

Lincolnshire Rare & Scarce Bird Report 2003 – 2007



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**
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FRONT COVER: American Robin *Turdus migratorius* first-winter female Grimsby Pyewipe
from Jan 1st to Mar 8th 2004 © Graham Catley

ISSN NUMBER: 0261-5525

*Welcome to the 2003-2007
Lincolnshire Rare and Scarce Bird Report*



Smew *Mergus albellus* drake at Barton Pits Dec 3rd 2007 © Graham Catley



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INTRODUCTION

The publication of the Lincolnshire Rare & Scarce Bird Report 2003-07 brings to a conclusion the catch-up process left by the lack of an annual bird report between 1996 and 2007.

This period saw the rapid development of online bird information and digital photography. With rare bird news instantly available the number of descriptions received by the Bird Club declined.

During this period there was an increase in requests for bird data from students, conservation bodies and developers, fuelling the development of the Lincolnshire Bird Club database.

The creation of the LBC database was possible due to the hard work of Steve Keightley, Colin and Sheila Jennings and Janet Eastmead, all of whom pulled together under the chairmanship of Anne Goodall. The database is the backbone of this and other Rare & Scarce Bird Reports and continues to grow in size from year to year.

The publication of the Lincolnshire Rare & Scarce Bird Report 2003-07 would not be possible without the meticulous work undertaken by Graham Catley, without whose input this report would not have been possible.

The first annual report for eleven years was published in 2008. The publication of all the reports would not be possible without contributors' records, photographs and descriptions. To all of these contributors, on behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club, many thanks.....

Individual observer initials are shown for all description species throughout the Lincolnshire Rare & Scarce Bird Report 2003-07. A full list of observers is produce annually in the bird club report, and all names can be cross referenced. The Lincolnshire Bird Club apologies for any omissions.

Andrew Chick - Lincolnshire Bird Club Chairman 2008-2014

SUMMARY OF THE 2003 – 2007 LINCOLNSHIRE SCARCE AND RARE BIRD REPORT

The years of 2003 – 2007 saw massive advances in ornithology in the county with the development of digital photography probably producing the greatest change in bird recording and identification for over 100 years. Who would have believed that a Yellow-nosed Albatross, a species never before recorded in Britain, could have landed on a fishing pond near Scunthorpe and left of its own accord had it not been for the camera carried by an angler and the first occurrence of Steppe Grey Shrike would also have passed unnoticed without the submission of the digital image. Another positive development has been the creation of new nature reserves/projects such as at RSPB Frampton Marsh, RSPB Freiston Shore and Alkborough Flats managed realignment schemes. These have quickly started to produce enviable lists of scarce and rare birds.

The production of this report has been long in gestation but it now fills the gap in published Lincolnshire annual reports forming a link between the past publications and the recent run of excellent annual reports.

A total of eight species were added to the county list during the period. In order of occurrence these were; Hume's Warbler Oct 18th and a second bird Oct 23rd – 29th 2003, American Robin Jan 1st – Mar 8th 2004, Pallid Swift Oct 23rd 2004, Terek Sandpiper Jul 11th 2005, Buff-bellied Pipit Dec 5th 2005 to Jan 29th 2006, Sora Mar 5th – 18th 2006, Greater Yellowlegs Apr 9th – May 31st 2007 and the most amazing record, a Yellow-nosed Albatross Jul 2nd – 3rd 2007.

The Albatross was a species no one would have ever predicted as an addition to the Lincolnshire list, but of the seven other species it was notable that four are of Nearctic origin with the Sora and two passerines being exceptional in terms of east coast vagrancy. There are of course precedents with other Nearctic passerines having been located in the county; two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, White-throated Sparrow, American Redstart and Northern Waterthrush having been found.

Other notable occurrences in the review period are summarised below.

A bird that still defies positive racial attribution was the Black Kite in the Wash in late autumn and winter of 2006 – 2007; suspected as being of the eastern form colloquially known as Black-eared Kite the characters used to identify this form have been questioned and it may be several years before a decision is reached on its racial identification. Another racial addition was the photographed and retrospectively identified first county record of Steppe Grey Shrike from the Nene Mouth in 2005 predating the famous Grainthorpe bird of 2008. Black-headed Wagtail (a race of Yellow Wagtail to most taxonomic authorities) was also added to the county avifauna in 2004.

The period also saw the appearance of the second Booted and Blyth's Reed Warblers, second and third records of Whiskered Tern and Dartford Warbler, all four at Gib Point, the third and fourth records of Sardinian Warbler with a male and female in the same area of bushes at Skegness at the same time, the 4th records of Lesser Scaup, Baird's Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull and Isabelline Shrike, the fourth record of Red-breasted Geese, a wintering duo, the sixth Thrush Nightingale, the seventh Olive-backed Pipit but the first to be widely available to birders and the eighth record of Black-winged Stilt, but the first record of three together in 2006.

The period saw a minor Quail year in 2005, a notable early winter passage of Fulmars with the only four Blue Fulmars of the period at Gib Point in Jan 2004, a small autumn arrival of Honey Buzzards in 2006, the eighth county Black Kite arrived in spring but then settled to summer and remained to early November making it one of the longest staying British records of this species. A White-tailed Eagle in 2005 was the first since 1990, eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers in 2006 and 2007 equalled the all time county total prior to 2006 while 17 Pallas's Warblers in 2003 formed a new record annual total and were followed by the first spring record in 2007.

A record breaking movement of Sooty Shearwaters was logged off Gib Point on Sep 16th 2005 with seawatching highlights also including a pronounced passage of Pomarine and Long-tailed Skuas in late autumn 2007 in an autumn that produced an earlier movement of Sabine's Gulls, while Little Auks piled south then back north in both 2006 and 2007 the latter year producing record numbers in early November. The 2006 Little Auk movement also brought a first-winter Black Guillemot to Huttoft, the first since one there in 1985.

During the period Little Egrets, Peregrines and Cetti's Warblers were proven to breed in the county for the first time with all three species subsequently increasing and spreading. Black-necked Grebes bred at two sites and occupied a third but breeding success was sporadic and Red Kites bred again for the first time since the late 19th century, however the seemingly inexorable decline of breeding Montagu's Harriers continued.

The steady occurrence of some rarities such as Purple Heron, with a single birds in all the five years, taking the species all time tally to 31 contrasted with those of declining species such as

Icterine Warbler, just three birds in five years and particularly Bluethroat with just two birds in the same period and the rise and rise of others like Yellow-browed Warbler with two new annual peak totals.

Graham Catley 2013

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

C c bewickii: Scarce passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Mar

2003:

Maximum counts at sites were: Huttoft 11 Jan – Feb 14th, Bourne south two Jan 27th – Feb 9th, 25 Nocton / Blankney Fen Jan 5th – Feb 8th, Worlaby Carrs up to 15 Jan 17th – 19th with 11 to 21st and six Feb 3rd, 20 Wroot Mar 3rd – 8th. In the latter year seven Deeping Lakes NR Oct 23rd, two Deeping High Bank 30th, one Edlington Oct 27th, six Donna Nook Nov 11th with one 15th, four Ruskington Fen Nov 16th, five Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Nov 7th, five Messingham SQ Dec 19th, and up to 35 Nocton Fen Dec 9th – 23rd.

2004:

In the early winter eight at Donna Nook Jan 1st with one 3rd, two to four Sandilands – Huttoft Jan 4th – 14th, up to 30 Branston Fen Jan – Mar 7th, three Tetney Marsh Jan 25th – 31st. In the latter year up to 10 Nocton Fen / Bardney Oct 13th – Dec 31st, one Messingham SQ Oct 12th – 21st, 22 Welland Marsh Oct 17th, 24 Mogg's Eye Oct 21st, two Donna Nook Oct 22nd, one 23rd, 11 Gib Point Oct 31st – Nov 1st, three Saltfleetby NNR Oct 31st, four Donna Nook Nov 13th and 14 Wroot Dec 10th.

2005:

Up to six at Bardney Pits – Nocton / Branston Fens from Jan 1st – Feb 28th with 12 on Jan 16th, four Deeping High Bank Jan 22nd and one Grimsthorpe Lakes Mar 13th. One Saltfleetby NNR Oct 26th, one on the River Welland (Spalding – Borough Fen) Nov 6th, two Cleethorpes and presumably the same Skidbrooke Nov 9th, nine Saltfleetby Nov 11th, five Donna Nook 17th and six Covenham Reservoir 25th. At Gib Point 16 south Oct 23rd, 10 south 24th, nine south 27th, five on 31st, four on Nov 1st, two on 5th and one south Dec 1st.

2006:

Two were at Deeping High Bank Jan 15th – 16th, and up to four at Nocton – Dunston Fens from Jan 15th – Mar 3rd. A flock of 12 at Gib Point Oct 23rd with 10 on 24th, three Benington – Butterwick Marsh Nov 3rd, and up to eight Nocton Fen Nov 9th – Dec 2nd with one Huttoft Bank Dec 30th.

2007:

In the early year up to 13 at Nocton – Branston – Metheringham Fens Jan 1st – Feb 27th, one Huttoft Pit

Jan 7th- Feb 26th, two Wroot Jan 8th, one Deeping High Bank and three Witham Mouth Jan 21st and two Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Feb 27th, seven Gib Point Feb 1st. Three at Wroot Oct 23rd increasing to 11 28th – Nov 8th, one Branston Fen Oct 31st – Nov 21st, one south Gib Point with 16 Whooper Swans Oct 31st, four Freiston Shore Nov 4th, four Morton (Gainsborough) 4th, four Messingham SQ 19th, three Deeping Lakes NR Dec 24th – 26th with four on 27th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Two races Tundra Bean Goose *A f rossicus* a scarce winter visitor and Taiga Bean Goose *A f fabalis* vagrant. LBRC

Most of the records submitted during 2003 – 2007 were not split into races but all those not claimed as Taiga were assumed to have been Tundra Bean Geese.

Taiga Bean Goose:

2003: 1

Gib Point Croft Marsh Feb 16th – Mar 1st (KMW et al) photo Gib Report.

2004: 1

Gib Point Croft Marsh Feb 20th – Mar 28th (PMT) photo Gib Report presumably the bird seen in 2003.

2007: 1

One at Donna Nook Jan 2nd (SL).

Tundra Bean Goose:

2003: 21

One with the Humber Pink-footed Geese was seen at Read's Island, Bonby, Coleby and West Halton from Jan to Feb 18th; one Chapel St Leonards Jan 11th, four at Huttoft from 2002 to Feb 2nd, two Wroot Mar 1st – 13th. One at Waters' Edge Barton on May 31st appeared to have wing damage. One at Read's Island Oct 21st, one Howden's Pullover Nov 2nd, four Donna Nook 25th and six on Potterhanworth Fen – Bardney Pits Nov 28th – Dec 10th.

2004: 7

Singles with the Humber Pink-footed Geese at Bonby Top Jan 11th – 18th, at Messingham SQ Jan 15th – 18th, four Leverton Marsh Nov 14th and one Donna Nook - Howden's Pullover Dec 5th – 24th.

2005: 12

Three at Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe Jan 15th, one Donna Nook Jan 30th, one Messingham SQ Feb 2nd – 9th, five Gib Point Nov 7th and 3 12th; one with Greylag Geese at Bagmoor Oct 29th – Nov 7th and one Humberston - Tetney Marsh Dec 8th – 10th.

2006: 4

Singles at Donna Nook Feb 11th, Winteringham Feb 14th, Freiston Shore Mar 11th – 12th and Baston Fen Dec 31st.

2007: 2

One at Gib Point Oct 12th and one Donna Nook Dec 16th were the only records of the year.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarc winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasional hard weather influxes. Two races *A a albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose) is scarce but regular, *A f flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose) is rare. LBRC

All records in 2003 – 2007 were attributed to European White-fronted Goose.

2003: 47

A small arrival in the early part of the year produced the following; three at Boston Jan 2nd with eight Thurlby Pits 3rd then the same eight at Apex Pit North Hykeham 4th, two Huttoft Pit area 7th – 11th with seven there 13th and three to the 15th, 15 east at Gib Point 10th, then singles 26th and Feb 16th – Mar 2nd, two Winteringham Jan 17th – Feb 16th, one Freiston Shore Jan 26th (recorded as a possible escape), Appleby Carrs Feb 15th and then in the latter winter period one Barton Wolds Nov 1st, seven Deeping Lakes NR 9th and one Messingham SQ Dec 13th – 14th.

2004: 19

A poor year with only five records; one Freiston Shore Jan 23rd, five Croft Marsh Feb 10th, with presumably the same five at Hagnaby Lock / Fen 11th then in the late winter two Freiston Shore Oct 7th and 11 Donna Nook Nov 18th.

2005: 6

Two at Hagnaby Lock / Fen on Jan 15th with two Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Jan 26th – 29th then singles North Thoresby Feb 6th and Deeping Lakes NR Mar 6th – 28th.

2006: 81

Two small arrivals at either end of the year produced a good bird count but this was largely a result of the occurrence of three small flocks; three were at Covenham Reservoir Jan 7th with one Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Feb 13th – Apr 5th perhaps being contentious in origin; a flock of 16 was on fields at South Ferriby and Read's Island Feb 10th with singles there 12th and Mar 4th; in the autumn at Gib Point 19 on Oct 16th were followed by one on the 18th, six 19th – 21st and one 22nd; the same movement produced a single at Saltfleet Oct 17th, four Messingham SQ 27th, 24 Donna Nook Nov 11th then in Dec there were three Baston - Langtoft Pits 16th – 17th with four there 20th – 27th and one Baston Fen 31st.

2007: 24

Another poor year; one at Deeping Lakes NR Jan 19th, three Saltfleetby NNR 25th and presumably the same three at Sutton Ings Pit 27th preceded two at Baston - Langtoft Pits Mar 12th. In the latter year one Gib Point Oct 7th, one Messingham SQ Nov 4th and four Dec 1st, one East Halton Nov 9th, four Short Ferry Dec 3rd with four 19th, three or four Nocton Fen / Bardney Pits Dec 5th – 9th and lastly a single Alkborough Flats Dec 31st.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Possibly vagrant but frequent escapes from wildfowl collections cloud status LBRC

2006: 1 / 2

The same white form Snow Goose, associating with Pink-footed Geese, was noted at two sites in 2006 and may have involved a wild bird; one was seen moving south with Pink-footed Geese at Saltfleetby NNR Oct 13th (JRW) and one was then found feeding with Pink-footed Geese at Sutton Bridge / Nene Mouth from Oct 26th – 31st (PC, PAH, AP, PS et al).

2007: 2

What was presumably the same bird seen in late 2006 was seen flying over Frampton Marsh with Pink-footed Geese on Jan 14th (JWh). In the autumn one flew south with 50 Pink-footed Geese at Chapel Point on Sep 15th (GH) having previously been seen moving south over Flamborough Head and Spurn Point (East Yorkshire).

Escapes: One at Hagnaby Lock/Fen Jul 1st-Oct 7th 2003 was assumed to be feral, as was one described as a blue morph escape noted at the Nene Mouth on Sep 3rd 2004 and Aug 23rd 2005. Another presumed feral blue morph bird was at Stixwould Feb 4th 2007.



Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* found feeding with Pink-footed Geese at Sutton Bridge / Nene Mouth from Oct 26th - 31st 2006 © Paul Sullivan

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Possible wild vagrant but at least one escape recorded in the county see below: LBRC BBRC

2007:

A presumed escapee male paired to a female Greylag Goose was associating with a flock of Greylags at Barton from Sep 6th to 25th, this bird was subsequently noted at various sites around the upper Humber in ensuing years.



Ross's Goose *Anser rossii* presumed escapee male paired to a female Greylag Goose was associating with a flock of Greylags at Barton from Sep 6th to 25th 2007 © Russell Hayes

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

Possible vagrant but escapes cloud status BBRC

2003:

A presumed escapee Richardson's Canada Goose was at Freiston Shore from Feb 23rd – Apr 4th then again on Aug 30th, Oct 21st – 24th and Dec 13th – 31st 2003. It was very tame taking food from the hand in the car park.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare winter visitor Oct-May. An increasing feral population has bred irregularly since the late 1980s. RBBP

Three feral flocks are resident but dispersive within the county, the larger at Whitton on the inner Humber with smaller flocks at the Nene Mouth and at Cleethorpes LNR. The latter flock is seldom reported but is known to wander to Tetney Marshes and has even been recorded at Covenham Reservoir. Elsewhere one or two birds are found with mixed flocks of resident Canada and Greylag Geese. The peak counts for the feral flocks are shown in the table below.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Whitton max	70	70	214	238	326
Whitton broods	6	-	8	10	-
juveniles	12	-	24	32	-
Cleethorpes max	-	11			20
Nene Mouth	17	17	13		6

Birds that may have been wild, associating with wild geese or recorded when Svalbard birds were arriving on the East coast, are listed below but there is no guarantee that any are of truly wild original and there were no obvious hard weather influxes into the county during the review period.

2003:

A flock of six wary birds (four juveniles) was at Freiston Shore Jan 13th – Mar 15th, five at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 28th and 12 flew north-west at Tetney Marsh Oct 8th.

2004:

Donna Nook one with Dark-bellied Brent Geese Oct 30th - Nov 2nd.

2005:

Three flew in off the sea with a Cormorant at Huttoft on Nov 5th.

2006:

At Donna Nook four flew south with a flock of Pink-footed Geese on Oct 29th and six were in the Anderby Creek, Sandilands, Huttoft, Mogg's Eye area from Nov 1st - 10th.

2007:

A flock of seven at Frampton Marsh Feb 18th and five south at Mablethorpe Nov 11th.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

Rare/scarcely coastal visitor, generally Oct-Apr

All birds in the review period were found on the coast or in the Wash and usually associated with flocks of Dark-bellied Brent Geese. It is clear that some birds were only picked up on WeBS counts and days when flocks of Brent Geese were visible at close range and many birds must have stayed longer than suggested by the records while there will no doubt also have been interchange between the different areas particularly in the Wash and on the North-east coast.

2003: 30

Up to three were at Gib Point Jan - Mar 18th, up to eight at Humberston - Tetney Jan - Feb 18th, one Freiston Shore Jan 26th and up to four Mar 25th - May 18th, with four Terrington Marsh Jan and four Kirton Marsh Feb 9th. In the second winter period up to four were at Humberston - Tetney Nov 11th - Dec 7th, two Gib Point Dec 18th and 25th and one Freiston Shore Dec 17th.

2004: 55

A good year with two flocks on early autumn passage when 13 flew north at Rimac and 18 north at Chapel Point on Sep 24th.

One or two birds were at Gib Point Jan 3rd and Feb 9th - Mar 15th, up to three Kirton Marsh Jan 5th - Apr 27th, three Freiston Shore Jan 11th and one Feb 13th, three Horseshoe Point Jan 28th, up to four Tetney Marsh Jan with 12 on Feb 1st - 29th, one Wainfleet Feb 15th. In the late year one Gib Point Oct 31st, 10 Kirton Marsh Dec 31st, two Horseshoe Point Oct 18th and Dec 24th and probably the same Tetney Marsh Oct 18th - Nov 30th plus singles Donna Nook Nov 2nd, Frampton Marsh Nov 3rd and Witham Mouth Dec 12th.

2005: 47

Up to six were at Tetney Marsh in Jan, one Kirton Marsh Jan 21st - 25th and one May 2nd, singles on four dates at Gib Point Jan 17th - Feb 19th, one Holbeach Marsh Jan 31st, two Donna Nook Mar 4th with six 9th. In the second winter eight Kirton Marsh Nov 13th and three Dec 26th, three Tetney Marsh Dec 8th and one 11th, three Gib Point Nov 16th, four Dec 10th with two to 17th and one 20th, six Donna Nook Dec 28th, one Saltfleetby NNR Oct 22nd, one Pye's Hall Oct 29th, one Freiston Shore Dec 15th and one Witham Mouth Dec 31st.

2006: 64

There was a record total of this taxon in 2006 but this was the result of an extraordinary accumulation at Gib Point in the spring:

Six at Donna Nook Jan 9th with four 15th - 22nd and one Mar 19th, two Cleethorpes Jan 19th and three Humberston Fitties Feb 9th, at Gib Point one or two Jan to Feb 11th then four Mar 3rd - 5th, seven 11th, eight 15th, ten 19th and a peak of 20 20th with Apr records at Grainthorpe Marsh 12th, three Witham Mouth 17th and one Horseshoe Point 26th. Scarce in the later year with two Gib Point Nov 2nd, one 10th, 19th and Dec 10th then two 12th and one 17th, one Donna Nook Dec 23rd, three Freiston Shore Dec 21st - 28th, two Butterwick Marsh Nov 4th - 7th, one Saltfleetby NNR Oct 24th and two Dec 23rd, one Sandilands Dec 10th, four Kirton Marsh Dec 17th.

2007: 41

Up to four at Gib Point Jan - Mar 6th, 12 Butterwick Marsh Jan 7th, three Kirton Marsh 13th with two 31st, up to three Horseshoe Point Jan 21st - Feb 1st, one Freiston Shore Feb 4th - 18th, Donna Nook Feb 24th, two Friskney Feb 24th and in the later year three Gib Point Sep 30th - Oct 1st, one Nov 2nd and 19th and Dec 17th, singles Kirton Marsh Dec 1st, Freiston Shore Nov 6th - Dec 15th, Frampton Marsh Oct 24th, Nov 3rd, Dec 31st, Wyberton Marsh Nov 4th and Witham Mouth Nov 6th with two 25th.



Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* Tetney adult probably a male Dec 8th - 13th 2005
© Graham Catley



Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* Freiston Shore 2006 © Paul French

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

First record Howden's Pullover Jan 21st – 23rd 1982 with 16 subsequent records to 2002
BBRC to end 2004: LBRC 2005 onwards

2003: 2

Gib Point Jan 12th – Mar 6th photo (DBa, DKW, PWi et al) BB 97-11 p561 BB 98-12 p632

Gib Point Dec 18th photo (ACS, PMT, KMW et al) BB 97-11 p561

2004: 2

Gib Point – Wainfleet Marsh adult Feb 12th to Mar 8th, photo (GPC, KMW et al) BB 98-12 p632

Kirton Marsh Feb 15th (AJHH) BB 98-12 p632

2005: 5 / 6

Gib Point adult on three dates from Jan 14th - 21st; adult Dec 3rd - 4th with two adults 10th - 17th then one 20th photo of two in Gib Report.

Witham Mouth - Kirton Marsh - Freiston Shore, Frampton Marsh Jan 4th - 16th (MHa, PS et al) adult Feb 7th (SK), Mar 19th (APC) 28th - May 3rd (SK) all considered to be the same individual.

Humberston - Tetney adult probably a male Dec 8th - 13th (CA, GPC et al).

Donna Nook adult Nov 20th - 21st and Dec 16th (SL).

2006: 4

Gib Point – Friskney Marsh one or two on several dates Jan 26th – Mar 20th; adults Nov 26th and 29th and Dec 6th, 9th and 16th (JPS, KMW et al).

Up to two on the west side of the Wash Frampton Marsh – Witham Mouth - Freiston Shore – Butterwick Marsh Jan 8th, Mar 21st and 22nd, then Nov 24th – Dec 29th (JB, PRF, PS et al).

2007: 2

Gib Point – Friskney Marsh Jan 13th – Mar 9th; adult Dec 1st. (KMW et al)

Freiston Shore – Butterwick Marsh Jan 7th (SK) 19th (PS), Apr 11th (JB), Nov 27th (PRF, PS, et al) Dec 18th (SK).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Vagrant

First record an adult at Covenham Reservoir Oct 1st 1978 with three subsequent records in 1984-85

2006: 2

Covenham Reservoir two adults Oct 12th (GMO, JRW et al) BB 101-10 p520 then at Saltfleet – Donna Nook Oct 13th – 2007 (BB 99; plate 358, BB 100 plate 49) BB 100-12 p696 plate 333 also seen at and at various coastal sites from Horseshoe Point to Huttoft during their stay to Jan 24th 2007. Note last date at Horseshoe Point extended the stay beyond that recorded in British Birds reports.

2007:

See above

The 4th and 5th county records these two adults arrived at Covenham Reservoir on Oct 12th on a day when several eastern vagrants reached the east coast including a Radde's Warbler at Horseshoe Point and a large arrival of Dark-bellied Brent Geese occurred. Having overshot the coast these two geese quickly relocated and joined the Dark-bellied Brent Goose flock between Donna Nook and Saltfleetby where they took up residence. They occasionally wandered up and down the coast being seen from Horseshoe Point to Theddlethorpe and at 11:03 on Nov 10th they flew south over the sea at Huttoft but returned north at 11:13 and were at Saltfleet again the same afternoon. Last seen at Horseshoe Point on Jan 24th 2007 they were subsequently found in North Norfolk, again with Dark-bellied Brent Geese, having previously also visited Spurn Point, East Yorkshire, on Oct 27th 2006 taking in three East coast counties during their sojourn.

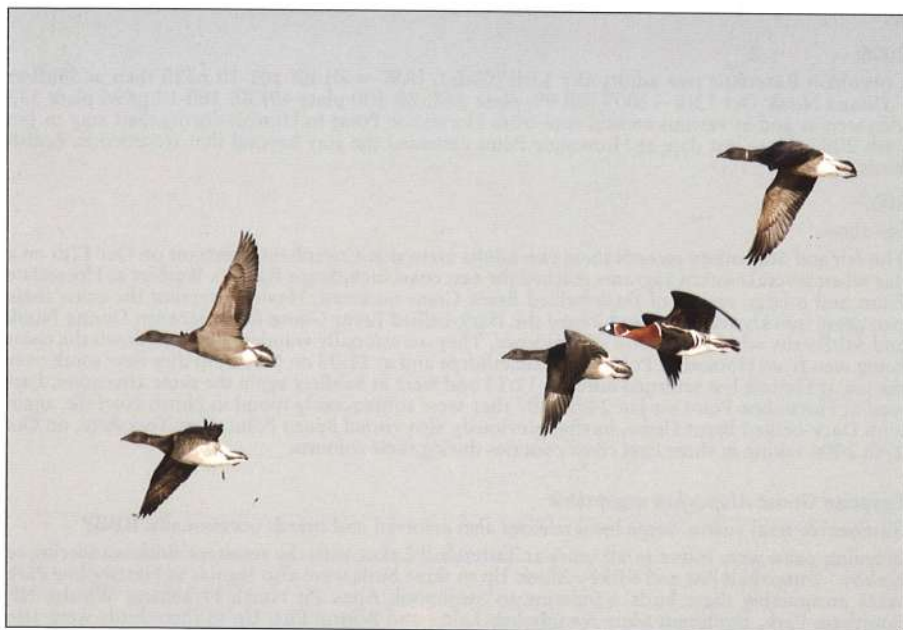
Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare/scarce feral visitor. Some local releases also involved and breeds occasionally. RBBP

Breeding pairs were found in all years at Tattershall Lakes with the resultant flock wandering to Kirkby - Tattershall Pits and Kirkby Moor. Up to three birds were also regular at Hartsholme Park lakes presumably these birds wandering to Swanpool, Apex Pit North Hykeham, Whisby NP, Boutham Park, Boutham Mere Swanholme Lakes and Burton Pits. Up to three birds were also resident in the Messingham fishing ponds area wandering to Messingham SQ and Butterwick Hale (East Butterwick).



Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* Saltfleet Oct 24th 2006 © Graham Catley



Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* Saltfleet Oct 24th 2006 © Graham Catley



Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* Saltfleet Oct 24th 2006 © Graham Catley



Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* Saltfleet Nov 23rd 2006 © Graham Catley

Annual maxima	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cleethorpes CP	1				5
Baston Fen	2				
Deeping High Bank	2				
Hagnaby Lock Fen	2	1			
Hartsholme Park / Swanpool	4	2	7	2	2
Kirkby-Tattershall Pits	7	8	11	11	21
Messingham SQ /village	2		3	2	3
Whisby NP		1	1	1	3

	2003	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007	2007
	brood	juvs	brood	juvs	brood	juvs	brood	juvs	brood	juvs
Hartsholme CP	1	2			1	5				
Kirkby-Tattershall Pits	1	5	1	3	1	5	1	6	1	13

2003;

Away from the usual sites two were at Gib Point Mar 17th and one was at Barton Pits Aug 13th – Nov 16th.

2004:

Single birds were at Gib Point Jan 3rd, May 29th, Jun 13th and Jul 21st, with one Barton – Barrow Haven Jan to Apr 3rd, May 31st, Sep 6th and Dec 6th with two 9th. One was at Freiston Shore Feb 15th – 25th, one Baston - Langtoft Pits May 1st, one at Bardney Pits Jul 31st and an exceptional 10 at Swanholme Lakes Jan 4th.

2005:

One on Nocton Fen Mar 18th – 19th, with one Barton Pits Apr 1st – 30th, six flew west at Worlaby Carrs Apr 13th with one there Jun 21st, five Covenham Reservoir Sep 25th and singles Marston STW Oct 2nd and Thurlby Pits Dec 17th.

2006:

Four were at Fillingham Lakes Apr 29th with one Ruckland May 1st, one Norton Disney Quarry Sep 18th, one Gib Point Dec 2nd – 3rd and two Freiston Shore Dec 9th.

2007:

One was at Gib Point Jan 5th, five Worlaby Carrs May 24th, two North Kelsey Moor Jun 1st, six Fillingham Lake Nov 24th, one Frampton Marsh Dec 11th and two Donna Nook Dec 12th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare. Vagrant/feral birds are recorded in most years. Small flocks are regular and form an occurrence pattern unique to this species amongst escaped or vagrant wildfowl. **RBBP**

2003: 2

One was in the Read's Island area Jul 13th – 20th and then on Whitton Sand to Aug 31st with one Messingham SQ Oct 8th -9th.

2004: 8

A party of five was at North Killingholme Pits May 13th with three Alkborough Flats Aug 31st.

2005: 15

One at Covenham Reservoir May 12th – 16th was followed by an autumn arrival with five Freiston Shore Aug 15th and one Sep 12th then a flock of eight at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Sep 25th.

2006: 2

Two at Hagnaby Lock / Fen Jul 4th and one there Nov 6th.

2007: 9

A single bird at Freiston Shore Aug 31st – Sep 2nd was presumably the bird seen at Gib Point Aug 31st while a party of eight was at Baston - Langtoft Pits Oct 7th.

Up to 5 birds present at Deeping Lakes NR were described typically as tame escapees from Mar 2003 – at least Apr 2005.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor and local escapee



Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* drake was at Barton Feb 3rd - 26th 2005 © Graham Catley

2003: 11

A male at Gib Point Mar 8th, a pair at North Somercotes Mar 13th – 27th and a female with seven juveniles at Holywell Lake Jun 12th formed a typically odd set of records for this species.

2004: 5

One was at Covenham Reservoir May 16th with two drakes at Deeping Lakes NR 16th – 23rd then a male at nearby Baston - Langtoft Pits Jun 6th -11th could have been one of the two from May while a female was again at Holywell Lake Nov 14th.

2005: 7

A drake was at Barton Feb 3rd – 26th with singles Castle Bytham Mar 11th, Stanton's Pit Apr 2nd, a pair North Somercotes Apr 4th – Jun, drake Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Oct 17th and two Holywell Lake Dec 4th.

2006: 4

A female at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Aug 26th and three, two males and a female, were in Belton Park Oct 2nd.

2007: 2

The first, a female was at Holywell Lake Jan 13th, with a drake Barrow Haven Apr 29th – May 5th, then same New Holland May 29th.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Vagrant. LBRC.

First record Covenham Reservoir Feb 12th – 24th 1974 with 5 subsequent records in 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997 and 2000

The 7th – 10th records for the county were recorded during the period.



American Wigeon *Anas americana* drake at Covenham Reservoir Oct 12th 2003 © Graham Catley

2003: 1

Covenham Reservoir a drake associated with a small party of Eurasian Wigeon feeding mainly on the south side of the reservoir from Sep 30th to Oct 11th (GPL et al).

2004: 1

The drake reappeared at Covenham Reservoir on Jan 3rd (GPL et al) but was not seen subsequently, Kirkby - Tattershall Pits a drake coming out of eclipse was seen on Oct 2nd (KDR).

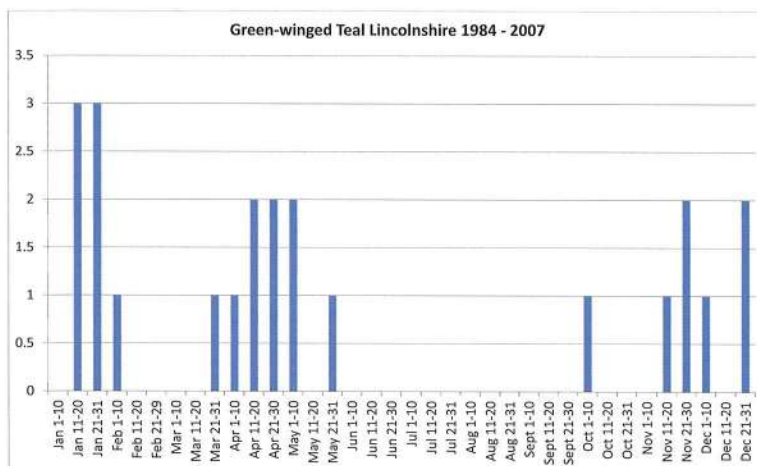
2007: 2

A drake was at Freiston Shore Feb 27th (AP, PS et al) and a female at Baston - Langtoft Pits Mar 5th (JJ) the first female for the county.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant: First record Gib Point 1984 with nine subsequent records to 2002 LBRC

Although there may well have been instances of returning birds being recorded in subsequent years there were eight records in the review period taking the county total to 18; the species has occurred in Jan - May and Oct - Dec with two distinct clusters demonstrating wintering and spring passage



2003: 2

Two records with a drake Far Ings, Barton Pits, Jan 31st (GPC) presumed to be the same drake as seen there in 2000, 2001 and 2002; another drake seen at Freiston Shore on May 4th was associating with a female teal sp (SK).

2004: 2

A drake was at North Kelsey Moor Jan 16th - 17th (RH a) and one at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Nov 24th - 26th (ACS, RH a).

2005: 1

The only record was of a drake at Gib Point Jan 15th (PMT).

2006: 1

Another year with a single record of a drake at Read's Island on Jan 22nd (ND, WG, GPC).

2007: 2

The two records in 2007 meant that this rare species had been recorded in eight consecutive years from 2000 - 2007. Drakes were at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Apr 19th - 20th (RH a, KDR et al) and Alkborough Flats, a first-winter drake, Dec 25th - 31st (ND et al).



Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* drake at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Apr 19th - 20th 2007
© Russell Hayes



Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* first-winter drake at Alkborough Flats Dec 2007 - 2008
© Graham Catley

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant, rare summer visitor, breeding occasionally. Exceptional in winter. **RBBP**
There were no proven breeding records throughout the review period with 2006 producing a marked late spring arrival mainly of drakes.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
First date	Mar 19th	Apr 7th	Apr 5th	Apr 12th	Apr 12th
Last date	Nov 1st	Oct 4th	Oct 12th	Oct 26th	Sep 17th

2003: 25

An exceptional record concerned a drake at Burton Pits (Lincoln) on Feb 4th that was noted as having been present all the previous winter and possibly being injured. There were then two at Sandilands Mar 19th, two Scotterthorpe 23rd and a female at Rosper Road Pools, South Killingholme 30th with a drake at Baston Fen Apr 4th. The only other spring records were of a pair at Barton Pits May 4th and a drake at North Kelsey Moor 24th. In the autumn noted from Aug 3rd with 3+ birds at Barton Pits to Oct 3rd, singles Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Jul 24th and Sep 3rd - 4th, Deeping Lakes NR Aug 31st, Sep 27th and Oct 16th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 3rd, Donna Nook 28th and one or two at Gib Point Sep 13th to Oct 14th with a late bird on Nov 1st the last of the year.

2004: 17

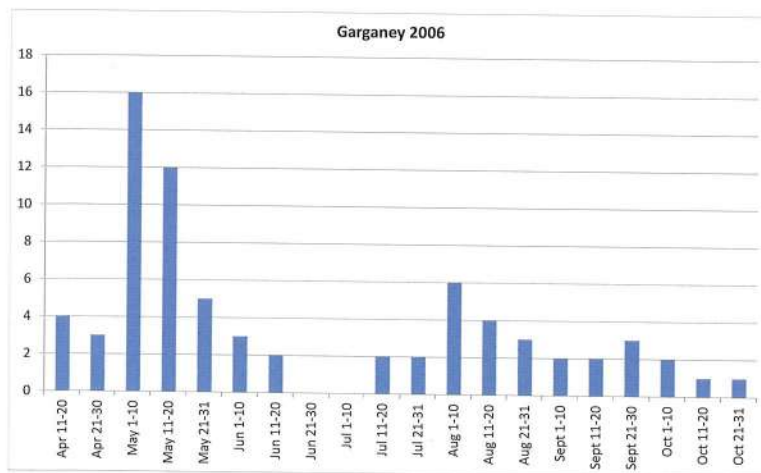
A poor year and a late arrival with the first one Deeping Lakes NR Apr 7th then two at Marston STW Apr 26th - 27th, Gib Point 28th and May 18th, drake Barton Pits May 8th - 9th, Toft Newton Reservoir May 10th, two Baston - Langtoft Pits May 24th and one Jun 23rd, one Hagnaby Lock / Fen May 4th - 6th. In autumn 2-3 at Gib Point, one Boultham Mere Sep 19th - 28th, Deeping Lakes NR Aug 13th and Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Oct 4th.

2005: 23

An exceptionally poor spring with a drake at Grimsby Apr 5th - 7th, drake Manby Flashes May 2nd - 5th and two drakes 26th - 27th then two Huttoft Pit Jun 8th. More in autumn with 1-2 on several dates at Gib Point and the last there Oct 12th, one or two at Messingham SQ Aug 4th - 29th, Deeping Lakes NR Aug 3rd, two Freiston Shore Aug 22nd - 23rd, two Sep 13th, singles 20th, 27th and Oct 9th, up to three at Kirkby - Tattershall Aug 25th - Sep 28th and one Boultham Mere Sep 21st - 22nd.

2006: 53

Only 14 of the total of 53 birds were recorded in the autumn with a marked and protracted spring arrival that saw birds at 19 sites after the first pair at Rimac / Saltfleetby NNR Apr 12th to Jun 12th.



2007: 15

The first drake was at Barton Pits Apr 12th, then a drake Alkborough Flats Apr 15th - May 29th, a drake at Barrow Haven Apr 22nd, a pair Saltfleetby NNR Apr 18th - 25th, drake Jun 3rd, drake Barton Pits May 8th, drake Marston STW Apr 29th - May 5th, drake Messingham SQ May 6th, drake Manby Flashes May 9th - 10th. In autumn one Alkborough Flats Aug 9th, one Messingham SQ Aug 15th - 18th, Frampton Marsh Sep 3rd - 16th and Baston - Langtoft Pits Sep 6th and 17th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

RBBP

Monthly maxima from Baston – Langtoft Pits

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2003	12	8	6				6	1	5	19	14	17
2004	19	23	14	11	6	18	23	1	30	19		
2005	3	28	6	7	2					2	20	
2006	3	26		2	4	2				6		30
2007		6		18					39	1		39

Two escapee birds at Hartsholme Park throughout, the female being a hybrid.

2003: 3

Singles were at Messingham SQ Feb 9th and nearby 16th, Tattershall Jun 29th and a female at Covenham Reservoir Dec 8th – 9th.

2004: 7

Two were on Apex Pit Feb 15th (the Hartsholme birds?) with a drake Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Feb 17th – 20th, one Bourne Mar 31st, a female Bagmoor floods Jul 29th with two eclipse drakes there Aug 5th – 11th.

2005: 9

A rather tame looking female was on the River Ancholme at Snitterby Carrs Jan 24th – 25th, three Whisby NP Mar 10th – 28th with one May 22nd, one Aug 29th – Sep 17th and two Nov 17th with a drake Boultham Mere Jun 15th, female 23rd and one Jul 5th and 25th possibly connected with the Whisby sightings, and a female was at Bagmoor floods Sep 30th – Oct 7th.

2006: 22

One was at Whisby NP May 14th with three there Aug 11th and one 26th, a pair Messingham SQ Aug 17th, juvenile Barton Sep 1st and Oct 2nd, two West Ashby Sep 4th – 8th, a party of 11 Covenham Reservoir Oct 22nd was exceptional and finally two North Hykeham Pits Dec 17th.

2007:

A pair was at Messingham SQ Mar 5th then possibly the same pair Bagmoor Floods Apr 16th – May 15th and one Jun 7th – 17th, one Burton Stather May 6th, a drake Barton Jun 18th and drake there Dec 23rd, one North Hykeham Pits Jun 19th, four Kirkby Tattershall Pits Jun 19th with one Dec 19th – 30th, one Whisby NP Oct 21st – Nov 17th and presumed same Dec 27th – 30th then a female Huttoft Pit Sep 16th.



Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* Barton Pits May 2nd 2003 and (right) female North Kelsey Moor Jan 18th 2006 © Graham Catley

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Vagrant: First record of a mobile returning drake in 1979 – 1981 with 13 subsequent records of only 5 different birds some of which returned in subsequent years and wandered to several widespread localities LBRC

2003: 2

A drake, possibly first-winter, was in the diving duck flock at New Holland on Jan 12th at least (GPC, ND) with a female at Bagmoor Floods Jan 31st – Feb 11th (GPC, ND, WG et al). What was presumably the drake from New Holland appeared on Barton Pits on Apr 6th (ND) and then

again from May 2nd – 18th (GPC et al) when it was displaying to female Pochards. After a gap in sightings it appeared again at Barton from Jun 4th – 8th when it was still in full breeding plumage (GPC, ND).

2006: 2

A female was on a small pond at North Kelsey Moor from Jan 19th – 21st and Feb 3rd – Apr 6th (RHa et al) with a newly arrived first-winter drake at Gib Point from Dec 28th to Apr 26th 2007 (KMW et al).

2007: 0

Gib Point Jan 1st – Apr 26th same as 2006.

The two records of mid-winter females could easily relate to the same individual and as shown by previous drakes they can wander between several different localities in the company of Pochards and Tufted Ducks and some have been tracked to neighbouring counties so the total number of individual birds recorded in the county appears to be only 8 to 10 at a maximum.

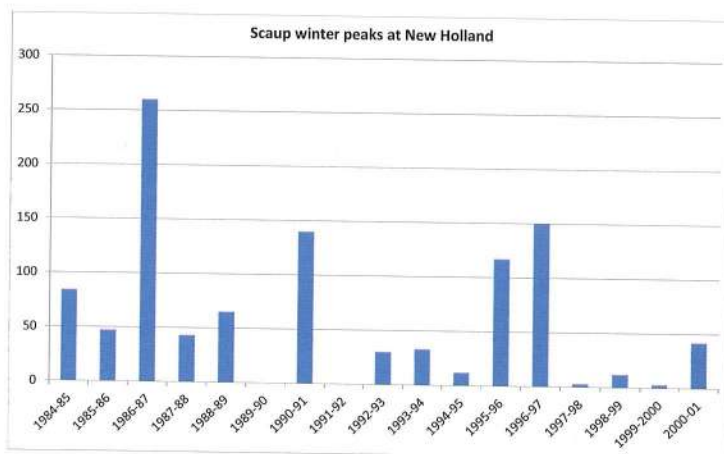


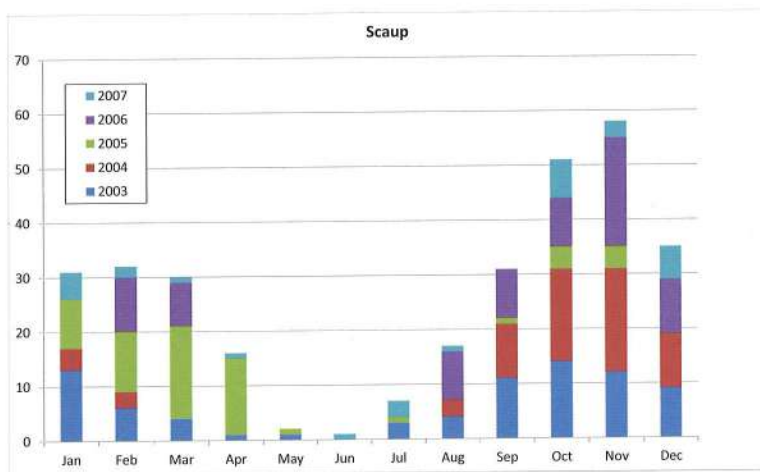
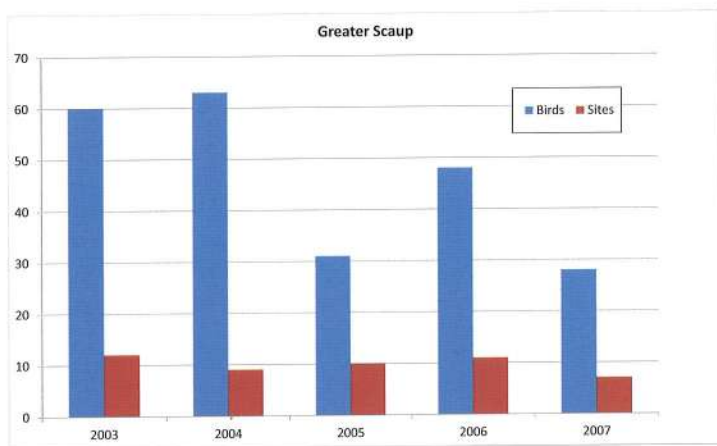
Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* first-winter drake Gib Point from Dec 28th to Apr 26th 2007 © Russell Hayes (left) and same bird Gib Point Jan 1st - Apr 26th 2007 © Russell Hayes (right)

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer; bred in 1944. RBBP

The largest flock in the period was only nine birds showing an ongoing decline in abundance that has been apparent since the 1990's as demonstrated by the winter maxima recorded on the Humber at New Holland between 1984 – 1985 and 2000 – 2001 in the chart below.





2003: 60

Recorded from just 12 sites as follows:

Covenham Reservoir Jan 3rd, Oct 16th, Nov 16th; Bagmoor Floods female Jan 3rd – Mar 23rd with two females Jan 10th, male Jan 10th – 12th, female Jul 10th -16th; Barton female Jan 9th, female Mar 29th – Apr 6th, drake Jul 24th – Aug 1st, pair Aug 25th, drake Sep 13th, juvenile Oct 6th, nine west Oct 8th, two females Nov 3rd, three juveniles 11th – 31st, Barrow Haven four Feb 6th, New Holland three females Jan 12th, one Feb 11th, three females Nov 16th and six Dec 14th; Gib Point five Jan 25th, two Mar 18th, up to three Sep 20th – Nov 21st, Butterwick Marsh one dead May 4th; Freiston Shore male Jul 22nd – 24th; Mablethorpe Aug 31st; Gedney Drove End seven Sep 28th; Crowland Nov 9th and Tattershall Lakes Nov 13th – Dec 15th.

2004: 63

Reduced to occurring at nine sites in 2004: Gib Point Jan 1st; four Sep 21st, two Oct 18th, three Nov 3rd, singles Nov – Dec, Barton three Jan 1st – Feb 11th; three Aug 18th, four on Humber Oct 11th, seven 20th, one 31st; Chapel Point four Sep 24th; Covenham Reservoir two Sep 27th – 30th; Oct 31st; Benington Marsh two Oct 17th; Winthorpe eight Nov 2nd, Frampton Marsh seven Nov 14th, Freiston Shore Nov 25th, eight Dec 27th and Baston – Langtoft Pits Dec 25th.

2005: 31

Another poor year for this species: at Freiston Shore up to 11 Jan 1st – Mar 14th, three 17th, two 22nd, two Apr 21st; New Holland Jan 3rd; Barton two Mar 10th, female Oct 2nd, drake 5th and 15th, one 22nd, Bagmoor Floods female Apr 21st; Covenham Reservoir Sep 20th; Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Jan 26th, 1-3 Mar 18th - May 1st; Oct 14th, Gib Point two Mar 5th, Jul 16th and North Kelsey Moor four Nov 5th – 7th.

2006: 48

A slight increase in abundance with 12 sites recording birds in 2006: at North Kelsey first winter drake Feb 4th – 18th; Barton – Barrow Haven Pits seven Feb 25th – Mar 15th with eight 17th, drake Oct 1st – 3rd, female Nov 7th, three Dec 22nd; Cleethorpes CP Feb 15th; Freiston Shore Feb 25th, two Aug 13th, up to five Sep 23rd – Dec 8th; Rimac Aug 7th, Witham Mouth six Aug 13th, Covenham Reservoir two Sep 1st – Nov 1st; Huttoft two Sep 10th, four Nov 1st, Gib Point Oct 3rd, Nov 10th, 4 Nov 28th; Donna Nook two Nov 11th; Crowland Common – Deeping High Bank Nov 25th - Dec 20th and Saltfleet Dec 23rd.

2007: 28

The worst year of the series with just 28 birds recorded from seven localities: Freiston Shore four Jan 1st, Apr 7th, 1-2 Nov 1st – Dec 28th; Covenham Reservoir Jan 13th; up to four Oct 2nd – 11th; North Kelsey Moor Feb 2nd, Gib Point Feb 23rd, Mar 20th, male Jun 30th and Jul 9th, Aug 21st, Oct 28th; Barton – Barrow Haven Pits Jul 17th, Oct 24th, two Nov 3rd, four Dec 27th, Chapel Point Jul 29th; Oct 3rd and Saltfleetby NNR Nov 1st.



Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* drake at Barton, Waters' Edge CP Apr 29th 2004 © Graham Catley

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

The first record was of a first-winter drake at Barton Pits and New Holland from Feb 13th – 15th 1995 the second a drake on the River Trent at Torksey May 14th – 17th 1998 and a further record of a female at Cleethorpes Country Park Apr 5th – 16th 1999.

2004: 1

Barton, Waters' Edge CP male Apr 28th – 30th, photo (GPC et al) (BB 97: plate 180) BB 98-12 p632

The fourth record for Lincolnshire and the first adult drake this striking bird arrived in a well watched locality during a period of biting cold north-easterly winds and departed with Tufted Ducks as the weather ameliorated. Initially passed over as a Greater Scaup in a quick distant view en route to searching for summer migrants distant digital images forced a rethink and the correct identification the following day.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

2003: 16

Two were at Freiston Shore Jan 5th with one to Mar 15th, a single at Gib Point Feb 8th and 10th, a drake Waters' Edge, Barton Apr 10th – 11th and one Boston Deepes May 8th were followed by a most unusual record of a pair on Humberston Fitties pools from Jun 24th – 25th. In the latter year a juvenile Barton Pits Oct 20th – 30th, two Gib Point Oct 24th, one Toft Newton Reservoir Oct 30th – Dec 3rd, two Freiston Shore Nov 19th, two 26th and one Dec 18th.

2004: 8

One at Gib Point Jan 2nd was followed by one at Freiston Shore Jan 6th – Mar 4th with one inland at Covenham Reservoir Jan 19th then in the latter year singles at Gib Point Nov 6th and Dec 1st the latter a drake, one Deeping Lakes NR and Deeping High Bank Nov 5th – Dec 12th, one west on the Humber at Barton Nov 14th and one at Ashby Ville Lake Nov 22nd – Dec 6th.

2005: 11

Most records were in the early winter with singles Tetney Marsh Jan 1st – 30th, Witham Mouth Jan 2nd and Feb 13th, North Thoresby Pits Feb 1st – Mar 18th, one Covenham Reservoir Mar 1st and one Freiston Shore Mar 31st to Apr 26th. The only later year records came from two sites with singles at Gib Point Oct 19th, Nov 16th and two on the 18th plus one Mablethorpe Nov 25th.

2006: 13 / 15

The only early year record was one at Donna Nook Jan 28th. An influx in early Nov saw two birds at Mablethorpe Nov 1st, singles Freiston Shore Nov 2nd with two 7th, Gib Point Nov 3rd, Huttoft Pit Nov 5th to Dec 23rd then three Donna Nook Dec 3rd, one Freiston Shore Dec 4th, one Mablethorpe 6th, a first-winter drake Deeping Lakes NR and one Saltfleetby NNR both Dec 24th.

2007: 16 / 18

One at the Witham Mouth Feb 10th with one Gib Point Apr 7th again formed a poor early year showing. Autumn arrivals began in late Oct with two Saltfleetby NNR 20th, two Gib Point 23rd then in Nov one Chapel Point 10th and two 11th, two Donna Nook 10th, singles Freiston Shore 10th, 11th and 15th, one Huttoft Pit Nov 11th – 18th, one North Cotes 11th, one Mablethorpe 23rd and a first-winter female Barton Pits Dec 13th – 31st.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

2003: 75

The bulk of the year's records came from Gib Point where there were exceptional numbers in Nov culminating in a total of 63 on the 23rd, recorded as follows one Jan 1st, two 22nd, singles May 21st – 25th and Aug 26th then from Oct 8th – Dec 6th max 43 Nov 15th, 63 23rd; Elsewhere a female Covenham Reservoir Jan 3rd – 10th, three north Anderby Creek Sep 23rd, male Mablethorpe Sep 24th, two an immature drake and female East Halton Skitter Nov 19th and one Donna Nook Dec 24th.

2004: 57

Most records again came from Gib Point with day maxima of 7 Jan, 10 Mar, 8 Sep, 17 Nov and 7 Dec. All other records were in the later year off Saltfleetby NNR drake Sep 22nd, two south Anderby Creek Sep 25th, singles Huttoft Oct 1st and 9th, two Winthorpe and one Barton all on Nov 2nd.

2005: 38

Another good year at Gib Point with six Jan 22nd, seven 30th, three Mar 3rd, two Sep 24th, one Nov 16th and 14 Dec 13th; others were at Terrington Marsh Jan 15th, Huttoft Jul 25th, two Witham Mouth Aug 29th and seven Mablethorpe Nov 16th.

2006: 39

At Gib Point four Jan 1st, singles 7th, 14th, six Feb 1st; one Aug 13th and one to four Oct 27th – Dec. Other birds at Mablethorpe Aug 13th, Nov 10th, four North Cotes Aug 27th, two Trusthorpe Oct 22nd, nine Huttoft Oct 28th and one Nov 10th, two Saltfleetby NNR Nov 1st with singles Dec 9th and 17th and one Freiston Shore Dec 9th.

2007: 36

Up to six were it Gib Point Jan to Mar 2nd with one Sep 27th then four on several dates to Dec 31st. One was at Donna Nook Jan 1st, three Saltfleetby NNR Jan 26th with one Sep 11th, four Witham Mouth May 5th and three Oct 7th, two Freiston Shore May 6th and one Oct 28th, three Mablethorpe Sep 11th, two 28th, two Nov 9th one 13th, three Barton Sep 28th, two Chapel Point Nov 9th and one New Holland Dec 28th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr

The apparent annual totals include all birds recorded in both winter periods but as is evident there was a high degree of site fidelity and returning birds recorded during the period with Toft Newton Reservoir, Barton Pits, Baston - Langtoft Pits and North Killingholme Pits recording returning birds over periods of several years. The females at Barton and North Killingholme Pits were both recorded in all five years and a total of six winter periods while the drake at Toft Newton Reservoir could have been the same bird in all five years.

2003: 18 / 24

In the early year there were up to six with one adult drake at Toft Newton Reservoir to mid Feb with a redhead Bagmoor Jan 2nd to Mar 1st and a drake there Jan 16th - 17th, redhead Barton Pits Jan 4th - Mar 3rd, and redheads New Holland Feb 6th and North Killingholme Pits Feb 8th - 9th. In the late winter up to five birds again with one adult drake at Toft Newton Reservoir Nov 11th - Dec 31st, a redhead Barton Pits Nov 28th - Dec 31st, two redheads Denton Reservoir Dec 9th and two males Thurlby Pits Dec 31st.

2004: 22

The wintering redhead was at Barton Pits Jan 1st - Mar 11th with two redheads Jan 2nd, three including a drake at Swanholme Lakes Jan 3rd, three including one drake Toft Newton Reservoir Jan 5th with two redheads to 14th and one to Mar 4th; up to six birds (one drake) were at Baston - Langtoft Pits Jan - Mar 7th, the returning redhead at North Killingholme Pits Jan 17th - Feb 11th, one Hagnaby Lock / Fen Mar 13th. In the later year the returning redhead Barton Pits Nov 23rd - Dec 31st, a drake Toft Newton Reservoir Nov 25th - Dec 31st, two Baston - Langtoft Pits Dec 12th, one Covenham Reservoir Nov 29th and a redhead Messingham SQ Dec 28th.

2005: 11

One or two redheads were at Deeping Lakes NR Jan 5th - Feb 1st with one Mar 13th, the drake at Toft Newton Reservoir to Jan 16th, the redhead Barton Pits to Jan 22nd, the returning redhead North Killingholme Pits Jan 21st - Mar 2nd. In the late winter the returning drake at Toft Newton Reservoir Dec 4th - 19th, returning redhead at Barton Pits Dec 17th - 19th, one Covenham Reservoir Nov 6th and three there Dec 9th with a drake at North Thoresby ponds Dec 10th - 18th.

2006: 11

The drake remained at Toft Newton Reservoir to Jan 2nd, with one or two including a drake at Baston - Langtoft Pits Jan - Mar, redhead Covenham Reservoir Jan 9th, redhead Barton Pits Jan 9th to Mar 18th, the redhead again at North Killingholme Pits Feb 17th - 21st and one North Hykeham Pits Feb 19th - Mar 12th. The returning drake was again at Toft Newton Reservoir Dec 5th - 9th with one to three at Baston - Langtoft Pits Nov 18th - Dec 29th and a redhead Covenham Reservoir Dec 18th - 20th.

2007: 13

A redhead was at Covenham Reservoir Jan 6th - Feb 4th with two redheads Mar 4th - 13th, the drake Toft Newton Reservoir Jan 1st, redhead Barton Pits Jan - Mar 24th, returning redhead at North Killingholme Pits Jan 26th - Feb 13th, two North Thoresby Pits Feb 20th, two (one drake) at Baston - Langtoft Pits Mar 7th with a redhead Apr 3rd then in the late year the drake Toft Newton Reservoir Dec 14th, redhead again at Barton Pits intermittently Nov 22nd - Dec 31st with a redhead Baston - Langtoft Pits Dec 28th - 30th and a redhead Bagmoor Floods Dec 16th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

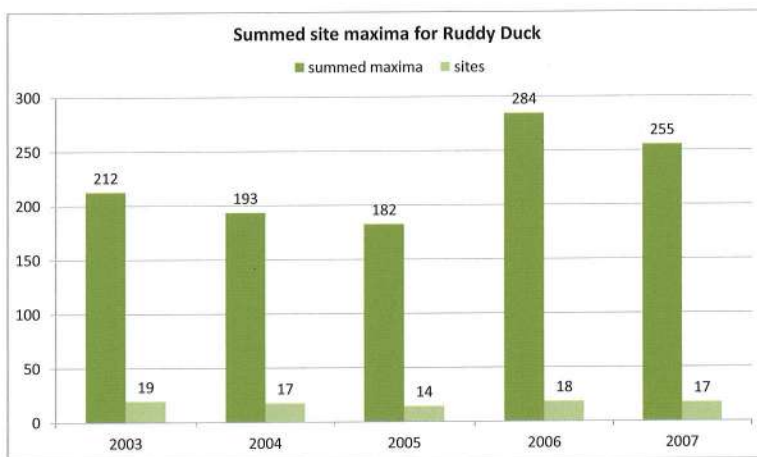
Former scarce feral breeder, declining migrant and winter visitor
Barton-Barrow Haven Pits:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2003	15	57	58	66	66	66	70	117	117	14	24	102
2004	102	100	56					72	74	40	46	58
2005	79	72	64							28	32	88
2006	120	127	150					35		22	40	77
2007	81	112								40		87

2003: A census between Barton - New Holland Pits located 37 males and 29 females during spring - summer with 14 broods seen and 35 small young of which 22 fledged.

2004: Barton - New Holland 13 broods seen producing 41 small young from which 22 fledged. Late brood with juveniles < week old Sep 10th.

Annual maximum	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Barrow Haven Barton	117	102	88	150	112
New Holland	18	6	8	5	17
East Halton	1	5			16
North Killingholme			7	1	6
Tetney Marsh		1			
Huttoft Pit	9	12	4	7	6
Chapel Pits	1				
Gib Point	6	8	8	6	12
Freiston Shore		2	2		
Bagmoor	11	12		41	27
Bardney Pits	3	4	37	17	21
Baston – Langtoft Pits	2	2			
Boultham Mere	6	5		6	7
Covenham reservoir	2	3	3	1	1
Deeping Lakes NR	3	4	1		
Fiskerton Fen NR				1	
Gainsborough				2	
Kirton Lindsey quarries	3				
Kirkby - Tattershall Pits	11	14	9	22	7
Messingham SQ	1	4	2	5	2
Norton Disney quarry				3	3
Revesby Reservoir	5	3	3	1	
Swanholme Lakes				2	5
Tattershall Pits	4				
Thurlby Pits		3	3	8	4
Toft Newton Reservoir	2	1	3	2	1
Twigmoor heath	7				
Whisby NP		5	6	6	8



Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn with variable numbers of males calling through the summer; unknown number actually nest each year. **RBBP**

In the review period 2005 was a moderate Quail year with breeding probably occurring at a minimum of two locations while the year also produced some very late records in Oct – Dec possibly indicative of late nesting attempts.



Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* Barton Pits June 21st 2006 © Graham Catley



Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* Barton Pits March 15th 2006 © Graham Catley



Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Worlabby Carrs Jun 4th 2006 © Graham Catley



Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Worlabby Carrs Jun 4th 2006 © Graham Catley

2003: 38

Recorded between May 26th Heighington Fen and Oct 15th Tetney Marsh. One or two birds at all 23 locations but one trapped at Kirkby Underwood Jun 29th with seven birds considered to be in the area at this time.

2004: 21

Recorded from May 31st Kenwick Park to Oct 1st Tetney Lock.

2005: 66

Recorded from May 1st to Dec 4th;

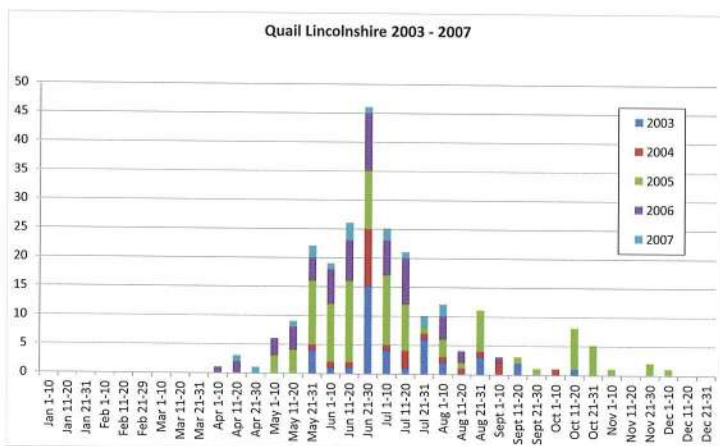
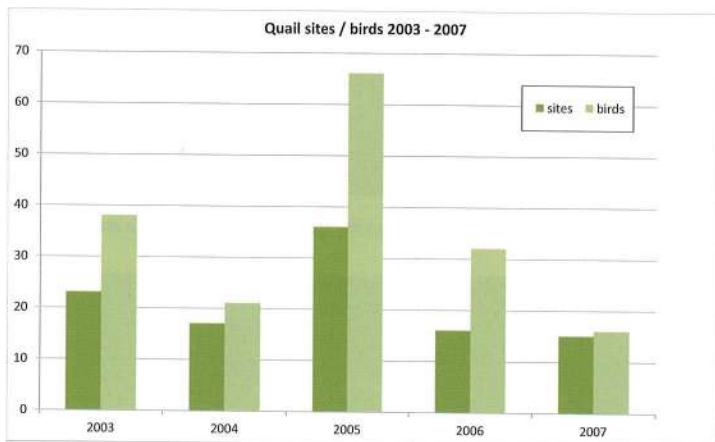
Rarely proven to have bred in Lincolnshire the prolonged series of records at Worlabby Carrs where there was a maximum of five males and at least three seen on Oct 27th and also the records from Frampton Marsh where six were seen on Oct 17th certainly suggested that pairs bred at these two localities in 2005.

2006: 32

Recorded from Apr 3rd Frampton Marsh to Sep 9th Friskney Flats.

2007: 16

Recorded from Apr 17th Frampton Marsh to Aug 5th Barton Wolds.





Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Toft Newton res Nov 2nd 2003 © Graham Catley

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Scarce winter visitor to coastal and inland waters. Mainly Sep-Apr, rare in summer LBRC from 2011

2003: 9

Singles at Gib Point Mar 24th, Sep 3rd and 8th, Oct 24th and 28th, Nov 17th; Rimac Jan 26th, a moulting adult inland at Toft Newton Reservoir Oct 14th – Nov 8th and one Witham Mouth Nov 30th.

2004: 7

Singles at Gib Point Mar 14th, Oct 19th and 23rd; Freiston Shore Nov 14th, Trusthorpe 16th, Donna Nook Dec 24th and Tetney Marsh 31st.



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Covenham Res Feb 2007 © Russell Hayes

2005: 10

At Gib Point one Jan 25th, three summer plumaged adults Sep 15th, one Nov 22nd, one off Huttoft Sep 17th, Mablethorpe 18th, Sandilands Nov 13th, Covenham Reservoir Dec 5th and Donna Nook Dec 23rd.

2006: 16

Singles at Gib Point Jan 7th, Feb 8th, Oct 28th, Nov 5th, 28th, Dec 8th and 14th, Freiston Shore Jan 1st – 3rd, Saltfleetby NNR Oct 3rd, Huttoft Bank 20th, Mablethorpe 31st, Nov 10th and 25th, Donna Nook Dec 2nd, 9th and 26th.

2007: 23

Gib Point one Jan 3rd, two 29th, one Feb 9th, ad summer Sep 14th, Oct 15th, 28th, Donna Nook two Jan 6th, one 14th, Mablethorpe 23rd, Saltfleetby NNR 25th with two 26th, a first winter at Covenham Reservoir Jan 27th – Feb 14th, singles Saltfleetby NNR Sep 9th, Huttoft 23rd, Anderby Creek 29th, Freiston Shore 30th, Tabs Head Oct 7th, Donna Nook Nov 4th, Mablethorpe 11th, Freiston Shore 27th and a juvenile Covenham Reservoir Dec 21st – 26th.



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Freiston Shore Jan 4th 2006 © Neil Smith

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Rare/scarse winter visitor Aug-May. Mainly coastal and exceptional in summer. LBRC from 2011.

2003: 6

Singles at Gib Point Jan 25th, Oct 12th, 22nd and Dec 25th; elsewhere one off Sandilands Sep 29th and Anderby Creek Oct 19th.

2004: 8

In the autumn singles off Donna Nook Sep 11th, Oct 3rd, Gib Point Oct 31st, two Winthorpe Nov 2nd, Covenham Reservoir juvenile Nov 15th – Dec 27th and Deeping High Bank / Crowland Nov 16th – 19th with a final bird at Donna Nook Dec 26th.

2005: 8

Exceptionally three long-stayers were at inland sites with juveniles at Culverthorpe Lakes Feb 4th – Mar 26th, Thurlby Pits Mar 13th – Apr 10th and Covenham Reservoir Dec 5th – 10th; other records came from Gib Point two Mar 1st, adult summer Jul 24th, Nov 4th and Donna Nook Sep 11th.

2006: 17

Singles were off Donna Nook Jan 21st, at Toft Newton Reservoir Mar 12th and Donna Nook May 20th then in autumn Sandilands Sep 20th, Donna Nook Oct 7th, Huttoft 23rd, 27th and 28th, three off Freiston Shore Nov 9th, at Gib Point singles Nov 24th, Dec 17th and 31st, Huttoft Dec 10th, Donna Nook and Freiston Shore 24th with two Freiston Shore 26th.

2007: 18

A series of records at Gib Point Jan 1st, 5th, 9th; Sep 4th, two on 20th, singles Oct 25th, Nov 2nd, 9th, 11th, Dec 4th and elsewhere Donna Nook Jan 13th, Freiston Shore 22nd, Chapel Point and Donna Nook Sep 22nd, and adult in summer plumage at Thurlby Sand Pits Oct 28th – Nov 1st and possibly the same bird (adult in nearly full summer plumage) at Covenham Reservoir from Nov 10th – 21st then other singles at Donna Nook Nov 3rd and Chapel Point 10th.



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* Covenham Reservoir Nov 14th 2007 © Roy Harvey

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

Vagrant: First Lincolnshire and British record in 2007

2007: 1

Manton fishing lakes Jul 2nd – 3rd photos (P Condon) BB 102: p538 BB 100: plate 512 and 513, BB 102: plates 270 and 358

British Birds Vol 103 p376-384 Yellow-nosed Albatross: new to Britain

Birding World 20: 279-295 The Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross from Somerset to Lincolnshire – a new British bird.

First found stranded in a garden at Brean in Somerset on Jun 30th this Yellow-nosed Albatross was taken into care but the workers at the Secret World Wildlife Rescue Centre failed to recognise the significance of the occurrence and released it at Brean Down Somerset on Jul 1st. The following evening it was found by an angler on a fishing lake at Manton, very close to Messingham SQ; it remained overnight but flew off around midday on the 3rd. Incredibly the same bird was then located moving south off the western coast of Sweden on Jul 8th where it was tracked south along the coast being seen eventually by 150 birders in contrast to its time in Britain when it avoided detection by a single birder.

Although this was the first Yellow-nosed Albatross to be accepted to the British list Atkin and Lorand describe another occurrence amazingly within 12km of this locality at Stockwith, south of Gainsborough, on the River Trent where an albatross was shot on November 25th 1836. It was identified as a Yellow-nosed Albatross but the specimen was lost and hence the record has never gained acceptance to the British List but the proximity of the two records is staggering given that both locations are such a significant distance from the west coast of Britain where the bird present started its British journey in Somerset and presumably where the first bird also started its inland wandering.



Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* Manton fishing lakes Jul 2nd - 3rd 2007
© P Condon



Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* Manton fishing lakes Jul 2nd - 3rd 2007
© P Condon



Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* Manton fishing lakes Jul 2nd - 3rd 2007
© P Condon

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Apparently declining offshore visitor, mainly Mar-Nov. Rare in winter and very infrequent inland.

2003:

Incredibly scarce away from Gib Point and the Wash with just three occurrences three off Huttoft Jul 30th, four Horseshoe Point Aug 13th and one off Mablethorpe 24th. At Gib Point monthly totals of one Feb, 14 Apr, three May, two Jun, four Aug, one Sep and the annual maximum of 32 Oct 20th with one in Dec. A count from an unspecified part of the Wash of 42 Apr 1st and 10 there May 8th, three Witham Mouth Apr 20th and four Butterwick Marsh May 4th.

2004:

There was an exceptional movement off Gib Point in late Feb and following this a few stragglers along the coast in early Mar that included five picked up dead at Ingoldmells Mar 2nd; a total of 11 birds was noted at Gib Point Jan 2nd with one Feb 16th and 17 on the 28th before a northerly passage that involved 200 birds on the 29th of which four were blue phase or dark morph birds; singles were off Mablethorpe and Theddlethorpe Mar 1st with six off Skegness 5th and nine on the 6th then three there Apr 9th with two off Huttoft Apr 30th and one Witham Mouth Jun 6th; autumn passage was again very poor with a total of only 40 birds recorded from the whole county between Jul and Dec. A total of 10 was off Truethorpe Jul 8th with most birds in Sep when one was off the same site 9th with two on the 11th and two 17th with others being singles off Sandilands Sep 7th and 23rd, five Winthorpe 7th and two Saltfleetby 8th then eight off Gib Point Sep 7th and a final seven off there Dec 19th.

2005:

In the early winter maxima were 10 off Gib Point Jan 2nd with 33 there 24th, four Witham Mouth Feb 13th, one Skegness Feb 8th and then a small movement in spring after six at Huttoft Apr 20th there were 10 Gib Point 13th, singles on May 14th off Donna Nook and just inland at Marshchapel with another inland bird at Baston - Langtoft Pits 15th then a third bird at Revesby Reservoir Jun 18th. Autumn coastal passage was again poor; the first being one at Saltfleetby NNR Jul 21st, singles Huttoft Aug 4th and 6th, 10 Gib Point Aug 14th, one Donna Nook 27th, and a peak in Sep with seven Sandilands and 15 Mogg's Eye 9th, three Huttoft and five Donna Nook 10th, two Witham Mouth 11th, the autumn maximum of 71 off Gib Point 16th and one Mablethorpe 25th.

2006:

Gib Point again dominated the record totals with regular seawatching off Freiston Shore also producing a notable run of records but again the coast failed to provide anything other than a mediocre list of records.

At Gib Point in the early year one was found dead Jan 15th, with one sick 28th, three Feb 25th, 11 Mar 17th, two Apr 1st, nine 28th and 11 May 24th, during the first half of the year at Freiston Shore three Mar 18th, two 31st, one May 14th, two 27th and two Jun 25th; singles were also off Mablethorpe two May 20th with three 23rd, singles Saltfleetby NNR Jun 3rd and 11th with four 29th and one Jul 1st and also one off Donna Nook Jun 17th. In the autumn another series of records off Freiston Shore Aug 7th, six 12th, Sep 7th, six 8th, three 9th and five 21st. On the coast the only records came in Aug with one Mablethorpe 13th and one Donna Nook 19th; The autumn peak off Gib Point was a notable 131 on Sep 8th, eight 9th but none in Oct – Nov before a run of records in Dec with one 8th, 13 10th, 25 11th, 10 12th, one 29th and finally two 31st.

2007:

Recorded in all months off Gib Point which is now the only site in the county producing good totals of this seabird. Peak counts at Gib Point were 53 south 45 north Jan 1st, 105 north 2nd, 171 north Mar 20th, 56 north Sep 11th with one dead Oct 2nd. Elsewhere two were off Freiston Shore Jan 22nd one inland at Covenham Reservoir Apr 20th, two Saltfleet Jun 7th with three 8th, two Donna Nook Jun 9th, singles 10th and 23rd, two Chapel Point Jun 5th with three 14th, two Jul 6th, singles 11th, 26th and Aug 9th, 27 Sep 10th, two 11th and one 17th, singles off Mablethorpe Aug 22nd, Sep 11th and 28th, Huttoft Aug 23rd, Skegness Sep 10th with two 27th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

2003: 32

Single birds were noted off Saltfleetby NNR Aug 16th, Mablethorpe 24th and 25th, Saltfleet 24th with birds on four dates from Aug 25th to Oct 26th, at Gib Point with a peak of 16 on Aug 29th and eight Sep 23rd.

2004: 26

The bulk of the records were at Gib Point with singles Jul 27th, Aug 23rd, Sep 7th, 8th, 21st, two on 23rd, one 24th, Oct 8th, 9th, 10th an 11th with two Donna Nook Sep 18th and 12 off Huttoft – Sandilands Sep 23rd.

2005: 382

There was an exceptional, record-breaking, movement off Gib Point in a fierce north-easterly on Sep 16th but this was not picked up anywhere else on the coast. The previous highest day count at Gib Point was 79 birds showing just how unprecedented this passage was.

At Gib Point singles were seen Aug 7th and 21st with five on the 22nd then two Sep 11th prior to a record breaking northerly passage of 358 birds on Sep 16th that quickly petered out with just four noted on the 17th; three were off Huttoft Aug 21st, two Donna Nook Sep 10th, four Mablethorpe Sep 16th and a single there Oct 18th with a late bird off Gib Point again Nov 25th.

2006: 65

A better than average autumn with the first at Donna Nook Aug 12th, six off Mablethorpe 13th and four on 14th then one Gib Point Sep 2nd, two 7th, one 9th, 11 off Chapel Point Sep 7th and two off Freiston Shore Sep 21st before two off Gib Point Oct 2nd, 33 at Donna Nook 7th and one north and two south at Gib Point Nov 1st.

2007: 77

At Gib Point 28 flew north between Aug 21st and Oct 1st with seven on Sep 18th; off Mablethorpe 10 north Aug 21st with five north Sep 26th, at Huttoft one Aug 23rd, two Sep 27th and two 28th, eight off Chapel Point Sep 10th, three on 17th and singles 18th and 26th, five off Skegness Sep 10th and one 26th, two in the Wash off Holbeach Marsh Sep 26th with two off Donna Nook 29th and a late bird off Gib Point Nov 9th.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare visitor to coastal waters all records Aug – Dec LBRC

First recorded only in 1963 off Gib Point with 13 records of 15 birds to 2002.

The 17th to 22nd county records of a species that is strangely uncommon off the Lincolnshire coast compared with its relative abundance in Yorkshire and Norfolk.

2004: 1
Gib Point one south close inshore Sep 21st (JNi).

2005: 1
Chapel Point Sep 17th (GH).

2007: 4
Chapel Point two Sep 18th (EJM, CJJ, SJ).
Gib Point Sep 18th (ACS, NAL), one south 22nd (JNi) one north 26th (NAL).

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare coastal species usually recorded during northerly gales but possibly under-recorded LBRC
A total of eight records in three of the five years demonstrated the rarity of this pelagic species off the Lincolnshire coast.

2004: 5
On Sep 24th an obvious movement produced four records possibly involving some duplication with two off Gib Point (KMW) and singles off Chapel Point (RMar) and Sandilands (CA); the fourth bird of a good autumn was off Trusthorpe Oct 9th (JRW).

2006: 1
One was off Gib Point on Oct 31st (JPS).

2007: 3
Three autumn records off Chapel Point Aug 31st (EJM), north off Mablethorpe Nov 9th (JRC, ACS) and north off Sandilands Nov 11th (CA).

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare to scarce coastal species usually recorded after westerly then northerly gales in Sep – Dec occasional influxes following prolonged periods of westerly gales in the Atlantic. LBRC

2003: 2
Just two records in 2003 in the Wash off Gedney Drove End Sep 28th (PT) and Gib Point Oct 13th (KMW).

2004: 5
One was off Gib Point Sep 24th (KMW) and three flew north off Sandilands Sep 28th (GPC). On Oct 11th one was feeding over the Humber off Barton when it was harassed by a Common Gull and possibly the same bird was seen feeding over the Humber for an hour between 08.30 - 09.30 on Oct 12th when it was harassed frequently by Great Black-backed and Common Gulls (GPC).

2005: 8
A small movement in mid Sep produced records off Donna Nook 10th and 11th (SL) four off Gib Point 16th (KMW, PMT, JNi), one Mablethorpe 16th (SJM) and in the Wash one off Holbeach Marsh also 16th (GMO).

2006: 2
Just two records in 2006 both off Gib Point on Sep 19th (KMW) and Oct 15th (JPS).

2007: 4
Most of the year's records were off Gib Point – Skegness with singles on Sep 10th (NAL), 27th (NAL et al) and Nov 8th (KMW, JPS) the only other record being off Mablethorpe Sep 28th (ACS).

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

2003: 6
Three were at Donna Nook Oct 11th with one Anderby Creek 18th then two at Deeping High Bank Nov 15th and one there Dec 30th.

2004: 7
In the early winter one was in Grimsby Docks Jan 5th – 9th with two from 10th – 11th then three 12th – 17th two to Feb 2nd and one to Mar 11th while one was at Gib Point Feb 8th; in the latter

year one was at Winthorpe Nov 2nd one in Grimsby Docks Nov 14th – 25th and one Witham Mouth Nov 21st.

2005: 9

Single birds were in Grimsby Docks Jan 7th and Mar 26th, in Boston Jan 22nd and Feb 17th, at Gib Point Feb 1st with one moribund 2nd, one Mar 6th and one dead 24th while the only other record was of one off the Witham Mouth Sep 11th.

2006: 10

The only early year record was inland at Baston - Langtoft Pits Mar 25th; an immature was on Barton Pits Aug 10th with late winter birds being two Huttoft Nov 2nd, one Freiston Shore 3rd, three Saltfleetby NNR Dec 17th with singles Donna Nook 26th and Boston 27th.

2007: 26

A better year with some unusually dated spring records. Three were in Grimsby Docks Jan 15th with two remaining to the 17th, two Chapel Point Feb 14th, one Gib Point 18th and 23rd, one Mar 2nd, one Covenham Reservoir Mar 25th – 31st, one Witham Mouth Apr 1st and one there May 12th with one Frampton Marsh May 5th and Freiston Shore 17th probably involving some duplication; in the later year one Sandilands Sep 11th, two Chapel Point Sep 10th and one 18th, one Covenham Reservoir Oct 2nd – 3rd with two 4th, two Witham Mouth Nov 25th and one Dec 6th, one Gib Point Nov 26th, one Covenham Reservoir Nov 26th – Dec 26th, one Mablethorpe Nov 24th, one Huttoft 25th and finally one Witham Mouth Dec 16th.



European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Grimsby Jan 25th 2004 © Graham Catley



Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* Barton Pits, Feb 21st 2007 © Graham Catley

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare and localised breeding species and rare winter visitor numbers probably limited by habitat but no doubt overlooked in some suitable wintering sites.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Booming males Humber clay pits	3 - 4	6	6	5	4
Breeding females Humber pits	4	3 - 4	?	?	?
Coastal booming males	1	1	1	1	1
Coastal breeding females	1	1	1	1	?
Additional sites booming males			1		
Additional sites females					

2003:

Barton Pits first booming heard on Feb 15th;

Departing winter visitors can be recorded at dusk in Mar as they leave the reedbeds and set off high to the east calling; in 2003 at Barton three flew east Mar 2nd with three others present and a further three moved off east 20th.

Away from breeding sites one at Messingham SQ Jan 26th and through Feb to Mar 6th and one on Oct 30th and Nov 14th - 15th; two possibly three birds at Boultham Mere Jan 5th - Mar 4th; one Donna Nook Feb 14th and one Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Sep 9th.

2004:

Barton - Barrow Haven first bird heard grunting Feb 29th with a good boomer Mar 1st;

Wintering birds were again at Boultham Mere Jan 28th and Nov 14th - Dec 12th with the only other record away from breeding sites being one at Swaby Nov 22nd.

2005:

Humber Bank Clay Pits first booming male heard Feb 6th the earliest date at this locality.

Only three occurrences away from breeding sites with singles Donna Nook Oct 9th, Messingham SQ Nov 20th - Dec 3rd, Boultham Mere Nov 25th - Dec 7th and Deeping Lakes NR Dec 11th.

2006:

The only records away from breeding sites were at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Jan 31st - Feb 9th, Whisby NP Feb 9th and Apr 8th, Boultham Mere Sep 19th - Dec 26th, and Messingham SQ Oct 3rd and Dec 3rd.

2007:

First booming Mar 2nd Humber bank clay pits.

Only noted at two sites away from breeding areas at Messingham SQ Oct 19th - 23rd and Boultham Mere Nov 15th - Dec 30th.



Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutes* Arnold's Meadow NR, Spalding male May 12th - 13th 2003 © K Heath

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Vagrant: First record one shot near Gainsborough in 1870 with 8 subsequent records in 1900?, 1953, 1964, 1970, 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1994

BBRC

The 10th and 11th county records both concerned males in 2003 and 2004. Of the previous records all the records in Apr – Jun have involved males while the two in Aug have been of juveniles so these two continue the run of one-sex spring occurrences.

2003: 1

Arnold's Meadow NR, Spalding male May 12th – 13th photo (D Harris, K & R Heath, K Seaton) BB 102: p541

2004: 1

Messingham Sand Quarries male Jun 1st – 2nd, (GPC, WG et al) BB 98-12 p641

The 2003 bird appeared in the BBRC report five years after the event. The 2004 bird was a very elusive male found on Jun 1st but only seen in flight five times during its stay at Messingham; it became the 9th species of heron and bittern to be recorded at the Messingham complex.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Vagrant: First record Tetney immature shot 1888 then singles 1973, 1979-80, 1983, two in 1987, 1988, 1990,

BBRC to end 2001: LBRC 2002 onwards

The ninth to twelfth records for the county occurred in 2006 and 2007.

2006: 1

An adult was found feeding in a drain in North Hykeham by Gary Waby while walking his dog at dusk on Apr 15th and the identification was later confirmed by ACS and SPB et al; it remained in the same area to the 30th but was only ever seen just before dark as it came to feed in the drain.

2007: 2

One flew over Gib Point on May 19th (KMW) being seen again at dusk on the 22nd (DJM, KMW) as it flew over calling and circling before gaining height and departing from the site. A second winter bird was found roosting in a hedge with seven Little Egrets at Gib Point on Sep 21st (DMil, AJak) and it remained in the area through to Oct 17th.



Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* North Hykeham from Apr 15th - 30th 2006 © Steve Botham



Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* North Hykeham from Apr 15th - 30th 2006 © Russell Hayes

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Formerly a rare/scarse visitor in all months, a few wintering since 1993/94. Now a scarce highly localised breeding bird and increasingly common resident. **RBBP**

The species was confirmed as breeding in the county in 2007 when 16 – 18 pairs were reported from three localities following signs of breeding behaviour in every year from 2003 onwards.

Site maxima	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Alkborough Flats				1	11
Cleethorpes				9	3
Tetney Marsh Humberston	3	12	8	33	29
Grainthorpe Marsh		1	4	28	30

Donna Nook N Somercotes		3	4	24	45
Saltfleet Saltfleetby	3	2	4	21	18
Gib Point	5	12	19	16	46
Freiston Shore	17	14	40	31	59
Witham Mouth Hobhole	31	25	38	90	200
Kirton Marsh		71	10	8	6
Frampton Marsh	19	61	103	9	29
Dawsmere		11			
Holbeach Marsh		12	6	20	26
Bardney Pits	4		1		
Baston Fen			4	4	
Baston -Langtoft Pits					5
Deeping Lakes NR		3		2	
Kirkby -Tattershall Pits	1	3	1	1	1
Manby Flashes		1	1	8	3
Toft Newton Reservoir				5	



Great White Egret *Ardea alba* Humberston Fitties, Sept 15th 2006 © Graham Catley

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Vagrant: First record Messingham Aug 7th - 8th 1979 then further records in 1993 and two in 2002, BBRC to end 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

2003: 4

Baston -Langtoft Pits Mar 31st (WB) BB 97-11 p570

Gib Point May 19th (MMP, JSS) BB 97-11 p570

Freiston Shore Aug 18th (AJBay, SK) BB 97-11 p570

Grainthorpe Marsh Nov 10th (GPC) BB 98-12 p644

2006: 1

Humberston Fitties one lingered from Sep 13th – 21st (DJB et al) before moving to the Donna Nook – Theddlethorpe area where it was present from Sep 30th to Oct 8th (SL et al).

2007: 2

Donna Nook – Grainthorpe Haven Oct 10th – 20th (SL, SJM et al).

Heckington Fen Nov 15th (RMar, ACL).

The four records in 2003 were unprecedented and equalled the previous county total.



Great White Egret *Ardea alba* Sept 15th 2006 © Graham Catley



Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* East Halton June 8th 2005 © Graham Catley

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Vagrant: LBRC

A total of 25 previous records of 26 birds; the review period saw the 27th – 31st county records. The sea bank clay pits have now produced eight records up to 2007 while Gib Point has had five birds. The 2005 bird was watched apparently landing at Newsham Lake, Brocklesby Park where the only county multiple occurrence was recorded in 1952 when two juveniles were present from Aug 12th – 31st with one there from Jul 31st to Sep 1st.

2003: 1

Huttoft Bank Pit May 6th (KMW, TJS).

2004: 1

Gib Point May 20th (KDD).

2005: 1

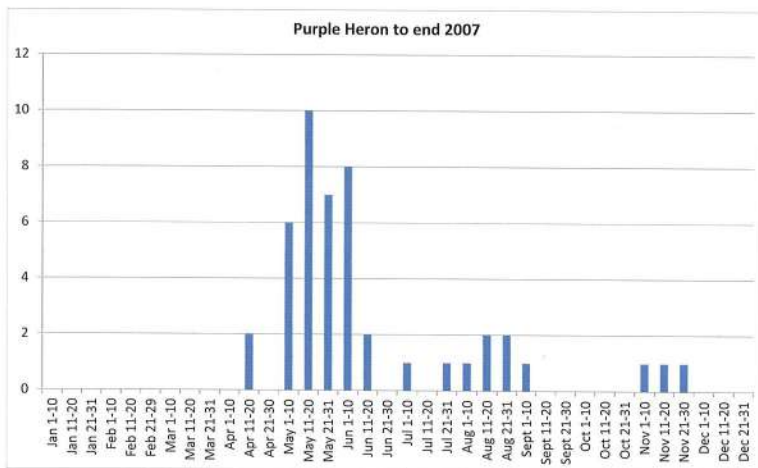
Rosper Road Pits then North Killingholme Haven Pit before flying inland over East Halton and appeared to land at Newsham Lakes, Brocklesby Jun 8th (SRo, GPC).

2006: 1

Messingham SQ Jun 18th – 19th (S Lee, JTH) with presumably the same bird at Huttoft Bank Pit Jun 20th (DMos et al).

2007: 1

Churchill Lane Saltfleetby NNR May 13th (JRW).



Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Huttoft Pit May 6th 2003 © Roy Harvey

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Vagrant: First and only previous record Freiston Shore Apr 25th 1984 BBRC

2006: 1

Welton-le Marsh adult Jun 20th (EJM) BB 102:p547

Only the second Lincolnshire record and another one day bird seen only as a fly-by.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

First record Jun 1832; 9 birds to 1986 LBRC

2004: 1

One flew west at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits on May 17th (KDR).

2005: 3

One was noted at Saltfleetby NNR on Apr 28th (JRW) with the same bird following a tractor at Marshchapel 29th (K Sparkes). One was photographed over Huttoft Pit on Jun 11th (DE). In the autumn one was reported at Market Deeping on Oct 7th but not confirmed but a bird then frequented the Kirton / Sutterton / Algakirk area from Oct 10th – 13th (RPe, JB et al) being found dead nearby, presumed to have hit power lines, about a week later.



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Sutterton Oct 2005 © Russell Hayes

2006: 2

A bird was photographed roosting overnight on a house roof at Claxby May 4th – 5th (J Skye) and what was presumably the same bird flew south after landing for ten minutes at Gib Point and disappeared towards Norfolk (KMW). A second bird was at Saltfleetby St Peter on Jun 2nd (MJT).

2007: 1

It seems likely that all of the records in 2007 were referable to a single bird with a yellow leg ring on the right leg inscribed with PCC; its origin has not been proven but it seemed to not be a known wild bird and presumably from a collection.

A bird that was first seen at Yarm (Yorkshire) in Sep 2006 then at Thirsk before wintering in the Harrogate area was recorded at various localities in East Yorkshire from Mar 14th to 18th 2007; a bird was then seen at Burgh-le Marsh Mar 20th (EJM) and then again in East Yorks Apr 10th – 11th when it flew south at Spurn Point on the latter date and was picked up heading inland at Pye's Hall, Donna Nook 11th (ND, SL) This bird was confirmed as the yellow ringed individual seen later in Lincs see below; the following day Apr 12th it was found in the Black Bank - East Butterwick – Messingham – Scotter area remaining from Apr 12th - 16th (JTH, WG et al) with the

yellow leg ring with PCC on right leg being photographed; what was presumably again this bird was seen at Gainsborough 15th (BHe) and Healing 17th (WBS, KSc).



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Sutterton Oct 12th 2005 © Graham Catley

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce visitor to larger wetlands in Apr-Sep, and exceptionally in winter. RBBP

2003: 11

The first of the year was at Saltfleetby NNR May 5th followed by one Gib Point 24th and Jun 2nd, one North Killingholme Pits May 26th – 27th, Jun 9th then a juvenile Aug 23rd – Sep 2nd, one south at Grainthorpe Haven Jun 11th, two west at Read's Island Jun 10th, one Winteringham Haven 28th and one Frampton Marsh 17th.



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* North Killingholme Pits Aug 25th 2003 © Graham Catley



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* North Killingholme Pits June 14th 2004 © Graham Catley

2004: 9

One flew west at Barton Pits Apr 3rd and was probably the bird seen at Saltfleetby NNR and Gib Point 5th; two were at Horseshoe Point Jun 4th with one at Gib Point Jun 8th, three North Killingholme Pits Jun 13th – 14th and a late bird at Freiston Shore Oct 28th – Nov 9th.

2005: 2

Just two records in the year at Donna Nook May 14th and Gib Point Sep 15th.

2006: 11

One at Saltfleetby NNR May 4th was presumably the bird seen at Gib Point 5th after which four were there 10th and probably the same four at Deeping Lakes NR 13th when one was at Freiston Shore with five there 14th, singles again at Gib Point Jun 9th and 19th, Frampton Marsh May 27th and five Saltfleetby St Peter Jun 19th. Clearly there seemed to be some duplication of records during the year.

2007: 28

A single bird seen over Far Ings, Barton and at Winteringham Haven on Apr 17th was probably the bird seen at Alkborough Flats 24th – 25th where it formed the start of a run of birds during the year with one May 6th, three immature Jun 1st – Jul 7th with four birds from 8th – 12th and five from 13th to Sep 30th. (One of the birds in Jun had been colour ringed as a juvenile in the Netherlands in 2004). Elsewhere one was at Messingham SQ Apr 30th, two Rimac Saltfleetby NNR May 24th and at Gib Point three May 30th, two 31st, five Jul 2nd, immature Jul 7th – Aug 3rd, two 20th-23rd and two north Aug 1st, an immature on three dates between Aug 25th and Sep 3rd with three, an adult and two immatures flying south then back north at Frampton Marsh Aug 1st.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor, Sep-Apr; rare in summer. **RBBP**

2003: 3

A poor year with just three records at Gib Point Oct 5th, Covenham Reservoir 13th and what was presumably the same bird in different pits at Barton from Dec 6th – 13th and 22nd – 31st.

2004: 14

The wintering bird at Barton Pits remained to Feb 7th but there was only one other early winter record at the Hobhole, Fishtoft Jan 13th. A good autumn arrival with three records at Covenham Reservoir a juvenile Aug 16th – 18th, one Sep 28th and Dec 28th – 31st; singles at Gib Point Sep

24th and Oct 17th, Donna Nook Sep 25th, Saltfleet Haven Oct 25th, Huttoft Nov 3rd and 14th, Trusthorpe one north Nov 16th, two North Cotes and one Bagmoor all Nov 27th.

2005: 10

Covenham Reservoir was again the best site in the county for this species with five records, Jan 1st – 2nd, Feb 16th – Mar 1st, a juvenile Aug 24th, singles Sep 20th and Oct 17th – Nov 17th; elsewhere singles at Deeping Lakes NR Feb 20th – Apr 3rd, in the Wash Oct 16th, Freiston Shore Oct 19th, Gib Point Nov 25th and Louth Dec 30th.

2006: 8

Another poor year with just eight birds; at Covenham Reservoir one Jan 23rd, one Deeping Lakes NR Jul 8th – 9th, Covenham Reservoir Sep 9th then singles Revesby Reservoir Nov 18th, Donna Nook Dec 24th with two 26th, one 27th and three 28th presumably all the same birds and the last of the year at Gib Point Dec 28th.

2007: 14

One early year record at Gib Point Mar 2nd then one there Sep 4th and two Nov 8th, one Chapel Point Aug 2nd, one Sep 28th and Nov 14th, singles Witham Mouth Sep 28th and Nov 14th and off Freiston Shore Nov 1st and 10th with two at Donna Nook Nov 10th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Barton Nov 26th 2005 © Graham Catley

2003: 4

Four single birds all on the coast at Anderby Creek Feb 15th, Gib Point Oct 28th and Dec 21st and Tetney Marsh Nov 26th.

2004: 4

What was probably the same bird was seen off Gib Point on Jan 1st, 6th, 22nd, 24th and Feb 4th with one Bardney Pits Apr 2nd, Deeping Lakes NR Apr 26th and Covenham Reservoir Oct 12th – 13th.

2005: 11

All records were in the latter half of the year with a series at Covenham Reservoir where there were singles Aug 25th and Oct 17th – 20th then two 21st – 24th and three 25th – Nov 15th; one was at Toft Newton Reservoir Oct 10th with two off Huttoft 12th, one Witham Mouth 22nd, Baston - Langtoft Pits Oct 23rd – Nov 5th, off Sandilands Nov 13th and Barton Pits Nov 19th – Dec 5th.

2006: 13

There was a series of records from Freiston Shore with singles on Jan 11th, Oct 10th, 20th, two on 22nd, Nov 4th and Dec 8th; also a run of birds at Covenham Reservoir Feb 23rd – Apr 6th, Oct 4th – 11th, Nov 1st with two 5th – Dec 18th then one to the 27th; a spring bird at Apex Pits North Hykeham Apr 3rd – 11th then in the later year one Saltfleet Oct 21st and singles at Gib Point Nov 28th, Dec 8th and 29th.

2007: 23

By far the best year of the five-year period. At Gib Point there was one Jan 1st then a record six on Feb 14th with one to three on six dates to Mar 13th and later in the year four on Dec 2nd. Two at Covenham Reservoir Jan 1st to Mar 6th and Oct 19th – Nov 21st, one Cleethorpes CP Jan 31st – Feb 7th, singles Freiston Shore Feb 11th – 14th, Sep 28th – Oct 9th and Nov 1st – 27th, one Barton Pits Feb 17th – 18th and one Waters' Edge Mar 15th – Apr 5th, with one Whisby NP Apr 6th – 9th, Barrow Haven Apr 29th and one at Witham Mouth Oct 7th with two there Nov 25th.



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Barton Waters' Edge Apr 1st 2007 © Graham Catley

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare highly localised breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

2003:

Site A first bird back on the breeding site Mar 26th with one pair fledging three young and a third adult present during the breeding season.

A series of records at Covenham Reservoir spanned the period Mar 1st – Dec 10th but it is not clear how many birds were involved in the following; two Mar 1st – 6th, one 24th, 30th, two May 29th, one Jul 19th – 20th, 30th, two Aug 1st, Aug 29th and Nov 30th – Dec 10th. Elsewhere one Barton Pits Mar 25th, singles Deeping Lakes NR Sep 12th and Oct 2nd – Nov 9th, with singles at Gib Point Oct 5th and 20th and finally one Toft Newton Reservoir Nov 1st – Dec 9th.

2004:

At site A there were three birds and one pair bred but apparently failed; at site B two pairs were present Apr 17th to May 3rd but none bred; at site C a pair was present Apr 26th – 29th but again no breeding attempt was observed.

In addition to the birds above there was again a series of records at Covenham Reservoir with one Jan 1st – 19th, one Mar 29th, one Apr 27th, two May 18th, one Aug 29th, one Sep 20th – Oct 13th and one Oct 21st – 28th; one was at Barrow Haven Apr 18th – 19th and presumably the same bird at Barton Pits Apr 22nd with one Toft Newton Reservoir Apr 23rd – 27th, one Gib Point Apr 29th – May 16th, two Whisby NP May 2nd and finally one Deeping Lakes NR Oct 25th – Dec 7th.

2005:

At site A two pairs bred and at site B two pairs fledged four young from two broods.

Otherwise it was a very poor year with one Deeping Lakes NR Jan 20th, one at Toft Newton Reservoir Apr 4th, two Jul 19th – Aug 3rd with one to Sep 16th and singles at Covenham Reservoir Aug 31st – Sep 1st and Oct 3rd.

2006:

None were reported from site A but a single bird was at site B on May 18th and Jul 15th – 18th.

Only three other records, two at Deeping Lakes NR Apr 8th, one Baston - Langtoft Pits Aug 15th and two Covenham Reservoir Aug 15th – 16th.

2007:

At site A two pairs were again present and fledged five young. At site B one adult Jul 24th only.

Another poor year elsewhere with two Deeping Lakes NR 2 Mar 4th and one there Sep 2nd, one Huttoft Pit Jun 19th – 27th and one Gib Point Jul 29th – 31st.

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

2004: 3

One flew north-west at Gib Point Jun 22nd (PMT) and one south Sep 8th (EJM) with the only other occurrence at Pye's Hall Aug 16th (IGS).

2005: 6

Three in spring and three in autumn with the first at Gib Point May 22nd (TBg et al) then one Anton's Gowt May 28th (BHa, CHa) with another at Gib Point Jun 4th (MGG) and the first of the autumn there Sep 6th (KMW) followed by one that flew from Stonebridge (Donna Nook) to North Somercotes Warren where it may have roosted Sep 14th (SL) and finally one over Boultham Mere Sep 20th (DN).

2006: 17

A concentrated autumn coastal passage made 2006 a good year for this species; the first was at Saltfleetby Aug 20th (MJT) with one Donna Nook Sep 16th (SL) on which date four were seen at Gib Point (PMT, KMW) with another four dark juveniles there 17th (KMW, NS, EJM) one also being seen inland at Trent Port Sep 17th (DN) after which there were another four dark juveniles at Gib Point Sep 19th (GG, JNi, KMW) another inland at Audelby Sep 26th (PEs) and finally one Grainthorpe Haven Oct 14th (SJM).

2007: 5

A rather early spring bird was at Saltfleetby May 6th (JRW) with one Gib Point Jun 18th (JWal), one Knaith Jul 9th (IB) and two typical autumn birds south at Gib Point Sep 30th (EJM, JS).



Black Kite *Milvus migrans* Nocton Heath on Oct 10th 2007 © Russell Hayes



Black Kite *Milvus migrans* Nocton Heath Oct 17th 2007 © Graham Catley

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Vagrant; first record in 1979 with six records to 2002 LBRC

2007:

One arrived from the south and flew north-east over Far Ings, Barton Pits, mobbed by two Common Buzzards on May 21st (GPC); what may well have been the same bird was then seen over Saltfleetby NNR (BMC) and later Sandilands (EJM) on May 24th before possibly relocating to Nocton Heath on Jul 16th where it remained through to Nov 7th (ACS, RBe et al).

Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*

2006:

A juvenile Black Kite first located at Butterwick Marsh - Freiston Shore on Nov 2nd (JB, PAH) subsequently wandered around the adjacent areas of the Wash and inland fields in the Butterwick, Freiston Shore, Benington, Holbeach Marsh, Welland Mouth, Frampton Marsh area remaining until Nov 21st when it moved to North Norfolk. The bird's plumage suggested that it may have been of the race *Milvus migrans lineatus* known as Black-eared Kite but the characters used to



Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus* Benington Nov 13th 2006 © K Durose (left)
and Holbeach Marsh ©Alan Tate



Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus* Benington Nov 3rd 2006 © W Bowell

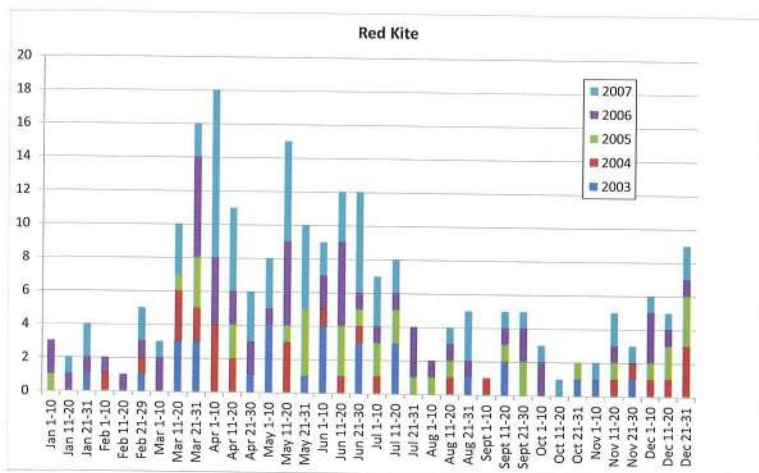
identify this sub-species are poorly known and there is as yet no definitive decision on the sub-specific identity of this individual which if accepted as a Black-eared Kite would be the first British record. It remains under consideration as *M m lineatus* by BBRC.

Having spent the winter along the North Norfolk coast this individual was seen at Gib Point for 15 minutes on Feb 17th 2007 (PMT) before flying back to Norfolk; it was later also reported from Terrington Marsh on Apr 17th (KDD).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

Single pairs bred in 2005 – 2007 the first known breeding in the county since extinction at the end of the 19th century.



White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Vagrant: LBRC

2005: 1

An immature flew NNE at Mablethorpe at 09:47 on Feb 11th (ACS) and this bird was picked up again at Oxcombe from Feb 21st – 27th (DS, DMJ) being seen leaving the area on the 27th when it was picked up again 10 minutes later at Kirkby-on-Bain (RT), it then turned west and was seen in Derbyshire before returning to Lincolnshire where it drifted east over the River Trent towards Loughton Village and continuing moving east being lost to the east of the A15 Mar 8th (JTH). It then disappeared again before being seen at Humberston Yacht Club pools on Mar 23rd (JRC).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

	2003	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007	2007
	J-J	A-D	J-J	A-D	J-J	A-D	J-J	A-D	J-J	A-D
Coast Clee – Skegness	5	4	5	5	3	4	4	2	2	4
Wash Gib – Nene	11	9	8	10	11	8	12	12	7	6
Inland	9	3	11	12	11	9	8	6	5	11

2003:

In the first winter noted to Apr 17th; a male at a previously occupied site from Jun 15th – 29th at least but again no female present and presumably the same male roosted on Aug 31st. The first of the autumn was Sep 20th. A male and ringtail roosted at Worlaby Carrs Dec.

2004:

Recorded in the first winter to May 18th Tetney Marsh. The first of the autumn Sep 14th with the next not until Oct 12th.

One or two males roosted near Kirkby Moor during Feb 19th – Mar 18th a new roost site; another roost in Dec held one or two males at Northorpe Slupe, Bourne/ Baston Fen with two males and ringtail at the Nocton Fen roost Oct 12th – Dec 31st and four reported Nov 26th.

2005:

Recorded to May 21st and on Aug 20th then one Sep 4th – 7th but none until Oct 3rd.

The Northorpe Slupe roost again used by a male and ringtail Feb and up to three roosted Nocton Fen to Mar 19th. A wing-tagged male seen at Nocton – Dunston Fen on Jan 2nd had been ringed as a juvenile in the Forest of Bowland in 2002. From Nov 10th – Dec 23rd a wing-tagged juvenile female was roosting at Blacktoft Sands, Yorkshire and feeding in a set aside (fallow land) area near Amcotts; it had been ringed as a female from a nest on the Langholm estate in the Scottish borders on Aug 1st 2005. It was one of four Hen Harriers hunting this set aside area along with up to 15 Short-eared Owls during this period.

2006:

Recorded to May 28th and from Aug 28th.

2007:

Recorded to Jun 2nd and from Sep 7th; a sub-adult male was at Gib Point Aug 3rd.

A male again at the usual summer site from May 1st to at least Jun 2nd. A juvenile male roosted at Worlaby Carrs in Oct and another occupied roost away from the coastal and Wash sites was at Nocton Fen with two birds, a male and a ringtail, in both the early and late winter periods.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Rare localised and declining breeding species; summering birds in some years and passage migrant in spring and autumn RBBP

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Males	5	4	1	1	2
Females	5	5	1	1	2
Nests	5	5	1	1	2
Juvs fledged	8	8	2	3	4

2003:

Away from breeding sites there were a series of records at Gib Point with a female Apr 24th, ringtail May 8th, second calendar-year male Jul 28th, ringtail Aug 1st and pair Aug 30th. A female

flew north through the Greetwell - Manton - Twigmoor area on May 21st mobbed by Carrion Crows and one was at Binbrook May 28th.

2004:

At Gib Point there were records of a male on seven dates from May 23rd – Jul 1st then two males Jul 5th with one on 13 dates to Aug 13th with a juvenile south Aug 23rd. On the east coast a female was at Donna Nook May 1st then a male in the area between Tetney Marsh and Rimac Saltfleetby NNR from May 7th – 20th with a ringtail at Folkingham Aug 7th.



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* male at Digby Fen Jul 9th 2007 © Neil Smith

2005:

At Gib Point ringtails Apr 30th and May 5th; with a sub-adult male there and Wainfleet Jul 15th – 29th, one Kirkby on Bain May 1st and a ringtail Marshchapel May 16th were the only records not attributable to breeding birds.

2006:

Gib Point male Apr 30th, female May 2nd both 3rd male to 14th, female 11th, male again 23rd and 25th with female 28th, male again Jun 4th, 9th and 16th, female 18th, male 26th, male and two females 28th, female Jul 3-4th, local nesting attempt was unsuccessful – immature male Aug 16th; otherwise two females at Donna Nook Apr 29th, May 8th and 28th, a male Jul 21st and juvenile Aug 23rd, Grainthorpe female Apr 26th and May 28th, Horseshoe Point female Apr 25th – 26th, Rimac 29th, male Tetney Jul 25th probably involved the same birds moving up and down the coast; a male Tattershall Bridge Apr 27th with single birds Freiston Shore May 12th, female Jul 12th, Jul 28th, Aug 21st were all different to breeding birds.

2007:

The well watched pair at Digby Fen fledged four young with the male being seen at various localities in the same general area from May to mid-Aug. Away from the nesting areas several sightings again at Gib Point male Apr 23rd, ringtail May 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th, female Jun 17th, male Jul 8th, ringtail Aug 7th, 13th and juvenile 25th; Baston – Langtoft Pits male Apr 18th, male Nocton Fen May 1st and 4th, one Algakirk May 22nd, Rimac female May 1st, Donna Nook female Jul 14th – 22nd, Freiston Shore juvenile Aug 20th and Saltfleet juvenile Aug 11th – 12th.



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* female at Digby Fen Jul 9th 2007 © Neil Smith

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare, mainly autumn to spring; **LBRC RBBP**

Due to the known problems with identification of this species and the lack of definite information on the status of the Goshawk in Lincolnshire an ongoing review is being undertaken. No records are currently accepted for the 2003-2007 period.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor. **LBRC**



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* Tumby Woodside Jan 2nd 2005 (left) © Graham Catley and Haltham Feb 26th 2006 © K Durose (right)

2003: 1

The over wintering bird from 2002 remained in the Worlaby Carrs area to Mar 14th (GPC, ND et al) and one was seen at Freiston Shore Mar 14th (JB).

2004: 4

Single birds flew north at Gib Point Oct 14th (JPS) and 16th (JPS); one was in Worlaby Carrs Oct 23rd when it flew towards Saxby Wood (ND) and was still present in the same area the following morning 24th (JTH) and a wintering juvenile was found in the Kirkby-on-Bain – Tumby Wood area on Nov 9th remaining in the area through to Mar 23rd 2005.

2005: 3

Kirkby Pits / Moor / Tumby Woodside area the juvenile present in 2004 to Mar 23rd. Other singles were reported at Nocton Fen Jan 3rd – 4th (RHay et al), Baston Fen Jan 29th (KKH) and Stainton le Vale Mar 2nd (WBS).

2006: 2

A second calendar year bird was in the Haltham Wood, Kirkby-Enderby – Tumby Wood area from at least Jan 12th – Mar 21st (KDR et al) it seems quite likely that this was the returning bird from the previous winter. The only other record was at Gib Point on Apr 30th (KMW, DH).

2007: 3

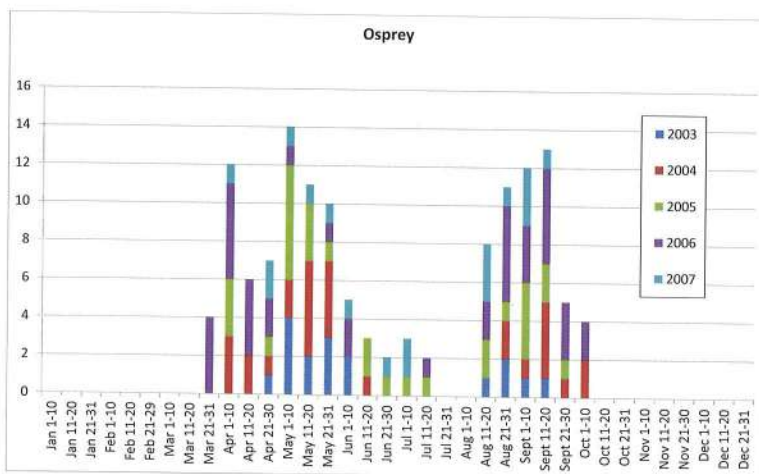
Three birds formed a poor year with one at Anton's Gowt Mar 3rd (BHa) then in the later year one Pye's Hall Oct 5th (ND, GW, et al) and one Donna Nook – Saltfleet Nov 1st – 2nd (SL).



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Ancaster Jul 26th 2007 © K Durose

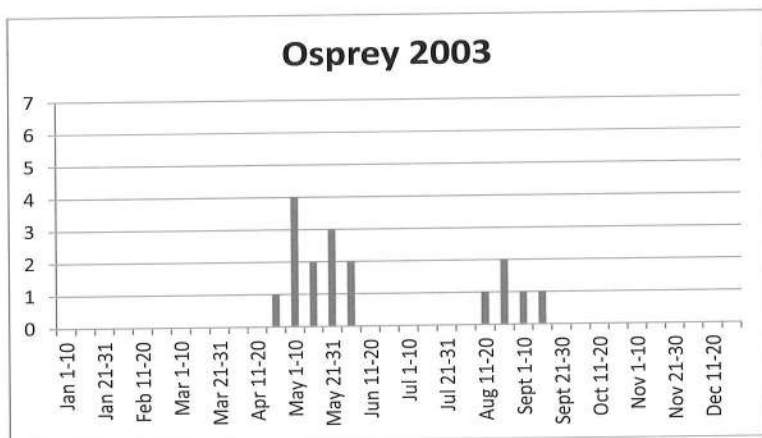
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant, rare in summer. RBBP



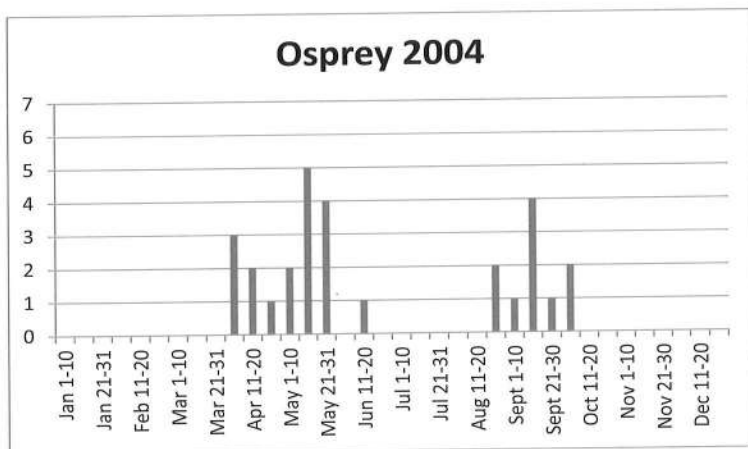
2003:

Recorded from Apr 21st Great Cotes to Jun 7th in spring involving about 11 individuals and from Aug 17th to Sep 20th in the autumn involving five birds. The first of the spring was at Great Cotes Apr 21st, with one at Messingham SQ and Ashby Ville Lake May 7th – 10th, one North Killingholme Haven May 8th, one Kirkby / Tattershall / Roughton May 9th – 18th, singles Brigsley May 10th, Gib Point 21st, Saltfleetby NNR 27th, Worlaby Carrs 29th, Alvingham Jun 1st, Grainthorpe Haven and Tetney Jun 7th. In the autumn one Horseshoe Point – Pye's Hall Aug 17th – 20th, singles Gib Point Aug 22nd and Sep 20th, Freiston Shore / Witham Mouth Aug 30th and presumably the same Holbeach marsh 31st with one in the Wash Sep 7th.



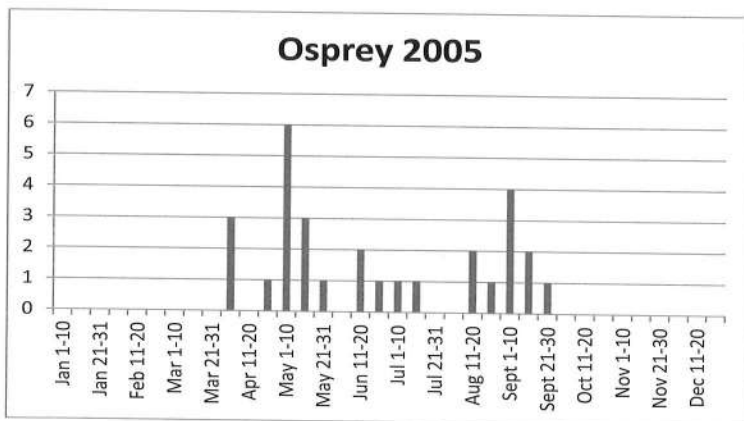
2004:

A series of early birds were over Elsham Wold Apr 4th, at Normanby Park and North Cotes 9th, Deeping Lakes NR 11th, Marston STW 19th, Grainthorpe Marsh 25th with another influx in early May at Gib Point 2nd, 14th and 20th, Apex Pit North Hykeham and Whisby NP May 3rd, Grimsby 16th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 19th, Fillingham Lake 24th, Messingham SQ 25th and Jun 15th, Tetney Marsh May 27th and Deeping Lakes NR 31st. In autumn singles at Gib Point Aug 29th and Sep 1st and 21st, Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Aug 28th – 30th, one found dead in Aug at Alford Trout Farm tangled in fish nets, with a late movement producing singles at Elsham CP Sep 12th, Ludford 16th, Witham Mouth 18th, Holywell Lake 19th and Short Ferry and Whisby NP Oct 3rd.



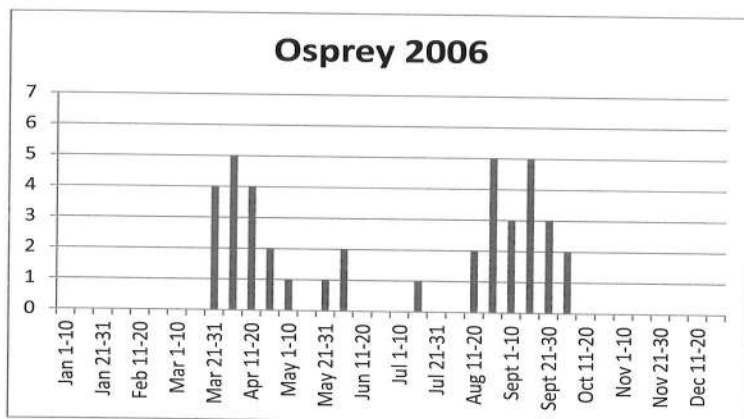
2005:

At Messingham SQ one Apr 7th, two Apr 8th (colour-ringed orange right leg), one to 12th, one May 3rd and May 8th – 10th, with other singles at Belleau Bridge trout farm Apr 9th, Market Rasen Apr 21st, Whisby NP May 1st, Gib Point May 2nd, 20th, Ruckland May 4th, Pye's Hall 5th, Saltfleetby NNR 7th, Worlabby Carrs one 17th, Manby Flashes 23rd, Revesby Reservoir Jun 18th, Humberston Fitties – Donna Nook Jun 20th – Jul 2nd, Waddingham Jul 20th then in autumn Scunthorpe Aug 13th, Freiston Shore – Welland Mouth Aug 16th – 27th, Gib Point Sep 6th, 8th; Rippingale 7th – 9th, Toft Newton Reservoir 7th, Mablethorpe 11th, Ashby Ville Lake 12th – 20th and Frampton Marsh 29th.



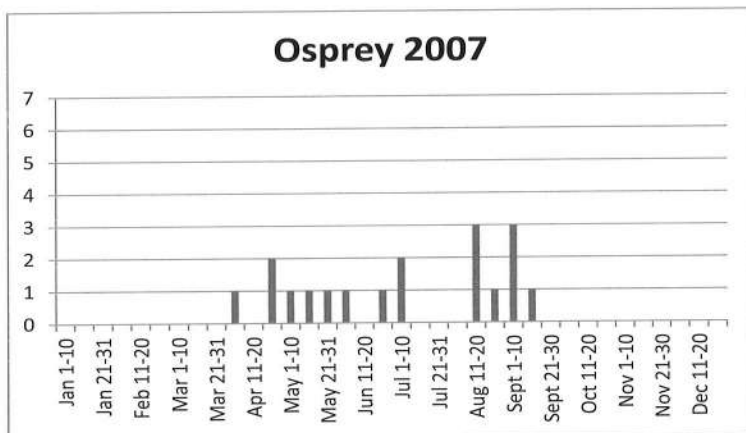
2006:

An early spring arrival with four records in the last days of Mar and eight more in early Apr. First of the year was at Asterby Mar 28th, with singles Ruckland Mar 30th, Apr 9th, Messingham SQ Mar 30th, Apr 19th, Mareham-le-Fen Mar 31st, Audelby Top Apr 1st, Ashby Ville, Marshchapel and Toft Newton Reservoir all on Apr 3rd, Blankney Park 4th, Freiston Shore 5th, Laughton Forest and Butterwick Hale 12th, Donna Nook 13th, Witham Mouth 17th, Swallow 24th, Tetney 27th, Barton May 3rd, Market Deeping May 23rd, Messingham SQ Jun 2nd, Freiston Shore Jun 3rd – 8th, Bardney Pits Jul 16th. In autumn all singles Freiston Shore Aug 23rd, Witham Mouth Aug 27th, Sep 19th, Bardney Pits Sep 14th, Gib Point Aug 15th, juvenile 29th, Sep 3rd, 20th; Friskney Aug 20th, Donna Nook Aug 21st, Toft Newton Reservoir Aug 30th, Trent Port Marton Sep 9th, Donna Nook Sep 17th, Revesby Reservoir Sep 27th, Messingham SQ Sep 5th and 12th – 19th, Oct 8th, Covenham Reservoir Sep 29th and Worlabby Carrs Sep 30th – Oct 4th.



2007:

A poor spring with singles at Messingham SQ Apr 1st, 24th, May 6th, Jun 3rd, Crowle Apr 21st, Laceby May 12th and Gib Point May 22nd; a summering bird with a yellow colour ring was at Ancaster Jun 26th – Jul 11th, singles Freiston Shore Jul 1st, Aug 16th, Gipse Bridge Jul 9th, Huttoft Aug 16th, Ashby Ville 17th, Scotter 28th, Gib Point Sep 1st; Whisby NP Sep 7th, Frampton Marsh 9th and Boston Sep 13th.



Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Vagrant: First record shot Panton near Wragby 1902 with 23 subsequent records to 2002; BBRC to end of 2005; LBRC 2006 onwards

Two records in 2003 both concerned first-summer males in mid-summer with the Baston – Deeping bird making the longest stay ever in Lincolnshire. The 24th and 25th records for the county.

2003: 2

Baston and Deeping Fen area first-summer male Jun 12th – Sep 2nd (JJG et al) BB 97-11 574

Barrow-on-Humber first-summer male Jul 25th – 26th photo (GPC et al) BB 97-11 574 note location in BBRC report is incorrectly recorded as Barton-on-Humber.



Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* male Barrow on Humber Jul 26th 2003 © Graham Catley

Merlin Falco columbarius

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

2003:

Recorded to May 3rd and from Jul 31st.

2003	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birds	15	9	11	3	1		1	11	17	17	13	7
Sites	11	8	9	3	1		1	11	12	12	10	7

2004:

Recorded to Apr 29th and from Jul 10th.

2004	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birds	15	13	13	6			1	13	12	20	26	24
Sites	13	9	8	5			1	11	10	15	20	18

2005:

Recorded to May 27th and from Jul 16th.

2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birds	27	20	14	10	5		3	6	16	22	18	22
Sites	20	15	11	10	5		3	6	14	16	13	15

2006:

Recorded to Jun 11th and from Jul 15th.

2006	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birds	23	15	14	10	2	1	2	10	12	20	20	19
Sites	16	10	12	7	2	1	2	9	11	13	14	12

2007:

Recorded to Jun 1st and from Jul 15th.

2007	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birds	13	21	15	10	2	1	2	4	15	13	13	19
Sites	12	16	14	9	2	1	2	4	14	12	12	16

Hobby Falco subbuteo

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

It is clear that the breeding population of Hobbies in Lincolnshire is not reflected in the small number of records that are submitted on an annual basis to the LBC; it is estimated that at least 50 pairs bred during the period of this review and yet the figures below are all that reflect proven breeding or the presence of territorial pairs.

2003:

First of the spring at Gib Point Apr 19th the earliest ever at that locality; latest records singles Waters' Edge Barton and Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Sep 20th.

Six pairs were monitored with two fledging broods of two and three young.

2004:

First of the year was at Blankney Fen Apr 20th with one Gib Point Apr 22nd and Messingham SQ 23rd; late birds at Saltfleet Sep 29th and Boston 30th.

Four pairs were reported with two fledging two young and two fledging three young.

2005:

First recorded Apr 28th with two at Baston-Langtoft Pits and Gib Point Apr 29th; latest birds two juveniles Messingham SQ Oct 10th – 11th.

Breeding birds included five pairs with one reported as fledging young and a second fledging two young.

2006:

First bird at Withcall Apr 16th and the latest Hemswell Oct 8th.

Five breeding pairs reported with three broods of two juveniles and one of three juveniles.

2007:

Recorded from Apr 19th Barkston to Oct 6th Baston Fen.

Only four pairs were reported with one fledging two and a second three young.



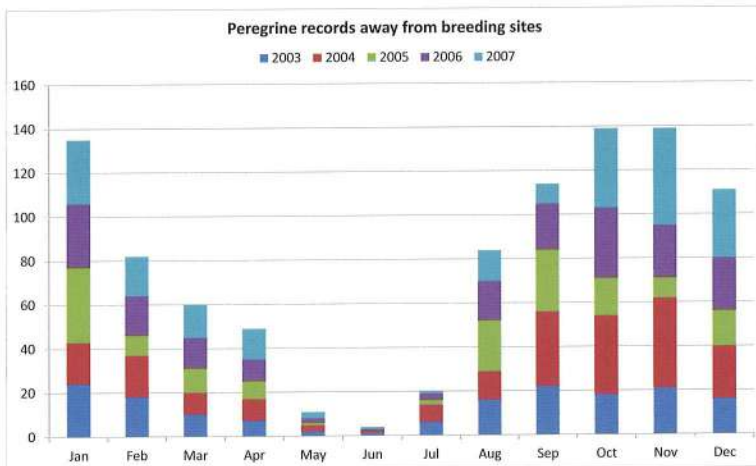
Hobby *Falco subbuteo* Laughton Forest Aug 19th 2003 © Graham Catley

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records. Has summered since 1998 and bred from 2003 at least. **RBBP**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Occupied sites	2	4	5	5	8
Confirmed pairs	1	3	3	5	8
Young fledged	1	2+	1	?	3+

Records received were clearly far from a true reflection of the status of the species in the county in the years under review with some known breeding sites not being monitored in some years and large numbers of records missing from some locations so the data presented here is a guide only.





Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* juv's at Lincoln Cathedral Jul 19th 2007 © Roy Harvey



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* juvenile at Lincoln Cathedral Jul 28th 2007 © Andrew Chick

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce and localised breeding species with autumn – winter immigrants swelling the population between Sep and Mar. RBBP

Water Rails were recorded from 44 different localities in the county over the five-year period but only two of these sites consistently held more than five individuals in each year. Breeding birds take up territories in Mar but winter visitors can still be present at this time though from Apr onwards most birds will be breeding; thus the records have been split into Apr – Aug, when most birds will be on breeding territories and Sep – Mar when winter visitors mix with local birds and occupy sites not used in the breeding season.

The only area with significant winter and breeding season populations is the Barton – Barrow Haven clay pits complex. A full breeding season survey on that area in 2003 by a single observer located 24 breeding territories with 16 territories in 2004. No full surveys were undertaken in 2005 – 2007. Breeding was only proven from seven other locations in 2003 – 2007, Crowle Waste, Goxhill Pits, North Killingholme Haven Pits, Huttoft Pit, Baston Fen, Laughton Forest and Messingham SQ but may have occurred elsewhere. It is not known whether breeding birds remain on their territories during the winter or whether they are partial migrants.

The species appears to be under-recorded with suitable wintering habitat not being recorded as holding birds in the period under review. On the coast Gib Point has some areas of suitable Water Rail habitat but does not have breeding birds with the annual maxima typically occurring in Oct – Dec when winter visitors are arriving on the East coast.

Autumn and winter site maxima;

Sep - Mar	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Barton – Barrow Haven	40+	26	20+	15+	30+
Goxhill Pits			1		
East Halton Pits		2			2
Killingholme Pits		2	4	2	4
Grimsby West Marsh	1				
Humberston Fitties	3		1	1	
Tetney Marsh		1	2		1
Donna Nook	1	1	1	2	3
Saltfleet – Saltfleetby	1		1	1	
Huttoft Pit	5	3	3	2	2
Anderby Creek			1		
Chapel Pits		1	1		
Gib Point	8	9	10	11	13
Freiston Shore					1
Hobhole Fishtoft	1				
Frampton Marsh				1	
Kirton Marsh	1				
Ashby Ville			1		
Bardney Pits	1				1
Baston Fen	3	4	3	2	1
Baston - Langtoft Pits		1		1	
Biscathorpe Lake		1			
Boultham Mere	6	8	3	1	3
Deeping Lakes NR	1	1	2	2	
Donington on Bain				3	
Greetwell Quarry		1		1	
Hagnaby Lock Fen				1	
Kirkby-Tattershall Pits	2		1	1	1
Louth					2
Marston STW	6	1	5	12	1
Messingham SQ	6	2	2	1	1
Metheringham Delph					1
Moulton Marsh			1	1	1
Northorpe Bourne			1		
Norton Disney Quarry				1	
Sleaford					1
Spalding Arnold's Meadow					1
Thurlby Fen	1		2	1	1
Tongue End			1		
Trent Port Marton	1		2		1
Wainfleet Common					3
Whisby NP			1	1	2
Total	88	64	70	64	77

Breeding season site maxima;

Apr - Aug	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Barton - Barrow Haven	48	32	15+	10+	20+
Goxhill Pits					2
East Halton Pits					
Killingholme Pits	1			2	10
Tetney Marsh				1	
Donna Nook	1	1	1		
Huttoft Pit	3	1	6		
Gib Point	1	1			
Baston Fen	1	2	3	2	1
Boultham Mere		2			1
Crowle Waste		1			
Kirkby-Tattershall Pits				1	
Laughton Forest				2	
Marston STW	2				
Messingham SQ	3	6	4	3	
Thurlby Fen				1	1
Wainfleet		1			
Whisby NP				1	

2003:

Gib Point max 8 Oct 30th.

Barton - Barrow Haven Pits 40+ Feb with 24 pairs recorded in the breeding season survey.
Messingham pair bred.

2004:

Gib Point max 9 Nov 6th.

Barton - Barrow Haven Pits 16 pairs in summer.
Messingham pair bred.

2005:

Gib Point max 10 Nov 7th.

Huttoft 4 adults and 2 black juveniles Jul 20th.

2006:

Gib Point 1-4 Jan; 11 Oct 29th, 9 Nov 9th.

Messingham pair bred.

2007:

Gib Point max 13 Nov 2nd.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

2003: 1

Tetney Sep 13th - 20th juvenile photo (CSm).

2005: 1

Saltfleetby Sea View Mar 28th - 29th (JRW).

2006: 1

Laughton Forest singing male 02:55 - 03:40 Jun 17th (GPC).

Three somewhat different records; the first was photographed at a small pool from a hide set up to photograph waders when the crane appeared in front of the photographer; the second an early spring migrant at a coastal locality was flushed from a pond margin whilst doing some survey work in the freshwater marsh/ponds quickly disappearing into rushes not to be seen again and the third, possibly the first singing male in the county for over 100 years, was heard by the named observer while undertaking a Nightjar survey in the forest provoking a reaction of incredulity upon waking from a nap in the car to hear a Spotted Crane whiplashing in the middle of a forest; the song was tracked down to the largest wetland that lies within the confines of the forest but further visits failed to produce any further evidence of the bird's continued presence.



Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* juvenile at Tetney Sep 13th - 20th 2003 © Colin Smale



Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* juvenile at Tetney Sep 13th - 20th 2003 © Colin Smale

Sora *Porzana Carolina*

Vagrant: first Lincolnshire record in 2006 BBRC

2006: 1 First Lincolnshire record

Gib Point first-winter Mar 5th – 18th, trapped 17th, photo (TBa, ADb, PMT et al) (BB 99: plates 99 and 100) BB 100-12 p708 plate 338

BBRC

The first Lincolnshire and East coast record of this Nearctic rail and a rather unexpected occurrence, particularly given the national rarity of the species that had been recorded on only 15 previous occasions in Britain.



Sora *Porzana carolina* first-winter at Gib Point Mar 7th 2006 © Graham Catley



Sora *Porzana carolina* first-winter at Gib Point Mar 7th 2006 © Graham Catley

Corn Crake *Crex crex*

Formerly rare breeder to 19th century then scarce passage migrant to mid 20th century since when a rare passage migrant in spring and autumn RBBP LBRC

2003: 1

One was seen by several observers on Croft Marsh, Gib Point on Sep 1st (GJ et al).

2004: 1

One was in the scrub / grassland north of the freshwater marsh at Gib Point Oct 1st (KMW).

2007: 2

One was flushed on two occasions on the approach to Sea View Saltfleetby Oct 6th (ARo, JRW) and at Donna Nook one was caught by hand when discovered trapped in rabbit fence set in long grass on the dunes Oct 8th (KRo).



Common Crane *Grus grus* Grainthorpe Dec 23rd 2004 © Graham Catley

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Rare migrant, recorded most months. Former breeding species and a common migrant to 16/17th centuries. LBRC

2003: 7

One flew north-east at Gib Point Mar 20th (TJS et al) with three south there Apr 22nd (KMW, TJS et al). Two over Messingham SQ on Mar 28th (KB) and again on Apr 15th (WG, CG) were also presumably the two birds seen at Wroot on Mar 23rd. One flew in off the sea at North Somercotes Lido and then south on Apr 13th (ACS) with presumably the same bird later the same day at Frampton Marsh (I Cruikshank per JB).

2004: 16

A flock of seven flew west at Boston on May 10th (SK) with two single birds through Gib Point May 14th (KMW, PMT), one Donna Nook May 18th (SL) with an autumn arrival seeing three south at Saltfleetby NNR (GAM) then at Gib Point Sep 15th (PMT) where they landed at the river mouth in the evening; one roosted on the shore south of the river mouth between Gib Point and Wainfleet Haven Oct 30th (JPS) with possibly the same bird at Burgh-le-Marsh Nov 9th (NAL); a wintering bird settled in the North Somercotes – Donna Nook- Grainthorpe Marsh - Horseshoe Point area from Oct 22nd to Jan 12th 2005 (SL et al) and one was in the Nocton – Dunston – Metheringham Fens area from Dec 31st – Jan 13th 2005.

2005: 2

The two over-wintering birds remained at Nocton – Dunston – Metheringham Fens area from Dec 31st 2004 to Jan 13th and North Somercotes – Donna Nook- Grainthorpe Marsh - Horseshoe Point area from Oct 22nd 2004 to Jan 12th. One was at Gib Point Jan 30th (JPS) then presumably the same Wainfleet Feb 15th and 18th (BHa) and Thorpe St Peter Feb 26th (KMW) with another spring bird at Anton's Gowt May 8th (BHa).

2006: 9

Two over Gib Point Jun 18th (KMW et al) were followed by a party of eight seen over Sudbrooke Park (Lincoln) on Dec 11th (IB) the flock having previously flown south over South Cave, East Yorkshire, the same afternoon.

2007: 8

Two were seen at Kirkby Moor Mar 12th (PS) then in May one Chambers Farm Wood 2nd (EJM), Messingham SQ 6th (AHDC), south at Gib Point 10th (RKW, KMW) and Cleethorpes – Tetney 18th (DJB) with two Epworth Turbary Jun 24th (JMcM).



Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* first-summer birds at Barton-on-Humber
May 4th 2006 © Graham Catley

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Vagrant: First record 2 at Gib Point 1965 with 7 subsequent records to 2002

BBRC RBBP

2006: 3

Barton-on-Humber three first-summers May 4th, photo (GPC, M.Hopper, E.Shucksmith et al) (BB 99: plate 188) BB 100-12 p709 plate 339

Prone to occurring in pairs or small groups this southern overshoot had amassed eight records of nine birds in the county prior to 2006 but these three birds set a new county abundance record; found on the late morning of the 4th they stayed until dusk but then moved west and were relocated in Cheshire the following day where two of the birds attempted to breed. This was the second record at Barton-on-Humber pits following a female or first-winter seen at Far Ings and South Ferriby between Sep 6th and 9th 1987.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Increasing breeding species. Fairly common passage migrant, rare in winter and scarce inland.

RBBP

Humber Avocet peak counts Read's Island – Alkborough Flats

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2003	2	34	224	243	211		407	233	180	63	16	6
2004			298	207		133	325	380	147	67	9	
2005			310	331	243	200	516		78	447	168	
2006		127	171				500	191	330			
2007		382	250	156	115	384	610	265	56	344	338	
Annual max				2003		2004		2005	2006		2007	
Alkborough Flats						10			27		610	
Read's Island area				407		380		516	500		254	
N Killingholme				8		13		32	52		55	
Gib Point				7		20		23	51		51	
Freiston Shore				34		56		56	70		101	
Frampton Marsh				1		10		21	12		2	

Breeding pairs	2003 pairs	2003 fledge	2004 pairs	2004 fledge	2005 pairs	2005 fledge	2006 pairs	2006 fledge	2007 pairs	2007 fledge
Alkborough Flats									19	0
Read's Island	100	17	100	130	100	130	1	2	55	0
Barton Pits										
N Killingholme	1	0	3	4	2	0			7	1
Gib Point	1		2	6	9	16	7	4	9	4
Freiston Shore	21		31		31		31		40	

2003:

Two birds wintered at Read's Island being seen to Jan 3rd with 34 back by Feb 27th and 146 Mar 7th.

The only inland records were of one at Bagmoor Mar 16th, two at Messingham SQ Apr 12th – May 3rd and one Bardney Pits Jun 15th – 16th.

2004:

One was at Witham Mouth Jan 1st; the first returning birds on the Humber was at Read's Island Feb 25th.

Inland records came from Baston-Langtoft Pits Mar 27th with four on 31st and Messingham SQ, two May 16th – 17th; nine birds were still at Read's Island Nov 27th.

2005:

Inland records increased with singles Covenham Reservoir Feb 7th, May 15th, Aug 31st, one RAF Waddington Mar 22nd, two Manby Flashes May 28th, one Toft Newton Reservoir Nov 15th and one Freiston Shore Oct 21st, Nov 11th, Nov 29th, Dec 3rd.

2006:

A wintering bird was at Freiston Shore Jan 1st – Feb 16th.

Inland birds were fewer with one or two Messingham SQ Apr 7th - 24th, two Apex Pits North Hykeham Jun 17th and one Freiston Shore Oct 21st – Dec 31st.

2007:

A wintering bird was again at Freiston Shore Jan 1st – Feb 9th.

Inland records increased again with two to four at Messingham SQ Apr 7th – May 9th, three Apex Pits North Hykeham May 14th, one Branston Island Aug 28th – 30th, singles Covenham Reservoir Mar 15th and Sep 29th, singles Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Mar 27th, Jul 19th, Aug 17th with four Sep 3rd and one to Oct 2nd plus one Manby Flashes May 25th.

A total of 338 at Alkborough Flats Nov 1st was a large number for this late date.



Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* Greetwell Warren on Apr 13th - 14th 2007 © Russell Hayes

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedichenus*

Vagrant. Bred to early 1900s and a female laid eggs in 1989 but no male was ever seen. LBRC, RBBP

2003: 1

One was in the field just south of the car park at Horseshoe Point on May 28th (CA, ATH, DJB et al) before flying off south.

2006: 1

One was on Tennyson's Sands Gib Point for 20 minutes on May 6th before flying south (BH, BL, PP).

2007: 1

One was found on the small area of heathland at Greetwell Warren on Apr 13th – 14th (AHu, ND et al) Although in perfect breeding habitat the area is restricted in extent and would be unlikely to support a breeding pair of this species.



Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedichenus* Greetwell Warren on Apr 13th - 14th 2007 © Russell Hayes

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950. RBBP

Pairs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Alkborough Flats					3
Barton Waters' Edge	3	1			
Barton Chowder Ness				1	1
Gib Point	2	2	1	2	
Freiston Shore	2				
Bagmoor Floods		1			
Bardney Pits	1	1			
Baston Langtoft Pits	1	1			1
Deeping Lakes NR		1			
Kirkby - Tattershall Pits	3	4	2	3	3
Kirton Lindsey	1	1			
Marston STW	1			1	1
Messingham SQ	1	1		1	

Normanby	1			
North Thoresby ponds			1	1
Norton Disney Quarry			1	
Owston Ferry	2			
Whisby Quarry	3		4	2
Whisby NP			2	2
Worlaby Carrs				1
Yarborough Quarry	1			
Total	16	14	8	16
			16	15

2003:

Three Mar records at Barton Waters' Edge 18th, East Butterwick 21st and Kirkby - Tattershall Pits and Messingham SQ 30th. High counts of 10 Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Jul 22nd, 14 Gib Point Aug 2nd and 11 Bardney Pits Aug 22nd. Last records Bardney Pits Sep 3rd and Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Sep 8th.

2004:

Recorded in Mar at Messingham SQ Mar 16th – 17th with two 20th, Baston-Langtoft Pits 21st, Marston STW 23rd, Covenham Reservoir 28th, Tetney Marsh 30th and Bardney Pits 31st with 10 Normanby Enterprise Park May 15th then the last birds at Tetney Marsh Aug 17th and then Whisby NP Sep 18th.

2005:

First of the year were one at Baston-Langtoft Pits Mar 23rd with two 24th then two Whisby NP 30th. Ten birds were at Whisby Quarry Jul 16th – 20th and five were still at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Sep 9th with the last Toft Newton Reservoir 18th.

2006:

Recorded at Thurlby Pits Mar 19th then Whisby Quarry 22nd with two 24th, Baston – Langtoft Pits 25th, North Thoresby Fisheries 28th; summer – autumn maxima were 11 Gib Point Aug 9th, 14 Whisby Quarry Jun 17th with 19 there Jul 2nd and seven Jul 12th then the last three Gib Point Sep 23rd.

2007:

First Mar birds at Whisby Quarry 21st, Kirkby - Tattershall Pits 24th, Fiskerton Fen 29th and North Thoresby Fisheries 31st. The only high counts noted were of eight at Gib Point in autumn and 12 Alkborough Flats Jul 10th. Last of the year were two Baston-Langtoft Pits Sep 28th.



Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Marshchapel May 9th 2005 © Graham Catley

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare / scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. LBRC

2003: 42

A trip of 16 was found at New Barnetby on May 4th (RH et al) but quickly moved on; another trip then built up at Donna Nook with two May 8th then 15 on 15th, eight 16th, nine 17th and three 18th; a single bird was at Tetney May 3rd – 4th (GAM), four Wainfleet St Mary May 3rd (DH), two on foreshore at Gib Point on May 13th before flying north, three Grainthorpe Haven May 18th – 21st (GAM) and just one autumn record at Read's Island Sep 28th (WG).

2004: 21

Just one trip occurred in the spring at Wainfleet – Friskney with 21 May 5th then 11 on the 8th and three on 9th (ACS, SML et al).

2005: 27

All records were in spring with one at Bigby on May 3rd increasing to 10 on 9th with four on 11th then one on 12th (RH), eight Marshchapel May 8th – 12th then 12 15th and 11 16th – 17th with four 18th – 19th and at Tetney five May 5th – 6th, two 7th – 8th, four 10th – 11th and one to 13th.

2006: 32

The only spring trip was at North Cotes with five May 11th, six 12th, 11 13th, 16 14th, and five 15th; unusually there were four autumn records with one north at Gib Point Aug 12th (GG), a juvenile south Freiston Shore Aug 19th (JB), a trip of 13 Sutton Bridge Aug 20th (JS, PCl) and finally one Deeping High Bank Oct 6th (WB, GMO).

2007: 35

Two trips one on the favoured north-east coast at Tetney Lock three May 4th, six 6th, seven 7th – 10th, 19 11th, 22 12th and 14 on the 13th while the other was at Wainfleet Marsh with six May 6th, seven 7th and 13 on the 8th.



Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Tetney May 9th 2007 ©Roy Harvey

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Vagrant only Lincolnshire record in 2002: BBRC

2002:

Rimac, female *C m altifrons*, May 11th – 15th, previously accepted by BBRC but without racial attribution (BB 103: p 584)

With the potential split of Mongolian Plover *C m mongolus* and Lesser Sand Plover *C m altifrons* this entry amplifies details published in BB 96: p566

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Vagrant: First record Wisbech Sewage Farm 1974 with 9 subsequent records to 2002

BBRC to end 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

The 10th to 16th county records occurred during the period. There has been one spring record of a first-summer in May 1998 but the vast majority of the records 13 of 16 have concerned adults either in summer plumage or in moult from summer plumage with only two juveniles being found: a rather odd proportion.

2005: 1

An adult was at Frampton Marsh Oct 2nd (JB, PAH, SK) and 4th (PS).

2006: 3

A moulting adult was in fields at East Ferry from Oct 1st - 2nd (JTH, GPC) while an adult was in the Deeping High Bank - Crowland High Wash and Crowland Common area from Oct 6th - 9th (WB et al,) and a juvenile in the same area Oct 28th (WB).

2007: 3

A moulting adult was found at East Butterwick on Sep 6th (JTH et al) with two moulting adults there 7th - 8th (GPC et al) while a juvenile was at Dawsmere Marsh Oct 14th (PRF).



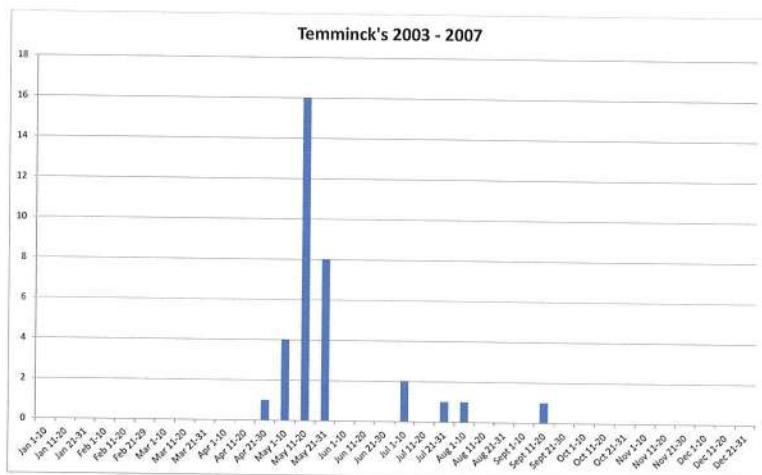
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* East Ferry Oct 2nd 2006 © Graham Catley (left)
and East Butterwick Sep 7th 2007 © Graham Catley (right)



American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* Dawsmere, Nov 14th 2007 © P French

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC



2003: 6

In spring singles were at Tetney Marsh Apr 30th (RLo) and May 7th (RLo), Freiston Shore May 12th (L James), Barton Waters' Edge 27th then in Jul one at Tetney Marsh 4th (DJB) and one at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits from Jul 31st – Aug 1st (JWa et al).

2004: 10

After one at Deeping Lakes NR May 13th – 17th there was a run of records at Gib Point with one 18th (JPS), four on 19th (JPS) and one 23rd (PMT, KMW); further singles in May were at Normanby Enterprise park 20th – 21st (ND et al), Covenham Reservoir 19th – 20th, Messingham SQ 24th (JTH, WG) and Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 26th (per SL).



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Saltfleetby May 24th 2006 © Barry Clarkson



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Saltfleetby May 2006 © Russell Hayes

2005: 5

A party of three was at Covenham Reservoir May 16th (GPL et al) with one in Worlaby Carrs 17th – 18th (GPC et al) and one Gib Point 31st (MLE, GWA).

2006: 4

An early bird was at Gib Point May 2nd (KS) followed by singles at Barton, Chowder Ness May 9th (ND), Saltfleetby NNR, Paradise pools May 10th – 31st (JRW et al) and later one Hagnaby Lock / Fen Jul 1st (GCS).

2007: 5

One was at Covenham Reservoir May 12th (GPL) with one North Cotes Point 13th (CJJ, SJ) another Covenham Reservoir 19th with one Alkborough Flats 23rd – 24th (ND) and a late autumn bird at Gib Point Sep 18th (ACS).



White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Freiston Shore Oct 8th 2006 © Paul Sullivan

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant: First record Wisbech Sewage Farm 1955 with 10 subsequent records to end 2002: BBRC to end 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

2006:

Freiston Shore juvenile Oct 8th – 10th (AGP, PS et al).

2007:

Gib Point adult Jul 3rd (KMW). The first for Gib.

Of the previous records one was in May, two in July, five August and singles September, October and November.



Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* adult at Kirkby Pit Sep 19th - 27th 2005
© Dean Eades



Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* adult at Kirkby Pit Sep 19th - 27th 2005
© Russell Hayes

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Vagrant: First record Wisbech Sewage Farm 1963 with subsequent records in 1966 and 1979
BBRC

2005: 1

Kirkby – Tattershall Pits adult Sep 19th – 27th, photo (GHo et al) BB 100-1 p40

Only the fourth Lincolnshire record; the first and last records were adults while that in 1979 was a juvenile and the 1966 bird was not aged.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Scarce autumn migrant; rare in spring LBRC

2003: 3

Single birds were found at Tetney Jul 30th (DJB), Donna Nook Sep 3rd (KR0, SL) and a juvenile Kirkby Pit Sep 21st (ABA).

2004: 5

One was at Horseshoe Point Jul 28th (DJB, DW) then one North Kelsey Moor Jul 31st (RHa) a third at Manby Flashes Sep 9th – 16th (GW et al) and a juvenile Toft Newton Reservoir Sep 29th – 30th and a juvenile Huttoft Pit Oct 2nd (MLa, DE et al).

2005: 3

A spring adult was in Worlabby Carrs May 17th – 20th (GPC et al) one at Humberston Yacht Club Pools Sep 8th (DJB) and finally a juvenile on Waters' Edge, Barton Sep 26th – Oct 1st (GPC et al).

2006: 8

The third highest annual total after ten in 1983 and nine in 1984 with eight birds recorded in a concentrated autumn arrival; after the first at Donna Nook Aug 27th (SL) a juvenile was at Alkborough Flats Sep 11th (GPC, JTH) a juvenile Freiston Shore Sep 13th (PS et al), juvenile Gib Point Sep 9th – 12th with one flying over 13th then two juveniles 15th – 17th all records assumed to refer to just two juveniles (KMW et al); a juvenile at Pye's Hall – Donna Nook Sep 17th -19th (SL, RHa et al), juvenile Read's Island Sep 30th and one Frampton Marsh Oct 5th (JB).

2007: 5

A juvenile at Branston Island Sep 23rd – 29th (DN et al), two juveniles Gib Point Sep 25th (KMW) with a juvenile Oct 3rd (DP, GH) and a juvenile North Kelsey Moor Sep 27th – 29th (RHa).



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Worlabby Carrs May 17th 2005 © Graham Catley

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

2003:

A rather mediocre year with no single day count exceeding four birds; in spring the only records were four singles at Gib Point May 16th – 29th; in autumn recorded from Jul 14th to Sep 22nd (when three juveniles were at Barton) with a maximum of four juveniles at Read's Island Sep 7th – 9th.

2004:

The only spring records were again at Gib Point with singles on seven dates between Jun 3rd and 16th but there was an exceptional arrival of adults in Aug with 77 at Gib Point 10th and 55 at Donna Nook 14th; all these birds moved on quickly with only 14 at Gib Point by the 12th; further arrivals of juveniles saw peaks of 31 at Gib Point Sep 4th and up to seven juveniles at 14 other sites from late Aug to Oct 17th when the last was seen at Tetney Marsh.

2005:

The only spring records were again at Gib Point on May 3rd and 8th; recorded in autumn from Jul 26th to early Oct with up to six birds at 17 sites; exceptionally 24 were recorded at Read's Island Aug 29th and then 64 juveniles there on Sep 7th on the same day that 18 juveniles were at Pyewipe mudflats; this large influx was not picked up anywhere else with a maximum of seven at Freiston Shore Sep 6th; a few lingered into early Oct with a juvenile at North Killingholme Pits 17th – 22nd.

2006:

Four spring records concerned birds at Pyewipe mudflats May 13th, Cleethorpes 15th, Read's Island 21st and Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 31st. A rather poor autumn with one to five birds at 12 sites from Jul 21st to Oct 12th and peaks of seven Read's Island Sep 3rd and 11 Freiston Shore Sep 12th with seven to the 24th.

2007:

Singles in spring at Gib Point May 11th, 22nd, two on 20th, two 29th and two Jun 2nd with one Alkborough Flats May 11th. In autumn recorded from Jul 30th to early Oct with one to five birds at 20 sites and peaks of 20 Gib Point Sep 20th, seven Freiston Shore Aug 15th, eight Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 20th – 22nd, up to nine Branstons Island Sep 9th – Oct 10th, 10 Witham Mouth Sep 29th, 12 Alkborough Flats Sep 15th and then 27 there 23rd with 10 to Oct 14th and the last bird of the year there Nov 2nd.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Winter visitor no longer annual and scarce passage migrant mainly in autumn; rare but regular inland

2003: 8

A wintering bird remained at Cleethorpes North Wall to Feb 14th and one was at Huttoft Bank Jan 5th; one at North Killingholme Pits on Aug 25th was the first at that site since 1979; singles occurred at Gib Point on Aug 10th and 31st then Sep 29th – 30th with one at Mablethorpe Sep 24th and a probably returning winter bird at Cleethorpes North Wall Dec 8th – 31st.

2004: 22

The wintering bird was again at Cleethorpes North Wall to Jan 21st with one at the Nene Mouth Jan 18th. A spring bird was at the Witham Mouth Apr 19th. Autumn records were concentrated in late Sep rather earlier than usual; after the first at Covenham Reservoir Aug 1st and singles at Gib Point Sep 5th and 23rd – 24th, one was at Gedney 19th, one south at Trusthorpe 17th with six there, four north and two on the groins, 24th the latter two remaining to the 27th, while singles flew north at Sandilands 23rd and 24th and Rimac 24th probably involving some duplication on these dates. Two were at Huttoft Oct 1st, singles Gib Point Nov 1st and 7th, inland at Toft Newton Reservoir 8th and Covenham Reservoir 25th – 29th with one at Cleethorpes North Wall Nov 15th.

2005: 6

A poor year with just six records; none in the early year. The first at Gib Point Sep 10th with subsequent records Oct 10th and Nov 19th and singles Sandilands Nov 16th, Covenham Reservoir 17th – 19th and one north Mablethorpe 25th.

2006: 10

Another quiet year for this species with no wintering birds for the second successive year. Singles at Donna Nook Jul 22nd, Aug 22nd and Nov 5th, Gib Point Sep 8th with two Nov 8th, two north at Sandilands Nov 1st and inland birds at Covenham Reservoir Nov 11th – 27th and Toft Newton Reservoir 11th – 12th completed the annual total.

2007: 29

In the early year a single bird was at Gib Point Feb 13th. In the autumn there were seven records in Aug – Oct before a marked influx in early – mid Nov associated with a major movement of Little Auks and other seabirds in a strong northerly airflow. Two were at Gib Point Aug 24th, one Sep 18th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 11th and Oct 3rd, Freiston Shore Sep 28th then 22 birds between Oct 31st and Nov 17th as follows: Skegness Oct 31st, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Nov 4th and 10th – 11th, Witham Mouth Nov 4th with two on 14th, six north at Donna Nook 10th, one Trusthorpe – Mablethorpe 10th with three 11th and one 12th, one north with four Little Auks at Chapel Point 11th, singles Freiston Shore, and Cleethorpes North Wall 14th and the last at East Halton Skitter 17th.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* Covenham Res Oct 11th 2006 © Graham Catley

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant: First record North Cotes shot Sep 20th 1906 with 7 subsequent records in Sep 1975, Sep 1981, Aug 1982, May 1989, 2 Sep 1995 and Aug 1999, LBRC

With no records between 1999 and 2005 Buff-breasted Sandpiper seemed to have reverted to its status of an extreme rarity but with four birds recorded in 2006 and five in 2007 the Lincolnshire total was doubled in just two autumns. Of the previous records two were adults and five juveniles with the Aug 1999 bird not being aged.

2006: 4

As the Humber bank was breached to create the largest managed realignment site in the UK at Alkborough Flats in early Sep one of the first birds to take advantage of the newly created habitat was a juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper that arrived on Sep 9th and stayed to the 12th (WG et al). It was quickly followed by a juvenile found consorting with other small waders on the foreshore between Pye's Hall and Stonebridge at Donna Nook Sep 16th – 17th (WCN et al). Surprisingly a third juvenile was then discovered at Covenham Reservoir on Oct 12th this bird staying to the 12th (KRo et al) and finally a fourth juvenile was found in a flock of Golden Plovers at Kenwick Top near Louth on Oct 22nd (JTH).

2007:

4

After a record breaking year in 2006 an adult in summer plumage was found roosting with Dunlin and Ringed Plovers at Chowder Ness Barton, another managed realignment site, on Jul 30th (GPC et al); it remained all day but flew off west late in the evening and was discovered at Read's Island on the 31st (WCN). A juvenile was then found at Toft Newton Reservoir on Sep 4th – 5th having a bizarre injury with a stalk of straw impaled in its rear flank (JTH et al). An additional juvenile appeared at Alkborough Flats Sep 22nd (WCN et al) and a juvenile was at Tetney Marsh Oct 2nd (RLo).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* juvenile at Toft Newton Reservoir on Sep 4th - 5th 2007 © Graham Catley

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Probably much under-recorded. **RBBP**

Jack Snipe are invariably found by appearing in front of permanent hides or more usually by being walked up in suitable areas of marshy habitat. This means that they are seldom recorded unless dedicated searches are undertaken in potential wintering habitat and the species is clearly grossly under-recorded in the county. The records submitted are a reflection of search effort at a few specific sites and occasional encounters at others. Birds typically arrive on the east coast from mid-Sep through to mid-Nov with departing birds occurring again on the coast from mid-Mar through to late Apr. Coastal records largely reflect these migratory patterns while most inland records are from mid winter though passage birds also seem to occur at some inland sites with some frequency.

	2003	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007	2007
	J-A	S-D	J-A	S-D	J-A	S-D	J-A	S-D	J-A	S-D
Day maxima										
Alkborough Flats										1
Barton Pits	1	2		1	6	1			1	
Goxhill Marsh	1									
East Halton Skitter								3	12	1
North Killingholme Pit	1				2	1		1		1
Tetney Marsh	6	17	20	19	15	3	5	2	2	
Grainthorpe Marsh		2					1			
Donna Nook	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2
Saltfleetby NNR	2	2		1	1	2	1	1		2
Mablethorpe			1							
Huttoft Pit		2	1			2	1	2		
Gib Point	1	3	1	2		3	1	3	4	2
Freiston Shore						1	1	1		

Moulton Marsh NR							1		1
Frampton Marsh	1							1	1
Bagmoor		1							
Bardney Pits									
Baston Fen NR								1	
Baston - Langtoft Pits		1	3					1	
Benington village	1								
Pennyworth		1							
Branston Island									1
Butterwick Village							1		
Covenham Reservoir			1	1			1		
Deeping Lakes NR	3				3	1			
East Butterwick Hale				1					
Laughton Forest	1						2	4	8
Linwood Warren					1				
Low Melwood					2				
Marston STW		1		1					
Messingham SQ			2		1		1	1	
Swallow	1								
Trent Port Marton					1				1
Welton le Marsh									1
Whisby Quarry Jobs Lane						2	1		1
Whisby NP			1						
Worlaby Carrs			1		1		1	1	2
									1

2003:

Recorded to Apr 23rd, Gib Point and from Sep 28th Saltfleetby NNR.

2004:

Recorded to May 2nd Mablethorpe and from Sep 23rd Saltfleetby NNR.

2005:

Recorded to Apr 28th when three Tetney Marsh and 30th Trent Port, Marton with an exceptional record of one at Freiston Shore Aug 23rd then from Sep 27th also Freiston Shore.

Of interest two birds at N Killingholme Pits on Mar 8th were noted calling and displaying on the ground after sunset. A late inland bird at Worlaby Carrs Apr 27th.

2006:

Recorded to Apr 18th Worlaby Carrs and from Oct 16th Gib Point.

2007:

Recorded to May 9th and 12th, Gib Point, and from Sep 23rd Saltfleetby NNR.



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* adult at Gib Point Jul 5th to Sep 29th 2004

© K Durose

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Vagrant: First record Wisbech Sewage Farm 1963 with subsequent records in 1971, 1986 and 2002. An adult dowitcher in summer plumage shot at Humberston on Aug 15th 1882 was presumably also a Long-billed Dowitcher but this was not confirmed at the time. BBRC.

2004: 1

Gib Point adult Jul 5th to Sep 29th (PMT et al) (BB 97: plate 306) BB 98-12 656 BB 100-1 p42

2006: 1

Gib Point adult Jul 22nd to Oct 3rd (PMT et al) BB 100-12 p715

2007: 1

Branston Fen juvenile Sep 24th to Oct 14th (DMJ et al) BB 101-10 p540

It seems likely that the long-staying 2004 and 2006 records at Gib Point referred to the same individual but where was it in 2005?



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* juvenile at Branston Sep 24th to Oct 14th 2007
© Russell Hayes

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Vagrant: First county record in 2005 see below; BBRC

2005: 1 First record for Lincolnshire

Gib Point Jul 11th (MGG et al) BB 100-1 p44

BBRC. See account on page 155.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Vagrant: First record Wisbech Sewage Farm 1970 with subsequent records in 1971 and 1999
BBRC

2007: 1

Messingham Sand Quarry adult May 31st (DN et al) BB 101-10 p542

The 1970 record was not aged but the subsequent records in 1971 and 1999 were adults with the 1971 bird probably being the same individual recorded in 1970 at the same locality, Wisbech SF.

The 2007 bird was a beautifully spotted adult found frequenting the edges of the islands and the wader scrape at Messingham Sand Quarry a site that is poor in food and seldom attracts many waders. Its rapid departure was typical of late spring migrants.



Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* adult at Messingham Sand Quarry May 31st 2007
© Graham Catley

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, rare/scarse in spring but fairly common in autumn. Scarce but regular in winter. An obvious increase in abundance occurred through the latter years of the period as a wintering flock became established at Alkborough Flats and a few wintering individuals occurred at other sites.

2003: 43

Mostly single birds with odd twos and records of three together at Frampton Marsh Aug and Sep 1st.

2004: 50

The vast majority of records were of single birds with a maximum of three at Manby Flashes Sep 3rd.

2005: 73

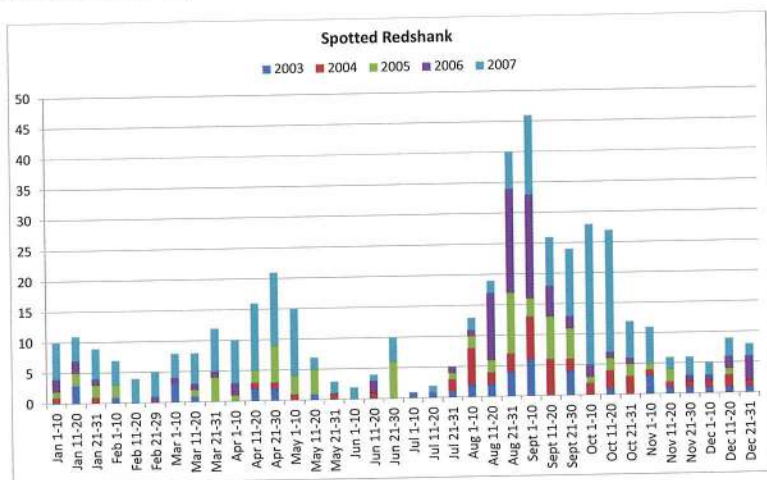
Frampton Marsh six Jun 26th and four there Sep 15th – 19th were the only counts exceeding three birds.

2006: 79

Maximum numbers were seven at Alkborough Flats Sep 10th and five Gib Point Aug 17th.

2007: 205

High totals included 11 at Gib Point Sep 29th and 10 Oct 2nd, up to four Alkborough Flats Jan – Mar with seven Mar 25th then 10 Apr 14th – May 1st with eight there Sep 10th, 19 on 12th, 14 Oct 15th and up to five to year end.





Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Gib Point May 30th - 31st 2007 © Roy Harvey

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Vagrant first Lincolnshire record in 2007 see below: BBRC

2007: 1 First Lincolnshire record

Freiston Shore adult Apr 9th and May 19th (JB, SK, PS et al) presumed same Gib Point May 30th - 31st, (EJM, JPS, KMW et al) BB 101-10 p543

First photographed and recorded as a Lesser Yellowlegs this long staying bird was presumably feeding mostly out in the inaccessible realms of the Wash and only appeared in front of bird hides on reserves on four dates; fortunately it was correctly identified in late May at Gib Point before flying off late on the 31st towards the Wash never to be seen again. It was the 60th species of wader to be recorded in Lincolnshire.



Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Freiston Shore May 22nd 2007 © Steve Keightley



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* North Killingholme Haven pits juvenile Nov 10th 2005 © Graham Catley

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant: First record shot at Tetney 1932 with 8 subsequent records to 2002 BBRC

2005: 1

North Killingholme Haven Pits juvenile Oct 16th to Nov 22nd (ESm, RHa et al) BB 100-1 p43

2006: 1

Freiston Shore Jun 7th – 9th (AGP, PS et al) same Gib Point intermittently Jun 9th to Sep 23rd (PMT, KMW et al) BB 100-12 p715

The North Killingholme Pits bird was the second record for that site after the first in Oct 1970 while the Freiston Shore and Gib Point bird was also the second for both of those localities. The long stay of the non-breeding 2006 bird was particularly notable and probably suggested that it was a first-summer.



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Freiston Shore from Jun 7th - 9th 2006 © R Hayes

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Passage migrant, usually rare in spring and scarce in autumn.

2003: s 4 a 19 t 23

The only spring birds were at Gib Point Apr 27th – 30th, Saltfleetby NNR May 9th, Butterwick Hale May 10th and Messingham SQ May 29th. In autumn after one Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Jun 29th, at Gib Point singles on six dates Jul 22nd – Aug 18th with two Aug 2nd and singles Freiston Shore Jul 17th – 19th, Deeping Lakes NR Jul 19th, Tetney Marsh Jul 19th, Aug 13th, Bardney Pits up to three Jul 30th – Aug 15th, North Killingholme Pits Aug 9th, Marston STW Aug 22nd, North Kelsey Moor Aug 23rd, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Aug 31st.

2004: s 6 a 34 t 40

In spring singles Saltfleet Haven May 6th and 17th, Saltfleetby NNR May 18th – 20th, Gib Point May 18th, 20th and Normanby May 20th. In the autumn singles unless otherwise stated at Baston-Langtoft Pits Jul 30th, Deeping Lakes NR Jul 31st – Aug 6th, North Kelsey Moor Jul 31st, two Aug 3rd, 13th, Gedney Aug 1st, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR, Aug 1st, three Aug 11th, 26th, Manby Flashes Aug 5th – Sep 7th up to five, Marston STW Aug 9th, Barton Waters' Edge juvenile Aug 9th, Frampton Marsh four Aug 10th, one 12th, Gib Point max four Aug 10th – 11th; Pye's Hall Donna Nook Aug 10th, Normanby Aug 11th – 18th, Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Aug 13th, 22nd, Saltfleet Haven Aug 25th.

2005: s 6 a 15 t 21

Another poor spring passage with singles Covenham Reservoir Apr 25th – 26th, May 18th, two Barton Pits May 8th, Baston-Langtoft Pits May 18th then at Gib Point Jun 20th, Jul 31st, Sep 14th; Manby Flashes Aug 1st, 6th, Toft Newton Reservoir Aug 2nd, Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Aug 10th, Barton Aug 18th, North Thoresby Aug 21st, Frampton Marsh two Aug 22nd, North Kelsey Moor Aug 29th, Deeping Lakes NR Sep 7th, two 10th and Whisby NP Sep 12th.

2006: s 11 a 21 t 32

A slightly better spring passage after the first at Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Apr 22nd one there Jun 20th, singles Marston STW Apr 23rd, Barton Pits May 5th, 7th and 16th, North Thoresby May 9th – 10th, Butterwick Hale May 10th, Saltfleetby NNR Paradise May 11th – 12th, Freiston Shore May 14th and Gib Point May 24th. In autumn Kirkby – Tattershall Pits Aug 2nd – 4th, Messingham SQ Aug 3rd, Baston-Langtoft Pits Aug 4th, Freiston Shore Aug 7th, 21st, 25th, Butterwick Hale two Aug 3rd, Gib Point max three Aug 20th, Bardney Pits Aug 17th – 23rd, Sep 23rd, Oct 8th, Cleethorpes Aug 18th, Sep 13th, North Kelsey Moor Aug 20th, Frampton Marsh Aug 26th, Marston STW Sep 16th.

2007: s 14 a 11 t 25

After the first birds at Marston STW May 1st – 5th, 14th and Worlaby Carrs May 1st and 5th, a good spring passage at Alkborough Flats with one May 2nd, two 3rd, three 4th – 5th, two 6th – 7th then singles 12th, 14th and Jun 22nd – 23rd, three singles at Manby Flashes May 9th – 10th, 17th, 25th – 28th and two at Gib Point May 24th and 25th. A rather poor autumn by contrast. One Saltfleetby St Peter Jul 10th, Baston-Langtoft Pits Aug 18th, four Butterwick Hale Aug 25th, Gib Point Aug 24th and 25th, Grainthorpe Haven Aug 26th – 29th and singles Branstons Island Sep 6th, 10th – 14th and 22nd – 25th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

1999:

North Kelsey Moor a juvenile Aug 22nd – 23rd (RHa, GPC, ND) omitted from Scarce Migrants report 1997 – 1999

2004: 1

A juvenile was on Paradise pools Saltfleetby NNR Sep 15th – 16th (CA, ATH, DKW et al).

2005: 1

A juvenile was at Toft Newton Reservoir Sep 17th – 18th.

2007: 2

Presumably just two juveniles were involved in the three records with different birds at Gib Point Sep 12th – 18th (JPS) and Sep 29th – Oct 1st (JPS) this bird presumably then relocating to Freiston Shore Oct 1st – 7th (PS, JB et al).



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* juvenile at Gib Point Sep 29th - Oct 1st 2007 © Neil Smith

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn, rare in winter. LBRC

2003: 3

Three autumn records at Covenham Reservoir Sep 26th (KRo, PL), Humberston Fitties Oct 16th (DJB et al) and Tetney Marsh Nov 7th - 9th (DJB et al).

2004: 1

At Barton one flew west over Humber past the Humber Bridge on Oct 12th (GPC).

2005: 2

A first-winter was on Covenham Reservoir Nov 2nd - 9th with two first-winter birds Nov 10th - 13th and one to Dec 5th (KRo et al).

2007: 12

Two waves arrived in the autumn in late Sep and early Nov; the first arrival produced two at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 28th and one to 29th (PE, RHa et al), three at the Witham Mouth Sep 28th (PRE, JB) with one there Oct 7th (SK), a first-winter Donna Nook, Howden's Pullover Sep 29th (SL et al) and a juvenile / first winter Frampton Marsh Sep 30th - Oct 3rd (PRE, JB). The second arrival in early Nov coincided with a large passage of Pomarine Skuas and a huge influx of Little Auks in a period of northerly gales; one was at Tetney Haven Nov 9th - 11th (RLo et al), one inland at Messingham SQ Nov 9th (BRv), one Chapel Point Nov 12th (EJM) and finally one juvenile Gib Point Nov 16th (JNI).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

2003: 14

At Gib Point eight were recorded between Jul 8th and Oct 28th the first an adult and three adults flew south Dec 6th; an adult was at Holbeach Marsh Aug 10th, two adults Saltfleetby NNR Aug 24th, one Mablethorpe Aug 31st and singles Donna Nook Sep 8th and Anderby Creek Oct 19th.

2004: 38

A better year than 2003 with the first record of three at Chapel Point Jul 8th followed by one Freiston Shore Aug 1st, two Donna Nook Sep 11th with singles 12th and 18th, then at Gib Point three Sep 6th, singles 9th, 23rd, Oct 5th and 8th with five 10th; Huttoft one Sep 14th and one Oct 2nd, three Trusthorpe Sep 17th, one 24th and three Oct 9th, a juvenile Sandilands Sep 23rd, four Saltfleetby NNR Sep 23rd, and one 27th, a juvenile up the Humber at Barton Oct 11th and two Winthorpe Nov 2nd.

2005: 12

Another poor year with most birds at Gib Point where there was a juvenile Sep 16th, three juveniles 19th, juvenile Oct 8th, juvenile 9th, one 19th and a juvenile 25th with the rest being at Donna Nook Sep 10th, singles Huttoft Sep 17th and Oct 12th and one Witham Mouth Nov 27th.

2006: 15

A first-summer at Gib Point May 11th was a rare county occurrence. A very poor autumn passage with most records again at Gib Point, four adults Jul 28th, adult 30th, adult Aug 13th, adult Sep 29th, juvenile Nov 28th and the last of the year a juvenile Dec 1st. Elsewhere just five birds all singles, Mablethorpe Aug 13th, Donna Nook Aug 27th and Oct 7th, Saltfleetby NNR Oct 13th and Huttoft Nov 30th.

2007: 274

This proved to be a good year on a par with 1985 and 1988 when c300 birds were recorded; such years are generally associated with lemming peaks and good breeding success in the Arctic with high numbers of fledged juveniles but weather conditions in the autumn also need to be favourable with strong northerly dominated winds occurring at the peak passage times in Oct – Nov. In 2007 there was a clear peak in passage during Nov 6th – 11th with the 9th being a Sunday and producing good coastal coverage and a high number of birds moving in strong north-easterly winds.

Dealing with the records on a site by site basis; Gib Point recorded birds on 21 dates Jul – Dec most ones and twos – adults Jul 13th, 23rd, 30th, two Aug 21st – the first juvenile Sep 27th, juveniles Oct 2nd, 19th, daily Nov 1st – 14th with four adults 3rd, four adults 7th, 78 mostly light morph adults south on 9th a new Gib record, a flurry of records 23rd – 30th with a max of seven on 23rd and the last a juvenile Dec 5th. Off Chapel Point two Jul 25th, one 29th, three Sep 10th, 22nd, four adult and three juveniles Oct 18th, 20 Nov 6th, 48 south 9th, Cleethorpes two adults Aug 15th, Donna Nook Aug 18th, adult Sep 22nd, four, an adult and three juveniles Nov 4th, seven 5th, two 10th, 18th, 19th, Mablethorpe two Sep 11th, one 18th, 32 south Nov 9th and one 11th, Huttoft two Sep 27th, Nov 25th, Skegness juvenile Sep 27th, Saltfleetby NNR three Nov 1st, 10th, one 11th, Dec 16th. Sandilands four Nov 4th, two 6th, one 11th, North Cotes Nov 11th, Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore three Nov 14th and at Barton adults on Sep 28th and Nov 9th.



Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Barton Oct 11th 2004 © Graham Catley

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Exceptional inland. LBRC

2003: 3

An adult flew south at Gib Point Aug 29th (KMW) and a juvenile Oct 2nd (EJM) while a juvenile was up the Humber at North Killingholme Haven Sep 23rd (GPC).

2004: 11

An adult was off Trusthorpe Jul 8th (ACS), at Gib Point an adult flew south Sep 6th (JPS), a juvenile Sep 23rd (KMW), juvenile north and three juveniles south Sep 24th (PMT, KMW), at Saltfleetby NNR a juvenile Sep 13th (MJT) with two juveniles 23rd (MJT) and the last an adult south at Donna Nook Oct 2nd (SL).

2005: 6

An adult summer was off Mogg's Eye Sep 9th (GPC) with three (sub-adult, adult and juvenile) Gib Point Sep 16th (KMW, MGG) then two juveniles there Sep 19th (KMW).

2006: 3

Another dismal year with just three birds a juvenile Gib Point Sep 19th (KMW), a juvenile Freiston Sep 21st (PS, AP) and a juvenile photographed from a Wash pelagic Sep 24th (NS, SK et al).

2007: 12

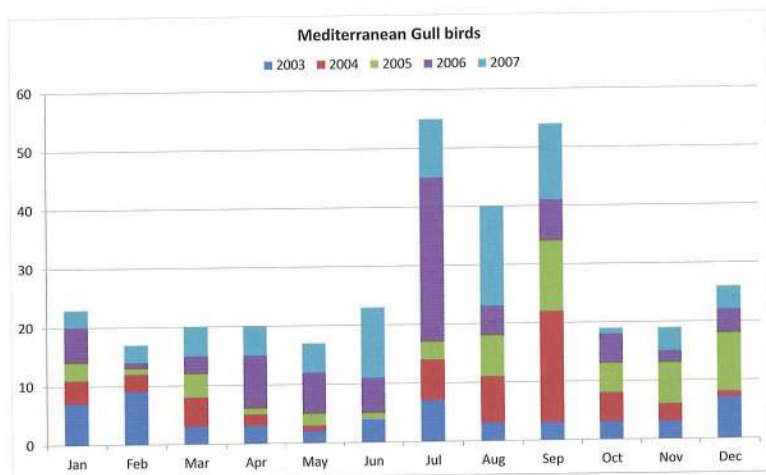
All records fell in Sep with none picked up during the strong Pomarine Skua passage in early Nov. Single juveniles were off Chapel Point Sep 10th (EJM) and 17th (EJM), an adult Gib Point Sep 11th (JPS) then a juvenile 27th (NAL, KMW, JPS), two juveniles 28th (JPS, KMW) and a juvenile 29th (JPS, KMW); further north two juveniles north off Sandilands Sep 11th (GPC) juvenile south Sep 19th (GPC), a juvenile Mablethorpe Sep 14th (SJM) and a juvenile west up the Humber at Barton Sep 28th (GPC).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce, but increasing visitor throughout the year, most in late summer/early autumn. RBBP.

Clearly under-recorded among the large number of small gulls that winter and pass through the county, particularly in late summer when this species can be encountered in good numbers. Long staying winter birds at popular locations are typically picked up but the change over of age classes at winter roosts shows frequent movements occur and the number of individuals can be under estimated.

The charts show the annual patterns through the five-year series; the most significant event was the occurrence of a minimum of 25 different individuals at Barton, mainly Chowder Ness and Far Ings during July 2006 with 5+ second-calendar year, four third-calendar year and 16+ adults in various stages of moult. Four of these birds were colour-ringed, including two in Germany and one Belgium.



Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

First record in Jul – Aug 1988 with two subsequent records in 1990 and 1992

2007: 1

An adult on Lincoln West Common on Mar 2nd (DN) was only the fourth Lincolnshire record of this North American species that is genuinely rare on the east coast.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce recorded in most month but most frequent in Jul - Oct. First recorded in 1999 LBRC

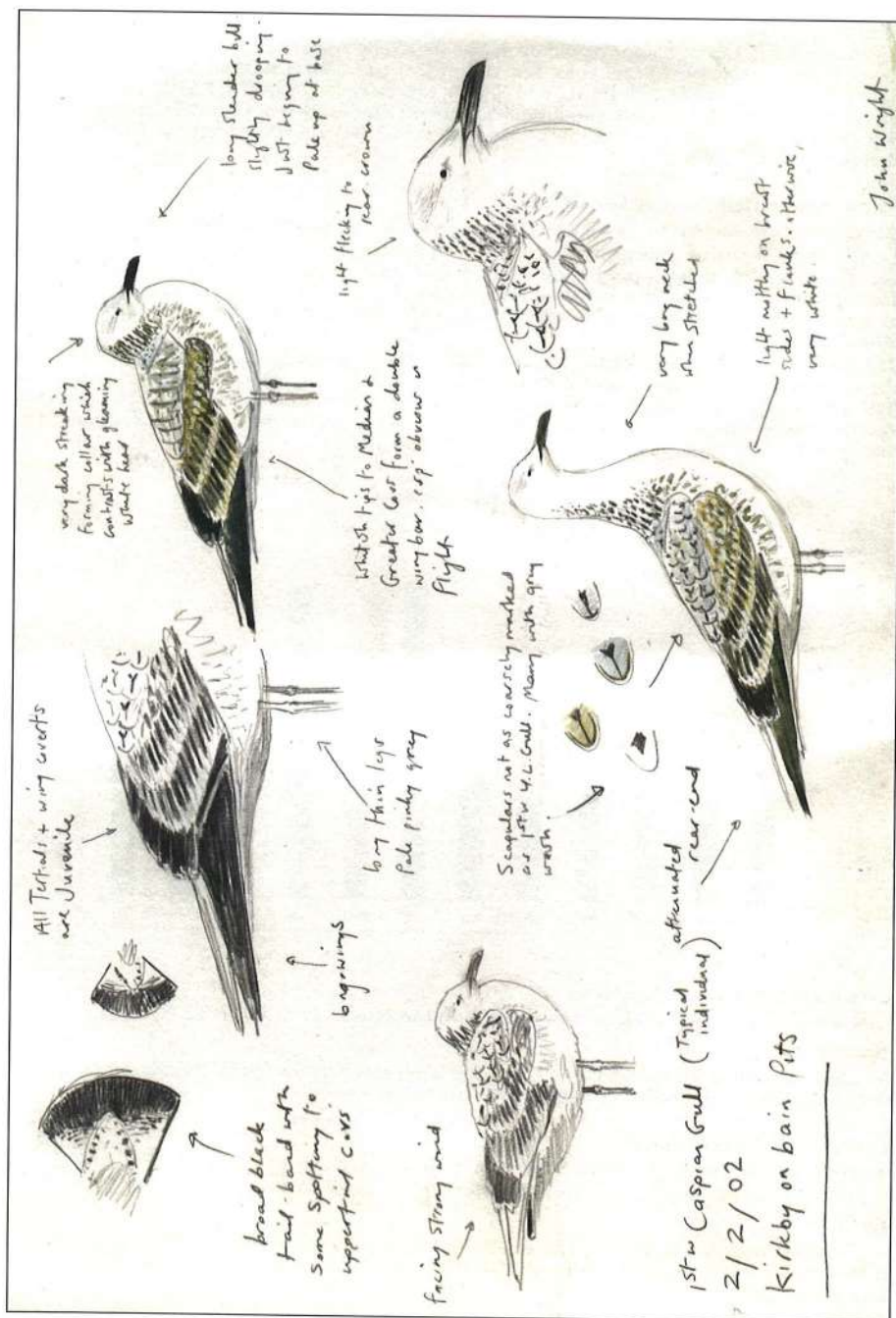
A difficult species to identify and hence few records by a small number of observers.

2003:

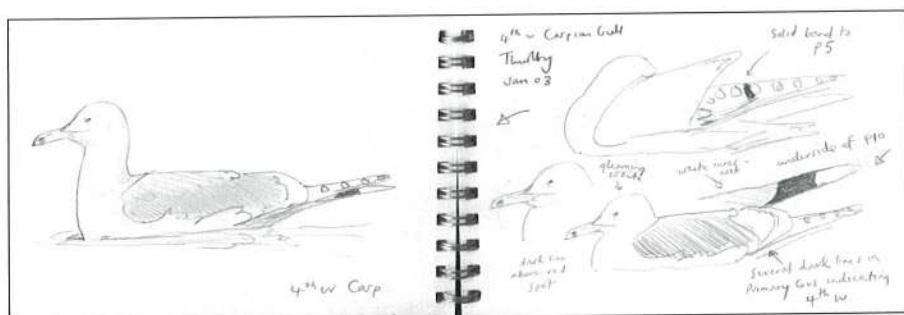
Single adults were at Thurlby Sand Pit Jan 16th (JWr) and Whisby NP 25th (JWr) with a fourth-winter at Thurlby Sand Pit Feb 5th and 15th (JWr); a first-winter was at Bagmoor floods on Jan 26th (GPC, ND).

2005:

Kirkby Pits / Tip second-calendar year Jul 31st (GPC).



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* Kirkby on Bain Pits Feb 2nd 2002 © John Wright



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* Thurlby Jan 2003 © John Wright

2006:

An adult was at Gainsborough Tip Jan 6th (KDD) with a first-winter Bagmoor floods Feb 11th (ND) and a second-calendar year bird at Gib Point May 1st – 3rd (KDD, KMW). During a large passage of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Barton two first-summers were at Chowder Ness Jul 9th (GPC) with one first-calendar year 10th (GPC), an adult 19th (GPC) and a different first-summer 25th (GPC).

2007:

A third-summer was at Gib Point Aug 10th (EJM, KMW) and a second-summer 15th (KMW).



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* Grimsby Docks Dec 18th 2005 © Graham Catley

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor Nov-May. LBRC

2003: 1

Just one bird was found at Bagmoor floods / Winterton adult Feb 8th – 9th (GPC, WG).

2004: 4

A first-winter was at Burgh-le-Marsh tip / Skegness Feb 7th – 16th with additional birds at Gib Point, a second-calendar year Jan 6th (KMW) and 23rd (JNi), a third-calendar year Feb 16th and

17th and Mar 17th (JNi) also at Skegness rubbish tip. One offshore Apr 20th (JPS, KMW) and a second-calendar year south Apr 4th identified as Kumlien's (JPS).

2005: 11

A better year with nine records in the first-winter period and two in the same area in December. An adult was at South Killingholme Jan 10th (GPC), adult Bagmoor floods Jan 20th (ND), adult Apex Pits Lincoln Feb 12th (MWet al), first-winter Barton Pits Feb 12th (ND), one Gib Point Mar 6th, Long Benington Mar 18th (A Lees), second-winter Thurlby Pits Mar 22nd (ACS) one Leadenham Tip Apr 4th (TML) and a second-winter Whitton Sand Apr 11th (ND). In Dec an obliging first-winter male Grimsby Alexander Dock Dec 13th – 18th and a first-winter female Grimsby Fish Docks Dec 18th (GPC et al).

2006: 10

Single first-winter birds were at Boultham Mere Jan 3rd (ACS) and Louth Tip Feb 10th – 11th (MJT) with three birds at Gib Point: first-winter Feb 27th, first-summer Apr 10th, adult May 1st, and a series of records at Bagmoor floods with two, adult and first-winter, Feb 11th (ND), first-winter Feb 25th (GPC, ND), two first-winters 27th and 28th consisting of three different birds (ND) with one to Mar 1st and an additional first-winter Mar 26th (ND).

2007: 2

Following two good years just two birds in 2007, at Boultham Mere a first-winter Jan 18th (ACS), and second winter 22nd (ACS).



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* Grimsby Docks Dec 18th 2005 © Graham Catley

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

2003: 9

A good series of records came from Bagmoor floods / Winterton with a first-winter Jan 25th – Feb 9th possibly the same Feb 17th, second-winter Mar 3rd, first-winter 9th, second-winter 23rd and two, first and second-winters 27th, presumably one of these roosting at Read's Island and another Whitton sand – Alkborough Feb 23rd and elsewhere a second-calendar year bird Gib Point Jan 31st, first-winter Thurlby Pits Jan 30th – 31st, first-winter Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Apr 23rd and a first-winter Donna Nook Dec 22nd.

2004: 7

At Gib Point a second-calendar year Feb 17th, two south Mar 2nd, one 6th, adult Mar 7th and Apr 4th then adult Apr 16th – May 2nd, just one at Bagmoor floods / Winterton a first-summer Mar 22nd and Apr 2nd – 5th with a first-winter Covenham Reservoir Dec 11th.

2005: 10

A wider spread of records in 2005; at Skegness a second-winter Feb 5th, one Gib Point Feb 12th, adult Bagmoor floods / Winterton Mar 5th, second-winter Thurlby Pits Mar 18th – 20th, first-summer Apex Pit North Hykeham Mar 27th – 28th, first-winter Fulbeck Heath Apr 1st probably same first-winter Leadenham Tip Apr 5th, third-winter Whitton Sands Apr 11th and adult Donna Nook Nov 26th with a first-winter 29th.

2006: 2

A poor year with just two records; a first-winter Saltfleet Haven Jan 28th – 31st and a juvenile Gib Point Oct 28th.

2007: 4

Most unusually all the records were in the late winter period with none between Jan and May; juveniles were at Gib Point Nov 11th and 19th, a first-winter Cleethorpes Nov 21st, a juvenile flew west at Barton Pits Nov 23rd and a juvenile was at Read's Island Dec 8th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellii*

Rare/scarcely visitor, mainly in late summer / autumn. **RBBP**

The records submitted did not reflect the true status of this species in the county, particularly in the early years of the report period due to the preponderance of winter records with few records in summer and early autumn, when it is most numerous Nationally. Thus the reporting pattern was at odds with the known pattern of occurrence. The data from Barton in 2006 shows the scale of the summer passage in that year at a time when the species typically peaks in numbers in Britain. Odd long staying birds like the Whisby NP winter adult are certainly unusual in a county context.

2003:

Two, a first-winter and adult roosted at Thurlby Pits Jan 7th and 16th, with a first-winter there Feb 8th, one Apex Pit North Hykeham Jan 18th with two Feb 27th then singles Deeping Lakes NR Mar 23rd and 30th, two Thurlby Mar 30th, one Covenham Reservoir Apr 29th, Deeping Lakes NR May 4th, Lincoln May 23rd, Barton adult Jul 9th, Read's Island second-summer Jul 29th, Wroot Aug 9th, adult Thurlby Pits Nov 18th, Deeping Lakes NR Dec 7th and two Thurlby Pits again Dec 31st.

2004:

An adult at Whisby Quarry Mar 2nd, singles Sandtoft Jul 21st, Gib Point Jul 28th, Fosdyke Bridge Aug 4th, Bagmoor floods six Aug 7th to 9th, Barton Aug 11th, Baston-Langtoft Pits two Sep 1st, one 6th adult Nov 7th.

2005:

Two at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits Mar 19th then two Apex Pit North Hykeham Apr 22nd, one 24th, May 7th, Baston-Langtoft Pits adult Jul 14th, Kirkby - Tattershall Pits / tip four Jul 24th, ten 31st, 11 Aug 21st, seven Sep 18th, three 23rd, three Sep 25th, three Oct 12th, Barton adult Jul 26th, seven Apex Pit North Hykeham Jul 30th, seven Aug 17th – 20th, three Sep 15th, one Dec 30th, one Saltfleetby Aug 1st and one Boultham Mere Sep 23rd – 24th.

2006:

At Barton Pits there was a huge movement of gulls in Jul 2006 associated with the spreading of slurry on fields in the Wolds. The predominant species were Black-headed and Common Gulls but there were exceptional numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and record counts of Mediterranean and Yellow-legged Gulls. Most of the birds seen were adult or third/fourth-summer birds but up to five second-summer birds were identified and at least three first-summer birds. The first juvenile appeared on Jul 19th when two different individuals were seen on the Blow Wells pond. Maximum daily numbers varied but were typically below eight individuals until the 23rd when 13 were counted. As with the other gulls it seems likely that more individuals were occurring than were present at any one time but two adult birds with staining on the head were individually identifiable and were present throughout the period.

Minimum records were as follows: 3+ Chowder Ness scrape Jul 2nd, two 7th, 10+ 9th to 10th, 4+ 15th, two 16th, 6+ (2 juveniles, two second calendar-year, two sub-adults) 19th, 5+ (one new juvenile, one third calendar-year, 2-3 adults) 22nd, 13+ 23rd (one juvenile, 7+ adults, two second calendar-years, three third calendar-years), 5+ 25th.

Elsewhere an adult was at Whisby NP Feb 21st – 24th and presumably the same bird Dec 28th – 31st with three there Jul 14th and two Aug 15th, one Kirkby - Tattershall Pits / tip Jan 14th, one Apex Pit North Hykeham Feb 20th, one Freiston Shore May 2nd, one Jun 27th and adult Dec 26th, five Kirkby - Tattershall Pits / tip Jul 24th, one Aug 4th, adult Oct 22nd, two Deeping High

Bank Jul 31st, adult Frampton Marsh Sep 3rd, first-winter Grantham Sep 6th and Witham Mouth Oct 12th.

2007:

The adult was at Whisby NP Jan to Feb 10th and again from Dec 1st – 29th, two at Kirkby - Tattershall Pits / tip Mar 11th with one 25th, three Jul 10th, seven adult / sub-adults Jul 11th, Aug 19th, Sep 25th, Gib Point May 19th and 24th, Nocton Heath Jul 17th, Read's Island Jul 22nd, Covenham Reservoir Aug 13th, Baston-Langtoft Pits Aug 18th, Grimsby Sep 30th, Boultham Mere Oct 28th, Freiston Shore Nov 25th and Dec 5th.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare autumn passage migrant from Jul-Oct. Exceptional inland. LBRC

2003: 2

An adult was noted at Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Sep 26th (BRG) and an immature at Anderby Creek Oct 18th (RLO).

2004: 2

An adult or first-summer at Read's Island Jul 30th (WG) was a most unusual record while a juvenile was at Trusthorpe Sep 9th (JRC).

2007: 12

Two adults were off Gib Point Aug 21st (NAL) and there was a notable influx during Sep 27th – 29th with some duplication in records probably being evident from the following list; on the 27th a juvenile Witham Mouth (PRF, JB) then on the 28th a juvenile Witham Mouth (PRF, JB) two Mablethorpe north end (PE, JRW), juvenile Rimac Saltfleetby NNR (PE), juvenile Sandilands (TWHa) and on the 29th a juvenile Anderby Creek (MHa), juvenile Donna Nook (SL) and juvenile Sandilands (CA, ATH).



Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* Cut End, Witham Mouth, Sep 28th 2007 © P French

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Vagrant: First and only previous record Jun 10th – 15th 1987

BBRC

2004: 1

Gib Point adult Aug 8th (PBa, AMJ, IKe) BB 98-12 662

2006: 1

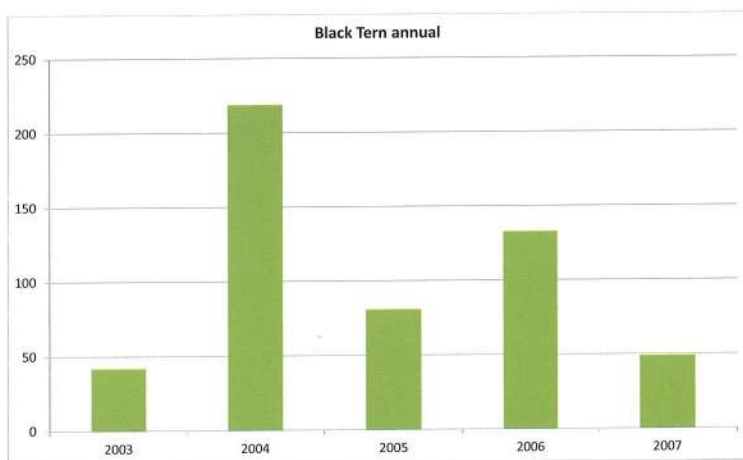
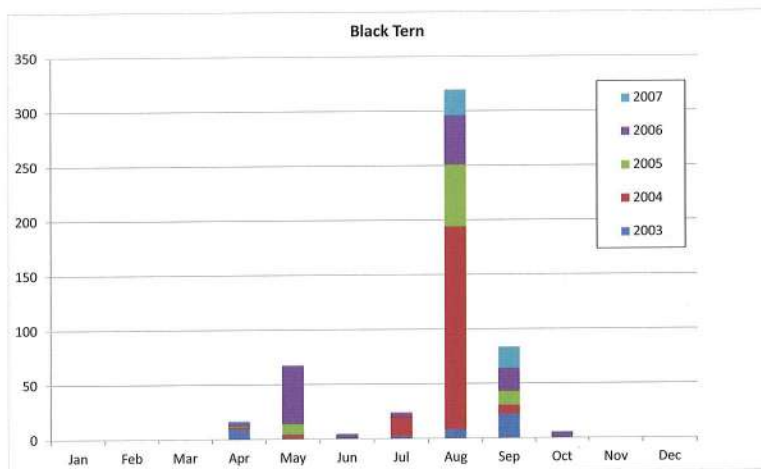
Gib Point adult Jun 20th – 21st (DH, PMT, KMW et al) BB 100-12 p720

Only the second and third county records all of which have been adults or second –summer birds.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant Apr – Oct rare Nov with occasional large influxes in Apr – May and Aug – Sep

Records were fairly typical with spring peaks in May and autumn peaks in Aug – Sep; included in the Aug 2004 graph is a count of 153 feeding at the Witham Mouth on Aug 14th (SK); this was the largest recent autumn flock.



White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Vagrant: First record 1957 with 27 subsequent records of 28 birds

BBRC to end of 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

Additional record for 2002 not included in the report on scarce and rare birds 2000 - 2002

2002: 1

River Witham, Greetwell, adult Nov 18th (RHay) BB 102: p598

2003: 1

Welland Bank Gravel Pits Jul 12th (KDD et al) BB 97-11 586

2004: 1

Covenham Reservoir juvenile/first-winter Oct 1st- 8th (GPL et al) BB 98-12 656.

2006: 3

Barton Pits adult summer on sailing Pit, Pit 25 and Hoe Hill May 23rd – 25th (ND, GPC et al).

Worlaby Carrs adult summer flew south down the River Ancholme Jun 30th (GPC).

Covenham Reservoir juvenile Aug 4th (KA, GPL).

The 2002 bird was not included in the report on scarce birds for 2000-2002 and only published in British Birds in 2009



White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* adult summer Barton Pits, Pit 25
May 23rd - 25th 2006 © Graham Catley

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare passage migrant May-Sep. LBRC RBBP

2003: 1

An adult flew south at Gib Point Jun 23rd (JNi).

2006: 7

At Horseshoe Point three (two adults and juvenile) were found in the huge Common Tern roost on Aug 24th (GPC) with one to four birds seen subsequently to the 27th.

Two adults were at Freiston Shore Sep 21st (JB et al) with three 25th (JB, PRF), two offshore Oct 14th (JB) and one 22nd (SK).

2007: 9

An adult was at Donna Nook Aug 11th (SL) with two (adult and juvenile) at Cleethorpes Aug 15th (CA et al) and presumably the same two adult and juvenile 17th (CA et al) while three were at Saltfleetby NNR Aug 15th (JRW) and finally two juveniles Chapel Point Sep 10th (EJM) with one juvenile 18th (EJM).

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

First record in 1899 with ten subsequent records the most recent in 1985

2006: 1

A first-winter bird off Huttoft Bank on Nov 5th (SPB, GHo, DN, NN, MW) was the first in the county since 1985 and only the fifth since 1980. This bird occurred during a major movement of Little Auks as did the most recent record in 1985 suggesting this is the period when there is a chance of picking up this species off the Lincolnshire coast. This species has proven to be rarer in county terms over the last twenty years than Red-flanked Bluetail and its rarity contrasts markedly with the number of records along the north Norfolk coast and its regularity in Yorkshire.



Little Auks *Alle alle* Mablethorpe Nov 11th 2007 © Graham Catley

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce autumn and winter with occasional large movements mainly late Oct and Nov coinciding with periods of northerly gales; exceptional in spring

2003: 15

One flew up to the Humber Bridge and then back east at Barton Jan 31st with one Gib Point the same day then others there Mar 27th, Oct 14th, two 20th, five 24th, two 26th and one Dec 21st the only other bird being seen at Chapel Point Nov 1st.

2004: 25

The first of the autumn were two birds found exhausted in a garden in Burnham and at Trusthorpe both Oct 10th the latter taken to the seal sanctuary; one was up the Humber at Barton Nov 2nd with one Huttoft and five Winthorpe plus one Gib Point all Nov 2nd with later birds at Trusthorpe Nov 16th, Chapel St Leonards Nov 19th, Gib Point 20th and six Sandilands Nov 20th.

2005: 44

In the early year one was picked up at Gib Point Feb 25th; a small arrival in late Oct saw five off Huttoft Oct 23rd, singles Chapel Point 24th, Donna Nook 24th, two up the Humber at Barton Oct 24th, two Gib Point Oct 25th, five Sandilands Nov 13th with three 16th, six Mablethorpe Nov 16th, five Gib Point Nov 16th with two 17th and one Huttoft also Nov 17th,

2006: 846

Following three poor years 2006 saw a typically dated major movement of Little Auks in the first half of November. There was clearly a degree of duplication in the coastal movements.

One was at Gib Point Mar 6th; the late autumn movement began on Nov 1st with 18 Gib Point, six south and 48 north Huttoft, 11 Anderby Creek, 48 north and 15 south Mablethorpe, 59 Mogg's Eye and 11 Freiston Shore. On the 2nd 409 flew past Gib Point, 30 Huttoft, 49 Trusthorpe, 17 Cleethorpes, 15 Freiston Shore and up the Humber 12 west at Barton and 49 off North Killingholme Haven one of which was killed and eaten by Common and Great Black-backed Gulls; the movement continued on Nov 3rd with six Gib Point, 10 Huttoft, one Butterwick Marsh, then four Sandilands 4th, one Freiston Shore 7th, one Huttoft and three Freiston Shore 9th, singles Gib Point and Mablethorpe 10th with one Gib Point 27th and a single there Dec 6th.

2007: 3401

Prior to 2007 the largest Lincolnshire movement of Little Auks was that noted in Lorand and Atkin on Nov 2nd 1986 when 1000 flew north along the coast. Summing the highest counts on different dates during the autumn influx clearly shows that 2007 produced a record total for this exciting little seabird.

Precursors to the major movements were single birds at Witham Mouth and Gib Point, one dead, Oct 20th; a major arrival then started on Nov 1st with one Saltfleetby NNR then on 2nd one Trusthorpe, two Freiston Shore with singles Donna Nook 3rd, 4th and 5th, Saltfleetby NNR 4th, Sandilands 4th and three there 6th when three were also at Chapel Point; none were seen on 7th and 8th but a massive movement began on 9th with a record 1088 south at Gib Point probably many of the same in the 451 south at Mablethorpe and 640 south at Chapel Point; on 10th only 47 were recorded at Gib Point but 64 at Donna Nook, 11 Saltfleetby NNR, 40 Sandilands, 75 Mablethorpe, 74 north and 10 south at Chapel Point, one on the pond in Saltfleet Caravan Park and 13 up the Humber at Barton; another movement occurred on 11th with 158 (69 north and 79 south) at Gib Point, 30 Trusthorpe but just three Donna Nook, though 100+ Mablethorpe, 111 Sandilands, 184 Huttoft, 64 Chapel Point, 31 North Cotes, two at Barton and six Freiston Shore where there were eight on 12th and 20 on 14th, elsewhere numbers tailed off quickly with one Trusthorpe, two Cleethorpes and 22 Chapel Point all 12th, 20 Mablethorpe 13th and then on the 14th another series of records with 35 Gib Point, 55 Witham Mouth, 20 Freiston Shore, five Huttoft, three Tetney Marsh and one Stallingborough. The last birds were then four Donna Nook 25th, five Mablethorpe 23rd with two 24th, 36 Huttoft 25th, one Witham Mouth 25th and one found moribund inland at Linwood Warren 25th.



Little Auk *Alle alle* Saltfleet Nov 10th 2007 © Dean Eades

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

A scarce coastal species most numerous in mid-summer and rare in winter; LBRC

2003: 2

Singles in the Wash Mar 22nd (GLE) and off Boston Deepes Aug 11th (ACS) were the only reports.

2004: 5

Single birds were recorded moving south at Gib Point Feb 28th (JPS), off Gib Point Sep 23rd (KMW) and Trusthorpe on Sep 17th (JRC), Sep 24th (JRC) and Oct 9th (JRW).

2005: 2

A single record of two birds between Rimac and Mablethorpe on Feb 25th (JRW).

2006: 4

Two off Gib Point Sep 8th (KMW), one Huttoft Oct 29th (EJM) and one up the Humber at Barton on Nov 2nd (GPC).

2007: 23

Single birds off Chapel Point Jun 4th (EJM), Sep 10th (EJM), 11th (GH), Gib Point three Sep 11th, one 12th, one 29th, two Saltfleetby 17th (JRW), Freiston Shore 27th (PRE, JB), Huttoft 27th (SL),

Freiston Shore 29th (PS), Rimac 29th (ARo), Witham Mouth 29th (SK), Gib Point one dead Oct 3rd, three on 30th, singles Nov 6th (NAL) and 9th (JPS), Donna Nook 10th (SL) and Mablethorpe 11th (GPC).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce and declining breeding bird in county; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Records in the period were a mix of breeding bird records from woodlands and areas of scrub and coastal migrants the latter seemingly declining during the period.

2003:

On the coast singles were at Gib Point Apr 6th, 18th and 20th, Sep 21st, Oct 14th, Nov 13th Tetney Marsh Apr 21st and North Cotes Oct 14th; inland birds were poorly reported; at the formerly regular roost at Hobhole / Fishtoft three roosting Jan 12th – Mar 1st and one Dec 28th, at North Killingholme Pits two Feb 4th and singles 18th and Dec 19th, Messingham SQ Apr 16th, May 4th, adult and three juveniles 19th, Marston STW May 4th, Temple Wood two May 8th, Laughton Forest two females heard May 29th, Rowland Plantation two females heard May 29th, Risby Warren two or three fledged juveniles found Jun 24th, Whisby NP Aug 31st, Swallow Sep 16th and Nov 24th and Deeping Lakes NR Oct 4th.

2004:

Coastal records came from Gib Point Apr 7th, May 2nd, 14th, Oct 10th and 30th, Donna Nook Oct 9th and 14th and Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Nov 12th; the Hobhole / Fishtoft roost had a single bird Jan 1st – Feb 24th and Dec 12th, while three were at Branston Booths Jan 12th, one North Killingholme Pits Jan 6th – Feb 8th, at Barton one flew east at 20:10 Mar 28th with one Apr 22nd; the only breeding records came from the north of the county; an adult was hunting at Worlaby Carrs taking food into a plantation Jun 2nd; another nest was found at Belton Turbary May 6th with an adult and fluffy young May 17th, adult Jun 11th; at Messingham SQ up to three were present Apr – Jun 9th with two juveniles Jun 2nd and one Nov 27th; elsewhere one Anwick Fen Apr 27th with two Jul 18th, singles Swallow Mar 1st, May 26th, Nov 26th, Grantham Jul 10th, Bardney Lock Jul 25th, Haverholme Park Aug 15th, Benniworth Dec 8th and Riseholme Dec 19th.

2005:

A few more coastal records in 2005 with a series at Gib Point Mar 5th – 6th, Sep 9th, eight bird-days in Sep – Nov with two Oct 21st and singles on two dates in Dec; one Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Oct 19th, Donna Nook Oct 22nd, 27th, Saltfleet Nov 1st and Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Nov 5th; breeding records again only came from the north-west with Messingham SQ having a pair May 30th with two juveniles Jul 24th, one Aug 28th, six roosting Nov 20th then a maximum of 12 roosting 25th and seven to Dec 8th with two to the 31st; in Laughton Forest two juveniles calling Jun 21st, with two juveniles and an adult 27th and possibly a second nest where one heard 21st then a third nest with two juveniles 27th; seven were roosting at Hibaldstow Jan 16th and nine there 23rd; elsewhere a scatter of records with singles Carlby Jan 11th, five Baston Fen Feb 26th – 27th, two Apr 1st, one Callan's Lane Wood Apr 14th, Moulton Marsh NR Apr 30th, Nocton Fen Jun 9th, Crowle Waste Jul 1st, Covenham Reservoir Nov 13th, one trapped Orby Nov 17th and Havenhouse Station Dec 10th.

2006:

A decline in coastal occurrences with four singles at Gib Point Apr 5th and 6th, 13th, May 3rd and 7th, one Theddlethorpe Apr 5th, singles Donna Nook May 23rd and Aug 21st; also a decline in other reports in the year with most sightings at Messingham SQ where one or two Jan 1st – Mar 26th, one May 12th, one Oct 27th, three Nov 19th and four Dec 30th; at Baston Fen four Feb 6th – Mar 1st with one to Apr 1st and one Dec 24th, two Brandy Wharf Feb 27th, one Branston Fen Mar 5th, Claxby Apr 23rd, two juveniles Keb Wood Jun 9th, juvenile Tanvats Jul 6th and seven Hibaldstow Nov 19th.

2007:

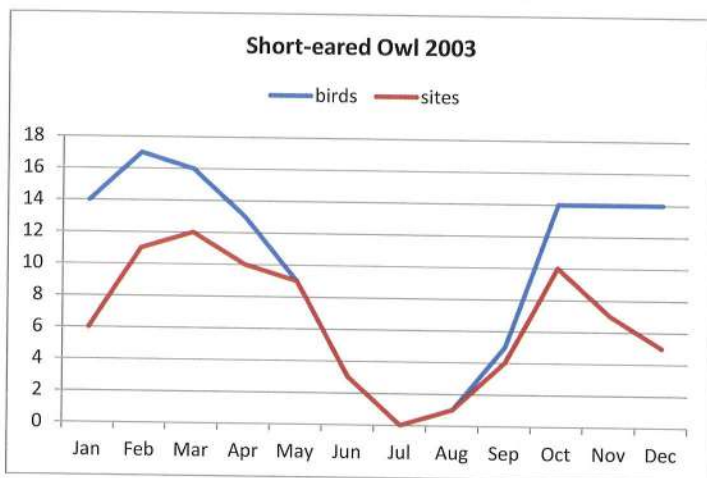
Just six coastal records in the year at Gib Point Mar 25th, May 27th, Oct 28th and Nov 2nd, Saltfleetby NNR Jun 20th, and Donna Nook Oct 24th; at Messingham SQ one Feb 11th, two 21st, three Oct 17th then two to Dec 19th with one nearby at Manton-Twigmoor-Broome Jun 1st, one Bagmoor Jan 20th, Baston Fen Jan 8th – Mar 10th, Swallow Jan 10th, Oct 25th, Hawthorpe May 31st, Jul 24th, Freiston Shore Oct 24th, Marston STW Oct 28th, RAF Waddington Dec 13th and Wrangle bank Dec 24th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder.

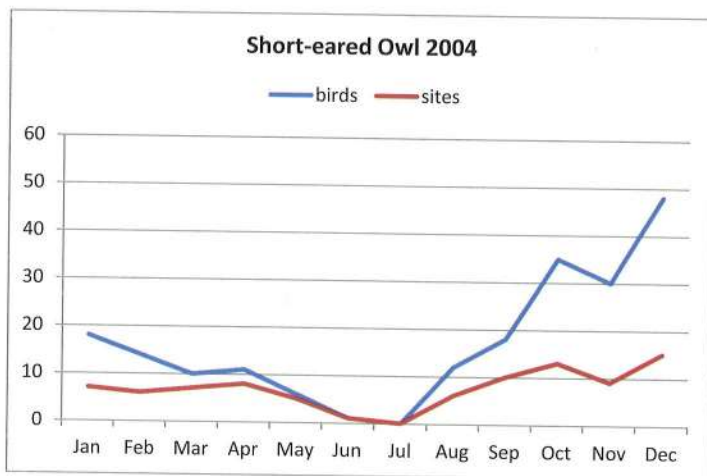
2003:

The only high counts in the year were nine Worlabby Carrs Jan, seven East Halton Skitter Nov 19th and at least six to Dec 19th; Jun records at Barton Pits and Tetney Marsh 3rd and Swallow 14th; no breeding records and none in Jul with the only Aug record at Worlabby Carrs 26th.



2004:

Maximum counts were four East Halton Skitter Jan 25th, six Feb 1st, four Nov 30th – Dec 15th, four Gib Point Sep 15th, four Hawthorpe Nov 13th and at Worlabby Carrs ten in Oct rising to a peak of 14 in Nov and at least 12 in Dec. One at Tetney Marsh Jun 4th but again no records in Jul and no breeding records.

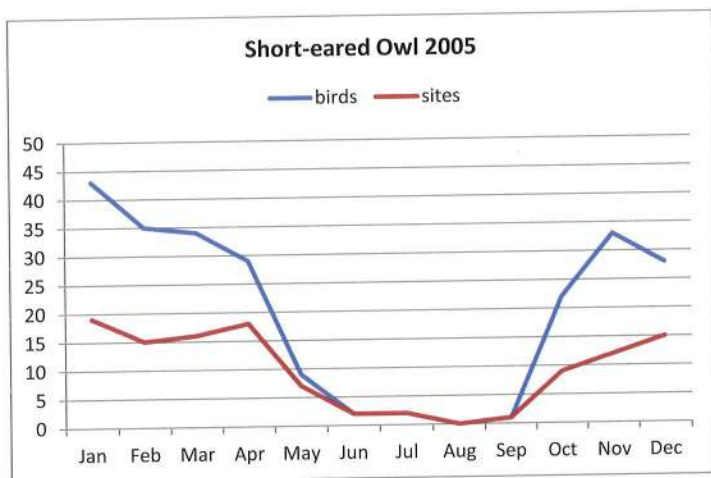


2005:

Maximum counts in the first quarter came from Worlabby Carrs with seven Jan, six Feb and ten Mar and Lincoln West Common up to four Jan, up to four Baston Fen Jan – Feb; in the late winter

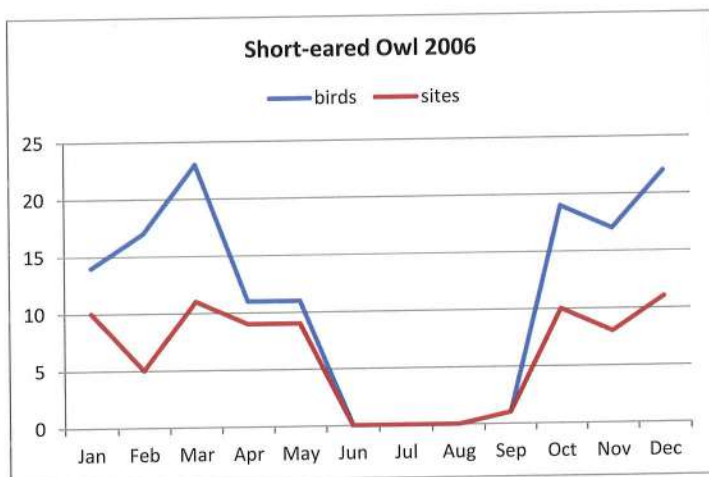
an excellent influx produced maxima of four Huttoft Oct 16th, five Worlaby Carrs Nov 13th, five East Halton Skitter Dec 7th, five Keady – Amcotts Oct 31st with 13 Nov 27th, nine Dec 5th – 6th, eight 19th and seven 22nd.

Singles were at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Jun 9th, Tetney Marsh 29th and Jul 10th, Casthorpe Jul 14th and Gib Point Jul 16th but there were no records in Aug, only one in Sep at Fulbeck 20th and no breeding records for the third successive year.



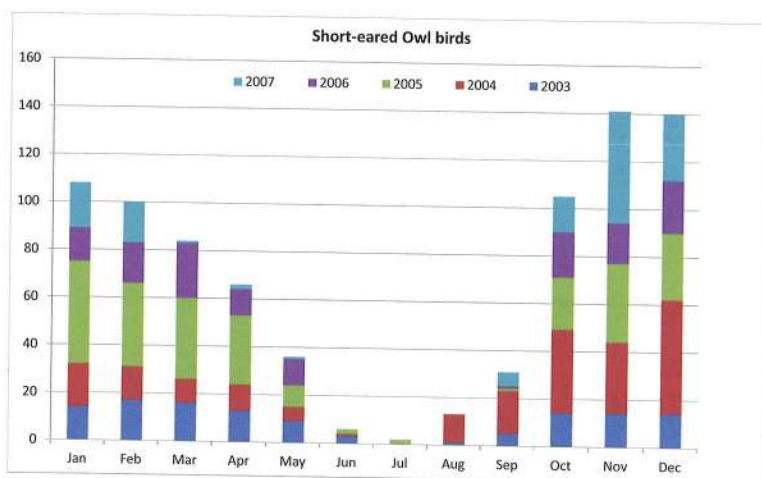
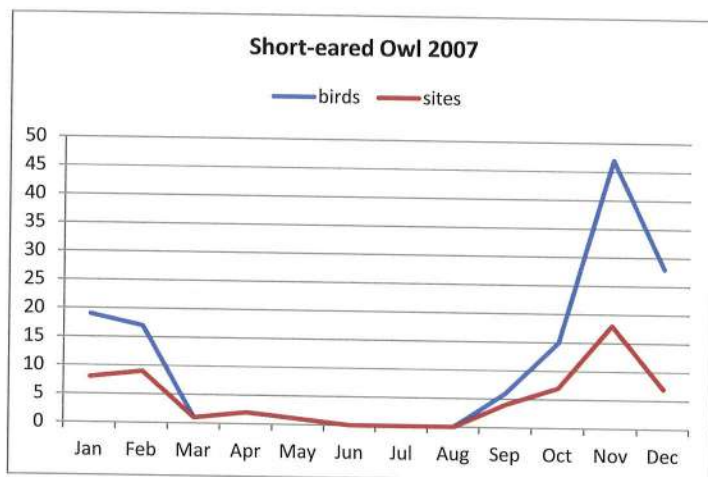
2006:

Some good numbers held over from the previous autumn in the early year with a decent spring passage but a poor autumn arrival and poor late winter presence. Early year maxima were three Swinderby airfield Jan 17th, three Mar 19th, 12 Amcotts Feb 10th, four Mar 6th, three Gib Point Apr 20th with the last of the spring at Westgate Wood May 28th and no records in Jun, Jul or Aug and only one in Sep at Freiston Shore 7th. In the late winter up to four at Gib Point and maxima of only three at Worlaby Cars Nov – Dec and three Thorpe Tilney Fen Dec 16th.



2007:

A most unusual year with a small wintering population present Jan – Feb but only one record in Mar, just two records in Apr one in May then none in Jun, Jul or Aug but a small concentrated arrival in Oct – Dec. In the early winter the only notable counts were of seven at Gib Point Jan 23rd, four Feb 11th and three Worlabby Carrs Jan – Feb; one at Moulton Marsh May 31st but again no breeding records. In the late winter peaks of 12 Worlabby Carrs Nov and seven Dec with three North Kyme Fen Oct 21st, three Nocton Fen Nov 25th, three Thurlby Fen Nov 17th, five Gib Point Nov 29th, three Baston Fen Dec and three Thurlby Fen Dec 16th.



European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce localised and declining summer visitor and rare coastal migrant in spring and autumn

A national survey covered all suitable habitat in Lincolnshire in 2004 and produced a total of 52 churring males. Incomplete breeding bird data was recorded in the remaining years of the period.



European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Laughton Forest May 29th 2006 © Graham Catley

2003:

A total of 42 males was recorded in 2003 comprising a fairly good census of the county population with birds distributed as follows:

Rowland Plantation – Keb Wood three males May 24th – Jun 4th at least

Broughton Woods two territories

Laughton Forest full survey revealed 21 churring males

Twigmoor woods male Jun 2nd at least

Manton Warren male Jun 2nd at least

Greetwell male Jun 15th at least

Willingham Woods May 8th – Jun 4th maximum 5 males

Walesby three territories Jun 18th,

Middle Rasen one territory

Ostlers plantation two Jun 6th,

Crowle Waste three pairs Jul 18th

2004:

The national census located 52 males churring in the county in 2004 with specific details supplied below:

Recorded from May 13th at Laughton Forest where there were 22 territories, with males noted at Twigmoor Jun 15th, Broughton Woods two territories, Rowland Plantation three territories, Walesby four males, Chapel Hill one male and two juveniles ringed, Middle Rasen one male. A coastal migrant was at Gib Point Aug 27th.

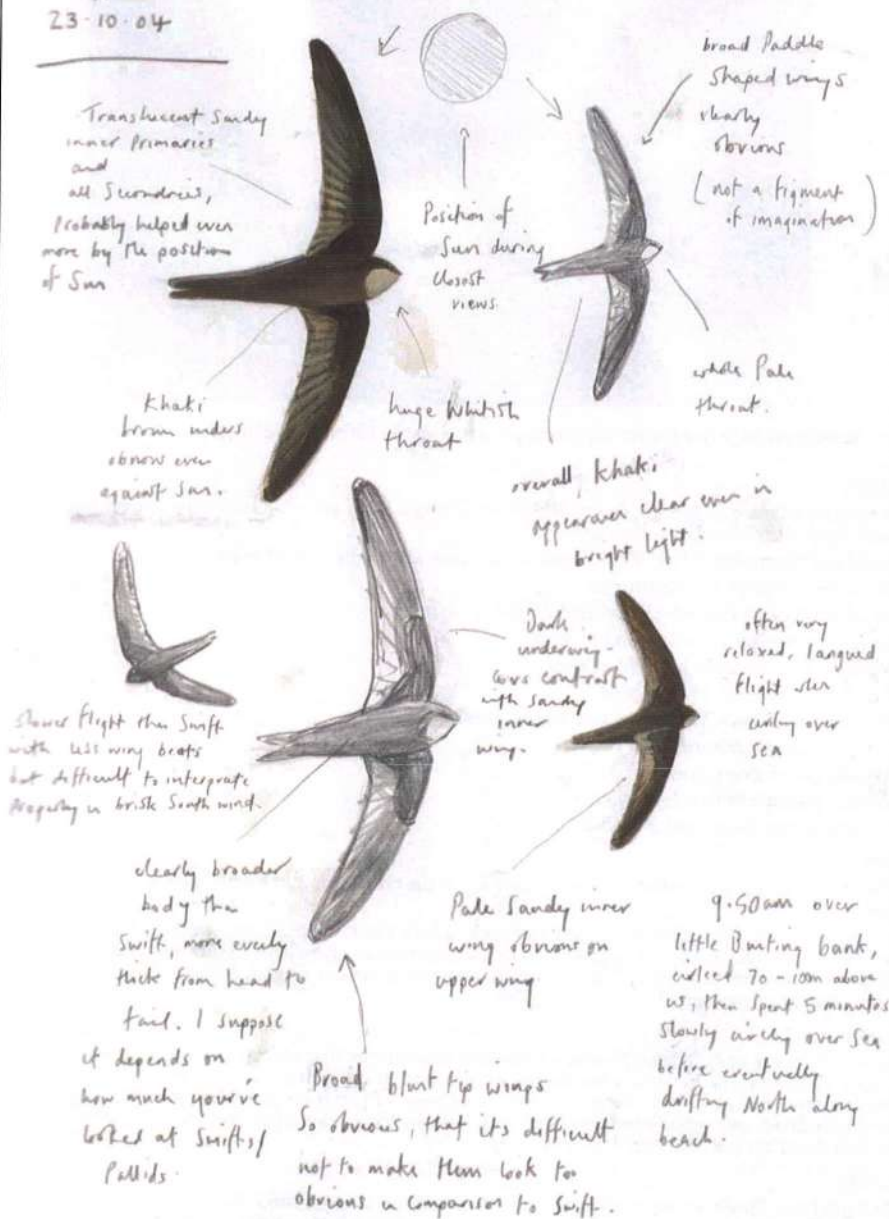
2005:

In a full survey at Laughton Forest – Scotton Common the first record was on May 12th with 32 males holding territories; two territories were found at Twigmoor, one Rowland Plantation and there were three at Crowle Waste Jul 1st, one Ostler's Plantation Jun 14th, five Walesby Jun 8th and two 22nd, one reported at Revesby May 19th by the gamekeeper and again a coastal migrant at Gib Point on the relatively late date of Sep 23rd.

2006:

In Laughton Forest seven territories were occupied on a monitored area but no full survey was undertaken; two chicks from a second brood nest were still in the nest Aug 18th with one being capable of flying; up to four were at Walesby in Jun, two Willingham Woods Jun 5th, two Kirkby Moor Jun 2nd – 27th and a migrant was at Donna Nook May 13th.

Pallid Swift - 9.50 am.
 Skegness
 23.10.04



Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* Skegness Oct 23rd 2004 © John Wright

2007:

An incomplete survey found 14 churring males at Laughton Forest, two territories Rowland Plantation

With single birds reported at Kirkby Moor May 14th, Ostler's Plantation Jun 12th, five at Crowle Waste Jun 28th, one Epworth Turbary Jul 31st and another migrant at Gib Point Aug 24th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Vagrant: First record 1964 with 7 subsequent records

BBRC to end 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

Both records in the period came from Gib Point.

2003: 1

Gib Point Apr 27th (KMW, TJS) BB 98-12 664

This bird flew south at 07:00 hrs with two Common Swifts and was later seen at two localities in Norfolk and then found at Minsmere Suffolk in the evening where it stayed for a few days. The 5th record for Gib Point.

2006: 1

Gib Point Oct 23rd (KMW, MEdg)

This bird flew south over the East Dunes and was at one point chased by a Sparrowhawk.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Vagrant BBRC

2004: 1 First for Lincolnshire

Skegness Oct 23rd (KDD, DMJ, JWr) BB 100-1 p58

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Vagrant. LBRC, RBBP

First record 1879 with a further 16 records of 33 birds to 2002

2003: 1

At Gib Point one or more were heard calling several times over the East dunes on Aug 3rd (KMW) but the bird(s) were not seen.

2005: 1

One was at Gib Point May 22nd (PNe, SNe).

2006: 1

One was photographed on wires at Chapel St Leonards on May 21st (PW).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare to scarce passage migrant more common in spring than autumn; LBRC

2003: 2 / 3

One was seen at Crook Bank, Theddlethorpe Sep 27th (BRG) with either this bird or another individual at the same locality on the late date of Nov 9th (BRG) and one was also at Gib Point on Oct 22nd (CDo, SPi et al).

2004: 2

One at Gipsey Bridge on Apr 16th (per CRC) and one at Leverton Marsh May 2nd – 5th (MHu) formed two fairly typical spring occurrences.

2005: 3

Three spring birds were noted at Digby Fen Apr 13th (GH) one photographed by the farmer at Black Bank, Scotter Bottom Apr 16th (per JTH) and one at Pye's Hall, Donna Nook May 3rd (MDaw, D Nich).

2007: 4

Four spring occurrences in 2007 with one at Wood Enderby Apr 19th (RGl), one Dyke May 10th (SK), one Deeping High Bank May 24th (SBk) and finally one at Gib Point May 29th (KMW et al).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Alkborough Apr 25th 2006 © Neil Smith



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Gib Point Sept 12th 2005 © G. P. Catley

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Rare/scarc passage migrant Apr-May and Aug-Oct, mainly coastal. Bred to early 20th century.
LBRC, RBBP

2003: 3

A spring bird at Croft Apr 20th (Mrs Turner per KMW) and two in autumn at Wyberton Aug 27th (AJs) and Gib Point Aug 31st (RP).

2004: 3

A repeat of the 2003 pattern with a spring sighting at Caythorpe Apr 19th (RGe) and two autumn birds at Donna Nook Sep 7th (SL) and inland at Langtoft Oct 9th – 10th (MWe, MC).

2005: 7

A slightly better year with all records being in the autumn. One inland at Legbourne Aug 21st (Shaun Radcliffe) was followed by two trapped at Gib Point Sep 10th – 11th with one there 12th – 14th, one found dead inland at Chambers Farm Wood Sep 11th (SAB), one Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 11th (ACS, JRC) and finally one Frampton Marsh Sep 18th (JWh).

2006: 2

One was at Alkborough Apr 24th - 25th (ND et al) and a late bird at Burgh-le-Mar Oct 4th (per KMW).

2007: 3

Three records with one at Nettleton Apr 22nd (K Armstrong) then in autumn one Gib Point Aug 22nd (EJM) same trapped 24th (GG) and one Donna Nook Aug 24th (SL, RHa).



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* Sweeting Thorns May 26th 2004
© Graham Catley

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Rare and declining resident.

2003: 18

Recorded from 14 localities around the county as follows: Messingham SQ Jan 4th, Ruskington Jan 13th, Black Walk Nook pair Feb 2nd – Mar 9th at least, Bradley Woods Feb 14th, Roxton Woods Mar 4th, Greetwell female Mar 17th, Withern Wood Mar 18th, Swanpool Mar 19th, Belton Park Mar 21st, Burton Pits Mar 21st, Walesby Apr 13th, Kingsway Woods female Jan 16th

with male there Feb 19th, Laughton Forest two Mar 21st, Owlet Plantation drumming male May 29th and Baston-Langtoft Pits Oct 18th.

2004: 11

Declining numbers saw just 11 records in 2004. A female Normanby Park Jan 14th and one there Nov 24th, a pair that bred Sweeting Thorns Apr 10th to at least May 26th, one Deeping Lakes NR Mar 4th – 7th, pair Hartholme CP Mar 23rd – 31st, one to Apr 6th, one Rauceby High Wood Mar 29th, Linwood Warren Apr 13th, Temple Wood Apr 24th and South Thoresby Jun 20th.

2005: 10

All records referred to single birds unless stated; at Dunston Fen Jan 10th, Langholme Wood Jan 16th, Morkery Wood Jan 16th, Belton Park Jan 21st then one or two to Feb 15th, Roxton Woods Mar 24th, Elsea / Math Wood male drumming Mar 24th – 25th, Great Limber Apr 24th, Sweeting Thorns female Apr 28th and one calling May 3rd and Riseholme Oct 25th – 28th.

2006: 13

No proven breeding records for the second successive year; one at Temple Wood Jan 8th – Apr 15th, Broadholme Jan 21st, Belton Park Jan 22nd, Burton Pits Feb 7th, Hartsholme CP Feb 10th – Apr 10th, Moor Farm NR Mar 19th, Elsea / Math Woods Mar 25th, Black Walk Nook Apr 17th, Normanby Park two Apr 26th, Riseholme May 7th, Kirkby Moor Jun 3rd, and Messingham Sep 24th.

2007: 13

Recorded from ten locations in the year: at Temple Wood Jan 6th, Swanpool male Jan 21st and Mar 18th, Belton Park male Feb 1st, Holton le Moor Mar 4th, Elsea / Math wood two Apr 6th, Lincoln Apr 8th, Langton Spilsby two Apr 15th, Owlet Plantation May 11th – 15th, Normanby Park pair Mar 15th – Apr 1st, one Sep 3rd and Holywell Lakes Oct 6th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

2003: 3

One was at Humberston May 3rd (DJB) with a sub-adult male at Gib Point May 16th (NAL) and a female / immature male at Low Farm Tetney on Aug 28th (RLo)

2004: 1

One at Donna Nook May 31st (SL) was the only record.

2005: 1

A singing male was at Gib Point on Jun 4th (PMT).

2006: 1

A first-summer/female was at Saltfleetby NNR May 10th (JRW).

2007: 1

A first-summer male was at Gib Point May 22nd (KMW, NAL).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Vagrant: First record 1978 with subsequent records in 1982 and 1990

BBRC

2003: 1

Donna Nook juvenile/first-winter Oct 13th (BMC, MJT, GW et al) BB 97-11 615

The first record at Donna Nook from Oct 28th – 30th 1978 was considered to be of the race *L i phoenicuroides* but being a first-winter the characteristics that confirm this identification are currently regarded as unreliable; the second bird an adult male at Anderby Creek from Nov 7th – 8th and Gib Point on Nov 15th 1982 has been mooted as showing characteristics of the race *L i phoenicuroides* of the distinctive form *karelini* while the Pye's Hall bird of Oct 14th – 15th 1990 was another first-winter that appeared to be closest to *L i isabellinus* currently labelled Daurian Shrike. The 2003 bird another first-winter was also mooted as being of the form *L i phoenicuroides* the rarest of the taxa in Britain.



Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* Donna Nook juvenile/first winter Oct 13th 2003
© Roy Harvey



Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Owston Ferry / Gunthorpe in the Isle of Axholme
from Aug 26th - Sep 1st 2005 © Dean Eades

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage migrant and occasional summer visitor. Former rare breeder: LBRC, RBBP

2003: 2

Three autumn juveniles were recorded at Donna Nook Aug 31st with a different bird there Sep 6th and Grimsby North Shore Sep 9th – 12th.

2004: 4

Three males occurred in spring at Gib Point May 9th (AL) and probably the same bird 10th (KMW) with others at Donna Nook May 22nd and Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 23rd; an autumn juvenile was at Stonebridge Donna Nook Sep 18th.

2005: 2

A male was at Rimac Jun 9th at the same time as a Woodchat Shrike and a female at Owston Ferry / Gunthorpe in the Isle of Axholme from Aug 26th – Sep 1st being trapped and ringed during its stay.

2007: 4

Two spring birds, a female at Gib Point May 30th (KMW) with a male at Saltfleetby NNR Jun 9th then two juveniles in autumn both at Gib Point on Aug 22nd – 24th with a second bird on the 23rd.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

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

2003: 4

An over wintering bird was in the Colsterworth / Stoke Rochford / Skillington area from Jan 23rd to Feb 21st with two at Donna Nook Oct 14th – 15th and one near Kirton Nov 9th – 11th.

2004: 3

One was at Thoresway near Caistor on Feb 16th with one at Gib Point Oct 8th (JNI) and a bird that subsequently stayed into 2005 was found at Grasby bottom / Halliday Hill plantation Dec 26th – 31st (RHa et al).

2005: 2

The Grasby bottom / Hendale Wood / Halliday Hill / Audelby Top bird was seen on a number of dates between Jan 1st and Apr 2nd and a spring migrant was at Ashby Ville, Scunthorpe, Apr 2nd (ND, JTH et al).

2006: 2

One at Audelby Top Apr 1st – 2nd (RHa et al) was presumably the returning bird from the previous winter. The only other record in the year was one at Gib Point Oct 23rd (PMT, KMW).

2007: 3

A spring migrant was at Gib Point Apr 7th with an early autumn bird there Sep 29th – 30th before one was found at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Oct 3rd and one Saxby Top Oct 5th.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis pallidirostris*

Vagrant: First Lincolnshire record below BBRC

2005: 1

Sutton Bridge first-winter Nov 16th (K Fisher) per Lincolnshire recorder BB 102 p589

The first county record of this distinctive taxon submitted retrospectively and identified from a photograph after the famous Grainthorpe Haven bird.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Vagrant: First record 1960 with eight subsequent records to 1994. LBRC

The 10th to 12th county occurrences, all surprisingly females

2003: 1

A female was at Pye's Hall on May 4th (CA et al).

2005: 1

A female was at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR on Jun 9th (KR0, SL et al).

2006: 1

A female at Friskney Marsh Jul 29th – Aug 23rd (JS et al) was the longest staying bird ever recorded in the county.



Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* female at Friskney Marsh Jul 29th - Aug 23rd 2006 © Russell Hayes

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Now a very scarce migrant and winter visitor formerly much more common in winter to late 1970's. LBRC

2003: 1

The only record was at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR Nov 30th - Dec 5th.

2004: 2

One was on Skegness Tip Feb 15th, one Gib Point Apr 23rd and presumably the same bird in the later year at Donna Nook Oct 30th - Nov 25th and Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR Nov 27th - Dec 1st.



Hybrid **Hooded x Carrion Crow** Sutton-on-Sea Oct 24th 2004 © Graham Catley

2005: 6

One was at Donna Nook Jan 29th and Feb 27th, one inland at Rowgate Hill Feb 27th, one Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR Mar 22nd then in the late winter singles at Donna Nook Oct

20th – 29th, Gib Point Dec 13th and 20th, Kirkby on Bain / Kirkby Moor Dec 16th – 31st and Chapel St Leonards Dec 29th.

2006: 4

A wintering bird was noted at Gib Point on 11 dates between Jan 1st and 28th, Feb 11th, Mar 1st, 3rd, 15th and 17th while the wintering bird at Kirkby on Bain / Kirkby Moor remained to Apr 18th. Two autumn records at Gib Point Sep 29th and possibly the same bird Mogg's Eye Oct 3rd.

2007: 1

A single record at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Nov 4th marked a further decline in the status of this once common winter visitor.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Rare summer records and territorial behaviour. RBBP

The first two years of the series saw good numbers recorded particularly in autumn but the last three years were rather mediocre; wintering birds were found in most years and must go undetected inland in large woodlands.

2003: 51

Wintering birds were inland at Messingham SQ Jan 9th and Whisby NP Jan 31st and Feb 15th; spring passage commenced with two at Gib Point Mar 25th, then further birds there Apr 2nd and 20th; the only other spring birds were one was at Donna Nook Mar 17th and one Humberston Fitties Mar 28th. Autumn produced the bulk of the year's records with 11+ at Gib Point between Sep 16th and Nov 10th with maxima of three on three dates; one was in Boston Cemetery Oct 1st, two Humberston Fitties Oct 13th, at Donna Nook one Oct 14th – 15th, eight 16th, four 17th, three 18th, singles 18th and 26th – 29th and a late bird Nov 7th; at other coastal sites during the Oct-Nov influx singles Anderby Creek Oct 19th, 24th, Nov 1st and 9th, Theddlethorpe Oct 14th, Horseshoe Point Oct 14th – 15th, Saltfleetby NNR Oct 16th, 17th, 19th, Trusthorpe Churchyard Oct 16th, Chapel St Leonards Oct 14th with two 18th, Saltfleet Oct 18th, Skegness Oct 16th, two 19th and one Nov 10th and Skegness north shore Oct 18th and Nov 1st.

2004: 59

A wintering bird was again at Messingham SQ Jan 25th. Spring passage first detected again at Gib Point with one Mar 12th – 13th, three Apr 2nd, two or three to 9th with seven on 7th and singles 13th and May 19th; other birds in spring were at Skegness Apr 3rd and Donna Nook Apr 9th, 17th, May 13th. Noted in autumn from Sep 29th Saltfleetby NNR with further singles there Oct 11th, 14th, 20th, at Gib Point Oct 10th, seven 12th, five 16th, three 19th, three 26th, then singles on four dates to Nov 6th with four Nov 12th; Donna Nook Oct 10th, 12th, three 13th, five 14th, 19th, Horseshoe Point Oct 12th, Saltfleet Oct 12th, two 16th, Theddlethorpe two Oct 13th, Anderby Creek Oct 20th, Chapel Pit Oct 20th and one inland at Barton Oct 14th.

2005: 20

One was at Gib Point Feb 19th with singles Mar 14th – 28th, four Apr 3rd and three 4th, elsewhere in spring at Anderby Creek Mar 25th, Huttoft Pit Mar 25th and Saltfleetby NNR Mar 26th – 29th. A very poor autumn passage from the first at Gib Point Oct 9th, one 14th, two 15th– 16th, three 17th and singles 23rd and Nov 9th; Theddlethorpe Oct 11th – 13th with two 14th, Donna Nook Oct 20th and finally inland at Whisby NP Nov 18th – Dec 18th at least.

2006: 24

The wintering bird at Whisby NP from 2005 continued to be seen until Feb 11th. The first of the spring being at Gib Point Mar 29th – Apr 1st with subsequent singles on 10th, 13th, 15th and 23rd; one Donna Nook Apr 1st – 2nd with three 15th and one 25th and Saltfleetby NNR Apr 16th and 22nd. In autumn the first was at Theddlethorpe Oct 9th then Saltfleet Oct 17th, Gib Point Oct 17th, 18th, 29th, Nov 12th, Dec 8th, two 14th – 15th, singles 16th, 20th and 29th and Chapel Point Oct 24th.

2007: 17

One was at Ingoldsby Jan 7th and birds wintered at Gib Point with one or two Jan – Mar 26th then singles Apr 23rd and May 6th; the only other spring bird was at Donna Nook Apr 7th; there was an unusual record of a juvenile at Gib Point Aug 26th with the first of the autumn there Sep 29th and one to three to Dec 30th; elsewhere another poor autumn passage was noted with singles Humberston Fitties Oct 2nd, Saltfleet Oct 3rd, Theddlethorpe Oct 24th, 27th, Saltfleetby NNR Oct 24th and finally an inland bird at Messingham SQ Nov 4th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare extremely local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **RBBP**

Bred at three sites during the five-year period; at Barton Pits four, five, three, two and one pairs recorded in 2003 – 2007. At a second site on the Humber at least one pair bred in 2006 and pairs probably bred in other years. At a coastal site single pairs in 2004 – 2007.

2003:

Maximum numbers at Barton Pits were five Jan and 10 Feb, five Sep and at Huttoft six Jan.

Other records included two Baston Fen Mar 3rd, four Chapel Six Marshes Oct 21st, one Gib Point 21st with two on 22nd and one to 25th.

2004:

Maximum numbers at Barton Pits were eight Mar, four Oct and four Nov and at Huttoft nine Nov.

Elsewhere seven juveniles were at Winteringham Haven Aug 6th, two Gib Point Oct 9th, seven 26th, four 31st and two Nov 3rd, two Donna Nook Oct 25th, eight Winteringham Haven Oct 31st, one Boultham Mere Nov 17th, three Baston Fen Dec 13th and one-two there to the 27th.

2005:

Maximum numbers at Barton Pits was 6 Dec and at Huttoft 5 Jan and 8 Nov. Other records came from Baston Fen one-two Jan 1st – Feb 28th, Winteringham Haven pair Jun 24th, Donna Nook eight Oct 11th, 10 12th, two 13th.

2006:

Away from breeding sites a pair East Halton Skitter Oct 23rd and at Gib Point one or more Oct 30th and Nov 1st with two Nov 2nd.

2007:

Additional records came from Winteringham Haven Apr 8th, Gib Point four on Oct 23rd, three 25th, one 26th and Baston–Langtoft Pits three Dec 15th.



Woodlark *Lullula arborea* Santon Mar 23rd 2003 © Graham Catley

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Scarce semi-resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and again from 1984 with numbers peaking around the year 2000, although now steadily declining. **RBBP**

2003:

The National Woodlark survey located a total of 81 males and 47 confirmed pairs in seven broad areas of Lincolnshire in 2003; of this total 60 males and 37 pairs were on the north-west coversands area.

Away from the breeding areas where birds were recorded from Feb 14th to Sep 27th there were records on the coast at Gib Point two Feb 10th, Oct 14th, singles Nov 11th and 12th, with one at Boston Cemetery Mar 3rd.

2004:

Recorded from breeding sites from Feb 12th – with no census there were no comparative data to set against the 2003 survey results. Three birds were seen at a potential new breeding site in the mid-west of the county from Mar 14th – Jun 5th. Away from breeding areas there were coastal

records at Gib Point two Mar 17th, one 22nd, one Apr 6th, one Oct 23rd, and singles Donna Nook Nov 6th and 14th.

2005:

Noted at breeding sites from Feb 8th – again no survey of breeding numbers was undertaken.

Away from breeding sites birds were noted at Gib Point Mar 16th, 17th, 23rd and 27th probably all the same bird.

2006:

First noted at breeding sites from Feb 10th to Sep 16th; no full survey was undertaken of breeding sites.

Away from breeding sites records came from Gib Point Mar 2nd, 7th, 10th, 11th, 20th, 25th, 31st, Apr 15th, May 3rd, Sep 1st.

2007:

The first birds back at breeding sites from Feb 15th to Sep 2nd; numbers at breeding sites on the Coversands heathlands appeared to be similar to 2003 with reductions in commercial forests.

Away from breeding sites recorded near Gainsborough Jul 11th and at Gib Point two Jan 21st, Feb 16th, 17th, three 18th and 24th – 25th.



Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* Humberston Fitties Nov 30th 2003 © Graham Catley

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Currently low numbers compared to the 1960's and 1970's. Exceptional inland. LBRC away from Donna Nook and Gib Point.

Formerly a much more numerous winter visitor with winter totals of e.g. 297 in 1970, 288 1971, 296 1972 and 160 1975; the years under review seem to cover the final period of relative abundance in 2003 – 2004 after which wintering totals were much reduced.

2003: 49

Birds were recorded from four locations; at Gib Point four to mid-Jan with three Jan 16th – Apr 3rd with; three Oct 17th then 2 – 5 with five from Dec 15th – 31st, at Donna Nook two Nov 1st, eight 2nd – 26th, 11 Nov 30th to early Dec, 22 Dec 9th then 27 17th – 31st, at Humberston Fitties between three and five from Nov 21st – Dec 31st and three Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Nov 30th.

2004: 41

Over-wintering birds were present at three sites in the early year but just one in the later year; at Gib Point four on Jan 5th included a colour-ringed bird. There were five from Jan 9th – Feb 13th then 2- 4 until five again Mar 13th with three to 31st, two Apr 6th and 12th; one Oct 19th, four

30th again Nov 1st and Dec 11th with the colour-ringed bird on Nov 1st; at Donna Nook 27 present from late 2003 Jan 1st – 4th, 23 7th and 20 by 25th; up to 20 Feb to 13th, four Apr 4th and 11 on 9th; at Humberston Fitties one or two Jan 1st – 23rd and three Sandilands Feb 8th.

2005: 8

The sudden decline in numbers was particularly evident at all sites with four Gib Point Jan 1st – Apr 3rd and three to the 10th and one to 13th but no second winter records for first time since 1993. The only other records came from Donna Nook with singles Mar 26th, Nov 19th and 29th and Saltfleet Oct 20th with two 23rd and presumably the same birds at Saltfleetby NNR Oct 19th with two 25th.

2006: 15

There were no early winter records but a small influx in the late autumn produced the following; five at Saltfleetby Oct 21st, and one there Nov 19th, two Saltfleet Oct 24th, singles Donna Nook Oct 25th and Nov 18th, one Gib Point Nov 1st and three Dec 2nd with one at Freiston Shore Nov 4th – 7th.

2007: 6

One was at Freiston Shore Jan 13th, with others at Saltfleetby NNR Mar 14th, Gib Point Nov 10th and 16th while two were at Donna Nook Nov 25th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Vagrant: First record 1977 with two subsequent records of 5 birds

BBRC to end of 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

2003: 6

Freiston Shore Apr 26th – 27th (PAH et al) BB 98-12 667

Gib Point four Apr 29th – 30th (TJS, KMW et al) BB 97-11 591

Gib Point May 2nd (S Evans, TJS, KMW et al) BB 97-11 591

2004: 4

Gib Point two Apr 17th (KMW et al) BB 98-12 666

Barton on Humber two May 4th – 6th with one to 9th (GPC et al) BB 98-12 666

2005: 1

Gib Point May 1st (NPS) BB 100-2 p72

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor with some birds now resident. First proved breeding in 2008. LBRC, RBBP

2003: 5

A wintering bird was present in Huttoft Bank Pits Jan 1st – Feb 8th and two were found at Barton Pits with one from Feb 13th – Mar 30th and a second bird Mar 19th – Apr 6th – both of these birds were calling but not singing; in the later year two were again at Barton Pits from Nov 9th – 23rd and on Dec 3rd in a different part of the complex.

2004: 5

One was at Grimsthorpe Lake Apr 17th, Jun 13th and Dec 12th, one trapped at Donna Nook Oct 1st (MS) one Barrow Haven Pits Nov 7th and one Huttoft Pit from Nov 20th – Dec 11th at least.

2005: 6

The bird heard at Barrow Haven in Nov 2004 was found again at Barton – Barrow Haven Pits Jan 13th – 14th; other singles were at Grimsthorpe Lake Feb 12th, Huttoft Pits Apr 16th and male in song Nov 1st – 6th, Rimac May 27th and at Gib Point with one trapped Oct 11th (GG) and re trapped 20th (GG) being seen at Shoveler's pool 25th (EJM).

2006: 2

Following the build up in occurrences just two birds were recorded in 2006 at Baston - Langtoft Pits Apr 21st and trapped at Gib Point Sep 26th (GG) with probably the same Oct 8th (PMT).

2007: 5

None were recorded in the early part of the year with the first trapped at Donna Nook Oct 4th, one Messingham SQ Oct 23rd – Dec 31st and three different birds at Barton Pits Oct 31st – Nov 3rd, Nov 6th – Dec 19th and a singing male Nov 6th to Dec 23rd.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Vagrant: First record in 1896 was the first for Britain; 10 subsequent records in 1958, 1976 (3), 1977 (2), 1981 (2), 1984 and 2002

BBRC to end of 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

2005: 1

Saltfleet Haven Sep 11th (GPC, ND et al) BB 100-2 86

The record in 2005 was part of a marked east coast arrival of this species and fitted into the peak occurrence period of this rare *Phylloscopus* which in Lincolnshire extends for nine of the eleven records from Aug 14th to Sep 5th, with the others on Sep 10th and 22nd. Having seen and heard three birds at Spurn Point the previous day the two named observers quickly picked up this bird on call but it proved particularly difficult to obtain good views of it as it fed in a full leafed sycamore near the old amusement arcade.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant. First two records in 1968 with 50 records to 2002 All records Oct – Nov prior to 2007 when the first spring record occurred; LBRC

2003: 17

The year proved to be exceptional for Pallas's Warblers with the minimum total of 17 birds recorded forming 30% of the previous county total.

Most of the birds came in mid-October after the first trapped at Theddlethorpe Oct 13th (BRG) one was on Skegness north shore golf course Oct 14th (KDD, JWr), one Skegness south Oct 14th (NAL), singles Gib Point Oct 14th – 17th (KMW et al) and Oct 19th (PMT), Trusthorpe churchyard Oct 16th (KDD, JWr) Rimac sea view Oct 17th with two from 19th-21st (AHJH, GAM), two Saltfleet Sea Lane Oct 18th (ND, WCN, KP et al) with one to 20th, possibly another 25-26th (ND, WCN et al), one Mablethorpe north end dunes Oct 19th (KDD, JWr), one Anderby Creek south of creek Oct 19th (GPC, ND, KDD, JWr), singles at Donna Nook Stonebridge Oct 26th (GPC, ND) one trapped south end 27th-28th still there 29th (MSz, SL) then later birds at Saltfleetby Churchill Lane car park Nov 1st – 2nd (ND, S.Ro), Skegness north shore golf course (KDD, JWr) and Skegness south both Nov 10th (KDD, JWr).



Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Freiston Shore May 7th 2007 © Mark Bibby

2004: 7

The seven birds recorded in 2004 was still a good total and the second highest annual total in the county ever. The first was at Gib Point Oct 12th – 13th (KMW), then one trapped at Donna Nook Oct 16th (MS, SL), one Trusthorpe Oct 21st (KDD), another Gib Point Oct 25th – 26th (MGG), one Theddlethorpe Oct 28th (per SL) and 30th (P Cox et al), one Saltfleet Oct 29th (GPC) and a further bird at Gib Point Nov 2nd (MGG) and probably same bird Nov 4th (KA, PHa, RHa).

2005: 1

In a stark return to rarity status just one bird was found at Gib Point Oct 9th (NPS).

2006: 2

Two birds occurred in two days at Saltfleet Oct 16th (JJ) and Gib Point Oct 17th (KMW).

2007: 1

The first spring record for the county at Freiston Shore May 7th (PRF) turned out to be the only record of the year.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant Sep-Nov, exceptional inland. Has increased and become regular in recent years. First spring records for the county noted in the following:

The 35 records in 2003 coincided with the record influx of Pallas's Warblers but the new record annual total of 61 in 2005 came in a year that saw only one Pallas's Warbler found in the county. The year 2004 produced the first spring records for the county with one in Louth in March and one at Gib Point in April.

2003: 35

The first of the autumn arrived at Donna Nook Sep 27th with two there Oct 3rd then singles 4th- 5th and 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 18th; at Gib Point nine individuals were recorded with the first on Sep 28th, two 29th, five 30th with two to Oct 4th, one 5th, a new bird 10th – 22nd, another 16th, one 26th and one Nov 1st; most coastal sites produced a few birds in the influx as follows: Seacroft GC trapped Sep 30th, Rimac Sea View Oct 1st – 4th, two Nov 7th - 25th with one to 29th, Saltfleetby Churchill Lane Oct 2nd with another 26th, Theddlethorpe six trapped Oct 11th – 26th, Chapel St Leonards Oct 14th, Skegness Carey House Oct 14th, Saltfleet Sea Lane Oct 18th, Skegness south shore Oct 18-19th, Saltfleet Haven Oct 19th, Skegness Oct 21st and Cleethorpes Oct 26 - 31st.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* in Louth Mar 4th - 10th 2004 © Graham Catley

2004: 12

A rather poor year but featuring the first two spring records for the county with one in Louth Mar 4th – 10th the first record in this month followed by one at Gib Point Apr 20th. In the autumn the first was at Saltfleetby NNR Sep 29th – Oct 1st with another there Oct 14th, three at Skegness Oct 1st, one Donna Nook Oct 10th, and at Gib Point (five birds) Oct 8th – 9th and 12th – 13th, Oct 17th, one 18th with possibly same 20th and one Nov 12th.

2005: 61

An early autumn arrival produced a record annual total for the county; at Gib Point 16 birds were recorded through the autumn; Sep 12th, 17th and 18th, Oct 4th, four on 5th, seven on 6th with nine on 7th, five on 9th and one or two to 17th (seven ringed). At Donna Nook four Oct 5th, six 6th, three 7th, two 8th then singles 9th, 11th and 14th with three 15th, (six trapped and considered 14 in total); away from these two main sites Saltfleetby NNR Sep 19th, Oct 6th, nine 7th, one 10th, three 15th, two Tetney Marsh Oct 6th, four Anderby Creek Oct 7th, one 8th, singles Chapel Six Marshes Oct 7th, 16th, Saltfleet Oct 9th – 10th, 14th, Horseshoe Point Oct 7th – 9th, Saltfleet Oct 9th, two Tetney Blow Wells Oct 7th, one 8th, one Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Oct 9th, another 10th, one 14th, two Skegness Oct 9th and one inland at Waters' Edge Barton from Oct 10th – 14th with two on Oct 15th.

2006: 23

The bulk of the annual haul was recorded at Gib Point where 13 birds were recorded after the first on Sep 17th with singles Oct 3rd, 7th, two on 12th, one 13th, 14th, two on 16th, three on 17th, two 18th, singles 21st – 27th and Nov 2nd; at Donna Nook singles Oct 10th, 15th, 16th and 18th, one Saltfleet Oct 12th, two 13th and one 17th – 18th, Huttoft Bank Oct 14th, Chapel Pit Oct 15th, Seaview Saltfleetby NNR Oct 17th – 18th and Freiston Shore Oct 12th – 13th.

2007: 29

A concentrated arrival from the last days of Sep into in early Oct produced two inland birds at Barton Waters' Edge Oct 3rd and Grimoldby Churchyard Oct 4th; on the coast first noted at Saltfleetby NNR Sep 28th – 29th and Oct 3rd and at Gib Point 15 birds between Sep 29th and Oct 22nd with a maximum of four on Oct 2nd, 3rd and 7th; elsewhere one Saltfleet Sep 28th – 29th, Donna Nook one Oct 3rd, three 6th, 7th, two 8th, Horseshoe Point Oct 4th, Humberston Fitties Oct 5th, Seacroft Oct 7th and two Skegness Oct 21st.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Vagrant: First records for Lincolnshire in 2003

2003: 2

Anderby Creek Oct 18th (NPS) BB 98-12 679

Gib Point Oct 23rd – 29th sound recorded (RJC, KMW et al) BB 96: plate 415; BB 97-11 611



Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Gib Point Oct 28th 2003 © Graham Catley

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Vagrant: First record 1898 was first for Britain with subsequent records in 1988, 1990 (2) and 2000 (2)

BBRC to end of 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

2003: 1

Gib Point Oct 13th (SPi, TJS, KMW et al) BB 97-11 613

Found at Sykes Farm this was the first record for Gib Point.

2006: 1

Horseshoe Point Oct 12th (DJB et al).

2007: 1

Donna Nook trapped Oct 4th (MS, SL).

Three records in the period included the first for Gib Point, one located in the small clump of bushes just south of the Horseshoe Point car park that subsequently showed well in the low thorn hedge running west from the car park and one trapped at Donna Nook; the 7th to 9th county records of this skulking but highly sought after *Phylloscopus* warbler.



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Horseshoe Point Oct 12th 2006 © Graham Catley



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Horseshoe Point Oct 12th 2006 © Graham Catley

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarse passage migrant in spring and autumn. LBRC

2003: 9

Spring birds were in Scunthorpe Kingsway Woods Apr 21st (WG, JTH) and at Gib Point Apr 24th (KMW, TJS) and May 5th – 6th (TJS) with one Kirkby Moor May 31st (GAM). All four autumn records came from Gib Point with two Aug 9th (GG, KMW), one Aug 19th – 21st (KMW) and one trapped Aug 28th and 29th (MJG).

2004: 4

Three records came from Gib Point with one trapped Jul 27th, one trapped Aug 14th, another 15th and one 17th with one at Pye's Hall Aug 10th (GPC).

2005: 4

One was in Dole Wood Apr 13th (JJ) with the only other spring bird at Gib Point Apr 30th then two autumn birds at Gib Point Aug 4th and Anderby Creek Sep 12th (SML).

2006: 4

Just one spring bird was at Gib Point May 24th with three autumn records again at Gib Point Aug 6th and 13th and a rather late bird at Saltfleetby NNR Oct 11th (JRW).

2007: 6

Four singing males in spring was a better showing with the first at Baston-Langtoft Pits Apr 22nd (JJ), one Kirkby-on-Bain Apr 22nd (CG), one Broome Plantation Twigmoor Apr 26th (GPC) and one Chambers Wood Apr 30th (APH); typically the two autumn records came from Gib Point on Aug 5th (EJM) and Aug 25th (NAL).



Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Pye's Hall Aug 10th 2004 © Graham Catley

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

2003: 3

One at Donna Nook Aug 11th (SL) with late birds at Chapel Pit Oct 5th (SL) and Wainfleet Oct 19th (RBy).

2004: 3

Gib Point one trapped Sep 1st (MRB) then in Oct singles at Pye's Hall – Grainthorpe Haven 12th – 13th and a confiding and long staying first-winter that fed on the south bank of Covenham Reservoir from Nov 20th to Dec 9th (MDaw, DNich et al) and it was the first inland record for the county and also ultimately became the latest date Barred Warbler had been recorded.

2005: 5

Just five autumn records at Gib Point trapped Aug 25th (GG), and trapped Aug 26th (GG), Horseshoe Point Sep 12th (DJB et al), Saltfleet Oct 9th (GPC, ND) and Donna Nook Oct 17th (SL).

2006: 3

Three autumn records, trapped at Gib Point Aug 25th (GG et al), Donna Nook Aug 27th and Grainthorpe Haven Oct 14th (DJB, ACS et al).

2007: 6

Six autumn records at Gib Point Sep 1st (JPS), 2nd (EJM), Saltfleet Haven Sep 9th (GW), Saltfleet Haven Oct 3rd (GW), Skegness Oct 3rd (NAL) and Gib Point Oct 6th (KMW).



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* first-winter at Covenham Reservoir Nov 29th 2004
© Graham Catley



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* Pye's Hall - Grainthorpe Haven Oct 13th 2004 © Graham Catley

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Vagrant: First record in June 1984

The second and third county records both came from the same small area of Gib Point in 2004 – 2005 and 2007;

2004: 1

Gib Point first-winter male Oct 31st – Dec 19th into 2005 (JPS et al).

2005:

Gib Point Jan 30th (JPS) and Feb 3rd (JNi) the same bird as 2004.

2007: 1

Gib Point female / immature on the rock ridge the same location as the 2004 bird Nov 29th to Dec 30th (JPS).

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Vagrant: First record 1979 with a subsequent record in 1986 BBRC

2003: 2

Skegness male Oct 2nd to Jan 11th 2004 (KMW et al); female Nov 10th to at least Jan 4th 2004 (KDD, JWr et al) (fig. 9) BB 97-11 608-609

2004:

see above

The first male at Gib Point was present from Jun 30th to at least Sep 15th while the second male at the same locality was also a long stayer being present from at least Jul 6th to Aug 31st so the long stay of the two birds above is in line with previous occurrences. That two birds should be found so close together in the late autumn of 2004 raises the possibility that they may have summered nearby. All of the four Lincolnshire birds have been found on the coast at Skegness and Gib Point but given their choice of habitat and their skulking behaviour they may also have gone undetected in the buckthorn scrub of the coast further north.



Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* male Skegness Oct 2nd to Jan 11th 2004 © JT Harriman



Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* female Skegness Nov 10th to at least Jan 4th 2004
© JT Harriman

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*

Vagrant: First and only previous record trapped at Theddlethorpe 1980
BBRC



Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* Donna Nook Sept 6th 2003 © Graham Catley

2003: 1

Donna Nook Sep 6th (GPC, ND, WCN, et al) BB 98-12 p677

First located in dense sea buckthorn scrub in the dunes this bird eventually worked its way through to the beach side where it obligingly fed in low vegetation including a stand of mayweed.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare passage migrant May-early Jun and late Jul-Oct, exceptional inland. LBRC, RBBP

Correction to the 2000 – 2002 rare and scarce bird report; the record of a bird at Donna Nook from Sep 4th – Dec 31st was erroneous the correct details are as follows:

2002:

Donna Nook Oct 31st – Nov 7th (MDaw, DNich et al)

Just three birds were recorded in the five years under review marking an ongoing decline in occurrence by this species since the 1980's.

2005: 1

Donna Nook one trapped Sep 9th (MS, SL).

2006: 1

Gib Point Oct 12th (AJG et al).

2007: 1

Gib Point Jun 14th male in song (DJM).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Vagrant: First record trapped Sep 1991. BBRC

2006: 1

Gib Point first-winter Sep 16th, trapped (REmm, GG, KMW et al) BB 100-12 p737

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Rare passage migrant mainly in late spring; LBRC

2003: 1

A singing male was located at Messingham SQ on Jun 1st (ND et al) this was the third record for Messingham SQ.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Vagrant: First record Jul 1897 with 7 subsequent records. BBRC

2006: 1

Barton on Humber, Far Ings singing male Jun 24th (GPC, ND, SRo et al) BB 100-12 p737

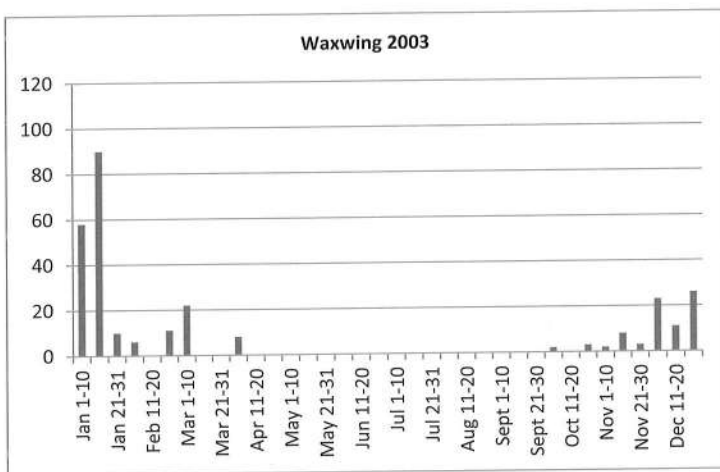
The eighth Lincolnshire record was found fortuitously as observers arrived to see the first Barton Red-veined Darter dragonflies on the nearby Chowder Ness; present in a narrow strip of reeds it was not surprisingly a one day bird, but why did it avoid the expansive reedbeds in the main clay pits?

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, most in Oct-Apr. Rare/sparse most winters but fairly common during large-scale irruptions.

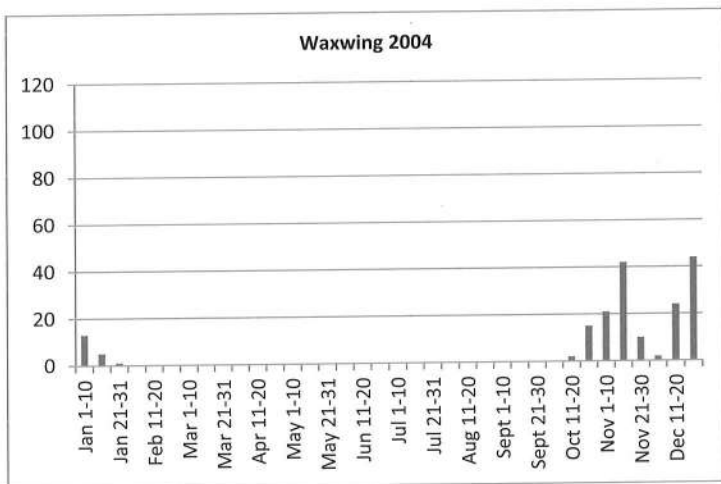
2003:

About 170 recorded from Jan to Mar 10th and then eight at Scunthorpe Apr 13th; noted again from Oct 9th Crook Bank Theddlethorpe with about 20 from then to the year end, mostly singles but seven Donna Nook Nov 12th, four Skegness Dec 7th, 19 Gib Point 8th and 22 Pyewipe Dec 22nd.



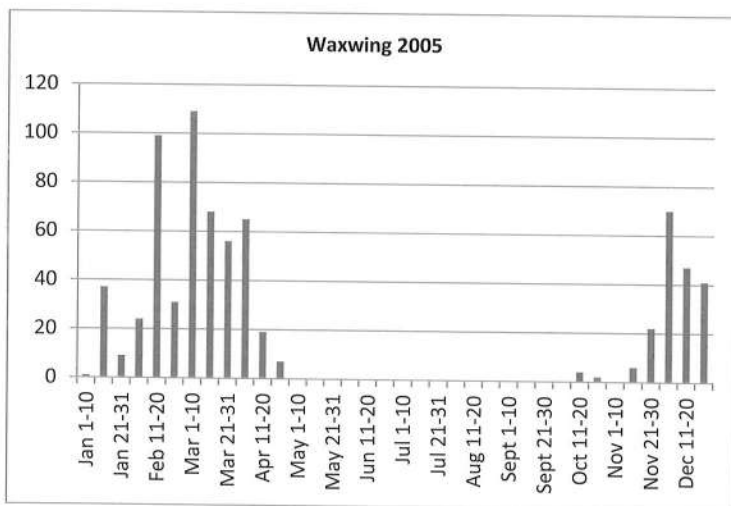
2004:

In the early year only recorded in Jan 1st – 24th with a more notable influx in the latter years starting with one Normanby Oct 17th then numbers building through Nov to peaks in Dec. Peak numbers were 12 Market Deeping Nov 5th, 10 Grimsby 16th, 15 Gib Point Nov 20th, 17 Saltfleet Dec 20th and 24 Grasby Dec 28th.



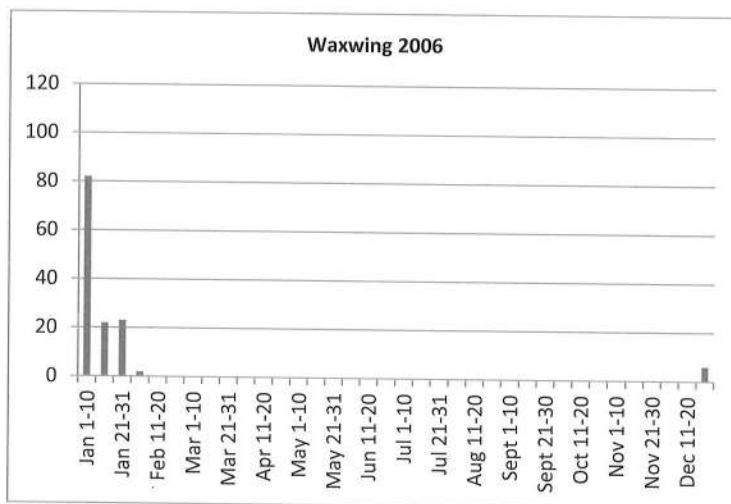
2005:

A good early year arrival with numbers building up through Feb and then peaking in Mar, a rather unusual pattern, before the last birds were seen on Apr 27th with three at Great Cotes. The first of the autumn were four at Louth Oct 19th with a few through Nov but the majority arrived in Dec. In the early winter peak flocks included 10 Grantham Jan 14th, 34 Ashby Ville Feb 7th to Mar 4th, 50 Stamford Feb 20th, 26 Sleaford Mar 3rd, 12 Friskney Mar 6th, 25 Holdingham Mar 10th, 13 Gainsborough Mar 14th, 14 Market Rasen Mar 16th, 22 Owston Ferry Mar 27th, 50 Lincoln Apr 9th and 19 Great Cotes Apr 19th. In the latter year the largest flocks were 14 Pyewipe Nov 28th and 32 Tetney Lock Dec 20th.



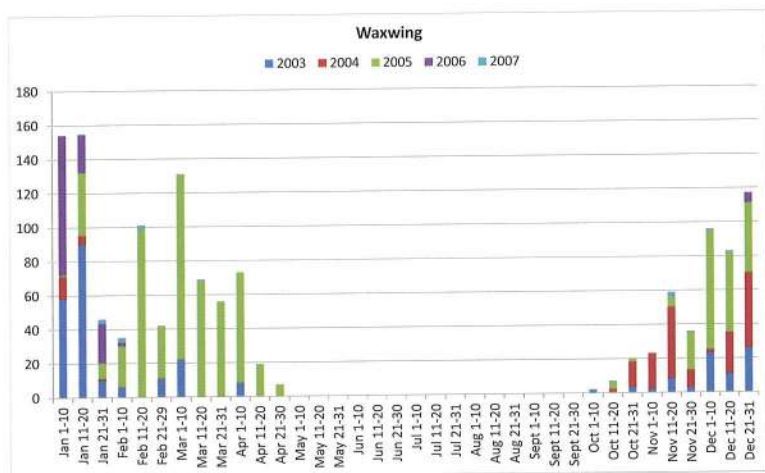
2006:

The influx in late 2005 left birds around the county through Jan but as food was depleted birds moved on and there were no records after two at Ludborough on Feb 2nd; the late year produced only one record with six at Gib Point Dec 27th.



2007:

The early part of the year produced very few records with singles Gib Point Jan 19th and 24th, one Stonebridge Donna Nook Jan 21st and one Tetney Jan 25th, two Healing Feb 5th – 14th, one Normanby Feb 2nd – 5th, and one Scunthorpe Mar 18th – 19th. Even fewer in the late year with one Gib Point Oct 18th, one there 11th, one Trent Port Marton 13th, one Boston 17th, one Dunston Heath 25th then singles at Gib Point Nov 11th, 27th, Dec 1st – 2nd and 17th.



Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

Vagrant: LBRC

2003: 3

Cranwell first-winter from 2002 to Mar 21st (APC et al) investigating a report of an American cuckoo in a lavender bush the identifier named located this bird in the same bush looking rather sickly but it recovered quickly and over-wintered in the local gardens even coming down to feed when one food provider called its name; appropriately Rosy. Later in the year an adult was in Boston May 24th (AT) while a first-winter at Gib Point Oct 13th (CDo) and 14th (EJM) was the first record for the reserve.



Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* Cranwell first-winter Jan 18th 2003 © Graham Catley

2004: 3

An adult was at Freiston Shore May 21st – 23rd (GK et al) and a juvenile at Donna Nook on Oct 10th (MLa). At Hemingby a juvenile Dec 16th reported present since Oct (per MHa).

2005: 1

Hemingby Jan 1st – Apr 18th (Mike Beecham). A juvenile fed in a North Somercotes garden Nov 11th – 18th being trapped on 17th (SL, MS, PCo).

2007: 1
An adult at Ashby de la Launde on Nov 24th (RJC).

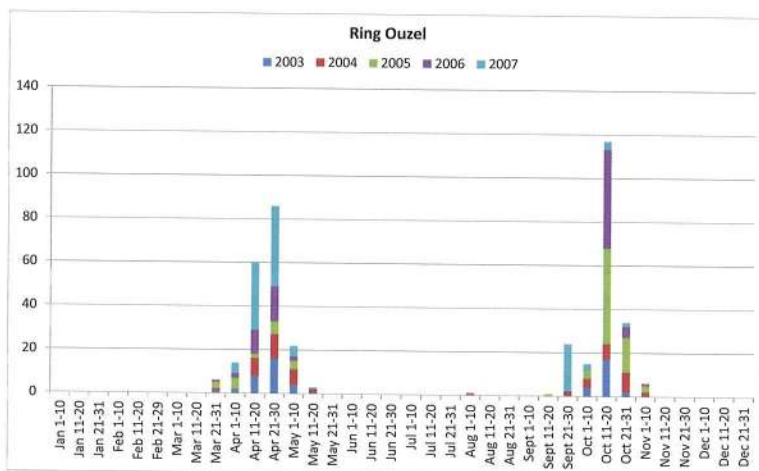


Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* Cranwell first-winter Jan 18th 2003 © Graham Catley

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant numbers, varying annually. Recent large autumn coastal arrivals in some years, particularly at Gib Point where these are typically associated with arrivals of other thrushes suggesting an origin in Scandinavia. Early spring migrants may be British breeders but those in late Apr – May are again likely to be Scandinavian migrants. Rare in winter.

In the review period as shown below there was a major spring arrival in 2007 concentrated between Apr 10th and 14th and again between 21st and 29th but autumn records in that year were lower than usual and concentrated in the early period of Sep 27th – 30th when the majority were at Gib Point including 18 on the 28th. A high percentage of the spring records come from inland sites but the vast majority of the autumn records are coastal.



	Mar 21-31	Apr 1-10	Apr 11-20	Apr 21-30	May 1-10	May 11-20		Aug 1-10	Aug 11-20	Aug 21-31	Sep 1-10	Sep 11-20	Sep 21-30	Oct 1-10	Oct 11-20	Oct 21-31	Nov 1-10
2003	1	2	8	16	4									4	17	2	
2004	1		8	11	7	2		1					2	4	7	9	2
2005	3	5	2	6	4							1		4	44	16	3
2006	1	2	11	16	2										45	5	1
2007		5	31	37	5	1							22	3	4	2	

2003: s 31 a 26 t 57

An early bird was at Owston Ferry Mar 25th, followed by other spring migrants at Gib Point Apr 2nd – 15th, 15th, 25th – 30th, two May 9th, Saltfleetby NNR Apr 14th, 23rd, two 24th – 25th, Tetney Marsh Apr 15th, May 4th, Ashby Ville Apr 15th – 18th, Crosby Warren three Apr 16th – 18th, Baumber Apr 18th, two 21st, Burwell Apr 21st, West Ashby Pits Apr 21st, Butterwick Hale four Apr 23rd, Atkinson's Warren Apr 26th, Freiston Shore Apr 26th, Linwood Warren Apr 28th, Deeping Lakes NR two Apr 29th and Donna Nook Apr 29th, May 4th. The bulk of the autumn records came from Gib Point with birds recorded between Oct 5th and 27th producing 20 bird-days with a maximum of five Oct 15th; elsewhere mostly singles were along the coast at Saltfleetby NNR Oct 16th, Tetney Marsh two Oct 16th, Donna Nook two Oct 6th singles 13th and 19th, Chapel Pit Oct 14th, Horseshoe Point Oct 15th, Saltfleet Oct 15th, Humberston Fitties two Oct 16th, Theddlethorpe Oct 19th and one inland at Barton Waters' Edge Oct 15th.

2004: s 28 a 31 t 59

The first of the spring was at Gib Point Mar 28th with four in late Apr, two May 2nd and singles 3rd and 11th, one Deeping Lakes NR Apr 16th, at Saltfleetby NNR Apr 17th, two Apr 18th–22nd, May 15th, Seacroft Apr 18th, Witham Mouth Apr 19th, Humberston Fitties Apr 21st, 23rd, two 24th, May 1st – 2nd, Huttoft Bank Apr 21st – 23rd, Tetney Marsh two Apr 24th, May 2nd, Louth Apr 27th – 28th, East Halton Apr 30th and two Donna Nook May 3rd. Quite scarce in autumn with an unusually early bird at Gib Point Aug 9th then recorded there between Sep 30th and Oct 31st with maxima of four Oct 12th – 13th and three 14th – 15th, singles Donna Nook Sep 30th, Oct 16th, 20th – 24th and 27th, two Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Oct 10th, two Nov 3rd, one Tetney Marsh Oct 13th, four at Saltfleetby NNR Oct 28th and three Saltfleet Oct 29th.

2005: s 22 a 64 t 86

The bulk of the birds were in autumn, with three times as many as were recorded in spring. The first spring arrival was at Saltfleetby NNR Mar 21st with one Apr 21st and three 22nd, singles Donna Nook Mar 26th and May 1st, Pyewipe Mar 29th, Tetney Marsh Apr 1st, North Somercotes Apr 2nd, Humberston Fitties Apr 4th, Toft Newton Reservoir Apr 7th, Scunthorpe Apr 18th, Witham Mouth Apr 24th, Gib Point Apr 14th, two in Apr, two 30th and three singles to May 9th. The first autumn bird was at Gib point Sep 16th but the main arrival did not start until Oct with one 6th, two 9th, four 14th but an impressive maximum of 27 on Oct 15th then seven 22nd and the last on Nov 1st; other coastal records came from Saltfleetby NNR three Oct 15th, two 29th, one Nov 1st, Donna Nook four Oct 15th, singles 16th, 17th, 26th, Tetney Marsh two Oct 27th – 28th, four 29th, three 30th – 31st and one Nov 1st, Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Oct 9th, 18th, two 19th, Saltfleet Oct 16th, Skegness Oct 27th, North Cotes Point Oct 29th and inland at South Killingholme Oct 17th, Broadholme and Weelsby Woods both Oct 18th.

2006: s 32 a 63 t 95

A good spring passage started with one at Donna Nook Mar 30th to Apr 2nd followed by one 15th and two 22nd, Saltfleetby NNR Apr 9th, 17th, 21st – 24th, May 1st, Gib Point Apr 21st – 22nd, with a maximum of five Apr 23rd, two 25th and four 29th, Horkstow Top seven Apr 18th, Westgate Wood Apr 18th, Covenham Reservoir Apr 19th – 20th, 28th, May 1st, Deeping Lakes NR Apr 21st and Humberston Fitties two Apr 23rd. The autumn passage was pretty modest but the totals were dominated by a fall at Gib Point in mid-Oct; the first birds arrived on Oct 11th with one Tetney Marsh Oct 11th, Donna Nook Oct 11th, 13th, three 15th, two 17th, 18th, Gib Point Oct 11th, two 12th, 14th, then maxima of ten Oct 15th and 28 on 16th but just four 17th then 1-3 to 24th, one 27th and the last Nov 8th; other autumn birds were at Saltfleetby NNR Oct 14th – 15th, 17th, two 19th, 24th, Frampton Marsh Oct 15th and Saltfleet Oct 15th and 24th.

2007: s 80 a 33 t 113

A heavy spring passage arrived in two distinct waves; the first was at Gib Point Apr 4th with birds there to May 17th and a maximum of eight Apr 21st; Barton three Apr 10th, male and female 23rd

- 24th, Bonby Top Apr 10th, Butterwick Marsh two Apr 11th, Donna Nook five Apr 11th, 15th, five 22nd, two 28th, Alkborough Flats four Apr 12th, 22nd, 26th, Saltfleetby NNR Apr 12th, two 15th, two 26th, 28th, May 6th, Dragonby Apr 12th, Horkstow Top six Apr 12th, Freiston Shore two Apr 12th, 14th - 15th, May 5th, Covenham Reservoir Apr 14th, three 22nd - 23rd, 28th - 29th, Witham Mouth two Apr 15th, Kirkby Moor two Apr 21st, East Halton Marshes three Apr 22nd, Stickford Apr 24th, Huttoft Pit Apr 25th, two 28th, Theddlethorpe Apr 25th, Tetney Apr 26th, Deeping Lakes NR May 6th, Baston Fen May 6th, Burton Stather May 6th and Horseshoe Point May 15th. After this exceptional spring passage autumn was somewhat disappointing with the bulk of the records again at Gib Point where birds were recorded from Sep 27th to Oct 13th with maxima of 18 Sep 28th and 16 Sep 29th; other coastal records were two Donna Nook Sep 30th and one Oct 10th, one Saltfleetby NNR Oct 14th with two 21st, one at Wrangle Bank Sep 30th and two inland at Bardney Lock Sep 27th and Nocton Heath Oct 19th.



American Robin *Turdus migratorius* first-winter female Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 4th 2004
© Graham Catley



American Robin *Turdus migratorius* first-winter female Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 4th 2004
© Graham Catley

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Vagrant: BBRC

2004: 1 First and only record for Lincolnshire

Grimsby Pyewipe first-winter female Jan 1st to Mar 8th when killed by Sparrowhawk (TMo, SSm et al) (BB 97: plates 58, 59 and 79); BB 98-12 675 plate 439

Surely one of the most unexpected bird records ever in Lincolnshire; found by the two named observers while looking for Waxwings, the American Robin frequented a small patch of scrub at the gates of a unit on a busy industrial estate for nine weeks before succumbing to the local Sparrowhawk. News of its discovery was initially greeted with incredulity and doubt but the bird quickly became the focus of one of the biggest twitches in the county history entertaining thousands of birdwatchers and photographers during its extended stay. It could be stated that it was one of the first rare birds to be recorded en masse by people equipped with the new digital photo technology.



American Robin *Turdus migratorius* first-winter female Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 11th 2004
© Graham Catley



American Robin *Turdus migratorius* first-winter female Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 11th 2004
© Graham Catley

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Vagrant: First record May 1977 with five subsequent records in Sep 1977, Sep 1984, May 1994 and Sep 2001; the first three were only found when trapped. **BBRC**

2003: 1

Gib Point first-summer male in song May 19th – 26th, trapped 23rd (MG, TJS, KMW et al) BB 97-11 595

The sixth county record and the second recorded in song in May; all records have been on the coast.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

L s svecica Red-spotted Bluethroat a rare passage migrant in spring and autumn,

L s cyanecula White-spotted Bluethroat very rare early spring migrant that has summered

LBRC

Just two single records in the five years, one spring and one autumn, continue to affirm the decline in the status of this species in the county.

2005:

One was found on the edge of the dunes on the north shore golf course at Skegness on Oct 16th (JW_r, KDD).

2006: 1

A male Red-spotted Bluethroat was found between Sea View and Rimac, Saltfleetby NNR on May 12th and was reported again on the 13th (BMC, SJM).



Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Skegness Oct 15th 2005 © John Wright

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

2003: 1

A first-winter bird was at Gib Point Sep 29th – 30th (KMW) with probably the same bird there Oct 2nd (EJM).

2005: 4

Singles were at Gib Point Sep 12th (JNi) and Sep 18th – 19th (PMT) with two different first-winters at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Oct 15th – 16th (SJM et al) and 18th – 20th.

2007: 1

One was at Sea View Saltfleetby NNR Sep 27th (JRW, ARo).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Passage migrant, mainly coastal; rare/scarse in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn.

2003: c26

Recorded from five coastal sites all between Aug 1st and Oct 14th; at Gib Point one or two Aug 6th – Oct 14th with four Sep 15th and six 11th; at Donna Nook up to four Aug 1st – 31st, singles Sep 5th, 7th and 13th with two 18th; at Saltfleetby NNR singles Sep 3rd and 7th, one at Tetney Village Aug 19th and one Tetney Marsh Sep 11th. Inland one Garthorpe Sep 11th.

2004: c132

Although there was a very good annual total of birds recorded only four coastal sites recorded birds with one in the Wash at Freiston Shore Aug 10th and one inland at Baston-Langtoft Pits Aug 28th; the bulk of the coastal records came from Gib Point where the species was recorded from Aug 5th – Oct 8th with maxima of 45 Aug 10th and 12 Sep 7th and further up the coast at Donna Nook where there was one Aug 2nd, 14 on 8th, 35 on 11th, two 14th, one 21st, two Sep 2nd, one 4th, two 7th, four 8th, two 10th and one 12th, with the remainder at Saltfleetby NNR eight Aug 9th, nine 11th (one dead), two Sep 8th, one 30th and two Oct 1st and one Huttoft Pit Sep 26th.

2005: c46

No spring records. In the autumn a small coastal fall in mid-Sep produced the bulk of the records; at Gib Point recorded between Aug 17th and Sep 20th with day maxima of 14 Sep 11th, 11 on 12th, and the last of the year there Oct 16th – 17th; working up the coast one at Chapel Pit Sep 11th, two Anderby Creek Sep 12th, singles Theddlethorpe Crook Bank Sep 3rd and 27th, two Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 11th and singles 12th and 19th, four Saltfleet Sep 11th and at Donna Nook two Aug 23rd, singles 31st and Sep 1st, three 3rd, five 4th, three 5th, six 10th, two 11th and singles 16th and Oct 15th.

2006: 14

A really poor year with just 14 records. A spring bird was at Gib Point May 10th with autumn singles there Aug 18th, Sep 12th and Oct 11th; otherwise all autumn records were in Aug and Sep; at Donna Nook singles Aug 14th, 20th, 23rd and 28th, one Huttoft Pit Aug 19th, one Saltfleet Aug 19th, one Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Sep 23rd. Despite their scarcity this year there were three inland records at Trent Port Marton Aug 20th and two at Pinchbeck Aug 19th with one to the 20th.

2007: c21

Another poor year but two spring birds were at Gib Point May 15th and 18th; with autumn birds recorded between Aug 20th and Oct 8th with a day maxima of 11 Aug 24th; Donna Nook also had a spring bird on May 30th but just two autumn records on Aug 24th and Oct 4th; singles were at Saltfleetby NNR Aug 24th, Oct 10th and 23rd and one was inland at Bardney Lock Sep 27th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare breeding species not annual; scarce passage migrant in Mar – Jun and Aug – Nov, rare in winter RBBP

2003: 16

At a former breeding site 1-2 birds noted Mar 19th to Sep 27th but there was no actual proof of breeding submitted. Spring passage birds were seen at Ashby Ville, Manby and Grasby Mar 27th, Donna Nook Apr 17th and 21st and Fishtoft May 29th. The first of the autumn at Gib Point Aug 3rd with 1-2 there Oct 14th – 18th and one 24th; the only other autumn / winter records were at Donna Nook Oct 15th and 22nd, Waters' Edge Barton, a male Nov 24th – 29th and Mablethorpe Dec 17th.

2004: 16

The same former breeding locality had at least one bird in Jun 2004. An over-wintering bird was at Sutton-on-Sea Jan 14th with the first of the spring at South Willingham Apr 3rd then one Wainfleet St Mary 7th, Gib Point Apr 17th, 20th and 22nd; female May 31st and Jun 26th; male on four dates Jul 8th – 20th with a single on eight dates Oct 19th – 31st. Additional autumn records came from Witham Mouth Aug 15th, Grainthorpe Village Oct 13th, Huttoft Bank 20th, Saltfleet 27th, Donna Nook 31st and Nettleham Nov 5th.

2005: 17

Two birds were at the former breeding site on Apr 13th at least but none have been noted since although much of the area is difficult to access. Spring birds at Gib Point Mar 19th – 21st and Apr 1st – 3rd, three at Donna Nook Mar 20th with one to 22nd, one 27th – 28th, 1-2 Mar 31st – Apr 2nd, Scunthorpe Mar 28th. The first of the autumn was at Gib Point Sep 18th, then Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Oct 12th and 16th, Donna Nook two Oct 15th – 17th and Dec 4th when another was at Covenham Reservoir the latter staying to the 5th.

2006: 18

Spring birds were at Covenham Reservoir Mar 25th – 27th, Freiston Shore 31st, Donna Nook Apr 15th, Gib Point Apr 15th, May 17th, Horncastle Apr 25th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR May 11th – 13th then in summer Hemingby Jul 13th before autumn passage started with one Grainthorpe Haven Oct 14th, Donna Nook two 15th with one to 17th, Gib Point two Oct 15th, two different 16th – 18th, two 21st – 22nd, and finally Donna Nook Dec 23rd.

2007:

Most spring birds were at Gib Point Mar 23rd – 24th, Apr 1st – 5th, May 3rd, the only other being at Saltfleetby NNR Apr 12th. One was at Chowder Ness Barton Aug 11th, Sep 10th and 22nd and Oct 2nd, one Gib Point Oct 19th – 20th and one Donna Nook 21st.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Rare summer visitor and scarce passage migrant in spring, variable numbers in autumn.

2003: s 14 a 30 t 44

One pair bred at site A, a second pair probably bred at site B, four pairs bred at site C and a female was at site D Apr 30th. The first record of the year, a male, came from Gib Point Apr 20th with the first male at breeding site A on Apr 23rd. A very poor autumn passage with about 30 birds recorded on the coast from Aug 19th, Tetney Haven, to Oct 19th, Donna Nook; Tetney Haven Aug 19th, Grainthorpe Marsh Sep 3rd, Pye's Hall Sep 6th, Donna Nook 7th, 11th, Crook Bank Theddlethorpe 27th, 1-2 regular at Donna Nook Oct 6th – 19th, two Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Oct 11th – 18th, Tetney Marsh Oct 13th and two Grainthorpe village Oct 15th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 14th and at Gib Point 1-3 from Jul 13th – Oct 17th (23 bird-days).

2004: s 12 a 37 t 49

Only one bird reported from nesting site A between Apr 27th and May 22nd with a single male at site B Apr 22nd – Jun 16th and two males in song at site C Apr 25th but no actual proof of successful breeding in 2004. A few spring records on the coast with one Humberston Fitties Apr 19th, Donna Nook 25th, male May 1st – 2nd, Gib Point two May 2nd, two 13th and one 11th. In autumn recorded from Aug 11th – Sep 20th at Gib Point with a maximum of 12 on Sep 18th, Pye's Hall Aug 10th, two Pye's Hall – Stonebridge Sep 8th – 9th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR two Sep 7th, Nocton Fen 9th, Donna Nook 1 – 2 10th – 12th, one 16th – 19th, Saltfleetby NNR 23rd, Pye's Hall 26th, Donna Nook Stonebridge 30th, two Humberston Fitties Oct 1st, one 17th and 22nd, Donna Nook Oct 13th and a very late bird at Freiston Shore Nov 7th.

2005: s12 a33 t45

No records from breeding site A but a male again at site B at least May 22nd – Jun 11th; also a singing male in Worlabby Carrs Apr 27th recorded on one day only. An early spring migrant at Gib Point Apr 4th – 5th with another May 14th and other spring birds at Messingham SQ Apr 7th – 11th, Saltfleetby NNR Apr 16th, Market Rasen Apr 18th, Riseholme male Apr 27th, Donna Nook Apr 22nd, May 1st and 3rd and Boultham Mere May 24th. In autumn recorded at Gib Point Aug 21st-Sep 24th with a max of seven Sep 10th and 12th and the last Oct 14th; Pye's Hall Sep 3rd then two or three 9th – 11th, Donna Nook 11th with 1-3 on seven dates in Sep, two Saltfleet 11th, two Anderby Creek 12th, two Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 12th – 15th, Pye's Hall 17th, Donna Nook Oct 6th, 15th and 16th, Crook Bank Theddlethorpe two Oct 14th, Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Oct 15th and Saltfleet Oct 16th.

2006: s 10 a 26 t 36

At breeding site B a male in song May 5th – Jun 4th at least and two birds seen 16th with two birds reported at a new site E on May 23rd. In spring the first was at Broughton Apr 14th with one Gib Point 15th, singles 21st, 22nd and May 5th with one Freiston Shore Apr 22nd. In autumn three inland records, one Messingham SQ Aug 14th with a male Friskney Marsh 23rd, two Marston STW Sep 9th, then on the coast Gib Point 1-2 Sep 5th – 30th three 22nd, with a late bird Oct 15th, Saltfleet Sep 16th, Donna Nook seven Sep 16th, five 17th, one 20th, three 23rd – 24th, singles 30th, Oct 14th and 16th.

2007: s 18 a 27 t 45

A pair bred fledging two young at site B but there were no other breeding season reports. On the coast spring records came from Gib Point Apr 13th, six 14th, three 15th-16th, May 17th with a female Jun 21st and an unusual summer record of an immature male Jul 15th; also in spring at Donna Nook Apr 22nd, Saltfleetby NNR 25th, Baston Fen NR 26th and West Ashby male May 20th. In autumn recorded from Gib Point Aug 15th – Oct 1st 1-3 with five Aug 24th and Sep 29th; Donna Nook three Aug 24th, Freiston Shore 26th, Boston Haven Sep 27th, Chapel Six Marshes 29th, Theddlethorpe Sep 30th, two Donna Nook Oct 2nd, three 4th, two 5th and one 6th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant. Formerly bred.

2003: s 11 a 62 t 73

In spring the first migrant was at Cleethorpes Apr 16th with further records two Horseshoe Point Apr 18th, two Saltfleetby NNR Apr 26th, female Barton May 3rd, one Bonby Top May 4th singles Donna Nook May 5th, 9th, one Gib Point May 9th and Saxby Wold May 16th. In autumn recorded from Jul 27th at Gib Point with records there to Oct 5th and peaks of nine Aug 23rd and eight 31st; elsewhere on the coast two Saltfleetby NNR Aug 2nd, 26th, three 28th, Donna Nook Aug 9th, two 26th, two Sep 5th, 11 on 6th, 11th, four 12th, Tetney Marsh Sep 14th with birds in the Wash at Freiston Shore Aug 30th, three 31st, Witham Mouth Aug 30th, two Frampton Marsh Sep 1st and two Holbeach Marsh Sep 14th; inland records included Goxhill Aug 23rd, Barton Waters' Edge Aug 30th, Sep 2nd, 10th, two Marston STW Sep 13th – 14th, Risby Warren Sep 19th and Trent Port Marton Sep 20th.

2004: s 12 a 116 t 128

A similar spring passage to 2003 after the first at Alkborough Flats Apr 25th, May 15th, all singles Donna Nook Apr 26th, May 2nd – 3rd, South Ferriby May 2nd, Saltfleetby NNR May 7th, Nocton Fen May 15th, Gib Point May 15th, 17th, Tetney Marsh May 20th, Humberston Fitties May 24th and Tetney Blow Wells May 24th. In autumn recorded from Aug 10th when three at Donna Nook and subsequent records there of nine Sep 7th, 11 8th, two 9th – 12th, five 13th, three 19th, four 23rd, two 26th, two Oct 2nd, singles 3rd and 20th, Gib Point maximum 14 Aug 28th, 11 Sep 22nd with the last Sep 23rd; Tetney Marsh Aug 18th, 27th, Sep 1st, three 12th, 18th, Saltfleetby NNR four Sep 7th – 8th, five 9th, four 11th, six 12th, 13th – 14th, eight 22nd, 30th, Oct 5th, Grainthorpe Haven Aug 18th, two Huttoft Sep 29th, three Oct 2nd, two Mogg's Eye Aug 30th, two Skegness Sep 7th and inland birds at Winteringham Haven three Aug 16th, two 28th, Barton Wolds Aug 17th, Waters' Edge 18th, Sep 1st, Worlaby Carrs Sep 3rd, three 4th, RAF Waddington Sep 14th, Butterwick Hale Sep 19th, Roughton Sep 19th and Atwick Fen Sep 26th.

2005: s 17 a 98 t 115

The first of the spring were at Marston STW and Barton male Apr 29th with further birds at Barton male May 2nd, male in song Waters' Edge 8th, Gib Point Apr 30th, Donna Nook Apr 30th, May 1st, three 3rd, Deeping High Bank May 1st, Ashby Ville May 1st, Saltfleetby NNR May 1st, three Cowbit Wash May 1st and one Marshchapel May 15th; one or two at Gib Point in autumn with other coastal birds at Saltfleetby NNR four Sep 6th, three 11th, two 12th, five 15th, Donna Nook 16 on Aug 31st, three Sep 1st, 10 on 4th, seven 5th, two 10th, six 11th, two Humberston Fitties Aug 30th, Huttoft Sep 9th, three Theddlethorpe Aug 31st, Saltfleet Sep 11th, five North Cotes Point Sep 12th, Tetney Marsh Sep 6th, Wolla Bank Sep 16th in the Wash two Frampton Marsh Aug 22nd, six 23rd – 24th, six 29th, two Holbeach Marsh Aug 21st, 23rd, Freiston Shore Aug 23rd while inland singles were at Dorrington Sep 12th, Tattershall Pits Sep 13th, Covenham Reservoir Sep 16th, Baston Fen Sep 17th and Ashby Ville Sep 20th.

2006: s 8 a 74 t 82

A rather poor spring following an early bird at Donna Nook Apr 2nd with the next there 22nd then one Fulbeck Apr 23rd, two May 2nd, Whisby NP Apr 29th and Saltfleetby NNR May 6th, 11th – 12th. Also fewer birds in autumn than in the previous three years; on the coast a maximum of eight at Gib Point Sep 7th with the last Oct 15th; Saltfleetby NNR Sep 4th – 5th, Oct 12th, Donna Nook Sep 10th, four 16th, four 17th, five 18th, two 23rd, nine 24th, Oct 1st, Saltfleet three Sep 9th, Humberston Fitties Sep 17th, Saltfleet Haven Sep 16th; in the Wash singles Freiston Shore Aug 19th, 23rd – 24th, two Friskney Marsh Aug 23rd, four 27th, three Sep 23rd, Frampton Marsh Aug 25th, two 27th, Witham Mouth two Aug 27th and inland Nocton Fen Aug 20th, Trent Port Marton two Sep 4th, three 6th, Barton Chowder Ness Sep 21st and Worlaby Carrs Sep 29th.

2007: s 25 a 70 t 95

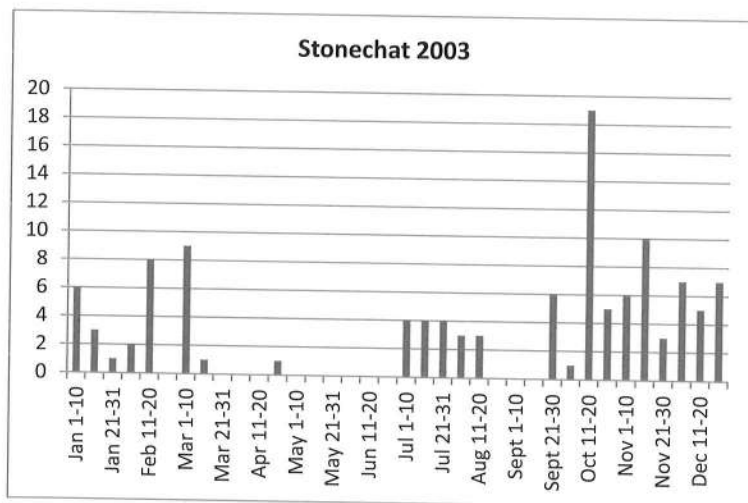
A notable spring passage with birds on seven dates at Gib Point Apr 21st – May 29th a peak of four May 14th, two Saltfleetby NNR Apr 23rd, 25th, May 12th, three 13th, South Ferriby male Apr 24th, Theddlethorpe Apr 25th, two Humberston Fitties Apr 29th, three Freiston Shore Apr 29th, River Welland Spalding May 12th, Donna Nook May 13th and Barton Waters' Edge May 19th. In autumn two inland at Worlaby Carrs Jul 22nd, singles Gib Point from Jul 7th with a maximum of 14 Aug 24th, three Donna Nook Aug 24th, Oct 6th, four Saltfleetby NNR Aug 24th, 25th, Cleethorpes Aug 24th, Sep 29th, Freiston Shore Aug 8th – 25th maximum ten 24th – 25th, Sep 19th, 27th, 29th, three Oct 5th, 21st, Digby Fen two Jul 31st, one Aug 3rd, Trent Port Marton Aug 13th, 29th, Frampton Marsh two Aug 15th, 26th, Sep 22nd, Oct 21st, Swanpool Aug 17th, 27th and Toft Newton Reservoir Sep 29th.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr. Sporadic breeder.

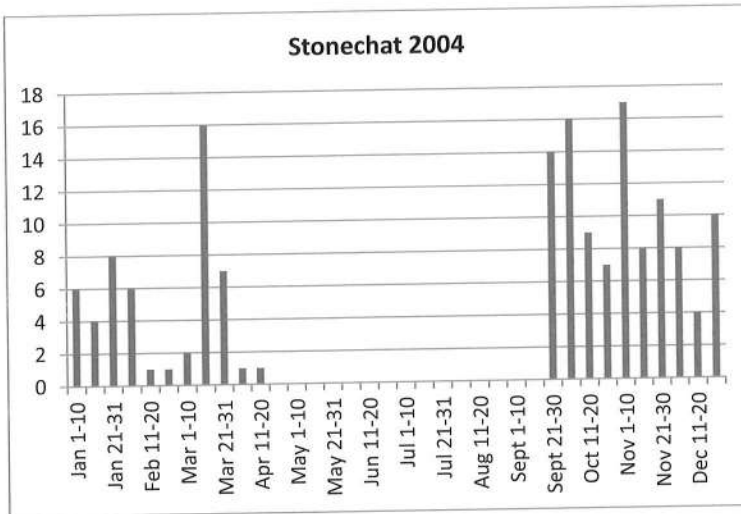
2003:

Noted between Jan and Mar 13th with one Sea View Saltfleetby NNR Apr 25th; a pair bred at Witheringham Ings fledging two juveniles Jul 4th – Aug 16th. The first of the autumn Sep 23rd with maxima of eight Gib Point max Oct 17th, five East Halton Skitter Nov 19th, four Risby Warren Sep 30th.



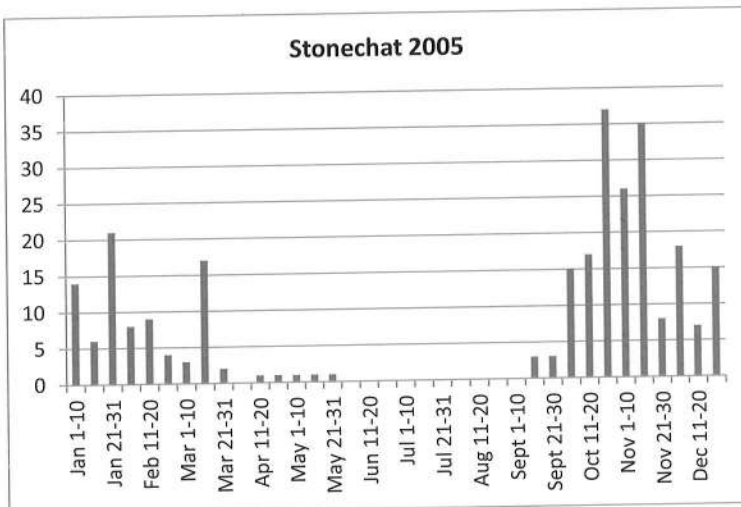
2004:

In the first half of the year recorded to Apr 14th Messingham SQ with a peaks of five East Halton Skitter Jan 25th and six Barton Pits Mar 16th and 10 there 17th, In autumn from Sep 24th Gib Point and Donna Nook with maxima of six Gib Point Oct 1st and 8th.



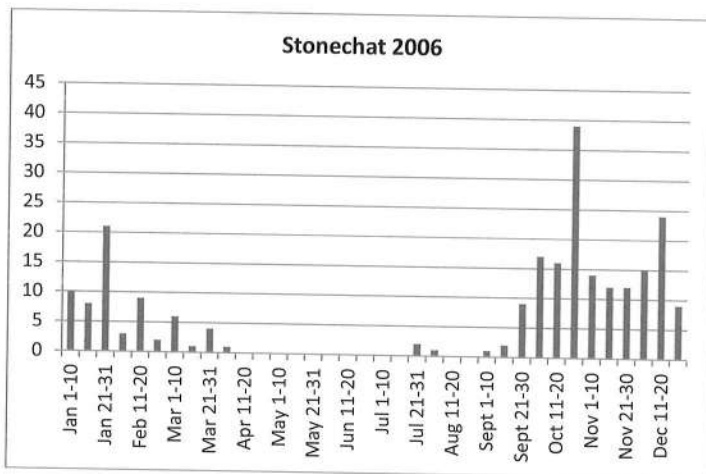
2005:

Noted to Mar 28th with one Ashby Ville Lake Apr 14th to May 19th and one Frampton Marsh May 30th. The first of the autumn at North Cotes Point Sep 12th then maxima of 10 Gib Point Oct 20th and a record site count of 18 Worlabby Carrs Nov 17th.



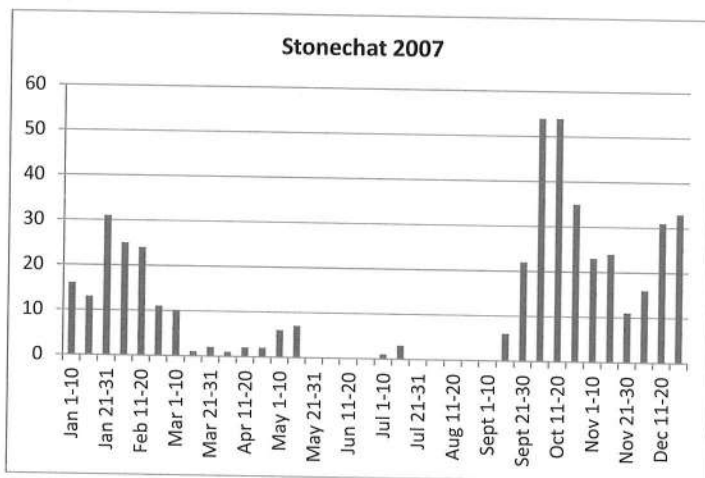
2006:

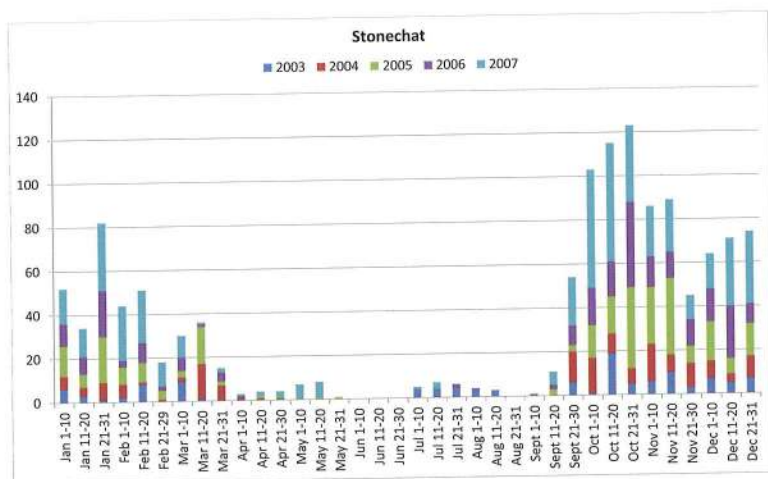
Recorded to Apr 2nd with up to five Gib Point - Seacroft Jan and four Sandilands Feb 16th; one at Gib Point Jul 29th, one Caythorpe Jul 30th, Freiston Shore Aug 10th and the first real autumn birds from Sep 9th at Gib Point with peaks there of 10 on Oct 23rd and eight Nov 11th - 13th, four Alkborough Flats Sep 30th, eight Chapel Point Oct 24th, five Heighington Fen Oct 27th, four Hawthorpe Oct 29th, five Frampton Marsh Nov 5th, five Worlaby Carrs from Nov 18th and four Marston STW Dec 17th.



2007:

Recorded to Mar 28th with a juvenile Garthorpe May 24th and spring peaks of eight Gib Point Mar 2nd, two Apr 21st and a male May 4th with seven Worlaby Carrs Jan - Feb, five Lincoln West Common Feb 6th, and up to four at several sites; one at Barton Pits Jul 9th; a family of male female and juvenile Crowle Moors Jul 14th confirmed local breeding, while a pair fledged four young on Risby Warren on May 7th. The first autumn birds from Sep 5th Worlaby Carrs with a new record maximum count at Gib Point of 31 birds on Oct 1st by far the highest ever total for the county. Other maxima of note were nine Garthorpe Oct 7th, eight Worlaby Carrs Oct 27th with nine there Dec 30th and up to four again at several sites.





Ashy-headed Wagtail *M. f. cinereocapilla* Covenham Res Apr 12th - 13th 2006 © Roy Harvey

Grey-headed Wagtail *M. f. thunbergi*
Rare and irregular spring migrant. LBRC

2003:
Barton Waters' Edge male May 17th (GPC)

Black-headed Wagtail *Montacilla flava feldegg*
Vagrant: BBRC

2004: 1 First record for Lincolnshire
Holbeach Marsh male Jun 4th (JJG) BB 100-2 p77



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (Channel Wagtail) Gib Point Apr 2006 © Russell Hayes

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

First record 1887, singles 1912 and 1951 with 143 birds recorded 1967 – 2002 inclusive; most Sep – Dec with obvious peak in late Oct; 4 spring records and has over-wintered twice.
LBRC



Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* Pye's Hall Oct 20th 2007 © Graham Catley

2003: 3

One flew over Bagmoor Floods, Winterton, on Oct 21st (ND) with additional singles at Tetney Marsh Oct 23rd (GAM) and Donna Nook Nov 8th (SL).

2004: 1

A bird at Gib Point May 16th – 20th (KMW et al) was the first spring record for reserve and the only record of the year.

2005: 7

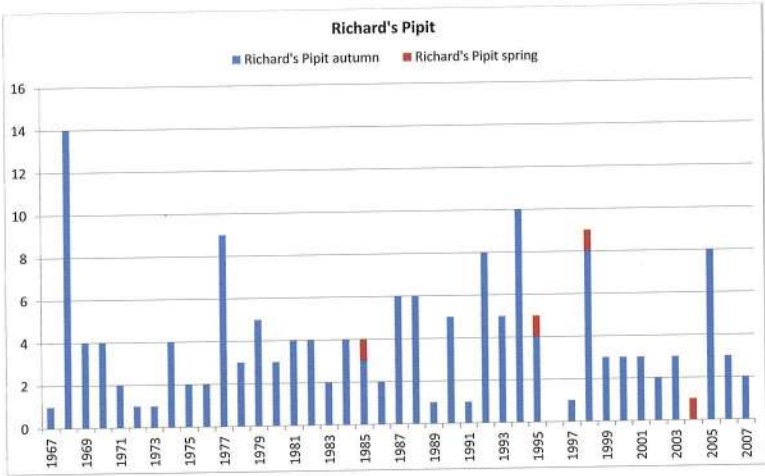
A notable year with seven records. The first was at Gib Point Sep 11th (KMW) and another there Oct 6th (SML), one Anderby Creek Oct 3rd (SML), one Rimac Oct 10th (JRW), singles Pye's Hall Oct 16th (GPC et al), Donna Nook Oct 25th (SL) and Nov 5th (SL) and Rimac Saltfleetby NNR 29th (JRW).

2006: 2

Just two records at Gib Point Sep 30th (KMW) and inland at Baston-Langtoft Pits Nov 4th (JJ).

2007: 2

Another poor year with just two records again at Gib Point Oct 3rd (KMW, DJM) and Saltfleet Haven Oct 19th – 21st (GW et al).



Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* Pye's Hall Oct 20th 2007 © Dean Eades

Olive-backed Pipit
Skegness

18/10/03. 10.45 am

bold white super, buff
in front of eye

darkish border to
crown

obvious dark &
light spot on rear
ear-coverts

diffuse
olive fringes
to tertials

Very bold
spotting to
breast

flank streaking
slightly stronger than
a normal Tree Pipit

light buff wash to
breast continuing down
flanks

fine dark
streaking to olive crown

olive-green uppers
only faintly streaked.

broad white tips
to median coverts, pale
buff tips to G.coverts

10.45 am in
a back garden
on Derby Avenue.

bright pinky-
red legs.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Vagrant: First record 1980 with subsequent records in 1990 (2), 1992, 2000 and 2001

BBRC

2003: 1

Skegness Oct 18th – 20th (KDD, DMJ, J.Wr et al) (fig.5) BB 97-11 591-92

Surprisingly the seventh Lincolnshire record but the first to be widely available to birders. This bird fitted well into the established occurrence pattern with the seven records all being between Sep 26th and Nov 7th but four of these have been in the three day period Oct 18th – 20th so a clear window for OBP finders is established.



Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Skegness Oct 18th - 20th 2003 © Neil Smith



Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Skegness Oct 18th - 20th 2003 © JT Harriman

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

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

Always an elusive and localised species Water Pipits clearly have quite specific habitat requirements and are capable of avoiding detection for long periods while wintering in coastal habitats with the submitted records typically reflecting lucky encounters. There does though appear to be a light spring passage in late Mar and early Apr in most years and occasional late autumn arrivals may also be passage birds.

2003: 11

One was recorded at Gib Point on a few dates between Jan 25th and Apr 11th with two on Mar 2nd and 13th and three on Feb 4th; one was at Saltfleetby NNR Jan 15th, two on the foreshore between New Holland and Goxhill Haven Feb 9th and a spring bird at Butterwick Hale on Apr 13th, in the latter year one Kirton Marsh Nov 1st with one Tetney Marsh Dec 7th and two Gib Point Dec 28th – 31st.

2004: 23

An increase in the number of birds recorded on 2003 but from fewer locations; one was at Donna Nook Jan 10th with singles at Gib Point Jan 6th and 11th, Mar 13th and Apr 3rd with two Apr 9th; up to four were at Tetney Lock Jan to Apr 16th; six birds were feeding on heaps of washed up tide wrack at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Mar 7th, while six were at East Halton Skitter Mar 10th with four in summer plumage 31st; in the late year just one at East Halton Skitter Nov 30th – Dec 15th and one Gib Point Dec 1st – 28th.

2005: 17

Most records were in the second half of the year with only three in the first period at East Halton Skitter Jan 10th and 21st, Baston Fen Feb 5th and Gib Point Apr 15th; two were at Tetney Marsh Dec 1st – 10th, seven at East Halton Skitter Nov 9th with two there 14th and five 18th, up to four Wyberton Marsh Dec 4th to 31st, one Donna Nook Dec 5th – 29th and one Gib Point Dec 15th.

2006: 43

Singles were at Gib Point Jan 3rd, 17th, Mar 14th with two 24th, singles 25th and 31st and Apr 1st – 8th; one or two were at Tetney Marsh Jan with seven on Mar 31st, at Frampton Marsh 1-2 Jan to the 28th with one Apr 1st, two Tamworth Green, near Fishtoft Jan 15th, three Witham Mouth Mar 19th with three Freiston Shore Mar 20th – 22nd and one 27th, one Baston-Langtoft Pits Apr 1st – 2nd, two Donna Nook Apr 7th and one inland at Epworth Turbary Apr 24th. In the later year singles were at Gib Point Nov 7th and 9th and Dec 2nd – 28th with one Frampton Marsh Nov 13th, two Donna Nook Dec 23rd, five East Halton Skitter Dec 2nd with two 31st, one Alkborough Flats Dec 16th – 30th and three Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Dec 23rd – 24th.

2007: 33

Another good year with a notable early arrival in the late winter period at widespread sites; early winter birds were at Alkborough Flats, one Jan 1st – 14th, up to four Donna Nook in Jan with one or two to mid-Feb then seven Feb 24th but just one 25th and one Apr 22nd; up to four were at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Jan to Feb 9th, one Tetney Lock Jan 15th with two Mar 16th, four East Halton Skitter Feb 25th, one Saltfleet Mar 11th, singles at Gib Point Jan to Mar 27th and one Freiston Shore Apr 22nd. Rather scarce in the later year with one Alkborough Flats Oct 21st to Dec 23rd, one Donna Nook Oct 27th, one Nov 24th and two or three Dec 1st – 8th, while two at Rimac Saltfleetby NNR Nov 1st, one Tetney Lock Oct 21st, singles at Gib Point Nov 3rd – Dec 18th and one Cleethorpes Nov 2nd.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

Vagrant: First Lincolnshire record below. BBRC

2005: 1 First Lincolnshire record

Wyberton/Frampton Marsh Dec 5th – 13th, Jan 24th – 29th 2006 (PRF et al) BB 100-2 p76 plate 26

2006:

Wyberton/Frampton Marsh Jan 24th – 29th (see above).



Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* Wyberton/Frampton Marsh Dec 5th - 13th and Jan 24th - 29th 2006 © Garry Taylor



Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* Wyberton/Frampton Marsh Dec 5th - 13th and Jan 24th - 29th 2006 © Garry Taylor

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Vagrant: First record 1975 subsequent records 1976, 1982, 1986, 1990-91 (five records of eight birds) and 1995-96 (six records of 13 birds)

BBRC to end of 2005: LBRC 2006 onwards

2006: 1

Barton Waters' Edge first-summer Mar 25th- 28th (GPC et al).

With 15 previous records involving 25 birds all of which have been of the form *C. h. exilipes* Cous's Arctic Redpoll, this species appears to be relatively frequent but the two major influxes in 1990 – 1991 and 1995 – 1996 account for most of the records and the species is particularly rare in other years. The 2006 bird arrived at the same location where a male Common Redpoll had been present all winter and with a few Lesser Redpolls also present it was possible to see three species of redpoll at one location on a good day.



Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* Barton first-summer at Waters' Edge Mar 25th- 28th 2006
© Graham Catley



Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* Barton first-summer at Waters' Edge Mar 25th- 28th 2006
© Graham Catley

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Rare breeding species not confirmed every year; scarce to common passage migrant prone to large scale irruptions

2003:

In the north of the county there were excellent numbers of crossbills in the spring and summer with probable breeding at one location and probable local breeding having taken place at a second site; at Broughton Woods there were a minimum of 92 and probably 129 May 28th with two family parties with seven fledged juveniles still food begging; in Laughton Forest three pairs probably bred and there were 80 Mar 21st, 33 Apr 30th and 17 May 9th; at Twigmoor Woods 30 were present Jan – mid Feb, 16 May and 33 Jul 8th while 10 were at Normanby Park Mar 27th; in addition to these records up to 15 were at Kirkby Moor / Ostler's plantation Feb 14th – May 11th, four Bagmoor Floods Mar 11th, six Haverholme Plantation Mar 23rd, two west over Waters' Edge Barton May 30th, ten Linwood Warren Mar 23rd, 20 Twyford Woods May 26th and 28 Willingham Woods Mar 11th; on the coast at Gib Point records included 11 Mar 30th, 20 May 11th, with 52 bird days and 1-6 mid May – early Sep with 19 Jun 1st and later four Nov 21st.

2004:

At least one pair probably bred in Laughton Forest with seven present in Mar and 10 including three fledged juveniles Apr 11th; a pair was also at Twigmoor Woods Apr 12th; at Kirkby Moor up to 15 were present Jan 30th to Mar 28th, two Linwood Warren Feb 8th and one there Nov 30th, up to 15 Willingham Woods Jan with two (a female and juvenile) May 3rd juvenile, three Swanholme Lakes Feb 9th, two Walesby Mar 4th, three Whisby NP Jul 13th and one Tetney Blow Wells Oct 26th; on the coast recorded at Gib Point two Jul 6th – 9th, three 12th, one 13th and one Nov 6th.

2005:

There was no suggestion of breeding in the northern forests but breeding was confirmed at Willingham Woods where there were up to 15 birds in the early part of the year then a major arrival with 70 Jun 13th – 14th and 30 on 15th with 25 on 16th but none then until ten on Dec 17th; at Walesby 15 on Aug 30th with 25 Nov 23rd and then up to 25 to late Dec; there were no records in the north until a typical mid-summer influx in Jun with 16 Laughton Forest Jun 22nd then later in the year 30 there Nov 7th, 21 Nov 27th and 19 Dec 12th; elsewhere recorded from Baston-Langtoft Pits two Jun 25th, Bardney Forest Oct 14th, Grimsby Jul 11th, Morkery Wood four Oct 15th, Messingham 13 Jul 3rd, Nettleton c25 Nov 15th, Owlet Plantation Jan 23rd, Skellingthorpe Old Wood Jun 9th, Stenigot 20 Jul 10th; on the coast at Gib Point singles Jan 21st, Apr 3rd and 17th with records from mid-May to late Aug and a maximum of 19 May 28th then in autumn five Oct 15th, three 29th, one Nov 4th and three 5th; one Saltfleetby NNR Oct 14th, Crook Bank Theddlethorpe Nov 5th, Saltfleet Oct 14th and two Tetney Oct 31st.

2006:

All records fell between Jan 1st and Jun 24th with none in the last six month of the year; the majority of the records in Jan – Mar were in the Market Rasen area, Willingham, Walesby woods and Linwood Warren where there were at least 120 birds with a later peak of 150 in late May; in the north of the county eight were at Briggate Lodge Jan 29th and in Laughton Forest up to four were noted Feb to Mar with 25 Mar 29th when a female was nest building and breeding seemed to be proven when a party of 14 on Apr 23rd included newly fledged juveniles with 18 present on Apr 29th; elsewhere records came from Covenham Reservoir four on Jun 13th, Kirkby Moor 25 Apr 17th and three 28th, Messingham SQ Mar 29th with a good series of coastal records at Gib Point four Mar 18th up to six Apr 17th to Jun 13th with 14 May 17th, 40 19th, 20 May 31st to Jun 1st and 1-3 from then to Jun 24th and just one other record of 20 at North Somercotes Warren May 14th.

2007:

After the excellent numbers present in 2006 the 2007 total was one of the worst for many years with only the following noted; one Market Rasen Feb 9th, ten Twigmoor Jun 5th, seven Messingham SQ Jul 8th, one Whisby NP Aug 9th, one Laughton Forest Oct 18th at Gib Point 1-5 Apr 8th to Jun 4th and one Nov 3rd and nine west at Barton Pits Nov 6th; with two 11th.



Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* Saltfleetby NNR Oct 6th 2003 © Barry Clarkson

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May – Jun and Aug – Oct. LBRC, RBBP

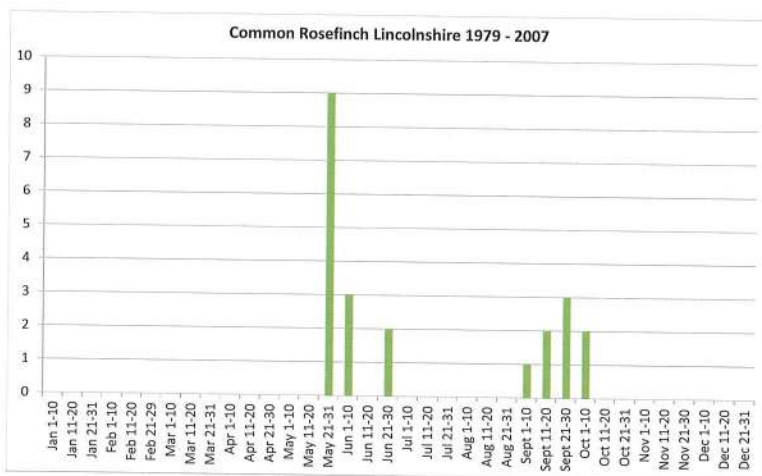
2003: 3

A singing male was found at Barrow Haven on Jun 4th (GPC). In the autumn a juvenile was at Saltfleetby, Sea View from Sep 29th to Oct 7th (BMC,MJT et al) and one at Gib Point Oct 2nd (KMW).

2007: 1

A young male was Gib Point on Jun 1st (KMW).

There were 17 previous records following the first as recently as 1979 and the records are highly clustered in time and location with no fewer than 13 of the 20 records coming from Gib Point, two from Donna Nook, one at nearby North Somercotes Warren, two at Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe NNR and one at Barrow Haven noted above.



Northern Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Vagrant and scarce passage migrant.

2003:

Birds considered to be of this form were at Gib Point female Oct 28th, two on 30th and a female Nov 15th.



Northern Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Gib Point female Oct 28th 2003 © Graham Catley

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Formerly a rare breeding bird but no recent confirmed breeding records; now a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

2003: 12

The yew trees in Scawby Park produced early spring records with two on Feb 10th then nine from 12th – 13th, three on 16th, seven on 19th and singles Mar 11th and 15th. The only other records were at Gib Point with singles Oct 30th Nov 2nd and Nov 10th.

2004: 16

In Scawby Park there was a peak count of 14 on Feb 15th then one on 18th, 10 on 26th, two on Apr 3rd with one on 12th and three 16th – 20th. Elsewhere there were singles over Laughton Forest Apr 11th and Theddlethorpe Apr 13th.

2005: 5

None were found at Scawby in 2005. Single birds were recorded in spring at Hubbard's Hills Mar 28th and Donna Nook 31st with autumn records at Donna Nook Oct 17th and singles at Temple Wood 24th and Kelsby 28th.



Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Broughton Woods Feb 28th 2006
© Graham Catley

2006: 30

There was a notable influx in the early year with the largest wintering flock at Briggate Lodge, near Broughton where there were up to 12 birds from Feb 5th to Mar 3rd. Nearby at Scawby Park one was seen on Jan 29th and five Feb 26th. Other birds were seen at Temple Wood Jan 2nd and 15th, Roughton Jan 6th to Apr 1st, Boultham Park Feb 20th, Haverholme Park up to five from Feb 25th to Mar 5th, two Martin Moor Mar 19th, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Mar 6th, Gib Point Apr 1st and Donna Nook May 9th. No records in the second winter period.

2007: 1

One at Saltfleetby on Feb 9th was the only record.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce local passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Rare inland.

2003: 130

In the first winter period there were excellent numbers between Pye's Hall and Donna Nook with up to 70 Jan then 50 Feb but just one Mar 21st; very scarce elsewhere with four Humberston Fitties Tetney Marsh Mar 17th, one Gib Point Feb 25th, one Freiston Shore Jan 5th and four Feb 7th; maxima at Frampton Marsh of two Jan, one Feb and 10 Mar plus one Witham Mouth Mar 3rd; in the late year recorded from Sep 29th at Gib Point with 1-3 there to Nov 24th and from Oct 14th at Donna Nook with seven then eight Nov 18th and two Dec 29th, Humberston Fitties up to four Oct 29th - Dec 15th, Saltfleet one Oct 26th, three at least Nov 10th, Saltfleetby NNR up to 11 Nov - Dec 29th, Butterwick Marsh Nov 15th, Frampton Marsh one Dec, Kirton Marsh three Oct 26th and inland two in Worlaby Carrs Nov 12th with singles there 28th and Dec 26th.

2004: 84

In the first winter period up to eight were at Tetney Marsh Jan - Feb 14th, up to nine Saltfleetby NNR Jan and one Mar 12th, up to seven Donna Nook Jan 1st - 25th, eight Grainthorpe Marsh Feb 1st, singles Gib Point Jan 9th and 24th, Freiston Shore Jan 18th, Feb 22nd, Kirton Marsh Jan 25th, Witham Mouth Feb 20th and inland at Worlaby Carrs Feb 18th and Mar 14th; in the latter year recorded from Sep 24th when two at Saltfleetby NNR with three there Nov 13th and two 27th, up to three Humberston Fitties pools Oct 1st - Dec 6th, three Gib Point Oct 16th with two 30th - 31st and singles Nov 7th and Dec 9th, Witham Mouth Nov 14th and 28th, Grainthorpe Marsh Nov - Dec max 13 Dec 24th, Donna Nook from Oct 29th max 10 Nov 21st and one Saltfleet Nov 2nd.

2005: 58

A very poor first winter period with three singles at Gib Point in Feb, one Mar 13th and three Apr 8th, up to five at Donna Nook Jan up to two Tetney Marsh Jan and four Wainfleet Marsh Jan 15th. The first autumn arrivals were two at Gib Point Sep 16th with four singles in Oct, two Nov 13th, one 15th and one Dec 15th, two Tetney Marsh Nov 27th, one Dec 11th, up to three Donna Nook from Oct 9th to Dec 28th, two North Cotes Nov 16th and 27th, one Saltfleetby NNR Oct 26th, two Nov 15th - 20th and four 22nd, three Saltfleet Nov 1st, two Freiston Shore Oct 22nd, one 23rd, up to eight Frampton Marsh Nov 29th - Dec 15th, one Grainthorpe Marsh Dec 4th one Wingland Marsh Dec 1st, singles Witham Mouth Dec 3rd, Wyberton Marsh Dec 17th - 18th, inland one Worlaby Carrs Nov 13th and a male at Pyewipe Dec 21st.

2006: 90

In the early winter three were at Pyewipe Jan 16th with one Feb 1st, four Gib Point Jan 17th and singles Feb 18th and Apr 16th, Donna Nook Jan 22nd, three Saltfleet Jan 31st, two Grainthorpe Marsh Jan 18th, one Freiston Shore Jan 14th - 17th but the highest counts were at Frampton Marsh where there were up to 23 Jan, 10 Feb and one Mar 25th. In autumn an early bird was at Gib Point Sep 10th then singles 17th, 28th, Oct 30th, eight Nov 9th and two Dec 9th; two Frampton Marsh Oct 10th, two Nov 14th, five Dec 9th and four 18th, up to four at Freiston Shore from Oct 10th - Dec 26th, two Saltfleet Oct 24th - 28th, one Grainthorpe Marsh Oct 6th, two Dec 17th - 22nd, two Donna Nook Oct 21st, Nov 5th, five Saltfleetby NNR Dec 9th, one 16th, two Tetney Marsh Dec 1st, two Horseshoe Point Nov 19th, seven Dec 17th and inland one Alkborough Flats Dec 9th - 30th.

2007: 65

Limited numbers again in the first winter period with the highest count of 10 Freiston Shore Jan 5th and singles there to Feb 28th, up to nine at Saltfleetby NNR Jan - Feb, two Horseshoe Point Jan 21st, one 27th, one Donna Nook Jan 2nd, five Feb 4th, Gib Point Feb 17th, Frampton Marsh Jan 6th, three Witham Mouth Jan 21st and one inland at Alkborough Flats Jan 1st - 7th. In the second winter period from Sep 20th Saltfleetby NNR with singles to Nov 4th and Sep 29th when

one flew south at Sandilands then at Frampton Marsh from Sep 25th up to four to Dec 31st, Gib Point 1-3 Sep 27th – Dec 31st, two Grainthorpe Haven Sep 29th, three Oct 31st one North Cotes Point Sep 29th, Witham Mouth Sep 29th with a maximum there of four Nov 25th, Freiston Shore from Oct 6th to Dec 15th, two Donna Nook Oct 31st then up to five to Dec, Tetney Marsh Nov 13th, three Nov 26th, Saltfleet Nov 4th, two Wyberton Marsh Nov 4th, one Dec 31st and one again inland at Alkborough Flats Nov 25th to Dec 2nd.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant: First record 1951 with subsequent records in 1954, 1980, 1996 (2), 2000 and 2002 BBRC to end 1993: LBRC

2004:

1

Skegness north shore golf course Oct 20th – 23rd (JWt, KDD, DMJ et al).

2005:

Gib Point Sep 25th – 26th (EJM, KMW) the second for Gib.

Records range from Sep 19th to Oct 25th with a winter record at Boston on Dec 4th 1980 so this 2004 record falls at the end of the expected autumn passage period but emphasises the rarity of the species in Lincolnshire in comparison with neighbouring counties of Norfolk and Yorkshire.



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* Skegness Oct 20th - 23rd 2004 © John Wright

FINDERS' REPORTS

Booted Warbler at Donna Nook September 6th 2003



A forecast of south-easterly winds on September 5th 2003 tempted GPC to try Donna Nook in the hope of a small fall but as the weather on arrival was a strong south-south-westerly with hot sunshine the hoped for fall was indeed small – two Whinchats and three Willow Warblers. The same afternoon Roy Harvey managed to add a Pied Flycatcher and a Garden Warbler to the day's tally so when Neil Drinkall and Craig Nimmick suggested another visit on the Saturday I was eventually convinced that it might be worth it, but was far from hopeful.

CN, ND, Keith Parker and myself arrived at Stonebridge car park, Donna Nook at 07:30 on the 6th having driven through heavy rain but the wind seemed to be north-west! The first four-hour foray to

Pye's Hall revealed a Redstart, three Whinchats, a Wheatear and three Willow Warblers – it was not looking good. After a slow lunch we decided on a walk to the RAF trees at Ponderosa in the hope of a Pied Fly. After gaining permission to explore the seemingly bird free trees we were warned of an afternoon barbeque and function all of which enhanced the feeling of depression. Having seen no more birds we spread out along the edge of some dead elders and buckthorn backing the sand dunes; after a few minutes CN picked up a warbler that he though looked interesting and very pale. We were all soon with him but two Whitethroats, a Blackcap and three Dunnocks were about the size of it then I picked up a sandy looking warbler sat in a dead elder which at first glance reminded me of a Desert Warbler. It was being chased about by the Blackcap and all of the birds in the loose flock seemed unsettled. After some more brief views at about 60m range with only bins I was beginning to think it must be a Booted Warbler but views were poor, then the whole flock seemed to move off through the scrub and disappear to the north. In case the birds were moving off along the dune ridge we quickly moved round onto the edge of the beach and started to scan the scrub. There was little action so I walked further north and into the low sea buckthorn where almost immediately I flushed a warbler from near my feet but as it flew into some low scrub its prominent white outer tail feathers and apparently long tail made me suggest it might have just been a Whitethroat. Very quickly though it worked its way to the front of the scrub and peered out giving me a head on view which brought the exclamation ITS A BOOTED! As soon as it appeared it then disappeared into the dense buckthorn and the other three had not yet had a decent view of it. Moving onto a concrete gun emplacement I picked it up again in some dead ragwort and ND and KP obtained decent views before it again went into the buckthorn. Now convinced it was a Booted (or Sykes) we rang all the local Lincs birders but due to the imminent function in the RAF base we were concerned about making it too public in case the bird went back into the RAF bushes. I could not remember the full features of Sykes Warbler but the underparts of our bird looked very white and the bill and tail appeared long at times. Billy Simpson was by chance passing on the beach side so we called him over and soon got into the Booted - Syke's debate over several mobile phone calls. In the meantime the warbler showed intermittently in the low buckthorn where it fed close to the ground but from about 20-25m range.

It now seemed fairly settled so we put the word out with the caveat that Syke's had not been ruled out at this stage but messages on pagers tended to suggest that it was only a probable Booted for which we have been chastised by many birders!

By 16:30 the bird was not showing any better so the four of us decided to head south to look for a Red-backed Shrike seen earlier in the day by Steve Lorand. While making the unsuccessful search for the shrike Dave Hursthouse arrived from Spurn – having been in touch with Andrew Lassey he confirmed that our bird was indeed a Booted and Syke's was ruled out. Checking the literature later we all agreed with the expected ID. A phone call from Andy Sims informed us that the Booted was showing extremely well on the track side by the beach so we sprinted back to find the bird feeding in daisies and dead ragwort along the edge of the main beach side path where we watched it for another 90 minutes and where I obtained a series of photos.

Description:

In direct comparison with Whitethroat it appeared of similar size but more truncated. Posture made its general appearance vary over time. When first seen it appeared long tailed and long-billed, the latter possibly accentuated by the damp head feathers noted in early observations. Later when feeding on the ground the tail was shorter and square tipped, the bill tip tilted and the overall impression became more *Phylloscopus* like. At no time did it look *Acrocephalus* like.

The overall colour of the upperparts appeared to vary considerably with the light and also with reflections from the vegetation in which it was feeding. In bright sun it looked very pale washed out sandy the classic milk tea but in shade and when in green vegetation it often looked much more grey tinged. The underparts usually looked strikingly white but when observed from very close range and in duller light they appeared more creamy with a very faint tinge of buff on the upper breast near the carpal.

Bill – fine and quite pointed not out of proportion with the head - upper mandible dark with orangey-pink cutting edge – lower mandible pale horn to orangey-pink with a small dark smudge on the underside just before the tip.

Head quite well patterned especially in flat light when contrast accentuated – crown pale milky brown to sandy brown fading into a paler nape – a well marked pale creamy supercilium extended from the bill (where appeared to bridge culmen) back to eye where kinked upwards and broadened behind eye fading out at the rear of the ear-coverts – above the supercilia were marked darker brown coronal stripes which again varied in prominence with the light but were always visible – lores pale brown broken by the dark eye but continuing behind the eye as a dark upper border to the ear-coverts – lower edge of ear-coverts pale brown but darker than the creamy centres to the ear-coverts forming a darker front border – chin, throat and underparts white to cream with a faint buff wash near the carpal. Upperparts all pale sandy tinged brown. On the closed wing the large alula feather was consistently the darkest feature (see photos). Centres of greater coverts and tertials darker brown than edges which were paler faint buff – edges of flight feathers same milky brown as upperparts – primary projection rather short about a quarter to a third of the tertial length – rump and upper tail coverts slightly more rusty than rest of upperparts – tail darker sandy brown with very obvious whitish cream outer webs to outer tail feathers, very noticeable in flight and clearly visible on the feeding bird – legs and feet a bluish-grey on the front with paler fleshy rear.

Wayne & Claire Gillatt and KP heard the bird call but transcriptions varied from a *teck* to a series of *checks* –

This is, surprisingly, only the second record of Booted Warbler for Lincolnshire following one trapped at Theddlethorpe in October 1980. It is a species I have been looking for many years!

Graham Catley, Craig Nimmick, Neil Drinkall and Keith Parker

Hume's Warbler at Gibraltar Point October 23rd – 29th 2003

On October 23rd 2003 at approx midday, R J Cosgrove came to the office to report his sightings from the morning, he was puzzled by the identity of a warbler that he had seen with two standard Chiffchaffs. It was dull and had a wing bar. From his initial description I was thinking along the lines of a possible *tristis* Chiffchaff. On consulting a field guide he intimated that it was more like a Yellow-browed. Not particularly enthused at this point and trying to digest a load of office work, I suggested that he go and relocate it and make some notes.

He called in again at around 13:30 to say the bird was showing. P M Troake and I made the two-minute walk from the office and got onto to just before it disappeared. It appeared to be a Yellow-browed Warbler. Seen well down in a well leafed hawthorn, the front half of the bird was in shadow and the rear half in good light. At this angle the median covert wing-bar was not particularly apparent; the broad greater covert wing-bar was obvious, so too were white fringes to the tertials. I was certainly mindful of the potential for Hume's at this time, given the appearance of several on the east coast during the preceding days,



however, the general colouration of the back and wings looked quite olivey and I suggested that it was a poorly marked *inornatus* and returned to the office.

During the course of the afternoon I got thinking that I really ought to try and get more views. PMT and I went back and this time the bird was in the open in full sunlight with the sun behind. The front portion of the upperparts were surprisingly dull greyish olive with few strikingly dark or contrasting areas of the plumage and little discernable yellow to those parts which are bright in Yellow-browed Warbler. Although the greater covert wing bar was broad, the median bar was much reduced compared to *inornatus*.

The legs appeared all dark and the bill was predominantly dark. By now, I was strongly favouring identification as Hume's Warbler and realised that we needed to hear the diagnostic call. Alas it was not delivered.

The following morning I arrived on site just after first light to try and hear it call. I could only manage fleeting views before work, so I alerted other local birders to help with the identification. Keith Scott and Andy Sims soon arrived and actually managed to hear the call that was noted as clearly differing from Yellow-browed Warbler.

Information was broadcast via Birdline North-east and as a county first generated much interest. It remained until October 29th and was regularly in the company of up to three Chiffchaffs, ten Goldcrests and a Firecrest. On October 26th a standard Yellow-browed Warbler was in close proximity to the Hume's and it too was calling providing and excellent comparison.

After its initial silence, once the Hume's had found its voice it became very vocal and quite loud. On several occasions I was able to watch the Hume's in very good light and at very close range. I made the following observations:

Upperpart colouration.

The crown and mantle were a very washed out greyish olive (like an extremely dull Goldcrest). In strong light it did actually appear grey but in duller conditions against green vegetation the olive tones were more apparent particularly along the posterior end of the bird. The tail and flight feather fringes were the tracts that showed the brightest olivey fringing. Thus, seen from behind, the back end was similar to Yellow-browed, particularly as the whitish tertial edgings were quite broad and bright and there were whitish fringes to the primary tips. The median covert wing bar was very short, possibly involving pale tips to only three feathers. The tips were not as contrasting as in *inornatus* due to the remainder of the covert colouring. The greater coverts did show darker centres when seen at close range but this was diffuse in most situations and didn't serve to give the contrast of *inornatus*. The broad off white tips formed a bar equal in size to *inornatus* but lacked the solid and striking appearance of that species. In short the wing bars like the face pattern appeared diffuse and washed out.

Underparts.

Were mostly off white.

Face pattern.

Again, despite the supercilium being quite broad particularly behind the eye and towards the nape the lack of contrast made it a less striking bird than *inornatus*. The supercilia were milky. Whilst the eye-stripe was broad particularly behind the eye it was a dull dark brownish olive and did not dramatically accentuate the supercilium. There was a pale crown stripe that was not always discernable. The cheeks were a pale fawn colour similar to *tristis* Chiffchaff one of which was present on one occasion with the Hume's. The facial plumage and broad supercilium of this bird produced a fleeting similarity to the Hume's.

Bare parts.

The bill was predominantly dark although the basal area was somewhat paler brownish this colouration extending some way up the cutting edge of both mandibles. The legs were dark with slightly paler feet.

Call.

Having remained silent on the first day of detection the bird was subsequently quite vocal and thus often easy to locate. The chief call was likened to a slightly disyllabic and slurred Chiffchaff or a mix between Chiffchaff and Pallas's Warbler, calls being almost finchy. The call would often be given repeatedly.

Kev Wilson

American Robin at Pyewipe, Grimsby January 1st to March 8th 2004

On New Year's Day 2004, the weather cleared up in Lincolnshire, so we decided to go birding. We went to look for some Waxwings, which had been reported on the outskirts of Grimsby.

We pulled into the car park of the Haven pub where they had been seen but there was no sign of them so we drove around the far side of the adjacent roundabout to view the berry bushes on the industrial estate road opposite. We watched from the car window. There was no sign of the



Waxwings but there on the grass verge, to our amazement, was a large thrush with an orange breast, we reversed the car up towards it and then stared at it in utter disbelief: there at point blank range was our first American Robin!

It was feeding on fallen berries and as we watched it chased away Blackbirds from its food source. After a while it flew across the road into the estate. We followed the bird and watched it catch a worm, and then we left to pass the news on to Birdline. Fortunately the bird stayed and continued to be very obliging, giving excellent views to the many people that came to see our find over the next few days and weeks.

Steve Smith and Terry Moore.

Initially news of the presence of the American Robin was greeted with the same incredulity that Steve and Terry had experienced but as soon as the first birders followed up the news and connected with the bird then one of Lincolnshire's biggest ever twitches ensued. Over the ensuing two months there was seldom a day without a small crowd of enthusiasts staring into the small patch of bushes and adjacent grass verge much to the amusement of the local work force. The American Robin fed on the berries on the small bush it was first found under and also on hawthorn berries and on worms caught on the grass verges. People also started to bring apples for the robin which it also consumed as it became ever more approachable. It was identified as a first-winter female on the basis of moult contrasts in the greater coverts and retained juvenile breast spotting on one side while the primaries were also juvenile feathers but the tail feathers had been replaced and were adult like suggesting some trauma. After entertaining so many birders and the general public for so long it would have been nice for the American Robin to have left heading for summer pastures but as with so many vagrants it was a loss to the population and with so many people in daily attendance its demise was recorded. A short eulogy to the bird appears below courtesy of G P Catley.

I am sure all birders will be saddened to hear of the passing of one of our great friends from 2004; Amy the Robin finally succumbed yesterday to the attentions of a local accipiter after providing pleasure to thousands during her long stay. We will all have our memories of her from the initial incredulity to the first dash to the aesthetically distinct habitat on Pyewipe which she chose as her temporary home then the first sightings of the ruddy breast and that endearing facial pattern. At first ridiculously showy then more coy she was the ultimate film star probably being photographed and videoed by more people than any female in the history of the world! So it was perhaps not too surprising that her grizzly end was also captured on video, a film star to the last. A short memorial service will be taking place at Pyewipe with a rendition of Don't cry for me ardent twitcher and a minute's silence followed by a short appreciation by the local burger van salesman. At least she went to a decent cause and not the attentions of a feline killer.

Pallid Swift Skegness October 23rd 2004

Meeting up with Kevin DuRose and John Wright, our expectations were not too high as the weather appeared to be settled, fine, sunny, with light winds. However, we did have in the forefront of our minds the unprecedented influx of Pallid Swifts into the country during the previous week - totalling ten or so individuals.

As usual, we started off in the Skegness area at the North Shore Golf Course. As we reached the north east corner, turned and returned south, I noticed a 'Swift' species in the clear blue sky. I immediately notified KD and JW, saying "I've got a swift and it's pale brown. It looks good!"

By this time, the bird was overhead, giving perfect views in perfect light. It was quite clearly a Pallid Swift*. It stayed in this position for some 2-6 minutes as it slowly drifted north. Between us, we ran through the identifying features as we watched. JW was particularly useful here as, being an artist, he has a very good eye for detail. He had also recently studied Pallid Swifts on a recent foreign trip. I 'phoned the news into Birdnet Information Service as we still watched the bird, in the hope that any birders further north could see this bird as well.

We all have a great deal of experience with Pallid Swifts both abroad and in the UK. My first in Britain was on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent on 16th November 1984.

DESCRIPTION:

STRUCTURE: Same size as C Swift, rather bull-necked and large headed. Best structural difference was the wing shape, being broader, particularly at the base and obviously blunt-tipped.

PLUMAGE: Even at a good distance this bird looked paleish brown with good contrasting wings, mainly pale flight feathers, contrasting with leading edge of the wing and outer primaries - dark. Body was distinctly scaley, with large white throat clearly visible. This contrasted with a dark smudge through the eye. Upper parts not seen quite as well as the bird was directly overhead, but did appear to be contrasting, normally a darker mantle, paler rump.

BEHAVIOUR: Flight not as dashing as a C Swift with no high speed manoeuvres. In fact was feeding like a House Martin, fluttering upwards 6 or so feet then dropping downwards again, gliding, then repeating this over and over. The bird drifted northwards towards Ingoldmells Point, right along the beach line like this.

Within 10 seconds of seeing this bird we were all 100% sure of its ID. This, I believe, is the first confirmed record of Pallid Swift for Lincolnshire.

David Jenkins

Lesser Scaup Waters' Edge Barton Pits April 28th - 30th 2004

April 28th dawned cold with fresh to strong northeast winds, good conditions for a passage of Arctic Terns on the Humber. By 11:00 I had failed to see any in rain and poor visibility but as the weather cleared a total of 21 went northeast and then the passage stopped. The poor weather was though holding up big numbers of *hirundines* and Swifts so I walked around the pits looking through these in the hope of a Red-rumped or a rare swift. One circuit, including Waters' Edge, in the morning revealed nothing so I decided to try again in the afternoon. Walking through Waters' Edge at about 14:30 I saw a scaup on one of the newest lagoons on the former industrial complex. The weather was still not great with complete cloud cover and a fresh wind. I was intent on



looking through *hirundines* and swifts and as the duck was at the back of the pond it got something of a cursory glance. Whilst I was away in Cyprus on the 16th Wayne Gillatt had briefly seen a drake scaup at Barrow Haven with a summer plumaged Black-necked Grebe. I had relocated the grebe on the 22nd at Barton and now my lateral thinking was that this was clearly the drake scaup. Scaup often hang on late on the pits in spring but surprisingly this year there had been no records since early March so it was still a notable event and the first Scaup of the year on the park. As I write and illustrate a monthly report for the country park I quickly took some digital pictures of the scaup for later use.

Even as I did so I knew that the head shape looked more akin to a Lesser and the size compared to a nearby Tufted Duck also looked too small and neat for a Greater Scaup but the bird's flanks were very white and I reasoned that at best it might be a hybrid before moving on to check a large flock of swifts at Barrow Haven. The latter check revealed a swift with white mantle, back and rump plus white underparts, which was pretty striking at any distance, but by late afternoon it was raining again and I abandoned my search. Back at home that evening I uploaded my scaup pictures and immediately thought how much like a Lesser Scaup the poor quality images looked! I emailed copies to a few colleagues and received immediate replies from Kev Wilson, Kev DuRose and Don Roberson, in California, who all stated 'get a look at the wing pattern'. Don added that the bill pattern and shape looked good for a Lesser as did the mantle pattern.

The following morning after failing to locate any more Arctic Terns I wandered down to Waters' Edge in what was now a very cold and strong northerly to find the scaup on the most northerly pond with two Tufted Ducks. A wooden boardwalk crosses this pond and this allowed me to get much closer to the bird and to obtain some decent digital photos through the scope although the light was still poor and the wind quickly froze camera operating fingers. With better views I was quickly convinced that the bird was a drake Lesser Scaup and eventually it spread its wing to reveal the diagnostic upperwing pattern clinching the ID. I kicked myself at having nearly passed off an excellent rare bird but was thankful that it had stayed long enough to allow me a second chance. The news was phoned out while I went home to upload my pictures but in my absence it moved back onto the larger lagoon. Here it remained throughout the 29th and 30th but with clearer weather it and 20 of the accompanying Tufted Ducks had departed by May 1st. A search of all of the clay pits over the next three days failed to relocate it and it is assumed it moved off with the Tufted Ducks possibly to the Russian breeding grounds!

Description:

A typical shaped *Aythya* duck with a pronounced bill, dark head and fore-breast contrasting with very pale flanks, barred upperparts and a dark rear end. It was very similar in size to Tufted Ducks that were occasionally alongside for direct comparison and of a similar build and jizz. The head had a distinctive profile with a steep fore crown, from the bill upwards, which ran into a fairly flat crown but with a slight bump at the rear of the crown like a reflection of the shape in Ring-necked Duck. The bill was fairly long and tapered to the tip being more pointed at the tip and less rounded than Great Scaup. Most of the bill was a steely blue-grey but this became paler and whiter towards the distal end of the bill. The nail only was black narrowing to a sharp point towards the bill base (see photos). The iris was yellow/ochre and the whole of the head and fore-breast were blackish with a sheen that in the dull light usually appeared to be a bottle green colour but the light was not good for forming impressions of colour tones. The mantle and back were very pale grey with a coarse pattern of dark grey-black barring throughout. This was a much coarser pattern than seen on Greater Scaup drakes in the previous winter. The base colour became darker grey on the tertials that were still patterned. The flanks were essentially white but with fine grey vermiculations on the upper edge and these became less obvious to mid-way down the flanks. The belly was white but the under-tail coverts, seen when roll preening, were a dirty brown. The tail was dark blackish-brown. The wing feathers were mainly dark brown but there was a short, sharply demarcated white bar on the secondaries (see photo) that ended abruptly at the inner primaries. The primaries were slightly paler brown than the inner wing with an ill defined paler brown wing bar which contrasted markedly with the bright white secondary bar. The legs and feet were blue-grey and were seen well when preening, lacking rings.

This was the second Lesser Scaup for the Barton clay pits following a first-winter drake, which coincidentally I found, in February 1995 and the fourth for Lincolnshire. The timing of the arrival and the rapid onward departure with Tufted Ducks would suggest a wild bird and this bird's behaviour never suggested that it was anything other than that.

Graham P Catley

Terek Sandpiper at Gibraltar Point July 18th 2005

Working as the shorebird warden on the reserve my duties over the summer include the daily monitoring and protection of the Little Terns that breed here annually. Having been given the task of ragwort pulling on the morning of July 18th it was not until mid afternoon that I had chance to enter the shorebird sanctuary area to check on my birds. The tide was up and although rather neap it was close enough to have pushed wading birds on the mudflats of the Wash into fairly close range. I decided I would quickly scan the estuary before going to check the Little Tern colony.

Having counted the Sandwich Tern roost that had started to build up in the preceding few days I scanned left and saw a smallish wader on its own near the mouth of a creek. Straight away I



thought it looked like a Terek Sandpiper but assumed that my initial judgment would prove to be wrong. However, the long, upturned bill on a small short-legged wader did seem right. After around ten seconds it flew a short distance and the dark wings with a distinctive white trailing edge was unlike any common small wader that I could remember. On landing it ran forward with its head pushed out and its bill held low to the ground.

Using the reserve short-wave radios I was able to alert Paul Troake, the assistant warden, as to what I was looking at. Now 100% sure of the bird's identity I had a long wait as PMT made his way out. He was able to concur with the identification;

by this time the Terek was loosely associating with a Dunlin flock but remained fairly faithful to the mouth of the creek where it was first seen. Kev Wilson, site manager, was carrying out tractor work on Croftmarsh and unable to hear his radio or mobile phone for 30 minutes. Thankfully though, he too was able to see the bird, albeit for only ten minutes during which time he took some rather shaky video footage through his telescope.

Watching the bird was brought to an abrupt end, however, by a short-lived but heavy rain shower. We sheltered in the shorebird warden's hut until the poor weather had passed and on heading back out we were disappointed to find that the bird had gone. It had presumably moved south into the Wash. A look for the bird at both high tides on the next day also failed to relocate it.

Brief description:

A wader of Ringed Plover size with very characteristic long and up curved bill. With fairly short (orange-pink) legs it looked front heavy. Pale greyish brown above with white underparts that extended onto the breast sides (in Common Sandpiper fashion). In flight the wings looked darker and had a distinctive white trailing edge. The occasional feeding action of running with bill held out low in front was also distinctive.

This is the first occurrence of Terek Sandpiper at Gibraltar Point and also the first for Lincolnshire. It has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Graeme Garner

Adult Baird's Sandpiper at Kirkby Gravel Pit, Lincolnshire September 2005

I originally visited Kirkby on Bain around lunchtime on Monday 19 September 2005 to try and get some better field experience of some of the Caspian Gulls that had apparently been frequenting the local tip. However, I decided to visit the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Reserve called Kirkby Gravel Pit at TF236609 first. It is just across the road from the tip and at this time of year, can hold interesting passage waders and wildfowl, as I was about to find out!

I'd not been in the hide long when in amongst a group of five Dunlin I noticed a smaller and distinctly structured wader. The range was about 100 yards (91m) but through my scope (Swarovski STS 80 HD with 30x) I was able to observe enough detail to identify the bird as a Baird's Sandpiper. I have previous experience of the species in the UK, and with 20+ years birding behind me, both at home and abroad, a wide and varied experience of confusion species.

Although I was 100% sure of my identification, before putting the news out I wanted a second opinion. Some Lincolnshire birders are unfortunately very sceptical of reports of rare birds in the county and as I only moved to Lincs last year, I'm relatively unknown locally. Luckily I made contact with Andy Sims in Lincoln and he soon joined me in the hide at Kirkby. Unfortunately, the Baird's along with the Dunlin had flown off after being harassed by Lapwings before Andy arrived, and it was some three and a bit hours before the flock returned. However when they did reappear we were able to watch the Baird's (always with Dunlin for comparison) and talk through the features visible, consider any similar species, and bear in mind any identification pitfalls. After half an hour Andy agreed with my initial verdict and we duly phoned the birds presence to the birding fraternity. Being only the fourth record for the county the bird was immediately popular with 'Lincolnshire listers' so before dusk some 20+ people had seen the Baird's, with no one disagreeing with the identification.

The Baird's was still present the following day and its frequent disappearances from the LWT Reserve were solved by Dean Eades, when he discovered it on an adjacent gravel pit where it was possible to observe down to about 30 yards (27m). In all, the bird was present for over a week and attracted a steady stream of admirers. I personally saw the Baird's again on 25 September, and it was last reported on the Birdnet pager system on 27 September.

It goes without saying that this bird was well photographed and videoed. Dean Eades has kindly supplied the photographs that accompany this formal description, whilst images have appeared on the Surfbirds website, and I have seen at least one published photograph by Iain Leach in *Birding World*, Volume 18, Number 9.



Description

The following description is based solely on my own field notes and sketches made whilst directly watching the bird as I first found it. It therefore describes the features noted and used to identify the bird as a Baird's Sandpiper viewed at a distance of around 100 yards. Photographs submitted have been taken at a much closer range and show greater detail, some of which may not have been visible in the initial longer range views.

Size and structure

Distinctly smaller than the Dunlins which were always in direct comparison. The first initial impressions were of a Stint species, with a small round head, and straight fine tipped bill, which was about head length. However, any initial thoughts were forgotten when the long wings were easily seen to extend beyond the undamaged tail. In addition, there was a somewhat squat crouching appearance, highlighted by short legs, and a rather distinctive 'oval' shaped body particularly noticeable when the bird was walking away from the observer. This all combined to give a distinctive impression and shape.

Head

The forehead, crown and nape were a brown/grey ground colour, with darker brown streaking noticeable on the crown. The white supercilium was long, extending indistinctly from the base of bill, then flared and extended well behind the eye. Depending on posture, angle and lighting conditions, the supercilium could either 'disappear' or appear extremely prominent. The lores were brown, forming a slight eye stripe. The ear coverts were mostly pale brown.

Upperparts

The mantle, scapulars, and wing coverts all had a brown/grey ground colour, with the mantle streaked darker brown. Some of the lower scapulars and most of the greater coverts exhibited large black internal centres. The tertials were dark brown and the primaries a little darker still, appearing dull black. Although some feathers had thin white fringing, this was unlike the uniform 'scaly' appearance of juvenile birds I have seen before, formed by neat pale fringing to all feathers. Based on the above features this bird was aged as an adult.

Underparts

The chin and upper throat were white, but this merged into a fine streaked brown lower throat and breast that formed a distinct breast band. This feature was particularly notable when the bird was facing the observer. The rest of the underparts including the flanks were pure white, with no streaking.

Flight

In flight two additional features were clearly visible, with perhaps importantly the rump and uppertail seen to be dark centred. The other feature to be noticed was an indistinct thin white wing bar formed by the greater coverts.

Bare parts

The eye, the upper and lower mandibles and legs all appeared black.

Additional information

The weather on the day of discovery was overcast, but dry and warm and with no wind force so to speak of. Light conditions were very good to excellent.

Grahame Hopwood

27 November 2005

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Wyberton and Frampton Marshes, Dec 5th 2005 - Jan 29th 2006

On December 5th, after a hard morning in the office, John Badley and I decided to chase up a report of three Bean Geese on the fields adjacent to RSPB Frampton Marsh. As we drove down the track between the reserve and the adjacent organic farm on Wyberton Marsh, I noticed a mixed flock of pipits and wagtails in a harvested brassica field. We stopped the car and began scanning through the flock, and soon found three or four Water Pipits and a few littoralis Rock Pipits among the many Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails. Feeling quite pleased with the Water Pipits, we were preparing to continue our goose hunt when I noticed a plain mantled and "buff-bellied" pipit in the flock. Apparently, my words were something like, "Ah, that's interesting, that looks like a Buff-bellied Pipit!"



My initial views lasted only about 20 seconds before the flock flew and dispersed. The obvious doubts then set in: ie how can you even think of claiming a 1st for mainland Britain on brief views in a muddy field in Lincolnshire?! I must have made a mistake...

After a rather sleepless night, I took the following morning off work and went back to the site. Despite a constant drizzle and a penetrating cold, I refound the bird after a couple of hours and had more prolonged but rather distant views. Now I really started to panic as it still looked good for a Buff-bellied Pipit. I watched it for several minutes before the pipit flock moved on again, and I was reasonably happy that I had not been mistaken, although the topography of the field was such that individual birds were very hard to get good views of in the furrows. I thought I had seen most of the features at some point, but decided to ring Paul Harvey for some advice. I vaguely recalled a story about a pipit in Cornwall a year or so previously that was mooted as being a Buff-bellied, but could not remember any details.

Paul's words were surprisingly encouraging, but I needed better views and preferably photographs. The niggling doubts over whether it really did have pale lores and a complete pale eye-ring began to gnaw, and I was well aware of the difficulties in confirming "negative" features, but the worsening weather, my empty stomach and the fact that I had to get back to work put paid to any further identification attempt that day.

I returned the following morning with a borrowed Coolpix in hand and again managed to re-find the bird. The very fact that I could re-find it so easily was encouraging. Eventually I achieved excellent and prolonged views and managed to take some record photographs. I was now finally happy that it did indeed have pale lores and a complete eye-ring. The underparts were buff with extensive streaking and the upperparts were plain olive-brown, with contrastingly black tertials and tail. Rather worryingly, I also confirmed that it had a distinct grey nape.

I had already spent hours poring through Pipits and Wagtails (Alstom et al. 2003), and distinctly remembered reading that the nape of Buff-bellied Pipit was concolorous with the rest of the upperparts, while from experience and the literature I knew that Water Pipits often showed a grey nape. However, I had also spent hours looking on the Internet and had found several photographs of Buff-bellied Pipits that seemed to show this grey nape. I was now finally happy with the identification, but sent my photographs to Paul Harvey and Adam Rowlands on BBRC for some

further input, and also to Per Alstrom, author of Pipits and Wagtails. The pictures were circulated around the rarities committee members, a few of whom, while stopping short of saying it definitely was one (the underparts are mostly obscured in my photographs), had very encouraging comments about it.

I desperately wanted to put the news out, and we approached the landowner, but sadly he denied us permission. Faced with the prospect of suppression and a mega that no one could see, I wanted an observer with more experience to see the bird. Martin Garner visited the site on Dec 12th, just as we received the good news that the landowner had reconsidered and would now let us put the news out as long as we policed the resulting twitch. As I was sitting in the office about to put the news out, I checked my e-mail to discover a short but sweet message from Per Alstrom saying simply "I fully agree with your identification". I think it was at this point that I finally felt vindicated and all the hours I'd put in staring at a muddy field had paid off. The news was broadcast mid-morning that day and a few local birders managed to connect with it before it disappeared around midday. Some contradictory messages then appeared on the bird information services, namely that eastern Water Pipit was perhaps not ruled out, as the race *blakistoni* shows pale lores and a complete eye-ring. However, this was soon rectified and early the next morning I hurried to the field to find a large crowd of waiting birders. It took me about an hour to find it and then point it out, and importantly it was heard to call by at least three of us. It then proceeded to show well on and off until about midday when it went missing again. It then put in a final appearance later that afternoon but unfortunately could not be found the following day or subsequently that year.

It seemed that our thoughts of it successfully over-wintering had been premature until I re-found it along one of the main dykes on the wet grassland of Frampton Marsh on Jan 24th 2006. It showed well for a couple of minutes, but then flew high to the north, disappearing from view as it descended over the Haven. Could this be where it had been hiding for the past six weeks? Subsequent careful searching of the original field managed to turn up trumps when it was rediscovered there, and put in highly erratic appearances here until its final showing on Jan 29th.

Oh, and as for those Bean Geese, well, they turned out to be Pink-footed Geese. But I've never been so thankful for a misidentification!

Paul French

Sora Rail first for Gibraltar Point and Lincolnshire March 5th – 18th 2006



The eastern section of the borrow pits at Gibraltar Point narrows down to a 70m secluded ditch an attractive site for Water Rail and Moorhen in the winter months. Much of the ditch can be viewed in both directions from a small bridge that provides access to the Fenland Lagoon. Tim Bagworth and Mick Briggs had attempted to trap and ring Moorhen and Water Rail here mostly unsuccessfully, during the winter. On the bitterly cold morning of March 5th TB had completed a ringing session in the dunes before moving to the borrow pits. On his way there a birdwatching couple had informed him of a Spotted Crake seen by the borrow pit bridge. TB was soon at the bridge and after a ten minute wait the crake appeared at 12:50 hrs. TB immediately contacted

Paul Troake who also came to look. Kev Wilson had been away for the morning but was contacted by phone on his way back from Horncastle.

TB stated to take notes and photographs of the crake and began to doubt the identification as Spotted Crake. He raised the possibility that it was a Sora with PMT who rang KMW to discuss the identification as he had seen two previously in the UK. From his memory the principal features were the bill structure and lack of red at the base, dusky smudging around the face and throat and lacking the spotty appearance of Spotted Crake. PMT was fairly sure that these features matched the Gib bird. KMW then rang Mark Edgeller for further advice. ME was able to quickly refer to field guides and give other identification pointers such as the crown and tertial colouration.

However, the bird had gone missing now. It was presumed to have moved west down the ditch system where viewing was more constrained.

KMW arrived on site at 15:00 hrs and there was still no sign of the bird. The small number of people looking had filtered west along the track hoping that it would appear in a large open bay with rush fringing. After 30 minutes however, KMW returned to the bridge to see if it had gone back to the original site. There it was – a Sora about eight metres away creeping along the ditch margin where the ice had melted. It was quite a chunky crake with a thick-based bill, quite warm with brown tones around the head and a dark centre to the crown. The black markings around the lores and throat were quite subdued compared to full adult plumage but traces of dark feathers could be seen well onto the upper breast. The upperparts showed a series of silvery-white lines formed by edgings of many of the feather tracts including the scapulars and tertials. From behind the underside of the cocked tail was white with a buffy ventral area.

With the identification agreed the news was phoned in to Birdline North-east and from there nationally. Unfortunately the Sora went back into thick cover and was not seen after 16:10 that day. The following day KMW returned to the site at dawn to organise viewing for birders. He need not have been concerned; other than Gib staff and volunteers only two birders were present with the furthest having come from Boston. This was much the same situation as for the 2002 Red-flanked Bluetail. As the sun rose and warmed the ditch banks the Sora materialised and showed well from 07:10 to 07:30 with a later appearance at 09:00 before going missing until 17:00 when it was refound some 200m away along Mill Pond ditch where it was easily disturbed. As a twitch scenario started to develop it was decided that the best course of action would be to put some scraps of food down for the crake to lure it to the bridge area which was the best vantage point for birders. Over the course of the next few days the Sora duly paid early morning visits to this site and was rarely seen at other times or in other places.

Site staff and volunteers paid daily visits to the site to supervise watching where necessary. Often only ten people could view the bird simultaneously. Fortunately the bird did perform briefly for the largest crowd of about 70 birders the following Saturday morning, 11th. Alas the wooden bridge was overloaded and took on a heavy list. It had to be completely replaced after the event. During the latter part of its stay the bird attracted few visitors and in the more relaxed situation some good photographs were obtained and the opportunity was taken to trap the bird at the baiting site. This was done with ease on the 17th. The bird was found to be a first-winter female and judged to be in very good condition for migration. It was released back on the ditch system immediately after being processed and showed well there for the rest of the day although it was occasionally harassed by a local Moorhen. The feeding regime ceased subsequently and the bird later dispersed further west down the borrow pit system. It was last seen on the 18th although this area was not thoroughly checked subsequently.

As well as being a first for the reserve the Sora was a first for Lincolnshire. It was a most unusual occurrence on the east coast of the UK but followed an individual at Attenborough Nottinghamshire in December 2004.

Compiled by Kev Wilson

Greater Yellowlegs Gibraltar Point May 30th – 31st 2007

Early on May 30th John Shaunessy arrived at Tennyson's Sands hide for what he expected to be a routine session of counting common water birds. He found alongside a Greenshank on a small grassy island about 150m from the hide a second very different *Tringa*. It appeared even larger with a less attenuated rear end, longer yellow legs and a long fine, straight looking bill.



The underpart patterning was bolder and included coarse vertical bars along the flank. JPS had experience of all of the *Tringa* group except what seemed to be this one: Greater Yellowlegs.

Disbelief and caution then took over. He phoned KMW just saying that he had an odd wader about the size of a Greenshank with yellow legs and what did Greater Yellowlegs look like? Shortly after KMW's arrival the bird awoke and showed off its bill allowing KMW to obtain some record video footage of the bird. Ed Mackrill, contacted by KMW, then arrived and took just a few seconds to concur that it was a

yellowlegs and that to must be a Greater. The three observers then assessed the identification features of this bird.

Structure

This bird definitely had the feel of a large *Tringa*. Its proximity to a single Greenshank was extremely fortuitous and provided the most appropriate benchmark for comparison enabling Lesser Yellowlegs to be dismissed from the identification process with confidence. The same site had hosted a long-staying Lesser Yellowlegs the previous year and this had been well studied by the three observers. The Lesser Yellowlegs had appeared very slender and somewhere between Wood Sandpiper and Redshank in size. This Greater Yellowlegs could appear slightly larger and sturdier than the Greenshank. The appearance was doubtless augmented by the length of the straw yellow legs and in particular the longer tibia. Furthermore the bird lacked the thin neck and attenuated rear end of Greenshank. The tertials covered all but the last two or three primary tips, the latter falling just beyond the tail tip, giving a rather blunt-ended appearance for a *Tringa* (particularly when compared to Lesser Yellowlegs).

The bill was proportionate to the bird's size and structure being quite long, maybe nearly double the length of the head. It appeared more delicate than that of Greenshank but rarely gave the impression of being upturned as might be expected. It was mostly very dark, fading to dull greyish over the basal 20% or so.

Plumage

Overall impression was of a well streaked and spotted wader with an apparent mix of feathers of different age, some tracts of the mantle and scapulars and the underparts constituting summer plumage. A strong face pattern was attributable to a broad whitish supra-loral patch and narrow white eye ring. The head and neck (to upper breast) were heavily marked with a complex mix of pale buff and grey brown streaks giving a mottled effect, some of these amalgamating to create dark blotches. The rest of the underparts were whitish but interrupted on either side by a series of dark vertical and widely spaced bars stretching from the lower breast sides for most of the way along the flanks and most extensive at the mid flank point where the longest extended halfway to the underbelly. There was also noticeable dark barring towards the ventral area.

As for the upperparts the mantle and scapulars were mostly greyish and partly fringed paler with some darker-centred feathers intermixed, these also with pale fringe spots or edges. A pattern similar to that on breeding plumaged Greenshank was formed by dark feathers in the rear scapulars. The pale greyish brown tertials were neatly and continuously patterned with dark transverse bars which bisect the pale fringing to create a spotted effect. The covert tracts appeared similarly spotted on the closed wing. The primaries were very dark. No positive conclusions have been drawn on the age of this individual whether adult or first-summer.

In flight

Prior to take off the open wings revealed a square white rump meeting brownish lower back about level with the trailing edges of the wings. When both waders took off the Greater Yellowlegs still looked larger and more robust than the Greenshank. The plain brownish wings and back contrasting sharply with the square white rump. A missing primary was noted on the left wing which could have indicated the start of the standard moult pattern, albeit early.

Call

During the initial observation on the 30th the Greater Yellowlegs was not vocal despite occasional calls from the Greenshank. On two other occasions the bird was heard to call in flight frequently. The call, often repeated consisted of a Greenshank like *teu teu teu*, each syllable in quick succession but distinct. It was slightly lighter in tone lacking the same strength of the 'r'. JPS thought the call sounded a little out of breath when compared to Greenshank.

It was presumed that the bird was newly arrived when found on May 30th. Indeed there had been no record even of Greenshank for several days. News of the Greater Yellowlegs was broadcast to birdlines etc promptly after the identification was confirmed on this date. However, shortly afterwards both it and the Greenshank departed south after a 40 minute stay.

The news seemed to be treated with some scepticism and attracted very little interest initially. Fortunately it returned to Tennyson's Sands that evening from 17:40 to 17:50, the following morning from 05:45 – 06:01 hrs and lastly on the evening of May 31st from 17:30 to 18:00 hrs. Its arrival generally was between 30 and 90 minutes in advance of high tide. It did not feed much but bathed, preened and slept. On its second day it had parted company with the Greenshank and following the evening visit it flew off strongly to the south calling frequently.

Shortly afterwards evidence came to light that this bird had earlier been present at Freiston Shore where it had been reported as a Lesser Yellowlegs on April 9th and May 19th. Fortunately it had been photographed on both occasions.

Compiled by Kev Wilson and John Shaughnessey

Yellow-nosed Albatross in Lincolnshire first published in British Birds Vol 103 p376-384 Yellow-nosed Albatross: new to Britain



On the evening of 2nd July 2007, I was fishing on the New Lake at Diawa Manton fishing lakes just outside Scunthorpe. The lake is over 30 acres (12 ha) in size with a large island at either end. While setting up my fishing gear, I noticed a dozen or so gulls mobbing what was obviously another large seabird a little farther down the bank. A closer look showed that this was larger than any seabird I had ever seen before; given the size and shape of its bill, I thought it could possibly be an albatross. As it was starting to get dark and I still needed to cast my rods out for the night's fishing, I returned to my swim (a designated fishing spot, and the stretch of water within casting distance) and forgot all about it.

I awoke early next morning to find that the albatross was still present and was only a few metres to my left; it had also moved closer to the bank. Now, on getting a closer look, I sensed that this bird was definitely something special, so I took about a dozen photographs. By this time the lake's resident Mute Swans were also pestering the bird, which, to me, did not look too well, it was just bobbing around in front of me and appeared uninterested in the resident birds' attentions.

It was now time for me to put some bait into the lake to attract fish into my swim, which is done with a device called a spod; this comprises a 150-mm-long, 50-mm-diameter plastic tube, blocked off at one end and fitted with a buoyant nose cone. It is filled with bait (in this case Haith's red band) and cast out on a spare rod. On hitting the water it tips and releases its contents into the lake. It is then wound in, refilled and recast. On the first cast, the albatross, which was around 60 m away, lifted its head, took to the air and pounced on the spod, then took off with it in its bill only to drop it as the line to the rod tightened. A repeat performance followed the second cast. Not wishing to hurt the bird, I did not risk it a third time. The albatross soon lost interest and drifted away out of sight. Then around midday it suddenly appeared from behind one of the large islands. This time it was in full flight and, for the first time, I appreciated its huge wingspan. It circled the lakes for a few minutes, then disappeared in a southerly direction and I did not see it again.

Wanting to know what this bird was, I e-mailed copies of my photographs to Neville Fickling, the fishery manager, who, via the RSPB, passed them on to the Lincolnshire Recorder, Steve Keightley. Steve identified the bird as an immature Yellow-nosed Albatross. Had I realised at the time what a rare find this was, I would have taken more pictures. Perhaps after this I should take up birding, after all it seems that I am off to quite a good start!

Paul Condon, Yorkshire

Large white falcon in North Lincs February 2004– so close and yet so far

On the afternoon of February 21st Keith Mitchell rang me in an excited voice to report having seen a large white falcon crossing the minor road between Dragonby and Appleby on his way back from Scunthorpe to Barton. He described the bird as having some light barring on the upperparts but from the car it had appeared basically white and larger than a Peregrine. It has flown south-east with considerable purpose over Risby Warren. As I am sure Keith would acknowledge he is not an 'expert' birder but he had found a Great White Egret at Read's Island a day before the one turned up at Grainthorpe in November and he had also picked up a Red Kite on Barton Wolds in December so clearly this was something of interest however, the chances of relocating it seemed

as remote as usual with fly-by raptors that can cover fifty miles in an hour. I was busy all day on Saturday but Keith rang again to stress that after reading all his books he was convinced that all the bird could be was a Greenland Falcon. I decided to give over Sunday to a search for the bird but in all honesty had very little hope of ever finding it. My dawn search started overlooking the Ancholme Valley from Bonby Top but the persistent heavy squalls of rain and the strong and cold northerly wind kept me rooted in the car searching in vain across an open and bleak looking valley. As the rain showers failed to ease I drove round to Bagmoor to look at gulls out of the car window but failed to find any white-wingers. When by nine o'clock the rain had finally eased to less frequent showers I decided to check the old openast mine working at Crosby Warren which lie on the western edge of Risby Warren between that



location and Scunthorpe steelworks. Having carried out extensive bird surveys on Risby Warren and Crosby in 2003 I knew the lay of the land, most of which is private, and the broken crags on the eastern edge of the workings looked a likely spot for a white Gyr to perch up but hope of seeing it there was fanciful at best. As I walked up to a vantage point overlooking the crags the howling northerly and light snow showers certainly made it feel like a Gyr Falcon should be feeling at home! Reaching my vantage point I glanced out of my eye corner across the chasm and there sat on a grassy bluff overhanging the cliff edge was a white apparition! Blind panic set in as I scrambled to set up the scope; the bird was about 400m away but was clearly watching me. The sudden adrenalin rush on seeing the bird dropped away a little as I got it in the scope. It was not a classic white juvenile Gyr. Although strikingly big and bulky looking and very white about the head and underparts, when it turned side on the seemingly fairly uniform grey and white upperparts barring seemed a little odd. To my discredit I had not looked up any detailed identification literature prior to my search as I had not expected to see it let alone have any problems with a white one and thus I was now faced with a bird which looked superficially like a Gyr Falcon but which had, from recollection of photographs, an unusual upperpart pattern. In the previous week I had seen a probable eastern Reed Bunting, which I had failed to nail on camera, and a second winter Med Gull which appeared to have too long and thin a bill maybe hinting at some Black-head genes; birding was becoming too complicated by far.

Back at the falcon the strong wind, distance and bright sunshine falling at an angle on the bird made digi-scoping difficult but I needed some images in case it suddenly flew off. Scope views at 60x revealed a grey and white barred tail with a slightly more obvious dusky band at the tip, the primaries fell well short of the tail tip, a feature I recalled was good for Gyr and Saker, the white flank and tibial feathers had some darker streaks but the cere was yellow so it had to be an adult or at least not a juvenile/first-winter. Given the imprecise identification and the somewhat sensitive location I phoned a few local birders with the news including the hybrid/escape caveat and the high likelihood that the bird might fly off at any minute never to be seen again. After about ten minutes of preening it looked around and suddenly dropped of the crag flying purposefully south-west towards the steelworks where it started to chase feral pigeons. Here I lost it to view but given that it had been in the area for three days there seemed a pretty good chance of it returning eventually.

About twenty minutes later I picked up a male Peregrine coming towards me at speed over the crags then below it the white bird with a female Peregrine on its tail! All three birds screamed past, the white falcon dwarfing the female Peregrine, and headed north-west out of sight over towards Normanby passing a perched plastic Eagle Owl on the way. This was an impressive falcon and the direct size comparison with the female Peregrine confirmed its overall bulk and proportions. The next time it appeared way off to the south though it somewhat disgraced itself by landing on the side of one of the building on the steelworks. But there again Peregrines do it so why not a Gyr? After a lengthy absence with a small gathering of local birders present it eventually re-appeared over the southern end of the workings looking strikingly impressive with its white plumage tones against the faces of the crags. Dropping low below the crags it eventually moved north towards our position and landed opposite us on the same knoll it had been perched on when I first saw it. Extended views revealed the apparent presence of something on both legs but these

were usually covered by the long tibial feathers and difficult to see. Later analysis of Roy Harvey's high magnification video footage confirmed that both legs bore falconers straps but no trailing jesses. In flight there was no suggestion of anything untoward as the legs and feet were usually tucked into the vent and tibia feathering.

So it was an escape after all but was it even a pure Gyr Falcon? Looking at the plumage there seem to be anomalies in the pattern of the mantle and covert feathers. An article in *Birding World* even shows a Gyr/Prairie Falcon hybrid which looks somewhat similar in upperpart pattern to our bird but conversely a plate in the North American Raptor guide of a second year Gyr from Newfoundland also looks to have a remarkably similar upperpart plumage pattern to our bird. The yellow cere indicates that it is an adult or sub-adult and not a juvenile so is the pattern of dark barring on the upperpart feathers at odds with a pure Gyr? It had some faint grey streaking on the crown and rear of the ear coverts and a few darker spots on the right side of the hind neck but the majority of the underparts were clean white apart from some light streaking on the tibia feathers and lower flanks. In flight the broad based wings and long square-tipped tail with the bulky undertail covert area and deep thickset underparts and head formed a distinctive silhouette. The primary tips were often held turned slightly upwards in gliding and cruising into the wind and the general wing position was horizontal. Wings beats varied from rapid hand movements to some rather elastic and deep beats using the whole hand and arm which sounds from the literature to be at odds with Gyr. In the mid-afternoon period it flew away to the west and in between bouts of soaring, to a good height, it made several stoops akin to whiffing geese which again sounds unusual for a Gyr. Sakers are apparently more prone to stoop in hunting and like Gyr they soar with wing tips often slightly raised. Could it therefore be a Gyr/Saker hybrid or a back cross? With falconers hybridising all sorts of raptors identifying a bird of unknown parentage in the field is virtually impossible and leaves only one sensible conclusion there should be more strictly controlled regulations governing falconry; keeping magnificent raptors in captivity is usually justified as the continuation of a noble art but this is essentially a sport of the Middle Ages. Arab falconers have wiped out whole populations of Macqueen's and Houbara Bustards and the loss of wild bred falcons like Sakers to the falconer fraternity threatens populations in countries with little or no control over criminals who rob nests.

There have been two accepted records of Gyr Falcon in Lincolnshire a Greenland *candicans* trapped at Twigmoor Warren (not a million miles from Crosby) in 1826 is held in the Strickland collection and an immature female Icelandic bird shot at Saxilby in December 1900 which resides in the Lincoln Museum. It would be useful to have more details on both birds. The former would appear to be typical of the accepted British records in race but not in its East coast location while the latter would appear to be somewhat at odds with the theory that Icelandic breeders do not migrate. Could it be a bird of the light grey type of the 'grey morph' as described in Shirihai et al (BB91. No's 1 & 2 pp12-35)?

All of the recent records of genuine Gyrs in Britain have been on the west coast or on the Scottish Islands with no white East coast bird in living memory so the chances of a genuine vagrant appear to be less than remote but Snowy Owl made it and you can never say never – all reports are worth checking out and whatever its origins or parental status this was a striking bird. It is cautionary to think that on a fly-by view at Gibraltar Point, Rimac or Donna Nook this bird could have been accepted as a genuine vagrant. Clearly the caution attached to assessing records of other than classic white or well photographed birds is justified given the present state of play with Gyr Falcons and hybrids in Britain.

Graham Catley

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