

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1984

Including the Gibraltar Point Observatory Report



**The Return of the Sparrowhawk
in Lincolnshire/S. Humberside**

**Occurrence of Phalaropes in
Lincolnshire/S. Humberside 1960-84**

Ornithological Events of 1984
Ruddy Ducks breeding

Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities
Dartford Warbler
Green-winged Teal

Published by the Lincolnshire Bird Club

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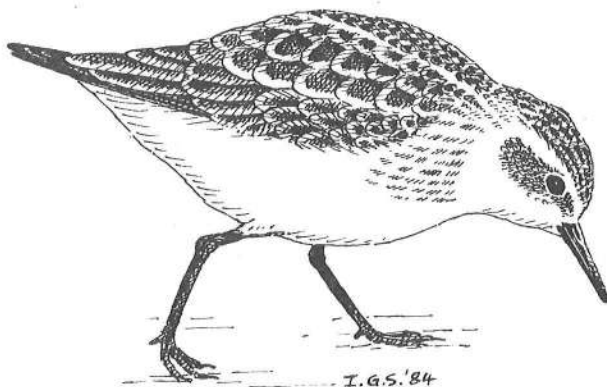
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Waterbird Counts 1983-84

The level of observer cover during this winter was very similar to the previous one, with 18 waters counted in at least 6 months and 26 in 4 or more. As usual, September was the month least well covered, since many waters hold few birds this early in the winter.

The main difference in cover is that, following the September 1983 oiling incident (see 1983 Bird Report), the Humber estuary was counted monthly right through the 83/84 winter, and the counts additional to regular sites (mainly at the Humber mouth) have been included in the totals. The species mainly affected by the extra counts are Brent Goose – all those shown in the table are the NE coast flock – and Shelduck. Although small numbers of this species winter inland and on the coast between Mablethorpe and Gibraltar Point, no Wash sites are included so the table shows well the Humber's late autumn passage peak and wintering numbers. Generally, the oiling incident appeared to have had little effect on numbers except that, possibly as a result of oil deposited on the Wildfowl Refuge, higher than normal numbers of Wigeon and Mallard were present on the south Humber bank in November and December '83, and Pink-footed Goose in December-January.

The weather pattern in 83/84 was also similar to that of 82/83, though the timing of the cold spells was slightly different. Freezing weather in early December closed some of the smaller waters, but this was followed by fairly mild weather until the turn of the year. The temperature then dropped steadily in January, with snow and a steady freeze from the last third of the month right through into early March. The effect of this extended mild period in December was largely to defer the mid-winter drop in numbers of certain species until January or even February. Coot numbers, for example, halved between January and February with waters in the northern half of the county particularly affected; 420 birds on the Barrow-Barton pits reduced to nil, and 790 at Toft Newton reservoir dropped to 470. Apart from this and the "Humber effect" noted above, there were some minor differences – autumn Teal numbers in 1983 were lower than 1982 but overwintering numbers were a little higher, for instance – but most species showed very similar patterns and numbers to the previous year.

(Scientific names of species are given in the Systematic List)

Anne Goodall

Table 2 – Waters Counted in 1983-84

(a) Monthly Counts

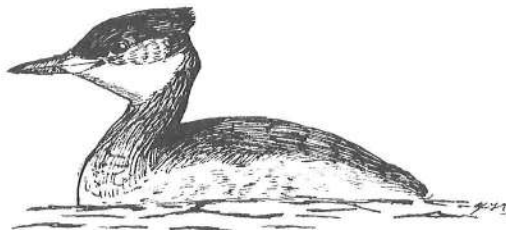
Humber Estuary	Barton/Barrow Pits
Read's Island Flats	Bagmoor Lake
Grimsby Docks	Ashbyville Lake
Cleethorpes Shore	Cleethorpes Boating Lake
Holme Sand Quarries	Covenham Reservoir
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	Toft Newton Reservoir
Fillingham Lake	Brickyard Pond, Sutton
Riseholme Lake	Sea Bank Claypits NR
Burton Gravel Pits NR	West Ashby Gravel Pits
Lincoln LNER Pits	Whisby-Thorpe Pits
Revesby Abbey Reservoir	Kirkby Moor NR
Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	Gibraltar Point Mere
South Forty-foot Drain	Denton Reservoir
River Welland	Baston Fen NR

(b) Additional waters counted for the January International Census

South Ferriby Cement Works	Burton-Stather Brick Pits
Cadney Reservoir	Messingham Heath Sand Quarries
Nocton Wood Claypit	Boston Docks
River Glen	

Table 1 – Monthly Waterbird Totals, 1983-84

Species	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total Jan
Red-throated Diver	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
Little Grebe	2	13	23	4	8	6	17	8
Great Crested Grebe	25	62	46	14	22	23	54	23
Mute Swan	13	212	343	355	290	101	111	307
Bewick's Swan	—	—	—	2	—	—	6	—
Whooper Swan	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Pinkfooted Goose	—	—	3	370	127	—	1	127
Whitefronted Goose	—	—	5	17	—	25	—	—
Greylag Goose	203	19	40	137	155	74	18	155
Snow Goose	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Canada Goose	214	271	136	443	482	141	158	482
Brent Goose	—	41	2599	1436	1580	706	83	1580
Emperor Goose	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1
Shelduck	190	237	2684	4588	1990	1976	1108	2042
Wigeon	36	151	1412	1023	364	995	246	364
Gadwall	4	20	16	8	19	11	11	19
Teal	207	611	611	554	601	234	232	602
Mallard	1826	2677	3541	3880	2539	2335	968	3007
Pintail	1	1	5	13	1	4	9	1
Shoveler	29	90	48	11	29	20	20	29
Pochard	46	151	536	290	273	188	210	278
Tufted Duck	119	303	546	410	504	330	476	521
Eider	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Long-tailed Duck	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Common Scoter	—	—	69	—	—	—	—	—
Velvet Scoter	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Goldeneye	2	7	75	60	89	111	103	94
Smew	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4
Goosander	—	—	2	—	8	19	21	8
Moorhen	3	10	90	165	71	47	10	71
Coot	719	1385	2062	2442	2893	1357	1282	3004
Waters Counted:	15	23	24	24	25	25	23	32



The Return of the Sparrowhawk in Lincolnshire/South Humberside

In the pre-pesticide era, ie before 1950, the Sparrowhawk was "a fairly numerous resident, chiefly in well-wooded areas", to quote the 1955 edition of "The Birds of Lincolnshire". It was also noted as "A spring and autumn passage migrant on the coast, mainly in April and between mid-September and mid-November." It is impossible to give any exact figures but using those population data given by Brown 1976, the total county population could have been as high as 1,000 pairs. The parish of Goxhill, on the Humber, a lowland non-optimal area, held three pairs regularly up to 1953. However, even as the "Birds of Lincolnshire" went to press, the drastic decline in the population of the Sparrowhawk had already begun. Initially the decline, due to decreased breeding success and some adult mortality, went largely unnoticed since there was a surplus of birds in the population to fill the gaps left by those dying. Between 1955-60, however, large scale adult mortality quickly led to the loss of the Sparrowhawk from the county as a breeding bird, a situation which would have seemed impossible in 1945.

The cause of the mortality and the reduction in breeding success was shown to be the accumulation of toxic chemicals, spread on the land as pesticides and concentrated through the food chain to deadly levels in the predators at the top (Newton 1974, 1979; Newton & Haas 1984). Lincolnshire, being one of the most intensively agricultural counties in England, was one of the worst affected by the use of the more toxic cyclodiene agrochemicals. Apart from odd breeding records, the Atlas fieldwork during 1968-72 noted one confirmed, 4 probable and 14 possible records, the Sparrowhawk was all but eradicated from the Lincolnshire breeding avifauna from 1960 onwards for a period of 20 years.

Since 1960 all records of Sparrowhawks noted in the county have been published in the annual Bird Reports and they give a clear indication of the status of the species during the last 25 years. From 1960 onwards there appears to have been at first a very slow increase in the number of sightings followed from 1975 onwards by a much sharper increase. These figures must have been partly affected by the increasing number of active birdwatchers during the period concerned, and the predominance of coastal watching over inland must also have had an effect upon the data. The overwhelming evidence, however, still points to a marked recent increase, as shown below.

The British breeding population is wholly resident and young birds only disperse short distances from the nest-site; 93% of ringing recoveries are within 50km of the natal area and 98% within 100km. Populations to the north and east, however, ie from Scandinavia and the Baltic east, are more migratory, the extent of seasonal movements increasing progressively the further north and east the population resides. The direction of movement is predominantly south to south-west in autumn with the opposite return in spring. In the Baltic the autumn migration begins in late July, reaches a peak in October and ends in November, with the return from late March and most birds moving in April.

That migrants from Scandinavia and further east occur in Lincolnshire appears quite obvious from the spring and autumn passage peaks shown by the coastal records (Fig 1). Further evidence is provided by 4 ringing recoveries, all from Gibraltar Point. Two females ringed there in autumn 1949 and early November 1950 were shot at Valdres, Norway, in the breeding season, respectively in July 1951 and June 1952. A first-year male ringed in April 1951 was retrapped on spring passage at Jutland, Denmark, in April 1952 and another moved to Belgium. One ringed on Fair Isle in September 1951 was shot at Holbeach in late August 1952, again most probably a continental migrant. Many of these migrants may just pass through the county, possibly having been deflected from their more regular south-westerly course through mainland Europe, but a few probably winter with us. There have been a number of records of long-staying birds in coastal areas during the winter, and these could well be winter visitors in effect. The number of these coastal wintering birds has increased markedly of late and may now also include dispersing local birds.

Fig 1—All records of Sparrowhawk in Lincolnshire/South Humberside, 1970–84 by month of occurrence

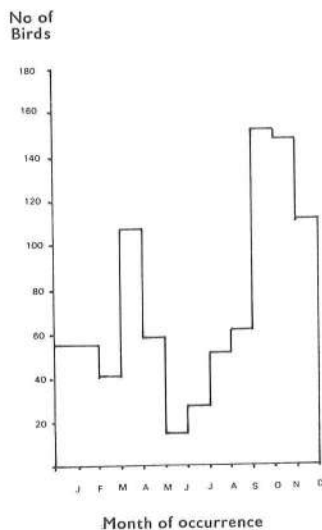
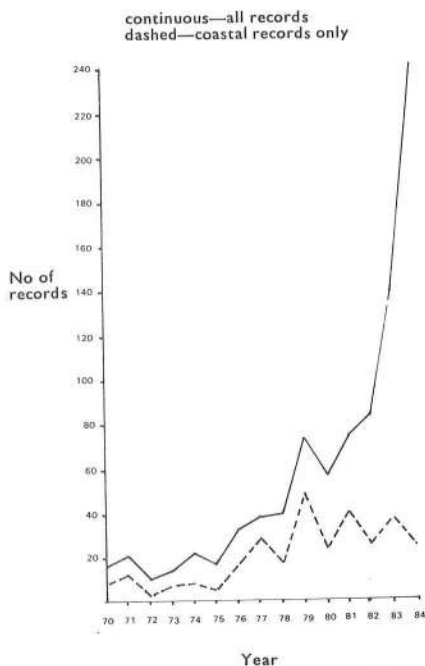


Fig 2—Individual Sparrowhawk records in Lincolnshire/South Humberside 1970–84



Female Sparrowhawk (B. Lillicrapp)

The continental populations of the Sparrowhawk, like those in Britain, were badly affected by the toxic chemical onslaught with average declines of 50-80% in breeding numbers. The number of migrants at Falsterbo, in southern Sweden, during 1956-60 fell by 50% compared to 1950-55 but increased again steadily during the 1970's. The number of migrants reaching eastern England must have been similarly affected. There is some evidence, however, to suggest that Scandinavian populations recovered earlier, due to lower usage of agrochemical pesticides, than those in Britain and thus the number of coastal migrants would have started to rise before the influx of British birds.

It is impossible to split the records of British and continental birds in the county, but it was obvious that any future recolonisation of the county would have to originate in the west and particularly the north-west. The neighbouring counties of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire were never as badly affected as Lincolnshire by the decline and here extensive woodlands allowed the Sparrowhawk to increase quickly in optimal habitat once the reduction in toxic pesticide burden allowed longer adult survival and increased breeding success. This released numbers of young birds which were able to start the colonisation of the best habitats in Lincolnshire.

The reduction in use of Aldrin and Dieldrin began in the 1960's and this was noticeably enhanced from 1975 with the restriction on cyclodiene use on cereal crops. There was a clear relationship between the increase in Sparrowhawk numbers and this reduction in pesticide use. The distribution of records from 1975 shows an increase in the number of inland sightings, particularly in the north-west, compared to coastal records. Most records are still in the autumn and winter when dispersing young birds are at a maximum, but the numbers of prospecting spring and summer birds has slowly increased also, especially since 1980. Records of odd birds during the breeding season from 1979 onwards suggested probable sporadic breeding attempts from that date. The fact that the environment is still not clear of pesticides and that many of the colonising birds are young and inexperienced does mean that initial breeding attempts are often not successful and birds are prone to desert a site after perhaps just one attempt. When, however, one considers the increased number of sightings from 1977 onwards (Fig 2), it becomes clear that recolonisation is now well under way.

After confirmed breeding at one site in 1983 and probable breeding at another 4 sites there was a massive increase in records in 1984 with 241 individual sightings (though not obviously all different birds), 7 pairs known to have bred, 8 other pairs probably having bred and many other breeding season records. The situation is now very encouraging and there seems no reason why the recolonisation should not continue. The population will be unlikely, however, to reach a pre-pesticide level in the future due to man's continuing impact upon the environment as a whole. The destruction of old hedgerows, woodlands and general "wild" areas all reduce the amount of available habitat for nesting small birds and thus their predators. "More efficient" agricultural practices have also reduced the winter food supply of many small prey species and may also limit Sparrowhawk distribution.

Taking all things into account though, and notwithstanding the possible adverse effects of the widespread game preserving interests in the county, there seems to be every reason to believe that the Sparrowhawk population will consolidate its position and reach a healthy breeding population within the next 10-15 years, a situation which most birdwatchers would not have believed possible in the 1960's and early 1970's.

Graham P. Catley

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Occurrence of Phalaropes in Lincolnshire/South Humberside, 1960-84

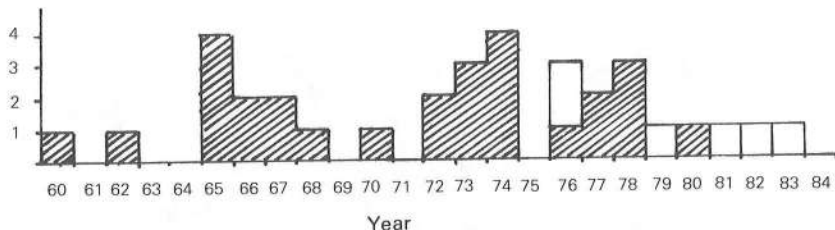
During the 25 years there were 34 records of Red-necked, 51 of Grey and 7 of Wilson's Phalarope.

As Red-necked Phalaropes nest in small numbers in the Northern Isles and Scotland as well as in most of Northern Scandinavia and Iceland, they might be expected to be more numerous than the Grey, which only nests in Iceland and the Arctic. The ratio of records in Lincolnshire/South Humberside is indeed opposite to that in the Netherlands where between 1970-81 there were 106 records of Red-necked and 77 of Grey, although the temporal distribution of records in the two areas is almost identical for Red-necked and very similar for Grey.

The Grey, however, migrates from the high arctic to its sub-tropical oceanic wintering areas in vast numbers and in the late autumn is prone to displacement by storms. During late autumn gales Grey Phalaropes occur in large numbers on the west coast of Britain and our county records reflect this to some extent, with one record of 7, 3 of 3 and 3 of 2 per day in this period, all in October-November. Red-necked on the other hand is more of a scarce spring overshoot and autumn drift passage migrant, probably mostly from Scandinavia. There is one record of 3 together and another of 2 but otherwise all records concern single birds.

Figures 1-4 show the occurrence pattern of Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes in the county during the 25 years; those of Wilson's are listed at the end.

No of birds



No of birds

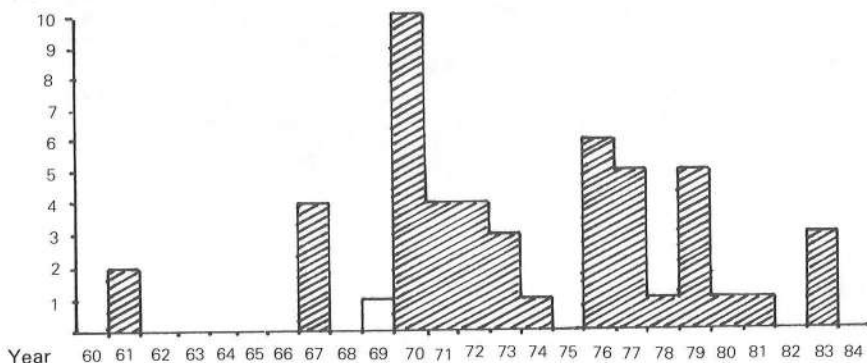


Fig 1 (top) – Red-necked Phalaropes in Lincolnshire/South Humberside 1960-84

Hatched: autumn records (July 11th-November 19th) Open: spring records (April-July 10th)

Fig 2 (bottom) – Grey Phalaropes in Lincolnshire/South Humberside 1960-84

Hatched: autumn/winter (September-March)

Open: spring/summer (April-July)

Red-necked Phalarope

The number of Red-necked Phalaropes recorded annually has not increased with the increasing number of birdwatchers in the county, in fact, since 1978, numbers have fallen. The most suitable passage sites, such as the sewage farms, were well watched even in the 1960's and increased coverage seems to have failed to find any other regular sites. Indeed, much favoured habitat has been lost. Twelve of the records were from Wisbech SF alone and the loss of this site, together with other sewage farms at Lincoln and Grantham, have had a serious effect on the occurrence of rare waders in the county in recent years. With the recent decline of Killingholme pits, due to problems of drainage and warping, the county is left without a good freshwater wader site. The establishment of such a site or preferably a series of sites in the county is a paramount conservation need which should be quickly looked into.

All of the Red-necked Phalarope records came from only 8 different sites, with 22 of the 34 inland. In addition to the 12 at Wisbech SF there were 5 at Donna Nook, 3 Bardney SBF, 5 Gibraltar Point, 2 North Cotes, 5 Covenham Res and singles at Grantham SF and Denton Res. The vast majority were recorded in autumn, 28 as opposed to 6 in spring, and the spring records were all recent, since 1976, with 5 of the 6 coastal and the other just inland at Covenham Res. Spring birds, on their way north to breed, are usually very brief visitors and only one of the above was seen on more than one day, the others paying all too transient visits. The chances of such birds staying for only a day or even a few hours or minutes, being seen, are obviously much less than long-staying autumn birds.

Autumn passage birds were noted from mid-July with a distinct peak from mid-August through to early September, odd records to late October and one late bird at Donna Nook on November 19th 1966. The similarity of this pattern to that in the Netherlands during 1970-81 suggests that they are birds of the same origin, and most probably Scandinavian birds. Birds are readily ageable in autumn, but in few cases was the age of birds noted in the reports. Of known birds the majority were juveniles, however, and it seems likely that most were birds of this age as such individuals are most liable to displacement on their first migration.



Red-necked Phalarope at Donna Nook October 1976 (G. P. Catley)

No of Birds

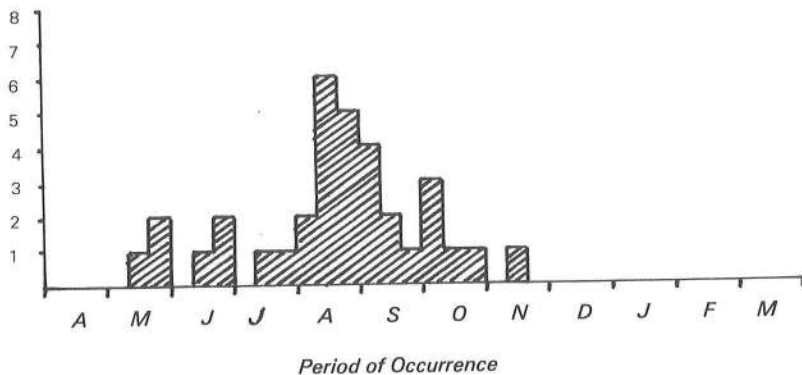


Fig 3: Red-necked Phalaropes in Lincolnshire/South Humberside by 10-day period

No of Birds

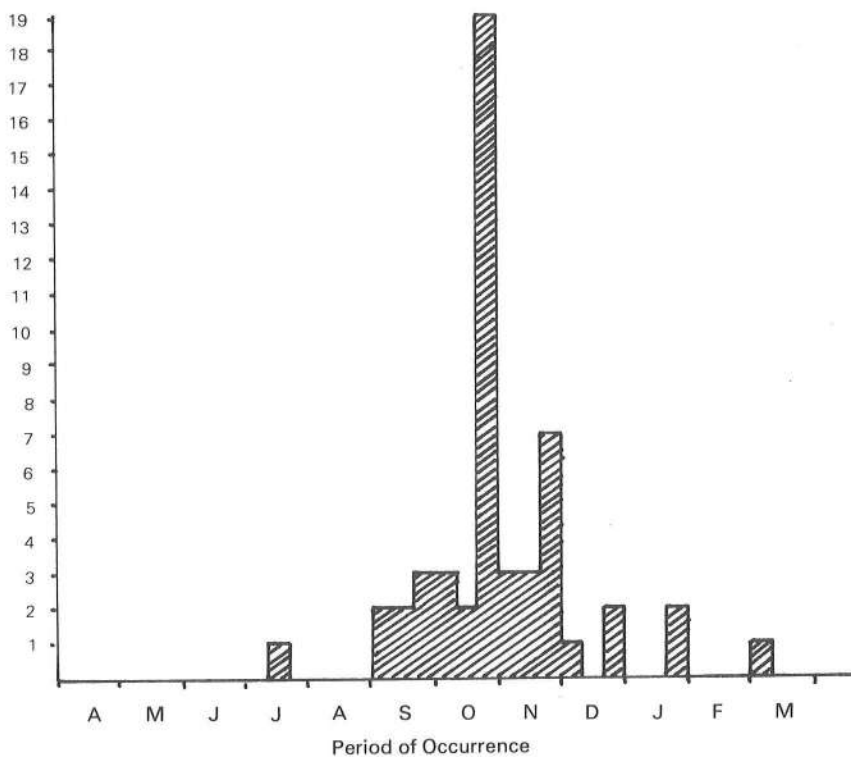


Fig 4: Grey Phalaropes in Lincolnshire/South Humberside by 10-day period

Grey Phalarope

The 51 records of Grey Phalarope were unevenly distributed with 0-10 per year which included one party of 7, 3 of 3 and 3 of 2. Records were more scattered than those of Red-necked and came from 14 different localities and in contrast to Red-necked the majority were coastal with 40 out of the 51 marine. Donna Nook had the most records with 22 but this included the 7 and all three 3's. Then came Gibraltar Point with 6 in 3 records of 2, Covenham Res 5, Holbeach Marsh 4, but otherwise no locality recorded more than 2 in 25 years. Other coastal sites were: North Cotes 2, Saltfleet 1, Mablethorpe 2, Trusthorpe 1, Huttoft 1, Witham Mouth 1, with inland records at Goxhill 1, North Killingholme 2, Baston Fen 1 and Wisbech SF 2. The number of records per year increased from the mid-1960's with increased coastal coverage but has since not shown any real rise and they remain rather sporadic in occurrence.

The timing of occurrence of Grey Phalaropes is markedly different to Red-neckeds with only one "spring" record in the period, a female at Huttoft on July 15th 1969, and a much later autumn peak. Autumn birds are first noted from early September with a very noticeable peak in late October, even without the multiple records, and records continuing to late January on a small scale with one at Trusthorpe March 1st 1979. The late autumn peaks are related to the late autumn storms which often result in gale force northerly winds. These may bring other seabirds down the east coast, notably Little Auks. The Phalaropes en route to the southern wintering sites are displaced by the gales and may reach us by moving down the North Sea or may be forced across the country from west to east, as seems to be the case with Leach's Petrels and Manx Shearwaters, earlier in the autumn. Most records of these gale-blown birds are thus only one day affairs, only 6 having been seen on more than one day. These were 2 at Covenham Res, 2 Wisbech SF and 1 each at N Killingholme and Holbeach Marsh.

It is possible to age Grey Phalaropes even through their first winter, but no information on ages was published in the reports.

Wilson's Phalarope

As this species breeds in the northern Nearctic and winters in South America, it only occurs in the county as a transatlantic vagrant. Even so, there have been 5 records of 7 birds since the first in 1967. The records are as follows:

Wisbech SF	2 September 28th-October 16th with one to November 2nd 1967
Wisbech SF	a male June 7th-8th 1975
Wisbech SF	2 August 29th 1979
Gibraltar Point	first winter September 11th-October 5th 1984
Anderby Creek	first winter October 3rd 1984

Graham P. Catley

Systematic List 1984

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Introduction

Following the moans in the 1983 Report the response with 1984 records was most encouraging. It was very pleasing to receive a large number of records from both new observers and new areas, all of which helps to give a more representative picture of the ornithology of the county. All but two of the lists of records were in the requested order and there was a good response to the request for rarity descriptions to accompany records automatically. However, some observers are still not supplying descriptions and it wastes time when people must be chased up for these. The list of species requiring descriptions is again included to jog memories in 1985!

In addition to the guidelines given in 1983 I would state that descriptions for forwarding to British Birds Rarities Committee should be sent to me as soon as possible after the observation. If descriptions are not sent to BBRC before January of the year following the sighting they will, in general, not appear in the BB Rarities Report and we will not receive adjudication on them before our own Report goes to press.

The county Records Committee was increased to 5 members in 1985, with the inclusion of Howard Bunn and Steve Keightley to give a more balanced weighting to area record assessment. The Systematic List is still being compiled by GPC, to whom all 1985 records should be submitted by January 31st 1986!! but the writing of species accounts has been split between 6 authors to spread the workload.

Review of the year

After brief cold spells in January-February, the early winter was undistinguished and the spring rather late. The lack of migrants, however, probably reflected their reduced populations as much as the unfavourable weather. A warm dry summer gave most species a good breeding season and also a good start to their autumn migration. Good migration weather for birds is, however, usually bad news for the bird-watcher and the early autumn was no exception with only one noticeable coastal "fall". September was a better all round month with several notable records but once again October, dominated by Westerlies, was a real disappointment. November produced a better list of rarities and once again a good wildfowl movement. December was as "steady" as ever with just a few hints of the January cold to come.

The principal events of January were; a large influx of Shags with 54+ up to March and, incidentally, another 23 in November-December; a good influx of the scarcer geese with 100+ White-fronts and 114+ Barnacle Geese, presumably birds forced out of the Low Countries by the hard weather. Only one Great Grey Shrike was wintering and with a brief 2 in April these were the only records of the year. A distinct recent decrease in the number of Great Greys visiting the county continues as does the decline in fortunes of the Shorelark with just 3 in January-February, one May and one November. Fewer Glaucous Gulls than in the late 1970's seem to be appearing and 1983-4 continued the trend. Gibraltar Point produced the only rarity of the month, a much discussed and argued over Arctic Redpoll. Apart from 2 Iceland Gulls and a Goshawk in February, the month was one of the unnotables! Another Iceland Gull appeared in March and stayed into April and departing

winter visitors included large numbers of Blackbirds on the coast in March and 2 large flocks of Bewick's Swans, 52 and 73, both on 5th. An overshooting Red Kite was a good sign and was followed by a second in April. The appearance of these birds on the East coast is more likely to be linked with the increasing population in southern Sweden and Northern Europe than with British stock. Early migrants in March were very few and Firecrests remained in low numbers all spring and autumn. As April passed the lack of Sand Martins, in particular, and other summer visitors such as Chiffchaffs, Whitethroats, Blackcaps even, and Garden Warblers, suggested a disastrous winter, or spring migration, most probably linked with the drought in Africa and very bad weather in the Mediterranean in spring 1984. Three early Dotterel appeared in April followed by another 21 in May and there was a good influx of Ring Ouzels late in April with a lone Hoopoe. Hawfinches were found at two sites in April-May and one pair possibly bred. This species is, however, surely more widespread in Lincolnshire woodlands than records suggest and is probably largely overlooked due to its secretive habits and lack of appreciation of its distinctive call. The Jays of late 1983 refused to bow out and began their own form of migrations again from April-June with some large flocks recorded, many, however, appearing to be in poor condition. May was as usual the peak month for spring rarities with a Golden Oriole, a good arrival of Red-backed Shrikes late in the month with 7 noted, an Ashy-headed Wagtail, 2 Broad-billed Sandpipers and a Kentish Plover, with a second in June, the first spring Lesser Yellowlegs, the first spring record of Leach's Petrel and the 3rd county Laughing Gull. A most unexpected County "first" in early June, was a Dartford Warbler at Tetney, again not of the British race but the Mediterranean one. The discovery of a Hoopoe at Rauceby Warren led in turn to the sighting of an adult Rose-coloured Starling! On the breeding front Sparrowhawks at last began to get themselves noticed, Grey Herons continued to increase to a new record 381 nests, Marsh Harriers again bred successfully but Black Redstarts apparently didn't and Hobbies refused to be tied down again! A pair of Ruddy Ducks bred for the first time (see paper), and Woodlarks almost definitely nested for the first time since 1959. For migrants the warm summer was quiet and early August continued the trend until several Hobbies appeared, then a notable fall of Pied Flycatchers occurred around 21st-24th with a few inland. A Great Snipe was found late in the month and was followed by a possible second in September. A good seabird spell in late August produced 2 Balearic Shearwaters and a few Sootys, Sabine's Gull and 2 Long-tailed Skuas. Seabirds were again prominent from September 4th-5th during Northerly gales, with more Sootys, 2 Sabines, a Long-tailed Skua, 423 Arctic Skuas on the 4th, and numbers of Fulmars and Gannets. It is interesting to compare the years total of 25 records of Sooty Shearwater with the numbers recorded at Spurn and Flamborough, where up to 250 per day are recorded in favourable autumn weather and exceptionally up to 600 at Flamborough Head. Our low-lying coastline is not good for "seawatching" and the figures suggest that birds are passing us farther out to sea on the good days and are just not visible from the land due to lack of height. On land it was not a good autumn for waders but 2 Wilson's Phalaropes were a highlight; a Crane put in a brief visit, a Thrush Nightingale was inevitably trapped and 2 Ortolans were seen with a small arrival late in the month producing a Greenish Warbler, Richard's Pipit, 4 Yellow-browed Warblers and a good arrival of Siskins. Two more Yellow-broweds were all that October had to offer but a Spoonbill arrived at Gibraltar Point and foolishly decided to winter! November gave rise to some good southerly movements of Pink-footed Geese and an influx of 100+ Bewick's Swans while associating with a large flock of Brents was a fine Red-breasted Goose, the second county record, and from the west a Nearctic Green-winged Teal was the first county example of this race. A dowitcher flew by and 2 Richard's Pipits arrived with a notable influx of Mealy Redpolls and a huge influx of Lapwings. Another Richard's Pipit was late, in December, and eventually a good arrival of Fieldfares made short work of the excellent berry crop, but alas, again no Waxwings! The only Rough-legged Buzzard of the year just scraped into December and the year ended with the fourth county Laughing Gull, or was it the same one back again?

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

No large numbers were recorded in the early winter. In January there were 1-6 at Gibraltar Point, 1-9 Donna Nook and singles regularly at the Witham Mouth with one inland at Covenham Res 22nd-February 1st. Seventeen flew north at Huttoft on February 6th but the highest numbers were in March with 38 Gibraltar Point 5th and 25 Saltfleetby 19th, 2 inland birds at Deeping High Bank 3-4th with one to 9th. Singles were at Donna Nook on May 5th and June 12th. Autumn/late winter reports were of 1-9 at Donna Nook with a maximum of 17 there November 4th; 1-10 at Gibraltar Point in December and maxima of 8 south at Saltfleetby November 2nd and 16 there 14th. One was again at Deeping High Bank December 16th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

The only early year records were one at Gibraltar Point February 3rd and one north at Saltfleetby April 4th. Two were at Huttoft September 30th and singles were noted at Gibraltar Point October 20th, Donna Nook November 8th and the Witham Mouth December 18th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

The only record was at Gibraltar Point on December 31st (MD, SCo).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Widely reported with maxima of 8 Barrow-Barton January 10th, 16 Ashbyville 21st, up to 12 Gibraltar Point March/April, 7 Messingham Sand Quarry April 3rd, 9 Messingham Heath 12th and 1-6 at Donna Nook to early June. Thirty plus were at Barrow Haven August 29th. There were up to 9 at Tetney October-December with maxima of 12 October 13th and 10 December 12th and a peak of 10 at Ashbyville 28th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Early winter maxima were 8 at Bennington February 19th and 12 at Covenham Res in February. Spring peaks in March-April included; 5 flying west high over Cadney March 29th, 14 Thorpe Pits 11th, 9 Ashbyville 29th, 7 Messingham 7th and 15 Denton Res April 23rd. Breeding records included single pairs at Messingham, Burton Stather, N. Scarle GP, Winterton Pond, and West Ashby Pits with 2 pairs at Ashbyville, and 15 on the Humber Bank Pits, one pair rearing two broods. None nested at Denton Res due to low water levels but 15 were recorded there on August 7th. Higher autumn-late winter numbers were noted on the South Forty-foot drain with 21 September 16th, 23 October 16th, a maximum of 25 at the Witham Mouth in September-October, 27 at Freiston September 26th, up to 16 at Covenham Res by December and up to 15 at Baston GP all year.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (illustrated)

Records were scarce with one at Gibraltar Point January 8th then one at Deeping High Bank February 25th-March 4th. In autumn one was at the Witham Mouth on September 4th. Two December birds were at Ashbyville 2-18th and Gibraltar Point 30-31st.

**Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus***

In February there was one at Ashbyville 5-9th, one Donna Nook 11th and 2 at Huttoft Pit 5-6th with one to 11th. One was at Cadney Res October 5th and one Covenham Res 23rd with 3 there November 6-8th, one 13th and one December 16th. Another single was at Gibraltar Point on November 3rd.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

A summer-plumaged bird was at Thorpe pits on May 23rd. Covenham Res had 2 on August 19th and one September 5th-October 13th while one was at Barton-on-Humber December 9-23rd.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

The only January records were at North Killinghome 5th and Donna Nook 8th. The first notable numbers were 9 at the Witham Mouth on April 15th and 10 at Frampton on May 22nd when one was up the Humber at Goxhill. One to ten were noted on the coast March-October with an unusual June movement at Donna Nook of 50 north and 11 south on 7th. Autumn maxima were 30 at Saltfleetby August 25th, then during northerly gales September 4-5th; 120 north at Saltfleetby 5th, 41 at the Witham Mouth 4th and 36 north at Gibraltar Point 6th. The only November record was at Gibraltar Point on 4th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

In August 4 were at the Witham Mouth 13th (PCo) and on the 25th at Saltfleetby 2 flew north am (BMC, MJT) and 6 north pm (GPC, MM). Two flew south at Saltfleetby September 4th (JRW) and 6 north at Huttoft (KW) with one north Saltfleetby 5th (MM) and 3 north at Huttoft 12th (GPC). An October bird was seen at Gibraltar Point on 5th (MOT).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Spring records were of 10 north at Gibraltar Point May 22nd and one 27th with up to 9 at Donna Nook daily, 22nd-June 8th. Sporadic July records were of 7 south Saltfleetby 11th, one 14th and 14 south 22nd, 7 North Cotes 28th, one Huttoft 16th and at Donna Nook 5 north 13th, 5 north and 18 south 19th. In August there were singles at Theddlethorpe 1st and Gibraltar Point 24th with 2 Witham Mouth 13th and a good passage of 45 north at Saltfleetby 25th. A series of September records with 21 south Saltfleetby 4th and 2 north 5th, 3 north, 11 south Huttoft 4th and 2 12th, singles Gibraltar Point 4th and 16th with 5 23rd and other singles at Tetney 7th, Trusthorpe 15th, Nene Mouth 24th and 2 at the Witham Mouth 4th.

Balearic Shearwater *P.p. mauretanicus*. There were two records of birds showing characteristics of the western Mediterranean form, at Saltfleetby July 28th (RJA) and August 26th (BMC).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A first spring occurrence with 2 flying south at Donna Nook May 22nd (SL).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

January-February records were from Gibraltar Point only with 1-3 birds, increasing to 1-10 in May with 22 north 22nd. Thirty-three were at Saltfleetby on June 7th and 35 flew north at Donna Nook 7th. Up to 20 on the coast August-November with 21 north and 43 south at Saltfleetby August 25th and 37 Witham Mouth 27th. September peaks were 30 Witham Mouth 4th, 30 south Saltfleetby 16th, 31 north Gibraltar Point 6th and 39 south Huttoft 30th. A late November bird was in Grimsby Fish Dock 18th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Recorded throughout the year with up to 13 Barton-Winteringham, at the Witham Mouth 45-50 January-April and July-December, up to 30 at Gibraltar Point with a high count of 50 November 17th, up to 15 at various coastal sites and a total in the February Wash count of 277 19th, 18 Cleethorpes in June and up to 17 in August, up to 19 at Covenham Res January and up to 13 October-December. Sixty were at Butterwick October 12th and inland records came from Thorpe Pits July 1st and November 10th, Bardney October 6-7th, Louth 2 south-west 16th, 10 east at Sutton Bridge 11th and 1-4 on the South Forty-foot drain October-December with other singles Mareham-on-the-Hill November 20th and 2 West Ashby 18th.

Birds possibly showing characteristics of the race *P.c. sinensis* were recorded as follows: in March Covenham Res, 29th, Read's Island 29-April 10th, Huttoft 25th, Witham Mouth 2 31st and in April at the Hobhole Outfall 7th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

An exceptional influx in the early year involved a flock of 24 at Covenham Res January 26th with 7 there 30th, including one found on the roadside in fog at Brackenborough, Louth, and released at Covenham; 6 at Covenham 31st and one dead, with 6 to February 10th and 2 to 12th. Other January records were singles Witham Mouth 21st, Cleethorpes 28th and 2 at Stallingborough 29th. Further influxes in February produced 1-2 at Grimsby Docks-Cleethorpes 4-9th (3+ birds), 1-2 Trusthorpe 4-5th, one Tattershall 11th and 2 south at Donna Nook 24th. There were 5 on Vernalts drain, Spalding, 4th-March 1st with 6 11th and 5 at the Witham Mouth from 4th-March 1st with 1-2 to April 29th. One was at Baston GP March 2nd and Baston Fen 4th, one Grimsby Docks 15th and one found dead Humberston 25th. Three flew north at Donna Nook May 16th and one was up the Humber at Goxhill July 14th with another dead at Tetney in July. Another late winter influx produced records in November at Witham Mouth 5th, Gibraltar Point 12th, North Cotes 12 on 7th, Donna Nook 4 south 8th and 2 north 17th and Tetney 29th. Two December birds were at North Cotes 9th and Chapel St. Leonards 23rd.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

All single sightings at Gibraltar Point January 8th, Barrow Haven February 1st, Baston Fen March 10th and Wrangle December 18th.

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The heronry census revealed a further increase in the county total to a peak of 381 nests compared with 337 in 1983.

Abbey Wood	76	Kingerby	2	Troy	70
Howsham	15	Willoughby	20	Evedon	26
Laughton	14	Gatecliff	16	The Mere Deeping	75
Muckton	40	Old Hag	27		

Other significant records were of 7-13 birds at Read's Island July-September with 14 Crowle November 5th and large numbers at West Ashby pits November-December with a maximum of 71 on December 8th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

A single bird was at Gibraltar Point on June 1st (IH, JPa) with possibly the same bird at Tetney 2nd. A first winter bird was in the Gibraltar Point-Wainfleet area from October 18th into 1985 (MMo, DJA, TCh et al).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak January counts were 189 R Welland, Spalding to Borough Fen 15th, 33 R Glen, Guthram 4th. Seventy-four were still at R Welland March 17th and 47 R Glen to May 13th. The R Witham, Lincoln, held 64 August 29th. Winter peaks were 218, R Welland October 16th rising to 307 November 10th. A rapid decline to about 40 in December gave cause for concern. Also in December Barrow Haven had 24 on 15th and Saltfleetby 22 on 19th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

In January-February 1-3 birds at Freiston, Witham Mouth, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point. In March peak numbers were 73 Gibraltar Point flying east on 5th, 52 North Cotes also on 5th and 24 Covenham flying north on 11th; also 1-6 birds at Gibraltar Point during the month and at Saltfleetby, Holbeach St. Marks and Deeping High Bank. Single birds were at Gibraltar Point April 16th & 24th-May 1st and 6 at Baston Fen/Pits 8th & 9th, whilst in May, one Tetney 3rd-5th, Anderby 29th and Huttoft 30th may all have been same bird. Winter birds started to arrive in October with 4 Gibraltar Point 27th and 8 Messingham 28th. During November peak counts were 20 Gibraltar Point (16 flying south), 14 Anderby Creek in off the sea and 14 Donna Nook all on 3rd, 16 Messingham and 10 Donna Nook moving south, both on 4th, also 11 south, Cleethorpes, on 24th. Elsewhere 1-7 birds during month at Goxhill, Tetney, Humberston, Cleethorpes 7 (16th), Baston Fen and Covenham Res. Again 1-4 in December at Gibraltar Point and North Cotes with max 16, Deeping High Bank, 16th and 12 to 21st, 10 Wingland 23rd and 12 Lea Marshes 31st.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

During the early part of the year there were 2 flying south at Gibraltar Point January 7th, 31 Deeping High Bank March 14th, 8 Lincoln Ballast Pit 17-19th with one there April 3rd, and 11 flying north at South Ferriby March 29th. One was at Humberston April 15th. First autumn bird was at Gibraltar Point October 12th with a further influx in November, 4 on 4th, one 7th, 5 south 10th and one south 25th. Also in the November movements were: 2 Covenham Res 1st and 5 4th, 2 north Theddlethorpe 3rd, 5 west Goxhill 5th, 8 south Saltfleetby 13th, 5 Witham Mouth 5th, 23 Deeping High Bank 16th, one Holbeach Marsh 25th and a first winter at Messingham from 21st in 1985. Other December records were 2 north-west Pyewipe and 6 south Saltfleetby 13th, 10 south Gibraltar Point 14th and 3 Holbeach with 5 east at Lincoln Ballast Pit both 28th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

A party of 5 were at Saltfleetby March 6th (JRW), with 9 at Covenham Res November 21st (KW), 3 Huttoft December 1st (BMC) and 4 Witham Mouth 9th (SK).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

In January there were up to 60 in New Holland/Barrow Haven/Humberstone area with max of 300 Read's Island on 30th. On the east coast there were 113 Saltfleet 29th, 50 Tetney on 31st whilst inland 30 Farlestone 25th and 60 Horncastle 30th. Around the Wash there were 120 Holbeach 21st, 500 Witham Mouth 21st and 542 south at Gibraltar Point on 29th. February produced 8 at Cleethorpes on 2nd, 35 flying north-west at Kirton End on

7th (including one leucistic bird) and 500 Whitton on 11th. There was movement in March with 103 Gibraltar Point flying west on 5th and 180 Scunthorpe flying north-west on 6th; 4 were at Saltfleetby on 9th. In April 180 again flying north-west at Cleethorpes on 13th and 10 Baston Fen on 8th. A late bird was at South Killingholme on May 12th. Returning autumn birds were reported from widely scattered coastal localities in October with max of 90 west Gibraltar Point 17th and 80 Tetney 31st. Coastal and inland reports increased in November with some notable movements mostly southerly; at Gibraltar Point max of 167 south 10th, Saltfleetby 114 10th, 170 13th, 179 20th, 170 25th and 118 28th all south, at Cleethorpes 190 south-west 24th, and 50 south at Hemmingby 24th. Notable flocks being 120 Donna Nook 8th, 200 Tetney 15th and 198 at Holbeach 25th where numbers built up to 600 by mid-December. Also in December there were 150 South Ferriby 26th, 140 Witham Mouth 9th, 142 Hobhole Freiston 9th and at Saltfleetby 105 south 2nd and 140 north 12th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

In January 17 in Winteringham/Read's Island area from December 83 increased to 21, February 4th then 24 19th and 29 March 4th-22nd. Gibraltar Point had 31 plus 6 south on January 29th, Covenham and Donna Nook singles 23rd and 30th respectively, North Cotes 19, 27th, Tetney 37, 29th. In February there were 28 at Huttoft on 1st and 5 Donna Nook 10th. Late in the year 3 were at Huttoft Pit on December 21st.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

During the year reports were received from Denton Res, Gibraltar Point, West Ashby, Messingham, Kirkby-on-Bain, Branston Island, Huttoft, Thorpe Pits, Baston Pits, Saltfleetby, Tetney, Tattershall and West Deeping Pits. Max flocks were Kirkby-on-Bain, 110 January increasing to 195 February with 243 on August 9th, 130 flew south Grainthorpe Haven October 31st and 135 flew east at Blyborough November 25th when 85 were at West Deeping pits. One pair bred at Holme Lake rearing 5 juvs and at Tattershall there were 64 adults and 43 juvs on May 27th.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

	J	F	M	A	M	A	S	O	N	D
Barrow Haven/Barton	74	50	—	—	—	—	145	—	45	—
Messingham	—	160	41	62	70	300	—	100	168	185
Denton Res	100	100	—	—	—	100	230	—	—	100
Gibraltar Point	—	22	—	—	—	48	95	93	—	—

Other large flocks were 100 South Thoresby January 29th, 126 Burton Pits January 21st, 180 Fillingham Lake January 15th. Then 349 West Deeping Pits October 1st and 175 Chapel St. Leonards, December 29th. Bred at Messingham (5 pairs) and Barrow/Barton (5 pairs)

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Records of wild birds were all in January; 79 Donna Nook 25-29th and 19 on 30-31st, also 16 Gibraltar Point 25th and 35, 29th. All other records of 1-3 birds probably relate to feral stock, from Holywell Lake, Thorpe Pits, Messingham, Barton, Read's Island/South Ferriby, Covenham Res, Saltfleetby and Chapel St. Leonards – seen in all months.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/Humberston	8	8	—	—	—	—	27	80	119
Tetney/N Cotes	700	380	80	7	—	21	50	250	700
Grainthorpe/Donna Nook/									
Saltfleet	1500	1200	—	—	—	—	—	900	1100
Gibraltar Point	450	2500	1000	90	200	130	200	500	850
Witham Mouth	3000	1270	2700	1900	1100	300	1000	2000	3400
Kirton	1000	1000	2000	3000	500	—	—	—	—
Frampton	—	4100	—	—	2500	—	—	300	—
Holbeach	2000	3900	2500	3450	2000	200	1050	1500	1500
Wash, including above	—	15448	—	—	—	—	—	10943	—

Flocks at Tetney, North Cotes, Grainthorpe and Saltfleetby were interchanging in November-December but usually remained discrete. In addition to the flocks listed there were 600 Nene Mouth February 12th and 1,000 Leverton April 20th. One was well up the Humber at Read's Island February 10th. In May the Wash held good numbers with 100 Nene Mouth 8th, 120 Wrangle 9th, 1,100 Witham Mouth 6th falling to 700 29th, 600

Butterwick 18th, 750 Frampton 24th with 600 on 29th and at Gibraltar Point 40-100 with the last 20 on 30th, but 2 late birds June 11th. First returning birds were one Butterwick August 9-13th and 5 south at Saltfleetby 25th. Four were in the Humber at Goxhill November 10th and 500 at Freiston December 10th.

B.b hrota: Single birds at Gibraltar Point January 1st and Grainthorpe January 21st, with 2 at Witham Mouth December 1st and 2 Cleethorpes on 4th.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

An adult in North Cotes/Saltfleet area November 25-29th (MDa, MJW et al). The second county record. This bird, in common with most other recent records in Great Britain, associated with a flock of up to 900 Brents.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A male and female at Holbeach Marsh on August 14th (PT).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham	-	81	68	80	-	-	-	-	250	177	437	-
Read's Island	46	80	70	235	267	300 11j	308 150j	176 161j	84	91	126	106
Winteringham/ Read's Island	-	-	270	430	500	600	300 90j	-	200	300	600	-
Pyewipe-Grimsby	-	1000	500	-	-	-	-	-	16	232	57	320
Tetney-N Cotes	-	300	400	135	60	40	35	15	-	-	400	230
Donna Nook/ Saltfleet	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	673	-
Gibraltar Pt	75	60	88	78	69	42	46	53	91	200	240	100
Witham Mouth	500	639	375	100	-	-	-	4	16	25	350	450
Holbeach	800	2100	500	1000	200	-	-	17	12	78	600	900

The Wash count on February 19th, Gibraltar Point-Norfolk border, produced 7,254 birds. Pairs bred inland at Butterwick Hale, Covenham Res, Messingham, where there was a max of 47 birds April 14th, and south-east of Gainsborough. Sixty-two juvs were off Read's Island July 7th with 161 there in August. Other breeding records were: 8 pairs at Tetney, 36 juvs at Holbeach Marsh July 29th and 200 juvs at the Witham Mouth July 1st. 113 flew west up the Humber at Goxhill November 5th and 92 south at Anderby 3rd, the only notable autumn movements. 625 were counted at Saltfleetby November 26th.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A male at Covenham Res on September 14th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

	J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	158	1200	148	42	-	-	115	426	458
Tetney/N Cotes	30	70	75	50	-	40	20	20	-
Gibraltar Point	200	180	79	2	85	500	1500	500	500
Baston Fen	35	215	90	-	-	-	-	-	30
Holbeach	23	7	7	25	-	243	44	1000	10

Seventy were at Branston Island February 18th and 200 Barton April 8th with May records at Covenham Res 2-4th, then 5 17th with 10 21st and 8 23rd. A male at Thorpe pits June 7th and July 1st. In autumn other peak numbers were 300 Goxhill November 5th, 320 Saltfleetby 4th and 570 north Donna Nook 3rd with 262 north 4th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

During January-April there were 1-5 Barrow Haven, Covenham Res, Huttoft Pit, Gibraltar Point, Branston Island and Messingham. 6-8 were at Baston Fen March 8-12th and 8 Thorpe Pits March 11th. One pair probably bred Baston Fen, male last seen June 16th. One Sandiland Pit May 30th, 2 Donna Nook July 19th and 3 Gibraltar Point 25th, also up to 4 there August 23-30th. In autumn/late winter 1-12 in earlier haunts plus Theddlethorpe, Whisby Pits, Goxhill and North Killingholme. 6-27 at Lincoln Ballast Pit during December with 16 Huttoft Pit on 16th and 9 Burton Pits on 30th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

	J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island-Winteringham	-	-	-	-	350	600	400	900	-
Read's Island	39	-	25	-	448	530	292	372	214
Messingham	50	50	50	8	200	150	100	60	50
Gibraltar Point	280	123	46	39	203	394	200	600	100
Baston Fen	60	77	72	72	48	11	-	-	33

In addition there were 135 Thorpe Pits January 15th and 750 Branston Island 18th; in February 150 Huttoft 5th and 300 Branston Island 18th. Max March numbers were 80 Thorpe Pits 11th, 62 Saltfleetby 22nd, 50 Donna Nook 28th. During summer there was one Messingham June 5th and 3 Donna Nook on 10th with a female + 4 downy juveniles Read's Island in July. In autumn peaks not tabled were 200, Bardney September 2nd, 94 Sea Bank Claypits September 15th, 77 Goxhill November 5th, 100 Hungerton Quarry November 18th and 130 Saltfleetby December 16th.

A male bird of the North American race *Anas crecca carolinensis* (Green-winged Teal) was at Gibraltar Point November 11th (ACS, DJ). This is the first county record of this race. Under consideration by BBRC.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham	—	141	38	—	—	—	—	—	480	324	86	—
Winteringham/ Read's Island	—	—	150	120	—	—	—	800	300	300	800	400
Read's Island	310	218	74	8	38	53	126	40	400	234	270	180
Sea Bank												
Clay Pits	52	46	21	—	—	—	—	—	674	482	166	188
Gibraltar Pt	1600	80	123	30	25	130	41	520	700	250	300	450
Covenham Res	500	330	47	—	—	—	—	—	125	370	500	611
Holbeach	300	230	50	15	25	—	—	—	50	55	200	20
Baston Fen	52	253	50	38	—	—	—	—	76	—	—	—

The max Wash count was 788 on February 19th. Other high counts of 100-300 were recorded in January-February from Kirkby-on-Bain, Messingham, Cleethorpes and Barton, with 350 Bagmoor Farm January 1st, 410 Fillingham Lake January 15th, 420 Thorpe Pits and 420 Guthram (R Glen) also 15th, 452 R Welland February 9th and 650 Branston Island February 18th. From August-December there were few other records in excess of 100; Anderby Creek/Wolla Bank had 100 on September 17th, Huttoft Pit 150 on October 23rd, Witham Mouth up to 150 in November, Saltfleetby 120 on November 26th, whilst Cleethorpes had c120 October-December.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Highest concentrations during January-April were 12 Witham Mouth January 21st to 17 on February 18th, 68 Holbeach on February 19th, with max Wash count of 552 on February 11th. During this period there were 1-10 at Covenham Res, Gibraltar Point, Thorpe Pits, Branston Island, Cleethorpes, Baston Fen, Saltfleetby, Messingham, Tetney and Barton. In May-July 1-2 recorded from Messingham and Donna Nook. One to 10 again noted at the above sites from August to December with 12 Frampton August 29th to 17 Gibraltar Point during September, 35 Witham Mouth September 27th, 17 Gibraltar Point October 13th increasing to 23 on 20th. Holbeach numbers peaked at 400 on November 25th, down to 40 on December 4th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Again a poor year with no proved breeding records. Spring males were at Baston Fen April 8th, Donna Nook April 13-15th and Messingham May 3rd with 2 birds Gibraltar Point May 26th and one to 28th. Pairs were at Chapel Pits April 5th and Bracebridge May 14th. Single birds in June were males at Messingham 5th, and Huttoft 17th with a female at Goxhill 30th-July 5th. In August 2 juvs at Barrow Haven 20th, 2 at Lincoln Ballast pit 29th and 1-2 birds at Messingham 13th-September 9th with 4 on 23rd. Gibraltar Point had singles September 2nd, 12-13th and 30th with others that month at Thorpe Pits 6th and Covenham Res where there was a pair on 12th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

	J	F	M	J	A	S	O	N	D
Messingham	—	—	7	1	9	—	29	60	22
Gibraltar Pt	—	—	—	—	29	37	26	28	7

Up to 10 birds were also present January-May at Barrow Haven, Baston Fen, Deeping High Bank, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Saltfleetby, Sutton Bridge, Denton Res and Tattershall; 15 max at Huttoft Pit January 15th-February 13th and 16 Baston Fen March 25th. Breeding of 1, possibly 2 pairs confirmed at Baston Fen and attempted breeding at Kirton Marsh but eggs failed. A female in possible territory at Bishops Bridge drain (Lincoln) May 31st. From

August-December 1-30 birds at Covenham, Kirkby-on-Bain, Huttoft, Barrow Haven, Denton Res and Lincoln Ballast Pit.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female at Langtoft December 22nd (AD).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

	J	F	M	S	O	N	D
Messingham	50	108	31	54	107	104	70
Toft Newton	89	—	—	—	—	150	74
Covenham Res	93	39	—	—	—	—	60

From January-June there were also 20-50 at Thorpe Pits, Ashbyville, East Halton, Sleaford GP, Kirkby-on-Bain, Lincoln Ballast Pit and Deeping High Bank. At Baston GP there were 83 on February 19th. One brood of 6 juvs reported at Messingham in June. Late winter counts also produced 34 Lincoln Ballast Pit November 16th, 105 Barton/Barrow Haven December 15th and 50 Deeping High Bank December 21st.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

	J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
Barton-Barrow Haven	27	—	—	—	60	—	38	61	119
Cadney Res	145	78	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Messingham	—	48	79	37	—	54	107	64	72
Lincoln Ballast Pit	60	75	85	—	—	—	12	46	24
Thorpe-Whisby	420	—	270	—	—	—	—	—	—
Covenham Res	145	—	—	—	—	31	73	126	118
Baston Pits	—	64	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
R Welland	—	98	98	—	—	41	40	197	137

Breeding records included 2 broods Barrow Haven, 1 West Ashby Pit, 4 pairs Messingham, 6 Baston Fen, possibly 1 at Snitterby Carr and 1 pair failed at Tetney. Elsewhere counts of 40-90 birds were noted in January-July and November-December at Sutton Ings Pit, West Ashby, Ashbyville, Tattershall, New Holland, Toft Newton and Burton Pits.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

During January-March there was one Gibraltar Point January 7th, 3 females Huttoft 8th, a female Cadney Res 8-11th, at Witham Mouth a female March 3rd and a male 31st and Huttoft 2 25th. From September-December there were 2 Nene Mouth September 10th, a female Freiston 26th and a male and female Butterwick 30th; Covenham Res produced 1-6 from October-December 31st, a female was at Cleethorpes November 19th-December 23rd, Apex Pits had 5 November 3rd, Witham Mouth 8 24th and Baston Fen (R Glen) a female 25th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Witham Mouth	74	50	57	—	31	—	—	50	—	—	—	—
Gibraltar Pt	—	60	3	2	17	7	—	1	50	23	80	100

Records from other locations were 8 Grimsby Docks-Humberston January 24th with up to 13 to October; 3 Huttoft and 16 Stallingborough, both March 25th. Two Tetney April 25th increased to 15 28-29th, 2 remaining until May 2nd. Then 1 Saltfleetby June 29th, 1-2 Donna Nook July 8th-August 3rd, a female Cleethorpes boating lake August 26th. Maximum count of the year was 137 Freiston September 12th, decreasing to 80 on 26th. There were 23 Gibraltar Point October 13th with 30 North Cotes 14th, then in November 2-4 at the Nene Mouth, 4 Saltfleetby 4th, 31 Humberston 14th, 1-6 at Gibraltar Point with 80 south 9th, 35 south 10th, 27 south 11th and 44 north 25th, at Donna Nook 4-6 with 14 north 8th, 25 north 25th and 17 north 29th. Six were at Huttoft December 1st and 60 Saltfleetby 13th with a good movement at Gibraltar Point of 100+ north 2nd and then 38 south 14th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Few records compared with 1983. From January-March, one Donna Nook January 8th, 2 Gedney Drove End February 19th, one Witham Mouth March 3rd and 2 there 17th. In October-November one Covenham Res. October 26th with 2 27th into 1985, one Holbeach Marsh October 26th, Saltfleetby 26th, 2 Witham Mouth 22-28th and 6 Gibraltar Point 26th. One Donna Nook and 3 Saltfleetby November 4th, one Witham Mouth 20-24th and one Gibraltar Point 25th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

On the coast and Wash there were up to 50 March-December. The only January records were 3 Gibraltar Point 6th, 3 Witham Mouth 12th and one Covenham Res 29th where there were 3 March 26th and 10 May 2nd with one 12th. One was inland at Ashbyville March 26th. Coastal movements in July included 150 at Saltfleetby 20th with 40 north 28th, 72 Gibraltar Point 16th and 50 north 20th with 40 south 31st and a max of 96 north Donna Nook 4th. Eighty-seven flew north there September 16th and one was at Covenham Res 16th while 205 flew north at Saltfleetby October 21st. Saltfleetby then had about 60 regular November-December with a max of 450 on December 15th, and other November movements were: at Gibraltar Point maxima 95 south 3rd, 50 4th; at Cleethorpes 100 south-west 8th; 120 were at the Witham Mouth 20th and 20 up the Humber at Goxhill 10th. Inland birds were at Covenham Res 8-11th and 5 18-25th, and then one December 2nd and others inland that month at Barrow Haven 7th, Thorpe Pits 8th and Grimsby Docks 10th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Four were off Anderby Creek May 4th, one Saltfleetby July 28th, one south Huttoft 24th, 3 Butterwick August 13th, one 20th, one Gibraltar Point October 21st. In November 6 south Anderby 3rd, 2 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 2 Grimsby Docks and one north Saltfleetby 20th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Covenham Res	64	110	86	73	4	1	1	—	—	8	60	120
Witham Mouth	32	40	45	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	16	2
Holbeach	—	38	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	37	2

In January there were 1-6 Gibraltar Point, Huttoft, Messingham and South Ferriby with 31 Thorpe/Whisby Pits 15th. The February Wash count produced 131 on 19th, with additional small numbers at Tallington, Baston GP, Donna Nook and Burton Stather. Gibraltar Point numbers increased to 8, staying into mid-April, whilst 1-2 continued at above sites in March, plus 32 Thorpe/Whisby Pits 11th, 18 Nene Mouth 15th, 2 Ashbyville 15-20th and one Cadney Res 21-April 5th. Covenham Res had 10 on April 14th with one to July 22nd. May birds were a female Read's Island-South Ferriby 5-19th and a male Covenham Res 9th. First returning autumn birds were one Saltfleetby July 28th and 2 Gibraltar Point September 23rd with one Witham Mouth October 6th and then from late October-December 1-10 at most of the above sites plus Denton Res, Barton, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Toft Newton, Deeping High Bank and South Forty-foot Drain. Higher numbers were 12 Toft Newton November 18th and 10-20 Thorpe Pits December 8-30th.

Snaw Mergus *albellus*

Single redheads were at Gibraltar Point January 30th and February 3-5th, and at Baston GP February 13-20th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Records of 1-4 on the coast in January-April with 9-11 at Witham Mouth January 7-21st, 36 on the Wash count February 19th and 9 Holbeach Marsh March 17th. Inland 12 were at Deeping High Bank February 24th. In May there were 1-2 at Holbeach, Cleethorpes, Nene Mouth, and Donna Nook with 3 Witham Mouth May 6th, 2 Donna Nook June 16th and 1-3 there July 15-21st. From September-December 1-3 at Goxhill, Saltfleetby, Trusthorpe, Tetney, Gibraltar Point, Huttoft, Nene Mouth and Boston Dock with 1-11 Witham Mouth and 15 there October 28th, 8 Saltfleetby November 4th, 6 Goxhill 10th and 14 south at Gibraltar Point December 30th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

	J	F	M	A	O	N	D
R Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen)	—	32	19	19	—	—	11

Other winter flocks were 48 Langtoft January 20th, 16 Apex Pits February 5-11th, 9 Tallington 21st, 7 at Grimsthorpe Lake and Baston Pits in February. There were 1-4 January-April at Thorpe Pits, Covenham Res, Branston Island, Gibraltar Point, Baston Fen and Baston Pit and 4 Saltfleetby May 24-28th. First 2 of the late winter were at the Nene Mouth September 29th with one Donna Nook October 5th and birds becoming more widespread in November with 1-2 at Denton Res, Cleethorpes, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Covenham Res, Crowle, Barton/Barrow Haven, Witham Mouth, Messingham and South Forty-foot Drain, with 3 Huttoft on 17th and 4 Apex Pit December 26th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Single males were at Denton Res April 21st and October 7th, a female at Whisby Pit October 7th and a male Gibraltar Point December 20th. At Barrow Haven a pair from April 20th reared 6 juvs and present to end of year. (See separate report.)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One flew south at Saltfleetby on March 23rd (JRW) and another, which arrived from the north-east, flew south at Tetney on April 20th (HB). The 9th and 10th records this century; 6 since 1977.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

At the 1983 breeding site an adult male returned on March 31st and 5 birds, adult male, adult female, immature male and two immature females were present throughout the summer. The adult male paired to an immature female, reared two young which fledged in August.

Elsewhere it was not such a good year with fewer records than of late. In April there was a female at Tetney 6-8th and a male 17th, a female south at Saltfleetby 13th and Gibraltar Point had 1-2 May 12-13th, 20th and 29th while singles were at Saltfleetby 12th and 19th, Baston Fen 2nd and 6th and Donna Nook 5th and south 6th. June produced records at Wolla Bank 2nd, Gibraltar Point 2nd, 6-7th and 14th, Wingland Grange 16th, Morton Fen 20th and a female at Nocton Fen from 28th to July 4th, there being 2 females and a male there on July 8th and a female to the 15th. One frequented North Cotes from 1-24th July and a female was on Read's Island on 7th and a male at the Nene Mouth 13th. August birds were at Gibraltar Point 17-19th, 26th and 29th, Tetney 19th with 2 20th and one 26th, Read's Island 8th, Theddlethorpe 15th, Saltfleetby 15th and 20th, Immingham Docks 15th, Moulton Tip 11th, Covenham 25th and Humberston 20th. Nocton Fen again had a male and two females on September 2nd while Gibraltar Point had 2 2-3rd and one 8th, 1-2 at the Nene Mouth 10-11th and singles were noted at Baston Fen 7th, Crowland 13th, Tetney 1st, Saltfleetby 2nd, Donna Nook 12th and 16th and Whitton 1st. The only October record was at Gibraltar Point on the 2nd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

In the early winter the north-east coast had a male and ringtail regular at Tetney/North Cotes/Grainthorpe in January/February with a maximum roost of 7 birds at Skidbrooke; 2 males, a second winter male and 4 ringtails in January. These birds were noted at Donna Nook 1-2 to April 25th, Saltfleetby, Saltfleet and the surrounding area. Elsewhere Gibraltar Point had 1-4 birds including a male and a second winter male, from January-mid March and in the Wash there were ringtails at Holbeach and the Witham Mouth January-March and occasional ringtails at Kirton, Freiston and Gedney Drove End with a male at the Nene Mouth January 21st. Inland birds were ringtails at Appleby Carrs February 18th and Bagmoor 19th, a first winter male on Read's Island January 25th and a male there February 12th and a male Somerby 11th. In April Gibraltar Point had 2 1st and singles on 10 dates to 28th, Tetney had ringtails 1st, 2nd and 4th with a male and ringtail 6th and ringtail 10th and 21-22nd, Saltfleetby had ringtails 19th, one north 13th and a male and ringtail north 20th, with a ringtail north 24th. There were also single ringtails at Fulstow 13th and Kirton/Frampton 16th and 20th. The only May bird was at Gibraltar Point on the 1st.

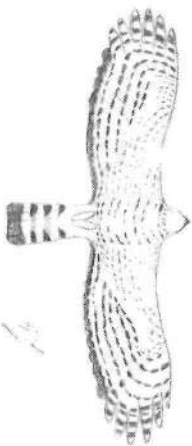
Early returning birds in August were a male at Friskney 4th and a female at Whitton-Alkborough 22nd-September 2nd. Other September birds were at Saltfleetby 5-7th, Gibraltar Point 9th and Donna Nook where there were 1-2 from 12th-December 31st. Gibraltar Point then had 1-2 irregularly from October 20th-December 31st and similarly at Tetney with a ringtail regular at the Witham Mouth from October-December 31st. Five, 2 males and 3 ringtails were roosting at Skidbrooke from November to 1985 and were seen occasionally from North Cotes to Saltfleetby. In the south of the county 1-2 were at Baston Fen November-December with a ringtail at Bourne South Fen November 8th, a male and ringtail Gedney Drove End December 26th and odd ringtails at Leverton and Butterwick in December and a male at Holbeach December 18th. In Bourne Wood there was a ringtail December 9th and a male and two ringtails 15th. Elsewhere, there was a male at Crowle November 18th and a ringtail Winteringham 20th with other ringtails at Swayfield 1st and Messingham 4th. In December a male flew south-west at Holton-le-Clay 15th and a ringtail was at South Ferriby 26th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A poor year with just four records. An early ringtail was seen on Kirton Marsh on April 29th (PAH), then an immature male was at Frampton July 28th (RH, KH), a male at Moulton Tip August 11th (PAH) and finally a first summer male was seen between Wragby and Horncastle on September 13th (PAS, RB).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One was seen at Donna Nook on February 13th (SL). This species remains an extremely rare vagrant in the county.



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (illustrated)

An amazing upsurge in the number of records submitted brought a year total of 241 sightings. After several years with only circumstantial evidence of breeding, 7 pairs are known to have nested and another 8 almost certainly did so. In addition, judging from the high number of mid-summer records and autumn sightings, it would seem that the above figures are on the low side. Most records were of 1-2 birds but 4 localities recorded 3 together outside the breeding season. The highest number of records was in November-December.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Near Hungerton there were singles on June 7th, July 1-3rd and September 29th (IEHS) with 2 there November 4th. Also in September there were two different birds at Twigmoor-Messingham 10-11th (RNH) and 21-23rd (DS). What may have been the same bird was seen near Ulceby Cross 24th (DS) and at Tetford 30th (RLab).

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

The only bird of the year was seen at Laughton Common on December 23rd (JTH).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A poor year with just 5 records at Burton Pits April 7th (RF), one flying north-east at North Cotes 21st (RLo), Messingham one east May 1st (DS), Donna Nook one south-east out to sea 3rd (SL) and one Tetney 4th (GP).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Apart from 4 at Gibraltar Point on January 7th and December 1st, the autumn maxima were: 7 Gibraltar Point July 28th, 7 Tetney August 29th with 4 there September 6th, 5 Kirton Marsh August 11th and 5 Donna Nook September 21st.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Birds were less regular in the early winter than in 81-83. Gibraltar Point had one January-March 21st with a male January 14th and February 20th, the Witham Mouth one January-March and Donna Nook 1-2 January-April 26th, Tetney one early January, Grainthorpe 7th, Saltfleet 21st, Baston Fen 29th and Barrow Haven 2nd. In February singles were at the R Idle 3rd, Holbeach 19th, a male Witham Mouth 18th and 2 Saltfleetby 12th. March birds were at Barrow Haven 6th Covenham 26th. Returning April birds were at Tetney 11-12th, male 26-28th, Saltfleetby 17th, Cleethorpes 4th and 14th and Covenham 10th. A late spring bird was at Gibraltar Point May 21st and another unusual mid-summer occurrence was a female at Donna Nook from July 7-11th (SL).

A number of early autumn birds were seen in August with singles Goxhill 11th and 24th, Holbeach Marsh 14th, Cleethorpes 18th, a male Saltfleetby 20th, Barrow Haven 29th and Messingham 30th. September birds were at East Halton 1st, Thornton Abbey 2-4th, Saltfleetby 5th, Fulstow 8th, Cadney Carrs 10th and 20th and Goxhill 27th. From October-December there were 1-2 at Gibraltar Point, Nene Mouth, North Cotes/Tetney, Witham Mouth, Saltfleetby, Donna Nook and Saltfleet with in October singles New Holland/Barrow Haven 8th, N. Killingholme 8th, Boston 9th, Anderby Creek 3rd, Byard's Leap 15-18th and in November Haltham, a male 23rd, Baston Fen 21st and Deeping High Bank 8th with December records at Snitterby 9th, Baston Fen 7th and 16th, Kirkby Laythorpe 21st and a male Wingland Grange 23rd.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Another good year in the continuing increase of records of this species. An early bird was at Kirton on April 30th (PAH) followed by one at the Nene Mouth on May 8th (IJS), Doddington Road gravel pits 13th (KD), then in June Tetney 5th (GP), Rauceby Warren 24th (ACS, DJ, KD) and in July Swanpool 2nd (KD), Scopwick 7th (ABa) and Saltfleetby one south 18th (JRW). As in recent years August was the peak month with 12 records as follows: SW Lincoln 3rd (JRAR), Goxhill 5th (GPC), Alkborough Flats 23rd (RNH), Waddington 9th (PH), North Cotes 11th and 17th (RLo), Thornton Abbey 20th (GPC), Brat Hill (Ashbyville) 24th (WG), Saltfleetby one north 22nd (BMC, MJT), Gibraltar Point 24th (CRW, HJW, RY), and a juvenile found stunned after flying into a caravan window at Skegness brick pits was released at Gibraltar Point 31st (RLa, AWP et al). September records came from Messingham 1st (DS), Ashbyville 7th (WG), an adult hunting at Twigmoor 10-12th (RNH), a juv at Wisbech SF 11th (IJS), one at Baston Fen 12th (RLam) and finally one at Gibraltar Point 30th (MOT).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Singles were seen at Donna Nook on January 14th (RLo, SL, CRM) and April 23rd (SL), Frampton April 19th (DC, TJ), North Cotes one west May 6th (RLo) and 2 together at Gibraltar Point on May 21st (MGo).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Notable flocks in the early year were: 34 Crowland January 3rd, 26 Coleby 30th, 20 West Halton February 24th, with, in autumn 50 Grainthorpe Haven August 27th, 25 Donna Nook 28th, then up to 21 at Lincoln Ballast Pit November and 20 Thorpe Pits December 8th. Four pairs bred at Saltfleetby and 7 pairs at Tetney.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The only coveys in excess of 12 noted were: 20 West Halton February 4th, 15 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 13 Donna Nook November 1st and 22 Goxhill December.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

The only record was of one at North Cotes on May 30th (RLo).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Maxima at Gibraltar Point were 45 January 2nd, 30 November 18th and 40 December 12th. 139 were counted in the Crowland area on January 3rd, 50 at Kingerby October 10th and 80 Roxby November 19th. Two albino birds were recorded at Swallow February 8th and in Hoplands wood November-December.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

One to two widely recorded January-March and September-December. Gibraltar Point had 4 January 1st and there were up to 10 at Lincoln Ballast Pit all year. Two were singing at Chapel Pit on April 7th and a pair bred at Saltfleetby with 2 pair at Baston Fen all year. In December there were 7 at East Halton Pit 13th and 10+ Barton all month.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One was flushed at Swallow on September 29th (TN).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Gibraltar Point had maxima of 29 January 2nd and 26 February 4th. There were 63 at Crowland February 12th and 43 Messingham March 31st. In December 95 were counted at Barton 14th and 31 Alford 24th with 93 at Deeping High Bank 31st.

Coot *Fulica atra*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Barton/												
Barrow Haven	403	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	225	430	450
Covenham Res	195	90	67	43	—	—	78	247	460	240	115	34
Messingham	—	90	82	76	—	120	—	—	300	380	180	222
Lincoln Ballast Pit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	133	192	169
Kirkby-on-Bain	—	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sea Bank Clay-pits	34	98	37	—	—	—	—	—	158	264	185	198
Toft Newton	791	469	203	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baston Fen	48	—	70	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baston Pits	—	400	—	—	—	—	—	227	—	—	—	—

Apart from those above, Thorpe Pits had 420 January 15th and 310 March 11th, West Ashby 206 January 15th, Huttoft Pit 119 October 23rd and then 128 December 22nd while Holme Lake had 130 October 13th and 345 by December 9th. 120 were at Burton Pits December 9th.

Crane *Grus grus*

One was seen at Messingham on September 6th (AJ, SJ). Accepted by BBRC. This is the 11th county record (20 birds including a party of 9 in 1953), and the 5th to be recorded since 1978.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	260	260	430	485	—	—	—	606	1015	500	253	560
Tetney	—	450	251	200	200	150	300	750	950	2000	400	180
Saltfleetby	—	—	50	90	—	—	450	350	120	100	40	40
Gib Point	1200	3500	3000	3000	255	20	1170	10000	12000	8000	9000	2350
Witham Mth	800	55	50	15	—	—	—	8	60	400	700	2
Holbeach	—	50	600	200	350	—	—	700	300	600	1000	—

In the Humber there were 6-22 at Read's Island February-June with maxima of 52 July and 12 August. Inland records early in the year came from Cadney Res March 27-29th, Pinchbeck 15th, Messingham 1-2 April 17th-May 5th, Cadney April 25th. One hundred were at Frampton April 16th. Breeding records were as follows: Read's Island 14 juvs July 27th, Tetney 15-20 pair, Donna Nook 4 pair, Saltfleetby 5 pair, Huttoft pair, Kirton Marsh 40+ pair.

The Wash count of February 19th produced a total of 8,389 birds. One was at Baston Fen June 21st with one inland at Covenham Res August 24th. Two thousand had returned to Butterwick July 15th and other August counts were 1,000 between Nene Mouth-Norfolk border 9th, 150 Holbeach September 12th, a maximum of 800 Donna Nook 24th and 200 Freiston December 21st.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A good year with 11 records of 15 birds; in January there were singles at Read's Island 25-30th (GPC) and Tetney 27-30th (RLo, HB, IGS, DG). Three were at Butterwick from March 19-21st (RH, KH, SK) and singles were at Gibraltar Point April 19th (RLa) and 26th (KAI, SJa). One was at Tetney on May 1st (IGS) and 2 flew south there (GP) and at Saltfleetby on 15th (BMC, MJT). Two again flew south at Tetney on June 5th (JRM, JP). One was on Read's Island on September 20th (GPC) with a single there again December 1st (GPC) and one flying south at Gibraltar Point 2nd (CJJ).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The first of the spring were at Messingham and Gibraltar Point on April 14th and there were then 1-2 at a number of sites in April-May. Messingham had 2-4 all summer, one pair possibly bred, 8 were at Thorpe Pits on April 15th with a maximum of 10 on April 29th, 2 pairs breeding. Denton Res had up to 9 April 20-June 1st (9 May 10th). Other breeding records were of 2 pair at West Ashby, 3 Spalding SBF, 2 Melton Ross, 2 Thurlby Pits, and single pairs, Metheringham, Winterton Tip, Winterton Pond, Normanby Park slag bank, Wisbech SF, Hungerton, Ancaster Pit, Denton Res and Elsham quarry. Autumn maxima in July-August were 8 Thorpe Pits July 1-3rd, 6 Winterton Pond 8th, 9 Messingham 23rd with 8 there August 5th. September birds were 1-4 at Bardney to 29th, 2-6 Messingham 1-14th, one Thorpe Pits 6th, 2 Gibraltar Point 2nd and one 9th and a late bird was at Messingham on October 17th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	82	75	42	19	7	3	19	53	90	178	100	33
Goxhill	—	30	—	—	56	—	—	130	—	—	36	—
Cleethorpes	175	224	20	40	181	—	—	285	312	240	83	164
Saltfleetby	—	—	—	—	119	120	90	136	—	—	—	—
Gib Point	5	40	52	53	140	75	70	227	180	100	10	6

The Wash count of February 19th totalled only 43 birds. Inland there were 2-8 at Messingham from March 7th-June with a *tundrae* bird April 27th. A pair at West Ashby April-June, 8 at Normanby Park steelworks June 3rd and 1-5 at Flixborough June 3rd-July. Pairs bred at Thurlby Pits, Bardney and Melton Ross and there were 2-3 at Thorpe Pits

from July 1st-August 18th. Messingham had a maximum of 18 July 20th with 4-7 to September 22nd; 6 was the maximum at Covenham Res on August 18th with 5 September 7th and 4 Bardney 29th.

Coastal spring passage peaks were as usual in May with, at Saltfleetby, 56 15th, 110 19th, 92 22nd, 60 *tundrae* 23rd, and 119 28th. Donna Nook had *tundrae* birds from 9th-June 1st with 60 May 31st; Gibraltar Points peaks were 100 18th, 140 20th, 120 26th and 85 28th. 130 were at Winteringham Haven on May 19th and 46 at N. Killingholme 29th. Into June Saltfleetby had 120 2nd and 65 3rd, 6 pairs breeding. Other coastal breeding records included 2 pair Read's Island, 43 pair Tetney, 9 pair Donna Nook and 2 pair Kirton Marsh. In the Wash 100 were at Holbeach August 14th, 200 September 12th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One was at Donna Nook on May 7th (SL) and a male at Saltfleetby June 2nd (BMC).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

An early trip of 3 was at Baston Fen on April 19th (KKH, AD). In May there were a series of records on the coast with 5 flying south at Saltfleetby 6th (BMC, MJT), 3 at Donna Nook 3-12th with 4 13th and 5 16th (SL, RLo, GPC, JRC, RLab et al), 4 Grainthorpe 16th (DG, RKN, IGS, WPB) and 4 Tetney 17th (GP). Inland there were 7 at Hemingby 15-16th with 3 on 17th (MEH).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

In the early winter good flocks were seen at Saltfleetby 150 January 15th, Beesby 400 8th, Horsington 100 February 18th and Navenby 298 12th. Birds moving north in April were concentrated at Cadney Carrs with 150 2nd, Whisby 125 5th, Swallow 200 5th, Kelstern 450 13th, Baston Fen 210 19th and Grantham 150 22nd. Birds were numerous again from July with 200 Butterwick 15th, 279 Saltfleetby 22nd and 200 Cockerington 27th with many flocks of up to 300 from August-December. Exceptional flocks were in September 500 Hungerton 29th-October, 400 south at Gibraltar Point 13th and 500 at Wainfleet 27th. In October 400 Cadney Carrs 17th and 400 Winterton Carrs 8th then in November 7-800 Humberston 8-10th, 350 Cadney Carrs 23rd and 1,000 Saxilby 12th. Five hundred were at Blyborough Grange December 2nd and 600 at Saltfleetby with 800 at North Cotes in December.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham	—	—	—	—	—	320	230	1500	503	204	—
Read's Island	223	19	132	93	—	29	370	800	1181	1252	855
Goxhill/E Halton	200	200	—	46	—	100	400	800	1130	993	900
Hogsthorpe	350	200	—	—	—	—	170	—	160	250	700
Witham Mouth	200	—	—	—	—	—	500	15	300	120	300

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Away from the concentrations in the Wash and on the coast there was one at Winteringham Haven January 15th, one inland at Messingham May 23rd, singles at Covenham Res September 12th, 16th and 23rd with 4 21st. Maxima at Goxhill in the Humber, were 7 September 22nd, and October 5th, 19 November 5th with 7 10th and 1-4 to December. One was at Bardney September 25th and one flew west at Crowle 27th. At Whitton autumn peaks were 41 September 25th and 48 October 6th.

One hundred and twenty-five were at the Nene Mouth on January 21st and the Wash count of February 19th produced a total of 1,343. High spring counts not in the table were 300 Frampton May 14th and 280 Wrangle 9th. In autumn 300 were at Butterwick August 30th and maxima at the Nene Mouth were 500 September 11th and 1,000 27th. Donna Nooks maximum was 150 September 29th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winterham/	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	6	25	38	6	—
Read's Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	302	245	279	157
Cleethorpes	80-90	—	53	55	60	—	—	—	84	550	—	—
Tetney	—	261	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gib Point	70	100	250	200	318	38	1240	500	2000	50	500	6
Witham Mouth	100	100	160	30	—	—	—	150	75	50	10	5
Holbeach	100	150	100	1500	500	—	—	700	552	800	250	75

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (illustrated)

Read's Island



J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
613	—	446	500	427	847	4000	2500

Flocks of up to 500 were numerous in January and from August-December with a very large influx during September-December, the county total in November probably reaching 50,000. Flocks of emigrating birds in March included 2,000 between Brigg and Lincoln 15th, 3,000 between Louth and Saltfleetby 10th, 580 at Scopwick 18th, 400 Blyborough 5th and 2,000 at Saltfleetby 13th with 600 flying out to sea there the same day. In the autumn there were 1,000 at Scampton August 17th and a maximum of 700 at Messingham 13th with 700 in Cadney Carrs 17th. Then 1,000 at Riseholme September 28th with 5,000 there October 10-12th, 1,000 East Halton October 31st. November-December were the peak months with maxima of 15,000 between Brigg and Lincoln November 12th, 2,000 Snitterby 22nd, 741 Messingham 10th, 600 Goxhill 2nd, 800 Cadney Carrs 14th, 2,000 Saxilby 12th and 600 Thornton 3rd. Three hundred flew west at Donna Nook 3rd and 340 west 18th while 300

flew south at Gibraltar Point 10th. December maxima were 1,300 Messingham 23rd, 1,090 Blyborough Grange 6th and 1,000 Sleaford 4th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Apart from the tabulated sites there were high counts of 4,000 between the Nene Mouth and the Norfolk border February 12th with 1,500 there October 27th. Six thousand were at Wainfleet September 27th and 1,000 Saltfleet November 29th. A few were seen up the Humber as far as Barton with 14 there April 15th, and Read's Island with 3 July 20th, one 28th, 7 30th and 2 October 5th. Inland there was one at Messingham May 23rd and 3 Covenham Res August 12th with one 29th. The Wash count of February 19th totalled 22,120.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	6000	3600	1400	20	37	—	—	5	490	1500	10000	700
Tetney/												
N Cotes	—	800	485	—	—	—	—	—	—	500	1000	550
Donna Nook	9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2000	—
Gib Point	850	7500	12000	7000	1680	2582	6350	6000	10000	7500	10500	3500
Holbeach	5000	10000	8000	3000	—	—	—	35	—	1500	8000	1000

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Peak passage counts in May were: at Saltfleetby 53 15th, 236 26th and 110 28th, at Cleethorpes 800 11th and 1,800 29th, at Gibraltar Point 150 13th, 200 27th and 82 31st with exceptionally 11 at Winteringham Haven 19th and singles inland at Denton Res 15th, Covenham Res 17th and Messingham 19th. High numbers were still moving in early June with 697 at Cleethorpes 1st but only 125 by the 9th, 182 Saltfleetby 2nd but just one 29th-July 11th and 150 Gibraltar Point 1st but only 15 15th. Five were up the Humber at Read's Island on August 25th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	40	40	58	500	1800	697	—	850	800	240	90-120	—
Donna Nook	—	—	—	—	250	—	—	—	204	—	39	—
Saltfleetby	—	—	149	100	236	182	65	165	140	90	60	—
Gib Point	60	65	42	100	200	150	325	500	228	24	110	24

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The only spring records were of 2 at South Ferriby May 17th, one Messingham 19th and 2 Covenham Res June 17th. Autumn passage began on July 29th with one at Gibraltar Point and 30th 2 at Saltfleetby to August 1st with 2 5th. Also in August there were 1-4 at Tetney 5-11th and a single North Killingholme 10th, one Moulton Tip 11th, Saltfleetby 10th, Covenham Res 10-11th, Messingham 27-30th, Gibraltar Point 29th and Cleethorpes 31st. There was a good influx in September-October with 1-6 at Gibraltar Point in

September, and 10 29th, 1-5 at Donna Nook to October 18th, one Saltfleetby 21st with 9 27th, 11 28th and 6 to 30th. Covenham Res had one 9-13th, 3 15th and one 30th. Tetney one 6-7th, 2 27th, Killingholme 2 1st, one 2nd, Moulton Marsh 4 29th, Nene Mouth 24th, Messingham 23rd and Winteringham Haven one 5th and a maximum of 18 20th. Further October records were singles at Bardney 6th, Killingholme 7th, Nene Mouth 9th and 2 Frampton 12th, 12 Wisbech SF 1st with up to 2 to 23rd, one Covenham Res 5-19th and at Gibraltar Point 1-2 1-7th with 6 on 4th and 7 5th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One was at Donna Nook on May 6th (JRC). In August there were 2 at Saltfleetby 9th (BMC, MJT), then at Covenham Res 2 from 10-11th with 3 14th (KR), then one until 19th (KR, KW, MM, DJ, PH). A late bird was at Wisbech SF on October 23rd (IJS).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

At Wisbech SF there was an adult on July 29th (PAH) and for a few days previous, 2 from August 10-17th at least (IJS) and 2 September 9th at least (KD, ACS, DJ). What were probably 2 of the Wisbech birds were seen flying out into the Wash at the Nene Mouth on September 24th (IJS). Additionally there were 2 juveniles at Covenham Res from September 9-18th with one to 20th (KR, KA, JRC et al) and one at Donna Nook on October 3rd (RLo).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

The only spring record was of one at Skidbrooke on June 3rd. First of the autumn were 3 at Killingholme July 21st with one 22nd and 6 at Saltfleetby 31st. Eight were at Saltfleetby August 2nd and one to 4th with others at Killingholme 9th, 3 10th and 2 11th, Chapel Point 2 22nd, Tetney 21st with 3 28th, Holbeach 28th, Gibraltar Point 3 18th and 2 28-29th, Witham Mouth 4 26th and one 27th. In September Gibraltar Point had 1-2 2-30th and 6 29th, Saltfleet 6 2nd and one 7th then 8 27th and 1-3 to October 26th, Moulton Marsh 3 29th, Goxhill one 28th, Read's Island 20th, Donna Nook 14th, Tetney 8 27th and Winteringham Haven one 5th and a maximum of 15 20th, Saltfleetby 3 27th. Stragglers in October were singles at Donna Nook 4th, Killingholme 7th, Barrow Haven 8th, Holbeach 11-14th, North Cotes 16th, Saltfleetby 1-2 7-10th, 4 Tetney 2nd with 3 21st and 4 Wisbech SF 1st with one 23rd.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Records of this species have declined noticeably since the late 1970's. The only records in 1984 were all singles, at Donna Nook August 11th and September 16th, Huttoft Bank September 4th, Trusthorpe 15th, Chapel Point one north 16th, Saltfleetby October 10th and Trusthorpe again November 1st.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham	—	1400	—	1000	400	—	—	30	90	1200	1107	700
Read's Island	680	380	244	865	148	1	77	59	233	238	365	318
Cleethorpes	—	3500	1800	2070	500	—	—	850	6000	8000	2000	2000
Tetney/N Cotes	—	850	472	—	—	—	—	500	1200	1200	250	—
Gib Point	1000	3000	3000	4500	480	136	910	1000	4000	5000	1800	250
Witham Mth	1200	500	400	700	—	—	—	1200	300	800	600	300
Frampton	—	—	1100	2000	3000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holbeach	1000	14500	750	7500	800	—	—	1700	3000	2100	5000	2000
Nene Mouth	1250	3500	—	—	—	—	—	—	5000	5500	—	—

The Wash count of February 19th gave a total of 20,000. There were 1,000 at Whitton February 11th and up to 2,000 between Barton and Goxhill on the Humber January-March and August-December. Inland there were up to 5 at Messingham March 31-June 5th and up to 11 July-November 4th and an autumn maximum of 14 at Bardney September 29th. 280 were at Winteringham Haven on May 19th and 70 still at Saltfleetby June 2nd. In autumn Saltfleetby had 2,000 September 28th, 2,125 were at Holbeach 12th, and late maxima at Donna Nook of 1,324 and 2,500 at Pyewipe in November-December.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Two more spring records took the county total to 4; all in May. One was seen at Saltfleetby on May 19th (BMC) and another at North Cotes on May 29th (HB).

The latter accepted by BBRC, the former under consideration.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Early winter records came from Tetney/North Cotes with 1-13 January-March, and Wisbech SF 2-4 January-February. Spring passage birds were at Pyewipe 1-18 March 18th-April 5th, Gibraltar Point March 3rd and 19th, Baston Fen 17th, Cadney Res 4 29th, Huttoft 25th, Tetney 10 10th and up to 5 in April, Frampton April 24-28th, Gibraltar Point 27th and Read's Island 28th. The only May record was of 3 at Donna Nook on the 1st.

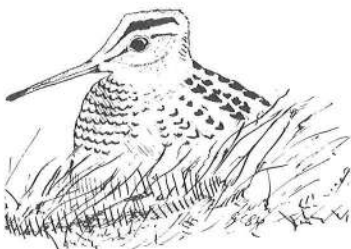
Autumn passage birds were widespread from June 3rd to late October with the peak month being August. Maxima were: at Killingholme 30 August 11th, at Wisbech SF 1-10 July with up to 30 August and 15 to November 12th. At Saltfleetby 25 flew south August 4th and 19 south 5th, 40 flew south at Whitton August 22nd and 33 south at Burton Stather 23rd and there were 30-50 at Grantham SF August 22-September 16th. Maximum at Messingham was 14 August 9-10th.

Jack Snipe *Limnocyrtus minimus*

Singles were noted at Messingham January 27th and Gibraltar Point February 19th, Wrangle March 5th, Butterwick 19th and Messingham 21st. A good spring passage at Saltfleetby began with one March 11th, 2 23rd, one 25th and 2-3 27-28th with one April 2nd and 26-30th. Other April records came from Tetney 11th, Baston Fen 13th, Donna Nook 2 14th, Huttoft Pit 19th and Bonby Carrs 28th. An early returning bird was at North Cotes on August 11th (RLo), with September records at Grantham SF 16th, Gibraltar Point 23rd, 29th and 5 30th, Tetney 27th, and Saltfleetby 4 27th and one 28th. A good influx in October included singles at Grantham SF 1st, Donna Nook 2nd, Tetney 3rd, West Ashby 14th, Gibraltar Point 2nd and 20th and at Saltfleetby 3 3rd, 2 7-10th, 7 15th, 15 16th and 9 30th. In November Gibraltar Point had 1-2 1-20th, Donna Nook one 3rd, Wrangle 1st and 15th, Baston Fen 4th, Goxhill 2 5th with December birds at Gibraltar Point 2nd and West Ashby 16th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Ninety were at Baston Fen on March 17th. In April 11 were drumming there and 4 at Butterwick Hale; 2 pair bred at Saltfleetby. One hundred were at Grantham SF in August-September and 120 Saltfleetby October 2nd with 40 10th. Killingholme had a flock of 200 November 9th and 150 12th while in December there were 50 at Hogsthorpe 15th and 45 Denton Res 23rd.



Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (illustrated)

A first winter bird was seen at Saltfleetby on August 24th (RJA). What may have been a different first winter bird was present at the same locality from September 15-18th (BMC et al.).

Both records accepted by BBRC.

Dowitcher sp. *Limnodromus sp.*

One flew north at Donna Nook on November 15th (RLo).

Under consideration by BBRC.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

On the coast Donna Nook had 1-3 from January-April and Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 9 January 5th and 11 from March 4-5th with 7 April 6-7th, all presumably departing winter visitors. The maximum in Hoplands Wood was 5 on January 25th and several sites reported 1-4 roding birds in April-August. In autumn there were few on the coast with only 1-3 at Donna Nook October 15th-November 24th and a maximum of 5 November 18th, 1-4 at Gibraltar Point November-December and 1-4 at Theddlethorpe, Saltfleetby and Anderby Creek in November.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

	J	F	M	A	J	A	S	O	N	D
Holbeach	28	88	33	-	14	29	-	63	29	-

Early winter records were one at Killingholme January 8th and 2 February 17th, and one Saltfleetby January 21st. In April Tetney had one 3rd and 3 29th, Cleethorpes one 3rd, Witham Mouth one 29th and then at Read's Island 8 28-29th with a pair in display and 2 to May 5th. Others in May were at Winteringham 13th, Kilton Marsh 16th, Killingholme 1st and 23rd, 5 the Witham Mouth 15th and 6 Tetney 29th where there were then 1-4 to June 4th with 2 at Killingholme June 15th and 3 there July 24th, and 13 at the Witham

Mouth July 28th. Gibraltar Point had 1-3 August 24th-September 22nd with 6 September 30th, Killingholme 7 August 29th, Tetney 3 26th, Read's Island 2 11th and one 12th, and Holbeach 4 28th. One flew south at Saltfleetby September 3rd and 2 were at Goxhill 22nd. In October Gibraltar Point had one 6th and 5 flew south at the Nene Mouth 6th with one Cleethorpes 16th. One was at Goxhill November 2nd and 2 Gibraltar Point 3rd with one 17th while 10 were between Witheringham and Read's Island 20th and a party of 8 at North Cotes on December 2nd.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	175	220	—	—
Cleethorpes	70	249	110	98	55	—	—	—	—	273	81	268
Gib Point	1000	850	800	500	50	25	1000	400	4500	10000	3550	250

In the Humber there were 20 at Witheringham February 15th and then a good passage in late April-early May with a maximum of 40 Read's Island April 27th and 60 between there and Witheringham Haven May 1st. Read's Island then had 1-6 from June-November while the autumn maximum at Barton was 56 October 8th, at Goxhill 56 September 6th and East Halton 20 October 14th. Inland there were late April records at Messingham 14 27th, Denton Res 2 27th, Covenham Res 7 flying south-east 29th. Twenty were at the Witham mouth 29th and 45 Saltfleetby May 2nd. One was at Frampton on June 15th. Donna Nook had a maximum of 80 on September 29th and 3,000 were at Wainfleet 27th. In November 30 flew south at Anderby Creek 3rd, 32 north at Saltfleetby 4th and there were 40 there December 5th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first of the spring were 2 inland at Ashbyville on April 11th followed by 3 at Gibraltar Point on 14th and Donna Nook 15th. There were then up to 10 at sites in the Humber and Wash and on the coast from April 17th-late May. Exceptions were at Saltfleetby; 15 April 28th with 12 north-east 23rd, at Gibraltar Point 15 April 21st with 10 22nd and a total of 432 flying north there between May 2nd and 31st with a peak of 150 on the 9th. At Tetney there were 14 May 5th and 25-30 to 25th while the maximum at Donna Nook was 26 on May 6th. Inland there were 2-5 at Covenham Res, from April 25-29th with 10 27th and 4 May 4th, 14 flew west over Bourne Wood April 21st and singles were at Messingham May 3rd and 15th and Blackbank 12th. Gibraltar Point had up to 4 to June 20th, Tetney one 8th, Saltfleetby 2 2nd and Cleethorpes one 28th.

Autumn passage again involved 1-10 at coastal and estuary sites from July-August with maxima of: Donna Nook 55 south July 26th, Tetney 67 July 26th and 15-25 mid-August, Gibraltar Point 50 July 18th and 22 23rd with 20 August 19th, Saltfleetby 16 west July 19th, 25 south August 13th and 46 west 26th. Inland there were 2 at Messingham July 21st and one 22nd, 12 Conisholme 14th, one Covenham 11th with 2 19th and one Louth August 8th. In September 20 flew north at Gibraltar Point 2nd and 22 south 3rd with 2-5 to 10th and 22-27th, Messingham had 4 2nd and Tetney 2 6th, 9 15th and one 16th. October singles were at Saltfleetby 2nd and 14th, Holbeach 11th and 2 west at Pinchbeck 21st.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Witheringham	248	133	—	18	50	—	—	—	—	400	174	59
Read's Island	149	68	28	140	23	127	293	402	77	84	49	60
Goxhill/East Halton	105	—	200	170	—	—	57	—	70	76	176	194
Pyewipe	—	58	203	—	—	—	—	—	436	—	84	500
Saltfleetby	—	—	70	—	—	—	85	60	50	—	60	—
Gib Point	180	1500	450	70	30	60	300	340	174	48	200	300
Witham Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	300	—	—
Holbeach	50	654	300	500	120	—	—	—	500	97	100	60

The Wash count of February 19th produced a total of 1,285 with 382 at Nene Mouth. Donna Nook had up to 50 in March and regular northerly movements in June-August with often 100 per day and a maximum of 225 north July 1st. One hundred and ten flew north-west at Tetney on June 26th and 40 west at Frampton 27th. Cleethorpes had 100-125 from October-December and 150 were at the Nene Mouth on October 13th. Inland 15 were on Atkinson's Warren, Scunthorpe, February 19th and 1-3 were regular in the Messingham-Manton area February 24th-June 18th, one pair possibly breeding, and a

maximum of 8 there June 25th. A male was displaying at Stapleford Woods in May. At Grantham SF there were 20 August-September with a peak of 50 September 11th, 13 at Kingerby September 10th and on Risby Warren 20 December 2nd and up to 200 there mid-month.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Overwintering birds were at Cleethorpes-Humberston to April 18th, Saltfleetby to April 11th, North Cotes January 29th and February 23rd, the Hobhole sluice February 27th. Spring passage involved 1-2 birds at various sites in the Wash and on the coast from April-May with 4 at Killingholme April 27th and 3 May 8th. Also there in June were 4 from 14-29th increasing to a maximum of 8 July 12th. One to three were again widespread in autumn from July-October with a maximum of 9 at Killingholme August 11th, 4 Gedney Drove End 15th, 7 Killingholme September 2nd, and 6 Saltfleetby 16th. November birds were at Saltfleetby St. Peter 10th and 26th, Tetney 18th and Winteringham 23rd. The Cleethorpes-Humberston bird returned in October and was present into 1985. Another late bird was at Messingham on December 8th.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham/												
Read's Island	—	—	500	50	50	—	20	50	60	300	195	100
Read's Island	29	58	94	88	21	22	36	32	98	173	155	156
Pyewipe	—	500	400	400	—	—	—	—	500	1200	490	800
Cleethorpes	125-175	200	200	—	—	112	308	374	306	350	446	
Saltfleetby	—	—	180	—	—	—	—	70	450	225	200	110
Gib Point	100	260	100	300	15	42	93	350	800	100	65	65
Witham Mouth	50	50	150	50	—	—	—	800	500	50	50	50
Holbeach	100	62	50	300	40	—	—	100	10	38	125	25

The Wash count of February 19th totalled 1,105 with 266 at Nene Mouth. Inland there were 2-10 at Messingham March 27th-May 1st and 2 pair bred at Winterton Pond with 3 pair breeding at Butterwick Hale and 3 pair at Baston Fen. On the coast 3 pair bred at Donna Nook, 10 at Saltfleetby and 107 nests were found on Kirton Marsh, young hatching from only 35. The maximum at Killingholme was 78 on July 28th with 150 at the Nene Mouth October 13th, 135 Donna Nook November 18th and 15 inland at Covenham Res December 22nd.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The first of the year was at Tetney on April 17th with up to 6 there to May 31st. There were also 1-2 at several sites April-May with up to 5 at Donna Nook April 30-May 31st, 4 Killingholme April 27th and 5 south at Gibraltar Point May 28th with 4 there 29th. In June there were singles at Tetney 3rd, 23rd and 30th and Killingholme 28th with 1-4 at Donna Nook from 29th-October 11th. Birds were regular in autumn from July-October with up to 5 at several sites. Maxima in July were: Killingholme 12 18th with up to 10 there throughout August-September, 7 Gedney Drove End 21st, 7 Saltfleetby 31st with 1-8 there in August and 30 south between 12-23rd. Tetney had up to 10 in August with 18 from the Nene Mouth to the Norfolk border 9th, 8 Kirton Marsh 11th, up to 10 at Gibraltar Point, 9 Cleethorpes 21st, 25 Frampton 29th, 10 Gedney 16th, 9 Witham Mouth 28th, 20 Butterwick 9th. Twenty-two flew south at Saltfleetby on September 1st with 11 south 25th, 10 at Moulton Marsh September 29th and 9 at Gibraltar Point 2nd. October records were of 8 south at Saltfleetby 3rd, 4 Holbeach 11th, 6 Frampton 12th and singles Gibraltar Point 1st, 6th and 30th, Messingham 17-30th and late birds in November at Saltfleetby St. Peter 3rd, Cleethorpes 12th and Donna Nook 13th.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

One was seen at Covenham Res on May 20th (KR).

Accepted by BBRC and the first spring record for the county.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Birds were present at Thorpe Pits in every month but May with 1-5 January-April, 1-7 June-October and 1-4 November-December. Other early winter records came from Fiskerton January 15th, Willoughby 2 23rd, Hoplands Wood 2 25th and 2 at Crowle from 31st-February 18th with one March 16th. February singles were at Brumby Common 3rd, Newsham Lake 11th and West Ashby 12th. Singles in March were at Alford 8th, Immingham 9-11th, Willoughby 13th-April 17th and Saltfleetby 26th. Donna Nook had

singles April 18-30th, Baston Pit April 14th and Gibraltar Point 15th, Alford 13th, Messingham 28th, Burton Pits 23rd and 2 at Crowle 4-10th. One was at Goxhill May 2nd and 1-2 at Denton Res 1-2nd. One to six were widespread from late June-September with up to 9 at Tetney from July, 10 Bardney July 31st, 8 Butterwick August 9th, 12 Grantham SF 22nd, and October birds at Messingham 4th, Crowle 15th with 2 23rd to at least November 18th, Gibraltar Point 10th and Saltfleetby 14th. Messingham again had one November 12th and Baston Fen one 9th. Wintering birds in December were at Newsham Lake 5th, Covenham 9th, Burton Pits 13th and Willoughby 25-31st.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

There were only three spring records, at Spalding April 25th, Baston Fen 30th and Kirton Marsh May 14th. An early autumn bird was at Wisbech SF on July 4th and in August there were singles at Louth 4th, Moulton Tip 11th, Butterwick 9-23rd, Thorpe Pits 16th with 2 Wisbech SF 11th, 2 Gibraltar Point 26th and 31st, and 3 Grantham SF 22nd. Singles in September were at Gibraltar Point 2nd and Messingham 12th, 14th and 23rd.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

A wintering bird was on the South Forty-foot Drain on February 19th (PCo). First of the spring was at Gibraltar Point on April 18th with a widespread arrival from 22-23rd but only 1-3 at most sites with maxima of 4 Wisbech SF 29th, 6 Kirkby-on-Bain 27th, then in May 8 Denton Res 15th and 5 Covenham Res 22nd. There was an unusual record of 2 at Gibraltar Point on June 28th. Autumn maxima were in August with up to 20 at Tetney, 40 Gibraltar Point 8th with 24 16th, 8 Grantham SF 22nd, 8 Thorpe Pits 16th and 15 Donna Nook 11th. September maxima were 7 Bardney 2nd and 12 Covenham Res 12th with late birds in October at Gibraltar Point 12-14th and Bardney 6th and 27th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/												
Humberston		251	400-450		389	-	-	90	300	478	200	225
Witham Mouth	20	160	50	50	-	-	-	15	150	80	110	50
Holbeach	7	8	25	100	4	-	75	120	700	65	100	-

The Wash count of February 19th produced a total of 165. Spring passage at Goxhill, on the Humber, in May produced peaks of 50 on 9th and 21 16th while one was inland at Covenham Res, 7th with 2 9th and one Messingham 22nd. Covenham Res had a few regular in August with a maximum of 11 24th and one was at Messingham 5-8th. In the Wash there were 50 at Butterwick 30th and 125 Shep Whites 28th with 230 there September 12th and 40 Gibraltar Point 29th. Two hundred were at the Nene Mouth October 13th.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

A first winter bird was at Gibraltar Point from September 11-October 5th (TH, WAV, PLJM, DJRi et al). Another first winter was seen at Anderby Creek on October 3rd (KA, KW). The 4th and 5th County records (7 birds).

Both accepted by BBRC.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

At Saltfleetby in August one flew north and one south 18th (BMC, MJT, KW), 2 south 25th (BMC, MJT, JRW, EJM), one adult south 26th (MM) and one 27th (BMC, JRC, MJT). In September singles at Huttoft 2nd (WPB) and Saltfleetby 4th (JRW, CRM), 4 south at Huttoft 4th (WPB, KW) with one at the Witham Mouth 9th (SK). Then a flock of 5 pale adults south at Huttoft 12th (GPC) and a juv there 18th (GPC) with one at Donna Nook 30th (SL). One was at the Witham Mouth October 5th (SK) and one Saltfleetby 30th (JRW) with a late bird in adult winter plumage at Gibraltar Point November 9-11th (RAC, RLa et al).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The only "spring" records were at Donna Nook June 11th, 18th, 24th, 25th, 3 on 30th and Saltfleetby 30th. Up to 10 on the coast July-early October. In late August 142 flew south at Saltfleetby 25th with 30 north 26th and 25 north 27th. Up to 30 per day at coastal sites in September with a peak on September 4th when 142 flew south at Saltfleetby and 423 south off Huttoft, 16 being at the Witham Mouth. Only 1-4 in October but 10 at the

Witham Mouth 5th. Quite regular in November to the 18th with 1-2 at Huttoft, Gibraltar Point, the Witham Mouth, Saltfleetby and Donna Nook and a peak of 7 at Gibraltar Point 4th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

At Saltfleetby an adult flew south on August 25th am (BMC, MJT) and another adult south pm (GPC, MM). One flew north at Gibraltar Point on September 6th (EJM).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

July records came from Saltfleetby 1st and 22nd and Huttoft 2 25th. One to three on the coast August-October with peaks in August of 10 north Saltfleetby 26th, 4 with 5 north 27th, 5 south Chapel point 22nd and 5 at the Witham Mouth 13th. Up to 5 on the coast in September with 22 south at Saltfleetby 4th and 64 at the Witham Mouth 4th and one flying south inland at South Ferriby 23rd. In November there were 4 south Saltfleetby 2nd and 6 on 4th with one Gibraltar Point 6th and a late bird at North Cotes December 9th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

On January 2nd there was a first winter bird on Lincoln City School playing field (ACS, DJ, KD), with an adult and a second winter at Cleethorpes 14th (GPC) and an adult Humberston 15th (HB) and 21st (MM). A first summer bird was at Grimsby Docks April 7th (MM, GPC). In August there were adults at Immingham Docks 26th (WPB) and Covenham Res 27th (MM) where there was also a second winter bird on September 15th (DS). At the Apex roost, Lincoln, there was a first winter December 8th (KD) with a different first winter 28th (KD, DJ), possibly the bird of the 8th on 29th (KD, ACS, DJ, GPC) and again 31st (KD, DJ).



Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (illustrated)

A first summer bird at Thorpe Pits on May 23rd (KD, ACS, DJ) was the 3rd county record and the first inland and was quickly followed by the 4th record, a second winter bird at Barton-on-Humber on December 28th (GPC).

Both accepted by BBRC.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

The only early winter records were single first-winters at Cleethorpes January 24th and Cadney Res March 26th. In spring there were 3 adults at Covenham Res April 29th and one Messingham 30th with 6, 4 adult

2 first-summer, there May 1st, one Gibraltar Point 5th and 1-2 12-18th with a first-summer at Barrow Haven 3-24th and 2 on the 24th. In June Tetney had 2-3, 2-6th, 3 flew north at Donna Nook 22nd and singles were at Tattershall Pits 10th and Whisby Pits 11th. Singles noted in July at Covenham 2nd, Alkborough 1st, N Cotes 16th, Huttoft 15th and Saltfleetby 31st. Juveniles in August were at Tetney 12-14th, Saltfleetby 3 on 8th and one 26th, Thorpe Pits 17th and East Halton 24th. Singles again in September at Grimsby Docks 3rd, Saltfleet 6th, Barrow Haven 7th, Witham Mouth 16th, Gibraltar Point 2nd with 3 7th and one 30th then 5 October 6th. A few flocks in November-December noted on the coast with 11 south at Donna Nook November 4th, 5 at the Witham Mouth 17th (2ad, 3 1w) and a dead adult at Saltfleetby 20th with, in December, 3 Covenham Res 2nd (2 ad, 1 1w), 5 south Donna Nook 1st, and at Gibraltar Point 22 south 2nd, 14 south 30th and 8 north 5 south 31st.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A summer-plumaged adult was at Saltfleetby on August 25th (MM, GPC) and in September an adult flew north there 5th (BMC) and a first winter was seen at Gibraltar Point on the 6th (EJM).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

High counts in January were of 3,000 at Cleethorpes-Grimsby Docks 14th and 8,000 24th, 2,000 Gibraltar Point 1st and 3,000 at the Witham Mouth roost. Five thousand at Cleethorpes February 17th and 1,000 April with 1,000 Tetney April-May. One hundred pairs bred at Messingham and 4 at Twigmoor while the Frampton-Kirton colony held 2-3,000 pairs and N. Scarle GP 17 nests. 250 first-summer birds were at Barrow Haven in May and 1,000 Winteringham-Read's Island July 30th. August maxima were 1,000 Donna Nook 17th and 4,000 Gibraltar Point 28th with 1,000 at the Witham Mouth September

12th and 4,000 at Saltfleetby September-early October. Late peaks at Grimsby-Cleethorpes were 5,000 October 7th and 4,000 December 16th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The largest concentrations in the early year were at Grimsby-Cleethorpes with 5,000 January 14th, 8,000 24th and 10,000 February 17th. Three thousand were in the Witham Mouth roost in January and 3,000 at Covenham Res March 8th. In autumn Gibraltar Point had 1,000 August 28th and Saltfleetby 630 on September 8th. Nine hundred were at Goxhill on November 10th and in December 2,500 Barton 19th and 1,000 29th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

One was noted at Barton on January 20th. Spring passage began in mid-March with 1-20 to June coastal and inland, with 40 Gibraltar Point June 23rd and 1-12 daily to August at Donna Nook. July maxima were 40 Saltfleetby 11th and 80 Gibraltar Point 21st. There were 30-50 all August in the Ulceby area and up to 30 at Gibraltar Point to September. Apex Pit, N. Hykeham held 80 in the roost on September 4th and a peak of 370 on October 7th while 30 were at New Holland October 1-8th. November maximum was 7 Saltfleetby 4th and the only December records were at Scopwick 1st, 5th and 23rd, Snitterby 9th and the Apex roost 2 26th and 3 29th.

Birds showing characteristics of one of the races *L.f. intermedius* or *L.f. fuscus* were widespread July-November.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/												
Pyewipe	400	1138	—	—	70	—	—	—	—	340	—	—
Saltfleetby	—	90	—	—	220	—	450	—	—	—	2116	—
Gibraltar Point	400	350	800	340	150	250	100	150	400	200	200	120

Other high counts were 1,000 Winterton Tip January 12th and 500 Witham Mouth 7th with 250 Freiston September 12th and in November 400 Winterton Tip 5th and 490 flying south at Donna Nook 4th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

In February there was a first winter at Skegness 4th (KWW) and one at Cleethorpes 9th (GPC). A second winter bird at Winterton Tip stayed from March 12th-April 10th (CJ, DS).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

In the Cleethorpes-Humberston area there was an adult January 14th onwards with 2 adults February 11-17th and one to March 15th and a third-winter February 19th. Other February records were first-winters Covenham Res 12th and Scunthorpe 19th and an adult Gibraltar Point 12th. Winterton Tip had a series of records in March-April with a first-summer/2nd winter bird March 5-April 2nd, same bird South Ferriby 18th, 1w April 2-8th, with 2 1w 5th and a second-summer 10th-May 17th. One at North Cotes April 30th then a second-summer Tetney May 6th, North Cotes 16th, Saltfleetby June 12th and north at Donna Nook 16th. The only late winter records were of an adult Cleethorpes November 16th, one south Donna Nook 17th and a first-winter Cleethorpes December 30th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes												
Pyewipe	825	300	—	158	230	—	—	—	425	641	439	—
Saltfleetby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	310	320	—	529	—
Gibraltar Point	500	90	100	30	—	—	—	200	104	50	350	150

Other high counts were 300 Winterton Tip January 12th, 300 at the Witham Mouth January and 300 in the Apex roost, N. Hykeham, February 5th. A maximum of 300 at Tetney in June and 200 at Freiston September 12th with 150 Winterton Tip October 8th and 220 there November 5th, 500 Tetney 18th and 200 Witham Mouth 24th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

A good series of southerly movements in early January included 636 at Gibraltar Point 4th, then on the 8th 379 south off Huttoft, 470 off Trusthorpe, and 553 at Donna Nook with a further 300 south there 14th. One to five were at Cleethorpes January-March with 25 flying up the Humber there February 9th and a maximum of 35 at the Witham Mouth March 3rd while one was at Covenham Res February 7th. In May 150 flew north at the

Witham Mouth 6th and 75 south at Donna Nook 6th. Late autumn-winter movements included 152 south at Huttoft October 21st, 1,000 south Anderby Creek November 11th, 703 south Donna Nook 4th and 111 south 17th with 3,528 south at Saltfleetby 4th and 125 south 26th. Inland birds were at Covenham Res August 5th and in November Goxhill 3 5th and Apex Pit 6 on 3rd.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Gibraltar Point recorded the first on April 21st with 1-3 coastal to late May and up to 30 there from May 6th with one inland at Messingham 3rd. June coastal counts involved up to 16 at Tetney, a build up to 63 at Saltfleetby and up to 40 Donna Nook with display and coition observed. Numbers built up rapidly in July with peaks of 580 Donna Nook 30th, 1,500 North Cotes 30th, 400 Gibraltar Point 29th and 390 Saltfleetby 24th. Tetney had 1,500 August 2nd then a gradual decrease. There were up to 50 at the Witham Mouth 30th-September 16th and peaks of 160 Saltfleetby 19th, 304 north at Gibraltar Point 2nd then a max of 281 24th. Eighty flew up the River Nene at Guy's Head on September 24th and 50 south at Chapel 16th, up to 60 were noted at Gibraltar Point and 30 at Saltfleetby 15th. In October Gibraltar Point had 6 1st, 10 2nd, 25 4th, and 1-3 5-7th with one 13th, Wolla Bank one 7th, Witham Mouth 5 12th and 60 on 5th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The first arrivals were 2 at Baston GP April 23rd with other April records at Boston 2 25th, Kirkby-on-Bain 2 25th, Messingham 28th and 30th, Tetney 2 29th, Nunn's Bridge 2 29th and the Witham Mouth 4 29th. Tetney had 3-6 May-June with one pair possibly breeding. Donna Nook 1-5 daily May-June, Gibraltar Point 1-6 and also in May 5 Tattershall 27th, 14 Thurlby GP 4th, Baston Fen 2 regular-July. Ten plus pairs bred in the Kirton-Frampton colony. Covenham Res had 2-3 irregularly June-August and inland Thorpe Pits held 10 July 1st then 15 3-10th and 25 18-August 6th, while coastal maxima were 45 Tetney July, 100 North Cotes 30th, and 35 Donna Nook 30th. There were up to 40 at the Witham Mouth from August-October with a max of 150 Tetney August 3rd, then in September up to 25 coastal with 142 north at Gibraltar Point 6th, 537 north Saltfleetby 7th and 45 north 17th and 21 inland at Thorpe Pits 2nd. Gibraltar Point had 18 October 2nd then 2 5th and the last at North Cotes 14th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

One was seen at Black Bank on April 23rd and there were widespread records of 1-4 in May with 7 Covenham Res 5th and 1-4 at Donna Nook to August 4th. One was at Messingham June 5th and up to 10 were noted on the coast from July-September with peaks of 20 Saltfleetby August 12th and 75 north there September 7th. In October there were 2 Gibraltar Point 2nd then one 4th and other singles at Donna Nook 6th, Fosdyke 14th and one south at Saltfleetby November 4th.

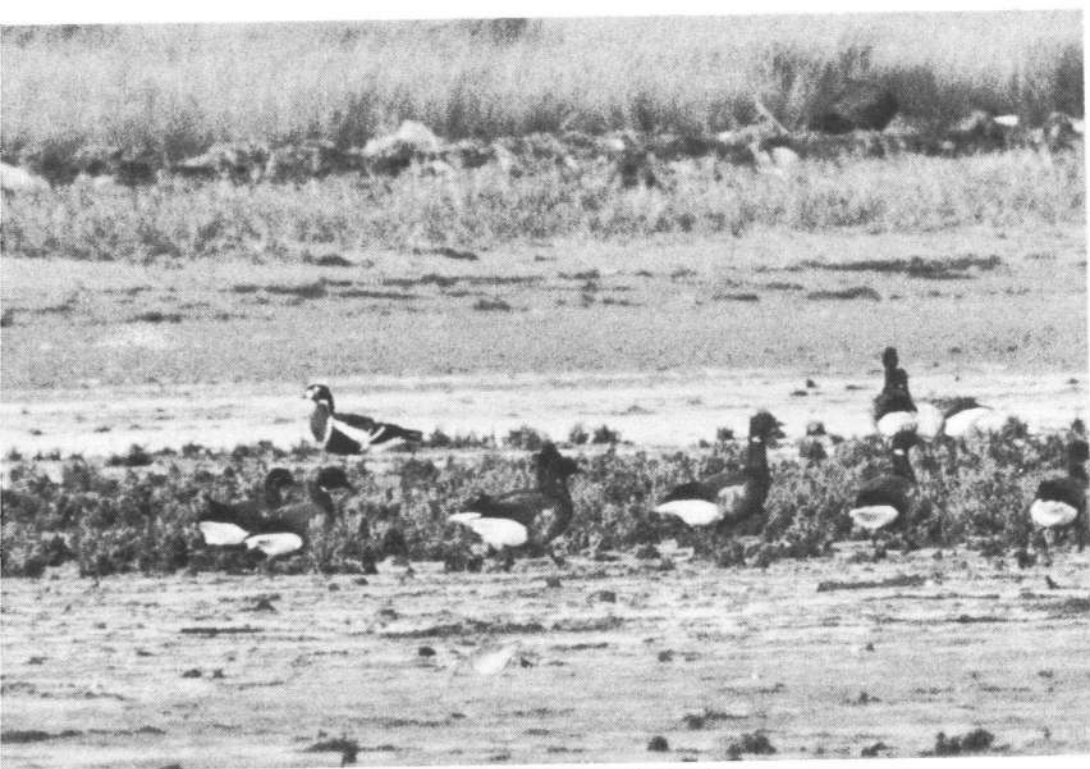
"Comic" Tern (Common/Arctic)

At Gibraltar Point 49 north May 6th, 30 north 7th and 20 north 12th, 178 north September 6th and 3 October 20th. Eighteen at the Witham Mouth October 28th with one November 13th and a very late bird Covenham Res November 24th.



Little Tern *Sterna albibrons* (illustrated)

Birds were noted from April 20th at Saltfleetby and 21st at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point with one Holbeach 28th. Up to 6 were in the Wash at the Witham Mouth from May 15th through the summer and there were 2 at the Nene mouth May 26th, 2 Cleethorpes 15th and June 2nd and numbers at Gibraltar Point increased to 35 in May and 45 June. At Saltfleetby 12 pairs bred but no young were reared, at Tetney 90+ pairs reared 50 juvs, 21 pairs bred at Donna Nook and 20 pairs at Gibraltar Point reared 16+ juvs. In July Gibraltar Point had 61 on 30th and 6 were up the Humber at Killingholme 27th with 4 at Holbeach Marsh 29th. Birds were regular at Cleethorpes in August with 23 on 19th, up to 25 were at Gibraltar Point with the last 6 on 24th, 1-15 at the Witham Mouth into September, regular in the Wash in August with a max of 34 Holbeach 14th, 12 18th. Ten were at the Nene Mouth September 7th and 9 flew up river there 10th with 2 24-29th. Gibraltar Point had one 4th and 4 15th and there were singles Cleethorpes 12th and Holbeach Marsh 28th.



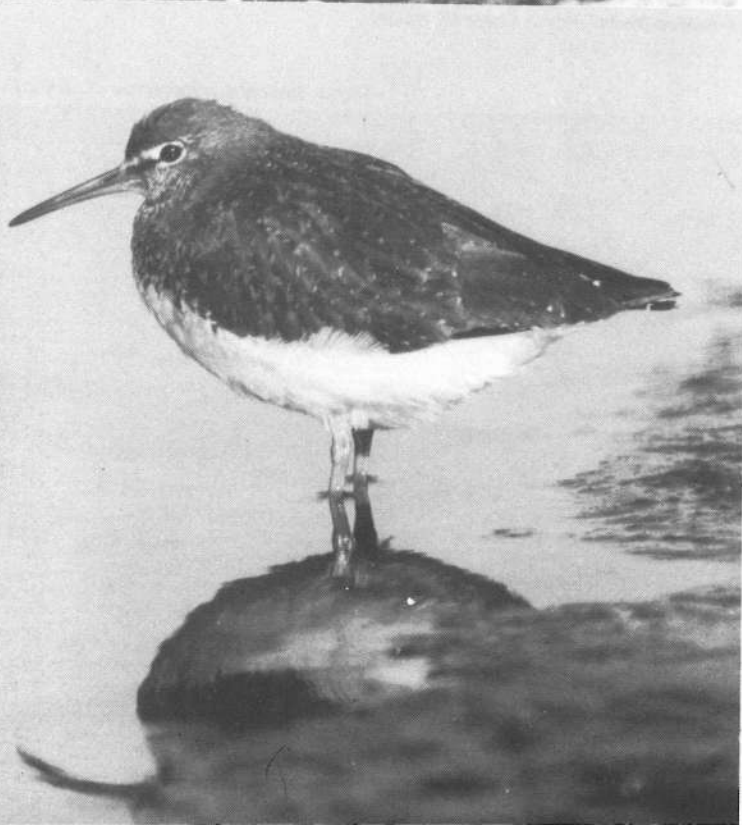
Red-breasted Goose with Dark-bellied Brents. North Cotes (K. Atkin)

Shags. Covenham Reservoir (K. Atkin)





Pectoral Sandpiper
Covenham Reservoir
(M. J. Tarrant)



Green Sandpiper
(B. Lillycrapp)



Wilson's Phalarope Gibraltar Point, above (Alan Ball) and Anderby Creek, below (K. Atkin)





Pomarine Skua, Gibraltar Point (A. R. Cawthorne)



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

April records came from Covenham Res single 27th, 2 28th and up to 5 30-May 1st, Denton Res 29th, Huttoft Pit 29th, Barton 30th. May singles at Gibraltar Point 17th, 31st, Covenham Res, 14th, Barton 20th, Tetney 22nd, 26th, Thorpe Pits 24th, Humberston 26th and Grainthorpe 26th. One to three noted on the coast and at Thorpe Pits, Apex Pit (N. Hykeham), and Covenham Res irregularly from June-late September with 4-6 at Covenham September 13-19th and 13 south at Donna Nook 23rd, 3 being at Bardney 29th. October singles were at Covenham Res 1st, Saltfleetby 2nd, Gibraltar Point 5th and a late bird was at the Witham Mouth November 5th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Before July there were just singles Gibraltar Point February 11th and May 28th, 2 found dead at Tetney in April and one Donna Nook May 5th. One to five recorded on the coast and in the Wash July-December with 9 Saltfleetby August 23rd, 12 Donna Nook October 5th and 93 north there November 8th and 9 at Saltfleetby November 4th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Three were found dead at Tetney in April. One flew north at Donna Nook June 7th and one was at Saltfleetby July 15th with another August 25th, 4 at Theddlethorpe July 22nd and singles Gibraltar Point November 4th and 10th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

One was found dead at Cleethorpes on January 25th (IGS). In the late autumn there was one at the Witham Mouth October 28th (RH, KH) then 5 there November 17th (RH, KH) and one 28th (SK). One was at Saltfleetby November 4th (BMC, MJT) and one which landed in a New Holland garden on 6th was released at Barton 7th (GPC). Four flew north at Donna Nook 6th and 9 north 8th (RL0).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

At Saltfleetby there was one July 14th, 5 north September 9th and 2 south November 4th while Donna Nook had one south October 5th, 3 north November 8th and one north December 1st.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Concentrations early in the year included up to 24 Donna Nook in January with 63 Gibraltar Point 14th, and 40 West Halton February 4th. There were 60 Cadney Carrs August 3rd then up to 54 Donna Nook November and December, 19 Gibraltar Point December 21st.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very large flocks early in the year included 1,000 Burnham January 2nd and in February 1,000 South Ferriby 4th, 1,500 Huttoft Pit and 3,200 Saltfleetby St. Peter both 9th, 1,000 Donna Nook 11th and 1,000 flying east at Willoughby 18th. Other large flocks at this time were 400 Cadney Carrs February 10th and 700 Louth March 19th. Gibraltar Point had max 500 January 24th, 350 February 18th, 300 March 18-19th and April 25-26th, and 150 May 4-5th, and there were 200 Alford May 14th. In September there were 250 Gibraltar Point 15th, 200 Cadney Carrs 20th but numbers built up from October with 3,000 Hogsthorpe 13th and at Gibraltar Point 1,000 11th, 400 with 1,370 south 21st, 460 23rd and 400 27th, continuing into November with 2000 3rd, 395 south on 15th. Also in November there were 400 Hibaldstow 22nd, 1,200 flew north at Theddlethorpe 25th and Goxhill had 500+ through to December. Other large December flocks were 1,500 Dowsby Fen and 500 Toft Newton, both on 8th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Few large concentrations reported. Eighty-five were counted at Louth malt kiln January 28th; while in November max 200 roosted at Cleethorpes, 100+ at North Somercotes Warren 29th with a flock of 25 at Kingerby the same date.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

After one at Messingham April 17th a further arrival took place 20th on, with 1-2 at many sites to the end of the month. Spring coastal movement was poor, with 45 Saltfleetby May 20th, 50 25th, and at Gibraltar Point 32 19th, 30 30-31st and up to 29 in June. In autumn there were 60 Cadney Carrs August 3rd, 20 Gibraltar Point 24th, with late birds 1-3, early October, at Tetney, Gib and Brocklesby, last at Goxhill 14th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

First singles were at Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point and Kirkby Underwood, all April 15th with another 24 at 13 sites to the end of the month, including 4 Temple Wood 19th, 6 Messingham 27th. Seven flew north at Anderby-Wolla Bank on May 4th and Gibraltar Point had 1-4 in June with 10 Saltfleetby 25th. There were up to 7 at Tetney in August with last juvenile birds at Donna Nook September 12th and Messingham 21st.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Breeding records came from 11 sites involving at least 14 pairs, divided between the Witham, Bain and Ancholme valleys and the Middle- and Out-marsh east of the Wolds. There were also more widespread regular sightings mainly of single birds from a further 23 sites and occasional sightings of 1-3 birds at another 41; altogether a better representation than previous years.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Widespread reports of birds present all year from 24 sites, with breeding recorded at Ravendale, South Elkington and Atterby Carr. Occasional sightings also widespread, indicating a county-wide distribution for this retiring species. Coastal records, all singles, Tetney March-June and again December; Gibraltar Point July 29-31st, August 26-28th, September 2nd; Saltfleetby August 27th-September 5th; Donna Nook October 9th and Grainthorpe Haven November 10th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Numerous widespread reports with 6 pairs in the Kirton-Frampton area, where it is a recent colonist. Coastal records of 1-2 all year at Gibraltar Point and singles Donna Nook September 16-29th and Tetney November 20th.

Long Eared Owl *Asio otus*

A very poor year with very few records and more than half of those at Gibraltar Point; singles there on 10 dates January-May with 3 February 19-26th, 5 March 4th, 4 5th then singles again July 27th, 30th and October 27th, this being the only late autumn record in the county for the year. Other records early in the year, Willoughby Branch line January 12th, Goxhill 2 February 25th, Bennington Bridge March 3-10th with singles Donna Nook March 18th and 22nd. Breeding was reported at Risby Warren and Brumby Wood with a possible attempt at Saltfleetby, and other summer records, all singles, at Swallow April 5th and June 5th, Thorpe Pits May 17th, New Holland 23rd, Ashbyville July 9th and Sleaford Ballast Pit August 14th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Monthly totals for numbers of individual birds.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
33	36	41	22	15	11	7	7	6	17	14	26

One to three present at several sites, mainly coastal, January-April with max 8, Tetney January 29th and 7 there to March 10th, 4 Goxhill March 1st and Frampton April 16th. A pair bred at Holbeach rearing 2 young and other May-June records came from Tetney, Norton Place, Toft Newton, Witham Mouth, Winteringham Ings, Hungerton Quarry, Gibraltar Point and Grainthorpe Haven, with July singles Read's Island 7th, Butterwick 15th. Fewer birds present autumn/winter; 1-2 at most sites with 4 Holbeach Marsh October 11th, 3 East Halton 31st, 4 Gibraltar Point November 17th and Baston Fen 18th, 3 Read's Island December 1st and 4 Gibraltar Point 29th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

More reports than in recent years, giving a better though still incomplete record. In Stapleford Woods there were 2 males May 30th, with 4 males and 2 females June 10-20th, 3 birds still present in August to September 4th. Five were in Dunsby Wood for 2 days, early June, at least 4 males at Laughton Forest/Scotton in July with 3 in August, and one at Belton in August-September.

Swift *Apus apus*

After the first at Market Deeping and Covenham Res April 25th, general arrival began at the end of the month with one Messingham, 2 Covenham 28th, one Denton and North Cotes 29th, 2 Pinchbeck, 4 Ashbyville 30th and 60 Lincoln Ballast Pit May 8th. Other concentrations in May included max 200 Barrow Haven 16th, 120 Messingham 20-24th, 500 Covenham 20th with 700 28th, while 600 flew east in 2 hours at Tattershall on 27th. Covenham Res had 300 June 3rd with 350 Messingham on 5th, 200 22nd. Regular

southerly movements at Gibraltar Point began in June with 700 2nd, 284 12th, 80 21st, 100 22nd, 200 29th. After 140 north July 2nd southerly movements resumed with 100 3rd, 10,000 8th, 3,000 9th, 500 10th, 666 12th and 185 28th. Elsewhere on the coast 1,000 flew south at Theddlethorpe 1st, 256 Donna Nook 9th and 1,000 Witham Mouth 28th. October birds, all singles, were at Saltfleetby 2nd, Covenham 4th, Skegness 14th, Theddlethorpe 23rd, with last at Nene Mouth November 10th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A very similar year to 1983 with 1-2 birds at 12-13 sites January-April and at 27 sites, widespread, August-December. Nine pairs bred at six sites, though one pair failed, with May-July records from another 6 localities.

Roller *Coracias garrulus*

One flying over Ingoldsby wood on July 14th (PH). If accepted will be the 6th county record.

Under consideration by BBRC.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One at College Wood, Wragby, April 20-21st (CE, TE, VR, SR, JSR) and at Rauceby Warren, 1 June, 12-14th, 2 15th with 1 to 22nd (RJA CJJ, SK et al).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Another poor spring with the only records at Donna Nook April 19th and Saltfleetby June 1st, but a better autumn with several inland records. In August there was one North Cotes 23-24th, Gibraltar Point 25th and 27th with one Seacroft 26th, and one North Hykeham 29th-September 6th. Also in September single birds at Witham Mouth 9th, Wilsford 13th, Donna Nook and Ancaster Pit 16th and Gibraltar Point 26th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Records of singles from scattered sites in the first half of the year included Saltfleetby April 8th and Gibraltar Point May 28th. One to three at a small number of sites October-December, but outside a few traditional areas, this is not a common bird.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Now seems to have reached most of the county with breeding probable at several sites on the Humber bank and several records well away from any real woodland, including Kirton (Boston) March 31st and several days in April, and Baston Fen November 10th, 21st and December 16th. Coastal records came from North Cotes June 4th with more usual autumn records at Gibraltar Point August 25th, October 17-25th and November 17-20th, Seacroft October 14th, Donna Nook 15th and Saltfleet December 31st.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Still consolidating its spread, with breeding proved at Barrow, suspected Atkinson's Warren (Scunthorpe), Brumby Woods and Swanpool, and other breeding season records from Boultham Park, Burton Pits, Crowle, Kirton, Denton Res, Hoplands Wood and Boston. Away from these sites records early in the year included Ashbyville January 10th, Scopwick 22nd, Burton Stather February 12th and March 25th. August-December sightings included Scopwick August 1st and 9th, Hungerton 26th, Witham-on-the-Hill September 1st, Burgh churchyard 9th and Scotter Road, Scunthorpe November 30th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

At a site in the county 2 birds seen July 23rd, then a family party of 7 early August with 3 August 16th. Confirms local breeding, the first such record since 1959. Other birds at Donna Nook March 31st-April 2nd (SL) and Swallow May 1st (TN).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

January flocks included 120 Alford 18th, 300 Holbeach 21st, 120 Willoughby and 700 Benington 22nd, 2,000 Donna Nook 25th with 148 south at Cowbit 23rd, 186 west at Barrow Haven 30th. The Cleethorpes flock numbered up to 79 in January-February, while there were 450 Saltfleetby February-March and peak counts at Gibraltar Point of 300 January 4th, 102 February 6th, 230 March 23rd. In summer there were 80 Gibraltar Point May 26th, 75 June 23rd, and 60-70 pairs bred at Saltfleetby. In September 86 flew south-west in an hour at Snitterby on 29th but autumn flocks and movements were low compared with some years. Gibraltar Point had max 140 September 30th, 150 October 26th with southward movements of 50 birds October 13th, 60 22nd, 40 27th; 90 at

Huttoft same day. Then 40 Gibraltar Point November 9th with 100 south, 77 south 25th, 250 December 29th and 220 31st. Saltfleetby had 850 November-December and Donna Nook 350 December 1st.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Year	70-71	71-72	72-73	73-74	74-75	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	(84-)
Donna Nook	63	40	60	50	60	40	3	15	4	4	6	2	9	5	-
Gib Point	80	70	106	40	40	30	8	9	12	-	12	4	6	4	-
Others	1	88	19	4	-	6	7	3	1	-	22	6	1	1	1
TOTAL:	144	198	185	94	100	76	18	27	19	4	40	12	16	10	1

maximum counts per winter

The decline in records of this species, shown by the table to have begun in the early seventies and accelerated from the mid-70's, continued in 1984 with the poorest year yet. In the first half of the year there was one Saltfleetby January 14-19th and one May 13th, with 2 at Gibraltar Point February 3rd. The only autumn record was one Saltfleetby November 10th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

This species suffered disastrously in its winter quarters over the 83/84 winter. Many places did not record any at all in 1984 and others very few. First of the few was at Ashbyville March 24th (pursued by a Kestrel!) with one Whisby Pit 25-27th, Baston GP 26th. There were no large spring concentrations, max records being 20, Lincoln Ballast Pit April 12th, 18 Barton 16th and 4-20 Messingham April 14th-June 22nd. Tetney recorded a total of 3 between April and June, Gibraltar Point a max 8 April to late August. Of colonies, Swallow was not occupied in 1984, Ancaster held 4-5 pairs compared to some 200 pairs in previous years, and autumn gatherings were correspondingly low. July max, 60 Messingham 23rd and in late August 150 at Barrow Haven (which held 5,000+ to 1982). August movements, all south, 30 Witham Mouth 12th, 25 Gibraltar Point 30th with 15 31st and in September 8 2nd, 12 3rd. Wisbech SF held 400 also on 3rd, with 20 Covenham 9th, 50 Messingham 11th, 10 22nd, one Denton 20th and 1-3 at Gibraltar Point to the last on 29th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

First birds were at Hemingby, Ashbyville and Covenham Res April 10th, Fulstow 11th, then 10 other sites 12-15th with 46 Gibraltar Point 28th. Movements in May included 150 south, 150 north at Theddlethorpe 19th; a female ringed there 20th was reported from near Potsdam, East Germany, 4 weeks later. Gibraltar Point had max 70 south 23rd and 100 flew east at Tattershall 27th with 300 Covenham 28th. As usual autumn movements were heavier: 250 flew south at Saltfleetby on August 12th, with 300 there on 26th, and other concentrations included 250 Gibraltar Point 19th, 250 Messingham 21st and on 28th 1,000+ Theddlethorpe, 1,200 Baston Fen, 2,000 at Butterwick in 30 minutes. Southerly movements began at Gibraltar Point with 500 on 29th, 3,000 30th, 1,000 31st and continued into September with 1,800 3rd, 2,000 14th. Up to 2,000 flew north at Theddlethorpe September 2nd and there were 500 Covenham 9th, max 1,500 Donna Nook 13th. September roosts were larger than 1983 but still much smaller than recent years with max counts 3,000 Barton 7th, 1,000 Messingham 18th, 2,000 Ashbyville. In October 100 flew south at Gibraltar Point 15th, 50 22nd; Theddlethorpe had its last on 25th when there were 4 Saltfleetby, then 1-2 at 8 other sites to November 15th, 6 south Gibraltar Point 3rd. After one Skellingthorpe November 18th, a very late bird was at Ashbyville December 8th (WG).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

After first arrivals at Horncastle April 13th, Messingham Heath and Gibraltar Point 15th, there were 5 more in the following week but most from the end of the month; 20 Gibraltar Point 30th with 90 Ashbyville May 8th, 42 Messingham 9th, 70 11th, 40 Gibraltar Point 18th and 200 Covenham Res 28th.

At Theddlethorpe 150 flew north and 150 south 19th and at Gibraltar Point southerly passage continued into June with 58 1st, 200 2nd, 50 3rd. There were 70-100 birds at a few sites in August-September with 200 Sleaford August 17th, 455 Chapel-Huttoft September 8th and 300 Covenham Res 23rd. Thirty-five at Hubbards Hills October 19th

was notable. Southerly coastal movements included 400 Gibraltar Point August 30th, 30 September 3rd, 50 23rd with 100 south Theddlethorpe 29th. November birds were at Saltfleetby 1st, Hobhole Outfall 3rd, 7 Gibraltar Point 1st, 5 3rd, and 5 4th (all south), Cleethorpes 16th and very late birds were 2 Kirkby Laythorpe December 1st and one Alkborough 20th.

Probable Swallow/House Martin Hybrids

One was at Tetney Blow Wells June 19th (BMC, MJT) and one trapped at Skegness September 5th was released at Gibraltar Point on 6th (RLa et al).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

	Humber	NE Coast	E Coast	Wash	Total
September	—	12	—	—	12
October	2	31	1	3	37
November	—	14	1	—	15
December	—	1	—	—	1

All records 1969-84 (includes some birds present in 2 months)

Since 1969 occurrences have ranged from 1-8 birds annually, averaging 4, with more than 85% of records on the NE coast, Tetney-Saltfleetby and 64% at Donna Nook alone. 1984 continued the typical pattern with one Saltfleetby September 29th (BMC), another November 11th (KA), and at Donna Nook one November 7th (SL, RLo) and a late bird December 7th (RLo).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

First spring birds were at Gibraltar Point and Saltfleetby April 15th, Donna Nook 17th, Bourne Wood and 2 Gibraltar Point 18th, Tetney 19th. Then 2 Saltfleetby, 1 Gibraltar Point 22nd with 2 at the latter site 23rd, 2 males at Moor Farm 25th, 1 Goxhill 26th, Barton 30th. Donna Nook had regular singles until May 18th and also in May, one Swallow 1st, a male at Denton Res 2-19th, one each at Anderby and Covenham Res 4th, with 2 there 25th, one Gibraltar Point 10th, Saltfleetby 2 26th, 2 30th. Two in Stapleford Woods May 8th stayed until June 15th. Breeding records from Hungerton and Scotton, with 2 males in Bardney Woods June 15th and 2 Crowle Waste July 3rd. In autumn there was one Saltfleetby August 13th, 2 22nd, one Thornton Abbey 20th, 6 Gibraltar Point 25th where passage continued into September with 2 2nd, one 6th, one south 8th, 2 12th, 4 13th, 2 15th, 4 south 19th, one 23rd and the last of the year 30th. Other September records at Donna Nook 16th, Saltfleetby 17th, Seacroft 22nd.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Few flocks of any size early in the year, with peak counts at Gibraltar Point, 30 January 7th, 70 February 19th, 60 April 17th; also 55 Saltfleetby March 27th, where 50-60 pairs bred, and 50 Covenham May 4th. In September there were 60 Cleethorpes 8th, 55 Gibraltar Point 10th, then southerly movements there beginning with 40 11th, 30 12th, 150 13th, 800 14th, 200 22nd, 100 23rd, 300 27th. Also flocks there of 60 22nd, 153 29th. Elsewhere in September Donna Nook had max 150 14-16th, Saltfleetby 600 14th, 60 18th, Witham Mouth 40 16th and Theddlethorpe 500 29th; 100 there October 7th. Other October flocks were 50 Covenham 1st, Saltfleetby 350 4th, 143 7th, Holbeach 50 11th, with north-westerly movements at Cleethorpes of 150 9th, 100 12th, and 200 at Gibraltar Point 20th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

At regular sites on the coast, January-March and October-December, there was: an occasional bird Barton-Barrow Haven; 1-3 Goxhill-East Halton; 1-6 Cleethorpes-Humberston with 9 October 24th; at Tetney-North Cotes up to 10 January-March, 1-6 October-December with 20 North Cotes-Grainthorpe November 7th; at Trusthorpe-Sandilands 1-3 in both periods. Early year records at Gibraltar Point were 4-14 January 1-6th, 5 29th; 1-3 February and in March 3 3rd, 9 4th, 14 5th with 3 north-east the same day, 9 6th, 3 17th, 2 18th. Elsewhere, there was one Witham Mouth January, 2 Kirton Marsh 5th, 3 Covenham 31st with 10 there March 29th, and also in March max 12 Donna Nook 21st. April birds were at Tetney 1st and 13th, Cleethorpes 15th, and the first of the autumn were 2 Goxhill September 22nd. There were 1-6 at Covenham September 27th-December 6th with max 10 October 26th, and at Gibraltar Point, after 2 September 29th, 10 November 3rd with 2-7 on 6-18th, 6 December 29th, 18 30th, 14 31st. Other autumn/winter records at Cadney Res 8-16th October, 2 17th, Saltfleetby 2 10th, one 23rd,

Holbeach 2 11th; at Nene mouth 2 from 6th to November 19th and 3 Gedney Drove End December 26th.

A.s. littoralis Birds showing characteristics of this race were noted at Barrow Haven January 10th, Humberston February 9th, Covenham Res 2 29th, one March 14th, 3 27-29th, one April 2nd and 10th. Also in March one Goxhill 1st and Cleethorpes 30th.

A.s. spinoletta Most records of birds showing characteristics of Water Pipit came from Saltfleetby: 2 January 1st, one from 21st to February 5th, 2 March 25th. Then in autumn, one October 16th and 28th, 2 November 4th to December 1st with 3 November 20th. Others were one Goxhill February 13th, one Covenham Res October 19-27th with 2 on 26th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

First of the year was at Stamford April 4th, then one south at Theddlethorpe 7th, one Covenham Res 9th and Barton 10th. Main arrival began about 15th with peak concentrations 12 Ashbyville 18th, 11 Butterwick Hale 21st, 10 Gibraltar Point 22nd, 12 Baston Fen 27th. At Covenham Res there were 20-45 from 15th to 30th with 60 25-26th and 20 May 25th. In autumn there were 30 Cadney Res August 3-17th, 20 Covenham 7th, 44 18th, max 15 Gibraltar Point 28th and 20 Frampton 29th. Gibraltar Point had max 6, September 2nd, Wisbech SF 20 3rd, Barton 22 7th and Hemingby 6 9th with 4 19th and 15 Lighthouse Farm (Nene bank) 20th. At Immingham there were still 25 on 17th, with 40 Covenham 20-21st but numbers then decreased: 5 Kirkby Laythorpe 21st, one Tetney 27th and 5 Covenham Res 30th with last 2 there October 1st.

M.f. flava Birds showing characteristics of Blue-headed Wagtails were noted as follows: Covenham Res (all males) April 16th, 2 24th, one 28th, 2 May 4-9th, with one to June 16th. Gibraltar Point, a female April 5th, males May 3rd, 20th, 26-27th. Ashbyville, a male April 18th. Tetney, single males May 1-2nd and 10th, June 5th and 26th, July 11th.

M.f. cinereocapilla A bird showing characteristics of Ashy-headed Wagtail was at Covenham Res May 31st (MM).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

January-March birds were noted regularly at Louth and Lincoln with other records at Denton Res in early January, Holywell Lake 12th, Tetney Blow Wells February 5th, Messingham 17th, Donna Nook March 25th, Saltfleetby 28th, Covenham Res 29-April 4th. Also in April, one Donna Nook 11th, Messingham 14th and one Barrow May 5th. Autumn birds were widespread with 1-2 at 25 sites August-October, including Gibraltar Point where there were records on 8 dates in September, a total of 11 birds, and Newsham Lake, Thorpe Pits, R Witham at Lincoln, Louth and Denton Res, where birds remained to the end of the year. Other November records came from West Ashby, one 18th, and Cleethorpes, one 19th and 23rd, and in December one Immingham 5-21st and 28th-29th, Alford SF 9th and Scunthorpe Steelworks 26th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

In the first half of the year there were 40 Holme Lake February 4th and 7 Alford April 2nd, but in the autumn there were reports of more flocks than usual. Max August flocks were 35 Cadney Res 17th, 25 Messingham 21st with 6 Donna Nook September 14th and 150 roosting at Baston Fen 24th. In October there were 10 Covenham Res 4th, 9 flying north-west at Cleethorpes 7th, 15 Cadney Res 17th and 20 Hemingby 18th, with 10 Alford SF December 9th, and 23 Baston Fen on 29th.

M.a. alba White Wagtails were again fairly widespread. After first records at Donna Nook March 6th and Covenham Res 31st, there were singles in April at Barton, Messingham, Cleethorpes, Tetney, Donna Nook and Huttoft, with 2 Holbeach Marsh 15th, 1-2 Gibraltar Point 20th-May 30th and one Messingham May 21st. At Covenham there was one April 5-7th then 2 8-17th, 4 18th, 5 25th, 2 28th, one to May 9th, singles May 13th and 23rd and in autumn one August 19th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Month max counts at Gibraltar Point were:

J	F	M	A	M	O	N	D
10	-	10	15	24	19	15	13

At Saltfleetby 17-20 pairs bred, and 14 different birds were trapped on May 4th, 25 were present October 24th. At Theddlethorpe 189 were ringed during 1984, 46 of these in October, and up to 10 were present at Donna Nook in autumn.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Breeding populations at Saltfleetby and Donna Nook were again 120 and 20 pairs respectively; up to 50 were present at Donna Nook in autumn. Monthly max counts at Gibraltar Point were:

J	F	M	S	O	N	D
45	—	65	52	20	60	100

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Gibraltar Point had maxima of 10 January 25th then 9 March 31st and up to 9 on spring passage April 1-15th with autumn maxima of 15 September 24th, 15 October 6th and 15 November 17th. Autumn passage was sporadic – with no real fall and confined to the NE coast, with 7 Humberston October 2nd, 30 Saltfleetby 17th, then in November 35 Donna Nook 7th with 7 ringed at Theddlethorpe same day and 5 ringed there 18th, and 65 Saltfleetby 20th.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

A first-winter bird trapped at Theddlethorpe on September 2nd (MB, FEB) is the third county record, the previous two both being in 1977; North Somercotes Warren May 22nd and Theddlethorpe September 3-10th.

Accepted by BBRC.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

First arrivals were at Saltfleetby April 19-21st, Theddlethorpe 20-23rd and College Wood Apley 26th. Spring records away from regular breeding sites included a male singing at Messingham April 30-May 23rd with two males May 9-15th, Swanpool May 8th, and Saltfleetby 23-24th. In August one was trapped at Gibraltar Point 14th, a first-winter bird ringed at Theddlethorpe 19th was present to September 2nd, and there was one Saltfleetby August 25th.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Spring passage birds in March were at North Cotes 19th, Saltfleetby 27th with a male April 7th, Tetney March 30th, then April 3rd and 6th. At Gibraltar Point there were single birds on 9 days, March-April with 2 April 15th, one Ashbyville April 5-9th, Donna Nook 17th and 21st and a male at Humberston May 23rd. Breeding records poor; at a regular site no birds were seen in 1984 and another pair at Scunthorpe laid but deserted (DJo). Autumn records were all coastal, with singles at Saltfleetby September 15th, October 16th and 23rd, 2 Saltfleetby St. Peter October 5th, 2 Donna Nook and one North Cotes 21st, then 2 Anderby November 4th, singles at Gibraltar Point 6th and 8-9th, Huttoft Bank 25th and finally at Pyewipes December 10th. (Photograph: B. Lillycrapp.)

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Spring arrival was quite concentrated across the county in mid-April with first at Saltfleetby 14th, Deeping St. Nicholas and Scopwick 15th, Waddington 16th, Burton Pits 17th, Kirton 18th, another at Saltfleetby 19th with 2 males 20th and 1-2 at Gibraltar Point 20-27th. In May there was a male Gibraltar Point 5-6th, one 20th and 28th; singles at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby 6th and Anderby Creek 30th. Inland there were 2 Twigmoor 6th and a male Grimsthorpe 15th but no suggestion of breeding, and the only June record was at Saltfleetby 3rd. In August-September there were singles North Cotes, Saltfleet St. Peter and Anderby Creek with 2 Cleethorpes August 25th, max 4 Theddlethorpe September 9th and 1-6 Donna Nook and Saltfleetby, with peak counts at the latter site 10 September 16th, 8 17th and 24th, 7 29th and at Gibraltar Point with peaks there 11 September 6th, 12 25th. The only inland record was at Morkery Wood, September 24th. October birds were at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby to 3rd with 6 on 3rd and 1-2 Gibraltar Point to 19th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

First of the spring was at Tetney April 16th then Gibraltar Point 21st with main arrival from 24th. On the coast in April-May there were 1-2 Tetney and Donna Nook, 1-3 Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point, with single records from Grainthorpe, Humberston, Huttoft, Boston, Kirton and Gedney Drove End. Inland there were singles at Messingham and Bonby Carrs April 28th, Haxey 29th, Baston Fen May 6th, Castle Bytham 9th, Kingerby and Denton Res 19th. The only June record was 2 Grainthorpe 2nd, with July records from Bardney 8th and Saltfleetby 22nd. In August there were up to 14 at Tetney, up to 10 Donna Nook with 12 25th, up to 18 at Saltfleetby with 29 on 25th and 28th and max 15 at Gibraltar Point also 28th. Others were at Frampton, 3 22nd, Somercotes Haven 6 27-28th, and Witham Mouth one 28th. Peak coastal counts in September were 12 Tetney 2nd, 27 Saltfleetby same day then 20 there 16th, 21 17th, 22 Theddlethorpe 19th, 20 at Gibraltar Point 12th and 15th. One to two elsewhere on the coast and at several sites inland with 4-6 Anderby 12-28th and 6 Swanpool 17th. One to two coastal again in October with 4 Saltfleetby 6th and last at Gibraltar Point 26th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Early in the year one was present at Humberston early January with one Huttoft 19th and February 9-12th, 1 Anderby February 2nd. At Saltfleetby there were 1-2 12th-March 25th, at Gibraltar Point 1-2 March-April 14th and 1 Donna Nook April 1st. A juvenile bird was at Saltfleetby July 24th and coastal birds were widespread in autumn with 1-2 Gibraltar Point September 22nd-November 9th, 1-2 Donna Nook October 12-26th, 1-3 Saltfleetby and 1-6 in Huttoft-Chapel area October-December, and singles at North Cotes November and December. Inland there was one Covenham Res October 27th and in December 2-3 North Killingholme 9-26th and 2 Pyewipes 14th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

First spring birds were at the end of March, at Lighthouse Farm (R Nene) 24th, Huttoft 25th, Baston GP 26th and Tetney 30th. Main passage was from mid April, the only records in double figures being: Saltfleetby 16 16th, Covenham 22 17th, Tetney 10 19th and Ashbyville 12 20th. Birds in June were at Kirton, 7th and Donna Nook, singles on 4 dates to 27th, and in July 1-2 at Gibraltar Point from 3rd, with singles at Tetney 10th and 19th, Saltfleetby 22-25th and 2 Covenham 29th. In autumn there were up to 10 at coastal sites August-September, 1-5 October, with peaks 12 Tetney in August, 17 Saltfleetby 28th, and 1-2 at sites inland. November birds were at Nene Lodge Farm 2nd, North Kyme 3rd, Saltfleetby 4th, with a very late bird at Friskney December 30th (IH, KWW, PJK, RKW). *O.o. leucorroha* Greenland Wheatears were noted at Saltfleetby, 2 24-31st May, one June 2nd, with 2 Covenham also June 2nd.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

A moderate spring for this species with small numbers recorded widely. The first was at Butterwick on April 5th; at Saltfleetby there were 2 14th, 3 20th, one on 21st, 2 23rd, one 25th-27th; at Tetney one 18th, and 1-2 to 28th with a peak of 5 on 25th, 4 26th; one Kirton Marsh 25th; one Barton 30th; Gibraltar Point one 21st, 1-3 25th-30th; Theddlethorpe one 18th, one 20th; Saltfleet one 26th, two 29th; Donna Nook one 16th, two 18th-20th. In May there were 1-2 at Gibraltar Point from 2nd-14th with 4 on 15th. Saltfleetby had 2 from 6th-9th and 3 on 10th, and there were singles at Barton 2nd, North

Cotes 6th and 2 at Nene Mouth 8th. Autumn brought fewer records with 1-2 at Saltfleetby from September 15-18th, 2 24th and one 25th-26th. One was at Gibraltar Point on 16th, 3 24th and one at Seacroft 22nd. In October there were singles at Gibraltar Point 4th and 7th and at Saltfleetby 17th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

In January 40 were counted at Gibraltar Point 5th and Baston Fen 29th. Highest counts of departing winter visitors included 80 at Gibraltar Point on March 29th; 160 at Saltfleetby 26th and 80 at Donna Nook at the end of March. At Gibraltar Point there were up to 55 April 5-11th. Autumn arrivals were widespread with few significant concentrations. In October there were 100 at Gibraltar Point 21st; 97 Saltfleetby 28th and 1,000 Donna Nook on the same day. In November the influx continued with 200 south at Donna Nook 13th and 150 south 15th. At Gibraltar Point there were up to 100 from 2nd-11th with 130 5th and 100 25th. There were 75 Saltfleetby 9th and the same number ringed at Theddlethorpe 18th. Two hundred were noted by the railway line at Scunthorpe 30th. In December there were 100 East Halton 11th and 65 Gibraltar Point 30th. A total of 622 were ringed at Theddlethorpe during the year.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Good numbers were noted throughout the early part of the year with 116 south at New Holland January 15th, 115 Blyborough Grange 15th, up to 400 Alford 22nd, 700 north at Pinchbeck 22nd, 120 Scopwick 22nd, 127 Long Benington 22nd, 400 Heckington 24th and a maximum of 50 Gibraltar Point 27th. Fewer in February with 150 Cadney Carrs 2nd and 80 there 27th. In March there were 80 Blyborough 20th and 50 on 27th, 50 Saltfleetby 25th and up to 50 at Donna Nook until May 1st. The largest pre-migration flocks in April were 50 Alford 2nd and 50 Baston GP 14th. A few birds lingered into May with very small numbers widespread until the 19th when the last spring birds were seen at Gibraltar Point.

There were no June records but very early autumn arrivals were singles Donna Nook and Saltfleetby July 1st and Gibraltar Point 21st. Small numbers were seen in August and September but migration did not begin in earnest until mid-October with 70 west at Saltfleetby 16th; 100 Gibraltar Point 21st and 95 on 28th; 100 Donna Nook 28th; 60 Messingham 28th-30th. The influx continued throughout November with 300 Blyborough Grange 1st, 160 south at Goxhill 2nd, 150 in off the sea at Saltfleetby 4th, 200 Gibraltar Point 2nd-7th and 500 Butterwick 10th. In December there were flocks of 1,100 Barton 7th and 800 there from 14-20th, 250 Dunsby Fen 8th, 300 East Halton 11th, 230 Saltfleetby 28th and 200 Gibraltar Point 29th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Fifty were at Gibraltar Point on January 27th and 24 there March 4th; otherwise there was no notable spring passage. In the autumn there were 25 Gibraltar Point and 30 Saltfleetby September 27th but the heaviest passage was in October with 200 Theddlethorpe 13th, 500 Donna Nook 17th and 100 on 28th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

No high early year concentrations were noted. Spring counts were moderate with the following peaks: 72 south at Gibraltar Point March 25th, 150 Saltfleetby 29th and there were up to 50 at Donna Nook until May 4th. In April: 65 Scopwick 1st, 60 Alford 2nd, 250 Saltfleetby 11th. Final spring birds were singles at Saltfleetby June 1st, Gibraltar Point 2nd and one trapped at Theddlethorpe 24th. First of the autumn was one at Gibraltar Point September 2nd with 123 south on 24th and 95 Saltfleetby 27th. In October high counts were: 400 Gibraltar Point 7th, 500 Theddlethorpe 13th and 1,000 22nd, 500 Donna Nook 17th, 225 Saltfleetby 25th. More arrived in November with 870 Saltfleetby 7th, 200 Donna Nook 7th, up to 200 Gibraltar Point 2nd-7th, 400 Barton 28th and 600 Scunthorpe railway line 30th. In December there were 400 Barton from 6th-14th and 300 East Halton 11th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

The only notable concentration in the first half of the year was 20 at Gibraltar Point June 23rd. In the autumn there were several similar sized flocks with 15-21 at Saltfleetby August 3-28th and 15 at Gibraltar Point 29th. In September: 12 Gibraltar Point 2nd, 14

Doddington 6th, up to 15 Saltfleetby 1st-11th, 12 Swanpool 15th and 25 north-east at Pinchbeck 14th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The first of the spring was at Saltfleetby April 19th; 3 were there by 22nd and 4 pairs bred. Other April arrivals were singles at Gibraltar Point 21st, Swanpool 21st with 3 males all May and 4 on 18th, Theddlethorpe 23rd, Goxhill 26th, Denton Res 26th-May 14th. Other May records were of one at Barton 20th, 2 males Great West Wood, Apley, 23rd and 6 Bourne Wood 29th. June records were of singles Swanpool 17th and Denton Res 26th. One was at Goxhill 19th July and in August singles Saltfleetby 13th and Gibraltar Point 29th. The last of the autumn was a bird trapped at Theddlethorpe September 2nd. This account includes all records submitted; their paucity seems to confirm the suspected decline of Grasshopper Warblers in the county. Once again contributors are requested to submit all records of passage and breeding birds for 1985 in order to monitor this species fortunes as closely as possible.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

First of the spring were one Donna Nook and 2 Baston Fen April 20th. There were singles Saltfleetby 21st, Chapel Pit 21st, Denton Res 22nd, Gibraltar Point 23rd, Huttoft Pit 24th, Pyewipe 26th and Messingham 23rd where there were 10 by 27th. Four were at Tetney Blow Wells 23rd. There were 27 at Messingham May 5th and another large count was of 22 Baston Fen June 16th. Autumn numbers were low with 6 Gibraltar Point September 2nd and the last there October 4th.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Following one at Barton April 20th were: one Boston 26th, 3 Huttoft Pit 27th, 4 Messingham 27th, 4 Burton Stather 29th and 2 Gibraltar Point 29th. Autumn was unexceptional with 10 Gibraltar Point September 2nd and the final birds being singles at Saltfleetby October 9th and at Donna Nook 15th. A migrant in song at Humberston Fitties on May 23rd showed characteristics associated with the eastern race *A.s. fuscus* (GPC).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

There were 5 autumn records. The first was one at Saltfleetby August 27th (JRW). In September one was trapped at Gibraltar Point where it stayed from 6th-30th (RLa, GPC, MM, SK et al). At Theddlethorpe one was trapped 8th and remained until 18th (MB, FEB, BRG) and another was trapped 17th (BRG). The final record was a little unusual in that the bird was just inland at Skidbrooke village 22nd (BMC, MJT).

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

A male was at Tetney 2nd-3rd June (HB, GPC, MM et al). The first county record and most unexpected. It showed characteristics of the nominate race *S.u. undata* which breeds around the Mediterranean (see report).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

A poor set of autumn records. At Saltfleetby there was one August 12th (BMC, MJT) and 2 on 27-28th (BMC, JRW). Another was at Saltfleetby September 2nd and 6th (BMC, MJT) and one was trapped at Gibraltar Point 5th (RLa, CJM et al).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first of the spring was at Kirton April 20th. Arrivals after this were widespread until 28th with peaks of 5 Barton 25th and 5 Messingham 28th. Surprisingly no records were received for early May, the period when immigration tends to be most concentrated. Ten pairs bred at Saltfleetby. Autumn coastal peaks were, in August 15 Theddlethorpe 15th and 19 Gibraltar Point 26th where they had increased to 40 by September 14th. Fourteen were at Saltfleetby 16th and in October there were singles at Gibraltar Point 1st and 3rd and finally Theddlethorpe 6th. At Theddlethorpe 93 birds were ringed during the year.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Following the first at Theddlethorpe April 18th there were scattered individuals until a more intense influx at the end of the month with 14 Gibraltar Point 26th and 22-25 males Saltfleetby 28th. May peaks were 20 Gibraltar Point 19th and 70 Saltfleetby 21st. Seven pairs bred at Donna Nook and 40 at Saltfleetby. Autumn passage was light with 15 Gibraltar Point August 13th, 35 Saltfleetby 12th and 18 on 28th. Gibraltar Point's peak for September was 10 on 6th and the last migrant was seen at Saltfleetby October 6th-7th. At Theddlethorpe only 60 were ringed compared with the 1983 total of 164.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

There was only one April record, a single bird at Bourne Wood 25th, with a more general arrival from May 5-8th. Unusual records were of coastal singles Tetney June 3-4th and Theddlethorpe 10th. Fifty birds were ringed at Theddlethorpe from August 12th to mid-October. Maxima at Gibraltar Point were 15 August 27th and 15 September 2nd. At Donna Nook there were 1-5 daily from August 28th until the final bird on October 17th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering birds were seen in January at Mablethorpe 8th and Boston 28th. The first of the spring were 3 Gibraltar Point and one Saltfleetby April 14th with birds being recorded widely though in very small numbers until the end of the month. Autumn migration was, for the second consecutive year, very poor with the two highest counts being 7 Gibraltar Point and 10 Donna Nook September 29th. However, they were still relatively common in November with 6 Gibraltar Point 11th and 2 on 25th, 2 Saltfleetby until December 28th and singles Donna Nook until November 17th and Immingham 25th. In December were: one Bourne Wood 19th, 2 Theddlethorpe 9th, one North Hykeham 23rd, a male and female Gibraltar Point 28th-31st, a male 26th and a female 31st Boston and, finally, 2 Saltfleet 31st.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One trapped at Gibraltar Point September 22nd (RLa et al) is the 11th county record. Under consideration by BBRC. Occurrences to date are 6 in August, 4 September, 1 November.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A good autumn for this species with 6 or 7 different birds. The first was trapped at Theddlethorpe September 18th (BRG) and another was trapped there on 20th (BRG). One was at North Somercotes Warren 29th (PJW) and one at Gibraltar Point 30th (RKW, PJK). In October there was one at Gibraltar Point 5th (MOT) and one was trapped there on 6th (AWP et al). Finally, there was one at North Somercotes Warren November 3-4th (GPC, HB, MM).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

In the spring there was a single bird at Lincoln April 20th (JRAR) and in May 2 at Gibraltar Point 6th (MM, RLa et al). The autumn brought 3 records in August with one Seacroft 11th (AB, SK), one trapped Theddlethorpe 23rd (MB, FEB) and another trapped there 28th (MB, FEB).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The only early winter record was of one at New Holland January 4th. An early spring bird was at Gibraltar Point March 5th and a more general arrival began at the end of the month with many records of 1-3 until June, the highest count being 10 Saltfleetby April 14th. The autumn was similar with no notable peaks but many records of 1-3 birds from August to October. Small numbers were still widespread in November on the coast and in December were: 2 trapped Theddlethorpe 2nd and one trapped 15th, one Barton 7th and at Gibraltar Point one 8th, one 22nd and 3 31st.

A bird showing characteristics of race *P.c. tristis* was at North Somercotes Warren November 3rd and 2 showing characteristics of the race *P.c. abietenus* were at Donna Nook 10-17th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

After the first at Ashbyville April 5th and Messingham 7th, there was a steady spring passage from 12-27th with 20 males Saltfleetby 14th, 26 Barton 16th, 12 Burton Pits 17th, 10 Theddlethorpe 18th, 50 Saltfleetby 20th, 20 Donna Nook 20-21st, 30 Gibraltar Point 21-24th, 20 Tetney Blow Wells 23rd and 46 Messingham 27th. There were 40 males at Messingham throughout the summer and 20 pairs bred at Saltfleetby. In the autumn maxima at Gibraltar Point were 40 on August 11th and 35 on 24th; in September there were 20 on 2nd, 38 6th and 2 on 29th. These were the only notable autumn records received apart from singles trapped at Theddlethorpe October 6th and 14th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Spring passage was noted at Donna Nook with 1-12 birds through March until April 29th; at Saltfleetby there were 20 on April 14th. Relatively small numbers were recorded in the autumn with less than 10 per day at Donna Nook. Other counts were 20 Gibraltar Point September 22nd and in October 35 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 30 7th and 25 17th, 25 Theddlethorpe 6th, 8 Humberston Fitties 11th, 20 Twigmoor 12th and 30 Saltfleetby

15th. In November there were 25 Saltfleetby 9th, 20 Humberston Fitties 10th, 25 Gibraltar Point 10th and 30 on 11th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

A moderate year for this species with a total of 26 records. In the spring there were singles at Saltfleetby March 21st, Gibraltar Point 31st, Covenham Reservoir April 3rd, Theddlethorpe 14th, Gibraltar Point 14th, 20th, 27-28th, Hirst Priory, Crowle 28th, 2 Saltfleetby 14th and one 28th. Unusual was one at Gibraltar Point June 2nd. In the autumn were: one Saltfleetby September 17th, one trapped Theddlethorpe October 23rd which stayed until December 9th, one Saltfleetby 31st, 3 Gibraltar Point November 11th, 2 on 19th with one remaining until 25th, one Donna Nook 4th and one on 6th, one Bradley 9th and two trapped Theddlethorpe 11th, again staying until December 9th when another was trapped there making a total of 4 caught on that date.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first of the spring was at Gibraltar Point May 5th. Singles were then recorded at several sites in May with 2 Roxton Wood 23rd; 10 Gibraltar Point 30th heralded the start of the main influx with a further 10 Donna Nook June 2nd, 7 Grainthorpe 2nd and 4 Saltfleetby 3rd. In August there were 4 Cleethorpes 22nd, 6 Saltfleetby 24th and 12 Gibraltar Point 28th. In September inland records included 3 Sleaford 10th, 10 Alford 11th, 6-8 Kingerby 12th and 2 Lincoln Ballast Pit 17th. On the coast the highest count was 9 Gibraltar Point 12th. In October singles were at Gibraltar Point 1st, 7th and 11th and Humberston Fitties 6th. A very late bird was at Donna Nook November 7-11th (MDa, MM).

Red breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

There were three records: 2 were at Saltfleetby September 24th with one remaining to 27th (BMC) and one was trapped at Seacroft October 7th (AB, SK).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* (illustrated)

After the first 2 at Gibraltar Point on May 6th single birds were recorded there on 10th, 19-20th and 29th. Singles were noted at Saltfleetby 22nd, Humberston 23rd and in June at Gibraltar Point 17th. In August there was one at Theddlethorpe 9th, one North Cotes 12th, 5 Gibraltar Point 13th, 3 Tetney 14th with 1-5 there until the end of the month. A large fall was noted at Theddlethorpe 21st and although no figures were provided it was reflected in the counts at Saltfleetby where there were 20 on 21st, 30 on 22nd, 32 on 23rd, 15 on 24th, and 12 on 25th; at Gibraltar Point 22 on 24th; at Donna Nook there were 20 on 23rd and 10 on 25th with 1-2 until September 22nd. One to six were at Cleethorpes 21st to 27th and singles were at Goxhill and Messingham 24th. In September there were 1-4 Gibraltar Point until 26th, singles at Holton le Clay 5th, Denton Reservoir 16th, Baston Fen

17th, 1-3 Anderby to 28th. At Saltfleetby there were 6 on 17th and the last birds of the autumn were 3 there on 29th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

In January there were 2 at Huttoft Pit from 8th increasing to 4 from February 27th to March 21st. There were 1-2 at Messingham from February 10th-March 31st and 4 Baston Gravel Pit early March. In May a flock of 8 was at South Ferriby Pits 8th and 6 on 17th. Some 20-25 pairs bred at the Humber bank pits with good success. Post-breeding flocks from Barton to East Halton numbered up to 50 during September and October and between 10 and 20 during November and December. There were 7 at Messingham November 7-10th with some remaining to December 16th. Wintering birds returned to Huttoft Pit with 3 there December 22nd.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The only notable records received were two autumn coastal flocks: 11 Gibraltar Point October 2nd and 15 Saltfleetby October 12th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Two were in Neville Wood, Potterhanworth February 25th. The only other record received was of a pair which bred in Bourne Wood.



Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Small numbers were reported widely but the only coastal records concerned singles at Donna Nook April 28th and Saltfleetby August 13th.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Coastal records received were: one Boston January 14th, one Gibraltar Point March 13th and 18th, 2 Donna Nook April 4th, one Gibraltar Point April 20th, one Theddlethorpe October 14th and 2 Boston December 21st.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

At Saltfleetby there were flocks of 21 on February 5th and 20 on September 16th. Numbers were fairly consistent throughout the year at Gibraltar Point with monthly maxima from 12 to 25 and the peak being in September. At Theddlethorpe 124 were ringed, only 60% of the 1983 total.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Maxima at Gibraltar Point were 12 on March 31st, 25 on July 21st and 12 on December 30th. Twelve-14 pairs bred at Saltfleetby and at Theddlethorpe 100 were ringed, the highest ever total there.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There was a series of interesting records at Crowle, well outside the usual range of this species, the first of which was of 2 on January 5th, one on March 7th and one on April 4th. Other records were: one Bourne Wood January 24th and 2 Rauceby Hall, 29th. In February there was one at Neville Wood, Potterhanworth; 2 Boothby March 12, one Callans Lane Wood April 21st and one at Temple Wood on the same day. In May were 2 at Bourne Wood on 8th and a pair bred at Grimsthorpe Park. Finally, one was seen at Dunsby Wood September 26th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

The following records of birds away from regular woodland sites were received: in January 2 were at Baston Fen and stayed there all year and at Covenham Reservoir one was feeding on the wave wall and parapet on 5-6th. One was at Gibraltar Point March 4th and one trapped at Theddlethorpe on 10th had been ringed there in the autumn of 1983. Another was trapped at Theddlethorpe April 20th and one was at Gibraltar Point 18th. In the autumn singles were at Gibraltar Point September 11th, 19-20th and 23rd and October 13th and another trapped at Theddlethorpe October 20th stayed until December 9th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A first year male in song was seen at Theddlethorpe May 5th before flying south (MB, FEB).

**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (illustrated)**

Spring records were of single males at Goxhill May 22nd, North Somercotes 28th and Donna Nook 27th and 28th. Gibraltar Point recorded birds on May 26-30th and June 2nd and 9th, while Saltfleetby had a female May 28th and two males June 1-2nd. Autumn coastal records were of 2 at Saltfleetby August 23-28th, one September 1-2nd, 6th and 15-18th with records from Gibraltar Point of one August 26-27th, September 13th, 22-25th, 27-28th and 2 29th. Other September singles were at Anderby 8th, Theddlethorpe 16-19th, and Donna Nook 29th.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

A very poor year with only three records. An over-wintering bird at Ashbyville from December 18th 1983 to April 7th was seen to chase small birds and have a mouse on a hawthorn larder on one occasion. One at Goxhill April 13th was attacked by a Kestrel and one was found dead in Bourne Wood April 16th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

After the influx during October 1983 birds were still plentiful up to the end of June with many sites recording individuals throughout this period. Larger concentrations occurred

during April with 10 Roxton Wood 20th, 11 Hall Weir Kirton 20th and 1-5 Gibraltar Point all month. Maxima at Gibraltar Point during May were 6 5th, 11 10th, 14 20th and 10 30th while June totals fluctuated between 1-5 with 9 1st and 17 9th. Up to 6 were recorded at Theddlethorpe during June. Notable movements occurred during May and June with 6 south Theddlethorpe May 19th and 30th, 12 north-east Gibraltar Point May 13th, 11 south 23rd with 30 north and 46 south 30th. Coastal movements during June were again at Gibraltar Point, 12 south 4th, 11 south 9th, 35 south 13th, 7 north 21st, and 10 north 27th with 4 north at Saltfleetby June 1st and 3 north 9th. The only recorded autumn movement was of 3 south Messingham September 25th, while singles were seen at North Somercotes Warren August 11th, and Gibraltar Point September 3rd, October 4th, 7th, 14th and December 28th.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A species whose rate of increase is causing some concern in the county with 3 flocks of 12-20 all year at Goxhill-Barton. Monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point were 20 January, 25 February, 20 April, 20 September, 19 October, 40 November and 30 December. Saltfleetby had 18-40 during spring, then 28 October 29th and 35 November 26th. The gathering at Lincoln Ballast Pit peaked at 26 during December. The species continues to increase in the Spalding/Crowland/Boston area where several pairs are now present.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Peak counts during spring were at Messingham with 70 January 9th and 300 February 27th, Gibraltar Point 43 January 25th and Saltfleetby 26 March 6th. Movements included 110 north at Scopwick January 21st and during May at Gibraltar Point 12 south 25th and 6 south 26th. Newsham Lake had 40 September 22nd, Blyborough Grange 70 November 25th, Scopwick 33 November 24th, 60 December 27th, and Risby Warren 70 December 26th. The largest concentration was at Willoughby Wood with a roost of circa 2,500 from the 11th through December.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Reports of large flocks during the early part of the year were few with January totals of 550 Blyborough Grange 6th, 844 Great Limber 7th, and 250 Messingham 9th increasing to a maximum of 1,000 February 27th. Max at Donna Nook was 200 March 2-5th. During June, Tetney had a maximum of 240 and Messingham 150 5th. Thirty flew south at Gibraltar Point September 23rd and 1,000 were recorded at Messingham 9th. Late winter flocks included 400 Dyke Fen November 1st, 600 Messingham 12th, 400 Hibaldstow 22nd and up to 250 Goxhill through to December. Habrough had 220 December 5th and Willoughby Wood a roost of circa 2,500 through December from 11th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Spring records were few with 30 Messingham January 6th to February, 36 Skidbrooke March 19th and 20 south Gibraltar Point March 27th. Southerly monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point from September onwards were 35 September 29th, 18 October 14th, 20 November 10th and 12 December 20th. Numbers at Saltfleetby increased throughout this period from 40 September 15th to 221 December 20th, Donna Nook had a maximum of 24 October 19th and the flock at Goxhill increased from 35-38 January-October (non-breeders) to 71 November 10th. *Hooded crows*, *C. c. cornix* were recorded in ones and twos mainly along the coastal strip from January to May. Exceptional records were of 6 Coleby January 30th and a late bird at Saltfleetby June 20-26th. Birds were scarce in the latter part of the year with the majority recorded at Gibraltar Point during December including 3 south 2nd. Other single birds were seen at Saltfleetby September 21st, and during November, Donna Nook 9th, Immingham 10th and one south Sutton Bridge 20th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

In February a roosting flight of 10,000 flew south at Lincoln 4th. Up to 2,000 were present at Tetney during June with 1,000 north at Theddlethorpe 17th and 2,500 north Saltfleetby 19th. A north-west passage took place at Cleethorpes between June 26th-July 1st with 1,600 June 27th. During October flocks of between 1,200-2,000 were recorded at Theddlethorpe, Messingham, Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook with 6,500 Saltfleetby 17th. In November there were 3,000 roosting at Scunthorpe steel works and 140 in off the sea at Anderby Creek 3rd. The Gibraltar Point flock numbered between 1,000-3,000 during November and December.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

An adult was recorded at Rauceby Warren June 21st (ACS, KD, DJ). The seventh county record. Accepted by BBRC.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

The largest flocks occurred during January with 650 Gibraltar Point 1st, 300 Barrow Haven 10th and 630 Long Benington 22nd. September flocks included 120 Gibraltar Point 16th and 100 Anderby Creek 24th. November saw the only recorded movements with 200 south at Donna Nook 9th and 50 south Gibraltar Point 10th. During December there were 150 at Waddington 26th and 150 at Bourne all month.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Apart from an impressive flock of 590 at Wisbech Sewage Farm January 29th, large flocks were few during the early part of the year with 56 Cleethorpes January 21st, 45-50 Gibraltar Point February 17-18th, 30 Cleethorpes March 27th and 36 Messingham also 27th. Autumn passage was only noted at Gibraltar Point with 40 south October 12th, 45 south-west 27th and 30 south November 10th, while resident flocks between October and December numbered 26-60. Donna Nook had 250 December 1st and Risby Warren 70 December 26th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Early in the year there were 90 Gibraltar Point January 5th, 250 Branston Island 18th and 80 Broughton February 26th. Spring passage was slight at Gibraltar Point with maxima of 50 south March 11th and 30 south April 21st. Autumn max for Gibraltar Point was 50 south November 10th while Theddlethorpe had a max of 200 south also November 10th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* (illustrated)

Up to 200 were present at Gibraltar Point during January, a maximum of 250 February 5th then 90 March 3rd down to 30 16th and only one by the 31st. Other notable records were 150 North Kelsey Moor January 1st, 50 Branston Island 18th, 55 Moulton Marsh February 19th and 60 March 3rd down to 20 by the 11th. Of the six in Broughton Woods April 16th a male was in song on the 29th, the last spring record. Smaller numbers were recorded throughout the county January-April. The first autumn record was of a single at Witham Mouth September 16th with 1-6 along the coast at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point late September-October. Maxima at Gibraltar Point were 12 October 6th and 9 November 18th, inland maxima being Swallow 11 November 7th, 5 Kingerby December 13th and 50 Market Stainton Hall 29th.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

A flock at Gibraltar Point numbered 800 between January 1-6th but had decreased to 200-500 30th and 150 during February. Other flocks were to be found at North Kelsey Moor, 50 January 1st, 50 Tetney 7th, 200 29-31st, and 2,000 Branston Island 18th. During the latter part of the year there were 50 Willoughby Branch Line September 30th, 100 Cadney Carrs October 17th, and 80 Saltfleetby 24th. Monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point were 100 October, 120 November, 100 December with 300 Theddlethorpe October 13th and 40 November 10th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point were 125 January, 100 February gradually decreasing to 30 during April. One hundred were present during September-December with 80 south November 10th. Elsewhere flocks of 50+ were seen at Alford, 100 August 2nd, 80 Covenham September 6th, 70 Cleethorpes 8th, 50 Holbeach 28th, 120 Frampton October 12th with smaller flocks of 30-45 at Tetney, Covenham, Donna Nook and Messingham.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Wintering flocks were well distributed with 12 Beniworth Haven January 4th, 30 Hartsholme Park January 15th-February 24th, 7 Louth January 28th and 6 February 25th, 17 Grimsthorpe Park February 5th, 15 Boultham Park February 15th and 50 March 4th, 12 Twigmoor March 30th and 9 Broughton Wood April 16th. Eight flew south Gibraltar Point January 6th with 4 south at Theddlethorpe April 15th. A late individual was seen at Gibraltar Point June 21st. First of the autumn were 5 at Baston Fen and one at

Braceborough September 15th, then 50+ Theddlethorpe 16th and 17 19th. There were 20 Witham Mouth September 16th, 10 Seacroft 22nd, and at Gibraltar Point 1-30 from September 16th-November 19th. Main southerly movements along the coast were 10 Theddlethorpe September 29th, 12 November 10th, Gibraltar Point 9 September 28th, 11 November 10th, 9 25th and Donna Nook 7 November 1st, 4 13th. Wintering flocks began to build at the end of November with 12 Twigmoor 29th, 10 Broughton December 2nd, 30 Kirkby Underwood 2nd, 20 Boultham Park 9th, 47 Laughton 25th, 20 Hartsholme Park 26th and 20 Woodhall Spa 30th. One to five were recorded at several scattered localities throughout the early and late parts of the year.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Monthly maxima during the early part of the year at Gibraltar Point were 800 January 5-6th, 150 February-March and 200 April 21-30th. Peak January count at Donna Nook was 300 while Saltfleetby had 150 with 100 north-west April 20th. Later monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point were 290 August, 950 September 23rd, 500 October 1st, 70 November and 400 December 31st. Other large coastal concentrations were 300 Saltfleetby during September and 100 November 10th, 500 North Cotes September 21st, 100 Frampton October 12th and 300 Donna Nook during November. Five hundred flew south at Theddlethorpe September 29th and a further 100 south October 13th and 200 south 14th. Inland flocks included 200 Willoughby September 5th and 400 Goxhill 22nd.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Coastal maxima:

	J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/Humberston	22	10	—	—	—	—	10	50	20
Tetney/North Cotes	10	15	—	—	—	—	60	—	—
Donna Nook	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	100
Gibraltar Point	220	200	130	—	—	30	230	80	130
Witham Mouth	120	7	—	100	75	2	200	300	450
Holbeach	200	35	—	25	—	—	600	800	500

In February there were 60 Saltfleet 9th, 340 Nene Mouth-Norfolk 12th, and 12 Kirton Marsh 17th. There were still 100 Frampton April 17th with the last three of spring at Baston Fen April 30th. A flock of 75 had returned to the Witham Mouth by August 12th with other flocks at Saltfleetby, 30 September 23rd, 25 Fosdyke October 14th, 450 Butterwick November 10th, 50 Grainthorpe Haven 18th, 100 Nene Mouth 19th and 100 Gedney Drove End December 26th. One inland record at Covenham Res February 5th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

At Gibraltar Point there were 1-10 through January, 37 February 17th, 33 18th, then 20-30 August-October falling to 1-5 November 7-11th. Saltfleetby recorded 22 August 23rd, 80 September 19th while Messingham had 20 October 26th and 23 November 12th. December flocks included 46 Ashbyville 18th and 40 Laughton 25th.

C.f. flammea: There were 1-5 Mealy Redpolls at Gibraltar Point January 29th-March 6th and one there March 29th. One was seen at Swanpool November 3rd, 5 Grainthorpe Haven 7th, one Humberston Fitties 8th, 2 Donna Nook 7th and 9 11th. Finally, there were singles at Saltfleetby December 20th and Laughton Forest 26th.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

One at Gibraltar Point from January 15th to February 25th (MF, GPC et al). The fourth county record of this species.

Accepted by BBRC.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

During May a flock of 16, including juveniles, was seen near Stenigot 7th (R Lab), followed by a male at Skegness 20th (RBW). There were 7 at Kirkby Moor June 23rd (RH, KH).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Few records of note for this widespread species, 11 Gibraltar Point January 5th, 18 December 7th, 10-15 Alford sewage farm October-December, and 14 Brumby Common January 4th, 8 December 14th. A total of 97 were ringed at Theddlethorpe during 1984.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Reported from two sites during spring, Ashbyville one April 13th, and 3 18th (WG), then an interesting series of records from Brumby Woods, 4 May 15th, one 16th, 2 17-19th, one

21st, one 23rd, one 29th and one June 3rd (WG, DA, RNH), all of which indicate a possible breeding record.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Singles were reported from Seacroft January 7th and Donna Nook 21st with 1-7 at Tetney between January 1st-March 17th. Donna Nook also recorded singles February 11th, 22nd, and March 23rd. From February 29th through March, 12 were to be found at Wainfleet. First autumn record was of a single at Covenham September 9th followed by one Saltfleetby 23-29th, and singles there October 10-14th, November 23rd and December 23rd with 4 November 29th. Other regular sites were Donna Nook with 1-4 October 26th-December and 8 November 11th, Saltfleet 2 November 28th, 3 December 2nd and Butterwick one October 16th, 2 December 24th and a remarkable 20+ 30-31st. Finally, Tetney/N Cotes 1-7 October 14th-December 26th, Huttoft 7 October 27th and Cleethorpes one north-west October 11th and 2 north-west 21st.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Coastal flock maxima:

	J	F	M	O	N	D
Donna Nook	500	—	—	—	30	250
Saltfleetby	27	30	—	—	20	30
Gibraltar Point	300	309	180	4	65	80
Holbeach	32	20	—	—	23	200

In addition to the above, flocks of between 5-20 birds were well distributed between Cleethorpes and the Norfolk border, with notable inland records coming from Covenham Reservoir, singles January 3rd and February 26th with 2 March 8th-11th. The last spring record came from Donna Nook April 23rd and the first two autumn birds arrived at Seacroft October 14th. Other notable flocks included 45 Tetney November 9th, 36 Saltfleet November 21st, 60 December 2nd, 60 Nene Mouth-Norfolk November 29th and a considerable flock of 200 at Holbeach December 23rd. Inland records again came from Covenham Reservoir one November 19th, 2 21st, one west Barrow Haven November 19th and at Messingham one north November 10th and one west 16th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Larger flocks than usual assembled during the early part of the year, maxima recorded during January, 95 Long Bennington 10th, 100 Gibraltar Point 20th, 38 Baston Fen 29th, 100 Tetney 31st and up to 200 Donna Nook. There were up to 85 at Gibraltar Point during February, 65 March 4th and 86 Messingham 27th. Thirty-five pairs bred at Saltfleetby, an increase of 10 pairs on 1983, which, coupled with the growth of winter flocks suggests the local population may have increased. Maximum numbers during October were 40 Cleethorpes 12th, 50 Messingham 28th with 30 Scopwick November 17th and 40 Covenham 29th. Sixty were roosting at Barton during December with 50 Theddlethorpe 15th, 45 Saltfleetby 28th and 35 Gibraltar Point 30th.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Two females/immatures were seen at Saltfleetby September 5th (MM).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Large coastal concentrations recorded during the early part of the year were 100 Gibraltar Point January 4th, up to 46 during February and March, with up to 150 at Donna Nook January, where 25 pairs bred. Fifty arrived at Theddlethorpe September 16th and there were 68 Saltfleetby October 7th. One hundred Gibraltar Point and 40 Witham Mouth November 18th, with a roost of 200 Witham Mouth December 9th.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

At Gibraltar Point 90-100 were recorded between January-March, then down to 50 April 7th and only 8 April 28th. During January up to 200 were seen at Donna Nook with 200 Tetney/North Cotes decreasing to 40-45 March 30th-April 8th. Smaller numbers were 12 Kirton Marsh January 5th and 40 Saltfleet February 9th. Late winter maxima were 200 Saltfleetby November-December, 30+ Wisbech Sewage Farm November 12th, 35+ Barton December 6th, 200 Theddlethorpe December 30th and 22 Gibraltar Point December 30th.

1983 Additions and Corrections

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Goxhill June 2-3rd. Not submitted to BBRC and therefore excluded from the county totals.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Messingham June 22nd. As above.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Gibraltar Point November 19th. Still UC by BBRC.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

Donna Nook February 2nd. Not accepted by BBRC.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Two pairs at a previous breeding site but no confirmed breeding.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Gibraltar Point May 14th. Still UC by BBRC.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

An additional record of one at Scopwick, near Lincoln, on October 29th. Inland records are most unusual.

1982 Addition

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A male between Cranwell and North Rauceby April 23rd (JHM, KT, RJF).

1981 Addition

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A bird ringed as a pullus on N. Mainland, Shetland, on June 30th 1978 was found dead in Boultham Woods, Lincoln, on October 16th.

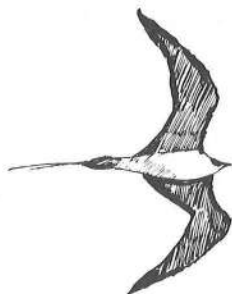
Species requiring descriptions in Lincolnshire/ South Humberside

(a) All species considered by British Birds Rarities Committee. (ie; Anything rarer than those listed below.)

(b) County rarities for consideration by the County Records Committee:

Great Northern Diver
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Storm Petrel
Leach's Petrel
Purple Heron
White Stork
Mandarin (female)
Ferruginous Duck
Honey Buzzard
Red Kite
Montagu's Harrier
Goshawk
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Peregrine
Spotted Crake
Corncrake
Stone Curlew
Kentish Plover
Dotterel (autumn)
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope

Grey Phalarope
Long-tailed Skua
Sabine's Gull
Iceland Gull
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Ring-necked Parakeet
Woodlark
Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Yellow Wagtail (races other than
flavissima and *flava*)
Dipper
Bluethroat
Cetti's Warbler
Savi's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Melodius Warbler
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Raven
Scarlet Rosefinch
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Serin



Ornithological Events of 1984

Ruddy Ducks breeding in Lincolnshire/South Humberside

In mid-April 1984 a pair of Ruddy Ducks were found in what appeared to be a suitable breeding area on the Humber Bank. The area comprised a piece of open shallow water, in the corner of a flooded clay pit, with much floating vegetation, surrounded by Hawthorn scrub on three sides and backed by a large bed of *Phragmites* reed. The area is one much used by Shoveler and Teal and is predominantly freshwater.

The two birds were seen in this area on three dates in May but were often not visible during other visits. From later experience it would appear most likely that they were at these times hidden in amongst the *Phragmites*.

June 6th; Only the female was present feeding in the favoured area.

June 14th; The male was in the regular area and was "bubbling" all the time strongly suggesting a nesting attempt was being made.

July 12th; Both the male and female were on the favoured area and were accompanied by two juveniles about 10 days old.

August 20th; The breeding pair and the now fully grown first two juveniles were in the area accompanied by 5 small downy young about 2-3 days old.

August 29th; Only one of the first juveniles was seen on another open water pit about half a mile from the breeding site.

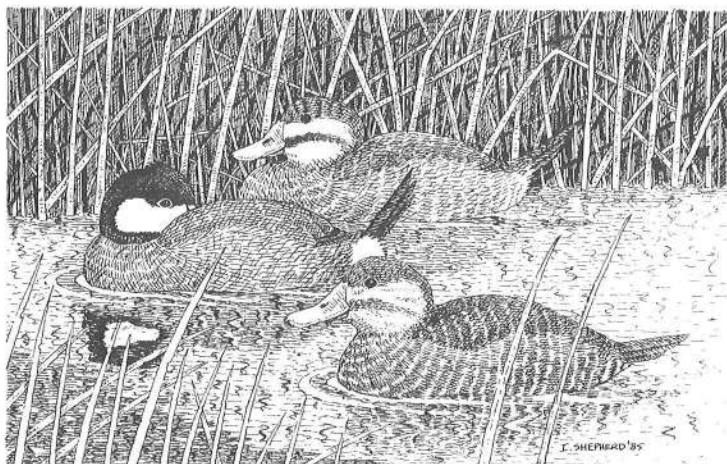
September 7th; Both the first brood juveniles were seen on separate pits about half a mile from the breeding site. The actual breeding area is heavily shot in September and no birds were seen there from late August until mid November. In this intervening period they presumably resorted to feeding in amongst the *Phragmites*, in some much smaller open water areas.

November 19th; The adult pair and four full grown young of the second brood were found on a pit adjacent to the breeding area. One of the first brood juveniles was still present on a pit half a mile away.

This distribution continued into January 1985.

This record constitutes the first known breeding of Ruddy Ducks in Lincolnshire/South Humberside. The species has been increasing in numbers in Britain especially since 1975 and is gradually extending its breeding range. The first breeding record for South Yorkshire was also in 1984.

Graham P. Catley



Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

Dartford Warbler at Tetney, June 2nd-3rd 1984

During the afternoon of June 2nd 1984, a small, slightly built *Sylvia* warbler was flushed from Hawthorn scrub along the sea embankment at Tetney. Due to its extremely secretive behaviour and the transient view, and suspecting one of the rarer *Sylvia* warblers, a mist net was erected and the bird subsequently trapped.

The bird proved to be a Dartford Warbler, probably first year male, and remained within the vicinity of the capture area until the following day. Although still elusive, it was seen to make a short flight out onto the saltmarsh, showing its appreciably longer tail when compared to others in the genus, cocked up when perched.



After consulting the literature, and with the understanding that some continental populations of normally sedentary species are far more prone to wandering or even regular winter movements, it seems most likely that the bird in question was of Continental origin. Despite the intergradation between Dartford Warbler populations, this bird showed a very characteristic grey mantle, and is therefore, assigned to the nominate subspecies *S.u.undata*.

It is interesting to note that the first Scottish record of this species in Spring 1983, showed the same mantle coloration as the Tetney bird. This bird arrived with several southern vagrants and was also thought to be of the nominate race. In addition this preceded the first record for Sweden by three days, which strongly suggests that the Scottish record did not involve a bird of British origin.

A hand description of the Tetney bird follows:

Upperparts: mantle, scapulars and rump dark slate grey with a brownish wash; crown slightly lighter grey and lacking any brown pigment. Tail black, very abraded, showing white only on outer fringe of lower third of outermost tail feathers. Clear fault barring across all retrices. Remiges and coverts uniform dark greyish-brown, although pale wing panel formed on closed wing due to very worn secondary edges. Small white patch on carpal covert.

Underparts: dull burgundy throat, breast and flanks, extending partly onto undertail coverts. White centre to belly and white tips to throat feathers giving a spotted effect. Undertail grey with silvery outertail feathers, whiter on outer web.

Soft parts: upper mandible and last third of lower mandible blackish; basal two thirds of lower mandible flesh coloured (looked more yellowish in the field), tarsus orange-brown. Reddish iris with conspicuous brick red eye ring.

This record forms the first of this species for Lincolnshire.

Howard Bunn

Green-winged Teal at Gibraltar Point, November 11th 1984

On the morning of November 11th 1984, David Jenkins and myself visited Gibraltar Point. We first went to the hide on the Mere; we were the only people there and it was quite foggy with visibility about 200m, approximately two thirds of the length of the Mere.

On scanning through a group of Teal near to the bank I immediately noticed a bird which stood out from the rest, a male Green-winged Teal. I pointed this bird out to DJ and we both watched it for a while before this group of Teal started to swim towards the far end of the Mere, soon being lost to sight in the fog.

A short while later a mixed flock of Teal and Wigeon flew off in the fog and later when the fog lifted the Green-winged was nowhere to be seen. We returned to the Mere several times during the day but the bird was not seen again by ourselves or other observers.

Description:

Size and shape as Teal, which it was accompanying. General plumage as male Teal but with a very distinctive vertical white stripe, having a curved front edge, on the side of the breast below the bend of the closed wing. The white horizontal stripe on the closed wing of Teal was absent. Although not great differences these two things made the bird very distinctive amongst the rest of the Teal.

This is the first record of this Nearctic race of the Teal for Lincolnshire.

A. C. Sims

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report 1984

**Compiled by R. Lambert on behalf of the Lincolnshire
and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation**

Looking back through the Bird Observatory reports published by the Lincolnshire Bird Club from 1979 onwards, one theme seems to recur unnecessarily often, that the birds have not arrived when expected, if at all! It is a pattern which may suggest to some that the site offers little to attract birds or that there is insufficient observer effort. Neither of these conclusions are true since the changing numbers of migrants are not mirrored by changes in the habitat, and the number of observers has increased steadily over the period. It is true that Gibraltar Point fails to attract the large number of migrants more often recorded on the north Norfolk coast and, to a lesser degree, in north Lincolnshire and at Spurn Point. Geographically Gibraltar Point is at a disadvantage. Though a promontory at the local level, it is set well back from the direct line from Norfolk to Lincolnshire on a larger scale. This inevitably leads to many migrants passing by well offshore of the Point in all but ideal conditions. Add to this the lack of westerly conditions in spring and early autumn which bring migrants to the east coast, and easterly winds later in the autumn that ensure continental birds arrive in good numbers and the picture is complete. There is little birdwatchers can do except be philosophical, and it is vital that a consistent level of recording is maintained through the poor years as well as the good so that valid comparisons can be made. In truth, were this not so, it would be difficult even to reach the kind of conclusions expressed above. All of which does not help to ease the disappointment felt when a long-planned visit to the area fails to find much of interest. Many were the observers in 1984 who felt that disappointment!

The first two months proved to be the exception. Large numbers of birds were present through January and much of February before the usual lull in activity in March. Another late, cold spring with predominantly easterly winds curtailed the spring migration and this was followed by a moderate breeding season and a poor late summer. Early autumn favoured the birds, ideal weather enabling many to leave in mid-August without need to visit the Lincolnshire coast, and the winter visitors arrived well inland, having over-flown the coast. Again the weather was kind to the birds if not to Gib.

Despite a gloomy overall picture there were highlights to report. The list of species recorded on the Reserve continued to grow. Arctic Redpolls in January and February, a Wilson's Phalarope from mid-September to early October and a Ruddy Duck in December were all new. In addition there was a 4th record for the site of Greenish Warbler in September, and the 5th Bittern in January. Jays continued to provide some surprises, exceptional flocks in spring following the 1983 influx, and better numbers of chats and flycatchers in the autumn made up in part for the shortfall in warblers.

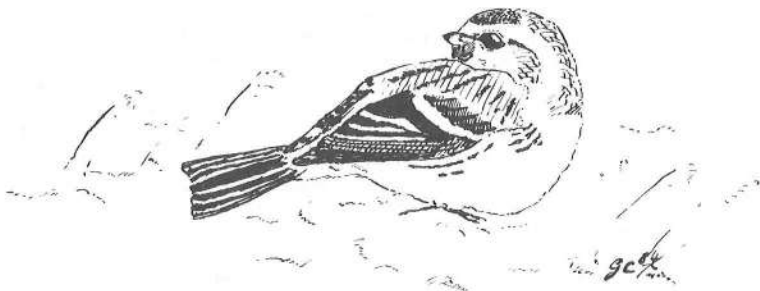
Perhaps it was a year best remembered for the potential it created for the 1985 report to include comments on increases in the numbers of birds visiting the Reserve!

January – March

The early months of the year often depend on periods of adverse weather to produce movements of good numbers of birds, the intervening milder spells being rather quiet. 1984 provided very little cold weather, only a brief snap in late January which brought significant numbers of wildfowl to the Reserve, including more than 500 Pinkfeet, 35 Barnacle Geese and 31 Whitefronts on 29th and a female Smew on 30th. However the rest of the period was not without good numbers of birds. January and February were especially noteworthy for the large assemblage of finches and buntings which frequented the saltings and shore. This huge flock contained 800 Greenfinches, 800 Linnets, 150 Twite, 300 Snow Buntings, 100 Reed Buntings and 90 Corn Buntings at its peak, and there were additionally 90 Chaffinches, 200 Bramblings, 125 Goldfinches and 100 Yellow-

hammers in the dune scrub and woodland. As might be anticipated, such a high concentration of biomass rapidly attracted the attention of passing predators and up to four Hen Harriers and a Merlin were joined occasionally by a Sparrowhawk, though this last species was less common than in recent winters, as were Short-eared Owls. The Long-eared Owls were present during this period but the large roost which has regularly formed on adjacent land each winter did not seem to be present this year, the highest count was only of five birds.

Apart from these records the early months were generally quiet. A few more unusual birds visited briefly, including a Bittern on 8th January, another female Smew from 3rd to 5th February and the only record of Shorelark in the entire year, two on 3rd February. Among the finch flock on the outer dune ridges in mid-January was a very pale Redpoll. It was tentatively identified as an Arctic Redpoll when first located on 15th, two were seen on 29th and again on 5th February, one staying through to 25th. Several observers managed to obtain reasonable views of this difficult species and identification was subsequently accepted.



March, as is normal, produced rather little activity, most of the species present in earlier weeks gradually departing to leave very few flocks of birds anywhere. Observers were able to record a few birds passing through on occasion. A remarkable flock of 73 Bewick's Swans flew out across the Wash on 5th and the same day saw over a hundred Pinkfeet heading west and similar numbers of Oystercatchers leaving the Wash, flying northwards at some height. The following day brought a southerly movement of Lapwings and an odd selection of Carrion Crow records which had the birds moving in all directions away from the Reserve. These were certainly not cold-weather movements, since the first half of March was again mild, and winds over the two days were not significantly different from those on either side of the period. There was a colder spell in mid-month when north-easterly winds brought a few wintry showers but no birds, a situation which changed as the wind continued to veer, until blowing from the south-east on 22nd. The first migrants arrived as a consequence in the days immediately afterwards though numbers were very small – two Black Redstarts! Blackbirds came and went as the winds swung into the south-west and then returned to the east on 31st bringing a lone Firecrest. This was not a particularly promising start to the spring, but the lack of migrants in late March has certainly become a regular feature in recent years.

April – June

The weather repeated the pattern seen in April 1983, with cold, northerly winds until 11th, when south-westerlies brought the first of the returning Swallows and Sand Martins. Redwings and a few Fieldfares were also present on this date. The following day began with a north wind again, but it became southerly late in the day and was to stay in the south-west until 21st. Unfortunately there were no observers on 13th and by 14th the birds had arrived in reasonable numbers with two Wheatears, three Blackcaps, two Willow

Warblers, a Firecrest, three Whimbrels and a Little Ringed Plover in addition to a few more Swallows. The following day brought the first Cuckoo, House Martin, Tree Pipit and Yellow Wagtail and numbers gradually increased to respectable levels over the next ten days. The next marked arrival occurred on 20th/21st and saw the first Whitethroat, Redstart, Common Sandpiper, terns, Whinchat, Ring Ouzel and Grasshopper Warbler. This pattern continued to the end of the month, a few new arrivals on succeeding days, and most summer visitors were here by this time. Surprisingly the first Greenshank, normally one of the earliest species to arrive, was not seen until 29th.

The first weekend in May again, as it so often does, produced a further small fall of birds which included Pied Flycatchers, two Wood Warblers and four Ring Ouzels, but this was to be the last significant influx. The remainder of the month remained cool due to more easterly and northerly winds, neither conducive to further progress from the south-west. Birds returning to breeding territories found their way back gradually and settled down almost unnoticed to the business of raising the season's first fledglings. The highlights for the rest of the period were provided by an unusual mixture of records which varied from the sublime – two Peregrines tumbling in display over the new marsh – to the ridiculous – two peafowl sitting atop the Field Station tower late one evening, and also included an Avocet, several Red-backed Shrikes and an adult Spoonbill. The most surprising series of records were those of Jays. Single birds had been seen at intervals through the first three months and in early April, then, on 20th April four were reported. Eleven were present on 10th May, twelve flew north-east on 13th followed by a string of dates when high numbers were seen on the Reserve or moving away, usually to the south but also in a northerly direction on some days. The peak counts were on 30th May, when 30 flew north and 46 south, and on 13th June when 35 also headed south. These numbers are unprecedented and undoubtedly represent the return movement of birds which passed through last October.

The success of different species in raising offspring each summer is difficult to judge, though ringing data does give a general indication. Some species showed a further decline in the number of pairs holding territory, notably Whitethroat – down from 25 pairs to less than 20 – and Sedge Warbler – from 18 pairs to only 2 – over a two year period, and numbers of young were inevitably going to be down. Other species seemed to fare badly, particularly in the early part of the season which was generally cold, and many young probably failed to survive. Blue Tits certainly found it difficult to maintain an adequate food supply for growing young and a high proportion died, only three or four fledging from each nest. There were some successes however. Lapwings managed to raise at least three broods on the freshwater marsh, their first attempt since 1979 and the first recorded successful breeding for many years, and a pair of Tufted Ducks nested on the Mere, hatching a brood of nine young.

July – September

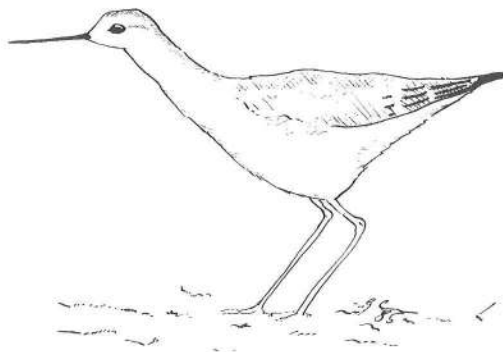
The weather in July proved to be very pleasant, much of the month being warm, dry, and ideal for holiday-makers. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for bird-watchers. The month was an exceptionally quiet one, the expected early autumn passage of waders and the first passerines was almost totally absent. An early Wheatear was seen on 3rd, a Greenshank on 4th and a Little Ringed Plover on 15th but it was the last week which produced the only noticeable arrivals of waders, and then only in low numbers. Even the often spectacular movements of Swifts failed to materialise, only on two days were numbers reasonable with 10,000 on 8th and 3,000 on 9th. An early increase in the Sandwich Tern flock occurred on 29th and the first of the autumn's skuas were in attendance.

Observers were as scarce as the birds in the first week of August and it was not until 10th that reports of newly arrived migrants were received. These were limited to a few phylloscops and a Yellow Wagtail, but were followed next day by good counts of Willow Warblers and Whitethroats plus a few Reed Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats and Wheatears. Light north-easterly winds from 9th suggested a possible influx from the continent, and this was supported by the arrival of Pied Flycatchers on 13th along with Whinchats and more Whitethroats. This increase in activity was maintained until 17th after which date almost

everything disappeared and the Reserve became unnaturally quiet for mid-August. The explanation was quite evident in the exceptionally fine weather and light easterly winds which prevailed until 22nd. The British population of Willow Warblers and Whitethroats must have taken advantage of the helpful conditions and left en masse, there were very few seen at the end of the month. Adverse winds on 23rd grounded a number of Whinchats and Pied Flycatchers, the latter increasing to 22 birds on 24th, before a further four days of easterlies brought more fine weather and few birds yet again. Eventually, when almost too late, the wind swung into the south-west to bring a marked increase in migrants at the end of the month. Whinchats and Yellow Wagtails featured strongly and Swallows started to move south in fair numbers; a very late influx of waders occurred, including Spotted Redshanks, Ruff, Curlew Sandpipers and Green Sandpipers; and still there were very few warblers involved. The month had, however, had some noteworthy sightings to stimulate the visitors, including two Hobbies, Wrynecks and Red-backed Shrikes, but even these kind of records were few in number.

The prospects were therefore poor for the forthcoming B.T.O. Ringing Course which was due to start on 1st September. However the winds were in the west, which keeps migrants moving down the east coast rather than pushing them inland, and a few birds did materialise in the early part of the week, notably Reed and Garden Warblers and Lesser Whitethroats. Then the weather played another trump card. The wind increased to force 6 and became northerly, bringing rain. Thankfully it was a short lived feature and resulted in more migrants being grounded. As the skies cleared and the wind dropped there were Redstarts, Whinchats and Pied Flycatchers aplenty and a few more Willow Warblers. The winds had also caused problems offshore and on 6th there was a marked northerly movement of Gannets, Fulmars, skuas – including an adult Long-tailed Skua – and terns, plus a first-winter Sabine's Gull.

A few quiet days followed with few new birds, though the high tides brought very high numbers of waders in to roost, and wildfowl numbers roosting on the Mere were well above normal. A surprising arrival on 11th was a Wilson's Phalarope, a new species for the Reserve and a guaranteed attraction for visitors as it fed busily around the margins of the Mere. It stayed until 5th October and most observers managed to see it in that time, though it had an odd habit of disappearing on a Friday evening, returning to the Mere on the Sunday afternoon.



Mid-September was relatively birdless, as is normal, though the first flocks of winter visitors were seen, Siskins on 16th and Twite on 22nd, and the usual passage of Meadow Pipits peaked on 14th when 800 flew south. Towards the end of the month departing summer visitors became progressively scarcer, Redstarts and Whinchats being the brief exception on 23rd to 25th, and the first Redwings took their place, Song Thrushes and Robins being noticeably absent. Rarities were not numerous but there was a better showing than in August. The fourth Greenish Warbler for the Reserve was recorded on 22nd when one was caught at the Obs., a Yellow-browed Warbler was seen on 30th, and Hobby, Wryneck and Red-backed Shrike again brought the month to a close.

October – December

It was hardly surprising that many regular observers were beginning to feel more than a little disappointed that the autumn had produced so little. The last hope was that October and November would compensate for earlier months and produce substantial falls of birds. It was not to be! The following peak daily counts of typical late-autumn migrants indicates the dramatic short-fall in comparison with normal years, let alone years in which major falls have occurred: Robin – 15, Song Thrush – 25, Blackbird – 130, Fieldfare – 200, Goldcrest – 35. Only Redwings were present in normal numbers, and then only briefly in early October. The first week proved to be the most interesting since there were still a few late summer-visitors to be seen and the occasional Yellow-browed Warbler. The first Whooper Swans flew south on 12th and Pinkfeet were seen on 17th, a flock of 90 flying east. The following day produced an immature Spoonbill which was to stay in the vicinity until the end of the year, visiting the Reserve from time to time. Birds were more numerous in the last week when small numbers of thrushes passed through and the Twite flock on the saltmarsh peaked at 200. Unlike the early months, the end of the year saw little of the mixed flocks of buntings and finches on the shore and marsh, possibly due to prolonged mild weather and abundant food elsewhere. Even Twite and Snow Bunting numbers were rather small.

November records were somewhat patchy; southerly movements were recorded on 10th, mainly Pinkfeet and Lapwings, and on 25th, when several finch species joined more Lapwings. Firecrests and Black Redstarts put in their customary late-autumn appearance and a drake Green-winged Teal and an adult Pomarine Skua provided interest on 11th and 9th to 11th respectively, the latter allowing observers to approach remarkably closely.

Was it despondency that created the lack of observers in December? Certainly the middle of the month was poorly covered and it was only in the last few days of the year that records improved. A new species for the Reserve was seen on 20th, a drake Ruddy Duck on the Mere, and there were significantly more birds present in the final three days. An influx of Skylarks was evident, Fieldfare reached 200 again, Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Snow Buntings were seen in better numbers and the mixed flock of Linnets and Twite feeding on the lower shore increased dramatically on 31st. The weather may have been responsible for the influx, clearing after a foggy spell, but it was more likely to be the increase in the number of observers, all no doubt hoping that the New Year would bring a promise of better things to come!

Observatory Ringing Report

It is always pleasing to compare the figures of birds caught in one year with those from previous years, especially if there has been an increase over this period. There is a danger that ringing can become “numbers” orientated so the figure itself cannot be regarded as important in its own right, the interest must centre in the comparisons which can be made and in the causes of any changes. It is naturally disappointing to have to report a decrease in the overall total of birds ringed for the second year in succession. It is also frustrating for all concerned in the ringing activities of the Observatory since the decrease is not a reflection of less effort in 1984. As suggested in the 1982 report the numbers of birds handled at the site should remain fairly constant providing that the birds continue to arrive in reasonable numbers during the main migration periods. Viewing the year as a whole it is clear that a large part of the decrease is due to the lack of migrants, particularly the commoner species, during mid-August and October/November.

The decrease from 6,000 to 5,000 new birds is reflected in the totals of the following species for 1983 and 1984:

Winter visitors:

Robin – 158 to 113
Song Thrush – 235 to 195
Goldcrest – 396 to 99

Summer visitors:

Willow Warbler – 543 to 287
Sedge Warbler – 43 to 16
Whitethroat – 265 to 141

Residents:

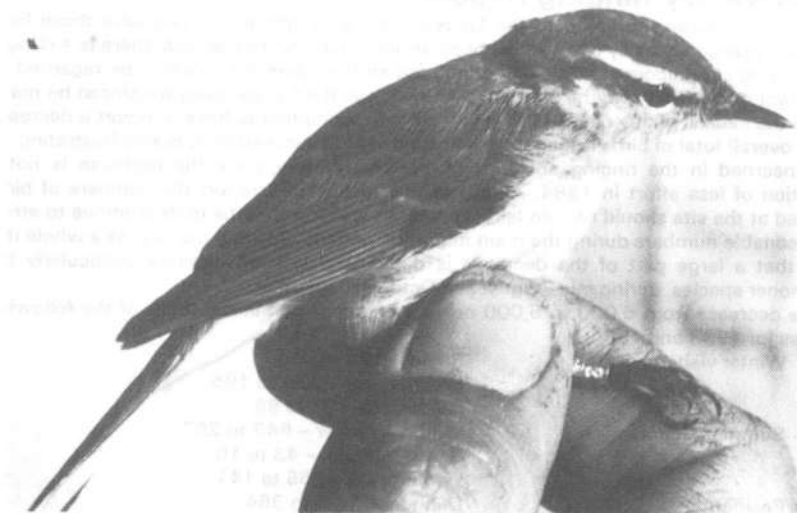
Dunnock – 490 to 364
Blue Tit – 222 to 113
Tree Sparrow – 161 to 83

This last species nests in reasonable numbers in the boxes provided in the plantation area of the Reserve and the number of pulli produced during the season also decreased, from 93 to 44. It is thus apparent that 1984 was a poor breeding season for at least the local birds. Whether this can be extended to migrants is doubtful, since there were clearly other factors involved, especially the influence of the prevailing conditions in the autumn as detailed in the preceding report. Decreases in some species are also a reflection of global influences.

There were some species which showed an increase in the year and, with one exception, these were finches and buntings which were present on the marsh for the early part of the year, Greenfinch, Brambling and Yellowhammer accounting for much of the rise. This period, January and February, was certainly the most productive in relation to the ringing effort. The most surprising increase was shown by Pied Flycatchers, the autumn passage of this species being sustained well into September, at a time when very little else seemed to be moving through.

Only a single new species was added to the Observatory's total list this year, a wind-blown Guillemot brought in from nearby Friskney and released successfully to sea. Other highlights were the fourth Greenish Warbler and the sixth Yellow-browed Warbler for the Observatory, two Sparrowhawks and five Lapwings, the last two species seemingly beginning to make a come-back to the Reserve. A substantial contribution to the figures was made by the large number of Swallows which were caught at the brick-pits pond in Skegness and released at the Point. The effort made to catch roosting hirundines was rewarded by a fine series of controls including several short-term ones from the same site in Scotland. Other interesting recoveries included a Garden Warbler from Sweden, a journey made in only seven days, a Willow Warbler from Belgium in exchange for one which went to the Netherlands, and a Goldcrest, one from the 1983 "fall", which was also found in the Netherlands. Details of these and other recoveries are included in the County Ringing Report.

It is encouraging to be able to report a further increase in the numbers of visitors making use of the facilities, 93 individuals contributing to the work of the Observatory in 1984. It is to be hoped that their efforts, and those of future participants, will be rewarded with a little more cooperation from the birds and the weather in future years.



Greenish Warbler (C. J. Mead)

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Ringing Totals 1984

	RINGED		1984 Total	Grand Total	RECOVERED	
	FG	Pull			1984	Grand Total
Mallard	—	3	3	4	—	—
Sparrowhawk	2	—	2	35	—	5
Kestrel	2	—	2	37	—	5
Pheasant	2	—	2	36	—	5
Oystercatcher	—	—	—	599	1	13
Ringed Plover	6	66	72	560	—	4
Lapwing	1	4	5	24	—	—
Dunlin	35	—	35	544	1	10
Redshank	2	—	2	66	—	1
Common Sandpiper	1	—	1	22	—	1
Black-headed Gull	1	—	1	41	—	1
Common Gull	5	—	5	6	—	—
Little Tern	—	20	20	190	1	1
Guillemot	1	—	1	1	—	—
Stock Dove	—	2	2	61	—	2
Woodpigeon	12	7	19	161	—	7
Turtle Dove	3	—	3	92	—	1
Cuckoo	4	—	4	194	—	10
Long-eared Owl	1	—	1	19	1	2
Kingfisher	3	—	3	32	—	1
Wryneck	2	—	2	52	—	—
Skylark	8	9	17	845	—	5
Sand Martin	3	—	3	30	—	—
Swallow	549	42	591	3783	4	28
House Martin	3	—	3	33	—	—
Tree Pipit	1	—	1	74	—	—
Meadow Pipit	53	7	60	1092	—	10
Yellow Wagtail	1	—	1	29	—	—
Pied Wagtail	—	—	—	45	1	2
Wren	130	12	142	2087	—	18
Duncock	364	—	364	9265	3	76
Robin	107	6	113	2573	3	32
Nightingale	1	—	1	11	—	1
Redstart	22	—	22	1368	—	10
Whinchat	18	—	18	331	—	—
Stonechat	3	—	3	31	—	—
Wheatear	8	—	8	252	—	2
Blackbird	404	4	408	10730	11	245
Fieldfare	13	—	13	822	—	23
Song Thrush	192	3	195	3731	6	67
Redwing	78	—	78	1336	—	15
Mistle Thrush	11	—	11	178	—	7
Sedge Warbler	16	—	16	912	1	6
Reed Warbler	64	—	64	961	—	11
Barred Warbler	1	—	1	56	—	—
Icterine Warbler	1	—	1	22	—	—
Lesser Whitethroat	125	—	125	1357	—	8
Whitethroat	141	—	141	5801	2	26
Garden Warbler	61	—	61	1186	—	2
Blackcap	84	—	84	1839	1	10
Greenish Warbler	1	—	1	3	—	—
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	—	1	6	—	—
Chiffchaff	26	—	26	529	—	5
Willow Warbler	287	—	287	8864	1	19
Goldcrest	99	—	99	2992	2	19
Firecrest	3	—	3	38	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher	17	—	17	440	—	2
Pied Flycatcher	40	—	40	1360	—	14
Long-tailed Tit	5	—	5	540	—	5
Willow Tit	1	—	1	101	—	2
Coal Tit	1	—	1	84	—	—
Blue Tit	113	33	146	3339	3	63
Great Tit	55	3	58	989	1	17
Treecreeper	1	—	1	29	—	—
Jay	6	—	6	11	—	—
Magpie	5	—	5	82	1	11
Starling	353	—	353	3029	7	87
House Sparrow	126	—	126	7485	2	89
Tree Sparrow	88	44	132	4368	—	23
Chaffinch	53	—	53	1535	—	15
Brambling	62	—	62	567	—	1
Greenfinch	304	—	304	3087	1	37
Goldfinch	70	—	70	2411	2	23
Siskin	1	—	1	77	—	2
Linnet	189	—	189	2793	—	15
Twite	13	—	13	170	—	3
Redpoll	119	—	119	2626	1	33
Bullfinch	27	—	27	649	—	15
Snow Bunting	5	—	5	176	—	2
Yellowhammer	86	—	86	710	—	7
Reed Bunting	117	—	117	3113	—	14
Corn Bunting	10	—	10	53	—	—
	4829	265	5094	106902	57	1222
		Species:	80	154	23	82

Note: Only species ringed or recovered in 1984 are included in the table, although the "Grand Total" column shows the total of all birds ringed in previous years. For a full list see the Lincolnshire Bird Report 1981.

County Ringing Report 1984

Compiled by Alan Ball

Just over 24,500 birds of 125 species were ringed in the county during 1984. This is one of the lowest ringing totals of recent years. Although there are several factors which can influence the numbers of birds caught such as weather conditions or lack of activity by a few individuals, many ringers did indicate that their totals were much down on other years despite the same effort on their part, thus confirming that some species were fewer in number than usual.

As one would expect, after reading about the much published effects of the serious drought in the Sahel region of Africa on wintering and passage migrants, many of the species down in number in Lincolnshire were some of these summer migrants. Below I have indicated the numbers of a few summer visitors caught and ringed in 1984 as a percentage of the average annual total over the last five years.

Sand Martin	16%
Sedge Warbler	40%
Whitethroat	58%
Lesser Whitethroat	93%

I have deliberately included Lesser Whitethroat in the above figures because although this species winters in Africa south of the Sahara, as do the other species, it does not appear to have been affected – yet – and numbers in Lincolnshire during 1984 were near normal. The most worrying decline is shown in the numbers of Sand Martin, although these figures are influenced by the fact that one of the large colonies of Sand Martin in the county virtually disappeared in 1984, because sand excavation was stopped thus providing no areas of suitable bank for nesting. Hopefully these birds might recover to their usual numbers in a few years time as happened after the last “crash” in 1968.

The number of wildfowl ringed in the county fell sharply because the main duck-decoy at Deeping was not operated in 1984 and the number of waders ringed was also much less than usual with the Wash Wader Ringing Group failing to make any large catches using cannon nets during the autumn.

On the more encouraging side, three “new” species were added to the county totals, Hobby, Nightjar and Thrust Nightingale making 171 species altogether since 1979.

Of note in the list of recoveries received during 1984, included within this report, is the first recovery of a Purple Sandpiper to Sweden; one of only two birds ringed in the county since 1979 when these Ringing Reports were first produced. Equally of merit is the recovery of a Bar-tailed Godwit in Mauritania and a Lesser Whitethroat to Hungary. The recovery of a Dunnock just across the Channel in Belgium is also quite exceptional as the majority of Dunnocks do not go more than 200 yards from their birth-place! Birds do not have to be recovered abroad to warrant inclusion in this report, for equally interesting was the retrapping of a Curlew ringed 19 years earlier and, who knows, it might be retrapped again after another 19 years.

Finally, thanks go to all the ringers who sent in their totals and recoveries and to non-ringers who sent me details of ringed birds that they had found in 1984.

County Ringing Totals 1984

(Gibraltar Point totals included)

Species	Adult	Pull	1979-1984		Species	Adult	Pull	1979-1984	
			1984 Total	Grand Total				1984 Total	Grand Total
Little Grebe	-	-	-	6	House Martin	45	-	45	222
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	12	Tree Pipit	7	5	12	51
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	4	Meadow Pipit	76	32	108	671
Leach's Petrel	1	-	1	2	Rock Pipit	-	-	-	5
Shag	-	-	-	1	Yellow Wagtail	3	10	13	74
Grey Heron	-	50	50	51	Pied Wagtail	18	10	28	451
Mute Swan	5	3	8	36	Wren	585	12	597	3019
Greylag Goose	-	8	8	16	Duncock	1236	84	1320	8701
Canada Goose	1	39	40	49	Robin	577	50	627	4615
Brent Goose	4	-	4	7	Thrush Nightingale	1	-	1	1
Shelduck	-	1	1	10	Nightingale	5	-	5	29
Wigeon	-	-	-	32	Bluethroat	-	-	-	2
Gadwall	-	-	-	22	Black Redstart	1	-	1	8
Teal	-	-	-	52	Redstart	53	-	53	401
Mallard	11	3	14	2031	Whinchat	22	-	22	146
Pintail	-	-	-	2	Stonechat	3	-	3	5
Shoveler	-	-	-	9	Wheatear	9	-	9	76
Pochard	-	-	-	40	Ring Ouzel	1	-	1	18
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	478	Blackbird	2444	264	2708	16584
Scaup	-	-	-	1	Fieldfare	24	-	24	795
Marsh Harrier	-	2	2	5	Song Thrush	661	83	744	5568
Sparrowhawk	4	-	4	15	Redwing	470	-	470	1979
Kestrel	7	14	21	108	Mistle Thrush	20	14	34	151
Hobby	1	-	1	1	Cetti's Warbler	-	-	-	1
Red-legged Partridge	1	-	1	25	Grasshopper Warbler	4	-	4	104
Grey Partridge	-	-	-	1	Sedge Warbler	130	-	130	1737
Pheasant	3	-	3	27	Marsh Warbler	-	-	-	2
Water Rail	-	-	-	7	Reed Warbler	305	59	364	2753
Moorhen	8	2	10	99	Booted Warbler	-	-	-	1
Coot	1	-	1	462	Icterine Warbler	3	-	3	11
Oystercatcher	132	5	137	2168	Sardinian Warbler	-	-	-	1
Little Ringed Plover	1	15	16	41	Subalpine Warbler	-	-	-	1
Ringed Plover	12	99	111	451	Barred Warbler	1	-	1	29
Golden Plover	-	-	-	10	Lesser Whitethroat	267	5	272	1747
Grey Plover	103	-	103	682	Whitethroat	434	9	443	4251
Lapwing	9	17	26	61	Garden Warbler	180	3	183	1012
Knot	2	-	2	1797	Blackcap	286	3	289	2989
Sanderling	-	-	-	18	Greenish Warbler	1	-	1	2
Little Stint	-	-	-	8	Arctic Warbler	-	-	-	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1	-	1	3	Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	2
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	Yellow-browed Warbler	3	-	3	5
Dunlin	951	-	951	7608	Wood Warbler	3	-	3	12
Ruff	6	-	6	35	Chiffchaff	89	-	89	721
Jack Snipe	2	-	2	16	Willow Warbler	905	137	1042	8261
Snipe	37	-	37	98	Goldcrest	360	-	360	4591
Woodcock	4	-	4	49	Firecrest	10	-	10	64
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	1	Spotted Flycatcher	59	19	78	477
Bar-tailed Godwit	6	-	6	436	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	-	1	6
Whimbrel	-	-	-	1	Pied Flycatcher	98	-	98	343
Curlew	13	-	13	62	Bearded Tit	-	-	-	19
Redshank	24	9	33	704	Long-tailed Tit	274	-	274	1441
Greenshank	1	-	1	6	Marsh Tit	3	3	6	62
Green Sandpiper	1	-	1	5	Willow Tit	53	6	59	475
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	Coal Tit	49	46	95	512
Common Sandpiper	6	-	6	30	Blue Tit	823	410	1233	8903
Turnstone	34	-	34	245	Great Tit	484	293	757	3664
Black-headed Gull	61	251	312	2924	Nuthatch	1	-	1	7
Common Gull	16	-	16	89	Treecreeper	23	-	23	250
Herring Gull	-	-	-	1	Red-backed Shrike	-	-	-	4
Great Black-backed Gull	4	-	4	22	Great Grey Shrike	-	-	-	3
Sandwich Tern	5	1	6	304	Jay	15	-	15	91
Common Tern	-	64	64	315	Maggie	7	6	13	59
Little Tern	-	-	-	3	Jackdaw	3	8	11	18
Guillemot	1	-	1	3	Rook	2	75	77	277
Razorbill	-	-	-	3	Starling	1755	57	1812	13539
Little Auk	-	-	-	4	House Sparrow	399	-	399	2335
Puffin	-	-	-	1	Tree Sparrow	398	85	483	3648
Stock Dove	15	54	69	265	Chaffinch	435	9	444	3019
Woodpigeon	26	21	47	242	Brambling	115	-	115	830
Collared Dove	8	4	12	164	Greenfinch	1445	22	1467	9854
Turtle Dove	16	2	18	178	Goldfinch	195	-	195	1814
Cuckoo	10	3	13	72	Siskin	7	-	7	132
Barn Owl	2	10	12	35	Linnets	608	154	762	4074
Little Owl	-	2	2	32	Twite	13	-	13	275
Tawny Owl	-	3	3	56	Redpoll	370	-	370	4023
Long-eared Owl	2	1	3	27	Crossbill	-	-	-	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	9	Bullfinch	397	9	406	2354
Nightjar	1	-	1	1	Hawfinch	-	-	-	1
Swift	32	-	32	105	American Redstart	-	-	-	1
Kingfisher	9	-	9	75	Snow Bunting	5	-	5	19
Wynneck	3	-	3	8	Yellowhammer	387	11	398	2657
Green Woodpecker	-	-	-	6	Reed Bunting	426	7	433	2959
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	-	-	-	28	Red-headed Bunting	-	-	-	1
Lt. Spotted Woodpecker	-	-	-	9	Corn Bunting	73	-	73	249
Skylark	185	25	210	859	TOTAL	21482	3061	24543	178378
Sand Martin	62	-	62	2101	Swallow x House Martin	1	-	1	2
Swallow	1487	353	1840	12124					

Selected Ringing Recoveries Received During 1984

Arrangement of entry: Recoveries are arranged by species. Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery details on the second.

Age when ringed: This is given according to the EURING code. The number does not represent years but as follows:

- 1 = nestling or chick;
- 2 = full grown, year of hatching unknown;
- 3 = hatched during current calendar year;
- 4 = older than 3, exact age unknown;
- 5 = hatched during previous calendar year;
- 6 = older than 5, exact age unknown.

Sex: M = Male. F = Female.

Manner of recovery:

- v = caught or retrapped;
- + = shot or killed by man;
- x = found dead or dying;
- /?/ = manner of recovery unknown.

Distances, given in kilometres, and directions are approximate.

Great-crested Grebe

- 4 16.03.77 Deeping St James
- x 22.10.83 Withington, Cheshire 150 km WNW

Shag

- 1 23.06.81 Isle of May, Fife
- x 04.02.84 Saltfleet Haven 355 km SSE

Heron

- 1 30.04.83 Laughton Forest
- x 19.03.84 Haverton, Cumbria 219 km NW
- 1 16.05.81 Laughton Forest
- x 07.06.84 Middlesbrough, Cleveland 126 km NNW

Canada Goose

- 4 13.07.83 Attenborough G.P., Nottingham
- v 07.07.84 Ancaster G.P. 47 km E

Coot

- 4F 24.11.82 Deeping St James
- + 23.02.84 Boismont, Somme, FRANCE 310 km SSE

Oystercatcher

- 5 08.09.83 Wrangle Marsh
- x 29.07.84 Nestervik, Tromso, NORWAY 2190 km NNE

There were ten recoveries of Oystercatcher in Norway in 1984 as well as one to the Faeroes and one to France.

Purple Sandpiper

- 2 24.10.83 Donna Nook
- v 02.05.84 Orsala, Gothenburg, SWEDEN 854 km ENE

This is the first British-ringed Purple Sandpiper to be recovered in Sweden, and only the fifth overseas recovery; the others have been two to Norway and two to Greenland.

Dunlin

Birds were recovered in Scotland (1), Norway (1), Denmark (2), Netherlands (1) and Sweden (6). Birds caught having been ringed elsewhere came from Scotland (1), Ireland (1), Wales (2), Norway (2), Sweden (1) and East Germany (1).

Bar-tailed Godwit

- 4 08.09.83 Wrangle Marsh
- x 01.11.83 Cansado, MAURITANIA 3870 km SSW

Mauritania is a major wintering area for Bar-tailed Godwits though this is only the second British-ringed one to be found south of the Sahara.

Curlew

- 2 30.09.65 Walcot, Shropshire
- v 29.08.84 Marston S.F. 133 km ENE

Note the age of this bird.



Bar-tailed Godwit (K. Atkin)

Redshank

- 4 13.08.83 Benington
 + 25.07.84 Baie des Veys, FRANCE
 480 km SSW

Turnstone

- 6 27.08.74 Holbeach Marsh
 + 15.05.84 Trau Beach, Vigo, SPAIN
 1380 km SW

Black-headed Gull

- 1 24.06.83 Baston Fen
 v 02.02.84 Arcos de la Frontera, SPAIN
 1900 km SSW
 3 18.08.69 Deeping St James
 + 22.06.84 Sjaelland, DENMARK
 807 km NE

Birds ringed in winter were recovered in West Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Belgium.

Common Gull

- 4 17.05.76 Hjelms, Jylland, DENMARK
 x 30.12.84 Leverton Marsh 768 km WSW

Herring Gull

- 8 09.01.79 Hartlepool, Cleveland
 x 27.09.84 Frampton Marsh 211 km SSE
 1 30.06.81 Isle of May, Fife
 x 29.09.84 Wrangle Marsh 393 km SSE
 1 24.06.80 Craigleith, Lothian
 x 21.10.84 Gibraltar Point 385 km SSE
 1 18.07.78 North Berwick, Lothian
 x 30.12.84 Friskney 387 km SSE

Sandwich Tern

- 4 31.08.84 Benington
 x 05.09.84 Dungeness, Kent 230 km S

Guillemot

- 1 04.07.81 Runde, NORWAY
 x 20.02.83 Frampton Marsh 1105 km SSW

Long-eared Owl

- 1 01.06.80 Glazebury, Cheshire
 x 09.03.83 Scredington, Sleaford
 150 km ESE

Swallow

- 1 22.06.83 Gibraltar Point
 x 11.05.84 Avoise, Le Mans, FRANCE
 583 km S
 4F 20.05.84 Theddlethorpe
 x 15.06.84 nr Potsdam, EAST GERMANY
 840 km E
 3 10.09.79 Theddlethorpe
 x 10.04.84 Puzol, Valencia, SPAIN
 1530 km S

The second swallow listed above was found to be breeding in East Germany.

Pied Wagtail

- 3 26.08.80 Ancaster G.P.
 x 17.04.84 Whittlesea, Cambridge 54 km SE

Duncock

- 3 06.10.83 Donna Nook
 v 17.10.83 De Panne, BELGIUM
 310 km SSE

This is only the second British-ringed Duncock to be recovered in Belgium and was almost certainly a bird of Continental origin.

Blackbird

Birds were recovered in Finland (4), Denmark (3), Netherlands (3) and N. Ireland (1) and one was recovered having been ringed in the Netherlands.

Song Thrush

- 2 18.03.83 Friesland, NETHERLANDS
 v 31.03.84 Rauceby, Sleaford 443 km W
 4 10.04.81 Gibraltar Point
 + 29.01.84 San Joao da Pesqueira,
 PORTUGAL 1451 km SSW

Lesser Whitethroat

- 4F 06.06.83 West Deeping
 v 09.10.83 Porpac, HUNGARY 1365 km ESE
 This is the first British-ringed Lesser Whitethroat to be recovered in Hungary.

Whitethroat

- 3 02.08.80 Donna Nook
 v 03.09.82 Gibraltar Point
 x 25.04.84 Quarzazate, MOROCCO
 2182 km S

Quarzazate is 5,000 feet up in the Atlas Mountains.

Garden Warbler

- 3 16.08.84 Arnon, Varnland, SWEDEN
 v 23.08.84 Gibraltar Point 1077 km SW
 The first Scandinavian-ringed Garden Warbler to be found in Britain.

Blackcap

- 3F 27.08.83 Theddlethorpe
 x 10.11.83 Fes, MOROCCO 2182 km S

Willow Warbler

- 2 09.08.83 Donna Nook
 v 20.08.84 Loire Atlantique, FRANCE
 704 km S
 4 30.04.83 Woodhall Spa
 v 11.08.83 Gattoville, Manche, FRANCE
 392 km ESE

- 3 25.08.83 Gibraltar Point
 x 04.06.84 Friesland, NETHERLANDS
 354 km E

- 4 15.04.84 Den Haan, Bruges, BELGIUM
 v 05.05.84 Gibraltar Point 274 km NW

Goldcrest

- 3M 22.09.83 Jomfruland, Telemark, NORWAY
 v 02.10.83 Theddlethorpe 844 km SW
 3M 02.10.83 Gibraltar Point
 x 27.04.84 Aardenburg, NETHERLANDS
 294 km SE

- 2F 01.10.83 Donna Nook
 x 23.02.84 Den Haag, NETHERLANDS
 318 km ESE

- 2F 04.10.83 Donna Nook
 v 09.10.83 Freisan Isles, NETHERLANDS
 370 km E

The above recoveries result from the very large movement of continental Goldcrest on the east coast during the autumn of 1983 (see 1983 Ringing Report).

Great Tit

- 1 31.05.82 Boothby Great Wood, Grantham
 x 24.02.84 Great Houghton, Northants.
 75 km SSW

Recoveries of Goldfinch, Linnet and Redpoll from Lincolnshire 1979-1984



Jay

2 10.10.83 Donna Nook
 x 02.03.84 Boston 52 km S

Starling

1 25.05.81 Lendowo, Gdansk, POLAND
 v 21.01.84 Boston 1244 km W
 4F 26.05.81 Nigula, Parnu, ESTONIA SSR
 x "winter 83" Quadring, Boston 1663 km WSW
 2F 28.08.78 Kroonsolders, NETHERLANDS
 x 16.05.82 North Thoresby 334 km W
 Lincolnshire-ringed Starlings were recovered in USSR (3), Lithuania (1), Sweden (2), Denmark (1), Netherlands (1) and North Sea (1).

Greenfinch

4 15.05.82 Deeping St James
 x 13.03.84 Telford, Shropshire 146 km W
 4 26.08.84 Wrangle
 v 10.03.84 Stratford on Avon, Warwick 154 km SW

Goldfinch

3M 03.10.81 Donna Nook
 x 03.02.84 Valladolid, SPAIN 1363 km SSW

3F 08.09.82 Gibraltar Point
 + 24.03.84 Toledo, SPAIN 1492 km SSW

Linnet

3M 27.06.82 Theddlethorpe
 /?/ 29.01.83 Hernansancho, Avila, SPAIN 1433 km SSW

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