records.

2002: One at Donna Nook stayed from Sep 4-Dec 31st at least; presumably the same bird was also seen at Rimac on Nov 2nd. This represents an exceptionally late stayer and rare example of over-wintering. Further singles were at Horseshoe Point on Sep 10th, Gib Point Sep 13th, and Seacroft Golf Course Sep 21st.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* *L

Rare coastal passage migrant Aug-Dec, though mainly Aug-Sep.

2000: Just one record, of a very late individual at Gib Point Nov 27-29th (AJPS).

2001: No records.

2002: Two records, both from Gib Point. One on Sep 9th (NAL) and the other Oct 20th (SPB).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* *B (to 31.12.06, then *L)

Vagrant

2000/2001: No records.

2002: One was at Donna Nook Sep 10-13th (GPC et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p596

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* *L

Vagrant.

2000: One at Kirton Marsh on Nov 15th (NS).

2001/2002: No records.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant Sep-Nov; exceptional inland.

2000: The first was at Donna Nook on Oct 1st with another nearby at North Cotes village Oct 2nd, but later records all came from Gib Point: singles on Oct 11th and 22nd and Nov 6-8th.

2001: One at Pye's Hall on Sep 21st was followed closely by 2 at Chapel St Leonards and one at Skegness on 22nd, then 2 at Gib Point on 25th and 4 there on 26th with one remaining until Oct 2nd. Late singles were at Chapel St Leonards on Oct 21st and Sea View Oct 27th.

2002: An early bird was at Donna Nook Sep 11-30th, with the next not arriving until Oct: singles at Pye's Hall 7th, Gib Point 7-9th, and 11-14th and Donna Nook also on 11th, and finally one at Gib Point on Nov 3rd.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L)

Vagrant

2000: One was at Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 1st (HB et al) and another at Donna Nook Oct 1-3rd (GPC, ND). Both records accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 94, p493

2001/2002: No records.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L)

Vagrant

2000: No records.

2001: One was at Donna Nook on the rather early dates of Sep 25-26th (FJM, RWat et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95, p515

2002: No records.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* *(b)

Rare/scarcely passage migrant. A scarce breeder to the early 20th century but no recent breeding records, despite some territorial males in recent years.

2000: The only record was one at Chapman's Pond, Cleethorpes on Sep 17th.

2001: Another poor year with just one record of a singing male at Barton Pits on May 5th.

2002: A slightly better year, with spring migrants reported at Riseholme on Apr 25th, Gib Point 25-26th and Barton and Gib Point 29th. First of the autumn was at Donna Nook on Aug 24th, followed by singles at Gib Point 28th and Sep 1st and at Donna Nook Sep 11th. Two were trapped and ringed at Gib Point Sep 15-16th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

P. c. tristis *L

Vagrant/rare migrant and winter visitor. Status unclear due to identification difficulties. "Siberian" chiffchaffs have recently been the subject of an identification paper by Lars Svensson and Alan Dean whose findings throw doubt on many records of this race in Britain. A review by BBRC is currently underway.

2000: No records.

2001: One was well watched, heard and photographed at Waters' Edge CP Dec 17-31st at least (GPC et al). One showing characteristics of this form was at Marston STW Dec 30-31st at least (ACL, TML et al).

2002: One remained at Marston STW from 2001 until Jan 1st, as did the bird at Waters' Edge CP. One showing characteristics of this form was at Ashbyville on Mar 11th (ND).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* *b

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

2000: In the early winter, singles were in Kirkby on Bain village on Jan 9th and Gib Point Jan 21-26th with 2 there Feb 7-22nd, and one Feb 24-Mar 14th at least. One was in Boston Cemetery on Apr 8th with the only other spring sightings coming from Gib Point: one was in the plantation there on Apr 16th, while 2 singing males were present 18-19th. In the autumn, singles were at Gib Point on Sep 12th, Donna Nook Sep 27th, Gib Point Oct 15-16th, with possibly a new bird there on 19th. In Nov, one in the plantation at Gib Point on 6th was the forerunner of 4 there on 7th, with singles also at Cleethorpes 7th, Barton 10-13th and Gib Point 12th. One at Seacroft Golf Course on 17th was trapped and found to have been ringed in the Netherlands. Winter records were restricted to one at Blackwalk Nook on Dec 12th and one at Fulbeck Dec 13th.

2001: A wintering bird was at Barton on Jan 17th. A decent spring passage was dominated by Gib Point. In Mar, there were singles at Gib Point 18-20th and 30th. During Apr, Gib Point hosted one on 3rd, 3 on 5-6th, singles on 9th, 10th and 16th and then 3 on 22nd. Also in Apr, one was in Barton Reedbed on 3rd. Four birds in May were all at Gib Point: one on 14th, 2 on 15th and one on 21st. An unusual late spring bird was at Gib Point on Jun 8th. Autumn started with 2 at Gib Point on Sep 26th, followed by singles on Sep 29th, Oct 4-7th, Oct 11th, and Oct 15-16th. During Nov, there was one at Metheringham on 2nd and one at Gib Point 19-20th.

2002: One on Feb 15th at Gib Point was the first of the year, followed by one at Cleethorpes LNR on Mar 5th. The remainder of spring records came from Gib Point, with one on Mar 13th, 3 on 17th, one 18-19th, 3 on 24-25th, 2 on 28th, one Apr 18th and 22nd. In May there was one on 2nd and 14-15th, 2 on 16th and one 18-19th. Autumn passage saw large numbers of birds down the east coast of Britain, and this was reflected in Lincolnshire. The first was at Gib Point on Sep 14th, then 2 there 22nd and 24th, one at Sea View 26th and one at Gib Point 28-29th. During Oct, approx 41 birds were reported from 15 sites, including 6 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 6th, 3 at Anderby Creek and Gib Point on 11th and 9 at Gib Point on 12th. Numbers at Gib Point then gradually dwindled to 8 on 13th and 3 on 14th, followed by almost daily counts of 1-2 until Nov 25th. Elsewhere, there were 3 at Donna Nook 12-13th, 2 at Anderby Creek 13th and 2 again at Donna Nook on 22nd. One remained at Donna Nook until Dec 31st at least.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* *L

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

2000: No records.

2001: Just one record, of a 1st-w at Sea View Sep 23-25th (GPC et al).

2002: After two poor years, 6 records this year represented something of an influx. At Gib Point, one at the north car park on Sep 10th (KMW) was followed by another the following day at

Shoveler's Pond (JCN). Elsewhere in Sep, there were singles at Rimac on 10th (PCo) and Tetney Marsh 11th (GAM). One lingered at Gib Point from Oct 12-19th at least (KMW et al) while another was at Donna Nook on Oct 31st (SL, MLRG).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* *b

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Formerly bred commonly in the Fens to the early 19th century. Regular breeding since 1968.

2000: One was at Boultham Mere Jan 1-10th, with 2 there on 27th and 29th. Birds were present all year at Barton. Breeding occurred at Far Ings, with at least 4 broods fledging a total of 13 young from just 3 breeding females. Up to 10 males were present on site at this time. Outside the breeding season, up to 10 birds wandered the pits in Dec.

2001: All but one record came from the Barton area. Early in the year, at least 2 were at Far Ings, with 1-2 in Barton Reedbed. Four pairs bred, comprising 2 pairs at Far Ings, one pair at Bridge Pit and one pair at Barton Reedbed and at least 10 juvs were seen in the area. In the autumn, 8 were at Far Ings on Oct 6th and at least 10 were seen to irrupt from Barton Reedbed on Oct 28th. Small numbers were heard in the area throughout Nov-Dec. Elsewhere, one was at Gib Point on Oct 25th.

2002: No breeding results were received from Barton, but birds were present in the area all year. Elsewhere, there was a good spread of records during the autumn. One at Donna Nook Oct 12-13th, 8 flew S through Gib Point on Oct 13th with 2 there Oct 14th. Two were at Baston Fen NR, 4 were at Rimac and 8 flew through Gib Point on Oct 20th. One was heard at Boultham Mere on Oct 22nd then 4 birds were at Gib Point Oct 23-28th with 2 lingering until Nov 4th. Elsewhere in Nov, there was one at Huttoft Pit 2-20th, one heard at Chapel Point on 6th, 5 at Boultham Mere 9th and 2 at Baston Fen 9th and 3 there on 25th. Later in the winter, there were 6 at Huttoft Pit on Dec 13th, 2 at Rimac Dec 18th and 4 at Huttoft Pit on Dec 28th.

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* *B

Vagrant

2000: An ad male was seen and photographed in the West Dunes at Gib Point on Jun 13th (NS); the 4th county record. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p600

2001: An ad male at Waters' Edge CP Apr 10-11th (GPC et al) was the 5th county record. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p600

2002: No records.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *L/*b

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

2000: A male at Gib Point on May 24th flew from the west dunes to Green Lodge before singing from the poplars (KMW), and another male was at Rimac on Jun 17th (CA, GAM).

2001: No records.

2002: Just one record confirmed this year: one in sub-song at Moulton Marsh NR on Jun 4th (SK).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *L/*b

Rare passage migrant and summer visitor. Formerly rare breeder, last bred in 1978.

2000: An ad female was in Fishtoft churchyard on the unusual dates of Jul 3-5th (PF).

2001: A juv was at North Cotes Point on Aug 28th (GAM). A juv inland at Brinkhill on Sep 18th was an excellent record (GPC). A juv was at Donna Nook Sep 25-28th (GAM et al).

2002: A juv was seen briefly at Gib Point on Aug 17th (GGr), another juv was in the Rimac/Sea View area Sep 16-19th (GH, CJJ, PCo et al) and a juv was at Gib Point Sep 21-22nd (per KMW).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* *L

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

2000: Just two records, both unusually in Apr. One was at Pyewipe, (Grimsby) on 22nd (GAM) and one in the west dunes at Gib Point on 30th (KMW).

2001: No records.

2002: The only spring record was of a single at Gib Point on Mar 25th (TS). In the autumn, an adult male was trapped and ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 11th (BRG), two birds arrived at Gib Point on Oct 16th where one was trapped and ringed (MRB) and one stayed until Oct 24th. Another was at Anderby Creek on Oct 29th (KMW).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* *L

Rare migrant and winter visitor.

2000: One was at Kirkby on Bain from Jan 10-20th intermittently (KDR et al) and was seen again on Mar 4th. Two were at North Killingham Pits on Sep 28th (WBS et al).

2001: No records of the species, but a hybrid hooded crow x carrion crow was at Sutton Ings Brick Pit on Jul 20th (KA)

2002: One was at Sandilands on Aug 28th (CJJ).

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* *B (to 31.12.01, then *L)

Irruptive vagrant

2000: A juvenile was trapped at Donna Nook on Sept 21st (JRMa, JMS). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 94, p496

2001: A male in song was in Louth Jun 13-15th (HB, GPC et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 96, p602. A juv was at Chapel St Leonards on Sep 30th (SPB, BS et al). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 95, p517

2002: An ad was at Horseshoe Point and Tetney Marsh Jun 14-16th (GAM et al). A well watched and tame 1st-w fed regularly in gardens at RAF Cranwell Nov 22-Dec 5th (BJ, AC et al).

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor, probably overlooked.

2000: Two at Boultham Mere were present Jan 1-13th, with 5 there Feb 5th. During Oct, there were 10 at Frampton Marsh on 9th and one at Boultham Mere 17-18th. Possibly the same bird was also seen at Boultham Mere on Nov 14th.

2001: The bird at Boultham Mere was seen again on Jan 1st.

2002: No records.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *L/*b

Vagrant

2000: No records.

2001: One was at Gib Point on Sep 25th (MJG).

2002: One trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Sep 28th was not seen again until Oct 13th (MRB, MJG, SPB).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (b)

Scarce local resident and rare passage migrant.

2000: Five were at Scawby Park on Feb 19th, one in a garden in North Cotes village Nov 2nd, one with redwings at Marton Nov 4th and 3 at Scawby Dec 17th.

2001: A surprise find was one visiting a bird feeder in Fishtoft Jun 11-16th. The only migrant was one flying S at Gib Point on Oct 13th. At Scawby Park, three were 2 on Feb 2nd and one Dec 31st.

2002: Seven were seen at Scawby Park on Feb 10th, with 2 there Mar 23rd. One was at Stamford on Feb 8th and again on Dec 23rd. Migrants were noted at Gib Point on Oct 24th and Donna Nook on the unusual date of Dec 7th.

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce/fairly common but local passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Rare inland.

2000: All records were coastal except for one at Covenham Res on Nov 2nd. The only records from the first winter period were from Kirton Marsh, with 6 on Jan 16th, one Jan 17th and one Mar 4th. The first autumn records were in Sep at Grainthorpe Marsh on 11th, with it or another there on 20th. Three flew S at Gib Point on 20th, followed by another S there on 25th. A series

of records in Oct included singles at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh on 1st, Pye's Hall and Witham Mouth 15th, 2 at Gib Point 17th, 2 at Horseshoe Point 19th, one at Pyewipe, Grimsby on 23rd and the final 2 birds of the month at Tetney Marsh Oct 31-Nov 2nd. In Nov, there were 2 at Frampton Marsh on the 6th, one at Pye's Hall 9th, one at Gib Point 14th rising to 2 on the 24th, and finally 2 at Kirton Marsh 26th. In Dec, apart from one at North Cotes Point on 27th, all records were from the SE corner of the Wash, with 2 at Freiston Shore on 14th, one there on 28th and 3 at Witham Mouth 31st.

2001: In the first half of the year, there was one at Gib Point Jan 6-31st, 4 at Freiston Shore Jan 13th and 2 at Donna Nook and one at Howden's Pullover Jan 14th. First of the autumn was one at Donna Nook on Sep 25th, followed by singles at Sea View Oct 11th, Barton Oct 13th, Donna Nook Oct 14th, Gokewell Priory Oct 27th, Gib Point Nov 3-13th and Dec 31st and Kirton Marsh on Dec 30th. The only larger count was 3 at Witham Mouth on Nov 18th.

2002: A better year than 2001, although just 3 records from the early part of the year: singles at Gib Point on Jan 4th and 12th, and one at Fishtoft Jan 20th. The first autumn migrants did not arrive until Oct, with one at Gib Point on Oct 7th. Up to 3 birds may have spent Oct-Nov at Gib Point. Elsewhere, 2 were at Tetney Marsh on Oct 23rd, 3 were at Donna Nook Oct 31st, singles were at Tetney Marsh and Horseshoe Point Oct 5th, 4 were at Donna Nook and Witham Mouth Oct 10th, with 3 at Donna Nook Oct 16th and 20th. Two were at Horseshoe Point on Nov 26th. In Dec, one remained at Tetney Marsh on 6th while the 4 at Donna Nook on 8th dwindled to 2 on 26th.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant.

2000: One at Gib Point Oct 1st (KMW).

2001: No records.

2002: One at Donna Nook on Oct 25th (SL).

Appendix 1: Records of Species not Currently Accepted onto the Full British List

Category D

Species which would otherwise appear in Categories A or B except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. These records may be reviewed at a later date if acceptable records subsequently occur.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Vagrant/escape

2002: An ad was found with the Humber pink-footed geese flying out from Read's Island on Nov 10th. It fed with the pinkfeet in the South Ferriby and Winterton area, before flying off to the west later that day (GPC, WG et al). Accepted by BBRC, but only onto Category D.

Category E and Other Escapees

This list included both species on Category E (ie species recorded only as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining) and individuals from species which are on the British List, but which are known or strongly believed to have escaped or to have been released from captivity.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

2000: Two at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 15th, 2 at Messingham SQ on Aug 4th, one at Apex Pit (North Hykeham) in Oct, 2 at Gosberton Bick Pits on Nov 16th and one still at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Dec 16th.

2001: One at Baston-Langtoft Pits during Jan-Mar, one at Barton Pits in Feb, one at Bagmoor Mar 16-Aug 28th at least, one at Messingham SQ on May 9th and one at Fillingham in Sep increasing to 2 in Oct-Nov.

2002: Two at Baston-Langtoft Pits in Jan, 2 at Fillingham Lake in Jan and Mar-Apr, 2 at Stowe GP on Jan 20th and 27th, 1-2 at Deeping Lakes May-Aug, 1-2 back at Fillingham Lake in Aug-Sep, 3 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 2nd, one on the South Forty Foot Drain near Boston in Oct and one at Tongue End in Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

2000: One in the Barton/Read's Island area from Jan-Sept was seen to be paired with a Greylag.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

2000: One at Tattershall Pits on Dec 21st, associating with other ornamental wildfowl.

2002: One at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 5th and 27th was probably an escapee. Although the date is encouraging, the location is not!

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

2000: Two ads with Greylags all year commuting between Messingham SQ, Twigmoor and Kettleby. Two known escapees at Ewerby Pond on Feb 3rd and Nov 11th at least. An ad was present in the South Ferriby/Read's Island area Sep 25-27th, moving to Whitton in Oct.

2001: Two were at Messingham SQ in Jan, with one remaining there until Oct. This bird bred with a Greylag, producing 3 hybrid young. Breeding also occurred at Barton with 10 pairs fledging 39 young; Also "good numbers" bred on Read's Island, but no counts were made. Elsewhere, a blue phase bird was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits Mar 7-9th.

2002: A white phase at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Feb 2nd and another at Deeping Lakes NR on Mar 29th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

2000: One at Deeping High Bank on Mar 20th, one at Hagnaby Lock/Fen Jun 10-12th, 2 at Kirkby on Bain GP Jun 27-Sep 27th. One at Revesby Res on Jul 30th joined the 2 at Kirkby on Bain GP on Sep 28th, before all 3 flew back to Revesby Res on Oct 8th. Another was at Whisby NP in Jul and 2 were recorded at Messingham SQ on Dec 27th.

2001: Two on Read's Island on May 23rd. Two at Langtoft West End Pits in Oct increased to 6 in Nov at Baston-Langtoft Pits, with just one there in Dec.

2002: Reported from 3 sites. One or two seen at Deeping Lakes NR during the first half of the year, with 4 there on Aug 11th, 1-2 remaining into Sep. One at Revesby Res on Sep 30th, and one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits from Oct to the year's end.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

2002: One at Deeping Lakes NR on Mar 29th was most likely to have been an escapee.

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

2001: Three at Freiston Shore on Sep 23rd.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

2001: 1-2 birds at Tattershall Lakes CP from Sep-Dec.

2002: At Tattershall Lakes CP, the 2 birds were present during Jan and Feb, with just one remaining into May-Jul.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

2001: A male at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Oct 12th.

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

2000: One at Baston Fen NR on Apr 1st.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

2001: One at Waters' Edge CP during May at least.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*

2002: A presumed escapee was reported on Huttoft Pit on Sep 14th.

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

2002: One at Scopwick on Mar 15th.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

2002: One at Mareham le Fen on Sep 4th.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

2002: A male in the Riseholme area was paired to a female common buzzard this year, but is known to have been in the area for more than 2 years.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*

2002: One at Far Ings Oct 7-8th, with presumably the same bird then seen at Worlaby Carrs Nov 12-Dec 9th at least.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

2002: One at Scunthorpe on May 29th.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

2000: One at Swallow on Sep 28th.

2001: One flew over Boultham Mere on Oct 24th being chased by a Sparrowhawk. It went down into the reedbed and was eventually captured and taken to a vet!

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

2002: One was seen at Scunthorpe on Dec 14th.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus dorsostriatus*

2002: One at Barton on Sep 16th.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*

2001: One at Gib Point on Jun 26th.

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 the relevant committee, they will be entered into the database and published in the next report.

2000

Black Brant – Jan 25th, Kirton Marsh; Nov 25th, Kirton Marsh; Dec 2nd, Kirton Marsh; 2 Dec 3rd, Kirton Marsh; Dec 10th, Kirton Marsh; Dec 26th, Kirton Marsh.

Cory's Shearwater – Aug 30th, Gib Point.

Purple Heron – Jul 26th Manby/Carlton Flashes; Sep 9th Grainthorpe Marsh

White Stork – 2 Apr 5-6th, Gedney.

Northern Goshawk – Feb 4th, Dunsby Fen; Apr 9th, Ostler's Plantation; Jul 7th, Ancaster; Sep 9th and 20th, Farforth; Oct 22nd, Red Hill, Goulceby; Nov 10th, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits.

Spotted Crake – Oct 11th, Marston STW.
 Dotterel – Nov 5th, Deeping High Bank.
 Pacific Golden Plover – Jul 11th, Whitton Ness.
 Caspian Gull – Jan 4th, Barton; Jan 25-26th, Apex Pit (North Hykeham); Feb 11th, Boultham Mere.
 Marsh Warbler – Jun 15th, Gib Point.
 Siberian Chiffchaff – Dec 26th, Marston STW.
 Red-backed Shrike – Jun 6th, Far Ings; Sep 21st, Rimac.
 European Serin – May 31st, North Cotes Point.

2001

Black Brant – Jan 2nd, Kirton Marsh; Jan 5th, Kirton Marsh; Jan 7th, Cleethorpes South; Jan 29th, Humberston Yacht Club Pools; Feb 11th, 2, Kirton Marsh; Apr 9th, Horseshoe Point; May 23rd, Horseshoe Point; Oct 28th, 2, Kirton Marsh; Nov 3rd, Kirton Marsh, Nov 11th, Holbeach Marsh; Dec 8th, Kirton Marsh; Dec 10th, Kirton Marsh; Dec 22nd, Kirton Marsh.
 White-billed Diver – Jan 30th, Gib Point.
 Mediterranean Shearwater – Jul 17th, Gib Point; Sep 9th, Gib Point.
 Little Shearwater – Sep 4th, Gib Point.
 Leach's Petrel – Sep 3rd Huttoft Car Terrace; Sep 23rd Chapel Point; Oct 6th Gib Point; Oct 6th Saltfleetby.
 Rough-legged Buzzard – Mar 4th Gib Point; Nov 14th Ingham
 Dotterel – May 12th, 3, Baumber.
 American Golden Plover – Dec 12th, Shep Whites.
 Temminck's Stint – May, Butterwick Hale.
 Long-tailed Skua – Sep 9th, 4, Gib Point.
 Caspian Gull – Jan 25th, Feb 1st, Apex Pit (North Hykeham); Oct 5th, Huttoft Car Terrace; Nov 7th, Leadenham Tip; Dec 16th and 24-25th, Bagmoor.
 Lesser Crested Tern – May 11th, Gib Point.
 Yellow Wagtail *M.f. thunbergi* – May 27th, Gib Point.
 Black-throated Thrush – Oct 31st, Gib Point.
 Rosy Starling – Dec 22nd, Stamford.

2002

Black Brant – Jan 6th, Kirton Marsh; Jan 8th, Friskney; Feb 2nd, Kirton Marsh; Feb 3rd Freiston Shore; Feb 10th, Gib Point; Mar 17th, Freiston Shore; Oct, Witham Mouth; Oct 3rd, Freiston Shore; Nov 17th, Kirton Marsh; Nov 26th, Horseshoe Point.
 American Wigeon – Feb 1-2nd, Denton Res; Oct 26th, Butterwick Hale
 Great Egret – Aug 20th, Gib Point.
 Purple Heron – May 20th, Messingham SQ.
 White Stork – Apr 24th, Gib Point; May 16th, Lincoln; May 28th, Kirkby on Bain; Jun 3rd, Donna Nook; Aug 10th, Gib Point.
 Honey Buzzard – May 12th, Horseshoe Point; May 15th, Gib Point; Jun 18th, Tetney Marsh; Jun 28th, Stamford; Jul 15th, Gib Point; Sep 29th, 2, Leadenham.
 Black Kite – Sep 4th, Worlaby Carrs.
 Rough-legged Buzzard – Mar 27th Scamblesby; Apr 2nd, Far Ings; Oct 13th, Whitton; Oct 16th, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits.
 Common Crane – Apr 10th, 2, Bassingham; Apr 11-14th, Wroot; Jun 22-24th, Coningsby; Aug 1st, Bardney; Aug, Metheringham Fen; Sep 22nd, Fenton (Kettlethorpe).
 Collared Pratincole – Sep 8th, Nocton Fen.
 American Golden Plover – Dec 12th, Shep Whites.
 Pacific Golden Plover – Jul, Cleethorpes LNR, Horseshoe Point and Tetney Marsh. Submitted to BBRC – awaiting decision.
 Baird's Sandpiper – Jul 10th, Cleethorpes LNR.
 Pectoral Sandpiper – Aug 15th, Freiston Shore.
 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Aug 29th, Gib Point.
 Lesser Yellowlegs – Oct 6th, Freiston Shore.

Red-necked Phalarope – Sep 14th, Huttoft Car terrace.
 Long-tailed Skua – Sep 14th, 2, Huttoft Car Terrace; Sep 15th, Rimac; Sep 22nd, 4, Mablethorpe;
 Sep 23rd, 6, Gib Point; Sep 25th, Saltfleetby; Oct 6th, Saltfleetby.
 Caspian Gull – Jan 21st, Apex Pit (North Hykeham); Feb 3rd, Deeping Lakes NR; Feb 5th,
 Bagmoor/Winterton Floods; Feb 26th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods; Mar 2nd, Deeping Lakes NR;
 Mar 10th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Aug 25th, Freiston Shore.
 Iceland Gull – Jan 4th, Skegness; Jan 8th, Gib Point; Jan 12th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods; Jan
 13th, Grimsby; Jan 23rd, Thorpe Tip; Feb 2-3rd, Thorpe Tip; Feb 26th, Bagmoor/Winterton
 Floods, Mar 10th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods; Mar 18th, Cleethorpes LNR; Apr 4th, Grimsby.
 American Herring Gull – Dec 11th, Thurlby Pit.
 Glaucous Gull - Aug 7th, Covenham Res
 White-winged Tern – Jun 3rd, Kirkby on Bain; Nov 18th, Greetwell Warren.
 Atlantic Puffin – Jun 22nd, Gib Point; Sep 15th, Gib Point; Sep 22nd, Mablethorpe; Sep 23rd ,
 Gib Point.
 Snowy Owl – Feb 15th, Twenty.
 Wryneck – Sep 22nd, Scotter.
 Richard's Pipit – Oct 22nd, Donna Nook.
 Olive-backed Pipit – Nov 9th, Freiston Shore.
 Red-throated Pipit – Sep 10-13th, Donna Nook; Oct 18th, Saltfleetby; Oct 22nd, Gib Point.
 Bluethroat – Nov 26th, North Cotes Point.
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler – Oct 13th, Donna Nook.
 Iberian Chiffchaff – Mar 31-Apr 1st, Barton Pits.
 Collared Flycatcher – Oct 13th, Anderby Creek.
 Golden Oriole – May 18th, Gib Point; May 22nd Gib Point; Jun 1st, Rimac.
 Red-backed Shrike – May 31st, Gedney Drove End; Jun 4th, 2, Rimac; Sep 12th.
 Great Grey Shrike – Nov 22nd, Kirton Marsh.
 Rosy Starling – Jun 3rd, Donna Nook; Jul 14th, Donna Nook; Jul 24th, Scunthorpe.
 European Serin – May 6th, Gib Point.
 Arctic Redpoll – Mar 3rd, Linwood Warren.
 Ortolan Bunting – Oct 11th, Saltfleetby.
 Rustic Bunting – Sep 16th, Pye's Hall.

**Appendix 3: Rare/scarse species on the Lincolnshire List which did not occur (as wild birds)
 during the report period. (But see also Appendix 1, Category E.)**

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* *B Vagrant
 Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* *B Vagrant
 Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* *B Vagrant.
 Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* *B Vagrant.
 Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* *L Former scarce resident, not recorded since 1935.
 Yellow-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* *B Vagrant
 Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* *L Vagrant
 Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* *B Vagrant
 Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* *B Vagrant.
 Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* *B Vagrant
 Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* *B Vagrant
 Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* *B Vagrant.
 Black Kite *Milvus migrans* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* *L Vagrant
 Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* *L Vagrant
 Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* *B Vagrant
 Little Crane *Porzana parva* *B Vagrant
 Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* *B Vagrant

Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii* *B Vagrant
 Great Bustard *Otis tarda* *B Vagrant
 Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* *B Vagrant
 Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* *B Vagrant
 Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* *B Vagrant
 Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* *L/*b Vagrant
 Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* *B Vagrant
 American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant:
 Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* *B Vagrant
 Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* *B Vagrant
 White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* *B Vagrant
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* *B Vagrant
 Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* *B Vagrant
 Great Snipe *Gallinago media* *B Vagrant
 Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* *B Vagrant
 Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* *B Vagrant
 Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* *B Vagrant
 Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* *B Vagrant.
 Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* *B Vagrant
 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *L Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn.
 Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* *B Vagrant.
 Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* *B Vagrant
 Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* *L Vagrant
 Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* *B Vagrant
 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* *B Vagrant
 Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* *B Vagrant
 Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* *L Vagrant
 Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrphantes paradoxus* *B Vagrant
 Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* *B Vagrant
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* *B Vagrant
 Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* *B Vagrant
 Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* *B Vagrant
 Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus* *B Vagrant
 Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* *B Vagrant
 European Roller *Coracias garrulus* *B Vagrant
 Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* *L Vagrant
 Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* *B Vagrant
 Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* *B Vagrant
 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* *B Vagrant
 Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* *B Vagrant
 Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella certhiola* *B Vagrant
 River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* *B Vagrant
 Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* *B/*b Vagrant
 Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* *L Vagrant
 Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* *B Vagrant
 Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* *B Vagrant
 Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* *L/*b Vagrant
 Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* *B Vagrant
 Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* *B Vagrant
 Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* *B Vagrant
 Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* *B Vagrant

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* *B Vagrant
 Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *L Vagrant
 Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* *B Vagrant
 Common Raven *Corvus corax* *L/*b Resident to 18th century but now a rare vagrant
 European Serin *Serinus serinus* *L/*b Vagrant
 Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* *L Rare/scarce irruptive winter visitor, Oct-Apr.
 Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* *B Vagrant
 Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* *Bb Rare/scarce irruptive winter visitor
 American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* *B Vagrant
 Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* *B Vagrant
 White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* *B Vagrant
 Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* *B Vagrant
 Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* *L Vagrant
 Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* *L Vagrant
 Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* *B (to 31.12.05, then *L) Vagrant
 Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* *L Vagrant
 Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* *B Vagrant
 Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* *B Vagrant

ACCOUNTS OF LINCOLNSHIRE RARITIES 2000-2002

PIED WHEATEAR AT GIBRALTAR POINT NNR, NOVEMBER 18-26TH 2000

Having been away from the reserve, I returned to work on the morning of Sunday 19th, to be informed that late the previous evening, a visitor had reported seeing a wheatear, possibly pied, near the Wash Viewpoint. No written details or contact information was immediately available. There was no confirmatory information from Birdline and I must admit to a substantial measure of scepticism and was not immediately sidetracked from livestock checking duties in the East Dunes. However, I relayed the message to Gordon Allison who went to check it out. Shortly he located the bird, obtaining brief views and called me back: "Kev, I've got the wheatear, I think you ought to have a look at it!"

Ten minutes later I was there. The bird appeared and began to feed along the rocks at the dune edge. Initial impressions were of a small dingy, rather uniform wheatear with a bland looking expression, generally cold tones to the head, mantle and breast, a pale-centred throat and quite broad pale edgings to all wing feather tracts, which gave the wings a scaly effect. The wheatear flew briefly and gave a glimpse of the reduced area of black in the tail pattern. At that point I proceeded to make about ten phone calls in as many minutes.

Gordon and I were confident that black-eared wheatear could be ruled out on general plumage tones and the extensive pale edgings to the wing feathers. If we were wrong, we figured that visiting birders wouldn't be too disappointed. Later consultation of identification papers confirmed our belief and indicated that the bird was a first-winter female. Also, later during the day, we received information that the original finder of the bird was a Mr S Pettifer from Nottingham.

The wheatear remained faithful to 'Rock Ridge' for a further seven days. It was regularly observed at very close range, to the special delight of many photographers. It showed a preference for foraging amongst the debris of the strandline and amongst the rocks. Occasionally, it would venture a short distance into the saltmarsh or fly up to perch on low elder or sea buckthorn scrub. This gave the best opportunity to study the bird's tail which was frequently wagged and splayed whilst balancing in a strong breeze. To complement the extensive range of photos and video-footage taken, a brief description follows.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Structure | A small delicately built wheatear, but often appearing dumpy and pot bellied. A long-winged appearance was attributable to the very long primaries, which reached at least halfway down the tail. |
| Head pattern | Interpretation of the head pattern varied according to light conditions. At a distance it gave the impression of a dusky hood and, coupled with the rounded head shape, the appearance could almost be reminiscent of a bulky Sylvia warbler. Close up, the full range of features could be seen, particularly when head on. Supercilium dingy but paler than the crown and joined in a narrow band across the base of the bill; most apparent above and behind the eye, where it flared out somewhat. Thin whitish eye-ring, ear coverts paler and warmer than the cold grey-brown crown. |

- Upperparts** Mantle and nape cold-toned grey-brown as the crown, but at close range the mantle showed a mottled effect due to the dark-centred feathers having slightly paler edgings. Scapulars slightly darker and more uniform than the mantle. White rump clear-cut from the brownish back about level with the base of the smallest tertial; uppertail coverts also pure white.
- Tail** Even on a brief view, predominance of white in the tail was striking. Central tail feathers solid black, the remainder white tipped with solid black crescents, forming a continuous terminal band. Inner feathers less extensively tipped, those toward the outer edges becoming broader-tipped such that outer tail feathers showed double the amount of black.
- Wings** Most of the wing feathers black or brownish-black; the tertials not quite as dark as the primaries. All wing feathers broadly edged with buff; lesser coverts had a very mottled appearance, but median and greater coverts showed regular patterning giving a 'scaly' look. Broad buff tips to the greater coverts created a distinct, straight-looking wing bar. Pale edges to the secondaries created a panel effect and edges to the tertials also very distinct. The primary coverts with consistent pattern of dark centres and broad pale buff edges. Primaries had less extensive pale fringes and tips.
- Underparts** Most prominent was the broad dusky band across the breast, almost concolorous with upperparts, but appearing warmer in some light conditions and at close range. Lower border of this band quite diffuse, merging with the whitish lower breast and belly. Upper border well defined at the junction of the throat/breast; appearing clear-cut save for the interruption of diffuse dusky malars. These bordered a clear whitish central throat area and created an appearance similar to autumn pied fly when seen head-on. Rest of the underparts whitish, with slight hint of a peachy wash down the flanks.
- Bare parts** Bill black, rather cone-shaped, coming to a fine point and could appear quite large in proportion to head. Eyes dark, legs and feet black.

As a breeding species, pied wheatear is widely distributed across Asia from the Black Sea to Mongolia, southern Siberia and China. The wintering grounds stretch from the southern Arabian Peninsula across East Africa. Fewer than 50 have occurred in the British Isles and this bird constitutes the first record for Lincolnshire. Slightly later than most previous records, the Gib Point bird arrived during an exceptional November for late eastern rarities which included olive-backed pipit (8th), Pallas's warbler just north of the reserve (10th), Richard's pipit (21st) and barred warbler (27th).

Kevin Wilson

GREEN HERON AT MESSINGHAM, SEPTEMBER 24TH 2001

On Monday 24th September 2001, I was visiting Messingham Sand Quarry with my partner Andrea. It was mid-morning, about 1030, and we walked out towards the wader hide. Along the path to the hide a gap in the alders allows a view out across reedbed and wet grassland towards the main pond. A solitary shape in an area of cut reed caught my eye and I stopped for a better look. It looked like a small heron of some kind, but not one I was familiar with. It was moving slowly through the shallow water and over patches of cut reeds. With the view that I had it seemed to have quite distinctive colouration; a grey-green mantle and wings, a rufous neck and yellow legs. I noted what characteristics I could then we walked on to the wader hide to see what was about.

When we walked back from the hide the small heron was fishing in the pools, and noticeably raising the feathers on its crown and bobbing its short tail. By this time I was beginning to think it might be something a bit unusual and we went straight home so I could have a look through some bird guides. The only thing it could be was a green heron, but the guide said that there had only ever been three recorded in Britain previously, so I was beginning to convince myself I must be wrong. My father Tony, also keen on birds, said he would come up for a look and we hurried back at about midday, by which time it had started raining. I was concerned that the bird's neck colouration wasn't consistent with the book, but the book did note that juvenile green herons had more variable striations on the neck.

After another look, and despite the rain, we decided it couldn't really be anything else and excitedly I rang a birder friend of mine who suggested letting others know. In the end the green heron stayed around for a few days and was seen by good numbers of visiting birders.

Andrew Stanworth

LESSER SAND PLOVER AT SALTFLYBY-THEDDLETHORPE NNR, MAY 11-15TH 2002

Early afternoon by the "Plot", Barry Clarkson recommended, based on recent visits, a check of the Rimac saltmarsh pool as the water-level was ideal for migrant waders when viewed from the south. Whilst heading towards the saltmarsh pool, Mike Tarrant saw two waders fly over from the south and land on the muddy margins towards the back of the pool. One was a breeding-plumaged dunlin, whilst the other was somewhat larger with white under-body and wings and a warm-coloured breast. At the pool edge, it stood hunched as the dunlin actively fed; however, what we saw heightened our interest enormously. Noting pale sandy upperparts, blackish legs, a seemingly quite stubby black bill, orange forehead and a broad ochre-orange breast-band – it was clearly a sand plover!

A strong heat-haze made the task of discerning detail difficult. Obviously, it was necessary to go closer, but a flock of whimbrel fed amongst the vegetation between the pools and us. Fortunately, when the whimbrel flew off, our target bird remained.

Closer views revealed the proportions suggested lesser sand plover, yet compared with *tundrae*-type ringed plover and dunlin, the size gave the impression of greater sand plover. Plumage details indicated female, but not of the familiar eastern forms of lesser (*C.mongolus*) and greater (*C.leschenaultii*) sand plovers at this time of the year. This left us with the unfamiliar western forms of lesser sand plover (*C.atrifons*) and greater sand plover (*C.columbinus*). Progress was halted as a bait-digger walked in off the mud-flats across the north side of the pool alerting the waders. Although the disturbance subsided, without warning the sand plover flew east over the sand-flats. It was relocated that evening towards the Haven mouth by Neil Drinkall.

The next day the bird was still present and the general consensus of opinion of the observers studying the bird favoured lesser sand plover, yet proportions and size, compared with the ringed plover, still misled some to thinking it was a greater sand plover.

With the bird present for the next few days, it gave many the opportunity to become acquainted with this form of lesser sand plover. The bird belongs to the *atrifons* group from southern-central Russia, Himalayas and east and southern Tibet, which represents the contemporary known "lesser sand plover" or more apt Dutch name, "Tibetan plover" (*C.atrifons*).

On the last day, a ringed plover flew in and invaded the sand plover's immediate feeding territory. The sand plover responded with head-lowering and rear-tilting behaviour towards the ringed plover and whilst raising its wings it emitted a hard double trill recalling ruddy turnstone rendered as "k-rrrrrr k-rrrrrr".

The following is typical of female *Charadrius atrifons*:

Upperparts and crown: pale sandy-grey, ear coverts slightly darker and upturned across the nape.

Foot and leg colour: towards black (graphite-grey).

Bill: graphite, short and of even width lacking distinct bulbous tip of *C.mongolus*.

Chin, throat, belly, vent and flanks: clean white. Lack of black border to orange breast. Ochre-orange of breast running up and across mid-nape. Rump with broad lateral white areas narrowing on upper tail coverts.

Tail evenly-coloured with broad white tail-sides.

Barry Clarkson

LITTLE SWIFT AT GIBRALTAR POINT NNR, JUNE 25TH 2002

On the morning of June 25th I had been out since just after first light to take a shift at the shorebird sanctuary, deterring a local kestrel from taking shorebird chicks. At approx 0645 I left to open a tidal sluice on the Fenland Lagoon on the rising tide. As I had to wait some 40 minutes for the lagoon to fill, I went to the Mere to check out the breeding waterbird situation.

There was a fair amount of activity on the Mere in terms of reed warblers, a small number of hirundines and wildfowl, including the first little grebe chicks of the year. It was whilst watching these at the back of the Mere (some 80 metres) that a lone swift cruised from left to right through my binocular vision. 'That looked small' I recall thinking aloud and something made me think of chimney swift. It has to be said that I wasn't getting too excited at this stage over fleeting views of a lone bird, silhouetted at some distance. Besides, I thought, how many times have I ever seen a lone swift in less than perfect conditions and thought it looked small or even large? Had I noticed a white rump at the time I'm sure my reaction would have been different!

Anyway, it had flown eastward into quite strong sunlight. I focussed back on activity over the water, where typical numbers of local hirundines included 5 house martin and 10 swallow, with a couple of sand martin. The small swift materialised again, 25 metres in front of the hide and about 5 metres over the water, flying straight towards me with typical flickering swift flight and showing extensive pale areas across the forehead and throat, before zipping over the hide. Now I was gobsmacked! A small number of common swifts had also arrived on the scene. As it performed a circuit coming in from my right within the next few seconds I was able to see the white rump, which initially looked quite crescentic because of the amount of white present over the sides to the rump. Thoughts of white-rumped swift came to mind and the next series of views needed to concentrate on the tail shape. My prayers were soon answered as the next view again involved the bird coming in from the right, following the flight-line of 3-4 common swift, giving perfect size comparison. As the bird banked slightly away, a perfect view of the broad, square white rump was given, then banking to fly directly away and with wings bowed downward, it fanned its short tail to show an evenly square tail tip and a total lack of obvious fork. This bird also clearly lacked the attenuated back end profile of most other swift species. At this stage and within about 3 minutes of the original sighting, I had confirmed the identity as little swift. I watched it complete another couple of circuits in the company of common swifts before calling my colleague Tim Sykes over the SW radio. Unfortunately, Tim was at the extreme end of the shorebird sanctuary and tied up with nest protection issues. I rang the news out to Birdline North-East and a couple of local birders.

When I looked back out over the Mere, the party of swifts had disappeared, including their diminutive cousin. I quickly left the hide and started to scan the area. Over the next 20 minutes or so I had scanned over the adjacent water bodies to no avail. It soon became apparent that there was a southerly swift passage taking place, mostly down the East Dunes; periodically, small numbers of swifts would deviate off this route to hawk over the Mere before continuing south. I had no doubt that the little swift must have moved south and the chance of me catching up with it again were zero. Hence, I made contact with birders at Boston to alert them to the possibility of it heading their way. Unfortunately, none of the locals were in a position to get out to a coastal

watchpoint. I had then found myself in the unfortunate position of having to submit a single-observer sighting for a major rarity.

- Size and structure Two-third size of common swift with large-headed and front-heavy appearance, exacerbated by short rear-end. Back end tapering down like a cigar butt into short square ended tail, which was occasionally splayed fully open, Typical swift sickle like wings
- Flight action Typical swift with rapid series of wing-beats almost bat-like and then short glides. During glides, tail occasionally splayed fully open and wings bowed slightly downward c 20 degrees from horizontal.
- Plumage Virtually all of the upper and underparts were blackish, as common swift. I did not detect any contrast in any aspect of wing, tail or body plumage. However, in contrast to that species, the face pattern was quite pronounced. Indeed, the initial head-on views were striking in that it showed an extensive pale greyish-white forehead area and a broad off-white throat patch which was quite clear cut from the rest of the underparts, covering the whole of the throat area. The combination and juxtaposition of these pale patches made the eye stand out more than in common swift and something that I remember as giving them a characteristic facial expression from seeing nesting birds at night at close range in an illuminated tunnel in Kenya.
- Bare parts Eye larger in comparison, bill barely seen, tiny and dark. Legs and feet not seen

I recalled dipping on little swift in Devon in the early 1980s, but since then I have seen hundreds on various trips to the tropics, where I have also gained experience of white-rumped swift, Pacific swift and Bohm's spinetail. I believe that the possibility of the bird being a house swift can be eliminated by the tail length and shape, the extent of the white rump and the extent of pale plumage around the face.

Kevin Wilson

ROSS'S GOOSE AT READ'S ISLAND ROOST, NOVEMBER 10TH 2002

Since 1960 the Wildfowl and wetlands Trust have organised an annual census of pink-feet and Icelandic greylags October and November. Counts are co-ordinated over one weekend in the first half of October and November to maximise the chances of recording the peak totals of each species as they arrive from their Icelandic breeding grounds.

I volunteered to undertake the counts on the Humber and from the early 1990s have done the two counts each autumn along with supplementary counts throughout the winter. The second count of the 2002 season was organised for November 9-10th; a dusk roost count or a dawn departure count are allowed depending which is the most suitable at your roost. The forecast of heavy rain and wind on the morning of the 10th sent me to my count site opposite Read's Island on the evening of the 9th although I knew from past experience that roost counts were difficult at this site; birds often arrive very late, sometimes in total darkness. By 17:00 only 390 birds had moved onto the island but there were two flocks of 410 and 340 on fields just to the south of my count position. At 17:05 it was just about dark and I was about to give up when a loud goose chorus alerted me to a flock of 900 birds arriving from the south-west, including the 340 above. Shortly after another huge flock came in from high to the south-east but were hard to see in the darkness; even so I estimated there were 2400+ birds, but how many had I missed? There was nothing for it but to set the alarm for 06:00 the following morning and brave the rain.

By 06:30 on the 10th I was again in the lay-by opposite Read's Island and although there were frequent heavy showers and a strong south-east wind it was not as bad as I had expected! At 06:58 the first geese started to leave their roost and with the poor weather flew low south and landed on the fields behind me. Flocks then started to stream out from the roost and counting was difficult in the wind and increasing rain. Then in the gloom there was a sight for straining eyes, a snow goose, unmistakable white morph bird with immaculate black wing tips. The flock it accompanied looked as if they were going to land on the fields about 600m away but I was still trying to concentrate on counting the never-ending flocks of pinks. By 07:10 I managed to phone a few people and put the word out knowing that the geese would probably not stop on these fields for long before dispersing inland. After a few more minutes when the flocks seemed to have stopped leaving the roost I was able to put up the scope and have my first good look at the snow goose. Even on a first glance, having seen many thousands of both lesser snow and Ross's in California in winter, it was clear that this was a diminutive Ross's! It was smaller than the pinks next to it and the short, thick neck, stumpy bill and rounded head quickly identified it as a standard Ross's. A quick check revealed that the long-looking legs carried no rings.

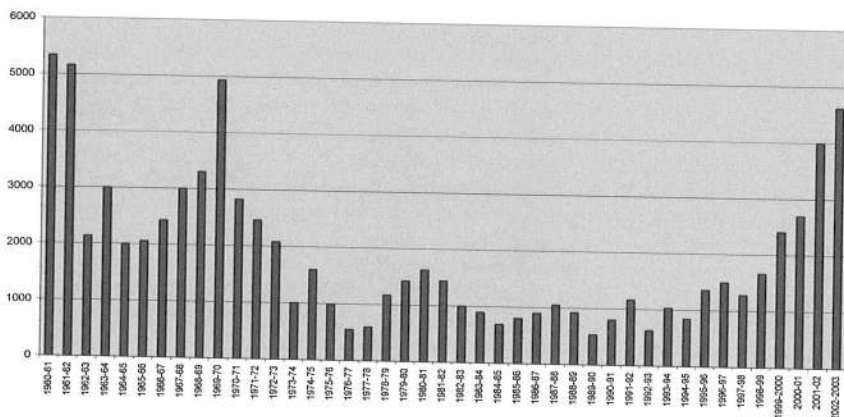
Fortunately, as the majority of the geese moved off after being shot at by the local farmer, the Ross's returned with a small flock of pinks and fed on the autumn cereals in the field immediately west of South Ferriby Cement works for the next four hours during prolonged spells of heavy rain. At lunchtime it moved with a large flock of pinks onto a field of sugar-beet tops north of Winterton showground where it showed well until mid-afternoon when the flock flew off and it was not relocated. During observations of the flock at Winterton a fine tundra bean goose was found in the flock and at times both this bird and the Ross's were in the same scope view.

Description: A small goose, smaller in overall proportions than the accompanying pink-feet, a feature that was very noticeable in flight. Bill short and stumpy, pink with

purple/grey marks at the base where it joined the head feathering in a vertical line; no grinning line as in lesser snow. Head rounded and neat with a gentle impression formed by the small bill and the dark eye in the rounded head. Neck quite short and usually looked thick, thicker in proportion than pinks, but longed when stretched up. All plumage white except tips of wings, primaries, which were black. Legs quite long-looking and both legs and feet pink.

At present this species is in Category D of the BOU British list on the principal that the likelihood of escapes occurring is greater than that of wild birds. This has been questioned in recent years however, with the increasing occurrence of the species in wild carrier flocks of pink-footed geese that have also started to bring with them vagrant Canada geese. The record of a first-winter Ross's with pink-feet in Norfolk in the 2001-2002 winter, returning in 2002-2003, rekindled the debate on the origin of Ross's Geese in the UK. Yes there are a lot of birds in captivity but birds like this individual are arriving with large flocks of pink-feet from Iceland and Greenland and there seems no reason to doubt that they are indeed wild birds. The number of Greenland white-fronted geese occurring in eastern England is also increasing, again suggesting an origin for many of the vagrants in Greenland, or even further west? The first proven records of Greenland white-fronts with the Humber pinks have occurred in the last two winters. The Nearctic population of Ross's and lesser snow geese has increased from an estimated 900,000 in 1970 to an estimated 5.12 million by 1998 (Ross's Geese in Britain, *Birding World* 14:11:477) with the population of Ross's possibly now being as high as 1 million birds. As stated in the *Birding World* paper, ringed lesser snow and vagrant Canada geese have occurred in the UK so it seems a bit silly to suggest that wild Ross's cannot be occurring.

Humber Pink-footed Geese seasonal maxima post 1960



On the morning of the 11th I again counted the geese departing from the roost and in much better conditions than on the previous day the total of 4620 birds formed an amazing spectacle but there was no sign of the Ross's Goose; had it moved on to Norfolk the previous afternoon? This is the highest count on the Humber since the winter of 1969-70 and forms part of the recent trend for increasing numbers that has been noted since the early 1990s.

Graham Catley

Contributors to the County Records for 2000, 2001 and 2002, with the initials used in the text

Mrs D Ablett	Mike Cousins	Brian Hedley (BHe)	W C Nimmick (WCN)
Richard Abrahams	Peter Cox (PCo)	Andrew Henderson	Ian D Nixon
Dave Adkin (DAK)	John Crispin	Phil Hickerton	Tony Nuttall
A Allain (AA)	J Crosby	Ian Higginson (IHl)	Jack Odell
G W Allison (GWA)	M Crosby	Dave Hitchin (DH)	Gervase Orton
Julia Alton	B M Crowther	Mrs Hodgson	Keith Osbourne
Joe Ashburner	Brian Cunningham	John Hollis	Jane Ostler
Chris Atkin (CA)	A Cutajar	I Holmes	Alex Parker (AP)
Keith Atkin (KA)	A Dale	J Holmes (JH)	Keith A Parker (KAP)
Peter Atkins (PA)	Brenda Davies	P Holt	David Parkin (DP)
K Atterbury	Alan Daws	R A Hook	A Parkinson (APa)
R Atterbury	Keith Dixon	Derek Horn	R Parsons
S Ayers	Chris Dobson (CD)	S Horsfall	Oliver Patterson
John Badley (JB)	N H Dorrington (NHD)	A C Houghton	A T Pearce
Alison Baldwin	Alan Drewitt	Tony Housman (AJH)	M J F Peck
Alan Ball (ABl)	Neil Drinkall (ND)	John Howard	Martin Peers
Peter Ball	Steve Duffield (SDu)	D Hursthouse (DHur)	Peterborough Bird Club
Norah Barker	Jacqueline Dumbleton	Phil A Hyde	S Pettifer (SPet)
Terry Barnatt	Paul Dumbleton	P Jacklin	I M Phillips
Roger Barnett	Janet E Eastmead (JEE)	Lewis James	Tony Porter (TPo)
Tony Bates	Brian Eke (BRE)	David M Jenkins (DMJ)	John Pover
Mrs E Baxter	M Elwood (MEl)	Colin Jennings (CJJ)	Jonathan Price
G Beasley	Les Enderby	Sheila Jennings (SJ)	G Priestley (GPr)
Lloyd Berry (LSB)	S Evans (SE)	Barry Johnson (BJ)	Dave Purnell
Ian Birch (IB)	Pete Fairweather (PF)	D Johnson (DJ)	James Rackham
Birdguides (BGU)	Vin Fleming	Graham Johnson	Jane Rackham
Birdnet	Dave Fogg	D Johnstone	Trevor Raven
Birklands RG	Mrs A E Forinton	S Keen	John Redshaw (EJR)
Tony Bladon	Colin Forsyth	Steve Keightley (SK)	W J Rees
Boston Ringers' Ass.	Stuart Foster	Henry Kennedy	D S Reeve
G Botham	Derek Fox	Martin King (MK)	B Reynolds (BRE)
Steve Botham (SPB)	Richard Fox	David Knight	C Rhodes
Ray Bowell	Ron Fox	Geoff Knight	Keith D Robertson
William Bowell	W Fox	Colin Landymore	K Robinson (KR0)
P R Boyer (PRB)	J Gallimore	Guy Langan	Jeremy Robson
Dave J Bradbeer (DJB)	Garden Bird Survey	Geoff Lee	Stephen Routledge (SR0)
D Branch	P Garnett (PGa)	Trevor Lee (TML)	RSB
M R Briggs (MRB)	Gibraltar Point BO	Alexander Lees (ACL)	Adrian Royle
Christopher Brightman	Major Gilbert	Mick Leighton	D Rushby
British Trust for Ornithology	Wayne Gillat (WG)	Lincolnshire Wildlife News	John Ryle
Stuart A Britton (SAB)	Liz Glazebrook	Steven Lister (SML)	D Satterthwaite (DS)
Dave R Bromwich	Anne Goodall	Rob Littlewood (RLI)	T Savage (TSa)
Bill P Brookings	Roger Goy (RG)	Peter Locking	Chris Sayer
D Brookes	Martin J Gray (MJG)	R Lorand (RL)	Keith Scott (KSc)
S Brookes	Phil Green	Steve Lorand	Keith Seaton
William Brooking	Steve Green	Nigel Lound (NAL)	P A Sedgwick
Elizabeth Broome	Stuart Green	Steve Lovell	B Sellars (BS)
R Broughton	George Gregory (GGr)	F J Maroevic (FJM)	J P Shaughnessy (JPS)
Andy Brown	Peter Griffin	J R Marshall (JRM)	Ian Shepherd
Mrs H Brown	Grimsby Area Members	Paul Marshall	P C Short (PCS)
Howard Bunn	(GAM)	Jane Mason	Eric Simms (ES)
F Burgess	Barry Hancock	John R Mawer (JRMa)	Andrew Sims
Graham P Catley (GPC)	Clive Hancock	F D Maxfield	J M Sizer (JMS)
C Chambers	Graham Hardy (GH)	Ray McCabe	Dave Smith
Andy Chapman	John T Harriman (JTH)	Edmund Mackrill (EJM)	A Smith
Andrew Chick (APC)	Kerry K Harrison	Steve Meek	J Smith
C Clarke	Matt Harrison	Mid-Lincs Ringing Group	Margaret Smith
G O Clarke	Michael Harrison (MEH)	(MLRG)	Neil Smith
Barry Clarkson (BMC)	Michael Harrison (MHar)	John S Mighell (JSM)	T Smith
Clowne Wildlife Group (CWG)	Pat Harrison (PHar)	A Mills (AM)	Tim Smith
Martin Coates	Andrew H J Harrop (AHJH)	Ian Misselbrook	Paul Snow
Simon Cohen	R Harvey (RHa)	D Mogford	John Spring
Philip Collins	J Hawcroft	Chris Monk (CM)	A Stanworth (AS)
F Cooke (FC)	Jenny Haynes	John D Mortemore (JDM)	E Staunton
G J Coomes (GJC)	Peter Haywood	John Moyes (JMo)	Garry Steele
J Coomes (JCoo)	Kay Heath	John R Nelson (JRN)	Bill Sterling
Carl Cornish	Richard Heath	David Nicholls (DN)	Brian Stone
Mike Cottingham	Roger Hebb	John C Nicholson (JCN)	Greg Swain

T J Sykes (TSy)
Mike Tarrant (MJTa)
Steve Tarrant (STT)
Gordon Taylor
Alan Temple (AT)
Phil Todd (PT)
Denis Townsend
Pat Troake (PMT)
Roy Twigg
Niven Vessey

John Walker (JRW)
Rob K Watson (RKW)
John Watt (JWa)
Nicholas Watts (PNW)
R Watts
Graham Weaver
Iain Webb (IWW)
Mike Weedon
M Welbourne (MW)
S D Wellock (SDW)

Wetland Bird Survey
Mr Wheeldon (MrWh)
J Wheldon
D White (DWh)
I C Whitehouse (ICW)
S J M Whitehouse (SJMW)
Barrie Wilkinson
A G Williams (AGW)
Geoff Williams (GW)
Leith Williams

Trevor Williams (TW)
Kevin Wilson (KMW)
L Wilson
Dave Wright
Eric Wright
John Wright (JWr)
Jacqueline Young

The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside

By Stephen Lorand and Keith Atkin

Now Out of Print

The Status of Birds in Lincolnshire 1991 - 1995

By Anne Goodall and Keith Atkin

Provides a full systematic list, species accounts, status and trends,
types and sources of numerical data and records required,
for the period covered.

£4.95 + £1.50 Post & Packing

Lincolnshire Bird Reports

Includes Review of the year, Systematic List, Rarity accounts,
Survey results, Ringing report, etc

1979 to 1986 £2.00 each including Post & Packing

Or £7 for pack of 8, including Post & Packing

1989 and 1991 to 1996 £ 5.00 each including Post & Packing

Rare and Scarce Birds in Lincolnshire 1997-99

£12 + £1.50 Post & packing

Lincolnshire Bird Club Car Stickers

50p + stamped addressed envelope

All the above available from LBC c/o Bill Sterling, "Newlyn",
5 Carlton Avenue, Healing, N. E. Lincs, DN41 7PW,
Tel No 01472 887988, E Mail wbsterling@hotmail.com

● Main Lincolnshire bird sites



visit our website

www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk