

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1991

Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report

An Ornithological
Survey of Thorne Moors

Mediterranean Gull
Breeding in
Lincolnshire

Birds of Estuaries Enquiries :
Wash and Humber Reports

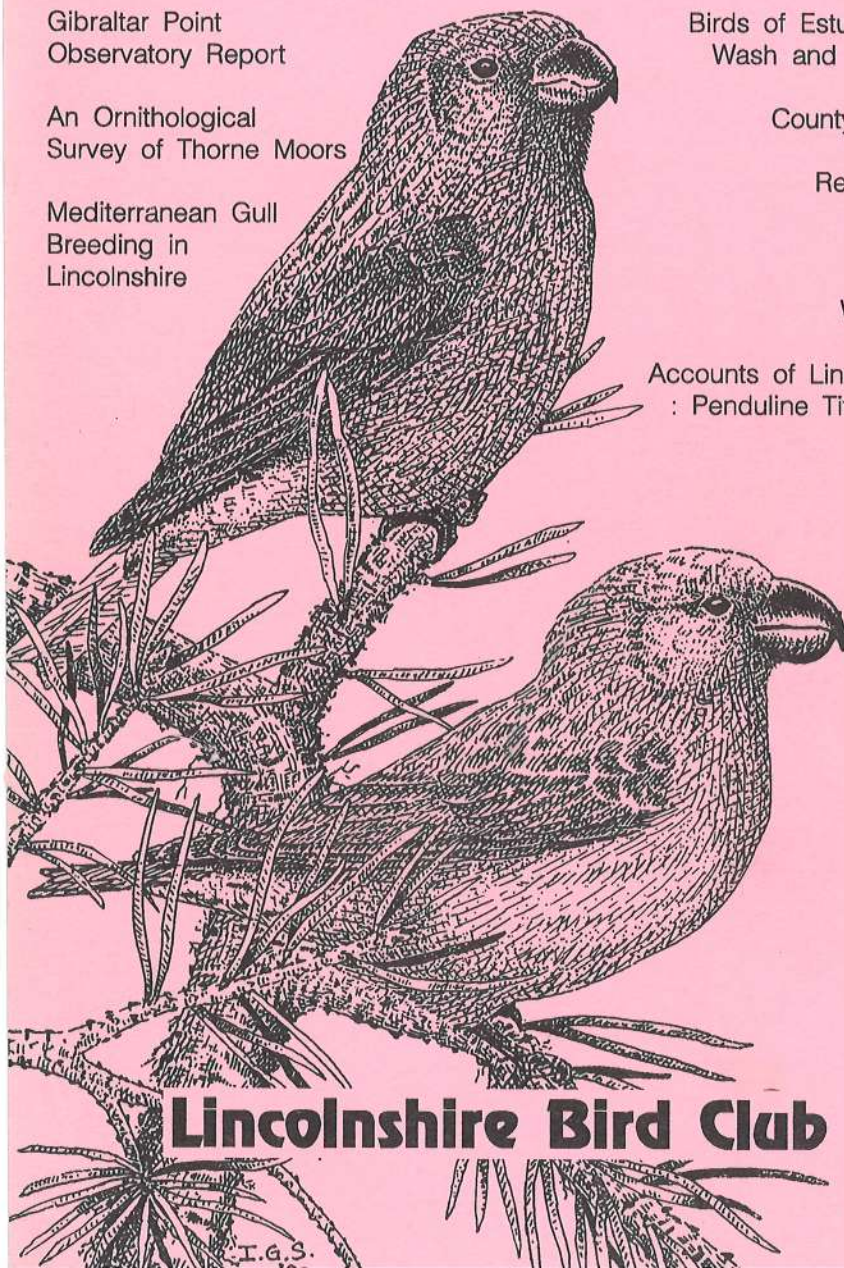
County Ringing Report

Review of the Year

Systematic List

Waterbird Counts

Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities
: Penduline Tits : Blyth's Reed
Warbler



Lincolnshire Bird Club



THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB

Was inaugurated in September 1979 with the following aims:

To encourage and further an interest in the birdlife of the counties of Lincolnshire and South Humberside.

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THE THORNE BIRDS:

An Ornithological Survey of Thorne Moors 1990/91 CLIFTON G. BAIN

INTRODUCTION

Thorne Moors, the largest raised bog site in Britain, lies on the border between Lincolnshire and Yorkshire 18Km north west of Scunthorpe. This site is of international nature conservation importance but has been severely damaged by large scale, commercial peat extraction operations. There has been much publicity given to a recent announcement that the horticulture company Fisons have agreed to donate their extensive landholdings on the Moors to English Nature the Governments statutory nature conservation advisers. The agreement is seen by conservation bodies as a good first step towards getting the site protected and properly managed for its wildlife. However, peat extraction is to continue over almost half the site, destroying the archaeological record there and threatening the long term survival of the whole bog. The Thorne and Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum was established in 1989, bringing together the RSPB, Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, archaeologists, peatland experts and local natural history societies in an effort to help conserve the remaining wildlife interest on the Moors. One of the Forum's initial tasks was to organise a series of wildlife surveys on the Moors starting in 1990 to look at vegetation, invertebrates and birds. A summary of the ornithological study of Thorne Moors during the summer and winter of 1990/91 is presented here together with a brief discussion of the conservation significance of the Moors and a forward look to future ornithological work there.

THE 1990/91 STUDY

The study aimed to identify the range of breeding and wintering bird species occurring on Thorne Moors and their distribution in relation to different habitat types. Between April 1990 and February 1991 a team of nine, local ornithologists surveyed the Moors under the guidance of Peter Roworth, the English Nature (formerly Nature Conservancy Council) warden there. Standard mapping techniques were used to identify breeding territories and winter bird numbers were estimated by recording numbers of each species seen per visit in various study compartments. The Thorne Moors study area of 800ha included Crowle Waste on the Lincolnshire side of the moors.

RESULTS

A total of 61 breeding bird species was identified during 1990 and 59 species were recorded in winter 1990/91. The following accounts give a summary of the breeding and wintering bird data for each of the main habitats studied. Detailed accounts of the habitat types are given in Eversham and Swindlehurst (1992) and full bird data is given in Bain (1991 and 1992).

Bare peat - Over half (1000ha) of Thorne Moors now consists of drained, bare peat expanses resulting from modern intensive peat extraction. A sample study plot of 100ha bare peat was visited throughout the survey and no breeding bird territories were recorded there.

Cut-over bog (264ha) - This was one of the most abundant habitat types in the study site and consisted largely of bog and wet heath vegetation on areas which had last been cut for peat prior to 1940. The methods of cutting used in the past (when it was largely carried out by hand) have resulted in a mosaic of wet, *Sphagnum* moss filled hollows and drier 'baulks' dominated by Heather and Ling. Breeding bird species recorded in relatively high numbers include Nightjar, Teal, Whinchat, Reed Bunting and Meadow Pipit. Two pairs of Snipe were also recorded. Winter birds largely consisted of small passerines particularly Wren, Blue Tit

and Willow Tit. Up to four Stonechat were observed from early to mid November. Three Hen Harriers and two Merlin were recorded on several occasions.

Woodland/Mire (274ha) - Crowle Waste on the eastern edge of Thorne Moors is the largest area of this habitat on the site. It largely lies on the Lincolnshire side of the Moors and therefore slightly more detail is presented here which will be of interest to bird-watchers in Lincolnshire. The habitat, which is very rare in the county, consists of a mixture of tall, Birch/Willow woodland and open areas of bog vegetation. Of particular interest were the bog areas which supported Nightjar and Tree Pipit: also several pairs of nightingale were recorded in willow scrub. In winter the most numerous bird species recorded were finches, titmice and thrushes but a single Long-eared Owl was recorded. Large numbers of Wren, Robin, Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Chaffinch were recorded in the wooded areas together with a few pairs each of Tawny Owl and Woodcock. An example of the data collected in the survey is given in Tables 1 and 2 below showing breeding and wintering bird numbers for the mixed woodland/mire habitat.

TABLE 1 BREEDING BIRDS RECORDED IN MIXED WOODLAND/MIRE HABITAT ON CROWLE WASTE (PART OF THORNE MOORS) 1990

SPECIES	NO. PAIRS
Moorhen	1
Woodcock	3
Cuckoo	1
Tawny Owl	2
Nightjar	9
Tree Pipit	6
Wren	21
Dunnock	1
Robin	13
Nightingale	5
Blackbird	3
Whitethroat	9
Garden Warbler	1
Blackcap	6
Chiffchaff	1
Willow Warbler	31
Blue Tit	5
Chaffinch	11
Yellowhammer	10
Reed Bunting	7
TOTAL SPP.	20
TOTAL TERRS.	146

TABLE 2 WINTER BIRD COUNTS IN MIXED WOODLAND/MIRE HABITAT ON CROWLE WASTE (PART OF THORNE MOORS) 1990/91

SPECIES	MAX. COUNT	Bird Days	Visits Recorded
Pheasant	2	2	1
Moorhen	7	9	2
Wood Pigeon	102	105	3
Long-eared Owl	1	1	1
Great spotted Woodpecker	1	1	1
Skylark	20	27	2
Meadow Pipit	3	3	1
Pied Wagtail	1	1	1
Wren	13	45	9
Dunnock	3	5	3
Robin	4	14	7
Blackbird	9	25	7
Fieldfare	80	94	2
Goldcrest	20	50	8
Long-tailed Tit	14	45	5
Willow Tit	3	3	1
Blue Tit	8	30	6
Great Tit	4	8	4
Jay	1	1	1
Carrion Crow	3	3	1
Chaffinch	3	9	5
Redpoll	90	118	5
Bullfinch	2	4	2
Reed Bunting	4	7	4

Scrub (131ha) - The scrub habitat was predominantly Birch scrub on dry peat. A wide range of passerines were recorded with large numbers of Willow Warbler, Wren, Whitethroat, and Yellowhammer. Nightjar bred in the more open areas of scrub. The winter species total of 42 on the scrub habitat was the highest for the Moors. Flocks of up to 350 Fieldfare together with Redwing and Blackbird were observed flying to roost. Sparrowhawk regularly hunted over the scrub habitat and on occasion Hen Harrier and Merlin.

Carr Woodland (95ha) - This habitat consisted of Birch, Sallow and occasionally Willow trees on warped peat adjacent to Crowle Waste and in the south of the moors. The dense tree cover provided ideal breeding habitat for a large number of passerines particularly warbler species, Wren and Blackbird together with several pairs of Nightingale. In winter large roosts of Woodpigeon (up to 300 birds) occurred in this habitat. Finches and titmice made up a high proportion of the birds observed in winter.

Pond/Scrub (12ha) and Reedbed (22ha) - On the western edge of the moors, large *Phragmites* reedbeds on warped peat (peat overlain by estuarine silt) and open water in old deep peat cuttings supported typical fen bird species such as Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Willow Warbler. Relatively high densities of Reed Bunting and Whitethroat were also recorded. Mallard, Coot and a small, breeding colony of 10 pairs of Black-headed Gulls occurred in the open water/scrub areas. Winter birds were not counted in this habitat due to the limited availability of field workers.

DISCUSSION

The survey results confirm that Thorne Moors is of considerable ornithological importance both in terms of the numbers of species occurring and the individual species types. The range of bird species observed on the moors includes species typical of raised bogs (Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting, Cuckoo, Teal, Snipe, Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl). Thorne Moors exhibit an interesting feature in that they lie on the northern limit of some species breeding range and the southern limit of others. There must be rather few places now in Britain where Nightingale and Whinchat can be heard at the same time. A list of threatened bird species in Britain, the 'Red Data Birds Book' (RDB) has recently been produced (Batten *et al* 1990). On Thorne Moors four RDB species and two candidate RDB species occur in at least Regionally important numbers;

Hen Harrier	- 3 winter individuals
Merlin	- 2 winter individuals
Teal	- 13 breeding pairs, 130 winter individuals
Nightjar	- 35 'churring' males
Nightingale	- 14 breeding pairs
Whinchat	- 18 breeding pairs

Raised bogs have experienced tremendous losses in the past 100 years and the habitat is now considered extremely rare with only around 4% of their original area remaining in Britain today. Thorne Moors is one of the key remaining sites in the country partly as a result of its large size but also because it retains a wide range of important bog fauna and flora. The Moors have been included in the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are of international importance, qualifying for designation as a Special Protection Area under the EC Wild Birds Directive by virtue of the fact that over 1% of the British breeding population of nightjar occur there. Thorne Moors also qualifies as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention 1971.

Traditional peat-cutting operations, largely by hand, have taken place throughout the past century over most of Thorne Moors. Whilst ultimately damaging to the structure of the peat bog these operations, because they happened relatively slowly and over only a small area at any one time, did allow much of the wildlife interest to persist over the Moors as a whole. Mechanical methods of peat extraction, first introduced in the mid 1960s to the Moors have developed rapidly over the last 25 years, resulting in the 1990s with over 50% of the 2000ha site having been stripped of vegetation and still being actively worked. As a result of large-scale vegetation clearance, massive drainage networks and repeated cutting, the peat surface over much of the moors is bare and inhospitable to wildlife. An initial comparison of current bird data with the previous records collated by Limbert *et al* (1986) for the period 1965 to 1989 shows major reductions in the population sizes of wildfowl, waders and birds of prey on the Moors. For example, prior to the massive expansion of intensive peat extraction methods by Fisons in the early 1980s, up to 50 breeding pairs of teal and 45 pairs of whinchat occurred on the Moors and currently numbers are down to less than half with 13 pairs of teal and 18 pairs of whinchat.

FUTURE SURVEY

Despite the massive habitat destruction on Thorne Moors the site is still of great importance and much can be done to help safeguard that importance and perhaps improve on it through careful study of the wildlife there. As a result of a recent agreement between English Nature and Fisons all drains on the remaining vegetated areas of the Moors will soon be blocked and the areas given over for immediate conservation management. Whilst there are still major concerns over the long term viability of the whole site because of continued large scale peat extraction on much of the Moors, there is at least a chance now for ornithologists and other natural history experts to carry out detailed studies without the threat hanging over the site of imminent habitat destruction. The Thorne and Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum are already organising a number of surveys including a repeat of the 1990/91 ornithological work to help monitor the site and plan its future conservation management. Field workers are desperately needed to help with summer and winter surveys and if any bird-watchers are able to assist in this work Clifton Bain, RSPB East Midlands, The Lawn, Union Rd, Lincoln LN1 3BU, would be pleased to hear from them.

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Mediterranean Gull breeding in Lincolnshire.

Graham P Catley

On April 1st 1991 John Harriman noticed an adult summer plumaged Mediterranean Gull flying over the reserve at Messingham Sand Quarries. Despite numerous visits by JTH and others it was not seen again until June 16th when JTH saw it again flying over and subsequently it was seen from 21st-30th. On July 2nd JTH discovered the adult Mediterranean Gull attending two juvenile gulls in a local Black-headed Gull colony. The juveniles were obviously different to Black-headed juveniles also in the colony and looked much like pure Mediterranean Gull juveniles. By July 4th the Mediterranean Gull with the two juveniles along with most of the Black-headed Gulls had moved to the Messingham reserve. The adult and two juveniles could be seen there regularly to July 13th with the last sighting of one of the juveniles on 15th. On July 4th GPC located three juveniles, two being attended by the adult Mediterranean, which proved to be a male, and a third which was not seen to be fed by another gull. Despite regular watching over a period of over three weeks no second Mediterranean Gull was ever seen and certain features displayed by the juveniles proved that they were hybrids the result of the male Mediterranean Gull pairing with a female Black-headed Gull. As the two juveniles were frequently to be seen right in front of the hide at Messingham conditions for observing them were ideal and a full description was compiled.

Description of juveniles;

Direct side by side comparisons were possible with juvenile & adult Black-headed Gulls and adult Mediterranean Gull. All three juveniles seemed to be identical in plumage and features were symmetrical. In size and structure they appeared very similar to the adult Mediterranean Gull differing from the Black-headed Gulls by virtue of their stocky build, larger flatter head, thicker necks more well proportioned bodies and longer legs; the latter a feature of more tibia being visible. In flight wings were broader based and again the birds were more heavy looking than the Black-headed Gulls.

Plumage; Overall appearance was of more uniform coloured upperparts than Black-headed Gulls with more extensive brown on the head and the tones of brown being more a mid-brown almost with a grey tinge rather than the russet tones of the juvenile Black-heads. Head and neck; Eye looked prominent large and dark with narrow but obvious white eye crescents from the centre to the rear of the eye only; a dark blackish-brown socket area formed by a dark mark before the eye and a darker area behind which when close could be seen to curve up towards the rear crown although this was not obvious at a distance: Lores, chin and forecrown pale creamy-whitish fading into mid-brown wash all over rest of crown, nape, sides of head and across upper breast. These brown feathers were

obviously faintly tipped whitish on the breast giving a more mottled effect while those on the crown were more finely tipped whitish and could only be seen when very close with a telescope. The breast band was least obvious when head-on, when it looked to be patchy in the middle and broken, but looked more prominent in flight and when viewed from the side. There was in fact a basic resemblance to a juvenile Sabine's Gull in flight. Mantle and back appeared mottled grey-brown, made up of brown centred feathers with pale creamy tips/edges; Scapulars brown to blackish-brown with a darker subterminal spade-shaped mark and clear complete pale cream-buff tip/edge forming a very obvious pattern. Humeral obvious on both wings at rest, was white with a neat clear black subterminal band. Tertiaries brown with complete pale creamy edge right around feather. Lesser coverts brown centred with pale creamy-buff edges; median coverts quite extensively grey with dark blackish-brown shaft, broadest on inners, curling round at tip to form hooked shape with a narrow whitish extreme fringe. Greater coverts pale grey, a pale block under the darker uppers; Primaries blackish all with narrow white tips but when spread showed more extensive white/grey on inners (see flight pattern). From upper breast all of underparts white with some faint brown scallops on the flanks.

Flight pattern; Spread wing showed pattern typical of juvenile Mediterranean Gull; all coverts mottled brown with paler edges; lesser, median and greater primary coverts mostly blackish with white tips to lessers and medians broader than on greater; outer primaries blackish gradually showing more grey at the base onto the inners which were mostly pale grey with dark subterminal marks and shaft streaks; greater coverts contrastingly very pale grey forming a block in the mid wing area; secondaries showed broad, sharp black bar across wing with narrow white tips forming a pale narrow trailing edge. Mantle/back as coverts; tail/rump white with black subterminal bar, slightly broader in the centre and not reaching the extreme outer edges. Tail bar probably not as deep as on most first winter Mediterranean Gulls.

Bare parts; Bill; from a distance not striking; when close showed the same shape as Mediterranean Gull with pronounced blunt, slightly decurved tip and obvious gonys; colour was not striking being blackish at the tip and back about one third of the way along the bill with a dull grey base. Legs were noticeably longer looking than Black-headed Gulls due to the greater visible area of the tibia; colour was not black but was different colour to similar aged Black-headed Gull juveniles being a dull greyish flesh.

Underwing; mainly white with dark blackish tips to greater underwing coverts and semblance of secondary pattern from upper wing.

Wing tips in flight quite rounded and obviously still growing although even so gave a different look to same aged Black-headed Gulls.

WATER BIRD COUNTS (NON MARINE WATERS) 1990-91

Wildfowl were counted at 39 sites during the winter of 1990-91 and the gross monthly totals are shown in Table 1. The site locations, with descending order of monthly maximum counts are shown in Table 2. Counts were discontinued at Syston Park Lake due to low numbers, but were resumed at Frieston Flashes, Caythorpe. No counts were received from Tallington or West Ashby Pits (due to recreational disturbance), Riseholme Park Lake, Coronation Channel, Spalding, Kirkby-on-Bain Pits (due to access problems) or Ashbyville. Details of counts at marine sites are included in the Estuary Enquiry Reports.

The following species reached qualifying levels for flocks of National Importance:

Gadwall (QL:50) Langtoft West End Pits - 66 to 164 October to February

Coot (QL:1000) Baston Common Pits - 1205 on 16 February 1991

Mute Swans on the R. Welland again failed to reach the qualifying level of 180 birds, the maximum count being 111 on 18 February 1991.

Although the winter was generally mild, several waters were frozen over in mid-February and were not counted.

Thanks are due to all the counters who participated in the counts for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Scientific names of the species are given in the systematic list.

John Redshaw

Names of Participants:

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MONTHLY WATER BIRD TOTALS 1990-91

Table 1

SPECIES	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Little Grebe	57	40	35	27	31	40	8
Great-crested Grebe	143	121	84	68	134	39	183
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cormorant	55	65	83	100	196	201	58
Shag	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mute Swan	291	267	363	339	373	512	289
Bewick's Swan	-	-	10	31	34	6	5
Whooper Swan	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pink-footed Goose *	-	-	-	3	1	4	1
White-fronted Goose *	1	-	2	-	2	-	-
Greylag Goose *	1115	549	1015	747	1013	96	423
Canada Goose *	1034	973	179	1211	1272	562	415
Barnacle Goose *	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Shelduck	19	9	7	12	42	12	41
Mandarin *	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Wigeon	245	272	350	698	516	434	419
American Wigeon	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	64	162	239	1030	247	159	59
Teal	255	403	1075	602	329	317	177
Mallard	2314	2629	3773	3893	4076	2739	1131
Pintail	9	16	3	4	5	3	2
Shoveler	102	48	55	28	23	18	51
Red-crested Pochard	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
Pochard	96	253	277	631	999	825	158
Tufted Duck	482	716	926	1008	1948	1122	1179
Scaup	-	6	-	74	8	26	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	1	2	4	4	2	-
Velvet Scoter	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	1	25	59	33	118	136	59
Smew	-	-	-	-	3	8	3
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	2	2	1
Goosander	-	-	9	15	59	94	24
Ruddy Duck	2	3	4	4	3	-	-
Moorhen	108	93	92	120	126	47	59
Coot	2031	2191	2804	4161	3583	1942	1001
Sites counted (n = 39)	36	38	38	38	39	32	38

* indicates species which are either feral or are believed to be escapes.

An addition to the list of escapes was a Rosybill (*Netta peposaca*) at Langtoft West End Pits on 13 October 1990.

SITES COUNTED IN 1990-91

Table 2

Grid Sq.	Location	Months counted	Monthly Max.
North			
TA02	Barton Pits to Barrow Haven	S O N D J F -	1538 F
TF39	Covenham Reservoir	S O N D J F M	917 D
SE90	Messingham Sand Quarry NR	S O N D J F M	677 N
TA00	Cadney Reservoir	S O N D J F M	471 J
SE80	Messingham Landfill	S O N D J F M	179 O
SE90	Brigg Island Lake	S O N D J F M	156 M
SE90	Kirton Lindsey Quarry	S O N D J F M	146 J
TA11	North Killingholme Pits	- O N D J - M	25 M
SE81	Burton-on-Stather Brick-ponds	S O N D J F M	21 S
West			
TF16	Bardney Sugar Factory Ponds	S O N D J F M	915 N
SK96	Swanholme Lakes	S O N D J F M	688 D
SK94	Ancaster Pits	S O N D J F M	544 J
TF16	Nocton Fen	S O N D J F M	453 D
SK98	Fillingham Lake	S O N D J F M	406 S
SK96	Hartsholme Lake	S O N D J F M	357 D
SK97	Burton Pits NR	S O N D J F M	254 S
TF04	Sleaford Ballast Pits	S O N D J F M	234 O
TF25/16	R Witham, Chapel Hill-Kirkstead	S O N D J F M	219 F
TF07	R Witham, Fiskerton-Bardney	S O N D J F M	197 F
SK97	Brayford Pool	S O N D J F M	174 F
SK96	Boultham Park Lake	S O N D J F M	104 J
SK94	Frieston Flashes, Caythorpe	S O N D J F M	62 O
East			
TF25	Tattershall Pits	S O N D J F M	1802 D
TF36	Revesby Reservoir	S O N D J - M	701 J
TF55	Gibraltar Point Mere	S - N D J - M	532 N
TF57/58	Sea Bank Clay Pits NRs	S O N D J - M	423 S
TF58	Brickyard Pond, Sutton-on-Sea	S O N D J - M	157 J
South			
TF11	Baston Common Pits	S - - D J - M	1995 D
TF11	Langtoft West End Pits	- O N D J F M	1367 J
TF02	Grimsthorpe Park Lake	S O N D J F M	778 J
TF24/34	South Forty Foot Drain	S O N D J F M	661 F
TF10	Deeping St. James "Mere"	S O N D J F M	510 N
TF10	Deeping St. James "Lake"	S O N D J F M	443 J
TF11	Langtoft Common Pits	- O N D J F M	439 D
TF11	Baston Fen NR	S O N D J F M	420 M
TF10/22	R Welland, Spalding-Borough Fen	S O N D J F M	406 F
TF01	Holywell Lakes	S O N D J F M	304 N
SK83	Denton Reservoir	S O N - J F M	255 N
TF03	Culverthorpe Lake	S O N D J F M	249 S

BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY

1991

THE LINCOLNSHIRE WASH

The table shows the summed totals for each of the waterfowl species recorded in the counting sections within the Lincolnshire "half" of the Wash. The data have been extracted from the Wash totals which include counts undertaken simultaneously on the Norfolk side. These counts are undertaken monthly and most months see all sections counted although inevitably, with such a large number of counters, from time to time some sections are missed through lack of cover. Nonetheless, the scientific information which has been collected by the "team" of enthusiastic volunteers continues to be vitally important locally, nationally and internationally. Therefore, once again, both James Cadbury (as Norfolk organiser) and I would like to express our thanks to all who participate in the BOEE.

The Wash continues to hold more Brent Geese than any other estuary in Great Britain and this year saw an increase in numbers once again. The breeding season for the species was successful with on average 35% juveniles in the flocks. Nationally the figure was around 31% and compares favourably with the most successful breeding season in recent years, 1988, when there were around 34% young birds nationally. In the Wash there was a massive influx of birds early on in the season and the figure of 15984 in October was two and a half times that of the corresponding month in 1990.

The numbers of Pink-footed Geese showed a slight increase over the last two years but the trend is still downward in Lincolnshire, as birds are tending to favour better feeding and safer roosts on the eastern side of the Wash and along the N Norfolk coast. However, this is causing some concern amongst farmers who have, until the increase in numbers recently, been reasonably tolerant of the geese. Numbers have increased here from around 2000-3000 in the mid-1970s to 15000-19000 in the last couple of years and mirrors the increase nationally.

Within the Lincolnshire side of the Wash there has been a noticeable increase in the Wigeon numbers, particularly to the south of Gibraltar Point and immediately to the north of the Witham Mouth. Pintail though seem to favour the Norfolk sections and have reduced in numbers near the mouth of the R Nene, whereas some duck have made a comeback in Lincolnshire. Numbers of Eider, Common Scoter, Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser are consistently favouring "our" side of the Wash.

Wader numbers in general have been fairly consistent, with one or two notable exceptions. Knot numbers keep on increasing and one wonders how many more the Wash can take! Massive flocks have been recorded from the Lincolnshire side, with counts of 71829 and 51025 in October and November (the Wash totals were 108300 and 133300 respectively).

Despite the international designations and protection afforded to the Wash, there is little we can do to prevent the impact of severe weather on wildlife. During February there was a week of intense cold and many birds succumbed to the freezing conditions. Hardest hit were surface feeders, particularly Redshank and Grey Plover. Counts in early February showed more or less expected numbers of these birds but during the cold weather collections of dead birds revealed a massive kill. The numbers recorded in March were way down when normally the local population, having spent the winter here, are joined by immigrants from elsewhere. The counts revealed that about half the Wash wintering Redshank died. The total number of dead birds found was 2765 and includes 1475 Redshank. No doubt many more were washed out or stranded on the higher marshes. All the birds collected are to be analysed by BTO staff.

The assessment of the impact of the severe weather on populations is only possible because of the information supplied over many years and on a regular basis by these organised counts. Extra help is always welcome.

Bob Lord

THE WASH COUNTS 1991 - LINCOLNSHIRE TOTALS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
R-t Diver		5							2	1	4	
Little Grebe	7	8	3					1				1
G C Grebe	6		7	1		7	12	28	45	74	46	3
R-n Grebe										1		
Slav Grebe		1								1	1	
B-n Grebe								1				
Fulmar				82	1	1		2	1			
Gannet				41		6		2	22			
Cormorant	116	76	101	46	46	18	76	118	129	135	155	41
Grey Heron	7	19	2	6	2	6	12	20	22	21	18	14
Mute Swan			1						2	1		
Bewick's Swan										4	3	25
Whooper Swan			16							44	3	81
Bean Goose											4	
Pink-f Goose	190	452	11							23	250	644
Greylag Goose					2			1				
Canada Goose			2									4
Brent Goose	17041	14456	12442	10078	4005	4	5	8	3	15984	17956	18902
Shelduck	6699	7111	3161	1279	785	170	645	77	44	7758	5383	5929
Wigeon	102	3680	754	2			1		127	1202	5096	4534
Teal	168	206	51	10				2	27	171	419	49
Mallard	2719	2149	456	152	87	95	62	39	321	1645	2082	1298
Pintail	511	208	10	4		6			21	59	105	220
Shoveler					1	2				43		4
Pochard	2		5					1				2
Tufted Duck			5								1	
Scaup			11						2		1	
Eider	74	374	57	135	56	88	100	130	69	83	18	30
Long-t Duck									1	58	7	
Common Scoter	5	40		1			10		25	118	45	20
Velvet Scoter											2	
Goldeneye	88	41	13	6			1			39	36	5
Red-b Merganser	29	26	9	9	5		1			75	71	34
Oystercatcher	17662	26503	15111	8272	2911	921	7062	17622	17754	22286	11327	17358
Avocet									1			
L R Plover					1							
Ringed Plover	218	4	80	107	451	139	72	1350	378	216	107	29
Golden Plover	922	1125	3	52	60	6	650	2049	879	538	1029	791
Grey Plover	4441	5457	4536	6007	6478	561	1491	4087	6339	11657	5361	5663
Lapwing	795	607	209	54	22	16	883	393	325	1941	1959	2852
Knot	30437	39982	20137	3450	1072	276	1220	9445	11619	71829	51025	40861
Sanderling	100	149	170	9	40	220	30	85	350	201	196	110
Little Stint									3			
Curl Sandpiper									17			
Dunlin	23738	18202	16263	13434	10276	526	15029	25447	30678	39702	22655	16954
Ruff	4		1				2	2		4	4	
Jack Snipe		1										
Snipe	3	8	4	3	1			10	12	17	18	7
Bl-t Godwit	68	9	42	26			453	88	404	603	212	7
Bar-t Godwit	5379	12191	4972	1012	587	176	1674	7904	5066	11535	4674	891
Whimbrel				9	33	4	234	215	28			
Curlew	897	1751	1717	852	260	95	4683	5468	3188	1435	1194	1128
Spot Redshank	1		1				21	65	10	6		
Redshank	1788	1789	659	984	602	294	1381	1621	1410	1100	1167	947
Greenshank					5		109	71	192	11	1	1
Gn Sandpiper							1		3			
Cmn Sandpiper					2		18	19	15			
Turnstone	358	458	213	329	114	25	248	559	753	551	426	263

BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY: THE HUMBER 1991

The table shows the total numbers of waders and wildfowl counted on the Humber during BOEE/National Wildfowl Count fieldwork in 1991. No counts were attempted in June or July. Two species, Snipe and Jack Snipe, have been omitted from the table: the BOEE methodology is not suited to an accurate census of these two species, which spend most of their time hidden amongst vegetation.

Once again coverage was far from complete. Map 1 shows the count sectors and Figure 1 shows the coverage pattern of those sectors through the year. There was generally good coverage of the estuary in January and February; although it was not complete, none of the uncounted sections were likely to have held significant numbers of any species over the high tide count period. The March count was significantly incomplete, substantial lengths of the inner and outer south shore sub-sites remaining uncounted. Coverage remained patchy, with significant numbers of birds certainly remaining uncounted, in both April and May. Despite incomplete coverage, the May count indicated a minimum 1868 Sanderling on the estuary, again confirming the international importance of the Humber as a spring staging-post for that species.

In August and September there were no counts made on the outer south shore east of Somercotes Haven, leading to unrealistically low tabled totals of Shelduck and many wader species. October coverage was very poor, with most of the south shore remaining unrecorded, though major roosts at Cleethorpes and Tetney were counted. Frustratingly, even as coverage increased to virtually complete in three of the four sub-sites during November and December, counting collapsed in the inner south bank, Alkborough to Immingham, with no data available for November and only one sector counted in December. Counts of Brent, Knot and Sanderling were probably unaffected by the lack of "inner south" counts, but all other tabled totals are likely undercounts, severely so in the cases of Dunlin, Redshank, Golden Plover and many wildfowl species.

A few points regarding individual sectors: Sector 18, New Holland, holds a duck flock which is difficult to count owing to eastward drift of birds with the falling tide and subsequent overflying of feeding birds by those returning to New Holland (G.P. Catley, pers.comm.). The BOEE produced data for the early part of the year which was at considerable variance with independent data from monitoring of the flock in January and February. The tabled BOEE totals for Pochard of 150 in January and 400 in February were dwarfed by a count of 1650 on 3rd February. Tufted Duck totals were independently recorded at levels of 230 and 300 in early January and early February respectively, whilst BOEE data shows comparative levels of 70 and 600. The lack of Common Scoter indicated by BOEE data was mirrored by monitoring on other dates, as were numbers of Mallard present, at around 300 in January and 400 in early February.

Sectors 20 and 21, Killingholme to Immingham Docks, were never counted on official dates, but were monitored during most months, over high tide periods, and were never shown to hold significant numbers of birds. There is, however, potential for waders to use Killingholme Pits over high tide when that site is in a suitable condition, and nearby pastures bordering the sea wall could also hold waders, especially Curlew and Golden Plover, in significant numbers on occasion. Regular coverage of the area on official count dates is needed.

Sector 33, the southern end of the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, was only counted twice during the year, in May and December. This sector generally holds few waders or wildfowl, though some Sanderling are likely to have been unrecorded in this sector regularly.

A look at three species, Brent Goose, Knot and Sanderling, for which count totals were not seriously affected by gaps in coverage in either early or late winter periods (since none of the three normally occur in the "inner south" sub-site in significant numbers; around 2000 dark-bellied Brent were wintering on the Humber in the early months, representing around 2% and 1% of the national and international populations respectively. A good breeding year was indicated by plenty of young birds, and hence a slight increase in total numbers present towards the year's end. Around 500 Sanderling were wintering in early 1991 and similar numbers were recorded again towards the year end, representing around 4% of the estimated British wintering population and mirroring the Humber's average wintering total for the species. The Knot population was again similar, in national and international terms, in both early and late winter periods, with more than 10% of the national total and around 6%-8% of the international (east Atlantic flyway) population present.

The continuing increase in the use of the Humber by Black-tailed Godwit was shown by the species being recorded on all counts during the first half of the year and on all counts except December in the last half. A small flock of birds were, in fact, certainly still present on the estuary in December, feeding on Pyewipe flats at low tide, but not located during the high tide count.

Many thanks are due to all the counters from myself and the other 1991 sub-site organizers, Steve James, Brian Harrison and John Walker (from November).

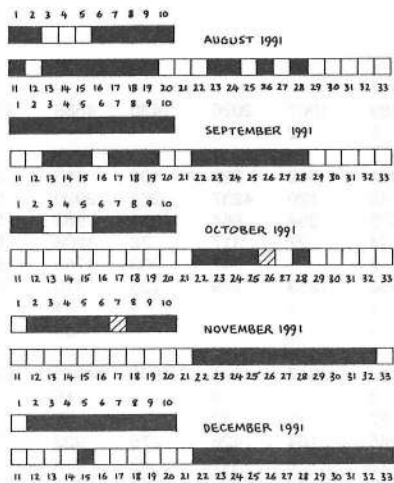
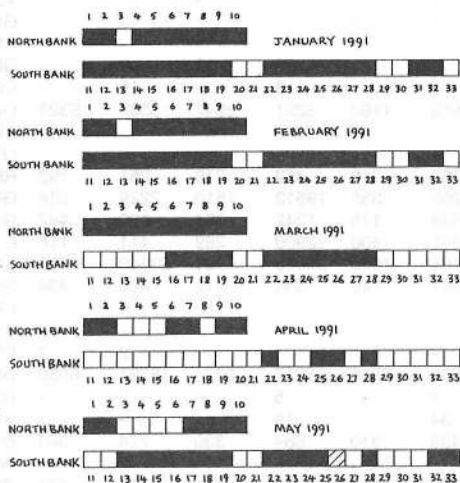
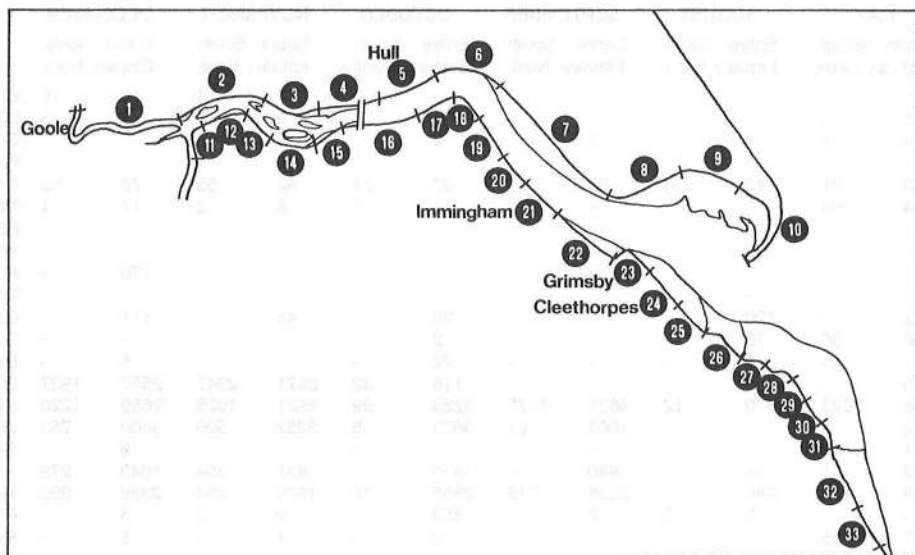
Contributors to counts on the south bank in 1991 were: Dave Bradbeer, Howard Bunn, Pete Cox, Alan Daws, Paul Holmes, Tony Housman, Wayne Gillat, Anne Goodall, Brian Harrison, Steve Lorand, Cliff Morrison, Keith Parker, Tony Shearsmith, Ian Shepherd, John Spring, Bill Sterling, John Walker, Stuart Williams, Dave Wright. Apologies to anyone omitted from the list.

Ian G. Shepherd

HUMBER BoEE 1991

		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL	
		Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South
		Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank
Red Throated Diver	RH	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Little Grebe	LG	7	7	7	7	2	2	-	-
Great Crested Grebe	GG	21	21	-	-	7	1	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	RX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cormorant	CA	74	57	151	114	56	28	40	25
Mute Swan	MS	8	5	10	-	11	7	10	-
Bewick's Swan	BS	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Whooper Swan	WS	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	PG	481	478	133	130	-	-	-	-
White-fronted Goose	WG	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	GJ	22	-	104	-	33	-	12	-
Canada Goose	CG	16	-	-	-	9	-	13	-
Barnacle Goose	BY	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brent Goose	BG	2048	1907	2040	1810	193	30	55	14
Shelduck	SU	2719	1895	3227	1285	2448	125	1042	100
Wigeon	WN	1908	119	3964	572	1252	42	166	-
Gadwell	GA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teal	T	853	361	1151	110	248	5	120	2
Mallard	MA	3147	905	3984	894	575	112	183	10
Pintail	PT	26	-	40	4	3	1	-	-
Shoveler	SV	10	2	4	-	27	-	22	-
Pochard	PO	123	120	402	400	77	60	21	-
Tufted Duck	TU	70	70	611	600	189	170	-	-
Scaup	SP	25	21	60	60	-	8	-	-
Eider	E	-	-	50	9	22	22	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	LN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Scoter	CX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Velvet Scoter	VS	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	GN	301	300	290	281	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	RM	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	-
Goosander	GD	8	8	2	2	-	-	-	-
Coot	CO	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
Oystercatcher	OC	5182	3628	3654	3542	3416	2640	2374	1850
Avocet	AV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Ringed Plover	LP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ringed Plover	RP	194	173	309	240	107	45	98	80
Golden Plover	GP	15572	14016	14147	5100	4436	280	729	155
Grey Plover	GV	1051	525	1243	614	780	107	570	174
Lapwing	L	7705	3734	19296	7596	368	57	44	8
Knot	KN	23321	17980	17788	15120	3680	580	219	5
Sanderling	SS	517	511	260	259	549	549	130	126
Little Stint	LX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	CV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	PS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	DN	22487	8474	16370	7043	13901	1720	13017	1702
Ruff	RU	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-
Black-tailed Godwit	BW	7	1	1	-	7	6	32	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	BA	2002	1137	469	346	322	44	209	40
Whimbrel	WM	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
Curlew	CU	1376	404	1708	682	2318	625	441	143
Spotted Redshank	DR	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	1
Redshank	RK	2831	1346	3235	1351	3046	963	2158	364
Greenshank	GK	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Green Sandpiper	GE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	OD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	CS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnstone	TE	348	209	521	190	370	190	100	35

MAY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		
Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	
Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	16	16	RH
1	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	10	8	3	3	LG
12	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	GG
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	RX
23	21	42	28	93	71	37	24	62	55	72	65	CA
64	64	-	-	4	-	14	7	6	2	17	1	MS
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BS
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	WS
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176	-	PG
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	WG
22	-	120	-	-	-	88	-	45	-	111	-	GJ
36	36	70	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	CG
-	-	1	-	-	-	72	-	-	-	6	-	BY
70	-	-	-	-	-	116	32	2971	2947	2557	1937	BG
2266	1023	3670	12	4678	1175	3258	99	2621	1025	2659	1220	SV
2	-	-	-	1003	61	3672	5	3252	506	3400	753	WN
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	GA
12	1	36	-	940	-	1430	-	831	354	1049	279	T
516	129	640	-	2086	775	2555	16	1670	254	2388	290	MA
-	-	3	3	6	-	553	-	9	8	3	-	PT
27	5	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	5	-	SV
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	PO
-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8	-	4	-	TU
-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	SP
6	1	20	6	20	5	-	-	4	4	11	10	E
1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	4	5	5	LN
-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	72	72	1	1	CX
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	VS
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GN
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	RM
-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	13	13	9	-	GD
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	15	-	CO
1589	1007	2026	1430	4686	2740	3963	1180	3221	2647	3587	2323	OC
2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AV
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LP
998	362	328	106	455	339	262	216	452	216	251	192	RP
148	120	4237	261	2920	981	10202	335	19513	1610	2229	834	GP
1479	364	664	351	962	544	639	175	1242	654	903	482	GV
34	27	317	78	1208	854	3842	400	12909	289	411	116	L
2	-	747	303	1751	1631	4104	4000	20568	9921	29940	10783	KN
1858	1853	249	126	310	265	141	140	534	516	466	434	SS
1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	LX
-	-	1	-	39	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	CV
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	PS
12522	3947	14361	4605	24905	9355	23500	5598	16217	5534	16731	6050	DN
3	-	5	-	45	11	2	-	5	-	-	-	RU
27	11	52	-	55	15	34	-	14	-	-	-	BW
265	104	426	275	922	764	439	310	684	330	774	363	BA
15	8	151	39	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	WM
272	79	2107	27	2790	1088	839	210	1085	231	1454	433	CU
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DR
446	140	5796	60	3579	600	5228	533	3410	1241	2230	1255	RK
1	-	16	9	17	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	GK
-	-	8	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GE
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OD
7	1	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CS
120	59	485	47	636	272	373	217	492	230	456	234	TE



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1991.

During 1991 a total of 237 species were recorded in the county with two additions to the county list; Blyth's Reed Warbler* and Penduline Tit* along with the taxonomic decision to afford specific status to Mediterranean Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), taking the county list to 361 species with four Category D species.

The year's weather was a real mixed bag with a generally dry early winter but an exceptionally cold spell in February followed by some early promise in March soon dashed by a cold northerly airstream which seemed to persist almost without a break until June. Summer was hot and dry leading to yet further depletion of dwindling areas of standing water and extending through to September, the warmest since 1961. Surprisingly extended spells of south-easterly winds dominated October for the second successive year while November and December continued mostly mild and settled for long periods with few really windy spells.

On the year's balance sheet more species seemed to be down than up but the latter included Cormorants which continue to increase in particular at inland sites. Wildfowl showing signs of expanding their breeding range and population included Gadwall, Tufted & Ruddy Ducks while Red-crested Pochards, no doubt many of feral origin, also appear to be on the up. Marsh Harriers are slowly increasing as summering birds in new areas and at autumn roosts, Sparrowhawks go from strength to strength and Peregrines are at last making a real impact while Hobbies despite a setback during 1991 are probably still increasing although under recorded as a breeding species. Wood Sandpipers made a good showing at both seasons after several years in the doldrums and Avocets became increasingly regular on the Humber. On the passerine front Common Crossbills had a good year and probably bred at a few sites with a further summer influx while the normally sedentary Nuthatch appears to be making one of its normally short lived nomadic excursions to areas new in the north of the county.

It is probably in the nature of most birders to look on the black side of bird population changes but even so 1991 did seem to have more than its fair share of bad news. Of our regular breeding birds Kingfishers were well down at many traditional locales, Bearded Tits were all but wiped out at their usual stronghold and many small resident passerines were decimated by the February cold spell. Little Ringed Plovers seem to be in decline, perhaps as a result of a slow down in the creation of new habitat, but many other summer visitors like Swallow, Sand Martin, Tree Pipit, Turtle Dove, Garganey, Quail, Yellow Wagtail, Spotted Flycatcher, Sedge and Grasshopper Warblers were also in short supply no doubt affected by recent reports of more drought in the Sahel and the terrible spring migration weather followed by a cold spring on their breeding grounds. Passage birds such as Spotted Redshank, Dotterel, Ruff, Wryneck, Barred Warbler, Stonechat, Goldcrest and Firecrest were all down and wintering birds to show reduced numbers included Lapland Bunting, Purple Sandpiper, Glaucous and Mediterranean Gulls with Snow Buntings and wild swans down in the first winter period but showing signs of better numbers in the late year.

January held many birds left over from 1990 with large flocks of Fieldfares finishing off the autumn berry crop and the Chaffinch forming one large gathering in February while two sites held over one hundred Brambling. Exceptional numbers of Siskin were in Boultham Park and in a winter dominated by northern finches Lesser and Mealy Redpolls formed some large flocks amongst which a total of seven Arctic Redpolls* were located, an amazing total. Large numbers of Common Crossbills wintered following large arrivals during the previous summer/autumn and three flocks totalling fifty-five Parrot Crossbills remained faithful to their chosen wintering trees staying through to March. That other news catching arctic vagrant the first-winter male Snowy Owl remained in fields around Wainfleet/Friskney delighting a never ending crowd of admirers until attempting to show its truly wild northern origin by wandering

to north Norfolk before heading off back via Spurn just across the Humber from where it was first located in 1990. A Red Kite flew south in January but in general wintering raptors were unexceptional. A small but well appreciated influx of Waxwings occurred, the Black-bellied Dipper stayed into the new year and a few coastal Little Auks passed in January. A long stay Great Northern Diver on the Humber pits finally left as a severe and fairly prolonged spell of winter weather set in in February. With an easterly airflow originating in the Baltic there were some wilfowl arrivals, notably large numbers of Wigeon, Pochard, Scaup, Goldeneye and lesser numbers of Goosander, a few Smew but no rarer grebes to speak of and nothing to compare with similar conditions in 1979. The main effects of the freeze were felt by resident species with populations of many vulnerable species much reduced in the ensuing breeding season.

As winter finally gave way in early March a large exodus of Bewick's Swans in the north of the county coincided with a departure from Martin Mere in Lancashire and the first Wheatears, Sand Martins & Chiffchaffs arrived but little else. From April persistent cold northerly airflows made it one of the worst springs on record for vagrants and also for arrivals of summer visitors many of which were late in arriving and remained in low numbers throughout the summer. At least one more Red Kite moved around in March but April was a real dead month. Departing Iceland Gulls no doubt held up by the northerlies occurred late in the month and early May and Swifts did not arrive in any numbers until late May. The winds did however, produce a marked passage of Arctic Terns in early May and an unusual fall of Wheatears on 22nd. Spring wader passage was poor in number and quality apart from the brief appearance of a Black-winged Stilt. A nice find in early June was an adult Purple Heron and in mid month a new influx of Common Crossbills began to gain momentum. A large bird which spent some time on a garden lawn in Theddlethorpe was photographed by the owner and proved to be an adult male Honey Buzzard, a most unusual record.

The fortunes of our breeding birds are never very well documented except in the case of some of the scarcer species but it was obvious that in summer 1991 many small birds, tits, Goldcrests, Wrens were well down. Woodlarks had yet another poor season due to the cold early spring and apparently the very dry summer, Hobbies also appeared to have taken a set back and Little Tern colonies were again badly affected by tides and predation. Nightjars were either stable or up but highly restricted, Black Redstarts virtually unknown in 1991 and no Montagu's Harriers were found but Avocet bred for the first time this century and a Mediterranean Gull paired with a Black-headed reared three hybrid young the first breeding record for the county. The Common Crossbill influx continued through the summer and a very unseasonal Great Northern Diver in full summer plumage was the first in July in the county.

The autumn as a whole was again a good one for the variety of migrants but despite an abundance of suitable habitat rare waders failed to materialise and only a moderate influx of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers held the attention. Seawatching was productive, as long as you picked the right days, and amongst the few good ones September 29th stood out with a new county record of 216 Great Skuas, 64 Pomarines, 386 Arctics and 26 Long-tailed Skuas plus 12 Leach's Petrels. Later October 20th produced a good passage of Little Auks and strong movements of many species of wildfowl, most notably Common Scoter with lesser numbers of Velvet and another strong movement on November 19th witnessed mainly in the Wash produced an unprecedented late Gannet figure.

Swifts hung on late in good numbers in late August following the late spring arrival but hirundine roosts were exceptionally low on numbers. A short spell of easterlies in late August-early September led to a coastal fall of small numbers of Pied Flycatcher, two Icterine Warblers and the first new county species of the year a Blyth's Reed Warbler* trapped at Theddlethorpe. As usual October produced most of the rare birds of the year; from the west

a drake American Wigeon at Whisby pits was the third county record, but birds from the east soon dominated the rest of the month with spells of south-easterly winds bringing a female Desert Wheatear (second county), two Pallas's Warblers, 11 Yellow-broweds, 4 Red-breasted Flycatcher, a Short-toed Lark and the second new county species in the form of two Penduline Tits *, a long expected addition.

With a poor showing in the 1990-91 winter it was nice to see a better arrival of Short-eared and Long-eared Owls from October onwards and most wintering raptors seemed to be in good numbers with Hen Harrier, Merlin and Peregrine up, the only Rough-legged Buzzard of the year and an unprecedented arrival of Common Buzzards throughout the county many staying to winter. Both Bewick's and Whooper Swans showed well with a nice mixed flock on Nocton Fen and another small Waxwing arrival came to feast on the local berry crops. Although mostly settled the spells of rough weather in November brought in both Black-throated and Great Northern Divers which stayed to winter. One Great Grey Shrike returned and at least one Shore Lark accompanied a flock of Snow and Lapland Buntings with the large coastal flocks of Skylark in December.

* Denotes species subject to acceptance by BBRC.

Graham P Catley

Introduction to Systematic List 1991.

The systematic list for 1991 contains relevant records as submitted during the year. There is obviously the necessity to summarise records in many cases and to just include those records which are most relevant to the county in line with the county avifauna. With regard to records of counts of geese, ducks and waders from the Wash these are included in the table and comments attached thereto, the results of the monthly surveys in that area. These survey counts include the whole Wash and as such provide a good representative summary of the numbers of each species using the estuary during each month of the year. Counts exceptional to the survey results are included in the systematic list proper but it is obviously saving space and unnecessary duplication by not repeating individual counts for individual sites in the main list. More regular counting on some sites on the Humber allows a more detailed analysis of records from there whilst at the present time a full estuary survey of that site is not available for all months. It is hoped that this situation will be remedied in 1992. Similarly some waterfowl counts, included in the winter months surveys are again omitted from the main list and included in the separate paper. Thus anyone wishing to extract all information on wildfowl or waders should consult all the relevant parts of the report.

As will be seen from the entries under several species of passerine reports of many species are hopelessly few and far between and a scan through the list

will reveal the species which need more thorough documentation. Breeding records are particularly needed for several species, in some cases rare or scarce in the county, for which it is not even possible to provide an annual summary.

Response to the request for records to be submitted on a three or two monthly basis during 1991 was phenomenal and virtually all contributors managed to assist in this way. The same system will operate during 1992 and records on a two or three monthly basis are requested, in Vows order and I must stress again for the few who still persist that diary order is not acceptable due to the amount of time taken in analysis; One important point should be born in mind however, if possible all records for the autumn period ie; to the end of November should be submitted a.s.a.p. in early December and the few remaining records for December before January 15th 1993! This allows a full analysis and write up of the autumn before the new year and saves a good deal of time.

Graham P Catley County Recorder.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Compiled and written by Graham P. Catley

Red-throated Diver; *Gavia stellata*.

Early winter maxima of 23 Tetney Jan.19th, 90 Gib.Pt. 26th, 35 there March 8th & 10 April 1st. A juv/iw inland at Covenham Res. Feb 1-18th and unusual May records of summer plumaged birds inland at Bardney 12th and flying east off Goxhill 16th. First of the autumn at Witham Mouth Aug.23rd, Gib.Pt Sept 6th with a max of 5 there 18-19th, 25 Oct 4th, 20 Nov 15th & 30 Dec 24th with 13 Saltfleetby Dec 14th and 1-5 elsewhere on the coast Oct-Dec. Inland on the Humber off Barton Sept 29th, New Holland Nov 25th and Covenham Res intermittently Nov 30-Dec 29th.

Black-throated Diver; *Gavia arctica*.

The only early year records were at Gib Pt March 12th with 2 April 23rd. One there October 26-27th, another Nov 6th. One on Chapel Pit Nov 15-17th then a iw Covenham Res about Nov 22-1992 with 2 birds 23-Dec 1st and finally one Saltfleetby Dec 7th.

Great Northern Diver; *Gavia immer*.

One at Gib Pt Jan 19-20th and a first-winter Barton pits 29-Feb 8th. A most unusual record of a full summer plumaged bird at Baston pits July 9th (EJR.RF). One south off Chapel Oct 21st and a particularly obliging first-winter in Grimsby Docks Nov 19-1992.

From 1970-90 there were 95 records; 84 of them coastal with 6 on Covenham Res, one Cadney Res, 3 Barrow Haven. It occurred in all months except June and July with most birds in January 21, October 13, November 22 & December 17 and obvious peaks in 1970 -7, 1977-14, 1979-12, 1980-13 & 1990-6.

Little Grebe; *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

At Humberston/Tetney 15 in Jan-Feb with birds concentrated by the February freeze; 21 Whisby 10th & 19 Barton-Barrow Haven 11th. A maximum of 10 at Cleethorpes CP March, 8 Oct. 14th & 29th, 18 Barton Sept. 8th, 12 Sept/Oct & 8 Dec but not a good breeding season there due to cold weather losses. On the coast 9 at Humberston Oct.28th.

Great-crested Grebe; *Podiceps cristatus*.

January concentrations of 20 Gib Pt 26th, 21 Tetney 27-30th, 21 Deeping St James where also 22 in March and other maxima in that month of 12 Bardney 17th, 11 Baston pits 16th & 20 Deeping High Bank 24th. Breeding concentrations of 10 pairs South Humber bank pits but poor success, 4 pairs Revesby Res. & Antons Gowt, 5 pairs Whisby & 7 pairs Deeping St James, 7-10 pairs Sth. 40ft at Boston. A party of 11 flew north at Toft Newton June 1st. In the Wash 28 at Gedney Sept 8th with 10 off Tetney Nov 7th and 32 inland on Apex pit Dec 11th.

Red-necked Grebe; *Podiceps grisegena*.

Only three records one off Gib Pt April 9th and one Terrington Oct 27th & Skidbrooke Nov 17th.

Slavonian Grebe; *Podiceps auritus*.

A small influx in the early winter with one Chapel pit Jan 6th and presumed same at Wolla Bank at least 7-14th; one Witham Mouth 20th, Gib Pt 19th & 22nd, Feb 3rd and 2 on 17th, Cleethorpes CP. Feb 2-4th. In spring one in full summer plumage Boston Docks April 9-11th. In autumn singles Holbeach Marsh Aug 9th & Nov 10th, Chapel Point Oct 19th, Gedney 27th and Covenham Res Oct 27-Nov 15th & Dec 12-22nd.

Black-necked Grebe; *Podiceps nigricollis*.

A party of 3 in full breeding plumage at the Witham Mouth on Aug 13th with one possibly same at Holbeach Marsh 25th were the only records of the year; perhaps an indication of the high mortality in the Persian Gulf in the early part of the year.

Fulmar; *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Two unusual winter records one south off Chapel Point Jan 6th and one Gib Pt Feb 17th. Notable peaks in April of 16 Holbeach Marsh and 57 Witham Mouth 14th with 12 Gib Pt 27th where also 18 May 5th, 16 23rd & 25 June 19th. Up the Humber off Read's Island June 16th, Winteringham Aug 29th & Pyewipe Sept 16th. In the Wash 14 Holbeach Marsh Sept 1st. Only low autumn peaks on the coast with 25 Gib Pt Sept 6th, 26 7th, 22 Mablethorpe 6th, 23 south Mogg's Eye 26th, 30 Chapel 29th and the last Gib Pt Oct 5th.

Sooty Shearwater; *Puffinus griseus*.

In September 2 north Mablethorpe 6th, one Huttoft 28th, 6 north Chapel & one Gib Pt 29th with one there Oct 11th and a late bird at Witham Mouth Nov 19th.

A poor year although the ten year average for 1970-80 and 1980-90 are only 19 & 23 p.a. respectively with 1976-50, 1977-67, 1988-47 & 1989-20 the only really good years.

Manx Shearwater; *Puffinus puffinus*.

The only spring record was of 2 north at Gib Pt May 2nd. In June 3 south Anderby 11th & 2 Huttoft 24th. In July one south Gib Pt 1st, 3 north 16th, 2 Witham Mouth Aug 23rd then in September 3 Gib Pt 28th, 3N 7S 29th with 19 Chapel 29th and one north Gib Pt Oct 11th. The lowest annual total since 1980 despite some concentrated seawatching during the autumn. The norm since 1975 has been 70-160 records pa with exceptionally 300+ 1988 & 1200+ 1989.

Storm Petrel; *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

On the night of July 26th 2 were attracted by tape at Huttoft but not caught(AB). On October 20th 2 were seen at Gib Pt (KMW,PMT,SPB,KDD). Still a very rarely seen species from land; only 1977 with 3 and 1989 with 6 birds have exceeded 2pa during 1970-90 during which a total of 18 birds have been accepted.

Leach's Petrel; *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

During September one was up the Humber off Barton 12th (GPC), with one Gib Pt 11th, then

one north there 29th when 13+ flew north off Chapel Point (GPC, HB, WPB, IGS et al). A gale blown bird was recovered by a gun dog at Horncastle 29th and released at Gib Pt 30th (MEH). Further October records were singles south at Gib Pt 4th, 2 north 20th (KDD), north-west at Tetney 20th (IGS) another there 29th (SCPW) and finally one found exhausted at Boston Docks Nov 30th later released in Norfolk.

With only 1-3 records pa, (4 in 1978 & 5 in 1983) during 1970-85 (total 23), there appears to have been an increase in the number of this species being recorded in the county since then with annual occurrences from 1982 then 7 in 1988, the unprecedented 183 in 1989, 6 in 1990 and now the second highest total of 20 in 1991.

Gannet; *Sula bassana*.

First 2 at Gib Pt March 24th with a maximum of 33 north June 16th, a most unusual record from inland at Kirkby pits June 26th. Maximum autumn counts in September with 75 NW Tetney 8th, 92 Witham Mouth 24th, 200 Gib Pt 22nd, 200 28th and 150 29th, 100 north off Huttoft 28th 150 Chapel 29th and in October 76N Gib Pt 11th, 191N 20th with a max of 10 Nov 5th and an unprecedented 200 at Witham Mouth Nov 19th with 3 late birds Gib Pt Dec 24th. Up the Humber 7 juvs at Barton Sept 4th, one 6th one 17th and a total of 55 29th.

Cormorant; *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

This species continues to increase particularly at inland sites with up to 10 at several localities and the following notable counts; At Deeping St James up to 37 Jan-June, 65 Aug-Sept, 33 Oct, 43 Nov; Covenham res 73 Jan & 90 Feb, 26 Mar, Barton pits 46 Feb, 60 Oct 20th with 39 Read's Island March 5th, 29 Oct 3rd, Cadney 13 Feb 23rd, Toft Newton 12 Jan 13th, Whisby/Apex up to 61 Nov-Dec. On the coast at Gib Pt up to 45 Jan-March, 30 Apr, up to 51 Sept-Dec with a southerly movement there of 72 Oct 20th, up to 28 Saltfleetby Nov-Dec, 38 North Cotes Jan 20th. In the Wash (see tables) and also 50 Witham Mouth Aug 23rd. One inland at Messingham June 2nd.

There are inland breeding colonies in Huntingdon and one established in nearby Nottinghamshire in 1990 so breeding at a suitable site in the county in the near future could be a distinct possibility.

Shag; *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

One south off Chapel Point Jan 6th. An obvious influx in October with one Gib Pt 20-22nd, a group of 30 Witham Mouth 20th, 2 juvs Barton 22nd and probably one of the same attempting to roost on the Humber bridge Nov 6th.

An annual average of about 8 pa occurred during 1970-90 excluding odd years of large influxes ie; 1976-47, 1984-78, 1985-44 & 1988-52.

Bittern; *Botaurus stellaris*.

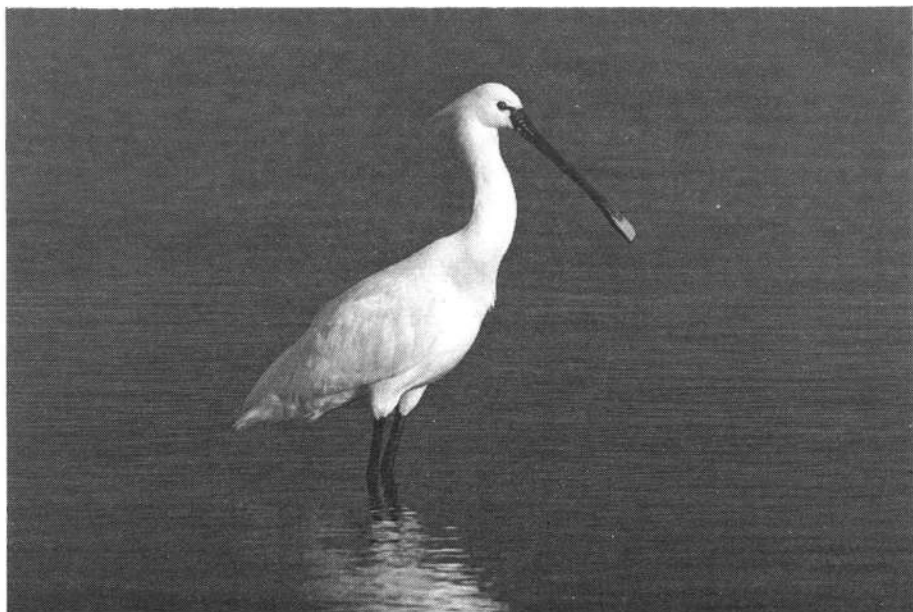
Overwintering birds in January were seen at Lincoln Ballast pit 13-27th, Whisby pits Feb 9th, with 1-2 at Barton/Barrow Haven to early February and the last sighting Feb 15th. One late winter bird at Barton pits Nov-late Dec.

Grey Heron; *Ardea cinerea*.

Breeding census results as follows;

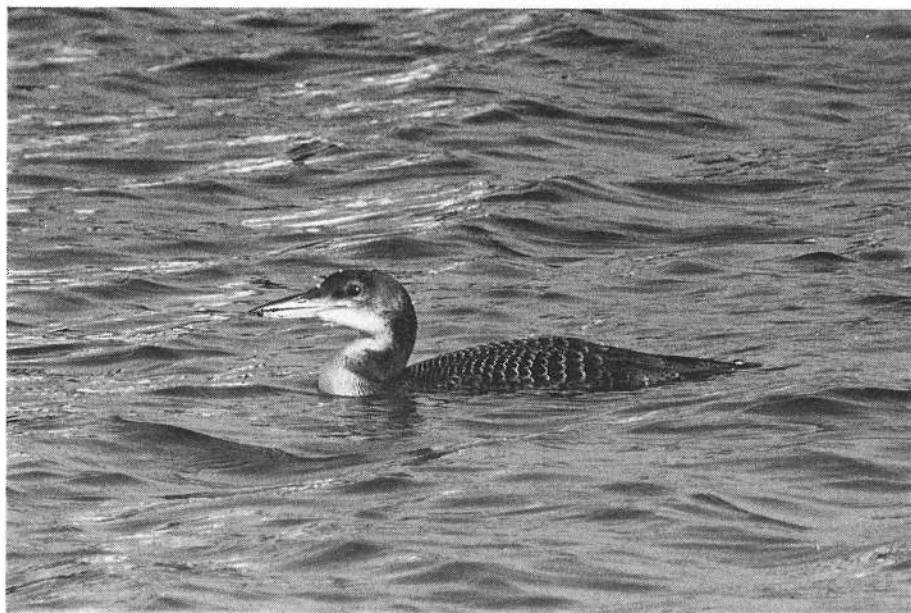
Abbey Wood	43	Warren Wood	4
Evedon Wood	24	Howsham	11
Willoughby	25	Holbeach Hosp	7
Laughton	25	GateCliff	10
The Mere Deep. St James	102	Kingerby	4
Old Hag Wood	16	Muckton	35
Troy Wood	67		

The total of 373 nests was 32 down on 1990 no doubt due to the severe winter weather in February.



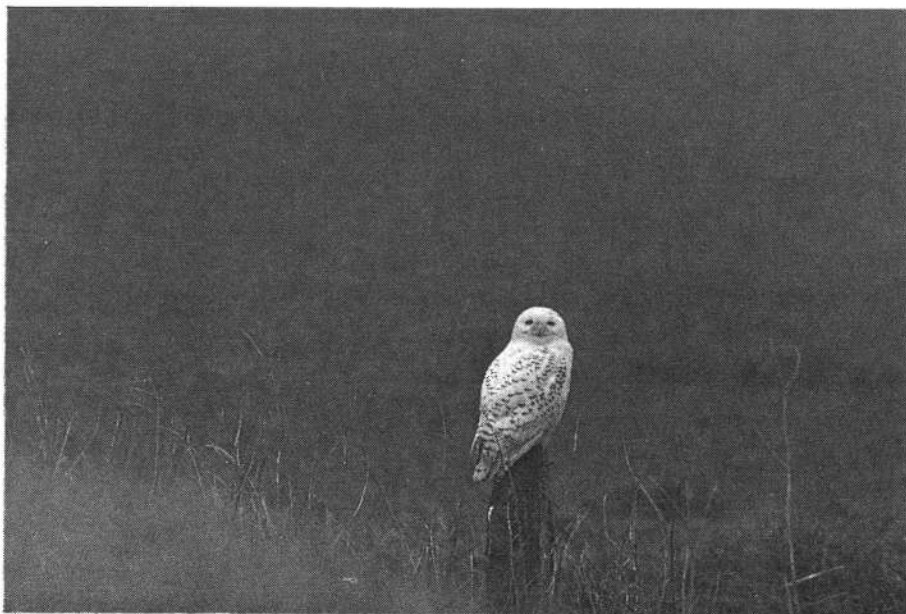
Spoonbill - Gibraltar Point

J. Harriman



Great Northern Diver - Grimsby Docks

K. Atkin



Snowy Owl - Wainfleet

J. Harriman



Dotterel - Sandilands

G. P. Catley

Purple Heron; *Ardea purpurea*.

An adult found in Snitterby Carrs on June 5th (KA) remained to 7th feeding in the small dykes and becks. Although an apparently decreasing vagrant there have been 15 records during 1970-90 with birds in 9 out of the last 12 years.

Spoonbill; *Platalea leucorodia*.

A small influx in June with adults at Gib Pt 10-13th, 23-25th and 3 North Cotes 21st with one to 22nd.

Mute Swan; *Cygnus olor*.

On the South Humber bank a wintering/non-breeding herd at New Holland/Barrow Haven of 54 Jan, 43 Feb, 29 Apr, 34 May with 4 broods totalling 29 juvs, 17 Oct, 23 Nov & 38 (17juv) Dec. The Welland flock peaked at 111 Feb 18th when 38 were at Deeping St James increasing to 83 July, 63 Aug-Sept, 84 Oct, 91 Nov with 155 Deeping High bank Nov 11th. Additionally 32 at Baston pits Jan 20th.

Bewick's Swan; *Cygnus columbianus*.

A wintering herd of wild swans appears to be establishing itself on Nocton Fen with 33-34 Bewick's to Jan 26th & 4 March 3-17th. Also in Jan 3 Sleaford Ballast pit 16th, 22 Barton 31st and Barrow Haven Feb 9th and in Feb 18 east at New Holland 24th with 6 Deeping St James 16th, one Grimsby 4th, Covenham 18th, a flock of 14 Marton Jan 14th but no other reports from the usual Lea Marsh wintering area. An impressive emigration in March with a flock of 160 east over Scunthorpe, Elsham & Barnetby 10th. one at Langtoft March 31-May 11th. [A flock of 42 wild swans flying east over Kexby April 10th almost certainly this species].

Some obvious confusion over the identification of this and the next species in the latter part of the year but all birds listed as claimed. First in October 6 Whisby 26th, 11 Kirton Marsh 27th, 9 New Holland & 17 SW Alkborough Flats both 29th. In November 2 Langtoft 2nd, 4 24th, 3 Holbeach Range 10th, 8 NE Donna Nook 25th, up to 5 at Gib Pt with 10 south Dec 8th. In December 10SE Whitton 4th, one Covenham 6th, 7 south Saltfleetby & 21 south Donna Nook all 7th, 4 SW Humberston 25th, 12 SW Tetney 28th. In Nocton Fen 3 Nov 6th increasing to 17ad 6juv by 24th & 17ad 8 juv Dec 8th then 37 27th.

Whooper Swan; *Cygnus cygnus*.

Three Kirkby Underwood Jan 20th with 16 S Gib Pt Feb 28th then 15 east there March 28th & 16 east Holbeach 3rd with 3 Nocton Fen March 3-10th. In October 2 Donna Nook 1st, an adult Saltfleet 9-16th with 3 ad south and one east 26th; at Gib Pt 4 20-21st one north 25th, 15 and 9 south 26th, 19 27th, 4 28th, at Donna Nook 16 NW & 3 NE 24th with 4 north 27th and 6 flying inland at Humberston 27th when 44 flew west at Kirton Marsh. A total of 25 south at Gib Pt Nov 3-20th, 4 Dec 8th, 3 22nd. Also in Nov 45 Holbeach Marsh 8th, 6 Tetney 4th, 11 17th, at Donna Nook 4 west 3rd, 6 SW 7th, 3 south 13th, 4 Whisby 9th, 17 Theddlethorpe 18th & 16 west at Gosbeton 29th. In December 31 Gedney 8th, 3 Whisby 11-15th, 9 Sutton 16th, one Lincoln Brayford pool 11-31st, 12 Skidbrooke 28th & in Nocton Fen 13 Dec 1st, 11ad 4juv 8th with 17 27-31st and 4 south over Scampton Dec 10th.

Bean Goose; *Anser fabalis*.

A party of four flew west over Holbeach Range November 10th (R&KH).
Two at Alkborough Flats/Whitton December 12th (MLea).

Pink-footed Goose; *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

The Humber flock numbered 718 Jan 5th but no more than 350 together thereafter although most departed by mid February. In the Wash fairly regular sightings of a flock of 4-500 between Boston and Holbeach Jan-Feb. Also in January 150 N Tattershall 3rd, 150 NE Halham 7th, 80 Bamber 20th & Feb 1st, 47 NE Cleethorpes March 12th and 200 W Messingham 16th. First of the autumn 2 Barton Sept 29th with the Winteringham/Read's Island flock up to 45

October 2nd, 522 at West Halton 16th peaking at 710 19th then 1165 Nov 16th and 588 Dec 12th, 480 late Dec. At Gib Pt 33 Oct 4th, 55 N 20th, 80 29th 224 E 30th with regular SE-SW movements there in November, 61 3rd, 189 4th, 78 5th, 43 6th, 65 11th, 101 12th, 95 24th, 152 29th, 130 Dec 1st, 380 5th and up to 100 to 31st. Elsewhere 160 E at Kirton Marsh Oct 15th and at Saltfleetby flocks south in November; 56 6th, 103 28th, 152 Dec 3rd, 164 25th with 40 S Louth Nov 5th and 120 E Spalding 19th, 300 Wyberton 27th.

An article discussing the recent increases in the North Norfolk wintering population appeared in the 1989 Norfolk Bird Report.

White-fronted Goose; *Anser albifrons*.

One Messingham March 3rd. On October 12th two flew west at Gib Pt with Greylags. The only wild flocks being 20 south at Saltfleetby Nov 5th and 20 Whitton December 7th.

Greylag Goose; *Anser anser*.

Large flocks of this feral species included 107 Revesby res June 14th, 100 Whisby March with 150 Aug, 42 Lincoln Ballast pit Sept 14th; at Deeping St James 260 Jan-Mar, 128 April and 4 pair bred. Elsewhere 55 Alkborough flats Feb 13th, 24 Winteringham Aug 19th, a max of 205 Whitton Dec 12th with 97 18th, 31 W Theddlethorpe Nov 29th. A pair bred at Deeping High bank. The June-July introduced goose survey revealed 485 ad & 486 juvs with 8 unaged concentrated at Tattershall & Baston-Langtoft where peak winter counts were 280 Feb & 400 Jan respectively.

Canada Goose; *Branta canadensis*.

Peak site maxima of; 150 Chapel boating lake Jan, 125 Kirkby pits Feb, 100 Whisby March, 162 Ancaster June with 266 Sept, 150 Baston pits Jan, 87 Dec, 60 Gib Pt Aug 29th, 140 Holywell late Oct-Dec and at Barton-Read's Island 155 Aug with 110 N Huttoft Dec 28th. The introduced goose survey in June-July located 699 birds; 483 adults and 179 juvs with 37 unaged but the Chapel flock was not counted.

Barnacle Goose; *Branta leucopsis*.

One possibly wild bird with the Humber Pink-feet flock from 1990-Jan. At Winteringham a flock of 84 including 7 colour ringed birds from the Svalbard population on October 24th (MLEa).

Escapes/releases at Langtoft max 3 March-April with a further 12 released locally from July; Covenham Apr 3rd, Messingham May 14th, Aug 14th, Fillingham June, Donna Nook June 6th, Barton pits pair Aug 20-21st, Burton pits Sept, Whisby Dec. Of unknown origin were 8 seen at Huttoft pit Oct 2nd and presumed same at Cleethorpes CP Oct 6-7th

Brent Goose; *Branta bernicla*.

South Humber shore counts of 1907 Jan and 1810 Feb. Wash counts in table. Summer records of 30 Grainthorpe May 15th, at Gib Pt max of 120 May 5th with 24 N June 2nd, 2 July 17th. In the Wash 1000 Witham Mouth May 18th with 700 Butterwick June 7th and in June-Aug 4 Frampton, 2 Wrangle, 2 Witham Mouth. One Tetney Sept 15th then a notable autumn arrival on Sept 28-30th with 50 Gib Pt, 40 Huttoft, 99 Butterwick & 50 Holbeach. October max of 500 Horseshoe Point 15th, 1000 Dec 28th, 900 Skidbrooke Oct 27th, 1400 Dec 14th. Inland 3 flew east at Goxhill March 14th with 2 Toft Newton & one Barton all Dec 1st.

B.b.hrota; Pale-bellied brents were seen at Grainthorpe Feb 16th & Tetney Dec 28th.

B.b.nigricans; A Black Brant was present in the brent flock at Wainfleet on at least Jan 10th (PIH). Accepted by BBRC and the second county record of this race.

Shelduck; *Tadorna tadorna*.

On the upper-middle Humber max counts at Winteringham-South Ferriby of 475 Jan, 536 Feb, 750 Mar, 778 May, 718 + 50 juvs June, 424 Jul, 250 Aug, 659 Sept, 821 Oct, 790 Nov, 130 Dec. At Pyewipe-Saltfleet 1374 Feb, 719 Mar. Wash counts in table. Inland pairs at

Swineshead May 6th, Little Bytham quarry May 2-15th, Whisby pits June 8th; two pairs bred at Baston pits. At Barton 134 flew west Sept 13th with 52 west Oct 21st the max counts. A max of 260 Cleethorpes Dec 26th and at Saltfleet/Skidbrooke 640 Oct 27th, 526 Nov 26th.

Mandarin; *Aix galericulata*.

Four at Grimsthorpe Jan 13th at least, and at Deeping St James a male July 25-Oct 12th with a fem from Sept 14th.

Eurasian Wigeon; *Anas penelope*.

Maxima at Gib Pt of 3000 Jan, 4450 Feb, 600 Mar with 250-300 Baston Fen Jan-Mar and on the Humber 580 Read's Island Jan 15th, 700 Feb, 400 March 24th & 1400 Alkborough Flats Feb 13th. June birds at Gib Pt 18th, Messingham 21-24th. First major autumn movement 22 west at Goxhill Aug 27th with 25 Holbeach 29th and a good westerly passage up the Humber off Barton in September with peaks of 137 13th, 125 14th & 150 29th. At Tetney 600 Sept 22nd and 300 Holbeach 28th. In October 800 N Donna nook 20th, 480 Barton 21st then in November 220 Read's Island 16th, 1500 28th, 480 Dec 29th, also 270 Alkborough & 300 Whitton Dec 12th, 255 Kirkby pits Nov 3rd, 372 Tattershall 9th, 340 Dec 7th. Also in December 520 Baston Fen/pits 22nd, 230 Tetney 1st, 1000 Halton Fen 5th and 500 Holbeach 10th, 300 Barton 6th. At Gib Pt up to 3000 Oct 12th-Dec 31st.

American Wigeon; *Anas americana*.

A male at Whisby pits from at least Oct 12-28th (DB,KDD,ACS et al).
The third county record. UCBBC.

Gadwall; *Anas strepera*.

The most favoured waters were Swanholme pits 38 Jan, Whisby pits 26 Mar & 16 Dec, Baston/Langtoft 164 Jan, 107 Feb, 12 Mar, 85 Oct, 113 Nov, 47 Dec and Deeping St James with 18-27 Jan-June and up to 31 July-Oct, at Tattershall a max of 40 Dec 7th. Elsewhere in the north of the county a max of 16 Barton Jan 1st & Dec 21st with 12 East Halton Feb 6th, 17 Kirton quarries Jan 4th, 19 Fulstow Oct 29th with 15 Covenham Res Dec 15th. Breeding records included 5 pairs at Deeping St James and one brood Deeping High bank, one pair on the River Glen at Guthram and one brood at Burton pits.

Teal; *Anas crecca*.

A large flock of 1800 at Gib Pt Jan 25th with Feb peaks of 190 there 3rd, 150 Saltfleetby 16th, 101 Deeping St James, 220 South Ferriby 13th & 71 Barton 25th with 70 Baston Fen March 11th. In the autumn a max of 100 Gib Pt Aug 23rd, 200 Sept 29th with 400 Oct 5th, 600 Nov and 385 Dec. Up to 130 Lincoln Ballast pit Jul-Sept and a peak of 425 South Ferriby-Winteringham in August. Strong westerly passage in Sept up the Humber off Barton with daily peaks of 230 13th & 75 14th, 310 Whitton 18th, 160 Oct 28th, 260 Nov 29th, 180 Dec 12th, also 62 Barton Dec 15-30th, 80 Read's Island Nov 29th. Elsewhere a total of 700 N at Donna Nook Oct 20th with 300 Bardney Oct 29th, 480 Saltfleetby Nov 5th, 130 Dec 7th and 200 Baston Fen Dec 22nd.

Mallard; *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Up to 500 Gib Pt and 600 Covenham Res Jan-Feb with a max of 465 Barton-New Holland Jan, 500 Feb 20th with 120 Winteringham Feb 13th. In autumn 1000 N off Donna Nook Oct 20th, up to 400 Barton-New Holland Aug-Nov and 600 Dec, up to 320 Whitton Sept-Dec, 352 Deeping St James Oct 12th, 270 Covenham Oct 6th, 452 Nov 24th, at Winteringham-South Ferriby up to 296 Aug-Oct. At Gib Pt 500 Nov 3rd, 300 Bardney Jan 9th and 400 Oct 29th.

Pintail; *Anas acuta*.

Apart from the high Wash numbers with peaks of 511 Jan, 208 Feb, 24 flew west at Barrow Haven Feb 17th, 11 at Huttoft March 3rd and a pair there April 21st. Also in Jan-March 1-2 at Messingham. In autumn more numerous and widespread than normal with up to 9 Huttoft

pit Aug-Sept, 2 Horsehoe Point slurry pit Aug, 7 Tetney & Covenham Sept 10th, a max of 18 Messingham Aug 29th, 10 Lincoln Ballast pit 14th, 6 Whisby Oct, a peak of 50 N Donna Nook 20th and westerly passage off Barton in Sept with 18 on 13th and 15 26th subsequently 10 Winteringham Haven Oct 5th and 75 12th. At Gib Pt up to 16 Sept, 22 Oct, with 30 on 12th, and a max of 25 west Nov 8th.

Garganey; *Anas querquedula*.

An early arrival by a pair at Tattershall March 23rd then a male Baston Fen April 7th with a pair 21st, male Barton mid May, pair Cadney June 1st; the only spring records. In August one Deeping St James 2nd, 2 Messingham 11-23rd, one Barton 31-Sept 8th and also in Sept one Gib Pt 5-15th with 2 13th and one Oct 15-17th.

Shoveler; *Anas clypeata*.

Up to 15 at Gib Pt, Barton pits, Huttoft pit in Jan-Feb with 35 Baston Fen March 11th and 2 pairs subsequently breeding there. Maxima in April-May of 5 Messingham, 4 males Winteringham/South Ferriby 11th and a pair Bardney in summer. Autumn peaks of 30 Barton Aug 21st, 16 Sept, 20 Gib Pt Sept 29th & Oct 5th and up to 10 Nov-Dec at both sites.

Red-crested Pochard; *Netta rufina*.

A female at Gib Pt from 1990 to March 19th & at Baston pits 2 fems Jan 27th one to Feb 13th, a pair March 16th, male Sept 4th and fem Dec 15th. [note released birds now present at this site]. A male Deeping St James June 20th-Aug 18th. A male Thorpe/Apex/Whisby Dec 15-1992.

A bird at Covenham Res from April 21-May 11th was in a very unusual plumage and may have been a hybrid.

Pochard; *Aythya ferina*.

The Humber flock off New Holland/Goxhill numbered 600 in Jan but reached a new peak of 1650 in Feb with 500 there again by Nov-Dec. Elsewhere a max of 200 Covenham Res Feb, 110 Deeping St James Jan with 238 Baston pits Oct 5th. Breeding records of 3 broods at Messingham, one brood of 2 at Burton pits and 7 broods of 6,4,7,2,6,4,6 at Barton/Barrow Haven.

High counts of Pochard in Lincolnshire have rarely exceeded 300 apart from 700 at Whisby in Jan 1973, until the recent increases on the Humber, associated with the grain terminal, where peak counts usually in Feb-early March have been around 4-550 since 1986 with 1180 on March 1st 1988. That count and the Feb peak in 1991 qualify the site as being of National importance for the species in those months.

Ring-necked Duck; *Aythya collaris*.

A male at Whisby pits from May 6-8th (DB). Not yet submitted to BBRC.

Tufted Duck; *Aythya fuligula*.

On the Humber a max of 350 off New Holland Jan-Feb with 500 there Nov-Dec. At Deeping St James up to 150 Jan-Mar, 103 Nov & 267 Dec with 192 Covenham Feb, 168 Baston pits March and 90 there in July with 70 Sept 23rd. A high count of 280 Cadney Res Oct 27th and 160 Tattershall Nov-Dec. No meaningful breeding summary of this increasing breeding species is possible.

Aythya hybrids; A 'lesser Scaup' type drake was present at Deeping St James Nov 30-Dec 31st.

Scaup; *Aythya marila*.

Small numbers in January on the Humber, Wash and coast before a marked arrival in the cold spell in February when 29 N Gib Pt 9th, 22 N 13th. A max of 65 off Humberston/North Cotes Feb 17th with 43 24th and off New Holland/Barton an increase from 18 Jan 23rd to 86 Feb 9th with a max of 142 24th. Inland a male at Scotter Bottom Jan 25-Feb 6th, up to 4 at

Cadney Res Feb 11-March 14th. Several April records at Covenham & North Cotes with May birds North Cotes 10-19th, Covenham 22-25th, Bardney male 12th, Cadney 30-31st, male Kirkby pits June 5th. In Aug 2 fems S Gib Pt 25th, fem Whisby Sept 25th, small numbers on the coast and Wash Oct-Dec. On the Humber up to 18 Barton/Barrow Haven Oct 5-31st, up to 10 New Holland Nov-Dec, and at Gib Pt a max of 8 N Oct 20th. Inland singles at Cadney Oct 27th and Toft Newton Dec 1st.

Eider; *Somateria mollissima*.

Up to 30 on odd dates off Gib Pt Jan-June, max 31 Aug 30th & Sept 7th, 30 Oct 27th with a max of 38 N Nov 19-20th and up to 23 to 24th then 56 Dec 22-24th. As well as Wash counts in the table a total of 100 Butterwick June 7th. Up to 20 off Grimsby Docks-Tetney Jan-March, 5 there Aug 26th with 15 Sept 22nd and up to 25 Nov-Dec. Other coastal counts of 1-2 birds with 28 Saltfleetby Nov 23rd and 120 Witham Mouth Nov 19th. In the Humber 9 W East Halton Feb 7th, a male New Holland 28th.

Long-tailed Duck;

Four from 1990 remained at Covenham Res to Feb 3rd with 2-3 to March 22nd and one to April 17th. The only other early winter record was of 3 off Tetney Jan 19th. An unusual record of an imm in Grainthorpe Haven May 27th. Movements in October with a male Gib Pt 1st, 2 N 19th, 4 N 27th, 3 N Donna Nook and one Chapel 20th, 3 Witham Mouth 20th with an impressive 46 there 26th, 1-2 in Saltfleet Haven Oct 12-20th, Tetney Lock 20th-Nov 16th and at Covenham Res 2 on 26th, 4 from Nov 2nd to 1992. In November one New Holland 13-26th, one N Gib Pt 6th, Holbeach Marsh 3rd & 10th, 12 Witham Mouth 19th and one Dec 29th, a max of 4 Saltfleet to Skidbrooke Nov 17-Dec 14th. Inland one at Toft Newton Dec 1-31st. One Barton Dec 1st.

Common Scoter; *Melanitta nigra*.

Few in the early year, a flock of 66 Trusthorpe Jan 30th and inland birds at New Holland 13th, 5 Covenham Feb 3rd and Baston pits 22nd. Small numbers in spring with a max of 40 Gib Pt May 12th & 30 June 16-21st, 3 inland at Cadney Res 20th, 12 Goxhill May 8th and 6 W Barton 13th. In July a max of 120 Gib Pt 1st and 100 NW off Grimsby Docks & 40 Huttoft both 31st then up to 50 Gib Pt in Sept. A large passage in October peaking with 800 off Chapel, 800 Witham Mouth and 1146 S Gib Pt all 20th and subsequently at Gib Pt 130 S 21st, 262 22nd, 150 23rd when 450 at Saltfleetby. Up the Humber 56 at Barton 21st, 65 22nd and 90 23rd with probably many of the same in a flock of 205 off New Holland in November declining to 50 by mid-Dec when most of the flock moved down river feeding off Pyewipe where 120 present Dec 18th and up to 100 to 1992, further up the Humber 84W at Whitton Nov 24th. Further Nov coastal movements at Gib Pt 283 S 5th, 48 6th, 37 19th and 48 20th and Saltfleetby 150 3rd & 26th with an exceptional 800 Witham Mouth Nov 19th.

Velvet Scoter; *Melanitta fusca*.

One S Gib Pt Feb 7th and a male S Saltfleetby July 6th. Several autumn records from September; 5 Witham Mouth 12th at Gib Pt 4 27-28th, 4 Huttoft 28th then in October 2 Gib Pt 12th, 2-5 there 20-27th, 4 Saltfleetby 16th, 2 23rd with others on 20th at Tetney-2, Chapel-6 and up the Humber Barton-1 with 9 there 23rd building to a flock of 15 off New Holland late Nov moving to Pyewipe in mid-December. Two Gedney Nov 9th, one S Gib Pt 28th, 5 there Dec 1st, singles 5th, 24th, 26th & 29th.

The party of 15 on the Humber in Nov-Dec is a recent record count with no flock exceeding 12 birds in the last twenty years apart from the unprecedented concentration at Theddlethorpe in November 1976 when up to 100 Velvets were present along with 1500 Commons.

Goldeneye; *Bucephala clangula*.

The Barton-New Holland flock increased from 124 Jan 13th to 195 23rd and a peak of 400 Feb 9th building up again in the late autumn with 174 by Nov 15th but only 110 in Dec. Elsewhere notable peaks of 92 Covenham Feb 17th and 50 March 22nd with 50 Witham Mouth Jan 20th. Late spring birds at Covenham May 4th, Messingham 19th, Witham Mouth 7th & 16th and 2 on the R.Welland at Deeping St James from June 30th with one to Aug 24th. Other August birds at Holbeach Marsh 8th and Gib Pt 27th. A marked coastal movement on October 20th with 80 N Donna Nook, 17 S Gib Pt, 40 W in 30 mins at Tetney, 35 at Barton and 37 Witham Mouth. Numbers at Covenham increased to 55 by Dec 7th with 43 off Witham Mouth Nov 19th. Inland a max of 20 Whisby pits Dec 24th and 12 Deeping St James in Dec.

Smew; *Mergus albellus*.

At Baston/Langtoft 5 including a male Jan 13-Feb 17th decreasing to 3 by March 17th (1 male). At West Deeping 4 ferns Feb 20th and in the north of the county at Barrow Haven a male Feb 10th with 2 males and a fem 18th then pair to 23rd. A fem Messingham Feb 23rd and one Bishopbridge April 3rd with probably same Toft Newton 21st. In December a fem Whisby 5th, male & fem on R.Welland at Deeping 15th and a male and fem at Messingham on several dates early in the month.

Red-breasted Merganser; *Mergus serrator*.

No really pronounced hard weather influx occurred. Maxima in the Wash being only 29 Jan, 26 Feb & 9 March-April including 13 Holbeach Feb 11-17th and 9 Gedney Jan 20-Feb 3rd. Up to 4 Gib Pt Jan-March but 8 Seacroft Jan 16th. On the coast 1-2 Tetney/North Cotes and Huttoft with inland birds at Barrow Haven Jan 11th, Langtoft/Baston 1-2 Jan-March. A pair Messingham May 27th. At Gib Pt singles July 5th and 11th, Sept 10th, 2 28th and a max of 5 Oct-Dec. One Donna Nook Aug 15th a max of 6 off Chapel Sept 29th, 3 Oct 20th with 1-2 elsewhere on the coast. Up the Humber off Barton Sept 28th, 7 Oct 21st, 4 23rd, 2 25th one 29th and in the Wash 10-12 Gedney Nov-Dec, 12 Witham Mouth Nov 19th.

Goosander; *Mergus merganser*.

At the major sites up to 16 at Lincoln Apex/Swanholme/Whisby Jan-March, 20 Bardney Jan, 38 R.Welland Cowbit-Deeping Feb, 32 Deeping St James Feb, 13 R.Trent Susworth-Amcotts Feb, 6 Barton Feb, and 1-2 in Jan-March at Barrow Haven/New Holland, Read's Island, Covenham, Tetney & Toft Newton. A pair Deeping High bank May 31st with 2 Gib Pt May 2nd. Maxima at the usual sites in Nov-Dec 14 Bardney, 13 Whisby/Apex, 15 Deeping St James, 10 Baston/Langtoft with 1-3 on odd dates at Burton pits, Covenham, Cleethorpes, Tetney, Brant-Witham and 12 Saltfleetby Nov 17th, 6 W Winteringham Dec 1st.

Ruddy Duck; *Oxyura jamaicensis*.

On the Barton-New Holland pits up to 6 in Jan, 8 Feb then 6+ pairs & 3+ males in April-May with a summer total of 6 known broods totalling 15 juvs June 27th-Aug 27th including the first breeding at New Holland; 2-3 there Oct-Nov with only 1-2 Dec. Other pairs at East Halton pit June, Grimsthorpe a pair and 3 juvs July 25th, up to 4 at Fulstow/Covenham Jan-April. At Kirkby-on-Bain records all year with a max of 3 males May 4th and 5 possibly a family party Nov 3rd. A fem Burton pits Feb 23rd, one Whisby Dec 8th, 1-2 Deeping St James Jan, Aug-Sept and Dec and at Messingham 1-2 June, up to 4 July 11-30th, 2 Oct 3rd.

Consolidation and spread continue in the main breeding area on the Humber Bank but regular breeding at other sites has yet to be established although pairs have now bred at four other localities in odd years and the total population continues to grow. Breeding success can be difficult to establish as the birds spend long periods in cover when they have young. From the first proven breeding in 1984 at least 10 pairs were present in the 1991 season. Note that only very small numbers now winter at the main site despite the increased breeding numbers and presumably the population has established a migratory pattern.

Honey Buzzard; *Pernis apivorus*.

A bird which spent some time on a garden lawn at Theddlethorpe on a day in mid-summer was photographed and proved to be an adult male Honey Buzzard (per R.Lab). An adult flew low over Boston on Sept 20th eventually going off south-west (P.Hy).

Red Kite; *Milvus milvus*.

One was seen to arrive at Immingham Tip from the north on January 2nd and spent some time in the area (JRM). In the early spring what was probably the same bird was seen over Humberston March 8th (P.Johnson), then at South Ferriby/Bonby 9th (WG,ND) and later the same afternoon over Goxhill (D Kirby) with possibly the same again over Louth 16th (CJ Feare). No wing tags were seen on any of these birds which assumes they were not from the release scheme.

There have been 21 birds recorded from 1969-90 with 2 in 1984, 4-85, at least 6-1988 & 2-1990. Most have occurred in early spring 13 Feb-April with 4 Dec-Jan and others 2 in June, 2-August & 2 October.

Marsh Harrier; *Circus aeruginosus*.

Spring passage birds near Revesby Res April 10th, Pyes Hall fem 12th, Saltfleetby 28th, Tetney male 19th, male 28th, male May 19th, North Cotes May 14th and others in May at Barton 17th, Donna Nook 23rd, Kirton Lindsey & Messingham male 6th with 1-2 fairly regular in the lower Ancholme valley Appleby/Worlaby Carrs to Read's Island 9th-June 30th including an imm male. Also 1-2 fem/imms Redbourne/Hibaldstow May 31-June, Deeping High bank June 22nd. At Gib Pt one May 9th then a max of 3 19th with 1-3 regular there to September 15th. An imm male near Baumber/Wispington June 18th-mid Sept. In Nocton/Martin/Digby Fens about 6 birds from May building to the usual autumn peak of 12 Sept 4-21st with 2 males present. Other autumn records at South Ferriby to Winteringham one July 26th then 4 different birds male, is male, 2 juvs mid Aug-Sept 23rd and elsewhere 2 Alkborough Flats Aug 24th, 1 Whitton Sept 24th, Messingham Aug 15th, Grainthorpe 25th, Donna Nook 28th, Deeping St Nicholas 27th, Kirkby pits juv 31st-Sept 7th, Pyes Hall/Donna Nook Sept 6th, Coleby 6th, Tetney 8th and Stixwold Ferry 14th.

A total of 5 pairs bred of which 4 were successful rearing 12 young the same figures as in 1990. One of the young ringed in July was recovered dead on Oct 4th at Zamora NW Spain (per RSPB).

Hen Harrier; *Circus cyaneus*.

Regular birds in Jan-March using two south Wash roosts with a max of 6 Feb 17th at one. At Gib Pt/Wainfleet 2 males 1rt Jan-Feb with male & 2rt to March. On the north-east coast a male and rt regular Tetney/Saltfleetby with male & 3rt North Cotes Jan 16th and 2rt 23rd, 2 males March 11th. In April male and rt North Cotes/Donna Nook 14th with rt to 28th and at Gib Pt a max of 2 to 16th with a rt May 5th and most unusual records of a male June 13th and rt 15th; One Holbeach Marsh April 16th. Inland birds during the period at Bagmoor/Risby a sec.w.male & rt most of Jan, rt March 9th, Alkborough male Jan 20th, S.Ferriby male March 2nd, Bonby Carrs rt March 9th, Risby rt 21st, Appleby rt April 7th, male Fotherby Jan 6th, male Cadwell 16th, male Uterby March 26th. A sec.w. male at Tetney from Aug 26th with subsequently a sec.w male & rt Tetney/Saltfleetby to late October with 2 males and 2rt Nov-Dec. At Gib Pt male Sept 8th with an Oct max of 2 rt, Nov 2 males 2rt and in Dec 2 males 3rt with 4, one male, at Wrangle Oct 27th. Inland a rt Worlaby Carrs Sept 8th, rt Metheringham Delph 15th, rt Deeping St Nicholas/Fen Oct 3rd, male 22nd, rt Winteringham 15th male Dec 1st, rt Nocton Fen Nov 10th-Dec, Deeping High bank Nov 17th, Irnham Dec 29th. In the SE Wash roost 6-8 birds from Oct-Dec with up to 5 at the second roost and 3 different birds in a roost in the Ancholme Valley December.

Montagu's Harrier; *Circus pygargus*.

A few reports from the Wash following a fem May 1st with a pair Aug 11-13th and fem Gib Pt June 26th; a male inland at a previous breeding site Aug 5-6th but no reports of any breeding activity during 1991.

Goshawk; *Accipiter gentilis*.

An imm female at Kirkby Moor Jan 21st (KDD), male Framton Marsh Feb 16th-17th & March 8th (SK) possibly the same as male Gib Pt April 12-22nd (PMT, KW et al). One flying south at Deeping St James May 24th (PJP). A report of a female at South Witham Oct 22-24th (ES) and a male Manton Warren Dec 24th (RNH, DJ).

Sparrowhawk; *Accipiter nisus*.

The county population continues to thrive and is now difficult to monitor on an annual basis. A total of 41 breeding pairs were reported of which 10 were part of an in depth study of an area in the Fens where the species might be expected to be at one of its lowest densities. A brood of 6 young fledged from one nest in the north of the county; a pair bred in a conifer in school grounds in the middle of Cleethorpes and significantly 3 pairs bred in the Holbeach Marsh area. The reported total of pairs is obviously hopelessly low, the true population probably exceeding 200 pairs? A high day count of 8 at Gib Pt Oct 21st and an interesting record of an albino female seen at Frampton/Boston Nov 29th-1992.

Buzzard; *Buteo buteo*.

Three records in January at Risby Warren all month, Nocton Fen/Wood 24-27th & North Thoresby 3rd. One Woodall March 5th, Scotter and probably same Risby Warren 31st, Burton Coggles April 10th, Donna Nook May 4th, 2 Sleaford 13th and one North Thoresby June 16th, Stenigot July 6th. After one Gib Pt Aug 9th an exceptional number of records to the year end. In September one W Theddlethorpe 7th, Swallow mid-month, Covenham 10th, Hartsholme Park 15th, Ludborough 19th, Scopwick 11th, Haverholme Park 22nd, Wainfleet 13th, 4 Welton-le-Wold mid month, 4 feeding on rabbits Holbeach 28th, one E over Burton pits 24th and probably same Thorpe/Whisby 28th. 1-2 Elsham/Worlaby and Brigg from 8th-Oct with possibly some of the same part of a group on Risby Warren which peaked at 7 Oct 21st declining to 5 22nd and 2 through to December. Singles Nene Mouth Oct 2nd & Messingham Oct 22nd, Bulby 28th with one Ancaster 28th then up to 4 there Nov-1992. One Hawthorpe November, Nocton Fen Dec 10th.

Records have been remarkably consistent with an average of 7 pa during 1970-90 varying between 3 & 14 so the total of at least 44 birds in 1991 is most unusual. Some individuals were of the pale form and suggest a Scandinavian origin.

Rough-legged Buzzard; *Buteo lagopus*.

An individual seen at Rothwell on November 5th (PTG) was in all probability the one present there from January 1992.

Osprey; *Pandion haliaetus*.

One W at Gib Pt April 12th with one fishing at Kirkby-on-Bain 28th. One at Baston Fen May 11th, one seen eating a fish in a field at Baumber 12th, one Whisby pits 31st then a series of records in June which probably refer to only 2-4 birds. One at Tetney June 2nd, Swallow 5th, Donna Nook/Pyes Hall 5th & 11th. Fillingham Lake 11th and Culverthorpe 9-12th with one E at Kexby 14th and Gosberton pits July 14-15th. In the Swanpool Swanholme/Burton pits area a bird was seen regularly from Aug 23rd-Sept 15th with one reported present for several days in mid September at Revesby Res and a late bird at Deeping St James October 30th.

Kestrel; *Falco tinnunculus*.

A total of 11 on Kirton Marsh July 23rd was the only large gathering noted.

Merlin; *Falco columbarius*.

In Jan-April 4-5 Saltfleetby-Cleethorpes plus Theddlethorpe Mar 31st, Huttoft Apr 21st, 3+ Gib Pt and regular at Holbeach, male Friskney, 2 Frampton roost, Freiston, Wrangle and Kirton Marsh. Inland birds during Jan-March at Goxhill, New Holland, Risby Warren, Dunholme & Grange-de-Lings, Read's Island, Nocton Fen 2+, Bonby, North Thoresby, Covenham, Roughton Moor, Bourne S Fen, Pywipe, Boston and in April Barton 15th. A female Tetney July 20-Aug 21st and one Gib Pt 27-31st with probably same Aug 4th then 1-3 there Sept-Dec (4+ birds). Others in August at South Ferriby 8th, 20th, juv 24th, Leasingham 27th, Witham Mouth 13th, male 23rd. From Sept-Dec 2-4 Holbeach Marsh/Range, 2 Lincoln area from Oct 5th, at Tetney-Saltfleetby 3-5 regular with 1-2 Witham Mouth/Frampton, Nocton Fen Sept-Dec and odd birds in Sept Barton 4th & 8th, Huttoft pit 6th, in October Holbeach St Johns 9th, Binbrook 10th, Elsham 8th, Read's Island 3rd, Deeping St Nicholas 20th, Conisholme 26th. Regular sightings at New Holland November, Thornton Abbey 21st, Barton-South Ferriby December & Ruckland Dec 7th.

Hobby; *Falco subbuteo*.

First birds in May at Gib Pt 3rd, 6th, 27th & 31st, Worlaby 5th, Bullington 13th, Goxhill 20-22nd, Covenham 15th and 2 Stamford 7th. At least 7 pairs bred rearing known broods of 2 & 1 only. The outcome of 4 nests is not known. Additionally 6 pairs probably bred and 4-6 pairs possibly bred. There were also records in May, June-9, July-5, August-7 and September-5 with late birds in October at Bourne South Fen 3rd and Gib Pt 4th.

Peregrine; *Falco peregrinus*.

One on odd dates at Tetney/North Cotes Jan-March 10th, Skidbrooke Feb 6th and in the Wash at Friskney Jan-March 3rd, Gedney Feb 3rd, Holbeach 17th, Frampton 19th, March 9th and at Gib Pt Jan 3rd with 1-2 March 3-13th, Wainfleet Feb 9th. Inland an adult fem Risby Warren Jan 2-Feb and one April 11th with an imm Read's Island March 16th. Most unusual summer records at Tetney an imm July 20-Aug 13th and Holbeach Marsh July 29th. In autumn at Gib Pt Aug 16th, Sept 22nd, Oct 5th, Nov 6th & 10th. A juv at Donna Nook Aug 27-Dec 15th may have been the bird responsible for many of the east coast sightings at Tetney/North Cotes/Pyes Hall where fem Sept 8th, one 12th, 21st, juv fem 30th, Oct 4th, 14th then Nov 22-23rd and Dec 28-29th. Others at Whitton Sept 7th, Seacroft Oct 5th, Covenham Nov 16th, Holbeach Range Nov 10th and inland 2 one with jesses in Nocton Fen from Oct 13th to 1992 and an adult in Bonby Carrs Dec 11th, Winteringham 5th.

There are now real signs of an increase in county records from a very consistent 3-7 records pa during 1970-85.

Red-legged Partridge; *Alectoris rufa*.

Apparently still continuing releases of Chuker and more widely Chukar/Red-leg hybrids are beginning to cloud the status of this species in the county.

Grey Partridge; *Perdix perdix*.

Still quite common and outnumbering the Red-leg in the Ancholme Carrs with good numbers in the north-west around Coleby/West Halton; A covey of 28 Whitton Nov 28th & a total of 30+ on Nocton Fen Dec 8th.

Quail; *Coturnix coturnix*.

A very unusual record of one calling at Moulton Marsh tip on the early date of April 13th (SK) with a typical although isolated June bird at Gib Pt June 12th. A very poor year.

Pheasant; *Phasianus colchicus*

Local populations very dependent upon the amount of birds released and shot!

Water Rail; *Rallus aquaticus*.

Up to 7 at Lincoln Ballast pit Jan-March with a male singing there April 23rd and 10+ July-Sept

including 2 juveniles. On the Humber bank pits at least 6 males in song in April-May with one Wolla Bank June 8th and 2 juveniles seen at Huttoft pit Aug 18th, 2 pairs at Baston Fen. An under recorded species in the breeding season.

Moorhen; *Gallinula chloropus*

A roost of 40 in one small reed bed at Barton Feb 14th and 60 there in December with 51 Deeping St James 17th.

Coot; *Fulica atra*.

Maxima at key sites of 339 Barton/Barrow Haven Jan, 235 Oct, 341 Nov, 441 Dec; at Deeping St James 354 Jan-Feb, 227 Oct; Baston pits 740 Jan with 473 Feb, 275 Nov, 200 Dec and 885 Tattershall Dec 7th.

Oystercatcher; *Haematopus ostralegus*.

In the Winteringham-Barrow Haven area the first three noted back on Feb 3rd with 30 by March 16th and 38 May 19th; several pairs breeding on Read's Island with autumn maxima there of 102 July 6th, 22 Aug, 10 Sept; A flock of 85 W at Trent Falls Aug 26th. Inland 2 pairs at Messingham, one pair bred New Holland with one South Witham May 18th, Kirkby pits June 16th and 2 Lea Marsh June 29th, one Baumber Oct 18th. At Donna Nook 12 pairs bred; no other coastal breeding reports.

Black-winged Stilt; *Himantopus himantopus*.

One paid a brief visit to Covenham Res being present from 1900hrs to dusk on May 6th (KEW et al) The fifth county record. UCBBC.

Avocet; *Recurvirostra avocetta*.

This species continues to slowly increase in line with the increasing and expanding population in East Anglia and the south-east. On the Humber; S.Ferriby March 9th, Killingholme April 14th, 2 Read's Island May 19th then up to 4 there-South Ferriby/Barton June 30-August 16th. On the coast singles Saltfleetby April 13th, Tetney 28th, Donna Nook May 3rd, North Cotes 23rd, 2 south at Gib Pt June 9th, Tetney 23rd and July 18th with 2 Gib Pt Sept 28th. A pair bred at a site in the county laying four eggs but the nest was washed out by high tides. This is the first proven breeding record in the county this century.

Little Ringed Plover; *Charadrius dubius*.

First of the spring Whisby pits March 19th with 2 at Thurlby pit March 27th, 3 Langtoft 31st. A pair in display at East Halton April but few noted at Whisby pits with a max of 3 April 16th. A pair at Messingham with 10 other pairs recorded breeding a much reduced figure from the totals in the 1970's and 80's. Passage birds in April-May at Huttoft, Cleethorpes CP, Cadney, Covenham, in June at Saxilby flood and Marston SF where a pair 1-17th. Few autumn passage records with a max of 8 Cadney July 15th, 6 Gib Pt Aug, 5 Covenham Aug 27th, 4 Bardney 30th-Sept 14th. Last birds in September at Bardney 14th and Whisby 17th.

Ringed Plover; *Charadrius hiaticula*.

Low numbers on the middle Humber in Jan-Feb with a max of 40 Barton Jan 15th, 47 Goxhill 30th. Spring passage peaks were low with 50 Gib Pt April 10th, 62 Goxhill May 16th and 53 20th, 200 Read's Island 21st, 36 Barton 30th but good numbers still passing in June with 52 Goxhill 5th & 80 Gib Pt 22nd. Inland breeding at Thurlby pit, Langtoft 5-10 pairs, Kirtton quarries 1 pair, 5+ pairs South Ferriby and on the coast 15 pairs at Donna Nook. Autumn passage peaked on the Humber in late August with between 70-90% adult birds of the 50 Goxhill 27th and 500 South Ferriby, a max of 158 Gib Pt and 200 Holbeach Marsh 25th. Later peaks included more juvenile birds no doubt a reflection of the late spring with 150 Grimsby Docks Sept 29th, 74 Read's Island Sept and 78 Barrow Haven Oct 7th, 50 Gib Pt 12th but very low December totals with eg; a max of just 2 Gib Pt.

Dotterel; *Charadrius morinellus*.

A trip of 3 near Dunholme May 12th with one east over Langrick 14th, a female Donna Nook 22nd, female Sandilands GC 28-30th and in autumn one Gib Pt Sept 13 with 2 14th and one Sandilands 22nd.

Golden Plover; *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Inland 1500 at Waddington Jan 3rd and on the Humber peaks of 1500 Winteringham-Read's Island 3rd, 1300 Feb 5th, at Goxhill 1146 Jan 30th with 1000 Feb 6th and in March 450 Winteringham 5th, 1100 Gib Pt 21st, 900 Baston pits 16th. A large number of birds were obviously held up by cold northerly winds in spring with 700 Fulbeck airfield April 1st, 400 23rd, 400 Swallow 16th, 350 Kelstern 28th then in May 280 altifrons Worlaby Wold 5-6th and 100 at Rothwell 7th. An early return with 35 at Read's Island June 27th increasing to 350 July, 788 Aug and 931 Sept. At Goxhill/New Holland 68 July 20th increased to 200 Aug-Sept. A total of 400 Holbeach Marsh Aug 1st-Sept 28th. Later in September 700 North Cotes 26th, 1200 Oct 23rd, 500 Gib Pt Sept 29th, 430 Donna Nook Oct 21st. Very large numbers again present on the upper Humber late in the year with 8200 Winteringham Oct, 5000 Whitton then 1400 New Holland in November. Other large December concentrations of 3000 Tetney 3rd, 1500 Saltfleet area, 5500 North Cotes 29th and 1600 Anderby 31st.

Grey Plover; *Pluvialis squatarola*.

Spring passage maxima at Gib Pt of 430 April 15th, 250 May 16th, 200 Frampton 16th. On the middle Humber 8 Read's Island May 23rd and unusually 19 June 29th with 2 inland at Bardney May 25th. A total of 130 Grimsby Docks July 31st and 120 Tetney Aug 31st with 750 Gib Pt 27th and 3000 there Sept 12th, 2500 Oct 26th. October max of 17 Read's Island and 8 juveniles feeding on grass fields at Barton Nov 11-14th.

Lapwing; *Vanellus vanellus*.

A flock of 3000 Winteringham Jan 3rd and pre-emigration flocks of 5000 Gib Pt Feb 28-March 1st, 2000 Moulton Marsh March 28th. A large late autumn arrival in the north of the county with October maxima of 4000 Winteringham-Read's Island, 3500 Nov, 2300 New Holland Nov, 850 Lea Marsh 24th, 2000 Gib Pt 28th then in December 1000 Tetney 3rd, 10,000 Saltfleet area, 1100 Yarnburgh 29th and 1000 Anderby 31st.

Knot; *Calidris canutus*.

The freezing spell in February caused some mortality and forced birds well into the Humber with a max of 387 at Goxhill 13th, 32 Barton March 4th, also 600 Saltfleetby Feb 16th. A March max of 24,000 Gib Pt 17th and 700 there June 20th with unusually 7 Read's Island June 29th and a max of 40 there in October. Inland birds at Messingham July 29th, Covenham Res 40 SW Aug 10th and a max at Donna Nook of 2000 Nov 8th. For Wash and Humber counts see relevant tables.

Sanderling; *Calidris alba*.

High counts of 600 Gib Pt Jan 4th, 500 March 17th and 300 April 15th but Wash counts of only 100 Jan, 149 Feb and 170 March. Spring passage in May with 408 Tetney 19th, 167 Donna Nook 21st, max 6 Goxhill 20th and inland singles at Covenham 10th & 25th, Messingham 19th and Cadney 26th. Autumn max of 500 Gib Pt July 29th, 840 Aug 11th and 2370 Sept 11th with 110 Dec.

Little Stint; *Calidris minuta*.

Only two May records at East Halton 20th and Read's Island 27th but a good early June passage with 2 Gib Pt 3rd, max 7 on 6th with 2 to 9th, one Goxhill 5th, Messingham 11th and Covenham 22-26th. Three late July adults at Gib Pt 25-26th, Covenham & Tetney 28th. A fairly well marked passage from late Aug-late Sept; At South Ferriby/Read's Island Aug 20th with a max of 14 on 31st, at Covenham 2 20th max 4 Sept 9th, Gib Pt from Aug 24th max 5,

at Huttoft Pit up to 4 Aug 29-Sept 28th, Bardney max 4 Aug 24th, 3 Shep Whites Sept 7th, 2 New Holland 16th-21st, 2 Pyes Hall 7th and singles Horseshoe Point slurry pit 11th, Little Bytham 1st, Holbeach Marsh 8th, Bardney 15th, South Ferriby 23rd and in October 2 Huttoft pit 3rd, one 6th, 1 Whisby 6th, Covenham 7-8th, a max of 5 Gib Pt 8th with the last 2 on 14th.

Temminck's Stint; *Calidris temminckii*.

One at Covenham Res May 23-24th (SCPW et al). A typical date but a poor spring for the species. Excluding records from Wisbech SF the number of birds recorded has only varied from 1-6 pa during 1970-90 but there has never been a blank year although the only previous year with just one record was 1983.

Curlew Sandpiper; *Calidris ferruginea*.

In spring one Barton May 24th the only bird. Autumn arrivals from August 20th, adult South Ferriby, where peaks of 38 (4ad 34 juvs) 25th, 43 30th and 20 Sept 5th, 13 21st, 6 Barton Oct 5th. Up to 3 North Killingholme, 6 Huttoft pit, 6 Holbeach Marsh 7th, 7 Gib Pt, 5 Bardney, 8 Kirkby pits, all late August with September peaks of 6 Pyes Hall 6th, 3 Whitton 7th, 3 New Holland, 5 south Theddlethorpe 15th, 4 Tetney 10th, 6 Horseshoe Point pit 11th, 8 North Cotes 15th, 17 Holbeach Marsh 8th. Other odd singles and late birds in October South Ferriby 2nd-3rd, Tetney 6th, Barrow Haven 2nd-7th, Saltfleet Haven 8th, Gib Pt 12th and Messingham 22nd.

Purple Sandpiper; *Calidris maritima*.

A single bird at Gib Pt September 5th and 2 Cleethorpes shore Nov 16-1992. An incredible decrease in reported sightings.

Dunlin; *Calidris alpina*.

Middle Humber peaks of 1369 Winteringham/South Ferriby Jan 6th, 1300 Feb 3rd, 905 Mar 3rd with 517 Goxhill Jan 30th. Spring passage peaks of 3600 Gib Pt April 15th and in May 600 Read's Island 21st, 265 Goxhill 16th, 636 Donna Nook 11th. Autumn passage peaks of 1230 South Ferriby Aug, 1430 Sept, 1490 Oct, 2050 Nov, 1100 Dec, 3000 Gib Pt Aug 27th with a max of 6000 there Sept.

Ruff; *Philomachus pugnax*.

Jan-Feb peak site counts of 9 Pywipe & 14 Cleethorpes, 8 Witham Mouth, 1 East Halton with very few noted on spring passage max 6 at North Killingholme May 4th and elsewhere 1-3 Apr-May at Messingham, Goxhill, Langtoft, Covenham, East Halton, North Cotes and Marston SF. Returning autumn birds present from July 5th, at Covenham, but peak counts during the autumn all rather low reflecting a continuing downward trend during recent years by comparison with the 1970's. Aug-Sept site max of 15 Huttoft pit, 6 North Killingholme (where up to 140 in early 1980's), 11 Winteringham-South Ferriby, 32 Alkborough-Whitton, 7 Gib Pt, 5 Bardney, 4 Tetney, 5 Kirkby pits, 12 Horseshoe Point pit, 6 Covenham and up to 2 elsewhere. The only October record of 9 Huttoft pit 3rd with 4 Witham Mouth Nov 10th.

Jack Snipe; *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

Few early winter records; Moulton Marsh Jan 15th, Goxhill 30th then in Feb Killingholme 10th, Whisby 14th, Barton 8th & 14th, Goxhill on garden lawn 7th another 8th, Holbeach 2nd, Gib Pt 9th and in March at Tetney 2nd, Saltfleetby 24-27th, Messingham 3 6-16th. April birds at Gib Pt 2 on 6th, 29th. First autumn birds in October 1-2 at Gib Pt, singles Huttoft pit 2nd, Messingham 6th, 3 Whitton 21st, 4 28th, 2 Dec 29th, Whisby Oct 27th, Nov 25th, with one Gib Pt Nov 4th, 2-3 Saltfleetby Nov, one Tetney 8th, Winteringham Haven 30th. This skulking species is probably much more common in the winter than is realised as most birds are only found by flushing or watching from hides.

Snipe; *Gallinago gallinago*.

A total of 31 Saxilby flood March 10th and 24 Baston Fen April 7th. No drumming birds

reported! Some moderate autumn gatherings with; 46 Gainsborough Aug 20th, 18 west at North Cotes 26th probably same as 22 Horseshoe Point pit 14th with 21 there 26th. In September 16 Bardney 4th, 14 New Holland 19th and on 30th 20 Gib Pt and 31 Saltfleetby. At Gainsborough 30 Dec 7th.

Woodcock; *Scolopax rusticola*.

Roding birds at Skellingthorpe, Laughton Forest 10+, Keb Wood 5+, Broughton Woods 3+; a poor reflection of our county breeding population. A few coastal records of 1-2 in Oct-Nov.

Black-tailed Godwit; *Limosa limosa*.

At Pyewipe 2 in January and peaks of 40-47 mid March. One Bardney April 28th then in May Messingham 16-19th, 11 N Gib Pt 23rd, 3 North Cotes 15th, in June Read's Island/South Ferriby 27th with 6 July 1st. A widespread autumn passage with site maxima of 5 South Ferriby July 30th and Aug 24th then 22 there Sept 15th, 5 Gib Pt Aug-Sept, 9 Tetney Aug 29th, 4 North Killingholme Aug 25th, 5 New Holland 31st, 13 Huttoft pit Sept 7th, 15 North Cotes Aug 26th, 30 west at Barton Sept 13th when 18 at S.Ferriby, Kirkby pits Aug 27th, 2 Mogg's Eye 14th, 1-3 North Cotes and Gib Pt October with the same 10 N Gib Pt & North Cotes 23rd, 9 west Barton 21st, 19 Huttoft pit 20-21st with up to 5 there Nov. A wintering flock seems to be establishing itself at Pyewipe with late year peaks of 44 Nov 21st and 55 Dec 9th. For Wash counts see table.

Bar-tailed Godwit; *Limosa lapponica*.

Up to 30 immatures summered at Read's Island from May-July with a spring peak there of 46 May 28th and 34 Goxhill June 5th. In the autumn peaks of 44 South Ferriby August 45 Sept 7th, and inland 35 N over Covenham Res 26th with 40 at New Holland Sept 20th.

Whimbrel; *Numenius phaeopus*.

One winter bird at Gib Pt Feb 24th. First of the spring 4 there April 9th with up to 4 to May 5th and 38 on 6th then a max of 55 N 17th and odd singles to June 26th. Other spring peaks of 21 Tetney April 28th, 20 May 5th, 41 East Halton-Goxhill May 8th. Inland one South Kelsey Carrs April 15th, Lincoln May 4th, Messingham 5th, 4 Fulstow 7th. Peak autumn passage counts of 40 Tetney July 28th, 7 W New Holland 20th, 70 S Gib Pt 16-25th and 180 S there Aug 1-Sept 11th with 80 Tetney Aug 3rd and 23 Theddlethorpe Sept 7th. An unusual number of birds inland during the autumn; in July Nocton Fen 9th, 2 Deeping St James 19th, in Aug Louth & Covenham 10th and Bardney 20th. Last of the year at Pyes Hall Oct 10-12th & 2 Gib Pt 11th.

Curlew; *Numenius arquata*.

Monthly maxima at Winteringham-South Ferriby of 284 Mar, 148 June, 415 Jul, 344 Aug, 200 Sept, 337 Oct and at Goxhill 92 Jan, 167 Feb, 323 Mar, 56 Apr, 44 May, 59 June. A total of 120 Grainthorpe Aug 3rd and 900 Holbeach Marsh July 14th. Breeding pairs were noted at North Kelsey Moor 1-2 pair, North Kelsey Carrs 3-4 pair, South Kelsey Carrs 1 pair, Toft Newton/Bishopbridge 1 pair, Fulbeck 3 pair, and Risby Warren fledged young in June with also 3 juvs Lea Marshes June 29th. Widespread inland feeding during the autumn-late winter on stubble, grass and wet winter wheat fields with eg; 80 Messingham Oct 6th.

Spotted Redshank; *Tringa erythropus*.

Wintering birds at Cleethorpes/Humberston to April 6th, Kirton Marsh Jan 20th, Tetney Feb 1-10th and Gib Pt March 13th. Becoming very scarce on passage with the only spring birds at Gib Pt April 27th, May 26th, June 25th, Barton April 5th, Grainthorpe/Pyes Hall 2 April 12th, 1 23rd, Holbeach May 9th but a very high early autumn count there of 50 June 29th, later 21 July 14th, 7 Sept 8th. Other autumn records from Aug 26-October with max were; 6 Huttoft pit, 4 Pyes Hall/Grainthorpe, 2 Gib Pt and singles Cleethorpes and Tetney. In November one Tetney 26th and 2 Huttoft pit Dec 3rd. Apart from the marked concentrations in the Holbeach

Marsh area there has been an obvious reduction in the number of birds being recorded since the mid 1980's.

Redshank; *Tringa totanus*.

A total of 500 Saltfleetby Feb 17th. In March 180 Read's Island/South Ferriby 10th, a max of 18 inland at Cadney. In autumn 90 North Killingholme Aug 28th and at Read's Island/South Ferriby 100 Jul, 150 Aug, 105 Sept, 198 Oct, 220 Nov, 165 Dec. In the summer up to 50 birds most presumably breeding on Read's Island, 3-4 pair East Halton Skitter, 3-4 pairs Messingham, 3 pair Lea Marshes and 4 pairs at Donna Nook the only ones reported.

Greenshank; *Tringa nebularia*.

At Gib Pt singles March 15th & 28th with 5 in April then 1-3 May with a max of 5 June 2nd and 1-3 to 30th. Elsewhere low spring passage numbers in April-May with maxima of 3 Tetney, North Killingholme, Holbeach, Goxhill, Winteringham/Read's Island and June birds at Kirkby pits 2nd, Saxilby 3rd, Humble Carrs 3 1st, 1 4th and Cadney 8th. Autumn return from June 29th Tetney & Moulton Marsh with maxima of 6 Gib Pt July, 14 Aug 29th and 20 Sept 9th with 26 Horseshoe Point slurry pit Aug 26th, 25 Sept 10th, 10 Tetney Aug 10th, 10 Kirton Marsh 21st, 15 Witham Mouth 23rd then in September 62 Holbeach Marsh 8th, 7 Lincoln Ballast pit 26th. Late birds 1-2 Barrow Haven/Barton Oct 2nd-Nov 9th, Donna Nook 5 Oct 13th, at Gib Pt 5 Oct 5th singles to Nov 5th, Holbeach Marsh 5 27th with one Nov 10th.

Green Sandpiper; *Tringa ochropus*.

Jan-Mar records at Covenham to April 12th, Gib Pt, Tetney, Whisby-2, Bardney-2, Welton-le-Marsh, Deeping St James-2, Hieghingham, Risby Warren to March 10th, Bagmoor and Goxhill-2. At Gib Pt 4 singles April, 2 May, 2 June, Brigg April 20th, Humberston May 22nd. Maxima in June-Aug of 2 Messingham, 5 Covenham, 4 Alkborough Flats, 2 Saxilby, 5 Whisby, 1 Marston SF, 6 Donna Nook, 13 Bardney July 23rd and 12 Aug 8th, 3 Tetney, 2 North Killingholme (4+ birds), 8 Gib Pt July, 10 Aug, 4 Immingham, 3 Langtoft, 15 Horseshoe Point slurry pit Aug 14th with 13 20-26th, & 8 Sept 3rd plus 1-2 at Little Bytham, West Ashby, Baumber, Kirkby, Cleethorpes, Pyes Hall, Hagworthingham, Kirton quarries, Burton pits. In Sept-Oct 1-2 Gib Pt, Whisby, Burton pits, North Hykeham-3, Bardney, Covenham, Langtoft, Cadney, Baston Fen with 1-2 Nov-Dec at Little Bytham, Whisby-3, Baston Fen, Covenham, Huttoft pit and Thurlby Fen.

Wood Sandpiper; *Tringa glareola*.

A good year for this species with many more records in both spring and autumn than for many years. One Cleethorpes CP April 30th with May singles at Messingham 8th & 31st, Gib Pt 23rd, Tetney 19th, Covenham 24-25th, Whisby & Kirkby pits 29th then in June 3 Humble Carrs 1st and 1 4th. One Baston GP July 10th, Kirton quarries 30th-Aug 4th possibly same Messingham Aug 2nd & 6-7th with others in Aug at Cadney 1st, Covenham 6-9th, Little Bytham 13th, Gib Pt 8th, 4 on 25th, 1-3 to 28th, Tetney 11th & 31st, Kirton Marsh 21st, Humberston 24th, Horseshoe Point slurry pit 2 on 7th, 14th, 26th-Sept 4th, Immingham tip 8th, 13th & 19th, Bardney 30th, South Ferriby-Winteringham 30th, Langtoft 2 on 27th with Sept singles at Whisby 2nd, Covenham 15th & 25th.

Common Sandpiper; *Actitis hypoleucos*.

A wintering bird at Gainsborough SF Feb 10th. First of the spring at Covenham April 24th with one Gib Pt 28-29th then in May 1-3 Gib Pt, a max of 6 Covenham 25th, 5 Pywipe 24th and on 19th 1 Mablethorpe, 3 Huttoft & 7 Anderby Creek. June birds at Croxby 18th and Gib Pt 2nd-3rd, 9th & 23rd. Peak autumn passage counts of 40 Covenham July 31st, 17 Messingham 10th, 7 Tetney 7th, 8 Bardney 30th where 9 Aug 8-24th then 6 Gib Pt Aug 3rd & 25th, 25 Covenham 7th, 7 S.Ferriby 4th, 10 Moulton Marsh 11th. Later peaks of 12 R Witham at Southrey Sept 1st, 14 Covenham 9th, 5 Bardney 4th & 15th & 2 Oct 6th and the latest birds at Gib Pt Oct 6th, 2 Covenham 7th and Deeping St James 12th.

Turnstone; *Arenaria interpres*.

On the Humber 32 at Goxhill Jan 30th, 35 Barton May 7th and 61 Goxhill 8th. At Gib Pt 46 NE May 19th with an inland bird at Whisby pits 14th and 18 Goxhill June 5th. Good numbers of juveniles passed through in August.

Pomarine Skua; *Stercorarius pomarinus*.

Not recorded until September when 2 Gib Pt 7th, 5 23rd, 3 29th; adult S Mogg's Eye 14th, 4 Huttoft 28th with at least 64S off Chapel, 4juvs & adult at Donna Nook all 29th when one Witham Mouth. In October 2S Gib Pt 4th, one 5th, 11th, 12th, 19th, 2N 20th when one north off Chapel. In November at Gib Pt 5th & 6th, one Witham Mouth and 8juvs S plus 11 unidentified skuas off Donna Nook all 19th.

Arctic Skua; *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

Singles Gib Pt May 12th & Tetney June 30th. Autumn peaks in Sept at Gib Pt 34N 6th, 45N 7th, 21S 8th, 55N 11th, 50N 29th. At Mablethorpe 39 6th and off Theddlethorpe 20 15th with 30 Holbeach Marsh 29th when an impressive 386 flew south off Chapel Point in a NE gale. Further October max at Gib Pt of 28S 11th, 25S & 8N 19th, 11N 20th & in November max of 5 5th with 5 Witham Mouth 19th and a late bird north off Saltfleet Haven Dec 27th.

Long-tailed Skua; *Stercorarius longicaudus*.

A rather unusually early record of 6 juvs at the Witham Mouth Aug 22nd (SK). A good September series of records the first of 3 ads & juv Mablethorpe 6th (GPC), 4 juvs there 8th (SR), at Gib Pt adult N 7th (KMW,PMT,CJH), adult south 11th (NAL), 5 on 28th, juv 29th (KMW). Off Mogg's Eye an adult and 4 juvs north 7th (KEW), 2 juvs Chapel 15th (GPC), 2 juvs Theddlethorpe 15th (GPC) and adult and juv Witham Mouth 29th (SK,KAM). The most impressive total however, was in the north-easterly gale of September 29th when a minimum total of 26 juveniles passed south off Chapel between 08-00 & 14-00 hrs (GPC,HB,IGS,KEW,WPB et al). Further records in October at Gib Pt juv S 20th (KMW,RKW,GWA), juv S 22nd (PMT), off Chapel 3 juvs 19th (KA,PH) and up the Humber a dark juv west at Barton 23rd (WG). Also an inland record of an adult flying over fields at Scopwick on September 12th (ABald).

Great Skua; *Stercorarius skua*.

At Gib Pt one north March 8th, one south April 17th, one north May 5th. A scatter of coastal records in September with the only notable peaks of 10N Gib Pt 28th, 5N 29th but a new county record total of 216 south off Chapel 29th when 11 at Witham Mouth and 28 flew inland at Holbeach Marsh. In October 1-2 on the coast with at Gib Pt 12N 2S 19th, 10N 1S 20th & in November 7S 1N 5th and 1-2 to 22nd with 12 Witham Mouth, 10 Donna Nook 19th one south at Donna Nook Dec 2nd and one south Gib Pt 24th. Up the Humber at Barton a flock of 12 September 26th and 8 on 29th when one flew inland at Holbeach Marsh. For an interesting study of overland migration from the Wash see the 1990 Cambridgeshire Bird Report.

Mediterranean Gull; *Larus melanocephalus*.

Early winter birds were a iw at Pywpe Jan 17-19th with an adult there 28th. An 'immature' at Kirkby pits June 1st, first-summer Gib Pt June 6th and is Witham Mouth 16th. In the late winter a iw at Lincoln, feeding on Hykeham tip and roosting at Apex pit from Nov 6th-1992.

The first county breeding record involved an adult presumed male first seen in a colony on April 1st which reared 3 hybrid young with a Black-headed Gull, fledging on July 2nd and last seen 15th with the adult last seen 13th. See article.

Little Gull; *Larus minutus*.

In February 2 Saltfleetby 10th, singles Gib Pt 7th & 8th, 3 March 3rd, in April iw 7th, ad 25th, 2 Humberston 5th, ad Whisby 14-15th; a few more in May with ad E at Barton 1st, 9E 6th,

one Bardney 6th, 5 Langtoft 9th, ad Messingham 7th, singles 10th, 17th, 2 18th, 19th, imm 22-24th, ad Ashbeyville 20th, Holbeach 19th, 1N Gib Pt 16th, 2 North Cotes 26th, is Kirkby pits June 16th, at Gib Pt 10th, 13th and Messingham 11th. A poor autumn with just 6 singles at Gib Pt, Tetney & Witham Mouth July-August & 1-3 on 4 dates Gib Pt Sept plus singles Barton Sept 14th, Huttoft Pit & 5 off Chapel 15th, 10 Chapel 29th, 2 Donna Nook 29th, one Chapel Oct 20th with 3 Gib Pt 11th & 2 31st, 2N 2S Nov 1st, an impressive 53S & 5N Nov 3rd, 14S 4th, 45S 5th, 8 Gedney 9th and one Witham Mouth 19th.

Black-headed Gull; *Larus ridibundus*.

At Pywipe up to 5000 late January & 6000 mid-Feb with 6500 Gib Pt Jan, 3000 Feb & 9000 March 17th, 5000 Oct 4th. Up to 5000 Boston tip Jan & Oct-Dec. There is also a huge roost on the middle Humber at Pudding Pie which due to location is not countable. Breeding records included an estimated 450 pairs at Messingham which reared 500+ young, 70-80 pairs at Bardney, 1800 pairs at Frampton Marsh which reared only 10 young due to tides and predation.

Common Gull; *Larus canus*.

At Gib Pt a high count of 4500 Jan, 5000 Feb & 7000 March 17th, 3000 Oct 4th with 2000 Barton Dec 10th. Huge numbers pass through and roost on Covenham Res in the summer-late winter period but no counts are available.

Lesser Black-backed Gull; *Larus fuscus*.

Spring passage from March with no really high numbers reported. Good autumn concentrations of 280 Croxton early September, 95 Lincoln Ballast pit 25th, 200 Gib Pt 27th and later 40 there Oct 12th. A few more birds are occurring in winter in recent years with a max of about 10 birds during Dec-Feb in most winters; the species is still rather infrequent at that season. *L.f.fuscus* a few birds of this race reported in August-Sept.

Herring Gull; *Larus argentatus*.

Peaks at Pywipe of 1000 Jan-Feb with 3000 Gib Pt Feb 16th, maxima of 3000 Boston tip Oct-Nov. A marked westerly passage in late December up the Humber with 2000 on fields and moving west at Winterton-Winterringham Dec 26th and larger numbers present inland at this time.

Yellow-legged Herring Gull; Birds of one of these races seen at Boston tip July 13th, North Killingholme Aug 8th, Kirkby pits 18th, Whisby pits Oct 28th.

Iceland Gull; *Larus glaucoides*.

A first-winter Boston tip March 23rd (AB) with first-winter at Winterton tip April 27-May 5th (JTH, GPC) and an adult there on May 5th (JTH).

Glaucous Gull; *Larus hyperboreus*.

Three at Pywipe; a fourth-winter Jan 26-Feb 5th, iw & ad Feb 21st; at Boston tip iw Feb 24th, possibly same as is April 10th with a third winter 10-11th, others at Gib Pt Jan 6th, Tetney W March 24th, iw Winterton tip April 12th. In the late winter a iw bird at Winterton Dec 26th.

Great Black-backed Gull; *Larus marinus*.

A total of 150 Gib Pt Sept 9th, max of 300 Boston tip Sept-Oct with 177 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook Nov 5th. At Winterton 350 Oct 19th and 600 there and passing west Dec 26th.

Kittiwake; *Rissa tridactyla*.

At Gib Pt notable counts of 20 April 1st, 85N June 15th with 160 Witham Mouth April 14th. Peak autumn movements in Sept of 153 Gib Pt 6th & 270S Chapel 29th then a good total of 770S Gib Pt Oct 19th, 130N 20th, with 500S Chapel 19th and in early Nov 326S am and 136N pm Gib Pt 5th, 1000S in 2hrs at Donna Nook 19th, 42 Gib Pt Dec 24th.

Sandwich Tern; *Sterna sandvicensis*.

First of the year 8 at Gib Pt April 10th with unusually 2N inland over Risby Warren 14th then 3 Tetney 28th. At Gib Pt 41S June 13th & 85S 25th with 100-270 at Tetney-Grainthorpe June-July & 450 July 28th. Southerly movements off Gib Pt peaked at 66 July 2nd, 125 Aug 17th, 281 23rd & in September 79N 6th, 50S 16th, 100 28th with 54S in 2hrs off Mogg's Eye 14th. Still 20 at Gib Pt Oct 4th, 15S 5th and the last 2 on 10th.

Roseate Tern; *Sterna dougallii*.

An adult at Gib Pt on September 3rd (KMW,PMT). Now a very rare bird in Britain there are probably few genuine records in the county but a review of past records is hampered by lack of past descriptions.

Common Tern; *Sterna hirundo*.

First of the year 3 at Whisby pit April 25th with 3 Deeping St James, 2 Spalding 28th. Spring max of 16 Covenham May 24th & 37 June 4th. At Whisby pits about 20 pairs bred with maximum numbers of 37 in July and 60 Aug including 12+ juvs. A pair bred at Tetney but were washed out by tides, 3-4 pairs at Bardney and 2 pairs at Baston pits. As usual a fairly poor reflection of the full county breeding total. Autumn peaks of 105S Gib Pt Aug 17th, 50 20-21st with a massive 500 North Cotes 26th, 150 Witham Mouth 23rd & 118 there Sept 15th 40 Holbeach Marsh Aug 16th, 32 Sept 12th, 15 still there Sept 29th with 2 Oct 11th and the last at Tattershall bridge Oct 16th and Gib Pt 17th.

Arctic Tern; *Sterna paradisaea*.

The first record of 7 at North Cotes April 26th. A good passage in early May with cold northerly winds holding birds back; On 1st 8 E New Holland, 13 Messingham, 3 Cleethorpes CP with up to 20 most days at Covenham 1-7th; on 2nd Witham Mouth, 11E Barton, 25 Donna Nook, 21N Gib Pt; on 4th 3 Cleethorpes CP, 24 Covenham; on 5th 25 Messingham; on 6th 1 N Bonby Carrs, 6N Bagmoor, 52E Barton; on 7th 95E at Barton; on 8th 56E Goxhill and 17N Gib Pt with 6 Messingham 17th, 5 Witham Mouth 18th. Low autumn maxima of 16S Gib Pt Aug 23rd, 13 27th, 14 Sept 21st. Up the Humber 4 Goxhill Aug 27th, 3 Barton Sept 8th. An impressive early October southerly movement at Gib Pt with 43 3rd, 20 4th, 37 5th and 18 6th.

Little Tern; *Sterna albibrons*.

First at Gib Pt April 24th with a max of 31 May 4th, but 80 June 18-July 12th and 60 in August. At Tetney 6 April 28th and 30 June 1st but the colony was a total breeding failure due to predation, wind-blow and tides. Two inland at Covenham May 21st with other breeding records of 12 pairs Donna Nook all of which again failed. Late birds in September at Witham Mouth 12th, Cleethorpes 15th and Gib Pt 16th.

Black Tern; *Chlidonias niger*.

A small arrival in late April with 8 Covenham, 2 Barton, 7 Cleethorpes CP all 25th, 1 Covenham 26th, 2 Messingham 27th then in May Deeping St James 22nd, 3 Covenham 24th, 7 Tattershall, 6 Whisby & 1 Gib Pt 30th, 5 Barrow Haven, 1 Deeping High bank and 3 West Ashby 31st, 3 Kirkby pits 30th-31st & at Messingham 24th, 3 29th, 14 30th, 1 31st, 2-3 to June 4th with 3 21st & also in early June 2 Fiskerton 1st, Bardney 3rd, Gib Pt 11th & 4-7 Covenham May 31st-June 4th. A poor autumn the only records at Messingham July 8th, Lincoln Ballast pit July 29th, Gib Pt Aug 7th & 12th, Whisby 26th; in the Wash a max at Holbeach Marsh of 15 Aug 25th, 17 Witham Mouth 22nd, 20 23rd then in Sept juv New Holland 16-28th, Gib Pt 28th, Messingham 2 22nd, Covenham 2 23-25th.

Guillemot; *Uria aalge*.

One Grimsby Docks Feb 9th and 1-3 on the coast June-Dec with a max of 6 Chapel Sept 29th & off Gib Pt 15N Oct 19th, 8N 20th, 13N Nov 19th.

Razorbill; *Alca torda*.

One Mogg's Eye Sept 14th and singles Gib Pt Oct 6th and 24th.

Little Auk; *Alle alle*.

A small movement in January off Huttoft/Chapel 8N 6th, 14 7th, 3 14th, & at Gib Pt 3N 11th, 1 12th 2 13th. A most unusual record of 5 off Gib Pt May 5th in cold NE winds. In October 12S Gib Pt & 7N Huttoft 19th then a marked movement on 20th with 205+N off Chapel/Huttoft, 187N Gib Pt, 3W Tetney, 2 Grimsby Docks & up the Humber 36 at Barton with 6 there 21st when 2N Gib Pt & 1 Grimsby Docks, another Gib Pt 26th. In the Wash 5 Witham Mouth 20th, 3 26th, one Frampton 20th & in November at Gib Pt 23N 5th, 8N 6th, 1S 7th, 4S 10th, 2N 19th.

Puffin; *Fratercula arctica*.

One south at Gib Pt Aug 25th then in September one Tetney 15th, a juv at Barton 17th and 2 there Oct 20th.

Feral Pigeon; *Columba livia*.

Still large flocks around New Holland and Scunthorpe/Manton all year.

Stock Dove; *Columba oenas*.

Up to 200 roosting on Risby Warren in January and 200 roosting at Thornton Abbey November with 200 south at Gib Pt November 3rd and in December 50+ Nocton Fen, 90 Saltfleetby 10th and 70+ Winteringham/West Halton.

Woodpigeon; *Columba palumbus*.

Some large flocks included 700 Roxton Wood and 800 Cadwell, 2000 Baston Fen all January with 3000 Fulstow/Marshchapel Feb, & 480 Gib Pt March 15th. A roost of 1000 Deeping St James Sept-Oct with at least 3000 in the Rothwell area Nov-Dec with 1000 Risby/Appleby Nov, 1000 Nocton Fen Dec and southerly passage at Gib Pt of 1850 Nov 2nd, 2050 3rd & 3200 4th. Some huge flocks on the Wolds from December and also high numbers in the Ancholme Valley and the north-west of the county.

Collared Dove; *Streptopelia decaocto*.

A flock of 220 Gainsborough Jan 1st, up to 300 New Holland Feb with once again large numbers shot there in April-May. A total of 20 south at Gib Pt Nov 2-4th & 100 Colsterworth Oct 24th. At Deeping St Nicholas 55 Dec 5th and 48 Kenwick 27th with up to 500 New Holland into 1992.

Turtle Dove; *Streptopelia turtur*.

First of the spring on April 23rd Scotterthorpe with the only other April birds Covenham & 2 Gib Pt 27th, Spalding NR, Fulbeck, & Theddlethorpe 28th. A spring max of only 40 Gib Pt May 22nd but good numbers in June at several sites including 40 Gib Pt 13th; 6 pairs bred at Donna Nook. A late record of 7 Gib Pt Sept 23rd, one 28th with the last 2 Winteringham Oct 5th and one Donna Nook 7th.

Cuckoo; *Cuculus canorus*.

First of the year at Donna Nook, Manton and North Kelsey Moor April 23rd with records from Laughton, Whisby, Ashbeyville, Gib Pt, Bourne S Fen and Keelby 24-25th. Six females were egg laying at Donna Nook in summer. Rufous females, possibly the same, were seen at Barton pits May 23rd and flying north-west at Read's Island July 1st. Last of the year stayed at Gib Pt to Sept 11th.

Barn Owl; *Tyto alba*.

Breeding season records from 32 sites, a poor reflection of the true county status with a further 37 reports during Jan-April from other localities and Sept-Dec reports from 32 localities. Three were found dead at Wigtoft Jan 2nd.

Snowy Owl; *Nyctea scandiaca*.

The first-winter male remained at Friskney-Wainfleet from Dec 1990 to March 18th, being seen from Gib Pt on 17th, it moved to north Norfolk from 23-25th and was then seen briefly at Spurn & Easington, flying off north on 30th.

Little Owl; *Athene noctua*.

Breeding pairs were noted at 17 localities with odd records during the year from another 11 sites. A decline in the north-east of the county is still evident; In the mid 1950's a total of 13 nests were found in one year in 4 sq miles in Goxhill marsh alone. Over the last two years breeding pairs have disappeared from Goxhill, East Halton, North Killingholme, Horkstow and Burnham.

Tawny Owl; *Strix aluco*.

No significant records of this widespread species.

Long-eared Owl; *Asio otus*.

Early winter roost maxima of 6 Hobhole-Nunn's Bridge, 1 Gib Pt, 3 Brant-Witham, 2 North Killingholme. Breeding records included 5 pairs in the north of the county and 4 pairs in the fens and south-east with a concentration of reports of 1-2 birds from 5 more fenland sites March-May a suggestion of a much more widespread breeding population in that area. Odd July records at Tetney 14-28th & Huttoft pit 13th. A few autumn coastal records at North Cotes Sept 28th then in October Grainthorpe-Pyes Hall 13th, Huttoft 6th, Tetney 27th, Anderby 28th, Gib Pt 28th, 2 29th, Theddlethorpe 2 27th & one Nov 2nd with one in off the sea at Gib Pt 5th. Birds were either absent or in very low numbers at some fenland sites in Nov-Dec but slightly up in the north of the county with 1-2 Winteringham, Bonby Carrs, 2 Thornton Abbey, 5 North Killingholme, 3 Brant-Witham, 2 Saltfleetby, one Immingham Dock and in the south 4 at the Hobhole. Another seriously under recorded breeding species.

Short-eared Owl; *Asio flammeus*.

All areas noted a poor early winter for the species maximum counts were only 4 Frampton Feb 19th, 3 Bonby Carrs Jan 25th, 3 Tetney Feb 19th, 3 Holbeach Range Jan, 3 Moulton Marsh March. Only about 22 birds were recorded during Jan-April. One summered at Tetney-Grainthorpe where another was found dead in May and 1-3 summered at Holbeach-Gedney where a Dutch ringed bird was found dead in June. A pair almost certainly bred in the south-east Wash with a juv there in July. Other May-August records from Walesby & Skidbrooke. A small coastal arrival in Sept-Oct peaking around Oct 20-25th when 8 in off the sea at Gib Pt. Subsequently more widespread during Nov-Dec and more numerous than in the early winter but the only multiple records were up to 2 Tetney, 3 Donna Nook-Skidbrooke, 5+ Bonby Carrs, 4 Read's Island, 4 Holbeach Range, 2 Wolla Bank, 3 Gib Pt; about 43 birds noted Nov-Dec.

Nightjar; *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

In the north of the county a repeat of the 1990 survey of churring males revealed 29 males at Laughton Forest, 7 Keb Wood (up on 1990) & 11 Crowle Waste. At least 4 males were present at Laughton by May 28th.

Swift; *Apus apus*.

First of the year at Barton April 25th followed by singles Covenham 26th, Gib Pt & Lincoln Ballast pit 27th. Cold weather in May concentrated birds at insect rich feeding sites with 400 Barton pits 30th, 500 Covenham 29th. An obvious weather movement on June 27th with 300N in half an hour Pinchbeck and 500 Covenham. The usual large southerly movements in July at Gib Pt 1800 6-8th, 15000 9th, 5000 12th, 1000 13th. Flocks of 1000 Messingham 4th, 250 Waddingham Aug 6th with 200 S Gib Pt 7th and 400 27th. Birds stayed late following the very cold spring with eg; 75S & 60 locally Barton Aug 23rd, 75 25th, 50 Goxhill 27th. In September

20 Lincoln Castle 3rd, several reports to 13th when 12 Gib Pt where 8 18th, 4S 22nd and the last 26th with others Spalding 14th Cleethorpes and Donna Nook 21st.

Kingfisher; *Alcedo atthis*.

Badly hit by the February freeze the species was completely absent from many regular areas from Feb-Aug; eg; Barton-Barrow Haven where none bred; Only 5 pairs were reported as breeding in total. Some recovery later in the year with 1-2 noted during Aug-Dec at 19 localities but numbers still well down on recent years.

Hoopoe; *Upupa epops*.

Only one record at Gib Pt from Sept 7-8th.

Wryneck; *Jynx torquilla*.

One at the north end of Skegness on the late date of Oct 28th (KMW,GWA).

Green Woodpecker; *Picus viridis*.

Away from traditional strongholds a pair again at Barton all year, one Binbrook March-June, North Cotes April 7th, Covenham May 9th and Nov 8-Dec 30th, one on saltmarsh at Whitton Dec 29th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker; *Dendrocopos major*.

Coastal birds at Theddlethorpe from 1990-March 31st & Nov 23rd, Gib Pt Jan 7-16th, May 6-11th, July 11th, Aug 9th & Sept 22nd, Marshchapel March 26th, Humberston Fitties Aug 11th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; *Dendrocopos minor*.

Breeding pairs were noted at Burton pits and Weelsby Woods with odd records from Skewbridge tip, Roxton Wood Jan, Covenham village Feb, Horncastle male March 8th, Hatton Wood & Brumby Wood April, Wilsford heath Quarry May, Bradley Woods June, Swanpool Aug 31st & Scopwick Sept 4th, Whisby pits Sept 11-16th, Swallow & Kirby Underwood Oct, South Witham Nov & Spring Wood, Louth & Willoughby Wood Dec. A marked reduction in numbers and range is evident from the early-mid 1980's.

Short-toed Lark; *Calandrella brachydactyla*.

One at Gib Pt from October 11-20th (KMW,SPB,PMT et al). Only the second mainland record for the county following the first in the same area at Gib Pt from Sept 18-26th 1971. UCBRC.

Woodlark; *Lullula arborea*.

A wintering bird in fields at Risby Warren from Dec 1990-Jan 11th. At Gib Pt in spring 2 March 5-10th with 3 11th and 1 12th & 18th and in autumn one Oct 31st-Nov 2nd with 2 3-4th (JPS et al). Other passage birds in November at South Witham 2nd (ES), Saltfleetby 6th (JRW) and Louth 19th (KA). At the main county breeding site 2 pairs and 3+ males were present with 1 male at a second site and 2 birds there on one date. Breeding success was poor due no doubt to the cold spring weather.

Skylark; *Alda arvensis*.

Notable concentrations on the coast in cold weather with 350 Tetney Jan 10th, 250 Feb 11th, 500 Saltfleetby Feb 3rd, inland a total of 1025 in four flocks at Sturton-by-Stow Feb 11th, 800 on the south side of the Witham Mouth 9th. A noteworthy count of 75 Gib Pt April 23rd. This species seems to be in general decline as a breeding species in the north of the county however, 40 pairs bred at Donna Nook. Autumn maxima in October of 100 Gib Pt 4th with 250SW 20th, 74S 23rd. Several notable flocks from Nov-Dec with 315S Gib Pt Nov 2nd, 110 3rd, 120 4th, 200 Tetney 16th, 1000 Donna Nook 17th, 80 Barton 29th, and in Dec 100 Holbeach Marsh 10th, 1500 Saltfleetby 14th, 100 Humberston Fitties, 100 Apex pit & 125 Gib Pt both 26th.



Desert Wheatear - Donna Nook

J. Harriman



Parrot Crossbill - Kirkby Moor

J. Harriman



Arctic Redpoll - North Somercotes

G. P. Catley



Red Breasted Flycatcher - Pyes Hall

G. P. Catley

Shorelark; *Eremophila alpestris*.

What were presumably the same party of 6 birds seen at Saltfleetby in Nov 1990 were relocated there on Feb 3rd staying to at least 16th with 5 still there March 11th and at least 2 to 27th. At Gib Pt 2 Oct 21st and one 27th with one Donna Nook Nov 26-27th and one Saltfleetby Dec 28-1992.

Sand Martin; *Riparia riparia*.

Early arrivals were 3 at Langtoft March 17th, 2 Gib Pt 19th & 20th, 2 Whisby 20th & 4 Messingham 31st. A total of 100 at Tattershall April 7th. The only breeding colony counts reported were 146 nests at Langtoft, 30 Fonaby Top, 2 Deeping St James, 9 South Ferriby cliff. Peak autumn counts of 500 South Ferriby Aug 25th, 500 Goxhill-New Holland 27th and the last 5 south at Gib Pt Oct 6th. An albino bird was at South Ferriby Aug 23rd.

Swallow; *Hirundo rustica*.

A very early bird at Gosberton March 19th (SK) with the next Covenham April 5th, Binbrook 8th, West Ashby & Gib Pt 9th with 6 Barton 13th and 45 Gib Pt 28th. May maxima of 80 Theddlethorpe 19th, 100 Covenham 28th but 200 there June 27th and 160 Gib Pt 4th. In August 2000S at Gib Pt 24th and a peak roost count in a poor autumn of only 5000 Barton pits Sept 8th with 700S Gib Pt 15th, 500S 22nd. A brood still in the nest at Chapel St Leonards Sept 29th. Maxima in October of 40 Saltfleet 16th, 70S Gib Pt 15th with 10S Nov 2nd and the last 6S there 9th. The only other November birds at North Cotes & Donna Nook 1st and Grainthorpe 2nd.

House Martin; *Delichon urbica*.

First of the spring at Gib Pt April 5th, Deeping St James 10th & Cleethorpes 11th with 25 Whisby by 30th. Like the Swift birds were concentrated in May by the bad weather with 50-90 at Barton pits late May-early June, 200 Covenham May 28-29th & 300 June 27th. Movements at Gib Pt in June with 65N 3rd, 55S 10th, 60S 13th. Peak coastal passage in September with 200S Theddlethorpe 14th, 500S Gib Pt 15th. At Barton 50 13th & in October 50 Worlaby 8th; a pair feeding young at Grantham 10th and at Gib Pt 49S 1st, 24S 5th then in November 1-3 2-4th with the last on 28th.

Richard's Pipit; *Anthus noveaeelandiae*.

One at Gib Pt on October 12th (KMW,GWA). The only bird reported.

Tree Pipit; *Anthus trivialis*.

First spring males were 2 at Walesby & 3 Loughton April 14th with 6 males at the latter site by 26th but numbers well down on 1990. Migrants at Gib Pt with 1-2 April 21-May 24th, Theddlethorpe May 10th, Tetney 22nd; Other males at Holywell Heath May 18th, 3 in Bourne Wood, one pair Kirkby Moor, one pair Broughton Wood but no other breeding birds reported. An unusual record of one at Holbeach Marsh June 2nd. Singles Gib Pt Aug 27th, Sept 2nd, 6th, 27-29th, 2 Oct 1st, Donna Nook 2 3rd, North Cotes & Pyes Hall Sept 4th; another poor autumn passage.

Meadow Pipit; *Anthus pratensis*.

A spring total of 65 at Gib Pt April 1st, 200 Covenham 20th. At Donna Nook 60 pairs bred. Autumn peaks; 109 Witham Mouth Aug 13th and in September 400S Theddlethorpe & 500S Gib Pt 15th with 130 Horseshoe Point-Donna Nook 30th and 200 there Oct 6th with 100 10th; at Gib Pt 169S Oct 1st, 200 12th when 300S Theddlethorpe with 60S there Nov 6th and 80S 10th. A total of 40 Whitton Sept 13th & 80 30th.

Rock Pipit; *Anthus petrosus*.

Early year counts of 60 Gib Pt Jan 13th, 35 Feb 1st; max of 24 Humberston-North Cotes Jan with Wash counts of 33 Jan, 30 Feb and 11 April (all very low). First of the autumn 2 at Gib Pt Sept 26th with 5 27th. Up to 30 Grainthorpe Marsh Oct 6-30th & 50 Skidbrooke Nov-Dec,

30 Gib Pt Oct 11-12th, 25 Tetney Nov-Dec. On the upper Humber max of 3 Barton Oct and 1-3 Winteringham Oct-Dec with inland singles at Toft Newton Oct 11th and Whisby pits 21st. *A.p.littoralis*; Scandinavian Rock Pipit an individual was present at Covenham from Jan-April 5th.

Yellow Wagtail; *Motacilla flava*.

Very scarce on spring passage. First at Covenham April 5th with a max of 50 there 21st & May 8th the only other notable count being 17 Deeping St James April 25th with 19 Gib Pt May 9th. More numerous in autumn with 20 Goxhill Aug 1st, 47 Witham Mouth 13th, 24 North Killingholme-East Halton 25th, a max of 30 Gib Pt 26th, 40 New Holland 27th then in Sept 20 Gib Pt 8th a late flock of 7 South Ferriby 23rd and the last 5 Gib Pt Oct 1st with one Covenham 7th.

M.f.flava; Blue-headed Wagtail; At Covenham 1-3 May 8th-June 1st on odd dates.

M.f.beema; Syke's Wagtail; A male at Covenham May 27th was well described as showing characteristics of this race (AJHH).

Grey Wagtail; *Motacilla cinerea*.

A notable decrease in records in the first half of the year. In Jan-Feb at Risby Warren, Stamford, Lincoln (2-3 sites), Deeping St James, Sleaford, Gainsborough, Whisby & Pinchbeck with a few migrants in March-April-May at Pyes Hall, Goxhill, Barton, Gib Pt, Grantham. The only suggestion of breeding being pairs at Haverholme and Lincoln in summer. Singles Gib Pt June 26th & July 9th. From Aug-Oct a few birds on passage max 3 Gib Pt Sept 15th, 3 Barton Oct 2nd with 1-2 to Nov 5th, and 1-3 Louth to Dec. About 20-30 birds in autumn. Wintering birds at Whisby 1-2, Cleethorpes, Deeping St James, Holywell, Grantham, Gainsborough & Lincoln.

Pied Wagtail; *Motacilla alba*.

A total of 50 Risby Warren Jan 1st presumably en route to the roost on Scunthorpe steelworks. At Goxhill-East Halton Skitter 45 flew west in 3 hrs March 13th and 20 were at Covenham April 17th. A successful breeding season with good autumn flocks; 23 Barton Aug 10th, 60 Covenham 20th, 30 New Holland 27th, 20 Gib Pt max Aug-Sept, 27S Oct 15th.

M.a.alba; White Wagtail. A good passage in late March at Gib Pt 4+, Saltfleetby 2, Theddlethorpe 2, Deeping St James 2, and in April Gib Pt, Donna Nook 1, Covenham 3, Theddlethorpe 4, Saltfleetby 2, Deeping St James 3, Toft Newton 1 and one Covenham May 12th.

Waxwing; *Bombus garrulus*.

An arrival in January; One North Thoresby & 6 East Keal-Spilsby 4th, Barton 7th with 9 on 13th, Barrow Haven 11th, 2 New Waltham 10th, 3 Old Leake Commonside 14th 2 of which were killed by a car one having been ringed at Pickering North Yorkshire. Two Hainton 15th, Gib Pt 20th, Pywipe 8th with 2 9-10th and 2 19th, Immingham 10 from 7-12th with 8 23rd, Grimsby 12-13th, 22-24th, 26th and Scunthorpe 21 on 12th increasing to a max of 36 21st then declining to 20 by 23rd. Additional February birds at Coningsby 16th, Lincoln 17th, 4 Wrangle March 8th. A further series of records during Nov-Dec; At Gib Pt 1S Nov 15th, 1 16th, 20th, 14 21st, with 10-15 to 24th & 7S 28th, 2S Dec 24th, 4 27th. Others in November 2W South Ferriby & 1 Theddlethorpe 16th, 2 Wootton & 6 Covenham 20th, 9 Goxhill 24th, 10 Grimsby 26th, 2 Lincoln 20-22nd then in December 4 Well Beck nurseries 2nd increasing to 25 on 5th, 1 Bagmoor 6th, 1 Scampton 7th, 8 Barton pits 6-8th, one 17th, 2 27th, 3 Horkstow 9th, 1 Whitton 12th, 3 Grimsby 10th, 4 Gainsborough 24th increasing to 5 30th-1992, 2 Boston 28th, 5 South Ferriby & 1 Washingborough 31st.

Dipper; *Cinclus cinclus*.

The bird of the Black-bellied race *C.c.cinclus* remained at Stamford to Jan 23rd.

Wren; *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

Numbers severely reduced by the February freeze but a high count of 44 Gib Pt April 23rd and in autumn 40 there Oct 5th. The total of 110 ringed at Theddlethorpe during the year was the lowest since 1986.

Duncock; *Prunella modularis*.

An October maximum of 60 Gib Pt 26th and 80 ringed at Donna Nook during the autumn the only significant records.

Robin; *Erithacus rubecula*.

The only records received were of a series of small coastal arrivals during the autumn with 9 Anderby Creek & 50 Gib Pt Sept 29th, 25 at Gib Pt 30th when 11 Horseshoe Point-Stonebridge. A total of 40 Gib Pt Oct 5th then during 11-13th max of 55 there, 11 North Cotes, 10 Saltfleet, 10 Tetney and 16 Theddlethorpe.

Nightingale; *Luscinia megarhynchos*.

First heard at Whisby April 25th where 6 males May 1st followed by Potterhanworth and 2 Temple Wood 28th. Away from the usual breeding sites males in song at Barton pits May 4-7th, Messingham 18th, Langtoft pits 2nd with 3 males 11th and on the coast Humberston 25th, Theddlethorpe 2 on 10th with one to June 16th. A max of 7 males at Kirkby Moor in May.

Black Redstart; *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

A wintering bird at Yaddethorpe near Scunthorpe from Jan 8th-Feb 9th when in poor condition. The only spring birds were a fem Gib Pt March 21st and one Grimsby Docks April 15th, one Donna Nook May 6th and a fem Holbeach Marsh May 18th. No reports at all from breeding sites during 1991. In October male Pyes Hall 10-13th, one North Cotes 10-11th, Sandilands 12th, Donna Nook 2 12-13th, Gib Pt 2 9th, singles 10th, 12th, 20th with 2 22nd, 30th, Anderby Creek 27th, Saltfleet and Chapel Point 29th & Donna Nook 30th.

Redstart; *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

A male Goxhill May 8th, male Tetney 11th, fem Louth 18th, Brattleby 21st, North Cotes 23rd, Gib Pt 30-31st and on Risby Warren male dead 16th with 2 males & 3 fms 17th. A male in song in Neville Wood 14th and at least 4 males in song at Twigmoor in May, a male Linwood Warren June 15th. A better autumn passage than in recent years from Aug 26-October with peaks during Sept 29-30th of 7 Horseshoe Point-Stonebridge 30th, 20 Gib Pt 29-30th, 9 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 28th, 5 30th, 2 Holbeach Marsh 29th and in October up to 6 Gib Pt to 6th, 7 Theddlethorpe 5th & 1-2 at most coastal sites during 1-15th with one Seacroft to 20th, Donna Nook 28th, one inland at Burton pits 12th and one Frampton Marsh 12th.

Whinchat; *Saxicola rubetra*.

One Gib Pt April 28th and odd birds in May from 11th before a marked arrival with 5 Donna Nook 21st then on 22nd 3 Humberston, 7 North Cotes, 4 Theddlethorpe-Chapel, 6 Gib Pt and inland 1 Winteringham S.Ferriby & 3 Cadney Res. In June 2 Barton 4th and a fem Brigg 20th. Autumn passage from Aug 24th with max of 20 Gib Pt 26th, 10 Pyes Hall Sept 2nd, 15 3rd & 10 6th with 12 Gib Pt 4-5th, 6 North Cotes 3rd, 8 Cleethorpes 1st. October birds at Gib Pt 7 on 4th and one to 6th with singles Pyes Hall & Huttoft 6th and Donna Nook 10th.

Stonechat; *Saxicola torquata*.

Overwintering birds were present at Barrow Haven pair to Jan 11th just fem to Feb 1st, Baston Fen pair to Jan 20th, Wolla Bank to Feb 2nd, Moulton Marsh Jan 20th, South Ferriby March 2nd, Donna Nook 9th, North Cotes 11th. Spring passage birds at Gib Pt April 15th & 28th. An exceptionally poor autumn late winter with just singles Gib Pt Aug 18-29th a male Sept 23-24th and in October 1 4th, 2 5-6th one 10-13th and one Donna Nook Oct 25th.

Northern Wheatear; *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

First arrivals in March at Gib Pt 9th, 10th, 2 12th and Cleethorpes CP 13th, Ashbeyville 17th, 4 Goxhill 18th. April maxima of 7 Ashbeyville 6th, 12 Tetney 12th. At Donna Nook 10 May 10th then a large arrival on 22nd with 50 Humberston-North Cotes, 81 Theddlethorpe-Chapel Point, 41 Gib Pt, 5 Ashbeyville, 10 Cadney Res. Very frequent on the north Wolds in May and several early June records with a max of 6 Gib Pt 2nd and a pair Pyewipe to 16th. In autumn from July 17th but again low autumn maxima of 7 Gib Pt Sept 30th with singles Wolla Bank Oct 21st and North Cotes 25-27th the last of the year.

Desert Wheatear; *Oenanthe deserti*.

A female found at Pyes Hall on October 10th-13th (BMC,MJT,KA,KEW) was only the second county record following the first of a male at Donna Nook on September 23rd 1970. UCBBRC. It spend much of its time feeding on the edge of a harvested sugar-beet field on the inland side of the dunes also making forays onto the dunes and the beach and was at times rather elusive. (see photo).

Ring Ouzel; *Turdus torquatus*.

A poor spring passage in contrast to recent years. The only April birds at Gib Pt 1-3rd, 6th, 15th, 20th, Greetwell/Manton 28-May 6th with others in May at Barton quarry 3rd, 2 Worlaby 5th, Theddlethorpe 1st, male 11th, Donna Nook 4th, 19th & 23rd, Gib Pt 1-2 3rd-7th, Grimsby Docks 2-6th, Cleethorpes 6th, Saltfleet 6th, North Somercotes & Frampton Marsh 19th. In September one Pyes Hall & 4 Gib Pt 29-30th with 1-2 to Oct 2nd. A good October arrival from 10-14th with singles Saltfleetby, Tetney, 2+ Pyes Hall, 4+ Donna Nook, 2+ North Cotes, 2+ Horseshoe Point, 1 Theddlethorpe with 4 Saltfleet, 5 Frampton Marsh and peaks at Gib Pt of 13 on 10th and up to 5 to 18th. Another fall 20th when 8 birds at Gib Pt with 1-4 to 28th, 2 Pyes Hall 22nd, one Theddlethorpe 27th and a single Gib Pt Nov 2-8th.

Blackbird; *Turdus merula*.

A high count of 160 Goxhill-East Halton old railway Jan 30th with 27 in one flock Kexby Feb 3rd and 85 Gib Pt March 15th, all wintering birds. A good autumn influx from September 30th with 35 Gib Pt then October peaks of 515 Gib Pt 20th-24th a further 145 28th, 40 North Cotes 29th, 40 Pyes Hall 26th with 50 29th and at Theddlethorpe 52 20th, 66 26th, 52 27th. Large numbers inland during Nov-Dec in the north of the county, at least, showed the signs of a large arrival of continental/Scandinavian birds during the autumn.

Fieldfare; *Turdus pilaris*.

In January 3000 Barton pits 7th had all departed by 13th; 710 flew south at Gib Pt 11th and there were 500 there Feb 7-10th with 500 Theddlethorpe 16th all gone by 23rd. A notable flock of 1000 Martin Heath March 9th. In May 4 Gib Pt 3rd, 2 31st, Whisby 7th & Boston cem. one dead 14th, 2E Theddlethorpe 9th with probably the same bird at Barton June 1st and Goxhill 7th. First of the autumn at Gib Pt Sept 3rd with the only notable arrivals there of 540 W Oct 20th and 1000 25th. A series of westerly movements through the north of the county in Nov-Dec with 600 Whitton Nov 21st, 100 Barton pits Dec 13th and in the south-west 1500 Deeping St James Nov 30th.

Song Thrush; *Turdus philomelos*.

The only records received were of autumn peaks of 27 Theddlethorpe Oct 11th, 80 Whitton Oct 28th, 60 Gib Pt 12-13th and 38 ringed at Donna Nook during the autumn.

Redwing; *Turdus iliacus*.

At Barton pits 500 Jan 7th and 120 Feb 22nd with 100 Scunthorpe crem. 15th, 100 Burton pits March 16th, 80 Gib Pt April 1st and in May Goxhill 5th, Donna Nook 19th. First autumn

birds at Gib Pt Sept 12th with 94 there 29th and others all along the coast 29th. Peak movements in October at Gib Pt 120S 1st, 250 10th, 820W 20th, 400 23rd, 90 Pyes Hall 10th, 70 Saltfleet 9th, 155 Saltfleetby 12th. A flock of 500 Deeping St James Nov 30th with 300 Barton/Barrow Haven Dec 17th.

Mistle Thrush; *Turdus viscivorus*.

A flock of 11 Linwood Warren June 8th. A high total of juvs and adults on Risby Warren with 29 July 17th, 22 Wispington 23rd, 40 Nocton village 30th with 15 Gib Pt Aug 1st, 14 Deeping St Nicholas Sept 12th and 48 Ashbeyville 15th. Still apparently increasing in the north of the county.

Grasshopper Warbler; *Locustella naevia*.

A generally late arrival with the first in Bourne Wood April 19th and low numbers reported from many usual sites. Maxima of 5 Saltfleetby April 27-28th, 4 Bourne Wood and otherwise no more than 2 together anywhere; the only breeding season records received from Donington-on-Bain, Wolla Bank, Goxhill 2 males, Scartho Hall, South Witham 2 pairs, Huttoft pit, & Gib Pt. August records from Wolla Bank 14th & Deeping St James 24th.

Sedge Warbler; *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

An early bird at Barrow Haven April 16th with 4 there by 25th and the next Chapel pit 27th. A late arrival in general in the cold spring weather with many still arriving mid May. Good post breeding numbers on the Humber with 10 still together S.Ferriby Aug 30th and 6 Sept 5th, the only other late birds being East Halton Sept 10th, Gib Pt 25th & 28th and Winteringham Haven Oct 13th.

Blyth's Reed Warbler; *Acrocephalus dumetorum*.

A first-winter bird trapped at Theddlethorpe on Sept 3rd was released on 4th (BRG,MB). The first county record. UCBBRC. See separate account.

Reed Warbler; *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

First of the year at Lincoln Ballast pit April 23rd with males Goxhill & Barton pits 25th and Chapel pit 27th. On the South Humber bank pits most did not arrive until early June but later breeding success appears to have been good. At least 30 still at East Halton pit Aug 25th, 10 Gib Pt Sept 8th, 10 Huttoft 15th, 5 Gib Pt Oct 6th and 4 at coastal sites Oct 11-13th with one Theddlethorpe 27th.

Icterine Warbler; *Hippolais icterina*.

One was trapped at Donna Nook on September 1st (KC) and another at Pyes Hall from September 2-6th (HB et al).

Barred Warbler; *Sylvia nisoria*.

Just a single record of a first-winter at Seacroft September 5th (AB).

Lesser Whitethroat; *Sylvia curruca*.

First singing male at Barrow Haven April 15th with a decrease in numbers reported in many areas through the summer. August maxima of 7 East Halton 25th, 12 Barton 29th, 25 Gib Pt 26th and 14 there Sept 30th. One Barton pits Oct 2nd, 2 Gib Pt 1st, 1 5th, 1 12-13th, Saltfleet 9th, Donna Nook 12th & Saltfleetby 22nd.

Whitethroat; *Sylvia communis*.

The earliest at Gib Pt April 14th with 19 there by 29th but a max of only 31 May-June and another poor spring at Theddlethorpe in contrast to the north of the county where birds arrived in late May but in the best numbers for many years. At Donna Nook 25 pairs bred. Autumn max of 43 Gib Pt Aug 25th and 2 there Sept 29-30th with late birds in October at Gib Pt 2nd, 2 5th, 6th and Saltfleet 9th.

Garden Warbler; *Sylvia borin*.

The only April birds noted were at Burton pits with 2 on 27th followed by a poor spring arrival in mid May and yet another poor autumn coastal passage apart from 3 Donna Nook Sept 30th there were no more than 2 on any one date at a coastal site during Sept-Oct with the last at Gib Pt Oct 29th.

Blackcap; *Sylvia atricapilla*.

Overwintering birds were seen at Pinchbeck Jan 17th, Lincoln 18th, Stamford 21st, Gib Pt 24th, Theddlethorpe March 10th and the first spring birds at Burton pits April 6th, 4 by 14th, Laughton Forest 7th. Autumn max of 20 Gib Pt Sept 30th and in October 12 there 6th, 11 15th, 11 Donna Nook 13th, 6 Tetney 12th, 9 Theddlethorpe 5th with 6 12th and November birds 1-2 Gib Pt & Theddlethorpe, Donna Nook, Tayford Wood 4th and wintering December birds at Gib Pt 7th, 28th, Deeping St James 1st, Bradley Woods 23rd, North Hykeham 28th, Bourne 2, Frampton and Boston 2.

Pallas's Warbler; *Phylloscopus proregulus*.

Two late autumn records both at Anderby Creek with one October 13th (JWh,ACS et al) and another 27-28th (RTw,DHu et al).

Yellow-browed Warbler; *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

A minimum of 13 autumn birds; The first arrival in late September Gib Pt 27th (PMT), & 30th (KMW,PMT), Saltfleet 30-Oct 1st (GPC et al) then in October Pyes Hall 12-13th, Stonebridge 12-13th, Donna Nook 10-12th, Saltfleet 2 on 12th and one trapped 15th (JM), Chapel six Marshes 14th (KA) and a later arrival Saltfleet by 27th, North Cotes 27-28th and Anderby Creek 2 on 28th with one Gib Pt 30th.

Wood Warbler; *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

Coastal records in May at Gib Pt 7th, 11th, 2 on 13th, 16th & 22nd and Theddlethorpe 18th. June birds at Croxby 18th, Market Rasen 3rd and Linwood Warren 8th with 2 males 15th. One Swallow Aug 14th and at Gib Pt 2 28th, one Theddlethorpe Sept 1st, Gib Pt 14th, Donna Nook trapped 15th and one there 30th.

Chiffchaff; *Phylloscopus collybita*.

Overwintering birds at North Somercotes Jan 4th and Stamford 5th, Cleethorpes Feb 10th, Grimsby 26th. First spring birds in March from 16th Burton pits and 17th Gib Pt with a large arrival 27-31st. Autumn max of 15 at Gib Pt Sept 25th and 7 there Oct 2nd. A few coastal birds in late October with one Theddlethorpe Nov 16th, Gib Pt to 30th, Saltfleet by 28th and in Dec Sleaford 6th, Leasingham 25th, Boston 31st, 2 Skegness 28th and Tetney Dec 1st. Birds showing characteristics of the eastern race *P.c.tristis* were recorded at Donna Nook October 6th, Anderby Creek 20th, 2 Skegness 28th and Tetney Dec 1st.

Willow Warbler; *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

One just crept into March at Langtoft pits 31st with 4 birds noted April 6-7th and a max of 10 Barton 13th, 19 Gib Pt 23rd, 60 Laughton Forest 26th with 34 males Goxhill-East Halton May 3rd. Autumn max of 200 Gib Pt Aug 24-26th and a few early October birds with one Theddlethorpe 6th, singles North Cotes 10th, & 15th, 2 Gib Pt 13th and one in song Kirton Marsh 27th.

Goldcrest; *Regulus regulus*.

A very low breeding population and consequently very scarce on passage at both seasons despite some classic autumn fall conditions; Coastal arrivals in September; 29-30th with max of only 10 Gib Pt, 10 North Cotes, 30 Horseshoe Point-Stonebridge then in October 40 Gib Pt 10th, 20 Saltfleet and 50 Donna Nook 26th, 30 North Cotes and 30 Gib Pt 29th.

Firecrest; *Regulus ignicapillus*.

The poor showing of recent years continued with one Moor Farm March 23rd and the only

other spring bird at Gib Pt April 26th. Another poor autumn as well with birds in October at Donna Nook 9th & 12th, Chapel Point and North Cotes 12th, Anderby Creek 2 and North Cotes 27-28th and Deeping St James 30th with one Gib Pt Nov 1st.

Spotted Flycatcher; *Muscicapa striata*.

A poor late spring arrival from the first at Gib Pt May 13th and 6 there and 3 Humberston 22nd. Autumn max of 8 Gib Pt Aug 25th and in September 4 Pyes Hall 3rd and 5 Worlaby 5th with the only October bird at Gib Pt 10th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher; *Ficedula parva*.

First-winter birds were found at Pyes Hall Sept 29-Oct 2nd (SCPW et al) and Gib Pt Sept 29-30th (KMW,PMT) then in October at Saltfleet Haven 13th (HB) and trapped at North Somercotes Warren 27th (MSiz).

Pied Flycatcher; *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

Only 5 spring records at Mareham-le-Fen April 11th then at Gib Pt male April 28th, 2 May 22nd and one 24th. A better autumn passage than 1990 from Aug 25th with a max of 4 on the coast then peaks of 10 Donna Nook Sept 1-2nd, 4 Pyes Hall 3rd, 3 Seacroft 5th, 4 Saltfleet 6th, 20 trapped Theddlethorpe 1-6th and singles Saltfleetby 28th, Pyes Hall & North Cotes 30th, 2 Gib Pt 29th 3 on 30th and the last Oct 4th.

Bearded Tit; *Panurus biarmicus*.

At least 15-20 birds in Barton pits Jan reduced by the cold winter to 2 pairs which bred, one brood of 6 young being seen in June but very few there in the autumn late winter. Elsewhere records from two other breeding sites in Jan-May with juvs seen at at least one in summer and up to 20 birds in 3 reedbed sites during Aug-Dec. At Gib Pt 4 flew south on Oct 6th.

Long-tailed Tit; *Aegithalos caudatus*.

Flocks of 20 noted in August at Barton pits 29th, Gib Pt 25th & Sept 25th, 19 Oct 13th with 23 Swallow Nov 12th and 19 Willoughby Wood Dec 30th.

Marsh Tit; *Parus palustris*.

No records outside the woodlands up to Neville and Potterhanworth Woods where still quite common.

Willow Tit; *Parus montanus*.

Sign of a decrease in some areas of the county but no specific records.

Coal Tit; *Parus ater*.

A few coastal records in September-October but no other significant records.

Blue Tit; *Parus caeruleus*.

At Gib Pt high counts of 44 in Jan, 55 Feb and 50 Sept.

Great Tit; *Parus major*.

No relevant records.

Nuthatch; *Sitta europaea*.

A pair in Bradley Woods Grimsby from 1990 were first seen at a nest hole April 12th and feeding young June 2nd; the first breeding record in the north-east of the county since 1960 when a pair bred at Brocklesby. A pair bred Grimsby in 1904 and there was a record there in 1954. Probably subsequent dispersing juveniles were seen in Scartho Hospital grounds in summer and 2 in Weelsby Woods from Sept-Dec. A most unusual record on the coast at Huttoft Sept 7th with one inland at Boultham Park Oct 18-Dec. Breeding noted at Haverholme, Belton Park, Neville Wood, Hatton Wood, and Grimsthorpe Park. The recent signs of a possible spread in the county continue.

Treecreeper; *Certhia familiaris*.

At least 10 in Twigmoor Woods March 5th. Coastal birds in the autumn at Theddlethorpe July 20th, Gib Pt Aug 29-30th and Oct 5th and Saltfleet Oct 29th.

Penduline Tit; *Remiz pendulinus*.

One found at Wolla Bank pit on October 14th (KA) with 2 there the following morning (CJJ,EJM,RKW). The first county record; UCBBRC. See separate article.

Red-backed Shrike; *Lanius collurio*.

A male at Gib Pt on Aug 8th and one Horseshoe Point October 10-12th.

Great-Grey Shrike; *Lanius excubitor*.

Wintering birds from 1990 were present at Raucedon Warren to at least March 11th and Bagmoor-Winterton to at least March 8th although both proved very elusive. One at Anderby Creek October 28th. The Bagmoor bird had returned by at least December 7th remaining to 1992 but the Raucedon bird failed to return in late 1991.

Jay; *Garrulus glandarius*.

In the fens a pair bred at Spalding NR and one was at Deeping St James Nov 9th. The only coastal records were at Gib Pt Oct 2nd and Saltfleetby 27th.

Maggpie; *Pica pica*.

Peak gatherings at Gib Pt of 53 Jan, 50 Feb, 37 March, 30 Apr, 20 May, 35 Sept, 50 Oct with 45 Barton Nov and 120 Saltfleetby Nov-Dec.

Jackdaw; *Corvus monedula*.

High January totals of 700 roosting at Risby Warren and 150 West Keal 20th with late winter roost counts of 60 Barton and 800 Thornton Abbey Nov when 200 Risby Warren. A flock of 160 Yarnburgh Dec 29th and an estimated 4000 Willoughby Wood Dec 30th.

Rook; *Corvus frugilegus*.

The late winter roost at Thornton Abbey totalled at least 3000 in late Nov with 2000 estimated in Willoughby Wood roost Dec 30th. Other large corvid roosts in the county are not monitored at all.

Carrion Crow; *Corvus corone*.

A flock of 54 at North Killingholme Feb & 53 Gib Pt Jan 13th then 14 south there Oct 29th, 34 south Nov 2-4th and 21 Dec. The large winter flock at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe totalled 200 in Nov-Dec with 40 Deeping St James Nov 3rd.

Hooded Crow; *C.c.corone*.

Very scarce with only two early winter records at Lincoln Feb 7th and Saltfleetby 17th with spring singles Gib Pt April 7th and north there May 7th, Tetney April 28th. The only late winter birds were south at Gib Pt Oct 30th, Nov 4th and 28th.

Starling; *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Virtually no records received of this abundant species! A total of 6000 Gib Pt Aug 27th with 4000 Oct 24th and 5000 28th.

House Sparrow; *Passer domesticus*.

Appears to be still decreasing in the north of the county; is the trend widespread?

Tree Sparrow; *Passer montanus*.

Flocks noted included 40 Butterwick Jan 25th, 22 Tetney Feb 17th & 25 Chapel Hill March 1-4th with 30 North Cotes March 25th. At Donna Nook 12 pairs bred and there was an autumn max there of 100 in October. Also in October 29 Gib Pt 1st, 20 south Theddlethorpe 12th, in December 35 Holbeach Range, 40 Saltfleet 4th, 18 Bourne South Fen 8th & 30 Claxby 30th.

Chaffinch; *Fringilla coelebs*.

A total of 100 Risby Warren Jan 1st with 65 Stenigot 2nd, 120 Laughton 29th and a massive

1000 Hubbard's Hills Feb 8th most of which had gone by 12th. Southerly movements in March at Gib Pt of 2125 10th, 280 13th, 670 15th & 150 21st. In the autumn large coastal passage movements with 100S Theddlethorpe 11th, 300 12th & 600N & 120S 27th, at Seacroft 500S 12th and at Gib Pt 49S 1st, 48 2nd, 98 26th, 61 27th, 78 30th with 200 Saltfleetby 27th and further November movements at Theddlethorpe of 60 6th, 80 10th and at Gib Pt 220S 2nd, 65 3rd, 205 4th, 116 6th, 66 10th. A flock of 85 Baston Fen Dec 8th.

Brambling; *Fringilla montifringilla*.

Generally low numbers in the early winter but exceptional flocks of 124 Stenigot Jan 2nd, 20-30 Hubbard's Hills-South Elkington Feb 9-12th, 167 Riseholme 17th with 30 Burton pits March 23rd, 40 April 7th and a few at Gib Pt in April with a max of 6 and the last there May 11th. Autumn arrivals from late September, mostly 28th onwards, with 10 Gib Pt 27th, 35 30th and widespread coastal arrivals and small numbers at inland sites during October with the main coastal concentrations; 30 Horseshoe Point Oct 11th, 40 Gib Pt 1st, 45 2nd, 78 12th, 40 13th, 44 26-27th and at Theddlethorpe 150S 12th, 50 26th, 200N & 40S 27th and in Nov 30S 11th and 20 16th. A max of 40 Saltfleetby October and up to 30 Kirton Marsh 27th. The largest December flock 40 Baston Fen 8th.

Greenfinch; *Carduelis chloris*.

Large autumn feeding flocks of 200 Tetney Sept 28th, 350 Saltfleet late Sept, 100 Theddlethorpe Oct 26th & 400 on linseed stubble Fonaby Top Nov 10th. At Gib Pt 145S Nov 2nd and a very large flock feeding on unharvested rape at Cawkwell hill numbered 400 in December.

Goldfinch; *Carduelis carduelis*.

A total of 47S Gib Pt May 9th the only notable spring record. Also at Gib Pt 50 Aug 24th & 60 Sept 30th. A flock of 130 at Cleethorpes Sept 16th and 140S at Gib Pt Oct 1st with 75S Nov 2-4th, 40S Theddlethorpe 12th and finally a flock of 80 feeding on linseed stubble at Cuxwold Nov 10th.

Siskin; *Carduelis spinus*.

1-15 at many sites Jan-April and exceptionally 20 Barton Jan 25th, 30 Hartsholme Park and an incredible 220 Boultham Park Feb 9th with 30 Twiggmoor Jan-April. A max of 20 Gib Pt April and up to 15 there in June part of a mid-summer arrival which produced 25-40 at Swanpool July-Nov, 30 Stainfield Wood Bardney July 21st, 40 Burton pits Aug 27th, 50 Bourne Woods Aug with juveniles there in July which could have been locally bred. Further autumn arrivals on the coast and inland from September with max of 50 Gib Pt Sept 29th, 100S Theddlethorpe, 100S Gib Pt & Seacroft Oct 15th then at Gib Pt in early November 63 2nd +39S and 1-20 at many other inland sites Nov-Dec.

Linnet; *Carduelis cannabina*.

A good coastal flock at Saltfleetby in February with up to 350 birds and 100 Tetney April 12th. Autumn feeding flocks of 200 Gib Pt late Sept, 350 Cleethorpes CP mid month, 360 Donna Nook Sept 20th, an impressive 696S at Gib Pt Oct 1st. Another species which appears to be on the decrease as a breeding bird with consequently fewer autumn-winter feeding flocks being reported.

Twite; *Carduelis flavirostris*.

On the coast peak counts at Tetney/North Cotes of 90 Jan, 80 Feb, 11 March with 43 Pyes Hall Feb 3rd, 180 Saltfleetby 17th. At Gib Pt only 1 in Jan on 4th but 90 Feb 28th then up to 219 March 2-28th with 100 April 2nd and 30 on 7th. In the Wash 650 Freiston Jan 3rd, 350 Holbeach Marsh Jan, 200 Feb, a late 50 April 16th, 500 Friskney Jan 26th, 100 Moulton Marsh Jan-March 1st, 800 Witham Mouth Jan 21st, 42 April 14th, 200 Frampton Feb 2nd and total Lincs Wash counts of 1660 Jan, 303 Feb, 799 March. Inland 19 at Bagmoor to at least Jan

13th and 6 west at Barton March 14th. First of the autumn 5 Gib Pt Sept 28th with 7 there 29th & 12 Horseshoe Point 30th. A flock of 120 Pyes Hall Oct 29th, only 60 in Dec, a max of 33 at Gib Pt in Oct, 12 Nov and only 1 Dec. Up to 100 North Cotes & 32 Tetney Nov with 50 Cleethorpes Dec. In the Wash 100 Kirton Marsh Oct 27th, 350 Holbeach Marsh Nov-Dec 950 Witham Mouth Nov 10th and 100 Butterwick Dec 29th.

Lesser Redpoll; *Carduelis flammea*.

Some exceptional flocks in the early winter period with peaks during Jan-Feb of 200 Kirkby Moor, 120 Moor Farm, 100 Linwood Warren, 180 Laughton Forest, 80 Atkinson's Warren and in March 40 Burton pits with 90 Twigmoor 5th and still up to 100 Laughton Forest to April 3rd. In autumn 50 Gib Pt Sept 25th, 55S Oct 1st, 70 5th with 30S Theddlethorpe 12th, 42S Gib Pt Nov 2nd and at Burton pits 100 Nov 23rd.

Mealy Redpoll; *C.f.flammea*

Unusual numbers accompanied the flocks of Lesser in Jan-Feb with 40+ Kirkby Moor Jan 20th and up to 15 to early February, 25 Linwood Warren Jan 27th and 10 Twigmoor March 5th.

Arctic Redpoll; *Carduelis hornemanni*.

An unprecedented influx of this frosty northern finch. At Kirkby Moor 3 or 4 birds from at least January 20th with 2 on 21st and 1 to 26th (GPC,SR,KDD,SPB et al), One at the Witham Mouth/Frampton January 22nd (NG), at Linwood Warren 2 January 21-27th (KDD,SPB). A male trapped at North Somercotes Warren January 26th (MSiz) present there to February 5th (GPC,KA et al) and at least one Laughton Forest February 20-March 8th (WG,JTH,GPC et al). All birds showed characteristics of the race *C.h.exilipes* and all UCBBC.

There are only four previous county records of 5 birds since the first 2 in October 1975 with singles 1976, 1982 & 1984. (The 1982 bird still UCBBC!). A large invasion of the species was noted throughout eastern Britain in winter 1990-91.

Common Crossbill; *Loxia curvirostra*.

Some good numbers overwintered following the summer invasion in 1990 with Jan-April site maxima of; 40 Willingham, 15 Walesby, 31 Twigmoor, 25 Bardney, 46 Kirkby Moor, 24 Moor Farm, 60 Bourne Wood, 5 North Somercotes Warren, 4 Gib Pt, 10 Laughton Forest where numbers increased to 70 April 7th, 58 14th. A total of 6 Deeping St James May 19th, 6 at Barrow 23-24th, 40 Linwood Warren 18th, 24 June 8th, 2 Barton-on-Humber June, 90 near Walesby May 26th, 10 in the fens at Crowland May 22nd and July 11th at Gib Pt a max of 10 April 11th & 10 May 19th with up to 16 in June when high numbers associated with another invasion included; a max of 26 at Donna Nook, 75 Keb Wood (Appleby), 20 Broughton Woods (with 7+juvs), 30 Risby Warren, 50 Kirkby Moor, 91 Laughton Forest June 2nd. Exceptional southerly movements in July at Gib Pt totalling 386 birds between 1-22nd with max of 90 6th, 61 10th, 41 12th, 44 22nd. Subsequently up to 19 there on odd dates to Aug 26th. Also in July 20 Grimsthorpe Park 25th, 3 trapped at Theddlethorpe one of which was recovered Aug 13th 117kmW after flying into a window near Chesterfield; also there 15S 10th, 5S 21st, 2 North Cotes 22nd, 8 Baston Fen 9th and in August 18 Swallow 7th. The only reports from August on being of one Gib Pt Sept 28th, 5S Oct 28th with up to 11 Bourne Wood/Callan's Lane Wood and Holywell decreasing through December and a few birds at Willingham/Walesby. Birds may have bred at a few sites as juveniles were seen in many parties from June onwards but no proven nesting took place.

Approx monthly totals were;

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
182	132	135	175	174	322	477	58	15	20	17	5

Parrot Crossbill; *Loxia pytyopsittacus*.

Flocks which wintered included a max of 16 Willingham in January mostly around the picnic area; 22 Kirkby Moor Jan-March 8th at least and 19 Laughton Forest Jan-March 13th with possibly 5 different birds in another area there March 11th (JTH).

Bullfinch; *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

A flock of 14 Barton pits August 29th was unusual. A total of 52 were ringed during the year at Theddlethorpe.

Hawfinch; *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

One at Laughton Forest February 28th and March maxima of 12 Brumby Wood/crematorium to April 14th and one Scawby Park March 10th with a late winter bird there December 14th. A party of three in Broughton Woods July 11th. Surely an under recorded species with all records again in the north-west of the county and none from the large areas of mature woodland in the south.

Lapland Bunting; *Calcarius lapponicus*.

Only low coastal numbers in Jan-March with up to 5 at Gib Pt, Pyes Hall-Donna Nook, 12 Tetney-North Cotes, 6 Saltfleetby. In the Wash up to 20 Frampton in February, one Friskney Jan 25th, at the Witham Mouth 38 Jan 21st with an exceptional 100+ there Feb 9th feeding on an unfrozen stretch of tide wrack. Elsewhere one Trusthorpe Feb 14th and at Goxhill singles Feb 13th and March 13th. Another very poor autumn late winter with just a few records of 1-2 on the coast from September 30th and maxima of 12S Donna Nook Oct 23rd, 4 Donna Nook-Grainthorpe Oct 29th, 3 Skidbrooke & 3 Saltfleetby, 5 Tetney Nov-Dec and on the Wash 8 Holbeach Range Nov 29th, 3 Moulton Marsh & 6 Butterwick. An exceptional inland record of one photographed in a garden at Scopwick on February 10-11th.

Snow Bunting; *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Another poor early winter period with the only notable flocks at Gib Pt/Seacroft/Skegness where up to 68 Jan-Feb and at Saltfleetby 20 in Feb. At Chapel Point 8 Jan 6th, 1 March 2nd, singles at Goxhill Feb 13th & Barton 16th, Tetney March 2nd & Donna Nook 31st. First of the autumn a male Pyes Hall Sept 27th with one Gib Pt 29th but few again in October with a max of only 9 at Gib Pt 19-27th, 3 Huttoft 20th, 1 North Cotes 27th, 4 Witham Mouth 26th & up to 8 there to 1992. More numerous in Nov-Dec at Gib Pt up to 42 Nov, 20 Dec, up to 14 Donna Nook, 26 Tetney, Saltfleetby 22 Nov, 84 Dec and others at Covenham Nov 30th up to 10 to Dec 4th, 3 Butterwick Dec 8th, 14 Humberston 24-25th, Grimsby Docks 30th, Pywipe 18th and Huttoft 4 on 28th.

Yellowhammer; *Emberiza citrinella*.

A total of 60 flying south at Burton pits October 12th and 60 at Londonthorpe Nov 22nd. Generally fewer winter feeding flocks noted and in smaller numbers.

Reed Bunting; *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

At Donna Nook 20 pairs bred. A flock of 40+ Grainthorpe Haven in October the only significant report.

Corn Bunting; *Miliaria calandra*.

Early year maxima of 44 Gib Pt Feb 1st, 33 Farforth Jan 16th, 20 Tetney Feb 2nd, 30-40 Kelstern Feb-March 9th, 40 Bourne South Fen March 24th, 27 Moulton Marsh March 1st and 40-50 Deeping St Nicholas Jan-Feb. A late year high count of 48 at Gib Pt Dec 28th.

Additions and corrections to 1990 Report.

Bittern; Boultham Mere for March 3rd should read January 3rd.

Red Kite; The bird seen at Donna Nook Stonebridge and Saltfleetby was also seen at Howden's Pullover the same day October 30th flying inland.

'Lesser Crested Tern' Gibraltar Point Gibraltar Point June 30th 1989

Accepted by BBRC as large orange-billed tern only.

Arctic Redpoll; One at Pyes Hall-Donna Nook October 18-21st 1990 (GPC, EMac. et al)

Accepted by BBRC.

Escapes

Greater Flamingo; An adult at Toft Newton Res from at least December 2-21st; reported as present since October.

Black Swan; 1-2 New Holland, Messingham and Lincoln June-July probably all the same birds.

Snow Goose; At Fillingham Lake 2 released blue phase birds in May at least.

Egyptian Goose; The usual 2 at Chapel/Ingoldmells throughout.

Ruddy Shelduck; A female at New Holland September 23rd.

Chukar; Castle Baytham September 12th; hybrids widespread.

Ring-necked Parakeet; Gibraltar Point June 5th.

Desert Finch; The female at Deeping St Nicholas from 1990 to at least March 31st.

Contributors to the 1991 Bird Report:-

S Abbott	M Ackerman	D Addison	J Ashburner	G Atkin
K Atkin	A Baldwin	A Ball	N Beasley	G Beeley
P Bellamy	F Beresford	FE Boddy	M Boddy	S P Botham
D Bradbeer	D Bromwich	H Bunn	R Burgin	P Burnett
R J F Carr	C Casey	G P Catley	K Collet	P G Collins
M Cousins	P Croft	N Crossman	J Daisley	A Daws
N Drinkall	K D Durose	T Eadson	D Fogg	R Foster
S Foster	A Frost	N Gardiner	W Gillatt	S Gillings
A L Goodall	P T Gymer	M C Hall	B Hancock	G Hardy
J T Harriman	A Harris	M E Harrison	A H J Harrop	P Haywood
R N Hebb	K Heath	R Heath	I Hildred	S Hinsley
R Hirst	T Housman	D Hursthouse	P Hyde	Mr & Mrs Inma
D M Jenkins	J C & S Jennings	R Jones	S Keightley	Dr T Kerry
R Labbett	R Lamin	J & R Laundon	M Leakey	S Lehièvre
S M Lister	R Lorand	S Lorand	K A Marshall	J Mawer
W J Meek	S J Meek	W R Meek	J & B Mighell	B K Morrish
Tony Morris	A J Murphy	J Nelson	R Newton	T Nuttall
P J Precey	E J Redshaw	I J Riley	G W Roberts	D A Robinson
S Routledge	I D Russel	I Saville	J Sharpe	T Shearsmith
I G Shepherd	E Simms	A C Sims	J Smith	S Spalding
G C Steele	M Sizer	P Todd	D Townsend	P M Troake
J R Walker	R K Watson	J Weldon	C Weightman	J Whitehead
S C P Williams	R B Wilkinson	D Wilson	K E Wilson	K M Wilson
D J Wood	P Wood	D Wright		

Rarity Report

Penduline Tits New to Lincolnshire; K.Atkin; C.J.Jennings.

Kieth Atkin

In the late afternoon of October 14th 1991 I visited Wolla Bank pits after failing to locate a Pallas's Warbler which had been seen nearby at Anderby Creek the previous day.

As I watched some ducks fly off from the pit I noticed out of the corner of my eye a small bird fly up from the reeds and drop back in again. Expecting to find possibly a Reed Bunting I tried to flush it and to my surprise a brightly coloured bird flew up and dropped back again. It then climbed to the top of a reed stem and looked at me when I could see that it was a male Penduline Tit. It only stayed there briefly before flying about 15 mtrs across the pit and dropping out of sight in the reeds. It did not reappear so I made a few notes but decided not to try and flush it again as it seemed as though it had gone to roost. In total it was only visible for about ten seconds.

Description; A small tit like bird with a greyish-white head and neck and boldly contrasting sharply defined jet black mask from the bill, where narrow, through and broadening behind the eye. The back and wing coverts were a bright chestnut brown and the underparts were pale buffish white. The wings and tail were very dark but boldly fringed white. The legs were dark but bill colour not noticed.

EJM phoned me the following morning to say he had seen two birds a male and probable female. Apparently the birds were still irruptive as they had once flown up very high before dropping back in again. They could not be found again although I and others searched later that day and subsequently at other neighbouring pits.

C. J. Jennings

EJ Mackrill and I met at Wolla Bank pit at 07-00hrs on October 15th; we split up to search for the birds and RK Watson arrived at about 07-30hrs and joined the search. At 08-00hrs a movement in some nearby reeds caught my eye and a male Penduline Tit came into view after a few seconds quiet pishing from me. After about 10 or more seconds of looking at the bird (and my pulse had settled down) I looked around for my companions; RKW was about 50m distant and I waved to him to indicate the birds presence. At this time the bird flew off accompanied by another I had not previously seen and went back into the reeds about 30m distant. I whistled quite loudly and EJM appeared quite close to the birds and obtained good views. When RKW and myself joined him the birds had gone into the reeds and disappeared. The birds were then relocated in the original spot and EJM and I observed them from 5m. At 08-35hrs the birds flew off although they appeared to come down in the opposite side of the reserve but they were not seen again thereafter.

Description; Male; crown and nape grey; bill black and conical. Black mask from over bill to rear of eye and ear-coverts. Mantle, scapulars and coverts chestnut. Flight feathers and tail all black with narrow white edges; chin and throat white merging into buff underparts darker at breast sides. Legs black.

Female; As male but with narrower mask and a duller brown mantle.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER AT THEDDLETHORPE - 03 AND 04 SEPTEMBER 1991

A bird trapped at dusk on 3 September, at Crook Bank on the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve, was not immediately recognisable although, on removing it from the mist-net, I observed that it was superficially Reed Warbler-like, but with a very obvious supercilium and pale lower mandible.

At the time of capture (1945 hours) the weather was overcast with patches of sea mist blowing into the dunes on a light easterly wind. In fact, for the previous few days the wind direction had been predominantly easterly and we had all been guessing which birds we expected to turn up. During the day we had caught a Wood Warbler, a few Lesser Whitethroats and Pied Flycatchers, but nothing as incredible as this. We were all utterly amazed when a complete wing formula was taken and we had eliminated all other allied species. This, taken together with the supercilium and pale lower mandible, finally convinced us that we had a once-in-a-lifetime capture, a Blyth's Reed Warbler!

A full plumage description was not taken at the time, as the only light available to us in 'Journey's End' cottage rendered accurate colour vision impossible. It was, however, taken by Ian Smith and Dave Morton at first light on 04 September and, along with measurements taken by myself on the 03 September, is included here.

Description (per Ian Smith and Dave Morton)

Taken from submission to BBRC.

Upperparts:

Mantle and crown dull uniform brown. Suggestion of faint olive tinge to mantle and faint greyish tinge to shoulders and nape.

Tail dull brown. Rump slightly "warmer" brown, flight feathers also edged "warmer" brown. Wing generally uniform with no obvious dark centres to coverts or tertials and no pale edges or tips to primaries or secondaries. The alula showed a slight pale outer edge.

Underparts:

Throat whitish. Sides of breast and flanks washed pale brown/buff. Belly, vent area and undertail coverts whitish with faint hint of buff.

Head:

Supercilium strikingly off-white, being fairly short and narrow behind eye, but broadening into an area the width of the eye in the loreal region. (Very noticeable when bird viewed head-on - my own notes.)

Bare parts:

Tarsus grey/brown with strange greeny tinge. Feet and toes strikingly grey. Soles of feet yellowish-green.

Upper mandible, cutting edge and the tip pale flesh-white, remainder dark blackish.

Lower mandible almost completely pale stone-pink, small darker grey area on underside at bill tip. Mouth yellow. Eye dark with a pale brownish orbital ring.

Measurements (taken 03 September by Mike Thompson):

Wing length	63.3 mm
Notch 2nd primary	12.0 mm deep = 4.5 secondaries
Notch 3rd primary	8.0 mm deep = 8th primary
Emargination	3rd, 4th, slight on 5th primary
Wing point	3rd primary
1st primary	-3 mm to primary coverts

Full formula:

Primary	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	sec
+/- wing point	-3	to-4.5	wing point	-0.5	-1.5	-4.5	-6.5	-8	-9	-11	-12mm
		primary	point								
		converts									

Tarsus length	20.5 mm
Bill to feathering	10.0 mm
Bill to skull	16.5 mm
Tail length	54.0 mm

Blyth's Reed Warbler breeds in South Finland, the Baltic States, Russia south to the Ukraine and east to the Kirghiz Steppes, Iran, Mongolia and Afghanistan, and winters in India south to Sri Lanka.

From the latest information I have to hand, it appears that this bird is only the ninth or tenth to be ringed in Britain and, importantly, the first record for Lincolnshire.

Mike Thompson
(SW Notts RG - on behalf of Birklands Ringing Group)

GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT 1991

K M Wilson, P M Troake and C J Hawke

This report summarises the ornithological events on the reserve for the year and serves to highlight interesting movements, unusual trends and of course, the occurrence of uncommon or rare species. For a more detailed account refer to the GIBRALTAR POINT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT 1992, details of which can be found at the end of the report.

January - March

The highlight of this period was undoubtedly the immature male Snowy Owl which eventually made it up to Gib in mid-March. Raptors throughout this quarter included Hen Harrier, Merlin, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel. Two Peregrines, Barn and Long-eared owls were a feature whilst Short-eared Owl were infrequent. Snow Buntings never exceeded 20 birds and Shorelarks now seem to be positive history. Conversely, Woodlark records seem to have increased somewhat there being at least three birds in early March, and Twite numbers had increased to 200 by this time. Lapland Buntings regularly overflowed the reserve as did a Waxwing on 20 January. Brent Geese attained 4700 in number and remained thereabouts throughout plus 24,000 Knot were recorded in mid-March. The Red-crested Pochard remained on the Mere into late March. Most sea duck were well represented with Velvet Scoter, Goosander and unprecedented numbers of Scaup in February. All three divers were seen offshore with up to 90 Red-throats. Little Auk persisted throughout the winter in ones and twos and a second year Glaucous Gull flew south on 2 January. By the end of this quarter the first summer migrants were in evidence with early dates for Chiffchaff, Sand Martin and Wheatear at a time when the return passage of wintering passerines was quite spectacular.

April - June

Highlights in April included a Red-necked Grebe and an Osprey, a male Goshawk regularly from 12th-22nd plus two Montagu's Harrier. June produced several notable species; a Ring-necked Parakeet, first-summer Mediterranean Gull, two Avocets and the Fenland Lagoon attracted a Spoonbill from 10th-13th and again from 23rd-25th. A good reserve record on the 12th was a Quail calling from the foredunes. The most exciting event however, was a [bee-eater]* which called as it headed out towards Norfolk. Incoming Spring migrants provided considerable interest with Tree Pipit, Turtle Dove and five records of Wood Warbler. A Firecrest, Pied Flycatchers and Wheatears all featured. A few winter passerines lingered in to May including Fieldfares, Redwings and Bramblings. Other passerine records of note concerned the regular parties of Crossbills and good numbers of Siskin. Regular Marsh Harriers provided additional interest from 9 May plus six Hobby sightings from 3 May - 26 June. A good selection of waders was recorded with excellent whimbrel passage from 9 April, single Ruff and Wood Sandpiper plus 11 Black-tailed Godwits in May and up to seven Little Stint in early June. Highlights from the sea included both Great and Arctic Skua, two Black-throated Divers, Manx Shearwaters, Goosanders plus five very late Little Auks on 5 May. There were up to four records of Little Gull and two of Black Tern.

July - September

The late summer period proved generally quiet apart from an early male Red-backed Shrike on 8 August. September produced a Roseate Tern on the 3rd plus a Garganey on the 5th which remained on the Mere until the 15th with a second individual appearing on the Lagoon on 13th. The highlight however, was the somewhat elusive Hoopoe present on the 8th and 9th. The 13th produced the reserve's third Dotterel and was joined by a second bird on the following day. The last four days of September produced two Avocets, two Yellow-browed

Warblers and a Red-breasted Flycatcher. At sea, Manx Shearwaters, Little Gull, Black Tern, Puffin and Scaup were all recorded. September yielded a good set of skua records with up to 55 Arctics, regular Pomarine and Greats and a maximum of five Long-tails on the 28th. Sooty Shearwater, Velvet Scoter, 200+ Gannet and two Leach's Petrel also featured. A typical selection of waders included some good peak counts e.g. four Wood Sandpipers in July, 13 Green Sandpipers in August and in September, five Little Stint, 20 Greenshank, seven Curlew Sandpiper and 12 Ruff. A Purple Sandpiper on the 5 September was the only record for 1991. Raptors included occasional Marsh Harrier, Hobby on four dates and Peregrine twice. Crossbills featured well again with an exceptional southerly passage peaking at 90 on 6 July. Also, heading south were 15000 Swifts on 9 July. Siskins occurred throughout plus three more Wood Warblers completing an excellent year for this species. Towards the end of September the first Rock Pipits, Redwings and Bramblings brought a sudden autumnal flavour to the reserve.

October - December

October saw the last of the year's rarities with Red-breasted Flycatcher on the 1st and the reserve's second record of Short-toed Lark which remained elusive for much of its ten-day stay. The 12th produced a Richard's Pipit and the third Garganey of the autumn appeared on the Mere on the 15th. Further Long-tailed Skuas were offshore on 20th-22nd [plus two Rough-legged Buzzards** were reported in off the sea on the 21st]. A Yellow-browed Warbler was with Goldcrests on 30th. A good skua passage occurred in October with single Manx and Sooty Shearwater. The best set of records came from the 20th however, when record counts of Little Auk (187) north and 1146 Common Scoter south were noted. In addition there was a Storm Petrel, two Leach's Petrel, 11 Great Skuas and a Shag. Black-throated Divers occurred on four dates plus there were up to 117 Little Gulls. On the passerine front, four Bearded Tits, Black Redstarts, Ring Ouzels, Woodlarks and a Firecrest featured. Waxwings added occasional interest from the 15 November with a group of up to 15 between 21st and 24th. Up to three Merlins and five Hen Harriers were present throughout, plus a reported Hobby and Peregrine on three dates. Short-eared Owls were regular and included eight individuals in off the sea in late October. Long-eared Owl was observed on several dates. The last of the passage waders included Little Stints, Curlew Sandpiper and Ruff, whilst Jack Snipe were noted from 3rd October and Woodcock from the 20th. Incoming wildfowl included two White-fronted Geese, up to 24 Whooper Swans and in December a peak of 380 Pink-footed Geese and ten Bewick's Swans.

A more detailed account of the year's ornithological events can be found in the **GIBRALTAR POINT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT 1991** available from the Visitor Centre priced £3.00 or by mail order at £3.50 from Gibraltar Point Field Station, Gibraltar Road, Skegness, PE24 4SU.

Gibraltar Point Field Station runs a series of adult courses on ornithology throughout the year. For further details telephone 0754 762677 or write to the above address.

* Beeeeater record not accepted by Lincolnshire Records Committee.

** Rough-legged Buzzard record not supported by description so not acceptable to Lincolnshire Records Committee.

GIBRALTAR POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT 1991

The total number of birds ringed was well down this year. It would appear, after discussion with other observatories at the Ringing and Migration conference, we are not alone in this.

Analysis of the figures demonstrates a poor start to the year with only 156 birds ringed in the first six months. It is also noticeable that five species make up nearly half of the year's total;

Willow Warbler	456
Dunnock	227
Whitethroat	206
Blue Tit	149
Starling	126
	<hr/>
	1164 = 48%

A few species showed an increase for the year. Willow Warbler increased 100% on last year and Whitethroat were up by about 33%; Goldcrest, however, crashed from 532 in 1990 to only 17 this year. Such fluctuations in numbers ringed tends to coincide with the occurrence of movements and falls, as breeding Whitethroat at Gibraltar Point were down by 32% and Willow Warblers by 40%.

This year saw the very last BTO ringing course at Gibraltar Point. I would like to convey to them our thanks for their tremendous input during the past 25 years. Along with this, my thanks once again go to all visiting ringing groups and to the full-time staff of the Trust, notably Carl Hawke and Kev Wilson.

Amendment to 1990 report - a Firecrest was ringed but omitted from the report last year.

A.W. Paul
Hon. Ringing Secretary, GPBO

1991 Ringing Totals

Species	M	A	My	Jn	Jl	Au	S	O	N	D	Pu	Total
Sparrowhawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	6
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ringed Plover	-	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	-	-	17	17
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Redshank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	19	1	-	-	-	-	20	20
Stock Dove	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4	4
Wood Pigeon	-	-	2	-	4	7	1	-	-	-	144	4
Turtle Dove	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sand Martin	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swallow	-	-	-	1	5	10	19	-	-	-	16	35
House Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	63
Meadow Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	12	45	7	-	-	-	64
Rock Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	-	-	-	-	15
Pied Wagtail	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Wren	3	1	2	1	14	42	7	10	-	-	-	80
Dunnock	2	1	-	2	19	109	55	37	2	-	-	227
Robin	2	2	1	6	2	33	6	22	1	-	-	75
Redstart	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	8
Whinchat	-	-	-	-	-	10	4	-	-	-	-	14
Wheatear	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Ring Ouzel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4

Blackbird	1	-	2	2	5	17	1	36	16	20	-	100
Fieldfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Song Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	6	5	61	3	3	-	79
Redwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	39	-	1	-	41
Mistle Thrush	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sedge Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	5
Reed Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	26	21	6	-	-	-	54
L Whitethroat	-	-	3	1	4	83	11	-	-	-	-	102
Whitethroat	-	-	3	9	33	149	10	2	-	-	-	206
Garden Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	13	1	1	-	-	-	16
Blackcap	-	-	2	-	1	13	11	29	2	3	-	61
Wood Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chiffchaff	-	2	1	1	-	1	9	1	-	-	-	15
Willow Warbler	-	2	4	4	28	406	11	1	-	-	-	456
Goldcrest	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	17
Sp Flycatcher	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	6
P Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	7
L-Tailed Tit	1	-	-	1	-	12	6	7	8	-	-	35
Willow Tit	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Coal Tit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Blue Tit	2	2	4	22	14	32	15	58	-	-	21	149
Great Tit	2	1	1	13	3	10	2	6	-	-	13	38
Treecreeper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	5
Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	18	-	-	-	126
House Sparrow	-	-	-	7	3	18	-	-	-	-	-	28
Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Chaffinch	-	1	2	1	7	10	5	3	5	13	-	47
Brambling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Greenfinch	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Goldfinch	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	5
Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Linnet	-	3	5	1	1	20	2	-	-	-	-	32
Redpoll	-	-	7	-	3	37	38	7	-	-	-	92
Bullfinch	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Yellowhammer	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Reed Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	-	1	-	8
Species 62	16	19	40	81	185	1123	489	385	37	52	(78)	2427
Re-traps	6	17	67	67	23	325	100	110	14	24	-	753

COUNTY RINGING REPORT - 1991

Compiled by Mike Boddy

In spite of rather low annual catches at the major coastal ringing sites, and poor numbers also reported from Constant Effort Sites, the County ringing total for 1991, at 29,597, was more than 4% higher than in 1990. There seems to have been a welcome increase in enthusiasm amongst many of Lincolnshire's (and South Humberside's) ringers, and 18 (out of 29) of the ringing totals lists were higher in 1991 than in 1990. Ringing at Gibraltar Point is going through a decline at present, and less than 2,500 birds were marked there during the year: for a site which was, not long ago, one of the leading Observatories in the country, this is sad indeed! On the plus side, ringing recommenced at Donna Nook, after a gap of several years, and hopefully will flourish in the future. Productivity of fledged young seems to have been low throughout the UK, and that is reflected in the 'pullus' total ringed in the County - at 1,412, more than 26% fewer than in 1990.

The 'grand' totals (for 1979-91) are included again this year. Unfortunately, records for the years 1987-89 have been inadvertently destroyed, so that it has not been possible to accurately correct some errors which had crept into the totals. The figures shown are as precise as they can be made under the circumstances, and are based on published figures, adjusted for arithmetical or typographical errors. No allowance could be made for totals received too late for publication in any of these three years, so the 'grand' totals are likely to be too low for some species.

One species was ringed for the first time, and another for only the second time in Lincolnshire during 1991; Blyth's Reed Warbler and Arctic Redpoll respectively. Other uncommon birds ringed included single Icterine and Yellow-browed Warblers, and a Red-breasted Flycatcher. More commonly seen, though infrequently captured, birds trapped included a Water Rail (in a back garden!), 8 Whimbrels, a Black Redstart, 7 Nuthatches and 37 Crossbills. Fifteen nestling Marsh Harriers were ringed, the highest annual total to date, though numbers for nestling Kestrels and Barn Owls were well down on 1990 totals. There was a further increase in the Sparrowhawk ringing total to 59, and this included 12 nestlings - the first significant number since current records began.

There do not appear to have been any further decreases due to the effects of the droughts in the Sahel though, with increased ringing effort in 1991, it is difficult to be sure of this: totals for Sand Martins were almost identical to those from 1990, those for Sedge Warblers were down by 25% (continuing a long-running County decline), but Whitethroats showed an increase of 7%. Other warbler totals showed mainly increases: Lesser Whitethroats (up 12%), Garden Warblers (up 28%), Blackcaps (up 2%), Chiffchaffs (down 23%), and Willow Warblers (up a massive 56%). The smallest resident passerines gave variable results: Wrens were down by 30%, Long-tailed Tits up by 11%, and Treecreepers down by 17%. Goldcrests, largely caught whilst on passage, dropped by over 1300 (82%)! It is perhaps surprising, after the severe weather in February 1991, that Long-tailed Tits and Treecreepers survived in such good numbers. Several finches were caught in much larger numbers than in 1990: Chaffinches (up 42%), Greenfinches (up by 88%, to a figure that represents 19% of the 1979-91 total for the species), and Redpolls (up 80%, to 264). Though there was no significant change in the numbers of House Martins ringed, over the 1990 level, it is still worth mentioning the total of 571, the highest yet and almost 29% of the 1979-91 figure.

The recoveries again made interesting reading, and as many as possible are shown here; comment, however, has to be restricted to just a few. Bird-ringers usually claim that the fewer birds of a particular species that you ring, the more likely you are to get a recovery. Obviously untrue; but when you hear of the only Storm Petrel ever ringed in the County (tape-lured at Huttoft) being recovered in Inverness, it makes you wonder! The nestling Marsh Harrier shot in northern Spain appears to be the first recovery of the species in that country from ringing in Britain. The Sparrowhawk found dead in Germany is interesting for its age (over 8 years old) as well as its long-distance movement; and the nestling Merlin ringed in Dyfed had moved in an unusual direction (NE) on its post-natal dispersal. Oystercatchers ringed in Lincolnshire are regularly recovered in Norway - but not usually whilst nesting in a breadbox on a balcony, as was the one listed! The series of Dunlin shown, include three birds illustrating an interchange with what appears to be an important stop-over site in Portugal. Few Kingfishers move over 100 km, and the bird found dead on the River Eau was the longest movement in Britain during 1990.

The expedition by British ringers to Senegal during winter 1990-91 has already produced many exchanges of ringed birds. Four Sand Martins ringed in our County were trapped in Senegal, one of them being the first British-ringed bird caught during the visit; just one bird ringed in Senegal was recaptured in Lincolnshire during 1991. Two juvenile Sand Martins

ringed in 1991 moved rapidly westwards during July, one as far as Dyfed. The House Martin ringing efforts were rewarded, with the 'control' in July of a bird ringed in Dorset two years earlier. Presumably the Robin found dead on an oil rig in the North Sea was trying to re-orient its migration, after being drifted to the East coast during the massive fall in October 1990. Note the very rapid recovery of a Whitethroat in Paris just two days after ringing! There was an interesting series of recoveries of Blackcaps with a bird from Belgium, and others to France and Portugal; and a lucky ringer had two British 'controls' on the same day. A Crossbill, one of only three ringed during coastal passage in early July 1991, which died when it hit a conservatory window in Derbyshire five weeks later, was perhaps the first recovery of a Crossbill involving Lincolnshire.

My thanks to everyone involved in bird-ringing in Lincolnshire and South Humberside. Their cooperation has been splendid again this year! The list of contributors includes all Groups and individuals who sent in totals and recoveries; the important support from all the other people who took part in ringing sessions is hereby acknowledged.

Contributors to the Ringing Report for 1991

A G Ball	C du Feu	Mid Lincs RG	R J Wakelin
Birklands RG	D Fogg	A Parker	Wash Wader RG
A C Blackburn	Gibraltar Point	R Pearson	P N Watts
M Boddy	R Goff	G Priestley	D Wilson
P Childs	A Goodall	G Shaw	Winfield and Paul

COUNTY RINGING TOTALS FOR 1991

Species	1991 FG	1991 PULL TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL 1979-91	Species	1991 FG	1991 PULL TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL 1979-91
Little Grebe		0	6	Red-legged Partridge		0	25
Great Crested Grebe		0	13	Grey Partridge		0	1
Manx Shearwater		0	12	Pheasant		0	28
Storm Petrel		0	1	Water Rail	1	1	11
Leach's Petrel		0	5	Moorhen	15	1	133
Gannet		0	1	Coot		0	464
Cormorant		0	1	Oystercatcher	127	127	5324
Shag		0	1	Little Ringed Plover	2	2	78
Grey Heron	11	11	501	Ringed Plover	72	17	769
Mute Swan	1	1	169	Golden Plover	2	2	19
Greylag Goose		0	20	Grey Plover	40	40	1268
Canada Goose	48	48	178	Lapwing	6	38	171
Brent Goose		0	18	Knot	540	540	4940
Shelduck		0	10	Sanderling		0	27
Wigeon		0	32	Little Stint		0	13
Gadwell		0	22	Pectoral Sandpiper		0	1
Teal	3	3	62	Curlew Sandpiper	1	1	10
Mallard	4	4	2051	Dunlin	3255	3255	19606
Pintail		0	3	Ruff	1	1	83
Shoveler		0	9	Jack Snipe	1	1	34
Pochard		0	40	Common Snipe	31	31	301
Tufted Duck		0	479	Woodcock	19	19	117
Scaup		0	1	Black-tailed Godwit		0	7
Marsh Harrier	15	15	40	Bar-tailed Godwit	87	87	1455
Montagu's Harrier		0	13	Whimbrel	8	8	14
Sparrowhawk	47	12	59	Curlew	41	41	222
Kestrel	8	23	31	Spotted Redshank		0	6
Merlin		0	6	Redshank	30	30	1454
Hobby		0	2	Greenshank		0	22

Species	FG	1991 PULL	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL 1979-91	Species	FG	1991 PULL	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL 1979-91
Green Sandpiper	2		2	24	Stonechat			0	13
Wood Sandpiper			0	3	Wheatear	7		7	136
Common Sandpiper			0	50	Ring Ouzel	7		7	41
Turnstone	75		75	598	Blackbird	2535	50	2585	30951
Black-headed Gull	321	11	332	5231	Fieldfare	23		23	961
Common Gull	33		33	366	Song Thrush	476	6	482	9414
Lsr Black-bkd Gull			0	2	Redwing	195		195	3278
Herring Gull	141		141	1018	Mistle Thrush	27	6	33	290
Gt Black-bkd Gull	18		18	196	Cetti's Warbler			0	1
Sandwich Tern			0	38	Grasshopper Warbler	7		7	148
Common Tern			0	462	Sedge Warbler	74		74	2676
Arctic Tern			0	1	Blyth's Reed Warbler	1		1	1
Little Tern		20	20	434	Marsh Warbler			0	2
Guillemot			0	3	Reed Warbler	225	72	297	4655
Razorbill			0	3	Booted Warbler			0	1
Little Auk			0	9	Icterine Warbler	1		1	17
Puffin			0	1	Subalpine Warbler			0	1
Stock Dove	1	12	13	390	Sardinian Warbler			0	2
Woodpigeon	41	9	50	449	Barred Warbler			0	32
Collared Dove	31	4	35	301	Lesser Whitethroat	285		285	3732
Turtle Dove	20		20	296	Whitethroat	490		490	8777
Cuckoo	2		2	132	Garden Warbler	149		149	2114
Barn Owl	13	76	89	455	Blackcap	481		481	6256
Little Owl	1		1	55	Greenish Warbler			0	2
Tawny Owl	5	18	23	199	Arctic Warbler			0	2
Long-eared Owl	2		2	54	Pallas' Warbler			0	2
Short-eared Owl			0	10	Yellow-browed Warbler	1		1	19
Nightjar			0	3	Radde's Warbler			0	2
Swift	105	28	133	580	Wood Warbler	5		5	32
Kingfisher	3		3	135	Chiffchaff	149		149	1880
Wryneck			0	13	Willow Warbler	1260	10	1270	18493
Green Woodpecker	2		2	18	Goldcrest	293		293	10466
Grt Sp'd Woodpecker	9		9	88	Firecrest	2		2	94
Lsr Sp'd Woodpecker			0	13	Spotted Flycatcher	34	9	43	892
Woodlark			0	17	Red-bre'st'd Flycatcher	1		1	8
Skylark	83	10	93	2100	Pied Flycatcher	47		47	526
Sand Martin	422		422	4750	Bearded Tit			0	19
Swallow	67	239	306	16278	Long-tailed Tit	455		455	3309
House Martin	565	6	571	1987	Marsh Tit	27		27	157
Olive-backed Pipit			0	1	Willow Tit	36		36	866
Tree Pipit	4		4	86	Coal Tit	185	16	201	1346
Meadow Pipit	115		115	1445	Blue Tit	2071	326	2397	23453
Pock Pipit	2		2	9	Great Tit	805	194	999	10971
Yellow Wagtail	35		35	131	Nuthatch	7		7	25
Grey Wagtail	1		1	10	Treecreeper	76		76	628
Pied Wagtail	15	13	28	596	Golden Oriole			0	2
Waxwing			0	1	Red-backed Shrike			0	6
Wren	461		461	7626	Great Grey Shrike			0	4
Dunnock	1267	2	1269	17285	Jay	14		14	150
Robin	796	19	815	10104	Magpie	27		27	143
Thrush Nightingale			0	1	Jackdaw	2	50	52	116
Nightingale	5		5	94	Rook	11		11	900
Bluethroat			0	3	Carrión Crow	3	2	5	26
Red-flanked Bluetail			0	1	Starling	2428	23	2451	25978
Black Redstart	1		1	12	House Sparrow	594		594	5136
Redstart	26		27	634	Tree Sparrow	73	44	117	4713
Whinchat	17		17	253	Chaffinch	779	10	789	6183

Species	1991 FG	PULL	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL 1979-91	Species	1991 FG	PULL	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL 1979-91
Brambling	23		23	972	Hawfinch		0		1
Greenfinch	3633		3633	19112	American Redstart		0		1
Goldfinch	67	3	70	2439	Northern Waterthrush		0		1
Siskin	32		32	276	Lapland Bunting		0		318
Linnet	197	3	200	5820	Snow Bunting		0		59
Twite	19		19	727	Yellowhammer	115		115	3443
Redpoll	260	4	264	5630	Reed Bunting	107		107	4524
Arctic Redpoll	1		1	1	Red-headed Bunting		0		1
Crossbill	37		37	69	Corn Bunting	2		2	263
Scarlet Rosefinch			0	3	TOTALS	28185	1412	29597	354107
Bullfinch	226		226	4400					

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1991

Recoveries are arranged by species; ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second. Age when ringed is based on the 'Euring' code (the numbers do not represent age in years): 1 = nestling, or pullus; 2 = full-grown, year of hatching unknown; 3 = hatched during current year; 4 = hatched before current year, exact age unknown; 5 = hatched during previous calendar year; 6 = hatched more than one calendar year earlier, exact age unknown; 8 = hatched more than two calendar years earlier, exact age unknown; J = juvenile plumage when ringed. Sex: M = Male; F = Female. Manner of recovery: v = 'controlled', ie trapped and released by a ringer; vB = breeding when 'controlled'; vv = ring number read in field; + = shot or killed by man; x = found dead or dying.

STORM PETREL

- 4 29.08.89 Huttoft (tape-lured)
v 19.07.91 Tarbat Ness, Inverness 570km NNW

GREY HERON

- 1 28.04.90 Laughton Forest, Gainsborough
x 03.04.91 Askrigg, N Yorks 128km NW

MUTE SWAN

- 5M 12.03.86 Brayford Pool, Lincoln
v 12.04.91 Bishops Monkton, N Yorks 114km NW

TUFTED DUCK

- 2M 30.12.81 Peakirk, Peterborough
+ 15.10.90 Owston Ferry 80km NNW

MARSH HARRIER

- 1 15.07.90 South-east Lincs
x 04.10.91 Zamora, Spain 1301km SSW

SPARROWHAWK

- 3M 21.10.82 Seacroft, Skegness
x 12.03.91 Weser-Ems, GERMANY 519km E

MERLIN

- 1F 08.07.91 Dyfed, Wales
v 13.10.91 Donna Nook 324km NE

OYSTERCATCHER

- 5 05.11.78 Friskney, Wash
vB 27.06.91 Nord-Trondelag, NORW'Y 1376km NNE
3J 29.08.76 Friskney
x 05.07.91 Nolsoy, FAEROES 1079km NNW

KNOT

- 6 18.05.87 Alftanes, Kjosar, ICELAND
v 19.01.91 Friskney 1772km SE
5 10.09.75 Friskney
+ 09.08.91 Ammassalik, GREENL'D 2488km NW

DUNLIN

- 4 25.07.90 Butterwich, Wash
v 03.05.91 Faro, Algarve, PORTUG'L 1886km SSW
4 02.08.99 Benington, Wash
v 18.05.91 Faro, Algarve, PORTUG'L 1888km SSW
6 08.05.90 Faro, Algarve, PORTUGAL
v 26.07.90 Freiston, Wash 1882km NNE
3 10.09.90 Butterwick Marsh
x 24.03.91 Scanti Petri, Cadiz, SPAIN 1905km SSW
4 10.08.89 Benington
x 24.06.91 Nordor Mula, ICELAND 1604km NW
6F 16.05.86 Nordur Thingeyjar, ICELAND
v 23.07.90 Butterwick

WOODCOCK

- 4M 02.11.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
+ 29.12.90 Malpas, Cheshire 204km W

CURLEW

- 4F 26.08.84 Marston S F, Grantham
x 15.04.87 Tornio, Lappi, FINLAND 1991km NE

REDSHANK

- 1 28.05.90 Middleham, N Yorkshire
x 01.03.91 Butterwick Marsh 193km SE

TURNSTONE

- 3 30.07.88 Kristiinankaupunki, Vaasa, FINLAND
v 23.07.90 Butterwick 1614km SW

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Birds from Boston were recovered in The NETHERLANDS, GERMANY (2), DENMARK (2), SWEDEN and ESTONIA. Single birds from ESTONIA were 'controlled' at Boston; another from DENMARK was found dead near Theddlethorpe St Helens.

COMMON GULL

1 14.07.77 Langevaghholmen Sula, NORWAY
v 28.07.90 North Somercotes 1090km SSW

HERRING GULL

8M 19.05.89 Isle of May, Fife
vv 28.08.90 Wyberton 393km SSE
8 31.08.89 Wyberton
x 15.10.91 Banff, Grampian 553km NNW

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Birds from Wyberton were reported from NORWAY and The NETHERLANDS; one from DENMARK was 'controlled' at Wyberton.

LITTLE TERN

1 20.07.83 Gibraltar Point
x 23.06.91 Gibraltar Point

BARN OWL

1 01.06.90 West Pinchbeck, Spalding
x 13.06.91 Acle, Norfolk 127km
1 17.07.87 Crowland
x 01.04.91 Fairlight, Sussex 196km SSE

KINGFISHER

3 10.06.90 Earls Barton, Northants
x 17.07.90 River Eau, Scotter 135km N

SAND MARTIN

4M 23.05.90 West Ashby, Horncastle
v 19.03.91 Parc Nat. du Djoudj, SENEGAL
4332km SSW

3J 10.08.89 Spalding
v 09.03.91 Djoudj, SENEGAL 4289km SSW
3J 11.07.90 Spalding
v 09.03.91 Djoudj, SENEGAL 4289km SSW
4F 03.08.90 Lea Marshes, Gainsborough
v 12.12.90 Djoudj, SENEGAL 4325km SSW
4 26.03.91 Djoudj, SENEGAL
v 31.07.91 Calceby, Louth ca 4310km NNE
3J 26.07.91 Spalding
v 31.07.91 Ynyslas, Dyfed 267km W
3 28.06.91 West Ashby
v 07.07.91 Delamere, Cheshire 170km W

A bird from West Ashby was 'controlled' at Icklesham, Sussex; four birds ringed at Icklesham were 'controlled' at Nettleton, Caistor, and one at Spalding.

HOUSE MARTIN

3F 07.09.89 St Alban's Head, Dorset
v 19.07.91 Scopwick, Lincoln 302km NNE

MEADOW PIPIT

3 24.06.89 Dinnington on Bain, Louth
x 29.01.91 Gironde, FRANCE 934km S

ROBIN

3 20.10.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 11.11.90 Oil rig, North Sea 119km E
3 24.10.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 11.03.91 Solihull, W Midlands 174km SW

NIGHTINGALE

1 16.06.89 Eakring, Notts
v 12.05.91 Ancaster, Grantham 35km ESE

BLACKBIRD

3M 19.11.90 Skegness
x 14.02.91 Login, Dyfed 338km WSW
Birds from Theddlethorpe Dunes were reported from NORWAY and GERMANY, and a SWEDISH ringed bird was 'controlled' at Gibraltar Point.

SONG THRUSH

3 24.09.88 Theddlethorpe Dunes
+ 15.02.91 Beira Baixa, PORTUGAL 1614km SSW

REDWING

4 12.10.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 02.03.91 Morbihan, FRANCE 683km SSW

LESSER WHITETHROAT

3 25.08.91 Gibraltar Point
v 03.09.91 Dunwich, Suffolk 127km SE

WHITETHROAT

3 01.09.91 Wrangle
x 03.09.91 Paris, FRANCE 491km SSE

BLACKCAP

3F 13.09.90 West Vlaanderen, BELGIUM
v 26.09.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes 309km NW
4F 03.06.90 Harlaxton, Grantham
v 02.03.91 Faro, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1854km SSW
3M 14.07.90 Market Rasen
v 21.09.91 Lot et Garonne, FRANCE 1006km S
3F 23.07.88 Castle Ashby, Northants
v 10.05.91 Uffington Spring Wood 52km NNE
3M 07.09.89 Icklesham, Sussex
v 10.05.91 Uffington Spring Wood 207km NNW

WILLOW WARBLER

3 04.09.90 Gibraltar Point
v 27.05.91 Threestoneburn, Northumberland
306km NNW

LONG TAILED TIT

2 15.09.90 Ancaster, Grantham
v 06.07.91 Barnsley, S. Yorks 91km NW

STARLING

1 24.05.89 Koszalin, POLAND
+ 11.12.90 Owston Ferry 1163km W
Birds from Nettleham and Boston were reported from BELGIUM; another from Boston was recovered in GERMANY.

CHAFFINCH

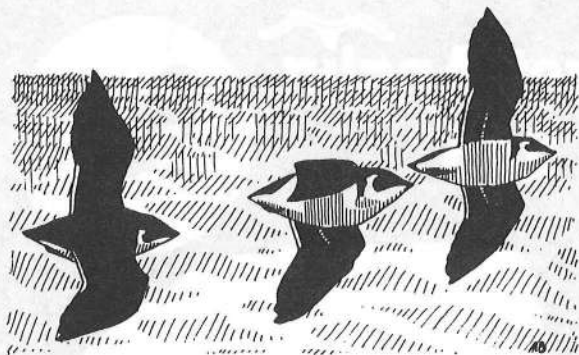
6M 16.03.91 North Somercotes
? 04.04.91 Tottem Anholt, DENMARK 313km ENE

GREENFINCH

5M 10.03.91 Manby, Louth
x 06.09.91 Linton upon Ouse, York 116km NW
6M 13.03.91 Grantham
v 14.04.91 Diss, Norfolk 126km ESE
3F 27.11.88 Elvaston Park, Derby
v 05.01.91 North Somercotes 120km ENE

CROSSBILL

3M 07.07.91 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 13.08.91 Nr Chesterfield, Derbyshire 117km W



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