

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1993

Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report

Systematic List

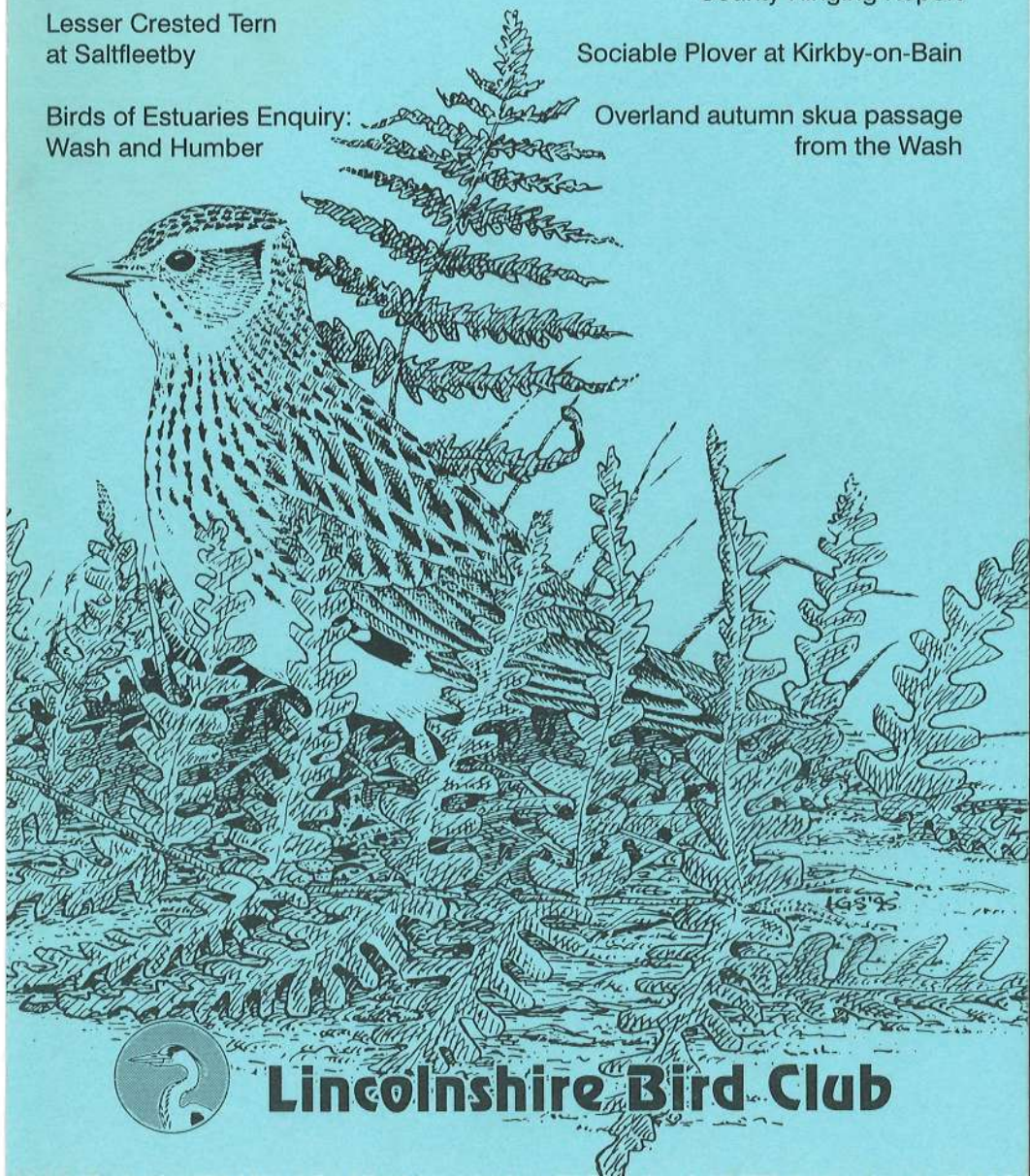
Lesser Crested Tern
at Saltfleetby

County Ringing Report

Birds of Estuaries Enquiry:
Wash and Humber

Sociable Plover at Kirkby-on-Bain

Overland autumn skua passage
from the Wash



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CONTENTS

	Page
GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT	
Review of the Year <i>K M Wilson & P J Forrest</i>	2
Ringling Report <i>Bill Paul</i>	4
OVERLAND AUTUMN SKUA PASSAGE FROM THE WASH	6
<i>G M S Easy</i>	
WETLAND BIRD SURVEY 1993	
The Wash <i>Bob Lord</i>	8
The Humber <i>Ian Shepherd</i>	10
REVIEW OF THE YEAR	14
<i>Graham P Catley</i>	
SYSTEMATIC LIST 1993	17
List of Contributors	76
NEW FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Sociable Plover at Kirkby-on-Bain <i>Kevin DuRose</i>	77
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Graham P Catley</i>	79
COUNTY RINGING REPORT	81
<i>John Mawer</i>	
RARITIES LIST	87

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GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT 1993

Review of the Year

This report summarises 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 1993, details of which can be found at the end of this report.

January-March

Wildfowl produced most of the highlights for the period. Firstly, from January 3rd-25th a flock of up to 43 Bewick's Swans were present on the adjacent fields. Then from February 16th-25th, again mainly on adjacent fields, a flock of 200 White-fronted Geese and up to 27 Bean Geese were present. Pink-footed Geese and Brent Geese were present in fairly typical numbers however, peaking at 450 and 2750 respectively. Raptors throughout this quarter included Hen Harrier, Merlin, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and up to seven Short-eared Owl. Less frequent were Peregrine, Barn Owl and Long-eared Owl.

On the debit side there were no Shore Lark records, only two Snow Buntings on one date and only four Twite records with a maximum of just 10 birds. The return passage of winter passerines was again very obvious in March with for example peak day counts of 920 Redwings (18th) and 900 Chaffinches (16th). Scarcer migrants at this time included Black Redstart (14th), Firecrest (13th) and Woodlark (14th-30th). A Ring Ouzel on the 28th was the second earliest since records began in 1949.

April-June

Highlights for the period included Black Kite, Crane, two Black-necked Grebes, one Water Pipit and a singing male Serin in April. May continued with two Bluethroat, one Rustic Bunting, one Wryneck, Osprey (three bird days), one Honey Buzzard, Black Kite again, two Spoonbills, one Stone Curlew, one Tawny Pipit, one Little Egret, one Quail and a Firecrest. Then June saw another Serin on the East Dunes, two Red-backed Shrikes, two Montagu's Harrier and a first summer Mediterranean Gull.

A feature of the spring migration was the number of commoner landbird migrants with particularly early return dates. These included Yellow Wagtail on April 4th (earliest record) Pied Flycatcher on the 11th (also the earliest record), Cuckoo on the 12th (2nd earliest) and Whitethroat on the 10th (3rd earliest).

July-September

From early July until early September the Mere provided most of the highlights. These included the reserve's first Great White Egret, one Wood Sandpiper, two Garganey, up to three Scaup, nine Curlew Sandpipers, 15 Little Stint, 10 Ruff and four Spotted Redshank. Elsewhere on the reserve late September produced singles each of Hoopoe, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Ortolan Bunting, Red-backed Shrike, Yellow-browed Warbler, Jack Snipe and Icterine Warbler. September was also notable for an unprecedented passage of Honey Buzzard with 4 on the 14th, two on the 15th and one on the 17th. The use of the Wash by returning waders gave peak counts of 9500 Oystercatcher, 6000 Knot and 6000 Dunlin during the period. At sea the Sandwich Tern flock peaked at 850 birds in July. August highlights included Long-tailed Skua, Roseate Tern, Purple Sandpiper,

Mediterranean Gull and up to four Pomarine Skua. In September peak counts included 106 Arctic Skua, six Sooty Shearwater, 462 Gannet, six Little Gull and four Great Skua. A Sabine's Gull was a particularly good record.

October-December

Fair seawatching continued into October with skua movements involving several Pomarines. The year's second Sabine's Gull drifted past on the 24th when there was also a Black-necked Grebe on the sea. Difficult conditions for seabirds became apparent when a Little Auk crash-landed at the Field Station on the 22nd. Two Leach's Petrels flew close inshore on the 23rd and the following day a further 35 Little Auks passed through.

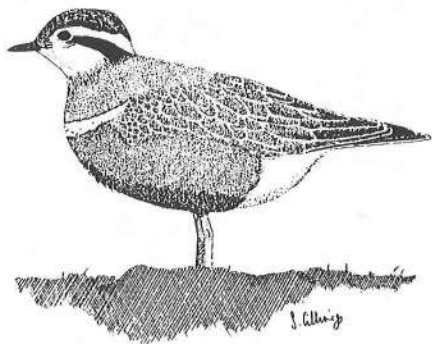
Migrant falls during the period featured large numbers of Continental thrushes and finches, including a handful of Ring Ouzels and parties of Brambling. Scarce migrants also appeared in the form of single Richard's Pipit and Red-breasted Flycatcher and a run of Yellow-browed Warblers - one of which remained into November with a Firecrest. Grey Wagtails passed through in unprecedented numbers and an influx of Jays occurred. A few Chiffchaffs remained well into this quarter, with Blackcaps even more persistent. Lapland Buntings arrived in record numbers and uncommon wildfowl appeared in the form of White-fronted Geese and Bewick's Swans.

Waxwing and Great Grey Shrike both put in brief appearances, but the highlight of the late period was a Little Egret which regularly flew in from the north to roost in the Wash. Also flying in to roost was a single Mediterranean Gull on December 13th only.

There was an average showing of birds of prey, ie a couple of Merlin, Hen Harrier and Sparrowhawk. Short-eared Owls numbered four during October but Long-eared Owl sightings were restricted to one. Snow Buntings and Twite arrived in small groups but, unfortunately, did not remain, though single Stonechat and Hooded Crow looked settled to winter in this area and the Fieldfare flock was up to 500 strong.

The Gibraltar Point Annual Report includes a systematic list of all bird species recorded, ringing reports, surveys and accounts of many other aspects of the reserve's natural history, such as butterflies, moths and dragonflies. It is available from the reserves visitor centre price £3.00 or by mail order at £3.50 inc. p&p from: Gibraltar Point Field Station, Gibraltar Road, SKEGNESS, Lincs, PE24 4SU . Tel 01754 762677

K M Wilson & P J Forrest



Ringling Report.

The main thrust of ringing during 1993 has been the continuation of Constant Effort Sites (CES) in the East & West Dunes.

Many hours need to be invested in CES and as a result it was difficult to devote time to other ringing activities. CES invariably yields a much smaller percentage of birds than does targeting migrants, however time spent is a worthy investment providing data of high value to the reserve. It is also useful to be able to look back through records since the scheme began here three years ago, which show the same birds returning to breed. It is possible to ascertain the success of many breeding species, and the results tie in well with CBC.

The overall figure of birds ringed is well down on the totals for previous years, due not only to the change in priorities but also to the lack of a ringing course and a reduction in the number of visiting ringers to three groups, plus one or two individuals. Fortunately, these visits occasionally coincided with large arrivals of migrants and resulted in the ringing of both a Red-breasted Flycatcher and a Yellow-browed Warbler, although according to the Skegness News the ringing of the latter was attributable to a "group of visiting twitchers!".

The usual thanks go to the Gibraltar Point Reserve Staff for their assistance with the ringing side of the Observatory.

A W Paul
Ringing Secretary



Gibraltar Point Ringing Totals 1993

Species	FG	PULL	TOTAL
Sparrowhawk	8	0	8
Kestrel	1	2	3
Ringed Plover	0	16	16
Sanderling	1	0	1
Woodcock	3	0	3
Woodpigeon	3	2	5
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	1
Swallow	9	3	12
Skylark	16	0	16
Meadow Pipit	80	0	80
Wren	102	0	102
Dunnock	210	0	210
Robin	92	0	92
Redstart	17	0	17
Whinchat	4	0	4
Stonechat	1	0	1
Blackbird	96	0	96
Song Thrush	31	0	31
Redwing	15	0	15
Sedge Warbler	4	0	4
Reed Warbler	15	0	15
Lesser Whitethroat	67	0	67
Whitethroat	105	0	105
Garden Warbler	8	0	8
Blackcap	44	0	44
Wood Warbler	1	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	0	1
Chiffchaff	11	0	11
Willow Warbler	119	0	119
Goldcrest	68	0	68
Firecrest	1	0	1
Treecreeper	2	0	2
Pied Flycatcher	3	0	3
Long-tailed Tit	6	0	6
Blue Tit	60	40	100
Great Tit	21	27	48
Magpie	1	0	1
Chaffinch	21	0	21
Brambling	2	0	2
Greenfinch	12	0	12
Goldfinch	1	0	1
Linnet	9	0	9
Redpoll	9	0	9
Bullfinch	1	0	1
Reed Bunting	2	0	2
Totals			
46 Species	1285	90	1375
Retraps 445			

OVERLAND AUTUMN SKUA PASSAGE FROM THE WASH

The phenomenon of skua migration from the Wash has been frequently documented in the Cambridge Bird Club Reports. In the 1990 edition the results of my observations at the Ouse Mouth in Norfolk were summarised when a special effort was made to gauge the scale of these overland movements during one autumn. This showed that the volume of skua passage inland was not dissimilar from the movements observed off the Wash mouth, Holme-Hunstanton (which is traditionally a heading into the Wash during strong to gale force north-westerly winds.) This suggested that the movement passing Hunstanton was of birds intent upon overland migration from the south Wash. The reason for the interest of Cambridge observers is that skuas are only occasionally spotted in that county due to the high flight paths taken by the majority of the participants. This survey was an attempt to evaluate the extent of the skua passage involved. The results, with 528 skuas (360 Arctic, 167 Great and 1 Long-tailed) departing from the south Wash on a Cambs heading during a total of 42 hours watching, well below half the period when conditions were conducive to migration in daylight, was rather surprising.

1993 was also targeted for a special survey of skua departures. After a spell of watching off the Ouse Mouth a move was made to the Nene Mouth inside the Lincolnshire boundary, where an exciting passage became apparent, not altogether duplicating the flow at the Ouse Mouth. The Nene Mouth was expected to provide significant skua departures since during recent observations off Lynn Point, skuas could be seen heading on this course and there was past information of inland departures from there including a spectacular lift off from the sea of 150 on September 14th 1980. Furthermore sightings of skuas reported over Wisbech Sewage Farm in earlier years suggested that this would be an easier route to track birds in Cambs. In reality 1993 showed something more distinctive. There was a high level, purely migrational movement on a south-west heading, often in cloud and involving terns, waders and skuas, which was not promoted by any surface features. One surprising feature of the tern and skua movements was that these were already at high levels prior to reaching the shoreline. During the autumn I spent some 60 hours attempting to pick out these departures, often in very poor visibility, in abominable conditions and in a wide range of weather situations in an attempt to evaluate the weather responsible for these departures. Certainly I was only present for about half the time that major movements were in progress although the site was visited on most of those days of major skua departures. Even during these watches some flocks must have passed unobserved. Often birds went over in cloud at heights where quite large flocks only took up a small part of the image produced by the 15x65 binoculars used; some would surely have been above cloud base on occasions! I found estimation of the heights taken difficult. At the extreme, Great Skuas were only just identifiable; these would have been over two miles out to sea if producing similar problems off Hunstanton Cliffs. However, 10,000 feet would seem an unlikely flight path for migration!

Certainly these flocks would give little chance of being picked out once dispersed further inland. Furthermore the very high level of the arrival at the southern Wash suggested that birds had been travelling some distance at this height and may account for some of the daily counts of skua departures from the southern Wash exceeding counts at both Skegness and Hunstanton on those days. High level migration has long been known as a feature of skua migration. The Handbook (Witherby 1941) states 'migratory flights along coasts or overland are ordinarily performed high in the air, so that even on a

regularly followed route birds are easily missed unless watched for (R.Warren)'. Certainly I had not considered this factor as a possibility at other coastal observation points and have never felt the need to cloud watch during skua movements at Holme or Hunstanton in the past. Perusal of the enclosed tables shows the extent of the south-west heading compared to the whole skua departure recorded at the Nene Mouth in 1993. Also shown are all the previous skuas recorded going inland up the river Nene and some of the larger movements observed in 1993.

NENE MOUTH DEPARTURES

	GREAT SKUA	ARCTIC SKUA	POMARINE SKUA
Total 1993 autumn	218	357	105
Heading SSW/SW	144	59	
Heading S/ESE	67	213	46
Aug 22nd 1993	5	136	-
Sept 26th 1993	51	39	7
Oct 21st 1993	74	22	96
All previous records	75	203	6

Earlier watches at the Ouse Mouth had produced a tally of 101 Arctic, 11 Great and 1 Pomarine Skuas, thus my total of skuas passing inland from the southern Wash during 1993 was of almost 800 birds! As only one of the two sites could be covered at any one time and since a proportion of the birds passed over undetected or were missed due to short duration of the watches, it seems probable that 2,000 passed through during the autumn. Furthermore there is a possibility that two major staging posts exist which have yet to be surveyed. The migration at the Ouse Mouth seems to involve birds which have already passed inland along the north Norfolk shoreline, those that have travelled parallel to the eastern Wash coast and birds from the north-west which may have arrived from Gibraltar Point. That at the Nene Mouth involves birds which have passed high unobserved or on a traditional heading close to the cliffs at Hunstanton, from the centre of the Wash or from the Lincolnshire side. There remain two flights which do not seem to be accounted for: the birds that are observed fighting parallel to the Lincs coast and a significant flight regularly observed off Holme and Hunstanton, of birds moving south of west over Sunk Sand on a heading towards Boston Stump. This suggests that the south-west Wash corner and the west side departure points remain to be discovered.

Conclusion: The 1993 watch at the Nene Mouth has shown that a high level south-westerly passage of skuas exists which appears to be an overland migration to the Severn estuary. This has long been indicated from skua movements from the Severn upper waters, first brought to my notice in the early 1960s but never before satisfactorily proven from headings taken by our departing flocks.

G M S Easy

References

- Witherby H.F. (1941, 1947 reprint) The Handbook of British Birds. Macmillan, London
 Easy G.M.S. (1964) Storm driven seabirds. Cambs Bird Club Report 1962.
 Easy G.M.S. (1992) Skua migration over Cambridgeshire. Cambs Bird Club Report 1990.

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY 1993

The Lincolnshire Wash

The table shows the summed totals for 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 in all months except June and most months see all sections counted although inevitably from time to time some sections are missed through lack of cover. Counting any estuary is difficult, perhaps moreso in the Wash because of its size, area of high saltmarsh, the fact that tides often do not reach high enough up and the sun is always in the wrong place!! 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 (Norfolk organiser) and I would like to express our thanks to all who have participated in the BoEE/WeBS counts during 1993.

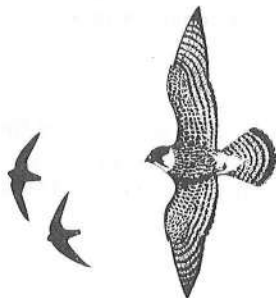
The Brent Goose population picked up significantly in December as families arrived late with young. Nationally the figure was around 25% young in the flocks. The number of Pink-footed Geese however was exceedingly poor, despite an influx of grey geese in February. Birds are still tending to favour better feeding and safer roosting areas on the eastern side of the Wash and along the North Norfolk coast.

Within the Lincolnshire side of the Wash there has been a noticeable decline in the numbers of Wigeon, particularly to the south of Gibraltar Point. A poor year too for Pintail and sea duck, with fewer Eider than have been recorded in recent years.

There has been a slight increase in Oystercatchers this year which is encouraging and Knot numbers remained steady in Lincolnshire but declined in the Wash as a whole, peaking at 127,000 in September. Other interesting records include Jack Snipe and Purple Sandpiper, and the Black-tailed Godwit population continues to increase.

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Bob Lord.



THE WASH COUNTS 1993 - LINCOLNSHIRE TOTALS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
R-t Diver	4								1		3
B-t Diver									1		
Little Grebe	2						1		2	2	1
G C Grebe	22	6	7	6	5	8	134	30	33	7	4
Fulmar					4		2				
Mnx Shearwater					3						
Gannet						1	22	28	1		
Cormorant	127	104	124	61	51	56	205	115	107	82	95
Shag	1								9		
Little Egret							1	5		4	
Grey Heron	8	9	3		5	30	32	34	40	16	15
Mute Swan	1		4		1						
Bewick's Swan									2	5	8
Whooper Swan			7						12		43
Bean Goose				4							
Pink-f Goose	11				2				7		
White-f Goose											73
Canada Goose					2						
Brent Goose	12558	12158	11500	8759	5073	20	13	4441	12282	12264	20395
Ruddy Shelduck							2				
Shelduck	5604	5461	1729	751	697	101	545	910	2807	4524	6827
Wigeon	105	58	88	2	2		14	748	1833	220	130
Gadwall	5							8			1
Teal	82	28	17	15	7	4	84	129	297	53	35
Mallard	387	866	374	131	121	114	177	813	923	339	1182
Pintail	206	52	24	5			12	34	72	29	48
Shoveler					1		1				
Pochard		1									
Tufted Duck				2	2				1		
Scaup											1
Eider	60	123	96	5	65	82	63	38	122	2	41
Common Scoter	1						9	70			2
Goldeneye	13	11	24	2						2	3
R-b Merganser	1	8	19	6				18	5	4	16
Oystercatcher	7521	9722	6875	3377	2505	3087	14191	14928	12535	8122	17843
Ringed Plover	38	112	112	75	187	242	868	542	118	17	88
Golden Plover	450	4987	2344	630		684	1536	920	2337	2073	1442
Grey Plover	2273	2655	4654	3656	7650	405	6294	7619	8320	3495	3058
Lapwing	645	16766	31	8	20	741	623	601	1093	2732	6818
Knot	28186	19437	15791	14260	2542	6854	2566	36518	18100	17856	23967
Sanderling	32	13	13	74	103	341	970	33	50	60	80
Little Stint						3		3			
Curl Sandpiper					1		3				
Purp Sandpiper							2				
Dunlin	19884	9502	19550	19720	16166	12104	9641	18751	16449	12148	12750
Ruff		8	7		3	5	122	3	1		
Jack Snipe				1							1
Snipe	3		9	1	2	2	7	15	11	5	3
Bl-t Godwit	15		1	3			1699	486	366	128	
Bar-t Godwit	1225	3076	993	63	182	1064	4607	9131	5330	1863	1859
Whimbrel			2	2	75	201	211	159	1		
Curlew	557	1206	1882	455	211	2040	3522	5853	3534	1170	1175
Spot Redshank					1		6	75	3		
Redshank	1104	713	1316	863	509	1346	1821	3888	1695	398	896
Greenshank					29		90	78	5		
Gn Sandpiper							3	3			
Crn Sandpiper	2				2	24	28	5			
Turnstone	95	104	251	293	295	352	685	353	294	4	340

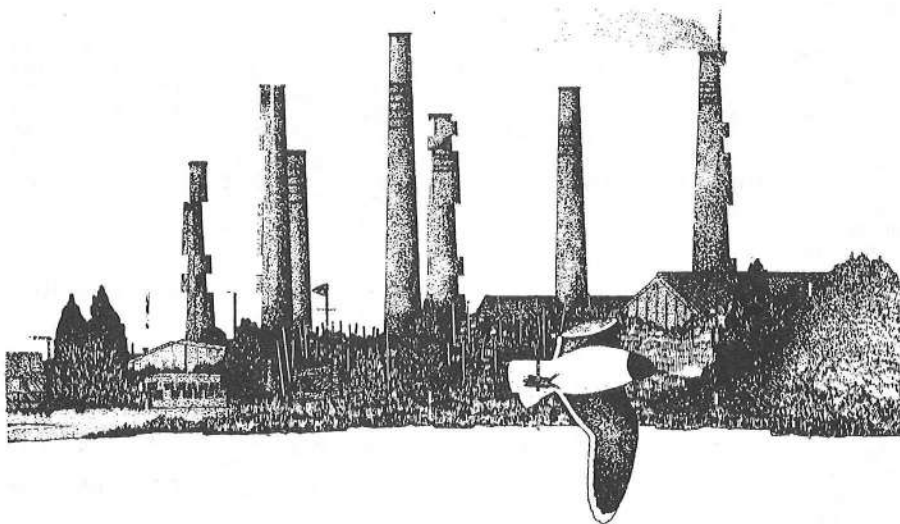
The Humber

The Birds of Estuaries Enquiry (BoEE) and National Wildfowl counts were combined from October 1993 to form the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS); the methods used remain the same as for previous years however. The table shows the summed totals for each of the waterfowl species counted over the whole estuary and along the south shore only. No counts were attempted in June or July and there were no north shore counts in August or September. Data for wildfowl species recorded from the north shore were not available to me hence the ? marks in the 'entire estuary' column.

Fig 1 shows the coverage pattern of count sectors through the year; please refer to the 1992 Report for location of each sector. Coverage was again incomplete with important roost sites uncounted or only partially covered on the south shore in February (Tetney), March (Cleethorpes), April (Saltfleet), August (all sites downstream of Pyewipe), September (North Cotes), October (Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe) and December (North Cotes). Any offers from back-up counters to take on a count when a regular counter is unavailable would be gratefully received.

Count organisers David Porter (north shore), Keith Parker (inner south shore), John Walker (outer south shore) and myself (mid-south shore) all send many thanks to everyone who participated in the counts.

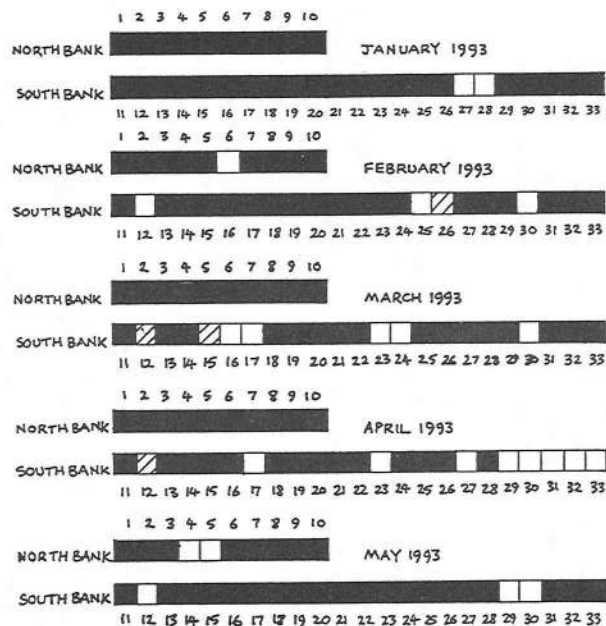
Ian Shepherd



HUMBER COUNTS 1993

		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL	
		Entire Estuary	South Bank	Entire Estuary	South Bank	Entire Estuary	South Bank	Entire Estuary	South Bank
Red throated Diver	RH	?	5	?	5	?	-	?	-
Little Grebe	LG	?	1	?	3	?	1	?	-
Great Crested Grebe	GG	?	2	?	1	?	1	?	-
Cormorant	CA	?	166	?	94	?	46	?	15
Grey Heron	H	?	-	?	-	?	6	?	2
Mute Swan	MS	?	15	?	20	?	2	?	-
Pink-footed Goose	PG	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Greylag Goose	GJ	?	3	?	8	?	9	?	-
Canada Goose	CG	?	13	?	40	?	79	?	30
Banacle Goose	BY	?	5	?	-	?	-	?	-
Brent Goose	BG	?	1111	?	403	?	131	?	24
Shelduck	SU	?	798	?	490	?	1202	?	703
Wigeon	WN	?	1671	?	90	?	279	?	10
Gadwall	GA	?	3	?	4	?	-	?	-
Teal	T	?	392	?	91	?	91	?	25
Mallard	MA	?	1526	?	657	?	198	?	101
Pintail	PT	?	15	?	12	?	-	?	1
Shoveler	SV	?	-	?	5	?	-	?	-
Pochard	PO	?	900	?	790	?	1	?	2
Tufted Duck	TU	?	350	?	140	?	-	?	8
Scaup	SP	?	30	?	1	?	-	?	-
Eider	E	?	3	?	7	?	-	?	-
Common Scoter	CX	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	2
Velvet Scoter	VS	?	3	?	-	?	-	?	-
Goldeneye	GN	?	221	?	69	?	-	?	-
Red-breasted Merganser	RM	?	-	?	-	?	1	?	-
Goosander	GD	?	1	?	-	?	-	?	-
Oystercatcher	OC	5683	2017	3225	1975	4706	1853	2396	931
Avocet	AV	-	-	2	-	4	1	2	-
Little Ringed Plover	LP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ringed Plover	RP	279	189	268	179	163	103	113	61
Golden Plover	GP	9564	3770	13730	4644	3778	2196	322	11
Grey Plover	GV	815	432	396	354	507	434	1578	720
Lapwing	L	4266	2192	11445	6061	673	418	99	53
Knot	KN	44833	16586	15411	10161	3005	873	96	33
Sanderling	SS	224	220	387	377	403	381	287	270
Little Stint	LX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	CV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	PS	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	DN	27400	7867	14925	5903	13467	3323	14489	1427
Ruff	RU	-	-	3	1	-	-	23	15
Jack Snipe	JS	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Snipe	SN	36	11	19	9	42	17	13	1
Black-tailed Godwit	BW	34	-	95	1	7	-	2	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	BA	1707	664	982	491	220	116	67	11
Whimbrel	WM	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Curlew	CU	1457	450	1994	652	1772	731	535	312
Spotted Redshank	DR	3	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
Redshank	RK	4945	2831	2878	1278	2557	969	3373	840
Greenshank	GK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Sandpiper	GE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	CS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnstone	TT	390	247	305	273	178	58	290	93

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	
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	RH
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	2	?	-	?	24	LG
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	9	?	9	GG
?	15	?	2	?	34	?	29	?	64	?	68	CA
?	-	?	11	?	6	?	15	?	15	?	13	H
?	-	?	35	?	1	?	4	?	-	?	138	MS
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	600	?	650	PG
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	8	GJ
?	24	?	40	?	36	?	7	?	-	?	-	CG
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	1	?	18	?	11	BY
?	-	?	-	?	40	?	747	?	1402	?	896	BG
?	693	?	296	?	910	?	632	?	1388	?	1055	SU
?	-	?	267	?	223	?	1021	?	577	?	2832	WN
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	GA
?	-	?	401	?	182	?	1108	?	475	?	361	T
?	66	?	606	?	236	?	362	?	444	?	673	MA
?	-	?	-	?	2	?	-	?	2	?	4	PT
?	3	?	-	?	-	?	5	?	-	?	-	SV
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	300	?	789	PO
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	300	?	421	TU
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	8	?	32	SP
?	-	?	-	?	25	?	-	?	2	?	4	E
?	-	?	-	?	1	?	-	?	54	?	283	CX
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	1	?	1	VS
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	43	?	146	GN
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	2	?	-	?	-	RM
?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-	GD
1214	582	?	2	?	1467	2535	296	3224	2248	4981	540	OC
4	-	?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AV
-	-	?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LP
351	173	?	476	?	68	223	37	171	64	212	185	RP
174	1	?	1326	?	171	34313	6000	26745	5610	29201	8997	GP
1674	547	?	-	?	2213	1906	181	1658	398	887	355	GV
16	4	?	604	?	141	13220	4159	15957	5992	22954	10132	L
102	26	?	8	?	1615	10952	336	19200	7870	24698	14260	KN
1392	1391	?	-	?	301	173	108	235	234	358	317	SS
-	-	?	1	?	1	13	1	-	-	-	-	LX
-	-	?	10	?	3	6	4	-	-	-	-	CV
-	-	?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	PS
10531	2290	?	282	?	4634	16009	2916	14802	4886	-	7989	DN
14	-	?	17	?	1	133	2	27	-	2	-	RU
-	-	?	-	?	4	2	1	4	1	1	1	JS
5	1	?	?	13	24	61	24	167	67	46	32	SN
2	-	?	-	?	-	5	-	2	2	80	68	BW
168	42	?	8	?	174	304	9	439	115	996	327	BA
105	42	?	5	?	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	WM
245	54	?	100	?	364	1514	192	1049	255	1707	632	CU
2	-	?	1	?	-	4	-	2	-	2	-	DR
274	133	?	222	?	810	4499	716	2790	919	2623	1310	RK
6	1	?	9	?	26	2	-	-	-	-	-	GK
1	1	?	-	?	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	GE
2	-	?	4	?	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CS
266	139	?	62	?	216	232	6	352	273	380	233	TT



□ = uncounted ■ = full sector count ▨ = partial sector count

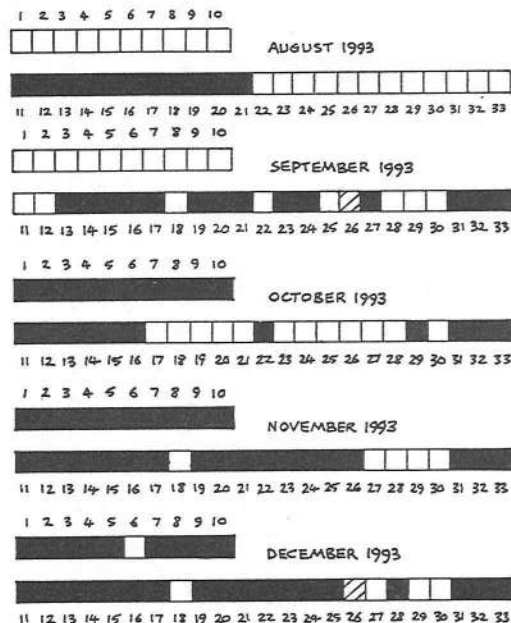


Fig 1

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1993

The year 1993 once again proved to be an interesting one bird-wise for the county with the usual fluctuations and trends amongst populations of our resident and migrant birds raising interesting questions and theories and most of all providing some cherished moments of just watching the birds which we all enjoy.

As usual a good variety of species were located with a total of 252 full species (excluding Yellow-legged Herring Gull) being accepted, a creditable 69% of the county list which now stands at 363 species as of December 31st 1993 with the addition of two new species during the year. So what were the major features of the year? The early winter produced two exceptional occurrences. The first came as a result of persistent strong to gale force north-westerly winds during early January which brought the county its share of a record British arrival of Iceland Gulls, outnumbering Glaucous, then as the wind veered to the north-north-east on January 25th a new county day total of Shags, 132, was logged off Mablethorpe during a half day seawatch. Could the total figure have been double that or even higher in the full days watch? Subsequently several storm-driven birds appeared along the coast and even inland, some staying for long periods. Associated with this movement was a good southerly passage of Kittiwakes. The second notable event of the early year manifested itself from early February as an unprecedented arrival of grey geese reached the east coast, presumably originating from the near continent. A record total of over 570 White-fronts with no less than 53 Beans, 50+ Barnacles and lesser numbers of Greylags and Pink-feet added real spice to county goose watching for a short period. Other records of note in this early period were a high count of 65 Great Crested Grebes off Skegness, up to 8 Shorelarks, a welcome sign of improvement in that species fortunes, at Saltfleetby to April, a wintering Richard's Pipit at Skidbrooke, good numbers of wintering Brambling at some favoured localities and the star of 1992, the White-throated Sparrow, continuing to frequent the Chapel Hill clearing at Willingham to March 28th.

March saw some early migrant arrivals, an exceptional passage of Stonechats, mirrored in the late autumn, and good totals of departing Whooper Swans which seem to be increasing again in comparison to Bewick's. An inland Pomarine Skua was most unusual and presumably a late wintering bird from the North Sea. Both Red-necked Grebe and a first-winter Black-throated Diver made extended stays at Barton Pits throughout March allowing many observers to combine these two scarce migrants with a visit to the wintering Rough-legged Buzzard still adjacent to Scunthorpe steelworks to mid April.

Spring migration proved to be as unpredictable as ever with most vagrants making short term appearances as usual before continuing their flights to far flung corners of the globe. A total of five summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebes offered the hope that they may settle to breed in the county in the near future. Of the common migrants there were record early dates for Turtle Dove and Arctic Tern and a prominent and extended passage of Wheatears. First rarity was a Crane making a brief touch down at Gibraltar Point (April 6th) followed later in the month by Black-winged Stilt, from the south, and a wandering drake Ring-necked Duck, both one day visitors. A small fall of more easterly origin in early May combined to bring three Bluethroats and a stunning male Rustic Bunting, two of the former and the latter all at Gibraltar Point which also hosted two spring Serins and yet another brief-staying Tawny Pipit late in the month. Three

Red-backed and a most oddly dated Great Grey Shrike (May 4th) plus two Golden Orioles late in May almost completed the spring vagrant scene or so it appeared. As the avian seasons seem to loosen their limits at both ends spring now seems to include June and autumn November. Thus both of the new birds for the county occurred within a three week period in the late spring with the first a superb summer-plumaged Sociable Plover on the fields between Kirkby and Coningsby from May 30th and the second the long overdue Lesser Crested Tern at Saltfleetby (June 20th). Almost overshadowed by these crackers were an Alpine Swift at Goxhill Marsh and a summer White-winged Black Tern on the same bit of Saltfleetby sand as the Lesser Crested the day before, both again being short stayers. A small influx of Quail became apparent and as late spring melted into early autumn a stunning Great White Egret complete with full plumes and aigrettes offered exceptional views to those who visited the Mere at Gibraltar Point during its two day July sojourn.

No sooner has spring run its course than the first returning waders tell of the impending autumn migration by early July. The vanguard of this movement on the Humber are the moulting Golden Plovers. Diligent searching through these mobile and often elusive flocks finally paid dividends in 1993 when east met west with both adult Pacific and American Golden Plovers found in the flock at South Ferriby within a spell of three weeks, at one time the two being within five days of each other at the same spot! As if that were not icing enough on the Humber cake a long-staying adult White-rumped Sandpiper appeared with the returning Dunlin in early August, the first in the county for many years since the loss of the old style sewage farms. Early promise of a bumper autumn crop of rare waders was soon dashed though, without a single Temminck's Stint or Pectoral Sandpiper during the autumn. The year also again failed to produce a Kentish Plover after a good run in the 1980's and there were just two trips of spring Dotterel. More Yellow-legged (Herring) Gulls, part of the problematic large gull taxonomy debate, joined increasing totals of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at inland tips and roosts through July and August and that much sought after but most elusive of terns, the Roseate, made another fleeting appearance at Gibraltar Point. Seawatching during the early autumn was predictable and steady and August drifted into September with few coastal migrants to show but a gale force south-easterly with heavy rain over the night of September 12-13th set pulses racing on several fronts. Watchers at the Humber bridge, eighteen miles from the open sea, were treated to the spectacle of 28 Great, 60+ Arctic and 3 Long-tailed



Skuas plus a juvenile Sabine's Gull and good numbers of Little Gulls, Sandwich Terns and a Leach's Petrel while the only comparable coastal seabird count was of 171 Great Skuas past Anderby Creek on 14th. The immediate aftermath of the south-easterlies formed one of the high points of the autumn as first an arrival of no less than eight Honey Buzzards was logged and then a fall of scarce migrants, Whinchat, Wheatear, Redstart and Pied and Spotted Flycatchers unfolded on the coast. Only small numbers of rarer migrants occurred however, with for instance just 3 Red-backed Shrikes, 3 Icterine and 4 Barred Warblers but most notable was a Cetti's Warbler trapped at Theddlethorpe on 17th. After this good spell the later autumn was interesting without being exceptional, with typical autumn totals of 9 Yellow-browed Warblers, 5 Red-breasted Flycatchers, including the latest ever to November 7th, 9 Wrynecks and 4 Richard's Pipits. A period of northerly gales in late October brought exceptional numbers of Pomarine and Great Skuas into the southern Wash (see article) and a few Little Auks to coastal locations. With a local failure of the acorn crop an obvious dispersal of Jays became apparent from late September, the first such notable movements since the autumn of 1983. A notable coastal arrival of Firecrests late in the autumn led to the first multiple instance of wintering in the county and more unusual still two individual Black-bellied Dippers appeared in October/November with one staying the winter on its favoured stream near Lincoln, the first such wintering occurrence since 1980/81. From the south though that rather atypical wintering species the Little Egret showed that it is capable of surviving Lincolnshire winters.

On a more general note a continuing increase and spread in range was noted for the feral Canada and Greylag Goose populations, decreases were noted for both Pintail and Eider in the Wash at both ends of the year while an increase in the Brent population was notable as was the build up of a significant wintering herd of Mute Swans at New Holland. Of the breeding birds a record number of broods of Pochard were located on the Humber Pits, breeding was proved for a pair of Mandarins and the Deeping St James Cormorant colony, only established in 1992, increased rapidly with 100 young reared. Marsh Harriers continued their seemingly inexorable increase in passage numbers with the breeding population also expanding in range and totals while Montagu's Harriers kept their toe-hold with one pair nesting and at last Common Buzzards look set to recolonise, although the number of birds already breeding may well be a surprise. Conversely Little Terns had a bad year with just 29 young fledging and the Mediterranean Gulls' attempts were frustrated again. Woodlarks had another successful year with more on passage and signs of a break-out from their original breeding strongholds.

Of the summer visitors there was an alarming decline, in Turtle Doves, Grasshopper Warblers and other trans-Saharan migrants in particular, with even Swallows well down particularly at autumn roosts although Sand Martins seem to be again on the up. Purple Sandpiper totals remained extremely low at both ends of the year and both of the northern buntings, Snow and Lapland were scarce at both seasons with the former more restricted than ever to a couple of coastal localities. And as a final comment Hawfinch records, with one coastal exception, came just from the favoured haunts in the north-west of the county; there are surely populations in the woodlands of the south-west and centre of the county going undetected and could there also be the odd pair of Honey Buzzards somewhere still to be found?

Graham P Catley

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1993

Species Accounts written by:

Divers to Spoonbill	K M Wilson	Geese and ducks	P Todd & R Lord
Raptors to gamebirds	P Todd	Waders	I G Shepherd
Skuas to auks	K M Wilson	Doves-Cuckoo	I G Shepherd
Owls	G P Catley	Nightjar-Larks	H Bunn
Sand Martin-Pied Flycatcher	D J Bradbeer	Bearded Tit-Corn Bunting	H Bunn

* indicates species requiring description by BBRC or LBRC

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Offshore July-May; most mid winter with max of 521 Jan 6th 1980.

Widespread and in good numbers at coastal localities during the early year notably at Gib Point with a max of 150 on Jan 31st and 83 mostly moving south there on Feb 10th. At least 30 were off Mablethorpe Jan 13th and 25th with 52 flying north there on Feb 1st and 20 at Tetney the previous day. One was at Barton Pits Jan 17th-19th. Notable March counts were 16 at Gib Point 7th and 7 Tetney 14th. Last of the spring was at Gib Point on April 20th. First of the autumn was a summer-plumaged adult at Huttoft August 14th, another there 28th and one Gib Point Aug 29th. Late year numbers were generally low: max 15 at Gib Point Oct 22nd and 6+ Saltfleetby Dec 31st. Inland one was at Covenham Nov 18-19th and a long staying individual was at Barton Pits Dec 3rd-1994.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* *

Very scarce September-March/April; one summered 1982.

Two were seen off Skegness on Jan 2nd then a long staying 1st-winter frequented Barton Pits from March 3rd-April 9th. Autumn singles were at the Witham Mouth and off Gib Point Oct 17th and 24th respectively. A 1st-winter, with a damaged lower mandible, was present on Skegness boating lake from Dec 17th until the year end. It was also seen occasionally on tidal pools at Seacroft during the period.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* *

Very scarce August-March [LBR 1991].

Just two autumn records: an early bird at Huttoft on Sept 19th, then another off Gib Point Oct 9th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Widespread resident species with autumn/winter movements.

Noteworthy counts of coastal wintering birds were up to 9 at Theddlethorpe Jan 4th, 5 Humberston Feb 14th, 7 Wainfleet St. Mary 28th and Tetney Jan 31st with 6 remaining into March. Inland double figure counts came from Holywell Lake, 15 Feb 21st, Kirkby, 10 Feb 14th, 12 Baston/Langtoft Feb 21st and 10 Whisby March 28th. Breeding pairs were reported widely across the county with a moderately high level of productivity; a post breeding high count was of 20 at Kirkby on Aug 31st. Some sizeable gatherings occurred during Sept: 32 Tattershall Thorpe Pits 8th, 22 Fairfield Pit, New Holland, 29th and 19 Cleethorpes Country Park 23rd. During October 22 remained at Fairfield Pits. Thereafter winter counts were somewhat reduced: 13 Fairfield Pit Dec 1st and 11 Deeping St James Dec 26th.

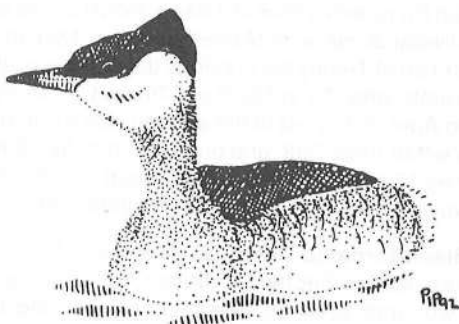
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Widespread resident species; 100 pairs in 1975 census, very obvious increase since. Coastal counts were generally low Jan-Mar with max of 8 Chapel Jan 9th, 8 Mablethorpe 31st and 6 Gib Point 18th; 65 off Skegness on Jan 2nd was exceptional. Inland early peaks were 23 Apex Pit Jan 30th, 14 Toft Newton 31st, 14 Langtoft Feb 14th and 19 at Deeping High Bank 28th. By March 20th numbers at Toft Newton were up to 27, 15 were at Bardney Pits 14th and 16 at Denton 31st. Largest concentrations of breeding birds were 6 pairs at Langtoft Pits, 11 pairs at Baston and 9 at Deeping St. James; 17 pairs bred at the Barton/Barrow pits complex although only 9 pairs were successful, raising 16 juvs. There was a large late summer count of 102 at the Witham Mouth Aug 21st, but winter coastal counts thereafter were small. Inland peaks included 37 Whisby Oct 17th with 61 Dec 31st and a steady build up in numbers from 26 Oct 31st to 51 Nov 12th at Toft Newton.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Scarce September-March/April; 100+ Jan/Feb/March 1979. Summer records 1981, 1982.

One at Covenham from Jan 17th-30th was followed by one at Barrow Haven on 13th Feb and again in the Barrow Haven/Barton area from March 2nd-24th. Three were together on the Forty Foot Drain at Boston on Oct 6th and finally one at the Hobhole Outfall Nov 21st.



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Scarce August-May; annual maximum of 17 in 1979. Only one record, a single at Covenham April 16-17th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Scarce. Records in most months, but mainly Mar-May, Aug-Sept.

In April summer-plumaged birds appeared at Gib Point, 2 15th, Cleethorpes 25th-30th and Messingham 2 30th. One at Cadney stayed from Aug 12th-21st. An adult was present at Kirkby Pits Aug 14th and a single there again from Sept 5th-13th. Lastly one passed Gib Point on Oct 24th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Regular offshore March-Nov but rare Dec-Feb; day max 1,970 on 10/9/1989.

Relatively few in spring; early singles were at Gib Point Feb 21st and 28th with 4 there March 28th and max 19 on May 26th. Up the Humber 2 flew east at Barton April 26th. Numerous and widespread during the autumn, from Cleethorpes to the Nene Mouth. September 4th produced 116 north at Huttoft, 200 there on 11th and c80 at Rimac on 5th. Unusually there was an inland record of a single at Pode Hole, Spalding, on Sept 2nd. On the Humber a total of 13 were recorded at Barton with a peak of 7 Sept 13th. Last record was of 3 north at Gib Point Oct 27th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore Aug-Nov, 100+ in 1977; day max 29 [LBR 1991].

August sightings were of one off Huttoft 22nd and one north at Gib Point 26th. Typically most records were in September: at Huttoft/Anderby Creek 4 north 4th then singles north 7th, 11th, 12th and 14th, 3 26th. At Gib Point 3 north 5th, 5 north 7th, 6 north and one south 12th and 1 25th. The 5th and 12th also produced singles off Rimac and Skegness respectively. The only October birds were 3 seen from the Witham Mouth during a notable movement of Manx Shearwater on Oct 13th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Variable numbers offshore July-Oct, scarce April-June & Nov; day max 694 on 10/9/1989.

Just one spring record of 2 south at Gib Point June 12th. In July 3 moved south at Rimac 11th and 4 were off Huttoft 31st. August commenced with 2 at Holbeach 5th, then 6 Tetney 22nd, 2 Huttoft the following day and at Gib Point 1 north 25th, 2 north 26th. September seawatching then yielded 4 north at Huttoft 4th, 3 south and 1 north at Gib Point 12th, 6 south Anderby 15th, 4 Rimac 18th and another off Gib Point 19th. A good Humber record was a bird at Barton on Sept 13th. The largest movement of the year was of 30 passing the Nene Mouth on Oct 13th. Thereafter 1 south Mablethorpe Oct 21st and 2 Gib Point Oct 23rd.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* *

Vagrant July-Nov [LBR 1991].

The sole record was of one north off Huttoft Aug 27th (JRC).

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare Sept-Nov with 2 on 22/5/84. Total of 183+ in autumn 1989 [LBR 1989 & 1991].

Strong easterly winds accounted for two Humber records; the first was at New Holland Aug 31st, then another individual flew west from Barrow Haven and later passed the Humber Bridge Sept 13th. One flew inland to the WSW at the Nene Mouth Sept 13th and in October one north past Mablethorpe 21st with two south Gib Point next day.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Scarce offshore Jan-May & Nov-Dec, common June-Oct; day max 509 on 7/10/1990.

Early records were of 3 at Mablethorpe Jan 25th and 5 at Gib Point Feb 19th, singles 20th and 28th. From April 8th through July there were single figures offshore, except for c150 at Rimac on July 11th. Numbers increased in August with max of 42 at Huttoft 24th and 40 at Witham Mouth 31st. Passage was heavy in September with peaks of 462 north at Gib Point 5th and 200 at Huttoft 13th; upto 9 reached Barton on several dates. Fewer were recorded in October but 150 off the Nene Mouth and 25 off Holbeach Marsh on 21st were noteworthy and up the Humber at Barton the peak count was 8 23rd. Last record was 8 south at Huttoft Nov 14th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common coastal and inland Aug-May, fewer June/July. First bred 1992 [LBR 1986 & 1992].

From Jan to June peak coastal counts were 60 Theddlethorpe/Saltfleetby Jan 15th and 37 Gib Point 29th. Inland high counts were 19 Covenham April 13th and 19 at Kirkby Pits June 7th. At Deeping St James breeding occurred again with 55 pairs raising at least 100 young; peak count was 198 on July 24th. Elsewhere inland from July to Dec

high counts were 38 at Covenham Sept 20th, 50 at Kirkby Pits Nov 28th, 48 Tallington Lakes Dec 21st and 27 at Boston Docks 27th. High numbers at coastal/Humber sites were 84 at Witham Mouth Nov 21st, 15 Gedney Drove End 22nd, 34+ at Read's Island Dec 16th, 33 Barton 28th and 60+ Saltfleetby 31st. Individuals apparently showing characteristics of race *P.c.sinensis* were at Witham Mouth Jan 9th, Tallington Lakes 20th, Maxey GP Feb 27th, a max of 8 (including one breeder) at Deeping St James March 7th and a single at Gib Point March 7th-9th. Colour-ringed birds from Cumbria, Dyfed and Denmark were observed at Deeping St James, singles from Essex at Covenham and Saltfleetby.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Scarce-rare with occasional influxes [LBR 1991].

A scattering of birds occurred at regular coastal sites in January: Grimsby Docks 8th, Witham Mouth 10th, Huttoft 16th and 24th and Gib Point 28th. A count of 132 moving south off Mablethorpe Jan 25th was the highest ever day total for the county. Thereafter one was at Witham Mouth Feb 3rd and the only inland bird at Kirkstead Bridge Feb 26th-March 29th. The first autumn bird was off Huttoft Sept 4th then 2 flew west at New Holland 29th. In October there were singles at Humberston 2nd, Nene Mouth 13th and north at Saltfleet 17th, and two imms at Chapel Pit 29th. Then none until December when one was seen off Cleethorpe on 9th, with one on the boating lake there 13th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Bred early 1940's to 1979, max 6 booming. Now rare, Oct-March.

A single bird was at Boultham Mere from Jan 1st to at least Feb 11th with 2 there Jan 17th. Another was at Huttoft Pit from Jan 28th to March 7th with one at North Somercotes March 9-13th. Elsewhere singles were at Whisby Feb 3rd, Messingham 19th and Barton Feb 15th. The Humber area also produced the first returning bird at Far Ings Nov 27th-1994 with two at North Killingholme 27th Dec and one remaining to 30th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* *

Rare overshoot, mainly in spring with more recent records in autumn-winter. Total of 18 records to end of 1992.

One appeared at Gib Point May 31st and may have moved to North Cotes where one was seen June 2nd, 3rd and 20th. One in the Wash at Holbeach Aug 23rd and 29th and Frampton 30th was joined by a second bird Sept 1-2nd with one remaining to 16th. The second bird presumably accounted for sightings at the Nene Mouth Sept 3rd-14th and Gedney 19th. Further Wash sightings were singles at Holbeach on Oct 21st and Nov 12th, Frampton Nov 28th and Gib Point/Seacroft from Nov 19th to the end of the year. In the north of the county one bird possibly accounted for all the following sightings: at Humberston Sept 23rd and Oct 8th-10th, Tetney Nov 21st and Rimac Dec 12th-1994. The county total moves on to about 22.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* *

Vagrant.

An adult at Gib Point July 11th-12th usually offered excellent views as it fed at close range on the Mere, finally departing to the south west late on 12th. (Mr & Mrs Wallis, KMW et al). The second county record. Accepted by BBRC.



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - Gibraltar Point

K. Atkin



SOCIABLE PLOVER - Kirkby on Bain

J. Harriman



BLACK BELLIED DIPPER - Heighington

J. Harriman



SHAGS - Mablethorpe

G. P. Catley

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Resident and passage migrant [LBR 1985].

Breeding census results as follows:

Abbey Wood (est)	25	Willoughby	27	Howsham	8
Gatecliff	13	Laughton	16	Old Hag Wood	21
Kingerby	5	Troy Wood	60	Legbourne	28
Evedon Wood	22	Warren Wood	3	Friskney Decoy	1
Holbeach Hospl	19	The Mere Deeping	99	Total	357

This total is 24 up on the total for 1992. At Muckton Wood no nests were occupied due to previous disturbance by nearby contractors. Friskney Decoy Wood was a new site. Some high counts elsewhere were 8 at Donna Nook July 14th, 14+ Tetney Aug 16th, 14 Barton Sept 29th and 14 Nocton Fen Oct 17th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce April-Aug, rare Oct-Jan. Max party 6 in June 1978.

A winter record of 2 at Moulton Marsh on Feb 6th was unusual. In May 2 birds were seen at Gib Point 5th and 13th, Donna Nook 15th and New Holland 27th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Widespread resident. Census data: 106 pairs 1955, 84 pairs 1961, 109 pairs 1983, 82 pairs 1990 [LBR 1983 & 1990].

The three main centres for this species during the year were at Deeping High Bank and the adjacent River Welland with 53 January, 128 February, 68 April-May, 84 August, and 95 November when 47 were nearby at Baston Fen; the Brayford Pool Lincoln with 79 March, and New Holland with 75 February, 120 April-May, 71 October, 134 December. A large herd of 77 also gathered at Lea Marshes in December. Other smaller flocks during the year included 26 Kirkby Pits Jan, 33 Oct, 19 Cleethorpes CP Nov, 15 Metherringham Delph Nov. Only 20 pairs were reported breeding with 8 of these on the Humber Bank Pits! A colour-ringed bird from Berwick on Tweed was present at Humberston in November.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Passage migrant & winter visitor Oct-March; one July 1952, summered 1986.

An influx was recorded early in the year with 23 south Saltfleetby Jan 3rd, 43 near Gib Point Jan and 13 Nocton Fen rising to 15 there in February. At Deeping High Bank a flock of 11 in January increased to 15 by the end of February and 7 were at Crowland in March. A flock of 8 was on Goxhill Marsh late February to March 12th with possibly the same flock west at Barton 21st and 3 at Gib Point the same date. In the late winter 2 were at Terrington in October and 5 November. Also in November 4 were at Gib Point, 5 at Toft Newton and 13 south over Holbeach. A further arrival occurred in December with 6 Winteringham 16th to 1994, 8 Terrington, 5 Gib Point, 30 Leverton Outgate and 53 at Lea Marshes 27th. Colour-ringed or neck-collared birds were observed as follows: an adult female at Langtoft in February had been ringed at Dormitz, River Elbe, Germany on May 27th 1991. One on Lea Marshes on Dec 27th had been ringed as a year old female on August 12th 1993 at Khabuicka, Nenetski state game reserve, North-east European Russia and had previously been present at Heaton Park, Manchester on November 18th 1993 and at Gringley Carrs Notts from Nov 20-Dec 11th and again on 31st.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Passage migrant & winter visitor Oct-April, one 30/6/82.

January records were of 7 south at Saltfleetby 3rd, 15 at Deeping High Bank, 21 on Moulton Marsh and up to 5 at Gib Point, rising to 7 in February. Also in February, 10 flew north over Bourne and in March one was at Messingham 11th with 5 there 27th; 7 at Barton 10th had increased to 25 11th but all had moved on by 12th; 35 flew over Barkston, up to 5 were at Messingham and 7 on Wrangle Marsh. The last of the early year records were of single birds at Cleethorpes to April 7th when 4 also flew north-east over Whisby NP. Autumn arrivals began in October with one at Saltfleetby and 2 each at Leverton and Short Ferry in mid-month, 13 at Gib Point 30th. In November 2 flew north at Donna Nook 3rd, and there were singles at Tetney and New Holland, 2 each at Barton Pits and Conisholme, 4 at Conisholme and Wasp's Nest. By Dec 18th there were 5 at Friskney and Leverton, 11 Frampton and 22 Wainfleet, with 10 on Lea Marshes 28th and 3 at Leverton 29th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Rare Nov-March.

A notable influx occurred in late February with other grey geese, but actual numbers of Bean Geese were confused due to the difficulty sometimes experienced in identification. Thus minimum counts were 1 Winteringham 16-21st, 2 Huttoft/Anderby 17-21st, 3 Tetney and 2 Grainthorpe 20th, 2 Saltfleetby 21st with 1 27th, a party of 9 at Donna Nook 18-19th and up to 30 at Haven House Wainfleet 27th with 4 at Terrington later in April. At the end of the year a group of 6 was in Goxhill Marsh Dec 25th moving to Winteringham Dec 29th into 1994.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Two flocks winter, in the Humber & NW Wash; passage Sept-Dec & Feb-Mar.

Widespread and significant movements were observed in January particularly early on with 1000 moving north along the coast 3rd. The Humber flock based at Winteringham numbered 600 during the month. Other notable flocks included 100 over Whisby, 100 Hobhole Drain Fishtoft, 80 west at Swanpool and 20 on Nocton Fen but only 45 on Holbeach Marsh. Up to 42 were with other grey geese at Wainfleet and 1-10 at other coastal localities during late February. Movements recorded in March were 286 over Nocton Fen, 350 over Rippingale, 500 Leasingham and around 1000 over the north-east coast during the first two days of the month, 98 moving north-west at Barton 6th and 44 north Stallingborough 8th. In April 21 flew north-west at Humberston 12th. Single feral birds were seen during the summer at Deeping Lake, Barton Pits and Read's Island. First early winter records were 38 Humberston Oct 2nd with 370 back on the Humber at Winteringham 8th increasing to 500 20th and 624 Dec 29th. Movements included 68 north at Thornton Abbey Oct 14th and 550 west at Barton 17th then 60 at Leverton Nov 5th, 80 over Ludford 8th, 237 Gib Point and 250 over Lincoln 11th, 150 east at Barton 12th, 190 over Bardney 23rd and 24 Donna Nook 24th. In December 150 flew south-east over Cleethorpes 3rd with 350 Gib Point 5th, 120 south-east over Grimsby and 200 Saltfleetby 6th. Between Dec 24-31st 200 were at Gib Point, 57 flew over Lincoln, 175 over Boston and 180 over North Hykeham, 120 were at Toft Newton and 100 at Langtoft Pits.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Scarce/rare Nov-March. Four individual records of *A a flavirostris*.

The widespread influx of grey geese into the county during late February included a minimum of 570 White-fronted Geese, a new county record total. The first signs of the arrival were a party of 6 at Gib Point Feb 7th, one at Saltfleetby 13th and 21 Holywell Lake 14th but the main influx began on 15-17th with 12 Barton Pits 15th, 2 Winteringham (6 there 18-22nd), 42 New Holland and 71 Seacroft all 16th. What was to become the largest flock of the period at Huttoft/Anderby Creek area was first noted 17th when 84 birds were counted, rising quickly to a max of 268+ in the next few days. Other large flocks gathered at Seacroft/Wainfleet, max 208, and Tetney/ North Thoresby with 53 while additional flocks of 36 at Holbeach 21st and up to 9 at Saltfleetby completed the total. Some birds stayed into the first week of March with 215 still at Anderby/Huttoft to 7th. Possibly connected with this influx but perhaps feral birds were 4 at Langtoft March 6th and 1 Deeping St James April 15th. Another notable flock of 53 birds occurred in the late winter period at Wainfleet-Nov 29th with 10 over Gib Point Dec 5th, 5 Tattershall 5th and 8 at Winteringham 6th increasing to 20 by 16th and staying into 1994.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common feral breeder, first bred 1957; possibly rare winter visitor [LBR 1991].

Peak numbers in the south of the county were 477 Langtoft with possibly 275 of the same flock at Deeping High Bank, all in January, 56 Deeping St James February and 36 there March-April when 75 were at Baston GPs. Other notable flocks were 33 at Bardney January and 58 at Messingham April. A few birds appeared on the coast with other grey geese during late February. Breeding pairs were noted at Barton Pits, North Killingholme, Whisby, Deeping St James and Langtoft GPs. A flock of 24 flew over Gib Point June 4th. In August 87 were at Messingham, rising to 232 in September when 188 were at Kirkby Pits and 370 at Baston GPs. Numbers at Sleaford Ballast Pit rose from 33 in October to 81 November with 42 at Bardney Nov 17th and 273 Revesby 14th. December max were 316 Tallington, 286 Langtoft and 10 Winteringham.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common feral breeder [LBR 1991]. *B c richardi* Aug-Nov 1986 [LBR 1986].

Site peaks during the year included 221 at Langtoft, 58 Holywell Lake, 68 Tallington, 43 Ancaster all January, 110 Ancaster, 131 Culverthorpe Lake and 188 Kirkby Pits all late summer to September. A flock of 75 flew over Whisby Feb 4th with 60 over Skegness 7th. At Barton Pits there were 27 in February with 4 pairs breeding and on Read's Island at least 40 pairs bred, with counts of 103 birds in March, 94 adults and juvs in June. The whole population was at Barton Pits August/September when upto 260 birds were present. Other breeding records came from Ancaster, Gib Point and Whisby Pits, where 6 pairs nested. In October 80 were at Sleaford, 194 Barton Pits, 126 Revesby and 120 Holywell Lake.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce Oct-March, occasional influxes; an increasing feral population breeds irregularly, first 1982.

A single bird was at Gib Point Jan 24th, the first sign of the February influx, with 2 Huttoft/Anderby Feb 2nd, 1 Barton 5th and 7 Skegness 7th. The largest flock of the period gathered at Huttoft/Anderby, peaking at 44 birds during Feb 17-28th with 25 still there March 2nd. One of these birds was colour-ringed, apparently originating in the

Netherlands. Other singles were noted up the east coast as far as Cleethorpes at the same time. Presumed feral/escapee birds included a flock of 6 at Read's Island May 1st and 2 pairs which bred at Baston Pits rearing 7 young. During the autumn/late winter 7 were at Alkborough Sept 21-24th, 11 Cadney Sept 25th, 10 Whitton Oct 7th, singles at Read's Island Oct 8th and Barton Sept 24th and Oct 9-20th, 6 Castle Bytham Oct 13th, 8 Donna Nook Nov-Dec with 32 at Anderby Creek Dec 20th and up to 7 Winteringham Dec 18-1994.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

B b bernicla very large numbers Wash & NE coast Sept-May, scarce summer.

B b hrota scarce Oct-March. *B b nigricans* 3 records 1982, 1987, 1991.

Monthly totals for the Wash and South Humber are given elsewhere in this report. Other records were of one over the Nene Mouth Aug 26th, 11 at Huttoft Sept 28th and 47 there Oct 14th. On the Inner Humber 6 were at Barton Feb 14th, 5 there Oct 19th and 26 Nov 28th, one at New Holland Feb 18th and 2 west there Sept 30th, 4 East Halton Skitter Oct 2nd, one Winteringham Nov 6th and 7 South Ferriby 7th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Feral birds and probably occasional vagrants from the north Norfolk population occur. All records presumed to be of local released birds: Two at Kirkby Pits April-August, 1 Thurlby February and June 16th and 2 Tattershall all year.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* *

Uncertain status but probable wild vagrants in 1892, 1898 & 1919.

Two flew north-west at the Nene Mouth on August 22nd and one was with Shelducks at Saltfleetby from Dec 31st into 1994.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Very common Humber/NE coast and Wash; scarce/regular inland. Wash census, 385 pairs in 1969.

Wash counts were 5600 January, 5400 February and 6800 December with the Welland Mouth and Terrington holding over 1000 birds. Inland small numbers were seen at Nocton Fen, Deeping St James, North Hykeham, Marston SF, Baston GP, Kirkby Pits, Thurlby Pits, Metherringham, North Kelsey Moor, Messingham and Grasby with breeding proved at Baston/Langtoft, Bardney and North Kelsey Moor. On the Humber 300 were at Read's Island May 2nd, 64 flew west at Barton Aug 29th, and 32 west at New Holland 30th. Peak counts on the NE coast included 240 at Saltfleetby, January, 550 Donna Nook Oct 16th, 250 Pyewipe Nov 4th and 1000 Saltfleetby Dec 30th.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare; local releases confound status. Bred Tallington 1980.

A pair were at Langtoft Fen April 14th with a female on the River Witham 15th. Two birds were at Huttoft Pits June-September, 2 females at Maxey GP and 2 birds at Deeping St James in August. Successful breeding was recorded from Shillingthorpe (R.Glen) where a pair reared 5 young. On the Humber Bank what was presumably the same male was at New Holland Sept 1st then Barton Pits Sept 15th-Oct 6th. Two males were on the River Witham Nov 10th and a female at Kirkstead Bridge Dec 12th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Large numbers Humber/NE coast and Wash Aug-March when also common inland. Scarce April-June but 9 breeding records, the last in 1975.

The large flocks in the north-west Wash have reduced significantly in the last two years and the maximum count there in January was only 850 with 200 at Wainfleet in March. Up the Humber there were up to 400 at Read's Island in January, 150 on the coast at Huttoft in March, 9 Tetney April 11th and May birds at New Holland and Winteringham. Inland Baston Fen held 550 January, 250 March, Langtoft Common 352 January, Whisby 7 April 2nd, a max of 40 Bardney 15th and birds at Deeping St James into June. First birds back in July were 3 Deeping St James 19th and 1 South Ferriby 29th. Small numbers were widespread from August with a max of 200 at Witham Mouth. During September there were 61 at Baston Fen rising to 320 November and 230 December, 400 at Witham Mouth, 58 Whisby Pits, a total of 328 west at Barton, 500 at Gib Point, with 1500 there in October, 200 at Read's Island and 32 at Tattershall rising to 411 in November. In October there were 2350 at Whitton 14th and in November 160 Nocton Fen/Bardney, 150 at Donna Nook and 350 at Gib Point rising to 900 in December. Inland in December there were 50 at Lea Marshes, 60 Metherringham Delph, 36 Toft Newton and 550 Bardney.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Both breeding and winter numbers increasing with most Sept-April.

During January-March site maxima were as follows: Kirkby Pits 8, Fulstow/Covenham and Holywell Lake both 10, Gib Point, North Hykeham and Baston Fen all 19, Messingham 21, Barrow Haven/Barton 22 and Deeping Lake 30. Late spring/summer records came from Whisby, 10 April 2nd, Kirkby 9 12th and 7 in June. Three pairs probably bred at Deeping Lake where the population rose to 39 by July. Maxima during August-December were Toft Newton 15, Barton and Kirkby Pits both 17, Gib Point 18, North Hykeham 19, Messingham 25, Deeping St James 37, Tattershall 56, Langtoft Pits 60 and Swanholme Lakes 66 with 1-6 at several other localities.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Large numbers winter and passage, Aug-April; decreasing breeding numbers. A *c carolinensis* 3 records 1984-88.

Early year maxima were all in January; 110 at Baston Fen 9th, 102 Gib Point 12th, 112 Whisby 17th, and 150 Deeping St James, 300 Saltfleetby and 157 Bardney, all 25th. During June up to 9 were at Baston Pits with breeding suspected at Bardney. Autumn migrants included 120 Read's Island Aug 25th, 112 west at Barton 31st, 100+ Grainthorpe Haven Sept 1st with 200 there Oct 2nd. Gib Point had good counts through the autumn with 630 September, 420 October, 758 November and 300 December. Other late winter max were 670 at Read's Island Oct 8th, 150 Thurlby Fen Nov 15th, 250 Bardney Dec 12th and 150 Marston SF 28th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Large numbers all year.

Large early year flocks were noted at Bonby Carrs 500 Jan 7th, Covenham 425 17th and Gib Point 329 29th. During the autumn 2-300 were recorded at a number of sites and up to 860 were feeding in Nocton Fen with counts of 450 Metherringham Delph Sept 30th and 400 Nocton Fen Oct 9th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Fairly large numbers in SW Wash, elsewhere scarce/regular Aug-May. Bred 1940 & 1952.

Early year totals in the Wash were well down on previous years with a max count of only 206 in January declining to 52 February and 24 March. Elsewhere 1-10 at Gib Point, North Cotes, Witham Mouth, Nocton Fen, and Bardney with max of 12 at Saltfleetby Feb 21st, 7 at Tetney April 20th. Returning birds in autumn included upto 10 west at Barton Aug 29-Sept 7th, 10 Tetney and 23 Holbeach Marsh both Aug 29th and 20 Witham Mouth 31st. Few large flocks were noted after these dates but passage was noted in the Humber with 10 west past Barton and 8 west at New Holland Sept 29th, 6 west at New Holland 30th, 11 Oct 19th and 20 east at Barton 23rd. Late year counts in the Wash were worse than the early year with 48 being the maximum on Dec 3rd.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Scarce Mar-Oct, irregular breeder.

First record was of a pair at Norton Disney April 10th then 2 at Saltfleetby 21st and a pair Barton Pits 25th, with the male there to June 20th. Other single males occurred at Cadney April 26th, Whisby May 6-8th with a pair there 17th, South Ferriby 6th, Boultham Mere 11th and Bardney 9-11th. A pair summered at Baston Pits with the only other summer records from Messingham July 19th and Aug 9-31st. Other autumn passage records were 1 west at Barton 29th with Gib Point having a female Aug 2-9th, an eclipse male Sept 25-27th and 2 1st-winter birds Oct 2-15th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/rare breeder, fairly common autumn but scarce winter/spring.

In the early year there were 76 at Deeping St James Jan 11th while at Baston Fen the spring peak was only 11 March 14th with up to 4 males and 3 females in April-May. At Covenham up to 11 males were present May 14-24th. The only confirmed breeding record was of one brood of 9 juveniles seen at Barton Pits but breeding was also suspected at Bardney. Autumn maxima were 15 at Huttoft Pits Aug 29th, 12 Kirkby Pits 31st, 10 Deeping St James Sept 24th, 15 Baston Fen Oct 17th, 22 Barton Pits 24th and 28 south at Gib Point Nov 7th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Rare; local releases and escapes confound status. The origin of all birds is open to question but some are obviously much more dubious than others!

Up to 2 pairs were at Langtoft West Pits in January-February with 4 birds there in November-December (presumably the birds reported as having being released by the owner in 1992?). On the River Witham at Kirkstead Bridge there were 2 males and a female Jan 11-17th with a female/juv there July 15th. The former birds were not from the Timberland Delph collection but a pair seen there from Oct 14-Nov 14th were certainly of captive origin. A female at Kirkby Pits Nov 10th may also have been from the same source. What may then have been a genuine influx of birds occurred on Dec 27th when 2 males and a female were at Baston Pits, a female at Deeping St James and 3 males were found together in the Humber duck flock at New Holland.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Rare breeder, common Sept-March. Max flock 1,650 1991 [LBR 1991].

The Humber duck flock at New Holland had an early year maximum of 900 Jan 14th with at least 800 through early February and 500 still there March 5th. Elsewhere 101

were counted at Apex Pit Jan 19th with 187 Toft Newton 31st. It was a record breeding season on the Humber Bank Pits with a total of 15 broods containing 56 juveniles found between Barton and New Holland in June. The only other confirmed breeding record was from Messingham where there was a brood of 8 in early/mid June. At the year end the New Holland flock again built up from 300 Nov 11th to a new peak of 1850 Dec 14th with at least 1500 to the years end. Other good counts came from Kirkby Pits, 270 Nov 28th, Tattershall 100 Dec 5th, Toft Newton 300+ Dec 11th dropping to 97 Dec 27th, Langtoft 100+ Dec 23rd and Baston Pits 350 December.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* *

Vagrant.

A male at Covenham on the afternoon and evening of April 24th (LM et al) was the first in the county since a one day record of a 1st-winter male at Baston Fen in March 1989.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common all year with 100+? pairs breeding.

The New Holland duck flock held up to 350 birds during January-March with other notable counts from Deeping St James, 122 Jan 17th and Fulstow 180 31st. Breeding birds were widespread with no significant picture obtained from the records submitted. High late autumn/winter counts came from Bardney 100 Oct 28th, Covenham 100 30th, Baston/Langtoft 138 December, Toft Newton 300+ Dec 11th and New Holland 400+ Dec 19th-1994.

Hybrid *Aythya*: Two birds were seen during the year. A Pochard/Tufted first seen at Langtoft in Dec 1992 was at Deeping St James Jan 15-21st and Dec 27th and a Pochard/Ferruginous drake was at New Holland April 24th and Barton Pits Dec 5th.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Variable winter numbers Sept-April, rare May-Aug; brood found 1944.

The highest early year count was only 30 at New Holland Jan 19th. At Barton Pits there was a single Jan 2nd with a pair from April 30-May 2nd, a drake Aug 20-23rd then 1-6 through October-December. Elsewhere there were singles at Tattershall Jan 9-17th, 16 north at Skegness Jan 2nd and 2 at Gib Point 27th. A pair was at Witham Mouth April 25th with 3 south off Mablethorpe May 17th and unusual summer records of a male at Cadney July 21-23rd and singles at Gib Point July 15th-November with 3 July 29th and Oct 11th. Others during the autumn were at Barton, Tetney, Nene Mouth and New Holland in October, Cleethorpes, Humberston and Whisby November, with the largest flock of 20 New Holland Dec 5th. Inland a female was at Tattershall Nov 28-Dec 5th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Common in the Wash, scarce on coast/Humber; variable passage numbers with max 900 at Freiston 8/3/1986.

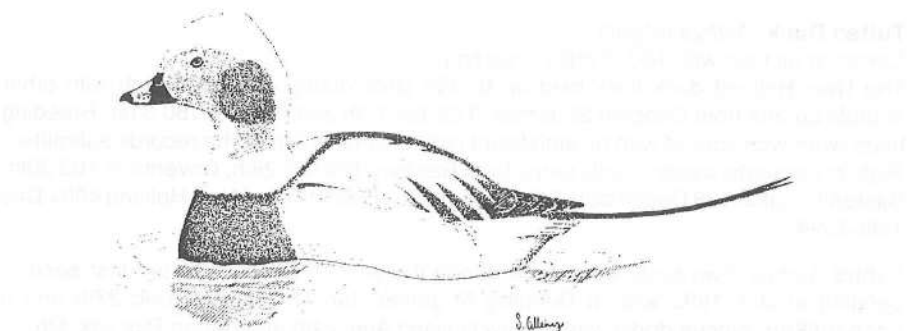
Counts in the Wash were well down on previous years with just 60 in January and 124 February. At Gib Point there were 35 Jan 17th with 20 Horseshoe Point Feb 21st. A small flock summered in the Wash with 60 off Frampton Marsh June 6th and a max of 100 at the Witham Mouth Aug 30th. Late year numbers in the Wash were again down with 122 in October dropping to a meagre 2 in November. During the late autumn there was a notable movement of this species with the following records noted: 57 off Gib Point in late October and a drake on the flashes at Skidbrooke Oct 31st. On the Humber at Barton an imm drake am then a flock of 6 (inc 2 males) Nov 2nd were followed by a

female 8th. The largest ever flock for the upper Humber was noted Nov 18th when 52 flew west at New Holland up to the Humber Bridge and then returned down river. Inland records were of 2 Messingham Oct 31st, 2 drakes and a duck at Toft Newton Nov 3-7th and 7 females Fillingham Lake Nov 28th of which 6 flew off east.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce/regular Sept-April, very rare May-July.

A poor year with few records. A max of 3 off the Witham Mouth in January was the only early year record. Late autumn saw birds up the Humber at Barton Oct 17th and 22-23rd with a drake there Nov 20th and an imm New Holland Dec 1st. Singles were at Saltfleet Haven Nov 8th, Donna Nook 15th, Moulton Marsh 20th and inland on Covenham Res 24th.



Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common on passage July-Nov, lesser numbers Dec-June. Max 1500 Nov 1976.

Only small numbers were recorded in the early part of the year with the largest group of 62 off Mablethorpe Feb 1st. Spring passage brought a few to inland/Humber sites with a male Cadney March 14th, 19 Barton April 15th, a female there April 27-May 15th and a pair at Covenham May 11th. In summer 25 were off Saltfleetby June 20th with 60 south at Donna Nook 22nd. Autumn passage began in August with 45 Witham Mouth 8th and 45 north off Huttoft 15th when 18 flew west at Grimsby. A more marked passage in September included 73 north at Huttoft 4th, 25 12th, 230 13th, 50 Saltfleetby 5th with 120 9th. In October 18 flew north at Huttoft 14th and 77 south off Mablethorpe 21st and Gib Point had its peak count of 170 22-23rd. Up the Humber there was one at Barton Oct 2nd with 21 19th while at New Holland numbers rose from 3 Nov 11th to a peak of 82 19th-Dec 1st, but with only 2 left by Dec 14th. This flock appears to move down river to areas off Pyewipe in mid-winter. Elsewhere in November 2 were inland at Kirton Lindsey Quarries 3rd, a drake at Covenham 7-12th and 45 Tetney 21st.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce July-March; 100 Nov 1976 [LBR 1991].

In the first quarter 2 flew south at Saltfleetby Jan 3rd, 3 at Horseshoe Point 17th with singles Witham Mouth 17th and Gib Point Feb 14th where 7 flew south March 4th. During the autumn one at Gib Point Sept 25th was followed by 2 north Oct 15th with 2 north 27th. Elsewhere on the coast there were 2 north Huttoft Sept 27th, 14 Oct 14th, 2 26th, one off North Cotes and one south Saltfleetby Oct 17th, 3 south Donna Nook 21st with

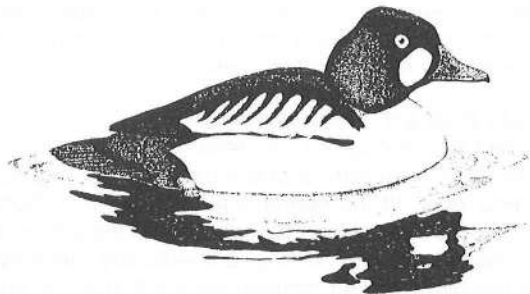
one south there Nov 7th. Inland a female was at Covenham Nov 7-26th and on the Humber a female off New Holland Nov 11-18th was joined by a 1st-winter 18th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common Oct-April, very rare May-Aug/Sept. Max flock 400 Feb 1991.

The New Holland flock remained at 220 in early January, with 155 Feb 2nd-March 5th; 52 were at Covenham Jan 2nd and these were the only significant early winter counts.

In May 2 males and 3 females were at Kirkby Pits 2nd with singles at Barton Pits and Dunholme Bridge during the month. At the end of the year the Covenham total shrank to a max of just 42 while the New Holland flock increased rapidly from 43 Nov 11th to a max of 350 Dec 27th with a large percentage being adult drakes.



Smew *Mergus albellus*

Scarce/rare with occasional hard weather influxes, eg 1956 (100+), 1963, 1979, 1985, 1986, 1987. [LBR 1986].

Two sites held most of the years birds: Langtoft Pits had a drake and 3 redheads Jan 15-Feb 14th at least, with possibly the same drake at Baston Pits Jan 18th. At the end of the year 1 drake and up to 2 redheads were present at the same site. At Toft Newton the wintering drake remained from 1992 into March reappearing on Nov 20th and staying into 1994. Also a redhead north at Donna Nook Dec 22nd.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce Sept-April, rare May-July.

Highest counts in the first quarter of the year were from the Wash with a max of 19 March 14th, of which 8 were at Gedney. Summer birds were scarce: one Frampton June 6th, 2 Saltfleet Haven July 25th, 2 Witham Mouth 31st and one there Aug 29-31st. Small numbers were noted offshore from coastal sites in autumn with a max of 4 off Huttoft 28th, 2 Donna Nook Oct 15th then in November 1 at Tetney 21st with 6 south Gib Point Dec 11th. Elsewhere up to 4 were in the Wash at Witham Mouth and Gedney, singles at Huttoft and Barton Oct 14th, 2 there 15th, Deeping St James Oct 17th, New Holland Nov 1st, Toft Newton Nov 3-10th & Dec 27th and Covenham Nov 7th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Fairly common Nov-March, very rare April-Oct.

Highest early year totals were at Thurlby Pits, with up to 26 Jan 6th to late March, 36 in the Spalding area commuting between the River Welland and Coronation Channel, 12 Deeping St James Jan 23rd, 30 Apex Pit Feb 14th, also using Whisby Pits where the max was 20 Feb 16th. Elsewhere 1-9 were seen at Bardney, Gib Point, Susworth, Kirkby Pits, Covenham and Messingham. On the coast 5 flew south at Saltfleetby Jan 4th, one Huttoft March 3rd with one Saltfleet Haven 20th. A female at Deeping High Bank from May 3rd stayed to Aug 8th at least. In the latter part of the year coastal/Humber records included a female west at Barton Oct 15th, 7 north at Saltfleet 17th, 2 Tetney 21st with 6 there Nov 12th, 3 Gib Point 26th and a pair at Chapel Pit Dec 1st. A female was at

Nene Mouth Dec 1st. Inland records of 1-10 birds came from Toft Newton, Ancaster, East Ferry, East Barkwith, Croxby Pond, Grimsthorpe Lake, Langtoft and Bardney. The largest numbers in December were up to 48 at Apex Pit, 30 Thurlby Pits and 27 Spalding.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

First 1964, first bred 1984. Scarce outside breeding areas [LBR 1984].

Most records were from the Humber Bank Pits where at least 5 broods were seen with a late brood of 3 small juvs recently hatched on Sept 18th. At Messingham there was a max of 12 April 15th and other pairs were seen in the breeding season at Whisby and Grimsthorpe Lake. Away from these sites there were isolated records from Fulstow, North Kelsey Moor and Toft Newton.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* *

Vagrant May & Aug-Oct; 49+ records to end 1992.

An excellent year with records during both passage periods and the highest annual total of birds ever. In the spring one flying north at Butterwick May 28th (JSB,JGB) was possibly the bird seen at Gib Point 29th. In the autumn a good arrival from mid September was associated with strong south-easterly winds over the North Sea during 12-14th. The first birds on 14th included one south over the Humber at Barton (WG) with a group of 4 at Gib Point. One of these roosted overnight in the plantation to be followed by a different bird there 15th with yet another south-east on 17th. One flew south at the Nene Mouth 16th (GMSE) and a juvenile was seen at Fulstow/Covenham Sept 19th (GPC, GAM). Finally to crown an exceptional autumn a dark juvenile flew south at Anderby Creek October 3rd (KDD).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* *

Vagrant.

There were two records during the spring, both at Gib Point where one flew south April 30th (DWB) with a second also moving south May 16th (RKW,RR), the latter subsequently seen in north Norfolk. The 4th and 5th county records. Accepted by BBRC.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* *

Vagrant, with a recent increase in winter/early spring records. [LBR 1991] At least 27 birds recorded between 1969-92.

The only record of the year was of one flying over Willingham Forest Jan 3rd. A disappointing return to rarity status for this superb species.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare breeding summer visitor with numbers increasing on passage April-June, Aug-Oct. Bred 1962 then from 1983 with 5 pairs 1987 & 1988, 9 pairs 1992.

A wintering male was at Moulton Marsh Feb 26th with possibly the same bird there April 4th when others arrived at Holbeach Marsh, Gib Point and Donna Nook. Other April records included a male at Messingham 14th and 3 birds at Gib Point 16th. Passage birds in May included singles at Cadwell 1st, Donna Nook 13th, 14th, 18th, Barton Pits cream-crowns 15th & 16th, males Donington 6th, Southrey 21st with 3 birds Nocton Fen 15th. In the south of the county the breeding population increased again with a total of 36 young reared from 8 successful nests and a further nest failing. Breeding also occurred in the north of the county with one pair rearing 3 young, the first successful nesting attempt in this district. In August/September 1-2 were on the fens and heaths south-east of Lincoln with a max of 6 noted at the Nocton Fen roost Sept 1st, 5 at Digby

Fen same date and a pair with 2 juvs at Dorrington Fen. A reported juvenile was also at Cadney Aug 19th. Records continued through September with the last of 4 birds at Blankney Fen Sept 30th and one Gib Point Oct 3rd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Bred to 1872. Now scarce winter visitor and passage migrant Sept-Dec & March-May, rare summer.

Early winter maxima at the two Wash roosts were 6 and 7 birds in January and coastal records of 1-2 birds at this time came from Gib Point and from the north-east coast/Humber, Saltfleetby to Alkborough. Inland birds included singles at Bonby Carrs, Swallow, Nocton Fen and Deeping High Bank. In spring a female was at Grasby April 29th and an exceptional record was of a male at Holbeach Marsh on June 9th. Early returning migrants were at Leverton Aug 17th, North Killingholme Haven 21st & Sept 11th, Tetney Aug 29th, Donna Nook 30-31st and Grainthorpe/Pyes Hall Sept 9-16th with one Gib Point Sept 11th and Frampton 12th. October records came from Saltfleetby 5th, Nocton Fen 17th & Nov 7th, Grasby Oct 26th, Grainthorpe and Thornton Curtis/Burnham, a male, 31st. In the last two months of the year the Wash roosts held a max of 4 birds each and 2 ringtails roosted in the Thurlby/Boston Fen area. A male was inland at Tealby Dec 2nd with ringtails at Winteringham Dec 26th and Read's Island 27th. Wing-tagged birds seen during the year were as follows: A 1st-winter male at Gib Point Feb 13-28th and from Nov 28th onwards had been ringed on Islay; one at the Witham Mouth Jan 18th & March 15th had been ringed in Wales; a ringtail at Thurlby Fen throughout November had been ringed in the Grampian region of Scotland while one at Binbrook from Dec 21st was reported without details.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Scarce passage migrant April-Sept and very rare breeder. Bred 1951, 1956, 2 pairs 1965, 1969, 1980, 1-2 pairs 1987-1989 and 1992.

A pair again bred in the south of the county rearing 2 young with a second female also seen in the area on several occasions through the summer. Other May/June records of single males came from Gib Point May 11th, with a pair June 13th, Kirtan Marsh June 3rd, Harmston 8th and North Cotes/Tetney 9th. July-August birds were at the Witham Mouth July 26th, Donna Nook 29th, Gib Point 21st & 25th, Holbeach Aug 22nd and the last a late bird at Donna Nook Sept 20th.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* *

Very rare vagrant; attempted to breed 1864.

One flew south at Skegness Oct 10th (KDD) and a male was at Butterwick Dec 18th (AB).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread breeding resident with passage March-May & Aug-Nov [LBR 1984].

A species for which a full breeding census would be useful to determine its present breeding population. Records submitted do not reflect the current status of the species and the only notable occurrences were of 4 on Butterwick Marsh Feb 28th with 5 birds at Barton Pits Dec 3rd.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Mainly passage and winter visitor; numbers increasing with some birds now summering. Bred to 1888. [LBR 1991]

A species which will probably make a come back as a breeding species in the near future. January records came from Deeping St Nicholas 3rd, Scunthorpe 13th and Risby Warren 28th and two were present near Rauceby from January-April 7th at least. Spring records concerned birds at Revesby Wood Feb 20th, Nocton Fen 27th-April 3rd, Moor Farm March 3rd and Manton Warren April 21-24th. A pair possibly bred at Tumby Wood where birds were seen through June-August. Singles were at Revesby Wood early August, at Aubourn Aug 7th, possibly having been there since the winter, Rauceby 17th, Carlton-le-Moorland and Digby Fen 20-26th and 2 in Bonby Carrs 29th. Passage birds were on the coast at Donna Nook Aug 19th and Saltfleetby 21st. Further autumn birds, mainly singles, were at Dorrington Fen, 2 Sept 1st, Tetford 5th & Oct 16th, Swallow Sept 15th, Newton Wood Oct 2nd and Dec 26th, Risby Warren 2 Oct 4-6th, Donington-on-Bain Oct 16th, and Elsham/Worlaby 18th. Other wintering birds were at Keb Wood/Appleby December, Woodhall Spa Dec 16th, 1-2 Gonerby 21st and 2 at Rauceby/Ancaster 4-31st.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* *

Rare winter visitor Oct-April. Best recent years 1974-75 with 20+ birds. Total of 108+ individuals 1960-1992.

The 1st-winter bird found in the Ancholme Valley in late 1992 was seen again at Bonby Carrs on January 8th and then relocated at Ravensthorpe, east of Scunthorpe, Feb 20th where it remained to at least April 19th (GPC,ND,JTH et al), also being seen at Messingham Feb 22nd (RNH).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Increasing passage migrant March-October; some immatures in summer.

First migrants were noted flying over Langrick April 5th and at Culverthorpe Lake 7-10th. The bulk of the spring records occurred between late April and the third week of May: singles at Saltfleetby April 21st, at Winterton Road Lake, Scunthorpe, 23rd moving off high north-west, fishing at Messingham and other nearby localities 23rd-29th and Whisby 26th. Then in May, again mainly singles at Tumby 2nd, 2 Boultham Mere 11th, Gib Point 21st with 2 on 22nd, all three flying north, Donna Nook north May 28th and North Somercotes to 30th. The only autumn records were a juvenile which flew south-east at New Holland Oct 1st and presumably the same bird at Messingham October 2nd.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread breeding resident, autumn/winter dispersal and coastal passage.

The only notable records of this widespread and obvious raptor were totals of 11 in Worlaby/Saxby Carrs Jan 8th and 10 at Gib Point Aug 12th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor Sept-May with passage Aug-Nov and March-May and occasional summer records.

In January-early March singles were recorded at New Holland (2+ birds), Immingham, Humberston, North Cotes/Tetney, Grainthorpe Haven, Skidbrooke, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Anderby Creek, Witham Mouth, Holbeach Marsh, Gedney Drove End,

Winterton, Messingham, Roxton, Broughton Carrs, Toft Newton, Boultham Mere, Scopwick, Nocton Fen, Horncastle, Kirton Holme and Farthorpe. Notable in this period were 4 together at Butterwick Marsh Feb 28th. Spring records came from Tetney April 4th and 14th, Grimsby 22nd, Humberston May 2nd and Gib Point 16th. In late summer singles were recorded at Baston Pits July 3rd and Donna Nook 28th-30th, Tetney August 1st, New Holland from 7th and Holbeach 18th. Autumn singles were at Humberston August 27th, Huttoft 29th and Holbeach St Matthew 31st and Sept 15-18th, Frampton Marsh Sept 4th, Sutton St Edmund 8th, Barton 11th, Saltfleetby St Peter 12th, Pyes Hall 16th & 25th and Saltfleet 19th. From October to the years end inland records came from Kirton Holme Oct 2nd, Cadney 7th, Farthorpe Nov 14th, Heighington Dec 1st, Fleet Hargate 4th, Norton Disney 9th and Baston Fen 12th. In the Wash there were 2 birds each at Frampton and Holbeach Marshes Nov 7th and 12th. Elsewhere around the coast in this period singles were reported from Humberston Oct 10th, North Cotes 14th, Pyes Hall 18th, Saltfleet 19th and Nov 8th, Grainthorpe Oct 31st, Barton Nov 27th and Donna Nook December, with 3 at Gib Point Oct 23rd and 1 Dec 5th

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Passage April-Sept and increasing as a breeding bird. Bred 19th century and 1973, 1979, 2 pairs 1980, then from 6 pairs in 1988 increasing to 17 pairs 1991 [LBR 1988]. First migrants in April were at Ruskington 24th, this bird later being found injured, at Gib Point 25th, the earliest reserve record, and Bourne Woods 29th. From May onwards it becomes difficult to distinguish between passage and possibly breeding/prospecting birds. Only one record of confirmed breeding was received but records of more than one bird during the breeding season came from 7 other sites and birds were seen on more than one occasion during the breeding season at a further six; the combined total probably gives the best indication of the actual breeding population during the year. Monthly totals of birds away from these sites were: May-10, June-12, July-6, August-21, September-16. The last records came from Holbeach Sept 19th, Barton Pits 21st, Grantham 28th and Gib Point Oct 9th. Please follow up all sightings from June onwards as there is a good chance that they may relate to breeding birds.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor [LBR 1991].

Singles in the first quarter of the year were at Saltfleetby Jan 4th and 30th, possibly the same bird Tetney/North Cotes Feb 6th and 21st and March 8th, Farthorpe Jan 9th and March 13th, Nocton Fen Jan 17th and March 14th with 2 Feb 7th, Barton Pits Jan 10th & 18th, Sutterton 21st, Pode Hole Feb 2nd, Frampton Marsh 4th and March 13th and Barrow Haven March 12th. Spring passage birds were seen at Gib Point on March 8th and 2 dates in April, at Messingham, a female April 14th and at Donna Nook May 4th with presumably the same bird at Tetney/North Cotes 9th & 12th. Returning migrants were noted at Tetney Aug 1-2nd, 18th and 26th, Gib Point 11th, Leverton 19th, Holbeach St Matthew 30th, New Holland Sept 14th, Nocton Fen 26th and Fosdyke 26th. Last quarter records came from Gib Point on 4 dates in October, with what may all have been the same bird on the coast at Saltfleet Oct 17th & 31st when it was also seen at North Somercotes Warren, Donna Nook 16-23rd, Pyes Hall 24th and Tetney 31st. Inland singles were at Risby Warren mid Sept, Barton Oct 6th & 31st, Cadney Oct 29th, Nocton Fen Nov 14th & Dec 5th, Bagmoor/Winterton Nov 20th, Louth Nov 24th, Thurlby Fen Dec 2nd, Alkborough Flats 15th, Mareham le Fen 9th and Appleby Carrs 14th. On the coast one Saltfleet Haven Nov 19th and Humberston Dec 16th with possibly just one

bird in the Wash at Witham Mouth Dec 5th, Kirton Marsh 6th and Butterwick, Leverton and Wrangle all 18th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Widespread resident with additional local releases and of late many Chukar hybrids present.

The only noteworthy 1993 record was of 21 at Croxby January 3rd.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Declining or stable resident but widespread.

In January covies recorded included 20 Nocton Fen 6th and 11 Branston Fen 10th. In September 9 at Bardney SBF 16th with 14 Marston SF October to the years end. In December 19 at Winteringham 16th and 16 North Hykeham 21st.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Summer visitor in Very variable numbers April-Sept with recent good years 1987, 1988, 1989.

A total of 19 calling males were noted in the spring/summer but only one pair were proved breeding, in the south of the county. In May calling males were at Keyholme near Grainthorpe 4th, Langtoft Fen 11th, Gib Point 15th and Deeping St Nicholas 29th. In June singles were heard at Donna Nook 6-7th, Deeping and Langtoft Fens throughout the month, Baston Fen 27th and Spridlington 29th. Two males were at Swallow 9-17th and Bourne Fen and Crowland Common throughout the month. July and August songsters were at Hackthorn July 2nd, Bourne South Fen 10th, Cranwell 15th, 2 Temple Bruer 18th and the last at Baston Fen Aug 8-9th.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident; population supplemented by local releases.

A total of 150 at Haverholme Park Oct 17th had shrunk to 75 Nov 1st. Two albinos were seen at Digby Fen Sept 1st and Barholm Jan 22nd & Dec 21st.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Rather rare breeding bird, also scarce passage and winter visitor.

Peak early winter count was of 10 at Boultham Mere Jan 1st. At Barton Pits at least 9 calling males in April/May gives an indication of the breeding population there. The only confirmed breeding record was a pair with 3 young at Huttoft in May. One was, however, at Gib Point Mere July 13-14th. In the last three months of the year 3 were at Thurlby Fen, 2 Burton Pits Oct 23rd, 3 Boultham Mere Nov 21st, 2 Whisby Dec 27th with singles Chapel Pit Oct 18th and Saltfleetby Nov 13th.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Widespread and common resident.

Good counts in the early year included 68 Deeping High Bank 1st, 90+ Barton-New Holland Jan-March, 41 Ancaster March 5th. First juveniles at Barton Pits were seen April 23rd. In August 110 were noted at Marston SF 6th and in the latter part of the year there were 100+ at Barton Pits.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Widespread resident with large autumn/winter passage population; mid-winter census 1974 gave a total of 3,819.

An exceptional concentration of 1421 was at Tattershall Pits Jan 9th with other counts

meagre by comparison; just 220 Barton-New Holland Pits January with 320 Feb 14th, 227 Deeping St James Jan 21st and 167 Ancaster 23rd. Breeding season counts included 20-35 pairs at Deeping St James. Numbers built up from August with 171 at Deeping St James 1st, 204 Sept 24th, and at Whisby a max of 279 Sept 19th, but Tattershall again outdid all other sites with monthly maxima of 618 October, 809 November and 893 December. Another exceptional total however, was 500 at Toft Newton Dec 11th.

Crane *Grus grus* *

Vagrant.

One landed briefly at Gib Point on April 6th before heading off south towards Norfolk (PMT). The first since 1990 and about the 27th in all.

[WADERS: For details of the monthly high tide wader counts on the Humber and Wash see the accounts elsewhere in this report].

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Large numbers on passage and winter Wash & Humber; scarce inland where occasional pairs breed.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gib Pt		1100			290	100	480	9500	6000	6350	2500	3500

Inland records in the early months, mainly singles, came from Covenham, 3 Feb 6th, Bardney 14th, Kirtol Holme 19th and Messingham 23rd & 28th, March 2nd. Westerly passage was noted at Barton in March with 10 8th, 25 21st and 32 22nd and in April-June birds were noted inland at Covenham, April 2nd-May 3rd, 2 to 14th; Whisby April 7-8, where 2 summered and may have attempted to breed; Messingham 2 April 15th, Wood Enderby 29th, Bardney 4 May 3rd, 1 June 5th, Kirkby Pits 5 June 9th and Toft Newton 1 19th. Two were at Apex Pit all summer, 6 summered at Baston/Langtoft Pits where 2 pairs bred rearing 1 juvs and along the Humber there were 9 pairs at Read's Island, a pair bred at New Holland and at Donna Nook 7 pairs nested but no chicks hatched. No details of breeding birds were received from anywhere else along the coast or Wash. Late summer and returning passage birds were seen at North Kelsey Moor July 17th, Humberston 372 25th, Messingham 5 27th, Deeping St James Aug 15th, Shep Whites 100 17th, 521 21st, Horseshoe Point 1500 18th, and Huttoft 125 29th.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Increasing but still scarce on passage and in winter. Bred to 1837 and again 1991 and probably 1992.

There were just 8 records this year with none in either winter period. Tetney provided the only spring records with singles March 14-15th and April 4-6th. In May a single was at Covenham 8th with 2 Shep Whites 22nd. One was at Read's Island June 21st and in autumn there were singles at Winteringham Aug 2nd, at Gib Point Sept 2nd and Tetney 9-11th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* *

Vagrant.

One on the MOD pools at North Cotes on the afternoon of April 21st forms the sixth county record (WS). Accepted by BBRC.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Small numbers on passage March-June and July-early October; also scarce and local breeder. First bred 1950; 40 pairs at 20 sites 1970, 35 pairs 1973, 33 pairs at 24 sites 1984 [LBR 1985].

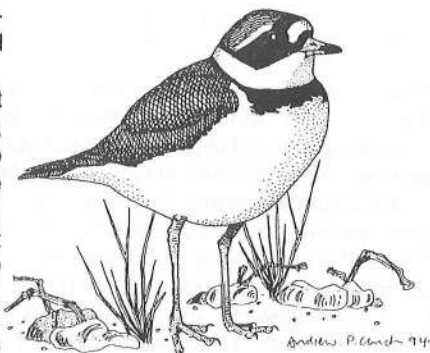
First spring birds were at Messingham March 20th and 30th, North Hykeham Tip (2) and Thurlby Pits April 1st, North Kelsey airfield 2nd, Maxey GP (2) and Baston-Langtoft 8th, Gib Point 10th, Bardney and Barton Pits 12th by which time there were 9 at Thurlby. May passage birds were at South Ferriby 3rd, North Kelsey Moor 5th, Marston SF 7th and Frampton Marsh 23-24th. One pair bred at Deeping St James, 2 pairs at Maxey and one bird was at the Welland Bank GP before the site was bulldozed; two pairs bred at Baston-Langtoft and 3 pairs were at Bardney May 11th but apparently only one pair after 22nd. One pair displayed at Whisby but none bred there. A single bird was at Cadney June 19th, 2 22nd and 3 July 1st. Peaks at Bardney were 9, July 4th with 8 22nd, one at North Kelsey Moor July 5th, 3 Marston SF 16th with 2 24th and 3 Kirkby Pits 21st. Up to 2 per day were at Gib Point July 1-Aug 20th and August singles at Whisby 4th and 31st, South Ferriby 10th and Covenham 19th with 2 Marston 15th. The last of the year were singles at Whisby to Sept 7th and at Gib Point 8th, and 4 Bardney 12th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Resident breeding bird, marked spring passage May/June and autumn July/Sept. Inland breeding from 1963 [LBR 1985].

On the upper Humber early winter counts at Barton peaked at 40 Jan 28th, 24 Feb 13th, with Gib Point max of 14 Jan 28th, 49 Feb 10th, for the same period. Inland up to 10 were at Thurlby Pits from Jan 29-March 11th. Spring passage on the Humber included 43 at South Ferriby April 24th with 40 May 3rd, 249 16th, 157 23rd, 131 26th, 65 31st-June 2nd. Inland spring passage included 10 Baston-Langtoft April 14th with 20 on flooded fields at Langtoft Common May 15th; otherwise 1-2

reported from Bardney, Toft Newton and Tallington. Inland breeding (1-2 pairs) confirmed at Thurlby Pits, Whisby, Maxey GP, and Welland GP with 6 pairs at Baston GP April-June. On the coast there were 15 pairs around South Ferriby and 12 pairs at Donna Nook; no details from Tetney or Saltfleetby though there were 25 at the latter site June 6th and 'good numbers' bred at Gib Point. In autumn there were 85 at South Ferriby by July 23rd rising through August to a peak of 350 18th then declining again to 45 Oct 8th. At Barton there were 35 Aug 18th then 120 29-31st and around 50 in October, at Killingholme 44 July 7th, 98 Aug 19th, and at Pyewipe 280 Aug 28th. There were 100 at Horseshoe Point and 50 at Holbeach, both Aug 18th, with 22 Gedney Drove End 22nd. At Gib Point 130 July 20th was the autumn peak. Inland passage was light with max of just 4 Bardney July 4th, others at Messingham July 17th, Whisby Aug 14th, Toft Newton Sept 6th-12th with a max of 3 Kirkby Sept 4th. Late winter month max at Barton: 33 Nov 19th, 30 Dec 1st.



Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare but regular spring passage migrant late April-May and rare autumn passage bird Aug-Sept.

Only two spring passage records this year: a trip of 4 near Leadenham May 5th (per MJG) and a single on the shore at the south end of Donna Nook May 18th (JF).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *

Vagrant.

A full summer-plumaged adult male was found at South Ferriby on the afternoon of July 24th (JA,SL,KR et al). It remained until dusk when it was seen to fly off east down river. It forms the fourth county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* *

Vagrant.

An adult in almost full summer plumage was found at South Ferriby-Read's Island on July 2nd (GPC et al) and watched until dark that day. In spite of extensive searching over ensuing days it was not seen again until July 18-19th (SR,GPC et al). The second county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Large wintering population, also passage March-May and July-Nov.

Golden Plover peak counts during Jan-March included 4000 Goxhill/New Holland Feb 6th, 400 Pyewipe Feb 13th, 1900 Humberston/Horseshoe Point Jan 17th, 2000 Saltfleet Jan 30th, 3500 Saltfleetby, 1500 Huttoft & 600 Wolla Bank all Feb 14th, 4000 Witham Mouth Jan 23rd, 1000 Holbeach March 22nd, 6000 Fulbeck airfield Jan 19th, 300 Langtoft Feb 20th, 320 Thurlby Fen March 28th, 500 Halton Holgate Jan 17th, 300 Maidenwell March 21st and 600 near Grantham 23rd. April flocks included 600 Fulbeck 5th, 240 Baston GP 14th, 1000 Grasby-by-Hendale 6th with 500 there 15th when there were also 400 at East Halton. Few in May but 6 Shep Whites 5th, 10 Deeping St James and a single at Gib Point 15th. First returnees were at South Ferriby June 21st, 13 birds with 60 by 27th building to 487 July 4th and 700 23rd, 1000 Aug 18th, 1200 28th then a decline to 900 Sept 12th before the winter build up to 6000 Oct 7th. Further down the Humber at New Holland 150 were present by Aug 4th with 500 Sept 10th, 600 Oct 1st, 1500 15th then 2000 Nov 11th with 1300 Dec 1st. At Tetney 300 July 28th with no counts in Aug-Sept but 3000 Oct 9th and 1000 North Cotes Sept 15th; 4800 nearby at Grainthorpe Sept 28th. In the Wash autumn totals of 500 Holbeach July 22nd, 1200 Nene Mouth Sept 16th with 2200 27th and a max of 220 Gib Point Oct 23rd. Inland autumn flocks included 100 Nocton Fen July 27th, 350 Aug 25th, 184 Sept 12th and 210 Oct 17th, 3000 Donnington Sept 29th, 350 Welbourne Heath and 180 Blankney Heath Oct 19th with 200 Oasby Oct 22nd. Other November-December counts of 3500 Huttoft Dec 30th, 400 Holbeach Dec 6th, 1000 Thurlby Fen Nov 27th, 200 Dec 20th with 400 nearby on Swinderby airfield Dec 15th. Two colour ringed birds were seen at South Ferriby: one present from July 10-28th had been ringed as a 1st-winter at Ireshopeburn, Weardale, on July 3rd 1993; another present on Sept 12th had been ringed as an adult female at Chapel Fell, Upper Teesdale, on May 24th 1992. A colour ringed bird seen at New Holland on Sept 2nd 1992 and reported in the 1992 Bird Report as having been ringed on North Ronaldsay (disputed colours) was in fact also ringed as an adult female at Chapel Fell on May 21st 1992. This bird returned to breed within 100m of the 1992 site in 1993, but failed to rear any young (all info per ecology centre University of Sunderland).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Large passage numbers March-May & Aug-Oct; fewer winter and small numbers summer.

Gib Pt	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	200	1150	1000	1190	600	60	15	175	1900	2200	300	45

Spring passage along the inner Humber included 5 at Barton May 15th, 12 at South Ferriby May 22nd, 16 26th. In autumn, there were records of 1-2 at South Ferriby July 1st through August with a peak of 7 Aug 19th then 15 Oct 7th. A group of 50, all juv/1st winter, was at Barton Sept 25th with at least 30 from Oct 4-18th and a peak of 54 10th; at New Holland 17 flew west Sept 22nd and there were 10 there 30th with 21 Oct 1st. Inland records came from Thurlby Pits Sept 30th and Nunn's Bridge Oct 31st.

Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria* *

A full summer-plumaged adult, probably male, was located at Kirkby/Coningsby on May 30th and stayed in the same area to June 2nd (KDD et al), being seen again briefly on June 12th (AB). This is the first county record of this stunningly beautiful wader of the steppes. Accepted by BBRC. See full account elsewhere in report.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Huge autumn passage Sept-Dec and large numbers winter. Still widespread but possibly still decreasing as a breeding species [LBR 1987].

Flocks noted in the early winter before large scale departures in mid-Feb included: 520 Gib Point Jan 22nd, 760 28th, 1250 Feb 17th, 8700 Witham Mouth Feb 7th, 1500 Frampton Marsh 14th, 1500 Holbeach 16th, 2300 Halton Holgate Fen and 750 Spalding both Jan 17th, 1000 Fulbeck airfield 19th, 1200 Feb 1st, 1000 New Holland Feb 3rd, 3500 6th, 3000 Winteringham Feb 16th, 4000 Pyewipe, 600 Saltfleet and 2000 Huttoft all Feb 14th. Post breeding flocks began to return from June but built up by July with 120 South Ferriby/Winteringham 3rd rising to 400 20th, 700 Aug 7th and 1000 Aug 3rd. At Whisby NP 200 flew north July 16th and 252 22nd. There were 1000 Nocton Fen July 27th. In September there were 500 Bardney 16th, 700 Toft Newton 22nd and 1000 Donnington 29th. The large wintering flocks built up from October with 2000 Deeping High Bank Oct 2nd, 1000 Donna Nook 9th, 2000 Welbourne Heath, 400 Blankney Heath 19th, 500 over South Witham 14th then 1500 Thurlby Fen Nov 27th, 5000 Huttoft Dec 30th. On the Humber 700 were at New Holland Oct 10th increasing to 1500 Nov 11th with 2000 Dec 1st, 3000 4th and a decline to 1000 27th while at Read's Island/South Ferriby there were 3000 Oct 7-8th. In the Wash Gib Point had a max of 800 in December with 482 south 4th, 5000 were at Frampton Marsh Nov 7th, 2000 Holbeach Dec 6th. A partial albino was at Barton Nov 29th-Dec 23rd with a different bird at Goxhill Dec 26th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Large numbers in the Wash and outer Humber Aug-April; some summer.

Additional Jan-March flocks noted were 1000 Saltfleet Jan 24th, 700 30th, 300 Saltfleetby Jan 24th, 600 Horseshoe Point Jan 17th with 550 Feb 14th. In the Wash 1200 were at Witham Mouth Feb 7th. In April there was a good spring passage flock of 4000 at Holbeach 10th while a few on the upper Humber included 3 Read's Island 25th with 3 May 23-25th and at Barton 2 May 15th. At South Ferriby there were 2 July 19th and 10 adults 27th. Juvenies were noted from August 7th with 2 Winteringham, 10 18th then 114 Barton Sept 1st and 40 west at New Holland 13th, 27 29th. At the Humber Mouth

there were 1000 Horseshoe Point Sept 15th, 2000 Donna Nook Nov 13th. The only inland record was of a single at Toft Newton Aug 28th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Marked spring passage April-June, fewer July-Oct; common in winter on the outer Humber [LBR 1983].

Gib Pt	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	53	125	90	130	800	250	500	970	60	100	150	150

Other coastal counts of note were 320 at Saltfleetby March 5th, 332 Humberston July 25th. On the inner Humber spring passage birds were at Barton 2 May 8th, South Ferriby 2 May 31st, 25 June 6th then in autumn singles at Barton Aug 30th & Sept 13th, South Ferriby July 23rd, Aug 5th & 29th and New Holland July 20th with 2 Sept 29th. Inland passage records came from Apex Pit May 10th, Thurlby Pits 7th, 2 17th, 4 29th then one July 28-29th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant May-June more regular July-Oct with periodic good autumn movements, eg 1978; one winter record, Dec 29th 1972.

There were three spring records: singles at South Ferriby May 1st & 26th with one Gib Point 7-8th. First of the autumn was at Gib Point July 25th then singles Baston/Langtoft Aug 1st & South Ferriby Aug 18th. There was a widespread arrival of juveniles during the last week of August with 1-2 at South Ferriby, Tetney, Covenham, North Kelsey Moor, Kirkby Pits, Toft Newton, Marston SF, Baston/Langtoft, Whisby and Holbeach. September passage totals were higher than for several years with weekly maxima at well watched sites tabled below:

	1-7th	8-14th	15-21st	22-28th
September				
South Ferriby			3	33
Tetney/N.Cotes			4	2
Saltfleetby	8	2		
Cadney Res	2	1	8	4
Covenham Res	15	36	9	2
Toft Newton Res	10	13	2	2
Kirkby Pits		1		10
Bardney Pits		2	2	
Whisby NP			2	2
Thurlby Pits	2	2		2

Additional to these were 1 at Baston/Langtoft Sept 12th, 2 Holbeach and 1 North Kelsey Moor 18th, 3 Marston SF & 1 Witham Mouth 19th and 3 North Kelsey Moor 23rd. At Gib Point there were 141 bird days between July 25th and Oct 9th, most in the first half of September when there were up to 15 juvs on the Mere. Other October birds were at Marston SF 3rd, South Ferriby 3 juvs 7th, 2 8th, Barton 10th and Saltfleetby 11 on 11th. A late bird was at South Ferriby Nov 15th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* *

Rare passage migrant mainly late April-June & Aug-Oct.

The only record of the year was of two birds on slurry pits by Frampton Marsh May 23-26th (BH, PAH, SK et al).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* *

Vagrant.

An adult was located at a high tide roost at South Ferriby Cement Works on August 5th and subsequently seen feeding on the Humber at Read's Island or South Ferriby basin daily to 15th. (GPC et al). Accepted by BBRC and the first since 1985, the 9th in all.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Rare spring and regular autumn passage migrant; good recent autumns 1978, 1985, 1988, 1991.

Four spring records all in May: at Wrangle 9th, South Ferriby 16th, Gib Point 18th and Tetney 23rd. Following an early bird at North Cotes June 27th autumn adults appeared at Gib Point July 20th, 4 Holbeach 22nd, 2 Saltfleetby 24th and 1 Humberston 25th. One was at Kirkby Pits Aug 8th and there were records from the upper Humber throughout the month with the first juvs Aug 12th: South Ferriby up to 3, 5-15th, 8, 23-29th, Witheringham singles 7th & 9th, Barton up to 4 juvs 12-29th. In the Wash a single was at Witham Mouth Aug 18th. A small scale but widespread arrival occurred in late August-early September with singles at Toft Newton Aug 25-30th, Tetney 26th, Baston GP 28-Sept 5th, Humberston 2 Aug 27th, Pyewipe 14 Sept 2nd, Gib Point 11 Aug 29th, 12 31st, 5 Sept 1st. Another arrival in mid September produced 1 Bardney, 4 Pyes Hall 16th, 4 Tetney 11-12th, 3 19th, 1 29th, 4 South Ferriby & 3 Barton 12th with 4 Barton 24-25th. After 2 at Tetney Oct 2nd the final records were from South Ferriby with 1 Oct 7th, 2 8th and 1 10th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare passage and winter visitor; notable recent decline in wintering numbers.

A year total of just 6 birds with the only wintering locality being Cleethorpes where 2 birds were present from Jan-March with one to April 7th and a single bird there again from Dec 10th to the years end. The other records were of one at the Witham Mouth March 6th and Sept 2-5th and at Gib Point Aug 22nd.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Present in the Wash and on the Humber all months; large spring and autumn passage and wintering population. Bred 1958.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gib Pt	500	500	1000	1000		1200	110	6000	240	8000	2000	

Spring passage movements were discernable on the Inner Humber where there were 995 at Read's Island /Sth Ferriby Feb 25th, 1400 March 7th, 400 20th, but then 1000 on April 6th with still 700 May 1st, 900 again 16th, dropping to 550 23rd and just 25 31st. Similarly in the Wash there were 1400 at Gedney Drove End Jan 10th, 1000 March 14th, 3150 April 10th and 450 May 9th. Small numbers were recorded at inland pits and reservoirs in all month except January, June and December with the bulk of the records during the spring and autumn passage periods. Complex movements of different subspecies could be seen in the Wash where returning autumn birds were 50 Shep Whites July 2nd, 850 Gedney Drove End 25th, 500 Aug 22nd, 1740 Sept 19th. On the Humber 2500 were at Humberston July 25th whilst up river at South Ferriby 57 July 19th increased to 176 20th, 500 Aug 18th, 800 26th then down to 300 Sept 12th with 2000 Oct 7-8th. A leucistic bird was at the Nene Mouth Aug 22nd.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Passage migrant and rare wintering bird, most March-May & June-Nov.

During January-March only Pyewipe produced regular records with the highest count of 5 Jan 20th. Other records came from the Witham Mouth, 3 Feb 3rd, 1 7th, 2 March 13th; New Holland Feb 7th, 2 March 5th; singles Cleethorpes Feb 13th, Huttoft 16th, Tetney Blow Wells 2 Feb 24th and Saltfleet Haven March 26th. There were no April reports and just two in May, at Toft Newton 16th and Messingham 23rd. First returnees were 3 Cadney June 30th. Maximum counts from sites providing records during two or more months in July-Sept are tabled. Only 4 sites held autumn passage flocks of 30 or more: Marston SF 30 Aug 29th, Huttoft 30-40 throughout the first half of September, Baston/Langtoft Pits 31 Sept 12th and Donna Nook 35 Sept 17th.

	July	Aug	Sept		July	Aug	Sept
Sth Ferriby	1	5	2	Barton		9	1
New Holland		5	8	Horseshoe Point		1	6
Cadney Res	1	1	5	Covenham Res		6	17
Toft Newton Res		2	7	Kirkby Pits		1	7
Bardney Pits	1	4	12	Marston SF		30	6
Baston/Langtoft	2	6	31	Huttoft		24	43
Gib Point		10	16	Witham Mouth	5	1	1
Holbeach	2	4	1	Moulton Marsh		3	4

In October there were 17 Deeping High Bank 2nd, 1 west at Barton 4th, 6 Donna Nook, 1 Baston/Langtoft 9th, 2 Marston SF 12th and 7 North Cotes 24th with 10 30th. The year's final reports came from Horseshoe Point with 2 Nov 2nd and Butterwick 1 Nov 27th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage bird Sept-Nov & April.

Singles were reported during January-March from Saltfleetby Jan 1-2nd, Mar 19 & 26th, North Killingholme Jan 3rd, Feb 14th, Barton Jan 17th, Leverton throughout, 2 Marston SF Feb 7th and Messingham 17th, then at Whisby March 23-April 6th with the only other April record from New Holland 24th. First autumn arrivals were earlier than on average in mid-Sept with 1 Huttoft 19th & 24th, Saltfleetby 19th & 25th, Donna Nook 3 20th, Gib Point 17-18th with further singles on four more dates to Oct 20th. Other October reports came from Donna Nook and Leverton 14th, Barton 2, 22nd-the year end, and Baston Fen 4 24th. There were just five other November-December records, at Baston Fen Nov 6th, Leverton 16th, Huttoft Pit 2 Dec 1st, Saltfleetby 6th and Greetwell 20th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Seriously reduced breeding population, now rare and local; more common on passage and in winter. 1971 census found 216 drumming.

During January-March the highest reported concentrations were 27 North Killingholme Jan 14th, 13 Saltfleetby Feb 24th, 11 Marston SF March 6-30th, 13 Huttoft Pit March 7th and a total of 34 on all the sea bank clay pits March 17th. Other sites with parties of 5-10 birds reported were Gib Point, North Hykeham, Barton Pits, Baston Fen, Whisby NP, Thurlby Fen, Maxey GP and North Kelsey Moor. In April passage birds included peaks of 12 at Gib Point 24-25th and 11 at North Kelsey Moor 2nd. One was drumming over 5 year set-aside fields at Greatford April 3rd and 4 pairs were nesting at Baston Fen in April but were believed to have failed due to flooding. Single drumming males

were also at Saltfleetby and Ancaster in May and Marston SF and Bardney in June. Monthly maxima at sites with two or more counts in Aug-Nov are tabled. Other parties of 10 or more were reported from Kirkby Pits 10 Sept 5th, Huttoft Pit 10 18th, North Cotes 12 Oct 15th, 15 25th, Baston Fen 20 Oct 20th, Skidbrooke 27 Nov 15th and Thurlby Pits 18 Nov 17th. In December 20 were on flooded fields at New Holland 1st.

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
North Kelsey Moor	10	36	14	20
Gib Point	15	18	1	5
Baston/Langtoft	6	48	25	
Marston SF		30		45

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Widespread woodland breeding bird, with coastal passage Oct-Dec and present in winter in variable numbers. Surely a seriously under-recorded species in the county at all times of year.

Winter records came from Barton Pits, Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe, Gib Point max 6 Jan 7th, Bagmoor, Whisby NP, Laughton Forest, Willingham Woods, Bourne Woods and Belton Park. Once again only a few reports of roding birds were received, there being at least 12 in Laughton Forest, 5 Keb Wood (Appleby) and 3 Bourne Woods. As usual most records submitted were of coastal birds in October-November. At Gib Point the first arrived Oct 14th and records were then regular with a peak of 7 Nov 21st. First at Theddlethorpe was Oct 15th with a peak of 3 Nov 8th while at Donna Nook after the first on Oct 14th the peak was just 4 Nov 26th. Four were between Pyes Hall and Stonebridge Oct 30th and other singles were at North Cotes, Grainthorpe and Roman Bank, with inland records from Burton Pits, Lincoln, South Witham and Boultham Mere.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Scarce in spring, more numerous autumn July-Oct with wintering flocks in the Wash and recently on the Humber. Bred 1940-42, 1951, 1974, 1979.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Pyewipe	48	32	28	104	104

In the Wash additional to the estuary counts there were 6 Holbeach Jan 1st and 300 roosting there in December and 1 Gedney March 14th. Spring passage birds included 4 Witham Mouth April 11th, then in May a single Barton 1st, 4 Kirkby Pits 2nd, 4 Bardney 7th, 2 Marston SF 14th and up to 3 on three dates at Gib Point. First autumn birds were 25 Shep Whites July 2nd then 1 Gib Point 4th, 8 South Ferriby 7th, 5 20th, 3 28th, 3 Baston/Langtoft 18th. During August there were 1-2 on scattered dates at Kirkby Pits, Marston SF and Witham Mouth, with 5 Horseshoe Point 22nd and a peak of 7 Gib Point 5th. As usual the main autumn concentration was in the Holbeach area with 20 Shep Whites Aug 17th then 1000 Holbeach Range 19th with 1660 there 22nd. In October a single was at Gib Point and 15 Tetney, both 17th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Highest numbers on autumn passage Aug-Oct but also common in winter outer Humber & Wash. A few immatures summer.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gib Pt	400	700	40	65	40	45	400	100	1000	3500	15	650

Winter flocks included 400 Cleethorpes Feb 4th, 120 Horseshoe Point Jan 17th, 112 Feb 14th, 100 Gedney Drove End Nov 10th, 185 Dec 8th. First autumn passage birds noted were 1 north over Covenham and 7 at South Ferriby July 2nd. Peak at South Ferriby was only 19 Aug 19th while 430 were at Humberston Sept 4th and in the Wash 200 Shep Whites Aug 21st with 2500 by Sept 19th and 127 Witham Mouth Aug 21st.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to common passage migrant April-June and July-Oct; occasional winter records. Rare inland.

First of the spring was at Gib Point April 4th. Reported monthly maxima for the best-watched sites during the main spring/autumn passage periods are tabulated, but submitted counts were patchy even for these main sites. No data were received from Grainthorpe Marsh or from a large part of the Wash marshes (apart from WeBS count data).

	April	May	July	Aug
Tetney		20	35	23
Saltfleetby		1	50	
Huttoft			50	
Gib Point		43	80	13
Butterwick				40
Witham Mouth	6			56
Holbeach		10	44	20

In the Inner Humber there were 7 at East Halton Skitter April 23rd and 2 over Barton 26th. At South Ferriby/Read's Island there were 6 July 16th with 4 there 17th. Occasional singles were at Barton-New Holland during August and 6 flew west there 20th. Last of the spring was at Pyewipe June 8th. There were 13 at Gedney and 12 inland at Bratofth May 9th, one flew west over Whisby NP June 21st, with 3 there July 22nd, 20 flew over Hanthorpe July 16th and 12 over Kirkby Pits Aug 18th. In September apart from 53 south at Donna Nook on the late date of 18th there were only occasional singles at the usual coastal sites and inland at Covenham 20th, Marston SF 19th & 22nd. Last of the year was at Gib Point Sept 28th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Common on coasts all year with passage March-April and July-Oct, fewer inland. Rare breeder.

At Gib Point there were flocks of 100+ January-March and July-August with 300 Feb 3rd and 1000 October. At South Ferriby/Read's Island there were 100+ in February, 300 July 24th and 130-150 early July-mid August. Other sites with flocks of 100+ in these months included Saltfleetby, Holbeach and Donna Nook with larger counts at Pyewipe, 830 Aug 28th and Shep Whites, 1000 July 2nd, 800 Aug 21st. Inland flocks reported were 52 at Thorpe St Peter Fen Jan 17th and 20-30 Marston SF September-December with 10 flying over Whisby NP June 27th. Two pairs bred at Greetwell/Manton Warren

and 2 pairs reared young at Beckingham Grange but there were no other breeding season reports.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common on passage in Wash June-Oct, variable numbers elsewhere April-Nov with signs of recent decline; rare in winter.

In the first winter period singles were noted at Tetney Jan 31st and Feb 16th and at Pyes Hall/Donna Nook Feb 9th, 16th and March 20-21st. The first spring migrant appeared at Gib Point April 16th followed by just 3 more spring birds there, the last May 4th. Inland spring records came from Messingham April 30th and Thurlby Pits May 28-31st. Likely returning non-breeders were seen at Gib Point from June 16th with another at Cadney June 30th but no autumn birds were recorded until August. Up to 4 were at Gib Point from Aug 6th with an autumn peak there of 6 Sept 12th. Elsewhere on the Wash only Holbeach Marsh provided autumn records with 1 Aug 24th, 2 Sept 18-19th. Rather more came from the Humber saltmarshes: Horseshoe Point Aug 4th, Donna Nook 2 Aug 20th, 1 28th, Pyes Hall/Grainthorpe Sept 1st, 8-9th, 18th, Saltfleetby Sept 18th and singles Tetney and Grainthorpe 19th. A juvenile was at Barton Sept 25th with inland records from Kirkby Pits 2 Aug 18th and 1 31st-Sept 1st. The last was at Gib Point Oct 17th.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Coastal breeder with a few pairs inland, good numbers in winter and on passage.

Gib Pt	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	100	100	100	150	15	12	100	414	260	140		

Winter concentrations of 100+ were at South Ferriby/Read's Island, New Holland, North Killingholme, Pyewipe, Horseshoe Point and the Witham Mouth. Reported spring passage peaks were 71 at Gedney and 1100 Pyewipe in April. Autumn flocks included 300 Shep Whites Aug 23rd, 650 Holbeach and 250 Witham Mouth Sept 4th. At the Humber mouth Tetney held 110 July 28th, Pyewipe 470 Aug 28th, Horseshoe Point/Grainthorpe 280 Sept 19th, Donna Nook 270 Oct 15th. Along the inner Humber at South Ferriby/Read's Island there were 110 July 20th, 130 24th, 146 Aug 2nd, 160 26th, with 51 at Barton Sept 12th, 60 Oct 10th. Small numbers were recorded inland throughout the year, with breeding records from Marston SF, 2 pairs breeding and young seen, Baston/Langtoft and Maxey GP, each having a pair with a juv in July, Kirkby Pits 1 pair. On the Humber there were at least 40 displaying on the North Cotes/Tetney marshes. No data for the Grainthorpe or Saltfleetby marshes, the inner Humber or the Wash.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce to common passage migrant April-June and July-Nov, rare in winter.

The first spring bird was at Gib Point April 12th followed by other singles there and at North Cotes 20th with 6 North Cotes 21st-27th. The Witham Mouth had 2 25th but the main spring passage through May was poor. Gib Point held a max of 13 May 10th, 5 were at Shep Whites 5th and otherwise up to 2 were noted occasionally along the coast with inland singles at Messingham May 1st, Kirkby Pits 23rd & 31st, Marston SF 30th and Thurlby Pits June 5th. Five early returnees were at Tetney June 29th. At Gib Point small numbers were recorded almost daily from July 1st-October 2nd with peaks of 28 Aug 5th, 25 12th, and other autumn peaks were Holbeach 45 July 24th, Read's Island/South Ferriby 21 July 31st, Tetney/North Cotes 15 Aug 26th, 12 Sept 19th,

Covenham 12 Sept 1st. Upto 5 were widespread at coastal and inland sites through to late September. In October there were 4 Saltfleetby 9th, 5 Gib Point 12th and singles Saltfleet 17th, Grainthorpe 18th, Seacroft 19th and Tetney 21st & 23rd.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Recorded all months with peak passage in March-May and June-Sept.

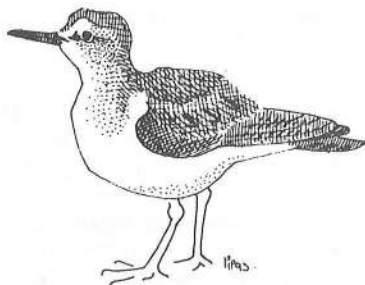
Present throughout the year. January-March records of single birds came from North Kelsey Moor, Appleby, North Hykeham, Whisby NP, Bardney, Kirkby Pits, Baston Fen, Langtoft Pits and Marston SF with 2 at Fiskerton in late March. Spring passage was again light with a max of 29, min 14, individuals recorded in April and only 3 in May. Autumn passage was first noted during the last week of June, peaked in late July-early August and had virtually ceased by the end of September with just 5 October records. Monthly maxima from sites holding the highest numbers during spring/autumn passage periods are tabled. In addition 1-2 birds were widely noted at suitable sites during this period. From November wintering singles were at North Hykeham, Kirkby Pits, North Kelsey Moor, Covenham, with 2 there Nov 24th, and Nocton Fen with 5 there Nov 2nd.

	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
North Kelsey Moor		1	3	3	7		
Kirkby Pits	2			6	6	2	1
Bardney		2		12	8	9	1
Marston SF	1			9	6	1	1
Baston/Langtoft	1			8	6	6	
Maxey GPs			2		4		
Donna Nook				1	3		
Gib Point	1		1		11		

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Scarce on passage late April-June and July-Oct; large numbers 1956 & 1963.

There was only one spring record this year at Bardney May 29-31st. Thirteen autumn records spanned the period July 17-Sept 21st. The first was at Baston/Langtoft July 17-18th with another 27-30th and one Aug 11th. Gib Point had singles July 27th, 30th, Aug 1st and 5-19th, Marston SF 1 Aug 20th. Then in September there were singles at Bardney 1st and Kirkby Pits 5th, 2 Horseshoe Point slurry pit 8th and singles at Gib Point 10th and Marston SF 19-21st.



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Scarce to fairly common on passage April-June and July-Oct with occasional winter records. Bred 1979.

First was at Gib Point April 12th then 1 Whisby NP, 2 Culverthorpe Lake and Covenham 19th, 2 Cleethorpes CP 20th then 1-2 at Barton, Barrow Haven, South Ferriby, Bardney, Kirkby Pits and Chapel Pit before the month end. A minimum of 16, max 19, birds were recorded in April. In May 1-2 birds were widely reported at suitable sites with a max of 6 Gib Point May 14th, 7 Tetney 15th and 6 Covenham 9th. There were 3 late June records of singles at Messingham and Gib Point

28th and Toft Newton 30th then one Whisby and 3 South Ferriby July 3rd. Records of singles and small parties were again widespread from mid July to September with peaks counts of 6 Gib Point July 16th & Aug 28th, 12 Bardney July 31st, 15 Tetney Aug 14th, 7 Kirkby Pits and 22 Covenham 22nd with 40 there 23rd. In October one was at Thurlby Pits 1st then the last of the year at Gib Point 10th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common on coasts July-April/May with notable spring and autumn passage flocks.

	J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
Barton	21	38	70	38	53	45	40	115
New Holland	91	19					52	112

Also on the inner Humber were 15 at Read's Island May 1st, 6 25th. The largest Humber flocks at Grimsby-Humberston were only counted for the WeBS. The spring peak at Gib Point was only 19 May 10th and the autumn peak a mere 56 Aug 18th. At the Witham Mouth there were 55 Feb 7th, 175 Aug 21st and 120 Sept 4th with 20 Holbeach Aug 18th and 28 Leverton Dec 17th. Inland birds were noted at Toft Newton 1 Jan 7th, 3 Apex Pit May 10th, 3 Thurlby Pits 29th, 1 Messingham July 29th, 3 Toft Newton Aug 28th and 10 Covenham 25th with 1 29th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *

Rare May-Nov, mostly juvs Aug-Oct [LBR 1984].

Three autumn juveniles occurred. One was at Bardney from Sept 9-12th (DJ et al) and one at Covenham 17-18th was joined by a second bird 19-23rd with one of these to 26th (KA et al)

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce to fairly common Sept-Nov, rare Dec-Jan & May; 300+ 1985 & 1988; highest recent day counts 74 24/9/1988, 92 29/9/1988.

The year started with two exceptional sightings, an adult type north at Gib Point Feb 21st and one at Baston Gravel Pits March 22nd-24th. Autumn passage occurred between Aug 1st and Nov 14th yielding 119 bird days (approx) off typical coastal watchpoints. Most records were of 1-2 but 4 flew north off Gib Point Aug 25th with 3 north Huttoft 27th. September peaks were 10 north Gib Point 5th when 7 were off Saltfleetby am, and 37 flew north off Saltfleet between 17-30 and 19-10hrs; and 12 off Seacroft 31st. Five flew up the Humber at Tetney Oct 17th with one at Barton on 22nd. Six flew south at Mablethorpe on 21st at which time unprecedented numbers were gathering at the Nene Mouth; some 200 may have been involved, of which 96 were counted as they moved off high inland. (See separate report, this issue.)

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Regular/common July-Oct, rare Nov-Jan & April-June. Highest day count 423 4/9/1984, 386 29/9/1991. Winter birds were seen at Saltfleetby Jan 6th and 24th, Feb 14th. The only spring records were off Gib Point; singles on May 31st and June 14th, 2 23rd. Records commenced there again from July 7th but the bulk of autumn passage occurred between Aug 18th and Sept 14th when day counts of 20+ were commonplace on the coast. August peaks were at Huttoft, 47 south and 10 north 22nd and at Gib Point, all north, 57 25th, 43 26th, 46 27th and 120 29th. September's peak passage occurred on 5th when 106 passed north off Gib Point and at least 124 flew south off Saltfleetby. Up

the Humber an exceptional influx produced a total of at least 60 birds at the Humber Bridge during a south-easterly gale on 13th when 46 also moved south at Gib Point and on 14th 65 south at Anderby. Records were sparse during October although 20 and 27 north moved north at Gib Point on 22nd and 23rd respectively and a further 30 at the Nene Mouth on 21st. November produced only 4 birds on 2 dates. (See separate report, this issue.)

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* *

Rare to scarce July-Oct. Exceptional recent years 1976, 1985 (67), 1988 (66), 1991; highest day count 26 29/9/1991 [LBR 1988].

August 22nd produced one south at Huttoft, followed by a breeding-plumage adult south-east off Gib Point. A further adult was at Pyewipe on 28th then a minimum 17 birds in the Wash 30th/31st starting on 30th with 9 off Shep Whites, then two parties of 9 and 8, involving some six adults, which amalgamated over Frampton Marsh that evening (SK,PAH). Four (including two adults) were at nearby Witham Mouth 31st. An adult south off Rimac on Sept 4th may have been that passing Huttoft and Gib Point the same day, and on 5th 2 adults flew north off Saltfleet 11-40 to 14-00hrs and a further 3 flew north and one south between 17-30 and 19-10hrs. Huttoft saw further adults south on 6th and 8th when another 4 flew south at Anderby. On the 9th 2 were seen at Saltfleet Haven and 2 at Mablethorpe. The last of the year was a lone bird off Anderby Sept 14th. Humber watchers were rewarded with single adults at New Holland Sept 1st and 5th and 2-3 juvs at Barton on 13th.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Scarce-fairly common July-Nov, rare Dec-March; highest day count 216 29/9/1991. February sightings at Gib Point were 2 19th and one 22nd, then one spring bird at Donna Nook May 6th. Autumn records commenced with one at Holbeach Aug 5th with the main passage between Aug 20th-Sept 14th. Peak counts were 8 Leverton Aug 20th, 6 south Huttoft 22nd, 5 24th and 8 Sept 4th, 5 north Gib Point 5th and then an exceptional 171 south at Anderby 14th. October records were less frequent but included 13 north Gib Point 17th and on 21st a very large passage witnessed at Nene Mouth, involving possibly up to 170 birds, 74 of which headed inland. Up the Humber a record single flock of 28 birds was at the Humber Bridge at Barton Sept 13th. (See separate report, this issue).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

First recorded 1950, now present all months with upto 20 pa. Hybrid pairs bred 1991 and 1992 [LBR 1991].

February produced adult birds at Anderby 3rd and Tetney 28th and 2nd winters at Pyewipe and Apex Pit 4th; the latter bird seen at Boultham Mere 9th when a 1st winter was at Apex. Another 2nd winter was at Huttoft Feb 21st. Kirkby Pits hosted a 2nd summer on May 31st followed by an adult June 1st - July 21st. Further summer adults were at Read's Island June 8th, Covenham July 1st, Rimac 18th, Boston Tip 25th, Riddings Park, Scunthorpe, mid-late July and east past the Humber Bridge Aug 17th. A 1st summer was regular at Gib Point from June 6th-July 24th and another at Covenham Aug 20th. A 2nd winter passed Gib Point Aug 29th with an adult there Sept 11th. Other adults were at Kirkby and Nene Mouth Sept 11th and 16th respectively. A 1st winter at Humberston Fitties Oct 10th bore a Dutch ring. Five days later two 1st winters were at Huttoft and in December further 1st winters were at Baston Fen 12th and Gib

13th. Two 1st winters and two adults roosted at Apex Pit between Nov 27th and the year end. The adult male returned to Messingham March 9th for its third successive year, and again paired with a Black-headed Gull; one hybrid chick was seen and the male was last recorded on July 16th. Another adult was present there March 10th-April 10th and may also have paired with a Black-headed Gull; 1-2 of the hybrid young from previous years were also at Messingham and nearby Kirton Quarries between March 31st and July 23rd.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Very variable numbers April-June and July-Nov, rare but regular Dec-March.

Winter records were of one at Gib Point on Jan 23rd, 2 Horseshoe Point Feb 19th and singles at Mablethorpe 23rd and Gib Point 28th. One only in March, at Barton on 1st. Spring passage commenced with 2 at Kirby April 12th and again 21st and a 1st summer there May 9th-31st. Other May singles were at Messingham on 4th and 12th, Skegness 4th and Whisby 17th. June birds were predominantly 1st summers and again singles: at North Killingholme 2nd, Tatterwick 6th, Kirkby 9th and 13th and Gib Point on 16th. The first returning birds were two at Rimac July 18th, one Horseshoe Point 21st and one Gib Point 27th. Five passed Huttoft Aug 14th and Covenham had singles on 12th and 26th and 2 on 28th. Others were seen that month at Barton 17th and 31st, Whisby 16th and 21st and 2 at Gedney Drove End 22nd. Records from the Humber area during September included singles at New Holland 1st and 7-8th, Barton 2nd, Grimsby Docks 4th and 13th, and on the latter date a large influx of 19 Barton, followed by 3 there 14th and 4 15th. The arrival was also witnessed in the south with several passing Gib Point 12-17th, max 6 on 12th, one at Baston 12th, 2 at Witham Mouth 13th and one on 19th. Singles passed Huttoft on 4th, 7th, 12th and 26th; at Anderby 5 flew north and 4 south 14th when 2 were at Toft Newton. Offshore passage continued in October when 49 bird days were logged at Gib Point 23-30th, max 26 27th. The previous day 4 flew north off Huttoft. Last of the year were one at Barton Nov 3rd, 7 north at Huttoft 14th and an adult south at Donna Nook 29th.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* *

Rare July-Oct, with about 51 records to 1992.

A juv was well watched at Barton Sept 13th (GPC, WG, MH) and another juv flew south at Anderby Creek Sept 26th (WPB). In October an adult flew north at Huttoft 14th (NAL). All within the usual pattern of occurrence.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Abundant all year. Twigmoor colony held 5-10,000 pairs in the 1840s, 5000 pairs 1909, 6000 pairs 1938, 2000 pairs 1958 and 6,100 pairs in 1973; Kirton/Frampton held 22,000 pairs in 1974.

There was a large concentration of birds at Pyewipe in the early months with counts of 20,000 Jan 20th and 10,000 Feb 4th. Other notable counts from this period were 1,841 going west past Barton Ness to roost Jan 23rd and 1000 at Gib on Jan 23rd. The breeding colony of 800 pairs at Messingham deserted due to human interference but at least 200 pairs bred at Baston Fen. No breeding figures are available from Kirkby, Bardney or Frampton but at Whisby one pair raised 2 young and at Baston Gravel Pits 63 pairs bred. In the autumn, counts of over a thousand birds came from New Holland, 3,000 Sept 18th and Gib, 5,000 Oct 14th; 5,000 at Toft Newton Dec 11th was the highest late winter count.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very large wintering population and passage numbers.

High counts were 1140 flying west to roost at Barton on Jan 31st, 1200 at Gib Point Mar 4th, over 2000 at Donna Nook in Aug and 2000 at New Holland on Aug 18th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Present all year: rare Dec-Feb, passage March-May, summers June-July, passage Aug-Nov. *L.f.intermedius/fuscus* occur summer/autumn.

The main news this year was from Kirkby Pits where a pair raised two young, Lincs first breeding record. Elsewhere there was the regular scatter of early winter records, mostly singles, with up to 7 at Cleethorpes Jan 24th and 6 at Apex Pit Feb 6th. Spring passage was very light with 5 at Messingham April 29th and 16 Gib 26th the only notable counts. Numbers were higher in the summer months with peaks of 130 South Ferriby July 29th, 43 Thurlby Aug 8th, 20 Nocton Fen 11th and 200 Gib Point Sept 24th. Birds reportedly showing characters of the race *fuscus* were as follows: one Kirkby June 4th, 2 Baston Aug 8th, 2 Huttoft 15th, 4 Nocton Fen 31st and one Bardney Sept 1st.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common in winter with highest numbers Jan-March. Bred 1947. *L.a.omissus*, 2 ringing recoveries.

At Pyewipe 600+ on Jan.5th built up to 1000+ 25th before falling to 400 Grimsby/Pyewipe on Feb 14th. Other high counts in January-March were 300+ at Winterton Tip Jan 12th rising to 600+ 27th, 300+ at Immingham Tip 11th and 18th, 100 at Gib Point Feb 28th, 350 Mar 5th and 200 at Saltfleetby Jan 24th. Present from April to late October in smaller numbers with max of 45 at Donna Nook May 6th. Late year peak of 500 at Gib Point Oct 30th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* *

Scarce to rare with most in July-Aug. *L.c.michahellis*, 2 ringing recoveries.

One early record at Whisby on April 24th, then 2 July 17th, 3 31st, and one Aug 27th. A good series of records at Kirkby Pits from June 1st - Aug 18th with at least 5 birds involved (including 2nd summer, 3rd summer and adult plumaged birds). At Boston Tip one July 25th and 2 Sept 11th. Other August records were 2 at Station Road Tip, Lincoln 1st, one at Winterringham 3rd, 5 adults at Apex Pit 23rd and one at Gib Point 29th. Additional birds in September were one at Pyewipe 3rd-4th, one at Gib Point 10th, one Covenham 11th, 3 Apex Pit 23rd and 2 there 25th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* *

Rare/scarce Dec-early May, most on passage March-April.

One or two 1st winters in the north early on, seen first at Immingham Tip Jan 18th, Pyewipe 24/25th and Feb 6th with another Winterton Tip Jan 19th and 26th-27th. A 2nd winter was at Thorpe-on-the-Hill Tip Jan 19th and 3rd winters at Boston Tip Jan 29th and at Apex Pit/Station Road Tip, Lincoln, March 7-8th. Also in March there were 1st winters at Covenham 4th, Louth Tip 6th, Barton 27th and a 2nd summer at Kirkby 29th. First of the late year was a 2nd winter at Nocton Fen Dec 19th followed by a 1st winter at Thorpe-on-the-Hill Tip 20th; this bird was also seen at Apex roost and North Hykeham Tip until the end of the year.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Regular in winter Nov-April, most March-April; rare in summer. Best annual total, 38 in 1988.

Northerly gales on Jan 25th produced a 1st winter at Grimsby and 1st winter and adult birds off Mablethorpe. On Jan 28th 3rd winters were seen at Grimsby and flying north at the Humber Bridge. Inland a first winter was found at North Hykeham Tip Feb 1st with subsequent coastal records of a 3rd winter at Grimsby Feb 21-27th and an adult at Mablethorpe 22nd. Late year birds were an adult and a 2nd winter in the Boston area Nov 6th and a 1st winter at Grimsby Dec 20th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Common Sept-April; immatures summer.

Early winter high counts were 400+ at Pyewipe and 300 at Apex Pit Jan 5th, 40 at Gib Point 27th and 80 immatures at Barton March 27th. Between April and August there were small numbers both inland and on the coast. From September numbers increased with 300 at Gib Point Oct 17th, 52 Donna Nook Nov 7th and 112 Barton Dec 15th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Variable numbers offshore all months, most July-Dec; day max 6000 south 29/10/1974.

The early winter period produced exceptional numbers along the coast, with 3 February counts at Gib Point all exceeding the 1949 - 1992 reserve record: 625 19th, 1100 21st and 675 28th. Also 1800 flew south off Mablethorpe Jan 25th, 730 south at Huttoft Feb 21st. Inland singles were at Whisby N.P. Feb 27th and Thorpe-on-the-Hill Tip 24th. In May several good counts along the coast included 225 south at Mablethorpe 18th, 499 south 19th, 300+ north 20th, and 206 roosting at Rimac 30th. In August 200 were at Huttoft 21st and 300 Gib Point 22nd. Unusually for recent years there were no notable counts in the autumn and second winter period.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

March 26th-Nov 12th. Scarce March-May, common June-Oct. Six pairs bred 1950

First spring migrants were 2 at Gib Point April 11th with up to 57 there later in the month. A good autumn for terns in general. At Tetney 118 flew east Aug 15th, 200+ 18th, and at Huttoft there was a max of 200 22nd. Max at the Witham Mouth was also 200, on 31st. Gib Point max was 850 July 15th with counts of 100+ daily from 11th until Sept 13th; the inner Humber max was 32 at Barton on the latter date. A few lingered to late October with the last a single off Gib on 24th. A colour-ringed bird at Saltfleetby June 20th was ringed on the Farnes in 1986, and is now paired up with the Farnes' Lesser Crested Tern.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*. *

'Elsie', the adult female present every summer since 1984 on the Farne Islands, which had been frequenting the Spurn/Easington area in June, finally admitted itself to the Lincolnshire list when it was located with Sandwich Terns at Saltfleetby on the afternoon of June 20th (GPC).

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* *

Vagrant, May and July-Sept.

During a good spell of east coast records, the only bird to appear on the Lincolnshire coast was a summer-plumaged adult which flew north at Gib Point on August 3rd. (KMW).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

April 6th-Nov 1st. Common on passage April-May and July-Oct; 700 7/8/1971, 500 26/8/1991. Census 1973 found 120 pairs with 45 inland; coastal decline since.

First of the year was at Boultham Mere April 7th, but apart from the breeding sites there were few other records for April and May, with 12 at the Witham Mouth April 25th being the highest. Ten pairs bred at Whisby and 6 pairs at Bardney but the highest concentration was a total of at least 60 nests with 108 young reared at Baston Fen. Other breeding records included 3 pairs at Kirkby, one pair at Barton Pits and one at Boultham Mere. The autumn passage was reasonable with a very heavy movement noted at Humberston Aug 30th when 400 flew west in 20 mins. Elsewhere peak counts were: Gib Point 69 south Aug 3rd, Witham Mouth 150 8th, 100 31st, Grimsby Docks 47 east 13th and 73 14th. Up the Humber 40 were at Barton Aug 22nd, 18 21st, 37 Sept 3rd, 8 5th, 47 13th. Last of the year were 2 at Tetney Oct 8th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

April 17th-Nov 4th. Variable spring passage April-June, scarce but some large flocks June-Oct: 3,500 20/8/1982. Bred 1954 & 1956.

First of the year were 3 at Apex Pit from April 12th-14th then 3 east Barton 25th and one there 30th. A very light passage in May: at Gib Point one 12th and 17th, 2 at Tattershall Pits and Kirkby Pits 12th, one Apex Pit and 2 Toft Newton 13th. In June 12 were at Bardney Pits 5th, 1 12th and one at Rimac 27th. The autumn passage was more evident starting with 4 west at Horseshoe Point July 21st, one Kirkby 23rd and 2 Tetney 25th. Then in August 10 north at Anderby, 10 at South Ferriby, 19 New Holland, all on 5th, 16 Gib Point 7th, 2 New Holland 9th, 11 east off Grimsby 14th and 7 15th, 34 west Barton and 10 Huttoft both 17th, 35 Tetney 18th, 15 Witham Mouth and 1 Huttoft both 21st and 20 at Witham Mouth 31st. September saw few records bar 30 at Witham Mouth 2nd. Last of the year were 4 juvs at Barton Sept 13th.

Little Tern *Sterna albibrons*

April 12th-Oct 19th. Passage April-June & July-Aug and coastal breeder: recent max 205 pairs 1977.

First returning birds at breeding sites were at Gib Point April 26th and Tetney May 2nd. A total of 35 pairs bred at Gib Point with at least 11 young fledging and at Tetney 21 pairs fledged 18 young. A further pair were successful at Donna Nook. Peak counts for breeding sites were 68 at Gib Point July 16th and 90 at Tetney 20th. Elsewhere 61 including 18 juvs were at Humberston and 50 on Holbeach Marsh July 25th, 12 off Grimsby Docks Aug 14th, 14 North Cotes 22nd, and 10 at the Witham Mouth on 30th. Up the Humber a single juv was at Read's Island Aug 6th and a late bird at Barton Pits Sept 18th. The last of the year were 4 at the Witham Mouth on 19th Sept.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

April 12th-Nov 10th. Very variable numbers April-June & July-Oct; 390 on 2/5/1990. About 27 birds were noted on spring passage during May. At Apex Pit 2 were present 10th, 7 12-14th and one on 17th. At Tattershall Pits there were 9 12th and at Bardney

1 15th. Other singles were at Barrow Haven and Covenham with 3 Toft Newton, all 18th, and a further 2 at Covenham 22nd. The first autumn birds were at Gib Point, 1 June 23rd, 6 July 16th, 2 26th, Messingham, 1 June 29th, and Kirkby, 3 30th. August singles were at Saltfleetby 8th, Holbeach Marsh 10th, Witham Mouth 21st, Nene Mouth 22nd and Gib Point 12th and 14th, 2 flying south 22nd. In September there were 5 at Witham Mouth 12th, 2 at Barton 8th, 8 13th and 1 12th. Also on 13th there were 2 at Grimsby and one at Gib Point, with one Pyewipe 15th. Last of the year was a single juv at Barton, Sept 18-25th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* *

Vagrant May-June and Aug-Oct. A summer-plumaged adult or 2nd-summer bird appeared for a short while at Saltfleet Haven on June 21st. (JTH,WG). The 24th county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Variable numbers offshore all year, most July-Nov; wreck Feb 1983 [LBR 1983].

Small numbers were seen off many parts of the coast during January-February with a max of 5 Saltfleetby and 5 Mablethorpe Jan 1st and 13th, 10 Anderby 27th and 6 Boston Feb 13th. 1-2 were also seen sporadically through March-May, with a good summer count of 15 at Rimac June 27th. Autumn passage was poor except for 56 north at Gib Point Oct 22nd with another 12 north the next day.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Scarce offshore all months, most Sept-Dec [LBR 1983].

Following a tideline corpse in March, light spring and autumn passage was recorded off Gib Point, including 5 during May, one in September and 12 in October, with a peak of 6 north 23rd. The only sighting reported elsewhere was of 2 south at Huttoft Sept 19th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce to common Oct-Nov with day max count of 1,000+ 2/11/1986. Rare winter/spring. One spring bird was recorded, off Mablethorpe March 1st. Typically October was the most productive month when at Gib Point there was one 22nd and 3 north 23rd, with one 'wrecked' at the Field Station, then on 24th some 35 flew north there. One passed Huttoft 25th and a corpse was found at Branston Nov 3rd.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Scarce offshore.

Following a corpse at Gib Point March 10th the only records were singles at Saltfleetby June 6th and 20th and 2 north at Gib Point Oct 27th.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread.

Still almost entirely ignored with just 5 records submitted. There were 400 at New Holland and 50-100 in the Deeping St James roost, January-February.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor.

January-February flocks of 20 Gib Point Jan 15th, 133 South Witham Feb 15th, 20 Kelstern 17th, with the Deeping St James roost holding an impressive 600 birds throughout and up to 700 there in the late winter period. A flock of 40 was at Killingholme April 10th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Common resident with huge winter flocks.

Reports of winter flocks and pronounced movements were again very patchy and incomplete. January-March flocks noted were 1000 Fulbeck airfield Jan 19th, 450 Theddlethorpe 22nd, 800 March 15th, 550 Nocton Fen Feb 9th, 3000 Laughton 14th, 600 Gib Point 28th & March 16th. The Deeping St James roost held 2000 through January-February and again in the late winter. A flock of 450 was present on Blankney Fen Oct 24th with winter flocks of note, 2000 Metherringham Nov 11th, 600 Swallow Dec 7th, 10,000 Appleby Carrs 14th, 1500 Goxhill Marsh & 500 Barton Pits 27th. Birds arriving on the coast during the late autumn included 2000 Gib Point Oct 20th, 1100 south at Barton Dec 3rd and 400 west there 5th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common and widespread with flocks up to 520 birds.

Surely there are many sites holding large flocks which are not being reported? The largest reported concentrations were again around the New Holland grain terminal where counts of 300 Jan 8th, 400 mid February, 230 Nov 18th and 400 Dec 1st were representative. Other flocks noted included 85 Immingham Docks Jan 21st, 50 Leasingham Sept 18th, 60 Humberston 24th, 55 Blankney Fen Oct 24th, 150 Normanby Park Nov 21st and 100 in fields at Barton 23rd. One stubble field at Goxhill Marsh held 50 in late December and Gib Point's largest flock of 42 was noted on 19th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

April 10th-Nov 26th. Declining. Summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant; wintered 1966-67.

A new record first date was set by 2 birds at Donna Nook on April 10th followed by singles at Theddlethorpe 15th and Whisby 19th, 2 Revesby & 1 Gib Point 22nd, Tetney 25th and 3 Barton 30th with 6 Theddlethorpe 29th. Visible passage during May was again poor, reflecting the continuing decline of this species. Largest day counts were 32 at Gib Point May 11th with 15 south 16th and 24 south 30th; 10 Barton Pits 16th with 20 Theddlethorpe 18th and 12 there 22nd. There were pre-migration flocks of 12 at Baston/Langtoft Sept 5th and 40 at Cocklehill (Holbeach Marsh) 6th. Other September birds were at New Holland 1st, 11th, 13th and 21st, Baston/Langtoft 12th, Bardney and Donna Nook (3), 16th, Gib Point 23rd and Barton 21st and 25th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

April 4th-October 25th. Declining breeding summer visitor.

April birds were found at Gib Point 11th & 12th, Laughton 13th with 2 on 16th, Whisby and Ewerby 20th, Barton & Saltfleetby 21st, Messingham, Donnington & Theddlethorpe (2) 22nd, Marston 25th & Langtoft 30th. Coastal maxima in May included 5 Gib Point 16th, 7 North Cotes 21st. A rufous phase female was at Barton Pits on at least May 23rd. Fewer than 10 juveniles were reported in July-August, a truly pathetic showing. September juveniles were seen at Theddlethorpe 6th, Leverton 24th and Gib Point 25th with the last a late bird at Anderby Creek Oct 14th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Widespread and probably stable breeder; estimate of 400 pairs from a sample census in 1932, similar order in 1980s [LBR 1987].

As with the other owls, records received give no real indication of the size of the present breeding population or any obvious trends. Records came from a total of 41 localities

during January-March, 55+ April-September and 58+ October-December. Three birds were hunting together on set-aside at Thorpe Tilney Dec 9th and up to 6 were visible at times on Nocton Fen.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Declining and very local resident.

The scattered reports received give little indication of the status of this species within the county. It is impossible to estimate the county total or to suggest the current trend from the data supplied. Of interest were a pair at Healing which nested in a rabbit burrow.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread and increasing resident.

No relevant records were received.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Local resident, more widespread and numerous in winter and on passage March-April and Sept-Nov. Numbers very variable from year to year.

A very poor year for reports of this species which is much more widespread than records indicate. The size of the breeding population is unknown and the few records of broods received must only be the tip of the iceberg. The only winter roost sites reported on were the Hobhole with 3 Jan 9th decreasing to 1 by Feb 28th, 1 at the Brant/Witham Jan 17th, Spalding Jan 13th and North Killingholme 12th. Coastal migrants, or breeders, were at Theddlethorpe March 23rd and Gib Point 29th. The only breeding season reports were of a pair at Stowgate April-June with young heard calling, a pair of adults seen at Keb Wood, 4+ pairs at Loughton Forest and summer reports from Scopwick and Blankney. An equally poor autumn-late winter with just 8 birds noted: 2 at Barton Pits Oct 2nd, singles Theddlethorpe 25th and 27th, on the Hobhole Nov 21st and in December at Bardney 1st and 2 at the Brant/Witham roost 19th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Rare breeder, very variable numbers in winter. 12 nests on Read's Island 1973.

The two winter periods differed markedly with good numbers of birds present during the early months but a very poor autumn passage and subsequent low numbers in the latter part of the year. The total of birds during January-March exceeded 70 individuals with peak counts of 3 Bonby Carrs, 4 Bracebridge Heath, 6 Tetney, Wrangle and Holbeach Marsh, 7 Pode Hole/Tongue End, Gib Point and Wainfleet. A number of birds appeared on return passage in April with singles on 4 dates in May to 28th at Donna Nook, at North Cotes through May-June and Boston June 1st. A pair bred at Holbeach Marsh where 2 juveniles were ringed. Wandering birds appeared at Leverton August 6th and Gib Point 13th but there were no September reports. Vague reports of a few birds came from the Wash in October, with other coastal birds at Grainthorpe 18th, Donna Nook in off the sea 17th & 23rd, a max of 4 at Gib Point and inland birds at Marston SF 12th, Read's Island 10th and moving west at New Holland 11th. From November up to 2 were at Leverton Marsh 19th through December and singles at Barton Pits 15th and December 3rd, Baston Fen 17th, Welbourne Heath 19th and Moulton Marsh 22nd with other December birds at North Cotes and Lincoln 5th, Ancaster 11th, Butterwick Hale 15th and 2 Binbrook 20th through to 1994.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

May 16th-October 1st. Scarce and very localised summer visitor. Population estimate of 49 adults in 1970, 59 churring males found in 1992 survey [LBR 1992].

The only records received were of at least 12 males at Laughton Forest, 2 pairs in Keb Wood and a male in Broughton Woods, but no reports from its Crowle Waste stronghold. A poor reflection of its present buoyant population.

Swift *Apus apus*

April 18th-November 10th. Common summer visitor and passage bird.

An early individual was at Scunthorpe on April 20th, closely followed by a further 1-3 birds at 6 sites during the remainder of the month. However the breeding population did not generally arrive until mid May with notable counts of 1000 Covenham 13th, 170 Barton Pits 16th, 400 there 25th, and 700 Marston S.F. 27th. Peak spring passage at Gib Point was on 31st with 350 south. Weather movements in late June involved 300 north at Theddlethorpe 21st and an impressive 5000 south at Gib Point 26th. July concentrations included 150 at Donna Nook 2nd, 300 Barton 12th, 200 New Holland 22nd, 600 there 29th, and 200 Barton also 29th, with Gib Point recording a max of only 800 south on 14th. Several sites noted birds into late September with 5 October reports including the last at Gib Point on 8th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* *

Vagrant.

One over Goxhill Marsh on June 11th (DCK) was only the 10th County record, the 3rd for that month and the first since 1990. Accepted by BBRC.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident with breeding numbers affected by severity of winters; passage April-May & Aug-Nov.

Breeding was confirmed from 8 sites and suspected at a further 2, and over 20 widely scattered localities reported 1-2 birds in both the late and early winter periods. This suggests a small recovery from the previous two poor years. A juvenile was trapped at Theddlethorpe on June 8th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant, most April-June.

One at Gib Point from Sept 14-15th was probably the same individual that frequented Huttoft Bank from 16-18th. Another was trapped at Saltfleet Haven on Oct 29th (NB, DC).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce to rare passage migrant April-May and Aug-Oct; 25 in autumn 1976 and 26 autumn 1977.

In May singles occurred at Saltfleetby on 12th and at Gib Point from 16-17th. Autumn birds were all in September, beginning with one at Skegness from 7-10th, Gib Point 12th, North Cotes 14th, singles ringed at Theddlethorpe 14th and 16th, 2 at Donna Nook also 16th and Grainthorpe 17th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Local resident and rare migrant.

Birds were reported from 22 traditional sites throughout the county, and again from Barton Pits, with one Winterton Tip Jan 27th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Widespread resident; movements July-April include large continental influxes in some winters.

Many inland sites reported small numbers throughout the year. Coastal records included one at Gib Point from July 21st until the year end with 2 there during September and October and an additional bird flying in off the sea Oct 3rd. Others were at Anderby 10th, Saltfleet 17th and 31st, Donna Nook Nov 18th and one at Theddlethorpe from Nov 25-26th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Local resident.

Pairs were reported from Neville and Temple woods in January and Burton Pits, Scunthorpe and Willingham Woods in March, and all may well have remained to breed. Three were in Bulby Wood Feb 2nd with a male drumming there March 20th. Additional early year records of singles were at Deeping St James throughout January-February, Elsea Wood Jan 31st, Old Park Wood March 20th, Whisby NP 28th, Scunthorpe Kingsway Woods 29th, Linwood Warren April 10th, Haverholme Park 13th and 23rd and Bradley Woods May 16th. Singles were at Grimsthorpe Park June 19th and Swallow Aug 31st and early winter birds at Blankney Nov 11th and Normanby Park on 22nd and Dec 17th. Away from the traditional sites, birds appeared in gardens at Skegness on Oct 24th, Frampton Fen Dec 27th and Ashby-cum-Fenby 31st.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* *

Scarce at all seasons, though non-breeding distribution not fully known. Small numbers bred to 1959 and since 1984, steadily increasing [LBR 1988].

A minimum of 7 males were in song at the main breeding site with at least 2 paired. At another site in the north of the county a pair raised 4 young and were reported to have also bred the previous year, the first time since the 1950s. In addition a male was in song at a nearby site in mid April. In the middle of the county, birds were seen intermittently throughout the breeding season at two sites in close proximity. The second breeding site used between 1988-91 and mentioned in these reports is now overgrown and appears to be no longer suitable. Spring passage birds were also more in evidence, with one south at Theddlethorpe March 12th, singles at Tetney and Gib Point 14th, the latter remaining to 18th with possibly the same bird there again on 31st but another April 7th and one flying south 30th, making this the fourth consecutive spring of sightings at Gib Point. The only autumn record was of one over South Witham reserve Oct 17th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Widespread breeding bird, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Early year concentrations included 450 north-east at Skidbrooke and 250 at Saltfleetby Jan 1st, 300 Bonby/Worlaby Carrs 8th, 100 North Cotes 17th, 800 Skidbrooke Feb 5th, 100 Irnham 7th, 200 Donna Nook 20th and a peak of 120 at Gib Point on 28th, with flocks of fewer than 100 reported from several additional sites. Up to 80 pairs nested on the Donna Nook reserve. Southerly movements were noted at Theddlethorpe and Gib Point in autumn, with a max of 50 on Sept 29th and 180 on Oct 10th respectively. On the Humber westerly passage was noted during October at Barton with a max of 150 on 17th, and at Goxhill with 120 on 15th, while inland 100 were on Risby Warren 4th.

At Baston Fen 380 flew south-west in 2+ hours on Nov 21st, 400 were at Heyton Dec 21st and 70 at West Deeping 28th. Counts on the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR totalled 700 on Oct 15th, 700 Nov 15th and 380 Dec 12th, with 250 at Skidbrooke Oct 31st and 150 there Dec 31st.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Greatly decreased winter visitor [LBR 1984].

The flock of 8 at Saltfleetby present from Dec 1992 remained in the area through February with 5 still present until April 21st, and 7 birds were again in the area Nov 28th-Dec 11th with at least 6 into 1994. The only other records were of one at North Cotes Oct 15-17th and one New Holland Nov 18th, the first record for so far up the Humber.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

March 12th-November 20th. Summer visitor; huge decline 1984-recovery since.

First arrivals in March were 2 Whisby, 1 Baston Pits 14th, Gib Point 16th with 20 there 18th, 3 Hanby, 2 Kirkby Pits 20th. April peaks were 140 R.Welland 4th, 60 Whisby 6th with 500 by mid month, 26 Messingham 11th, 40 Baston Pits 14th, 200 Barton Pits 21st & 100 Kirkby 24th. Breeding colony records received were as follows: 132 pairs Deeping St James, 170 Tallington Pits, about 500 Baston/Langtoft Pits (with a smaller colony at Little Bytham?) No breeding season totals were received from Messingham or Kirkby Pits. Autumn movements were obvious at Gib Point from early July with a peak of 280 south 29th and other significant autumn counts were 180 Tetney and 500 Winteringham Haven Aug 3rd, 200 Theddlethorpe 4th, 250 Kirkby Pits 23rd, 240 Belton Park and 200 Barton Pits Sept 5th. There were 4 birds at Tattershall 11th and the last at Gib Point 18th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

March 7th-December 8th. Summer breeder & passage migrant; max roost 250,000 16/9/1982.

Three birds made it here in March with 2 west at Barton Pits 30th and 1 Theddlethorpe 31st. These were quickly followed by 1 at Martin Heath, 2 Thurlby Pits and 1 East Halton all April 1st and 1 Boston 2nd with many reports of 1-4 birds from then to 11th when there were 20 at Baston-Langtoft. A further large arrival occurred at the month end with 80 Barton Pits, 30 Covenham and 40 Cleethorpes CP all on 27th. Peak spring passage at Gib Point was between May 11-18th with up to 100 birds most days and a later movement of 200 south there June 26th. Autumn passage started in earnest on August 1st with 2,500 at Tetney then 300 south Gib Point 8th, 400 south Theddlethorpe 19th and 5,000 south Gib Point 29th. The Barton Pits roost peaked at only 3,000 Sept 1st and there were day counts of 200+ at Gib Point throughout the month. Birds continued to trickle through in October with no double figure counts received and just two November records of 8 at Gib Point 4th and 1 Witham Mouth 5th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

March 28th-December 20th. Summer visitor and passage migrant with breeding numbers declining.

The earliest birds were singles at Gib Point April 6th, Whisby 11th and Barton 12th followed by a scatter of records of 1-3 birds before a minor arrival at the month end with 20+ Barton Pits 26th and 50+ Covenham 27th. The main arrival seems to have occurred from May 25th however, with totals of 200 Barton Pits 25th, 300 there 27th, 100+ Kirkby

Pits, 100 Laughton Forest and 100 Gib Point all 31st. First movements of the autumn were 240 south at Tetney Aug 3rd with 170 Barton 18th and 400 there 30th. A moderate return passage continued through September peaking mid month with 650 south at Gib Point 11th, 50 Goxhill 18th, an evening passage of 200 per hour at Pinchbeck 18th, 80 North Cotes and 950 Gib Point 21st. In October apart from odd singles, 19 were at New Holland 1st, 200 Gib Point 3rd, 18 Barton 6th with 29 there 7th, 250 Gib Point 10th and 4 Barton 13th. Just one November bird at Gib Point 11th.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* *

Vagrant.

A bird seen briefly at Gib Point on the morning of May 29th (KMW) was only the 7th county record but the 5th in May.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* *

Rare, September-January.

A bird at Skidbrooke-Donna Nook from December 1993 remained in the same area, despite some very hard frosts, until January 10th; the first wintering record for the county. A generally poor autumn with just singles at Tetney September 30th (DJB), Donna Nook also 30th (WRM), Gib Point Oct 1st (KMW) and a late bird at Donna Nook Nov 17th (SL).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

April 4th-November 9th. Summer visitor and passage migrant April-May, Aug-Sept. First of the spring were 3 Saltfleetby and 1 Walesby April 10th, 1 Gib Point 11th, then 8+ in Laughton Forest by 16th with other singles at Swanpool and Appleby 17th, 2 males Greetwell/Manton 27th and 1 Rimac 25th. At Gib Point 1-2 birds were noted on passage most days between April 11th and May 20th with other passage singles in May at Saltfleetby 15th and Barton Pits 16th. Breeding season records came from Linwood Warren, Kirkby Moor, 2 in Bourne Woods, 2 Dunsby Fen and 4 singing at Twigmoor. No full census was carried out at Laughton, Scotton Common or Crowle. Autumn passage birds included odd singles at Gib Point in August with 2 Donna Nook Sept 5th, 1 Saltfleetby 6th, 4 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 16th and an excellent passage at Gib Point through the month with a max of 20 on 15th. Late birds were at Donna Nook Oct 19th and 28th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant March-April & Sept-Oct.

A few birds were on the move by the end of February with 20 Gib Point 23rd, 20 Theddlethorpe 24th and 12 North Kelsey Moor 28th. Many birds were on territory at Barton by March 18th while spring passage continued with peak counts of 380 NW in three and a half hours at Tetney March 21st, 90+ Saltfleetby 26th, 35 Gib Point 27th, 34 Baston Fen 28th. A flock of 65 was at Humberston April 16th but the only breeding count received was 50 pairs at Donna Nook. Autumn passage peaks were 100 North Cotes Sept 11th, 50 south Theddlethorpe 12th, 240 Gib Point 15th, 600 south 18th, 200 19th and 180 south 21st when 140 were at North Cotes, and 150 Theddlethorpe 22nd with 200 29th. The southerly passage continued into October with 100 Theddlethorpe 4th, 50 North Cotes 14th, 60 Marston SF 24th and up to 50 daily at Gib Point. Notable December records were 30 at Deeping High Bank 21st and 30 Branston Booths 24th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common on coast Sept-March with heavy passage October. *A.p.littoralis* rare, March-April & Nov.

Early year coastal maxima were 28 Saltfleetby Jan 1st, 8 Skidbrooke 10th, 15 North Cotes Feb 2nd, up to 6 at the Witham Mouth with 10-20 regular at Gib Point to March. First of the autumn were 6 at Gib Point and 1 Donna Nook Sept 18th. October maxima were 15 Tetney 2nd, 35+ Saltfleetby and 35 Saltfleet 17th, 7+ Barton 19th with 6+ November, 3+ at South Ferriby and up to 40 at Gib Point to the year end. In November there were 23 at Skidbrooke 13th, 45 Saltfleetby 15th with 38 Dec 10th, 20 Tetney Dec 5th and 40+ Saltfleet 31st. Inland birds were noted at Toft Newton Sept 25-Oct 9th and again Nov 7th with 1-2 at Cadney Oct 14-16th.

A.p.littoralis Birds of the Scandinavian race were noted in spring at Barton Pits March 3rd and North Cleethorpes 13th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* *

Rare, October-April.

A spring migrant at Gib Point April 24th was only the third record for that site. At the formerly regular wintering locality at Saltfleetby one bird was present from at least December 4th into 1994 with 2 birds on Dec 12th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

March 20th-December 1st. Common summer breeder & passage migrant April-May & Aug-Sept. *M.f.flava* regular April-June. *M.f.thunbergi* rare May-June. *M.f.cinerocephala* records 4/5/83, 31/5/84.

Following the first of the year, an early bird at Covenham March 27th, one was at Gib Point April 4th with a flurry of records on 10th: 11 at Marston SF, singles Gedney, North Cotes and Skidbrooke and 3 at New Holland. April site maxima were 10 South Ferriby 14th, 7 Whisby NP, 75 Covenham, 16 Marston SF all 16th, 15 Toft Newton 19th, 30 Barton Wold 21st and 35 Gib Point 30th. The only notable July record was of 27 at North Kelsey Moor 17th. Autumn concentrations were 55 Bardney Aug 11th, 34 North Kelsey Moor and 28 New Holland 18th, 30 south at Gib Point and 53 Covenham 19th, 25 Witham Mouth 21st and 25 Toft Newton 29th. Good September flocks were 18 at New Holland 5th, a max of 47 North Kelsey Moor, 10 Covenham 18th and 7 Witham Mouth 19th. The only October reports were of singles at Scothern 5-10th, Kirton End 4th with 2 Kirton 11th and a late bird there 29th. Most unusual and unprecedented in the county was a wintering bird seen at Marston SF on Nov 11th and Dec 18th with presumably the same bird in nearby Belton Park Dec 19th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f.flava* Single males of this race were seen at Barton Wold April 21st, Covenham Res May 3rd and Austen Fen June 19th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Fairly common on passage Sept-Nov, regular Dec-July/Aug. Sporadic breeder; 7 nests 1974-88.

Mainly single birds during Jan-March at Marston SF, Grantham, Covenham, Whisby NP, Santon, Holywell, Grimsby, Tetney, Gib Point and Cleethorpes CP (2) but only two singles reported in April, at Lincoln 13th and Barton 24th. The only breeding records received were of pairs at Haverholme Park and Bourne with singles in June-July at Gib Point, Lincoln and Whisby NP. An exceptional autumn passage then developed from early September with 1-2 at Pyewipe, Humberston, North Cotes, Horseshoe Point,

Saltfleetby, Anderby Creek, New Waltham, Covenham, Baumber, Bardney, Kirkby Pits, Marston SF, South Witham and Baston Pits, upto 3 at Barton, 3 at New Holland and 5 at Ruskington. A total of 39 birds were recorded at Gib Point between Aug 30-Oct 31st with a peak count of 10 south Sept 29th. Also in October there were up to 10 birds in the Lincoln area, and 1-2 at Immingham Docks, Grimsby, Humberston, Tetney, North Somercotes, Cadney, Nettleton, Louth, Scothern, Ruskington, Stickford, Kirton Holme, Bourne Fen, Edenham and Grimsthorpe, with up to 4 at Barton. Wintering birds during November-December were 1-2 at Barton, New Holland, Immingham Docks, Pyewipe, Cleethorpes, Tetney, New Waltham, Toft Newton, Barnoldby-le-Beck, Louth, Heighington, Thurlby Fen, Metherringham, Marston SF and Haverholme Park.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common resident and passage migrant. *M.a.alba* regular on passage March-June. The winter roost at Marston SF held a healthy 287 birds on Jan 1st, 104 29th, with another roost at Boultham Mere having 35 9th. Maximum numbers in March were 18 North Cotes 15th, 36 Theddlethorpe 17th. Another apparently very successful breeding season with large autumn gatherings of 110 at Bardney Pits July 25th, 48 North Kelsey airfield July with 83 August, 31 Whisby Aug 19th, 100+ South Ferriby and 46 Barton Pits 26th and 77 Toft Newton 29th. In September there were 73 at Whisby 6th, 81 Ruskington 13th and 100 Grantham 26th with a month max of 160 North Kelsey airfield. During October 105 were at Market Deeping with 30 Marston SF 24th, 60+ Nov 24th. Notable December roosts were 184+ South Ferriby Cement Works 27th with 100+ Marston SF 28th.

Waxwing *Bombus garrulus*

Very variable numbers Oct-April, best recent winter 1988-89.

A poor year with just three records, one at Anderby Creek Oct 23rd, 2 at Gib Point Nov 12th and one in a Grimsby garden Dec 16th.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* *

A bird of the nominate race *C.c.cinclus*, known as the Black-bellied Dipper, was a most unusual find, feeding around the edges of a small pond in Lincoln Arboretum from October 14-15th (MH,SPB,DJ). What was probably the same bird, but possibly a different individual in view of a small influx of this species into eastern England in autumn-winter 1993-4, was seen at Branston on Nov 3rd and then found at Cliff Farm Heighington where it was present intermittently from Nov 27th to 1994. Another individual was photographed at Pode Hole, near Spalding, where it was present Nov 13-20th (P Keighley). These are the 12th and 13th county records of this race, the most recent previous records being one in March 1988 and one in December-January 1990-91.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Widespread and very common resident.

The only significant records were a Gib Point March max of 31 on 3rd, up to 50 there in April and again in late Sept and 15+ Barton Pits Nov 2nd.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Widespread and very common resident, coastal passage Sept-Nov.

The only significant early year record was 38 at Gib Point March 21st. In autumn an obvious arrival took place from Sept 15th with 75 at Gib Point mirrored by the 120 ringed at Theddlethorpe 5-17th, then 63 at Gib Point Oct 23rd, 21 Barton Pits 24th and 30 Nov

2nd. A total of 415 ringed at Theddlethorpe through the year was the highest ever annual catch there.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Widespread resident with coastal passage Sept-Nov and March-April [LBR 1990].

Two very orange-toned 'continental' birds were at Saltfleetby April 4th and grey-toned continental birds were ringed at Theddlethorpe April 14th, 3 15th and 30th. In September 112 were ringed at Theddlethorpe 5-17th (the total of 334 ringed in 1993 being the highest since 1989 and the third highest ever). Gib Point had regular counts of 35-45 mid September-mid November with an October max of 56 17th. Other coastal autumn maxima were 6 at Anderby Creek Sept 14th, 6 North Cotes 18th & 10 Oct 14th, 12 Pyes Hall and 20 Saltfleet both Sept 30th. Inland there were at least 10 at Barton Pits Nov 2nd.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

April 10th-September 23rd. Local breeder, 100 males 1980 [LBR 1980].

First of the spring was at Gib Point April 12th then males at Whisby and Baston Pits 16th, Bourne Woods 22nd, Kirkby Moor 24th and Boultham Mere 26th, with 3 males in Temple Woods by 29th. Seven males were at Whisby by late April. Away from the usual breeding localities males sang at Barton Pits May 19th to at least 27th, Saltfleetby April-May, Lincoln May 9th, Witham-on-the-Hill 11th and Holton-le-Moor June 7th. Concentrations of singing males in the summer included 6 at Southrey Wood and 'many' at Langtoft/Baston Pits. There was one autumn coastal record, at Seacroft August 16th.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* *

Scarce migrant, mainly May and Aug-Oct [LBR 1987].

A female was found at Tetney May 9th (AD, IGS, DJB et al) and males of the Red-spotted race *L.s.svecica* at Gib Point, 2 May 11-12th and one 13th, and one Pyes Hall 12th (WPB).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce-common on passage March-May and Sept-Nov. Rare winter and summer; max of 5 pairs 1981, 86 & 87.

A fairly good spring passage with the first at Gib Point March 14th (their earliest ever), then a minimum of 14 different birds there to May 17th. Other singles at Saltfleetby March 26th, 31st, April 4th and 21st, north of Cleethorpes and Loughton Forest both March 31st, Humberston April 4th, Louth garden centre 7th, Cleethorpes 10th, South Ormsby 12th, Cleethorpes CP 15th and Saltfleetby again May 27th. A pair bred in Boston and 2 males sang on Grimsby Docks April-June though due to difficulty of access breeding is now difficult to prove at this site. A light autumn passage with 1 Pyes Hall Sept 11th and 2 Donna Nook 13th then in October 2 Donna Nook 15-17th, singles at Pyewipe 22nd, Grimsby Docks 23rd, Donna Nook and Chapel St Leonards with 2 at Gib Point, all 30th. In November singles were found at Anderby Creek 2nd, Gib Point 2-5th, and the last at Billingham 13th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

April 2nd-November 22nd. Rare summer visitor with max 6-7 pairs; more common on passage April-May & Aug-Oct.

A light spring passage started with 2 North Cotes and 1 Gib Point April 10th then 1 Donna Nook, 1 Messingham, 2 Saltfleet and 2 North Cotes all May 12th, singles at Gib Point

on 9 dates to mid May and 1 North Cotes 21st. At breeding sites 2 males were at Twigmoor by April 28th and a male sang at Grimsthorpe Park May 16th. Two were in Laughton Forest July 24th and one in a Baumber garden Aug 21-29th. Autumn coastal passage began with 1 Gib Point Aug 8th, 3 there 30th then in September, 2 Saltfleetby 6th, 2 Pyes Hall 9th, 1 Anderby Creek 10th and 6 Tetney 11th. A north-easterly gale on the night of 12th led to a major fall (see table below); during this period 133 were ringed at Theddlethorpe. In October 1 Pyes Hall 3rd, 1-3 Gib Point to 24th and 1 Donna Nook 24th.

September day maxima between Tetney and Gibraltar Point:

13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st
38	44	50	115	135+	65	20	?	40

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

April 2nd-November 22nd. Fairly common on passage April-June & July-Oct but no recent proven breeding.

A weak spring passage with a total of only 12 birds recorded. The first was on Barton Wold April 21st then singles Gib Point 22nd & 25th, Barton Pits 24th & 26th, Pyewipe 27th, Cleethorpes CP 30th then in May Grasby 11th, Gib Point 11th with 3 12th. First of the autumn were in July at Kirton Holme 21st and 3 Grasby 30th. In August there were singles at South Ferriby and North Kelsey Moor 18th, with 1-3 at the latter to mid-September, Gib Point 21st with a max of 8 there 28th, Huttoft and Saltfleetby 29th. During September there were 1-3 at many coastal sites with max of 9 Saltfleetby 9th, 5 Donna Nook 13th, 5 Pyes Hall 11-13th, 6 16th, 3 North Cotes 12th. October birds were at Saltfleet and north of Cleethorpes 3rd, 2 Risby Warren 4th, Barton Pits 6th, Donna Nook 18th, Gib Point 18-24th and Saltfleet 30th. Late birds in November were at Humberston 5th and Saltfleet Haven 6th & 13th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Variable numbers Sept-April, rare May-July with recent decline. Bred 1947, 1961, 1980. *S.t. maura* * 6 records 1978-1991, one in May, the rest Oct-Nov.

The first quarter produced an impressive number of records. At Barton Pits 1-2 were present from 1993 to mid March with 1-2 Seacroft to early February and singles Hobhole and Pyewipe Feb 3rd, Witham Mouth 3-21st, 2 at Laughton 8th, 2 north of Cleethorpes all month and 1 Cleethorpes CP 23rd. March birds were at Whisby 6th, 2 North Hykeham 8th, Humberston 9th, Tetney 13th, Wolla Bank 14th, Gib Point 9-18th and April singles at Gib Point 5th and Saltfleetby 21st. An exceptional autumn passage followed with many birds staying on to winter. First birds appeared at the end of September with 2 Gib Point 29-30th, 2 Donna Nook 29th, Cleethorpes 29th with 1-2 to December. October records came from Humberston 2nd, Bourne Wood and 2 Pyes Hall 3rd, 2 Leverton and 3 Risby Warren 4th. At North Kelsey Moor there were 2, 4th then a max of 6, 10th with 1-2 to the year end. Coastal birds included a max of 5 Donna Nook-Skidbrooke Oct 31st and in November-December upto 4 Barton Pits, 1 Barrow Haven, 2 Pyewipe, 1 Grainthorpe, 2 Donna Nook, 2 Saltfleet, 2 Saltfleetby, 1 Moggs Eye, 1-3 Seacroft and 1 at Gib Point. Inland birds were at Stainton-le-Vale, 2 Swanpool, Nocton Fen, Welbourne Heath, Boston, 2 Moulton Marsh to 1994, Spalding and Deeping High Bank.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

March 9th-December 30th. Common on passage March-June and July-Oct.

First spring birds were at Pyewipe March 14th and 2 at Cleethorpes 15th with early maxima of 6 Ashbyville 23rd and 4 Grasby 26th. Up to 18 were present at scattered localities in early-mid April with a notable arrival from 24th including a peak count of 50+ on Horkstow-Bonby Wolds in two pea fields 24-27th. There were still a few records in May with a max of 8 at Gib Point 16th and 2 birds in June, at Gib Point 5-6th, and Donna Nook 8th. First downy juveniles were 2 at Grainthorpe Haven July 6th then only small numbers reported before a major passage in mid September with max of 100 Donna Nook 14th, 35 Gib Point and 15 Saltfleet 15th, 15 Grainthorpe and 29 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 16th, 12 Tetney 18th, 25 Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 19th. Just singles during October at Leverton 4th, North Cotes 8th, Humberston-Tetney 9th, Pyes Hall 18th, north of Cleethorpes 23rd and in November at Pyewipe 11th and Seacroft 12th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Passage migrant in variable numbers March-May & Sept-Nov, very rare winter.

Another poor spring with the first at Gib Point March 28th (the second earliest ever there) followed by 1-3 through April and elsewhere 2 North Cotes 10th, singles Saltfleetby 21st, Barton and Manton Warren 24th, 4 on Bonby Wold 24th with 2 there next day, Saltfleetby 25th, Cleethorpes 30th and Theddlethorpe 30th-May 1st. Also 1-3 at Gib Point in May and singles Donna Nook 4-5th and Humberston 11th. A moderate autumn passage with the first at Gib Point Sept 14th, an impressive 5 there 15th and 28th, and others at Donna Nook 19th, North Cotes 28th, Pyes Hall 30th-Oct 3rd and further October birds at Saltfleet 3rd, a max of 12 at Gib Point 13th, singles Theddlethorpe 15th, North Skegness and North Cotes 16th, Nettleton 17th, Gib Point 22nd, Theddlethorpe 29-31st and the final bird a juvenile at Barton Pits November 6-10th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common and widespread resident; passage March-April & Sept-Dec.

The only notable early year records were 250 Barton Pits Jan 2nd down to 50 by 28th and 40-50 at Gib Point January-February. In autumn there were arrivals from mid September on the coast with 20 Pyes Hall Sept 13th but the main movement started in mid-October: 400 Gib Point 17th, 80 Theddlethorpe 27th, 200 Saltfleet and 40 North Cotes 30th, 30 Pyes Hall 31st. In November a major fall of 1,000 at Gib Point 2nd was followed by 108 Witham Mouth 5th, 66 Barton Pits 6th and another arrival there of 63 21st with 105 Dec 12th. Also in December 50 were at Saltfleetby on 11th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Winter visitor, common Sept-April, rare May-Aug.

The only sizeable flocks in the first quarter were 550 at Barton Pits Jan 2-3rd with 850 Holton-cum-Beckering Feb 19th and departing flocks of 100+ at several sites in March. April movements included 62 north at Gib Point 12th with 70 Baston Fen 14th, 300 Moor Farm 15th, 42 Langtoft 17th, then a single at Gib Point May 1st. First of the autumn was at Gib Point September 8th with scattered records of 1-2 before the major arrival in late October when 2,000 were at Nettleton 23rd, 464 Barton Pits, 400 Hibaldstow and 100 Marston SF all 24th then 100 Sleaford 28th, 350 Covenham 30th. Large flocks during November included 200 at South Witham 1st, 500 Thurlby Fen and 700+ Gonerby 4th, 300 Ulceby 4-10th, 1,000 Metheringham Delph 10th, 600 Marston SF 13th, 100 Hagnaby 15th and 300 Goxhill 19th with 200 Baston-Langtoft 28th including a leucistic

bird. December maxima were 1,035 west at Barton Pits 14th, 150 Coningsby 22nd and 500 Gib Point 27th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Widespread resident, has declined. Passage Sept-Nov.

Early winter records received were of 35 Barton Pits Jan 2nd and 18 Gib Point 4th. Detectable autumn arrivals were 12 at Pyes Hall Sept 13th, 5 North Cotes 14th, 80 Gib Point 15th, 10 west at Barton Pits 25th, 10+ Pyes Hall 28th then in October 19 Barton Pits 23rd, 15 Donna Nook 31st. A total of 70 'grey' continental birds were ringed at Theddlethorpe during October. The only November report of note was 15+ Barton Pits 2nd.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Winter visitor, common Sept-April, rare June-Aug. Four records of *T.i.coburni*, all shot 1935-45.

Just one worthwhile early winter record of 500 Barton Pits Jan 2-3rd. An unusual large southerly movement occurred in mid March with 780 in two hours at Stallingborough 15th, 486 Horncastle 15th, 3,125 through Gib Point 14-18th (920 18th) and 100 Bourne Woods 18th. In April 50 were at Moor Farm 3rd and 1-6 at 6 other sites with the last at Gib Point May 8th. First returning bird was at Gib Point Sept 12th followed by singles at Saltfleetby and North Cotes 19th, South Witham 22nd, 2 Deeping 24th, 3 Barton 25th and 150 south at Gib Point 29th. There were 46 at Barton Pits Oct 9th then an influx on 14th with 2,000 Gib Point, 237 west at Thornton Abbey and 800 at Billingborough, 200 Humberston 17th, 750 north-west at South Witham and 195 at Barton Pits 24th and 200 Theddlethorpe 29th. A heavy nocturnal passage was noted over the Lincoln area on the night of November 3rd. Other notable November flocks were 200 at Gib Point 2nd, 50 Thurlby NR 4th, 160 Metherringham Delph 10th, 30 Sleaford 11th, 50 Spalding NR and 250 Barton Pits mid month. The only notable December flocks were 400 at Barton 3rd and 150 Bourne.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident, has increased. Local movements June-Sept.

Post breeding flocks included 15 Gib Point July 20th, 12 Blankney 25th, 12 North Kelsey Moor August, 30 South Witham NR Sept 2nd, 15 Gib Point 14th and 16 roosting at Barton Pits 24th with 8 at Holbeach Bank Oct 3rd.

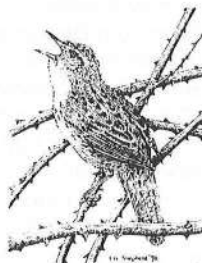
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* *

A first-autumn bird trapped and ringed at Theddlethorpe on September 17th (BRG) constitutes only the third county record. The previous record was also of a bird trapped at this locality on October 1st 1983.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

April 6th-Oct 13th. Declining summer visitor & passage migrant April-June.

First of a poor spring was at Gib Point April 15th, with birds then noted there on 8 dates to July. Others in April were at Theddlethorpe 20th, Barton Pits 22nd, Pyewipe and Wolla Bank 24th, 2 Saltfleetby 25th and Chapel Pit 27th. Breeding season records of reeling males were received from Barton Pits, Chapel Pit, Theddlethorpe, Pyewipe, Wolla Bank, North Killingholme, Salt-



fleetby, 2 at Snipe Dales and 3 in Bourne Woods. Autumn records comprised singles at Anderby Creek Sept 14th and Theddlethorpe 17th, with a *Locustella* warbler at East Halton Skitter on October 2nd probably also of this species.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

April 1st-October 13th. Widespread summer breeder, passage April-May & Aug-Oct. First April birds were at Bardney Pits and Whisby NP 10th, Barton Pits 12th with later peaks of 10 at Humberston 27th and 30 Barton Pits 30th with 44 singing males there by May 3rd. Another early departure was evident as the only autumn records received were of a bird at Gib Point Sept 22nd and 2 juveniles at Barton Pits Sept 11th with the last there 24th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Vagrant, mostly late spring (9 of 14 in June).

One was found at the north end of Skegness on October 16th (KDD,DJ); the 15th county record.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

April 9th-November 13th. Local but fairly common summer breeder, scarce on passage. First of the spring was at Barrow Haven April 14th then 4 East Halton 15th with 20 Barton Pits by 30th and 33 singing males there by May 3rd. In general it was a late arrival year with many birds only taking up territories in mid June at Barton Pits. Records in September were 6 Pyes Hall 13th, 3 Donna Nook 14th, 15 Gib Point 18th, 3 New Holland 21st, 2 at Barton Pits to 26th with the last of the year at North Somercotes Warren Oct 10th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare passage migrant May & July-October with year max of 20 1977.

An average autumn with 4 birds found. One was at Skegness September 11-12th (KW) and others were trapped at Theddlethorpe September 13th (BRG) and 18th (MB), with the final bird found at Chapel St Leonards outfall 18th (KA,JRC et al).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Rare and declining coastal passage migrant August-November.

Four autumn records, all of single juveniles: one trapped at Saltfleet Haven September 11th (JM,SB), North Cotes October 3rd (DJB), Donna Nook 16th (HB) and trapped at Theddlethorpe 30th (BRG).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

April 13th-November 14th. Widespread summer visitor & passage migrant.

A male at New Holland April 24th was the first of the year, with 2 Barton Pits 25th, 1 Theddlethorpe 26th, Tetney 27th, a max of 11 at Gib Point 30th and 20 Barton/Barrow Haven May 1st. Inland a good count was of 30 at Whisby NP Sept 5th while coastal maxima were 65 Gib Point Sept 1st but only 4 at Pyes Hall 16th. Inland 3 still at Barton Pits Sept 21st with one New Holland Oct 1st and the last Gib Point 7th.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

April 4th-October 24th. Common summer visitor & passage migrant.

An early arrival was at Gib Point April 10th with singles at 5 other sites by 23rd then an influx at the end of the month with 15 Theddlethorpe 29th and 20 at Barton Pits May 1st. The only notable breeding records received were of 10 pairs Deeping St James and 25

pairs at Donna Nook. Autumn coastal passage was poor with max of just 45 at Gib Point Sept 1st and only 5 at Pyes Hall 13th-16th; the last of the year was at Risby Warren Oct 4th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

April 16th-November 27th. Local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

A very poor spring again with the first arrivals 2 at Swallow April 21st and 1 Walesby 24th; only 3 singles through Gib Point in May and 2 in June. As in recent years another poor autumn on the coast with 3 at Pyes Hall Sept 13th, 2 Donna Nook 15th, 7 there 16th, Horseshoe Point 17th, a max of 8 Gib Point the same day and one October bird there 7th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common and increasing as a breeder and on passage; still rare to scarce December-March but again increasing.

Many birds attempted to overwinter with a max of 10 at Gib Point Jan 1st and 12, mostly males, reported at 15 other localities during January-February. Three were at Theddlethorpe and up to 5 at Gib Point to March 28th. Arrivals of singing males noted from late April with 8 at Barton Pits 25th, 16 there 30th and 19 May 3rd. The autumn peak at Gib Point was 24 Sept 17th, at Pyes Hall 6 13th and at Theddlethorpe 17 Oct 3rd. In November 2-3 were at Gib Point to mid month and 1-2 at 5 inland sites, then in December there were reports of single birds at 11 inland locations and 2 at Saltfleetby 5th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare to scarce coastal passage migrant Sept-Nov; recent year maxima: 22 1986, 25 1988 [LBR 1985].

A minimum of 9 birds were reported during the autumn as follows: Donna Nook, an early bird, Sept 8th with singles Humberston 18-19th, Gib Point 18th, 30th-Oct 2nd, Oct 16-17th and possibly the same 19th then another 31st-Nov 5th; Pyes Hall September 28th, Saltfleetby Seaview Oct 10th and Theddlethorpe 30th presumably the bird trapped there 31st.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce on passage late April-June & Aug-Sept. Bred to 1920 (4-5 pairs), with occasional nesting records since.

An unusual early record came from Humberston April 16th then singles at Skegness 26th, Kingsway Woods Scunthorpe 25th-May 3rd and Gib Point's only spring record, a singing male May 4th. In the autumn an early bird was trapped at Gib Point July 31st with others there Aug 31-Sept 1st and Sept 14-15th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant March-May and Aug-Nov; rare Dec-Feb. *P.c.tristis* rare Oct-March.

Wintering birds were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe January-February, Barton Pits Jan 9th, Burton Pits 4 14th, Haverholme Park Feb 7th, Whisby NP 10th. First spring birds were at Tetney March 9th, North Hykeham 13th, Messingham, Willingham Woods and Barton Pits (3) 14th, and a minimum of 14 in Laughton Forest by 31st. During October 1-4 were reported at a number of inland and coastal sites. An obvious influx of eastern birds occurred in the autumn with '*abietenus* types' at Barton Pits Oct 9th, Skegness 29-30th, Barton Nov 16th and Saltfleetby Dec 11th. Single birds showing characteristics

of the race *P.c.tristis* were at Donna Nook Oct 17th, Saltfleetby 30th, Louth 31st, North Somercotes Warren 31-Nov 6th and Willingham Woods Nov 21st. Nominate birds in November were at Skegness 7th, 2 Saltfleet Haven 8th and Baston Fen 21st with singles at 7 localities in December.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

March 22nd-November 10th. Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Two birds arrived in March, just! at Barton Pits 30th and Humberston 31st. There was an obvious arrival from April 10th with 100+ Laughton Forest, 27 Whisby NP 12th and other spring peaks of 50 Gib Point 23rd and 27 Barton Pits May 3rd. In autumn there was a notable coastal fall in mid-September with 80+ Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 13th, 9 North Cotes 14th, 7 Humberston 15th, 12 at North Cotes and 20 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 16th, 150 Gib Point 17th. Last of the year, at Gib Point Nov 7th, was the latest ever for that site.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Resident, variable numbers breeding and on passage; more winter [LBR 1990].

The only early year reports received were of 8 Gib Point Jan 2nd and several around Barton all month. First spring passage birds were noted from Theddlethorpe March 12th then 12+ Barton-New Holland and a Gib Point max of 50 27th. There were few records in September with just a peak of 20+ Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 16th and 20+ at Barton Pits 21-29th. October maxima were 14 Barton Pits and 12 at Grainthorpe 2nd, 25 Donna Nook 16th, 30 Anderby Creek 18th, 20 North Cotes and a fall of 400 Gib Point 23rd, 50 Whisby NP 24th and 20 Saltfleet 31st. Up to 20 were at Barton Pits in November, with the only December record of note being 30 at Belton Park 28th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Scarce on passage March-May and Sept-Nov; rare winter Dec-Feb.

Another poor spring with 2 at North Cotes March 10th and a series of singles, involving a max of 6 birds, at Gib Point March 13th-May 18th. A much better autumn than of late with singles at Donna Nook Sept 14th, Gib Point 24th with 1-2 Oct 30-Nov 9th, Pyes Hall and Saltfleet Haven Oct 30-31st with another Saltfleet village 30th, Anderby Creek 30th-Nov 1st, Chapel St Leonards Nov 4th, and North Somercotes Warren 6th. Inland there were singles at South Witham NR Nov 17th, Boultham Mere 20th, and 2 in Normanby Park 20th to 1994. December birds were at Seacroft and Greetwell Lincoln 17th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

April 26th-December 5th. Local but fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant May-June & Sept-Oct.

An early bird at Gib Point April 30th was followed by a max of only 4 there May 19th, with the only other May records reported being 3 Hagnaby 17th, 2 Theddlethorpe 19th, Walesby 22nd and Bradley Woods 23rd. In the autumn there was a small coastal fall in mid September with maxima of 8 North Cotes 14th and 14 Gib Point 15th; the last was noted here on October 15th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* *

Passage migrant. Very rare May and rare Sept-Nov.

A reasonable year with 5 autumn records: a 1st-winter at Gib Point Sept 13-14th (GG,PJF), one Donna Nook 17th (JS), one trapped Theddlethorpe 17th (MB), one

trapped Gib Point Oct 24th (IH,GG), and the last at Saltfleetby November 5-7th (BMC et al) being the latest ever for the county.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

April 11th-November 4th. Passage migrant, scarce to fairly common April-May and Aug-Oct. Last breeding record 1901.

Only 4 sites reported spring birds with the first, at Gib Point April 11th, equalling the earliest ever; other singles were at Theddlethorpe 22nd, Gib Point 28th, with a max of 5 May 12th, Humberston May 11th and North Cotes 12th. August migrants included 2 Gib Point 21st and 1 North Somercotes 22nd. In September one was inland at Covenham 5th then there were 1-2 at coastal sites before a marked fall between 9-19th (see table). One was inland at Goxhill 18th and scattered single birds on the coast to the month end with October singles at Donna Nook and Saltfleet 3rd.

September day maxima North Cotes-Gib Point:

September	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	9	4	16	??	40	5	10	15	41	6	6

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare and very local resident; first record 3 pairs 1968, max 30-40 pairs 1983. Autumn-winter movements.

Numbers remained fairly low at Barton Pits after the decrease attributed to the harsh period during the 1990/91 winter. At least 8 birds were present in January and 6 pairs bred, most rearing 2+ broods. A pair were at Killingholme Pits through February and at a second breeding site 2 were present throughout the early winter with fledged young being fed on June 4th, then 1-3 present July-September. The only coastal passage involved 2 at Saltfleet Haven on Oct 19th, but elsewhere 2 were at Chapel Pit Oct 23rd, 10 between Whitton and Winteringham Nov 11th and 14 at Barton Pits Oct 2nd with 9 there Dec 29th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident with local movements in autumn-winter. *A.c.caudatus* November 1872.

Widely reported but only in small numbers until spring when parties of fledged young and adults totalled 50 at Messingham May 22nd, 20 Aswardby Thorns 28th, 30 Whisby June 30th and 30 Laughton Forest July 24th. On the coast 12 at Tetney Oct 19th was unusual. Largest flocks thereafter included 40 Willingham Woods Oct 23rd, 25 Barton Pits 24th, 27 Swanholme 31st, 20 Louth Nov 7th, 25 Barrow Haven 27th and 30 Belton Park Dec 19th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Local resident, especially in the south-west.

Reported from 9 sites in the south-west including the Market Deeping area where it appears to have declined. Extralimital records were of singles at Kirkby Moor May 5th and Burton Pits June 27th with reports of 2 at Owston Ferry April 4th and Covenham St Mary Nov 3rd well outside their normal range.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Widespread resident.

Reported from only six localities during the breeding season, a poor reflection of current status. Observers commented on its absence from the Market Deeping area where



GREAT WHITE EGRET - Gibraltar Point

J. Harriman



BLACK THROATED DIVER - Barton

J. Harriman



RED-NECKED PHALAROPES - Cov. Res.

J. Harriman



BLACK-NECKED GREBES - Messingham S. Q.

J. Harriman

formerly it had been recorded throughout the year. A group of 3 at Grainthorpe Sept 1st was noteworthy.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant March-April & Sept-Nov.

Birds appeared in good numbers at many locations from September to early November, including 3 by the Humber Bridge, 10 in Barton Park and 3 together at New Holland. Gib Point noted an increase during the period Sept 18-Nov 8th with 1-3 daily and a max of 6 Sept 29th. Other coastal birds included 1 Donna Nook Sept 30th, 4 south at Theddlethorpe Oct 4th, 3 Humberston 9th and 1 Saltfleet Haven 16th. Maximum inland count was 30 Willingham Woods Oct 23rd.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Evidence of the present buoyant population is provided by the 174 ringed at Theddlethorpe, the highest annual total since 1989, and the 20-40 present throughout the year at Gib Point with up to 62 there in mid-October. Inland at least 50 were at Barton Pits in Nov.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident.

The max count at Gib Point was 33 on Oct 23rd with little fluctuation throughout the year while 96 ringed at Theddlethorpe was the highest total there since 1987. No other relevant records received.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Local resident, mainly in the south-west with occasional records elsewhere.

Within the traditional areas 17 birds were reported from 9 sites outside the breeding season and a further 3 sites during the summer, with up to 5 at Haverholme Park throughout. A little outside the normal range singles were at Hatton Wood Jan 1st and April 24th and Roughton Moor April 17th. At Bradley Woods, where breeding occurred in 1991, up to 4 were present throughout, but the hope of a spread to nearby Weelsby Woods now seems premature, with a pair there Jan 23rd but not subsequently. An interesting record concerns one picked up and released in Louth after colliding with a window Oct 13th, with presumably the same bird there again 29th. The only previous record from this area was in Nov 1916.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common woodland resident, rare on passage. *C.f. familiaris* recorded 13/3/1947 and Oct 1990.

Dispersing juvenile birds in July included 2 at Gib Point 15th and 2 trapped at Theddlethorpe 13th with singles 21st and 30th, the latter having been ringed at North Somercotes two weeks earlier. In October coastal birds were at Saltfleet and Theddlethorpe 3rd, Anderby Creek 15th and regular at Gib Point throughout with a bird showing characteristics of *C.f. familiaris* at Saltfleet 30th (GPC). November singles at South Ferriby 15th and Goxhill 23rd were outside their normal range.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *

Rare migrant May-June & Aug-Sept.

After a two year absence 2 1st-summer males occurred in May at Saltfleetby 18-22nd and North Cotes 21-23rd (DJB,AH).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Passage migrant, scarce May-June & July-Oct; year max 40 in 1977. Last bred 1978. Spring birds were at Holbeach Marsh May 22nd and at Gib Point in June with females 3rd and 20-21st. Autumn juveniles occurred at North Cotes Aug 8th, Gib Point Sept 15th and Donna Nook Oct 2-6th.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Declining and now rare winter visitor and passage migrant Sept-April [LBR 1982].

Singles were at Wainfleet on the unusual date of May 4th (KMW), Donna Nook in early November and Gib Point Nov 12th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common woodland resident with periodic invasions [LBR 1983].

In addition to those records received from within its normal range, 5 in a Pinchbeck garden Feb 8th, 1 Theddlethorpe April 22nd and 4 North Killingholme March 27th were of significance. A small influx was noted on the north-east coast and Humber during the autumn beginning with 4 arriving from the south-east at Barton Pits Sept 21st, 3 Theddlethorpe 26th and 2 New Holland 30th. In October 2 were at North Cotes with singles at Saltfleet, Donna Nook and Theddlethorpe 3rd, 1 Barton area 4th and south-east there 6th and 7th, 2 Tetney 9th, 3 Thornton Abbey 11th with 1 14th, singles over Theddlethorpe and Cleethorpes 15th, 6 at Barton and 4 north-west at New Holland 16th, 2 Donna Nook and 3 over Kirton Holme 17th, Grimsby 18th with 2 on 22nd, 1-4 at Gib Point 18-24th, 3 Thornton Abbey 27th and one North Thoresby 31st. Sightings continued into November with 2 at Goxhill Marsh 24th and at least 5 there late December with one Barrow Vale 31st.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Increasing and very common resident, large winter roosts.

Peak concentrations of this species occurred at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe dunes in January-March with a max roost count of 200. Max counts at Gib Point were 79 March 7th and a record number there of 100 September 25th. Elsewhere in January-February 25 were in the corvid roost at Deeping St James and 21 in Barton Pits roost with 25 Barton Cliff Nov 12th, 60 between Barrow Haven and New Holland March 23rd and 80 roosting on Immingham Dock March 28th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Decreasing resident with winter immigration and some passage. Five records of *C.m.monedula* this century, last 6/11/1983.

High winter counts included 400 in the Thornton Curtis area January with 500 at Holywell 26th, 800 Thornton Abbey roost March 4th and 150 Barton Quarries 24th. Return southerly coastal passage was noted at Gib Point with peak March counts of 56 24th and 24 18th; 12 flew south at Theddlethorpe May 18th. During August 250 were at Haverholme 13th and 120 Bonby 29th with late winter counts of 1,000 at Coleby Dec 2nd and 250 Metherringham 24th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident. Declining breeder with large winter roosts. Recent nest counts 17,600 in 731 colonies 1970, 12,500 in 588 colonies 1975, 4838 nests 1980 [LBR 1980].

Few notable winter counts were received and no reports from the huge Willoughby roost. During February 2,800 flew over Goxhill en route to the Thornton Abbey roost with 1,800 there March 4th; 1,000 were at West Rasen Feb 22nd and 300 Coleby Dec 2nd. At Risby Warren 33 nests were found on 5 electricity pylons.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Widespread resident with some coastal passage and large winter non-breeder flocks. Marked passage in both spring and autumn was noted at Gib Point with max southerly movements of 18 March 4th and 33 Oct 9th. Other coastal records included 102 at Donna Nook and 150 Saltfleetby both Dec 31st. Inland notable counts were 40 Deeping St James roost January-March, 41 Messingham March 12th and a max of 60 at New Holland November-December.

Hooded Crow *C.c.corone*. Severely decreased winter visitor Sept-May.

Apart from one at Saltfleetby April 21st all were late winter birds beginning with one Elsham Oct 18th, one scavenging on a dead porpoise at Skidbrooke 26th and possibly the same at Dona Nook 31st; 4 Theddlethorpe with 29 Carrion Crows Nov 15th was the largest party for some years. In December one was at Bradley Woods 17th with probably the same near Barnoldby-le-Beck the next day.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Still very common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 2,000 at Winterton Tip was the highest early winter count. Spring passage at Gib Point included 665 March 14th and 900 26th and at Theddlethorpe 500 12th and 120 13th all moving south. The only post breeding flocks reported were 500 Baston/Langtoft Pits June 12th, 900 Toft Newton July 7th, 450 Huttoft 29th and 500 North Kelsey Moor throughout July. Autumn migration peaked in mid to late October with 2,600 west at New Holland 15th, 4,000 Gib Point 23rd, 850 west at Barton Pits in 2 hours 24th, 1,000 Theddlethorpe 25th and a roost of 25,000 at Cleethorpes boating lake 23rd with 3,000 New Holland Dec 4th. The winter population of Deeping St James area is considered to have decreased by 75% during the past 15 years.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Declining but widespread resident.

A dearth of records prevents any real assessment of its status. Gib Point reported 20 or less throughout most of the year with a max of 50 Sept 13th and there were 250 at New Holland Dec 14th.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Declining and local resident and passage migrant.

Counts for January-March totalled some 745 birds at 17 localities including 70 Donna Nook in January, 73 Habrough 2nd, 50 Morton Feb 9th, 100 Barton 6th, 100 Bourne South Fen 7th and 85 Cut End 21st. None were reported breeding in the Deeping St James area and only 3 pairs were known from Deeping Fen, a huge reduction over the past ten years. Some larger flocks were again reported at the year end, giving a total of 437 birds from 7 sites; notable were 75 Fleet Hargate Nov 21st, 80 Kirton Marsh 23rd

and 150 Hackthorn Dec 15th. The highest number of wintering birds reported for many years.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Increasingly common and widespread resident with large autumn/spring and winter flocks.

Early winter flocks included 80 at North Somercotes Jan 1st, 150 Wold Newton 17th, 50 Marston SF 29th, max of 200 South Witham Feb 12-21st and 500 Laughton Forest 14th. A good southerly movement occurred on the coast in mid March with Gib Point noting 116 14th, 900 16th, while at Theddlethorpe max counts were 150 12th and 110 15th. Autumn passage was less pronounced with 30 south at Theddlethorpe Oct 4th, a max at Gib Point of 105 Sept 15th with 80 south Nov 11th and 60 at Barton Pits Oct 24th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor in very variable numbers Sept-May.

Widespread and in good numbers in the first quarter with reports from 21 sites, the most notable flocks in January being 200 Barton Park 1st with 170 still there March 3rd, 150 Withcall 9th, 60 Louth 17th, 25 Weelsby Woods 23rd and 215 Stenigot 26th. Small numbers were noted on return passage at both Gib Point and Theddlethorpe until the last on May 4th and 5th respectively. First autumn immigrants were at Donna Nook Sept 13th and Gib Point the next day with light coastal passage at several sites until late November and a peak at Gib Point of 50 Oct 14th, when 60 also moved west at South Witham. A total of 60 flew west at Barton in two hours on 24th and 40 were at North Somercotes Warren 31st. There were few reports thereafter the most notable being 20 near Tealby and 16 Willingham Woods both Nov 21st, 56 Gunboro Wood 27th to the year end and 70 North Kelsey Moor in December.

Serin *Serinus serinus* *

Vagrant.

A singing male at Gib Point on April 28th (KMW) bore a ring and was probably the bird ringed at Spurn Point several days earlier. Another at Gib Point on June 6th (BJ) was in association with a small group of Redpolls. The first records since 1988 and the 13th and 14th county records.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Concentrations early in the year included up to 200 at Kelstern airfield and 100 Covenham January-March, 150 Willingham Woods Jan 5th, 130 Holton-le-Moor 22nd, 110 Donnington-on-Bain 25th, 105 Kelstern Feb 17th, 250 South Witham and 200 Fulstow 21st and 100 attracted to rape seed in a Deeping St Nicholas garden in early spring. Few coastal reports during the autumn with a max of just 30 south at Theddlethorpe Oct 9th and 30 Gib Point Nov 28th. At North Kelsey Moor numbers increased to 150 in September with sizeable flocks at the year end, many feeding on fields of linseed stubbles thus: 250 New Holland and 50 Welbourne Heath Nov 15th and in December 200 Heighington 21st, 100 near Branston 24th and 50 Bourne Woods 30th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant April-May and Sept-Oct.

The first winter period produced a flock of 60 at Barton Pits Jan 6th, 45 Tumby Woodside 17th, 75 Donnington-on-Bain 25th, 60 at Kirton Feb 4th and 30 Laughton Forest 14th.

Peak spring passage counts were 20 south at Theddlethorpe April 22nd and 40 south Gib Point 25th with 150 west at Barton May 1st. Autumn coastal max were 50 Saltfleetby Sept 12th, 25 Donna Nook 20th and 125 south at Gib Point Oct 7th. Inland 30 were at Kirkby Pits Aug 23rd and 120 Donnington 25th. Then throughout September there were 60 at North Kelsey Moor, 40 South Ferriby and 30 Barton Pits, with 200 at Baston Fen to the year end and 60 Deeping St Nicholas into October, when 65 were at Kirton End 5th and 150 at Holland Fen 26th. In November 62 were at the Witham Mouth 5th and 54 Immingham Docks 26th with four sites in December noting 15-25 birds.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Very rare and occasional breeder; variable numbers winter July-May.

Flocks of upto 20 were widespread early in the year with larger flocks of 50 in Willingham Forest Jan 8th, 120 Boultham Park 10th, 70 Hartsholme Park Feb 13th, 80 Keal Carr LNR 17th, 60 Broughton Woods March 7th, 40 Owersby Moor 20th, a max of 200 Bourne Wood 25th and 60 Weelsby Woods April 10th. Mainly southerly movements occurred on the coast from mid March to mid April with 106 through Theddlethorpe during this period, peaking at 25 March 15th, while Gib Point had a max of 41, 18th with the last May 30th. First birds to return were at Gib Point Sept 13th with up to 10 birds at coastal sites over ensuing days. A good passage during October-November resulted in a total of 440 at Theddlethorpe with notable movements of 90 south Oct 29th and 125 Nov 1st. Max counts at Gib Point included 160 with 130 south Oct 7th and 24th respectively and in November 123 south 6th with 220 south 11th; passage peak at Donna Nook was 30 Oct 29th while at Saltfleetby 130 flew south Nov 6th with 100 south in two hours 7th. Elsewhere 25-40 were at Barton Oct 9th-Nov 2nd with 71 west Oct 15th, 80 at Bourne Wood Oct 3rd, 50 Boultham Park 11th, 30 Grimsthorpe Park 17th and 30 North Somercotes Warren 31st. Flocks of up to 50 were again widespread in winter with 70 Hartsholme Park Dec 18th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Widespread resident but has declined; passage movements April and Sept-Nov.

In common with several other passerines wintering numbers were generally low. All flocks exceeding 50 birds reported in both winter periods as follows: 250 South Gulham Farm Jan 10th, 150 South Witham mid February, 100 Barton March 21st with 250 there late October decreasing to 200 Dec 12th, 80 Swallow April 28th, 100 Deeping High Bank Nov 21st then in December 200 Heighington 21st, 100 Branston Fen 24th and 450 roosting at South Ferriby 27th. Coastal passage at Gib Point produced spring max of 60 April 20th and 100 on two dates in May with slightly below average autumn peaks of 148 south Sept 29th and 150 Oct 3rd. Additional coastal counts were 100 at Donna Nook Sept 8th, 100 Grainthorpe 17th and 150 Saltfleet 19th, while inland 100 were at Blankney Heath in August, 80 Blankney Sept 2nd, 200 Donnington and 350 New Holland both 29th and 150 North Kelsey all month with 200 at Langtoft Fen during October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Common coastal winter visitor Sept-April, rare inland.

Generally low numbers reported during both winter periods. On the north-east coast 50 were in the Tetney/North Cotes area Jan 17-Feb 16th with 35 March 13th and 50 Oct 30th, 50 were at Pyes Hall Feb 9th and up to 40 regularly at Donna Nook throughout the autumn and late winter with 300 Saltfleetby Jan 1st reducing to 54 by March 4th, then 35 again Oct 15th with a max of 40 Dec 17th. Surprisingly the first of the year at

Gib Point were 10 Feb 25th with few other records until return passage began on Sept 26th, with a max of 23 Oct 24th. In the Wash 20 were noted at Leverton Jan 14th with 30 Nov 30th, 60 Butterwick Feb 28th and 200 Nov 27th, 85 Witham Mouth Jan 10th and Feb 7th with 200 late November, 250 Frampton Jan 10th, 40 Moulton Marsh Feb 2nd and 100 March 6th, 150 Holbeach Marsh Jan 1st and 50 Dec 27th, and at Gedney Drove End 40 March 7th. Unusual records were of 3 at Covenham Oct 15th and 10 Barton Pits Nov 3rd with 16 west there 15th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Local resident, variable winter numbers with occasional influxes. Mealy Redpoll *C.f. flammea* rare in winter and passage Sept-Nov.

A very poor year with no large flocks noted and a total of only 95 birds from 9 sites in the first quarter. Also reported to have declined markedly at Theddlethorpe with a total of 21 birds ringed there compared with 106 in 1991 and 182 in 1983. Notable counts at Gib Point were 30 May 11th and 36 Sept 26th and there were no records in the last quarter. Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Very rare and occasional breeder; highly variable numbers with most recent invasion years 1990 & 1991 [LBR 1991].

One of the poorest showings for many years with the only wintering birds being 11 in Bourne Woods throughout December. At Gib Point 6 were seen Feb 7th and 2 May 13th then 5 July 4th, with 2 west at Barton Pits the same day. The remaining records were all from Gib Point with singles July 11th and Sept 20th and in October 2 on 22nd and 3 24th.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common and widespread resident.

Another poor year at Theddlethorpe with 37 ringed equalling the all time low of the previous year. Notable concentrations reported were of up to 20 together at Willingham Woods Nov 21st and 14 Barton Pits Oct 23rd.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Very local presumed resident with very rare passage records.

Up to 9 were seen intermittently at Broughton Woods throughout January. The regular site at Brumby crematorium produced just a single sighting of one bird March 12th and one was at nearby Kingsway Woods May 3rd. The only record away from the north-west involved one at Saltfleetby on November 6th (GPC), the first autumn coastal bird for eight years.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* *

Vagrant.

The first-winter male found at Willingham Woods on December 5th 1992 remained in the same area until last seen on March 28th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Winter coastal visitor in variable numbers Sept-March; very rare inland.

Generally scarce during the first quarter with 1-3 at 5 coastal and 3 Wash sites and the last at Humberston March 22nd. Although not on the scale of the Yorkshire arrival good numbers appeared on the north east coast from mid-Oct beginning with 3 at Saltfleet and 1 Pye's Hall Sept 16th, 1 Cleethorpes 18th, then 9 at North Cotes/Tetney Oct 2nd,

rising to 42 30th with 23 still present Nov 7th. Peak count at Grainthorpe was 45 Nov 2nd and 28 were at Donna Nook Oct 30th. Otherwise 1-5 on many dates throughout the period from the Skidbrooke/Saltfleetby area. The only records from the Wash were of singles at Butterwick Oct 16th and Nov 27th, and in the Humber one was at Pyewipe Nov 11th and 4 west at New Holland Dec 1st with 3 on Goxhill Marsh Dec 25th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Winter coastal visitor in variable numbers Sept-April with recent signs of a decrease; rare inland.

The main wintering flock at Saltfleetby numbered up to 50 throughout January-February with a max of 65 Jan 3rd. Apart from 30 at Huttoft Bank Feb 23rd only single figures were noted at 5 other coastal sites including Gib Point where the single first winter period record was of 2 on Feb 28th. One at North Killingholme March 16th was the last until a single at Tetney Aug 4th, a most unusual date. The latter site also recorded the first immigrants with one Sept 21st, 8 there 25th and 17 Nov 7th. One flew south at Gib Point Oct 13th then 1-6 there on 5 dates to the year end while at Donna Nook 9 flew south Nov 6th, otherwise only 1-2 throughout the autumn. The Saltfleetby flock totalled 80 Dec 30th and included three birds colour ringed in Norfolk. Elsewhere one was at Pyewipe Nov 11th, 2 Covenham 24th and 38 at New Holland/Goxhill 18th with one west at Barton Pits Dec 3rd.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Widespread and common resident with large winter flocks.

Winter feeding flocks of 50 or more included 70 Swanpool Jan 17th, a max of 50 Thurlby Fen NR January-March, max 300 South Witham Feb 12-21st, 50 at Deeping St James April 14th and 50 Binbrook Dec 25th. Only 2 were ringed all year at Theddlethorpe while Gib Point's max count was a poor 17 on March 14th. Notable autumn flocks were 80 at Swallow Sept 15th, 70 Thurlby Fen NR Oct 26th, 50 Barton Pits 28th and 150 Goxhill Marsh Nov 23-24th.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* *

A male at Gib Point from May 9-11th (DRB,KMW,PJF) was only the fifth county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Local and declining resident and passage bird Sept-Nov.

Parties of up to 12 were reported from several localities with 30 at Barton/Barrow Haven March 21st and 40 on stubbles at Goxhill in late December being the highest counts. Further evidence of decline came from Theddlethorpe with just 3 birds ringed during the year and from Gib Point with peak counts of only 20 in early Feb and 12 in May and October.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Declining resident with larger winter flocks/roosts.

Flocks in excess of 20 birds in the first quarter included 250 at Stowgate during January, 24 Holbeach Bank 1st, 32 Moulton Marsh NR Feb 2nd, an early year max of 45 Gib Point 6th, 60 Saltfleetby 21st with 37 remaining to April 10th, and on March 21st 40 at both Barrow Haven and Whaplode Drove. Breeding season records from the black fen soils of Thurlby/Baston/Langtoft/Stowgate and Crowland Common reported a breeding density of up to 7-8 singing males per square kilometer with an estimated population of

200 singing males in the area, while another observer noted approx 70 singing males at Deeping Fen. Few notable year end counts except for 150 at Branston Fen Dec 12th and 42 Donna Nook 31st.

Additions and Corrections to previous Reports;

1990 Baird's Sandpiper - Witham Mouth September 16th. This record was rejected by BBRC and therefore is deleted from the list of county occurrences.

1992 Osprey - One flying south-east over Kirton Holme on September 20th.

Contributors

S Abbott	M Ackerman	K.Armstrong	G Atkin
J Atkin	K Atkin	M&M Atkinson	A Ball
JS & JG Ball	S Banks	N Barker	T Barnatt
A L Barratt	N Beasley	G Beeley	A J Bellamy
F Beresford	Birkland RG	T Bladon	FE Boddy
M Boddy	B Borrill	S P Botham	D J Bradbeer
N Bray	S Britton	DR Bromwich	W P Brooking
D & S Brooks	A F Brown	D W Buckingham	H Bunn
P Burnett	R J F Carr	S Carter	C Casey
G P Catley	J R Clarkson	M Clarkson	? Clayton
P G Collins	B A Cook	J E Cook	M Cousins
M Cottingham	D Cullum	C Dawn	A Daws
N Drinkall	KD Du Rose	G M S Easy	T Eadson
I Edwards	P Eaves	L Enderby	J Fairhurst
G J Fenwick	P J Forrest	R J Foster	S Foster
A J Gardiner	N Gardiner	D George	Gibraltar Point NNR
W Gillatt	S Gillings	B Glover	C Godfrey
M J Gray	G Gregory	J K Grimes	G L Grimshaw
P T Gymer	M C Hall	A J Hall	B Hancock
G Hardy	J T Harriman	A Harris	KK Harrison
M E Harrison	AH J Harrop	I Hartley	R Harvey
J A Hayes	P Haywood	R N Hebb	K Heath
R Heath	B Hedley	A Housman	C Howard
M Humberstone	D Hursthouse	P Hyde	D J Jenkins
B Jackson	J C & S Jennings	G Johnson	R Jones
T J Jones	C Jukes	S Keightley	D Kirby
R Lamin	J & R Laundon	J de Lacy	M Langworth
T Lee	A Lees	S Lindop	D Lingard
S M Lister	P Locking	Mrs Lockton	R Lorand
S Lorand	R Lord	N Lound	K A Marshall
L Marshall	J Mawer	B McLean	W J Meek
S J Meek	W R Meek	Mid-Lincs Ringing Group	J & B Mighell
I P Misselbrook	G P F Montgomery	S Moore	J D Mortemore
J Nelson	R Newton	C Nimmick	R Nowicki
A Nuttall	G Orton	D J Parker	J Parkin
M & J Parkinson	M & M Peck	J Pickasley	B Pierce
P J Precey	G Priestly	D Purnell	J Rance
S Radcliffe	C Rankine	E J Redshaw	A Rhodes
R Riddington	I J Riley	D Roberts	G W Roberts
K Roberts	KD Robertson	K Robinson	A Royale
S Routledge	RE Scott	J Sharpe	T Shearsmith
I G Shepherd	E Simms	C Sims	J Smith
M Smith	? Spalding	D Spellman	J & A Spring
P Stanford	G C Steele	W Sterling	P Todd
D Townsend	PM Troake	J Turner	N Vessey
F Walker	JR Walker	M Warren	R K Watson
J Watt	PN Watts	J Wheldon	J Whitehead
C Weightman	J Whitehead	S C P Williams	R B Wilkinson
D Wilson	KE Wilson	K M Wilson	S Wison
T de Winton	D J Wood		
P Wood	D Wright		

SPECIES NEW TO LINCOLNSHIRE 1993

Sociable Plover at Kirkby-on-Bain, May 30th-June 12th

At midday on May 30th I arrived at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits but a quick scan from the road revealed nothing unusual. I was just about to leave when I noticed Derek and Sheila Brooks so I parked my car alongside theirs and we began chatting. A few moments later I noticed a medium sized wader with a similar flight pattern to a juvenile Sabine's Gull flying low over the pits. I quickly alerted DB & SB but unfortunately the bird was lost to view after about ten seconds. The bird was obviously a Sociable Plover and a frantic search was immediately under way to try and relocate it! Almost gale force winds were whipping up the loose sandy soil and making the task very uncomfortable and at times almost impossible. However, at about 13-00hrs I relocated the plover in a newly sown field of maize about a mile south of the pits. The bird was amazingly hard to pick up when on the ground, due to its cryptic coloration, in direct contrast to its striking appearance in flight. When it sat down, as it sometimes did in slight hollows in the field, it became almost impossible to see.

I released news of the bird's presence immediately as the views from the public road were excellent and caused no inconvenience. It remained, with short absences, in the same area until 10-00am on June 2nd when it was seen to fly off high to the north. However it was then remarkably seen again on June 12th although it had been extensively searched for in between and not found and similarly could not be found again later the same day.

Kevin DuRose

Description

Size Similar in height to Lapwing but slighter in build.

Bill Quite fine but of typical length for *Vanellus* and blackish-grey in colour.

Head pattern A black line ran from the base of the bill, at the gape, through the lores to the eye, being at its widest just before and around the eye, then narrowing behind the eye and reaching back to the rear of the upper ear-coverts where it ended abruptly. White forecrown and broad supercilia which extended right back to the nape where they joined at the rear, being slightly more buffy tinged on the rear crown and fading on the lower border into the colour of the nape. A very neat sharply defined and solid, almost shiny, black cap contrasted with the white supercilia.

Underparts Chin/throat and cheeks/ear-coverts all a beautiful ochre colour fading almost imperceptibly into the mauve tinged pale sandy/grey/brown of the lower neck and upper breast; this coloration gradually darkened down the lower breast to become black on the belly, from the bend of the wing back to the legs where it then took on a rich chestnut colour at the rear edge, this colour then extending back in a wedge between the legs. Rest of underparts from legs back to undertail coverts was creamy white.

Upperparts Nape, mantle, back, scapulars and tertials all a pale sandy grey/brown, the tertials overlapping most of the flight feathers but the extreme tips of the primaries showing as a black tip. Also present was a black line under the edge of the mid-wing, the wing-coverts being similar in colour to upperparts but with quite obvious pale buff fringes.

Legs Long and grey-black.

In flight From below strong contrasts of black primaries against white of the rest of the underwing and then dark belly and white undertail coverts. Feet projected beyond tail in flight.

Upperside Primaries black, secondaries white, forewing coverts and mantle/back all sandy grey/brown; tail white with black subterminal band confined to the central tail feathers with white outer edge and narrow white tip.

Voice A rasping 'krech'; when chased by Lapwings gave a sharp 'chetsh chetsh', not loud or striking.

An adult Sociable Plover was reportedly seen the previous day, May 29th, flying north-east over Ditchford Northants, most probably the same bird being involved. This record follows quite closely that of an adult summer bird at Cley, Holkham and Burnham Norton, North Norfolk, from April 21-30th, and North Wootton Norfolk May 18-20th which was itself pre dated by an adult seen at Eggington Derbyshire on April 17th and all three are taken to refer to the same individual by the BBRC.

The species was a long-expected addition to the County list but a full summer-plumaged bird in the late spring was most unexpected. Such a stunning bird, probably a male judging from the intensity of the black on the crown and belly, made many people's spring and maybe their year. But what was an adult Sociable Plover doing in deepest Lincolnshire at a time when it should have been breeding on the steppes of central Asia? In a paper in Dutch Birding, 6-1-1984, 'The Occurrence of the Sociable Plover in Western Europe', Arnoud B van den Berg quotes the work of Van de Weghe 1962, who suggested that Sociable Plovers join west-bound flocks of Lapwing during their autumn migration and thus arrive in western Europe with Lapwings in the late autumn and winter. The majority of British records are during this period but most of those in continental Europe are during the spring. The suggested explanation for this difference in occurrence patterns is based upon the fact that east-bound flocks of wintering Lapwing leave Britain during February/March, birds which have wintered further south also bypass Britain as they pass eastwards, and the spring records in Europe occur as these flocks stop over in the low countries before continuing their return migration. Summer records are associated with non-breeding spring adults stopping off en route to their breeding areas or to early summer movements again in association with failed or non-breeding flocks of Lapwings. In the context of the Lincolnshire occurrence the winter of 1992-1993 was very mild and most of the wintering Lapwings had left by late February but interestingly the first northward-moving flock of Lapwings at Immingham was recorded on May 29th, the day prior to the Sociable Plover's arrival and a day when it was also seen flying north-east in Northants. It would be interesting to know if other flocks of Lapwing were on the move the same day and where they originated from.

Whatever its immediate origins it was a truly immaculate bird and its chosen accessible fields and relatively long stay meant that it drew quite a stream of admirers. This is the 37th British record, there having been an obvious recent increase in the number of birds being located. Presumably this is mostly due to the increasing number of observers and coverage of suitable habitats. The most recent British records are given below; most as usual fall in the September-January period but the Dartford bird was in March/April and the 1992 bird also in April. The closest bird to the Lincs one however, in date and locality was an adult at Ranskill Nottinghamshire on May 30th 1978.

1992	Berkshire	adult	April 10th
1991	Cambridgeshire		Oct 5-20th
1990	Welney		Oct 15-30th
1988	Tichwell	juv west	Sept 24th
	Pitsford Northants	ad	Sept 18-25th
1987	Cornwall	iw	Oct 19-20th
1986	Hampshire	juv	Oct 17-Nov 8th
1985	Dartford Kent	adult	March 8th-April 13th
	Sussex	juv	Oct 31-Jan 3rd
1986	Co Kerry		Nov 23rd-Dec 25th
1984	Glamorgan		Oct 20-21st

Lesser Crested Tern at Saltfleetby, June 20th

Having already made the trip to Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea, on June 16th to have an overdue further look at 'Elsie', the Farnes' Lesser Crested Tern, I was musing on why she should choose to be there rather than the more appropriate and more select Lincolnshire shoreline, when a phone call on the evening of the 18th alerted me to the fact that she had flown south off Spurn at 20.00 hrs that night, presumably into Lincs! Work etc prevented any visit to the coast until late evening on 19th when we tried North Cotes. There, despite the presence of 30+ Sandwich Terns, there was no sign of Elsie; no wonder, since I later learned that she was back at Kilnsea, flying in from the south, at 17.30 hrs, no doubt having spent the whole day in Lincs! Had we missed our best chance yet of getting Lesser Crested Tern on the county list?

The morning of Sunday 20th arrived and Birdline reported Elsie at Beacon Ponds all morning, so there was no great urgency in a visit to Rimac that afternoon. Departing for the coast at 14-00hrs, after a leisurely lunch, in the knowledge that Elsie had flown out to sea at 12-05, 'but was expected to return shortly', there was little enthusiasm either, in the walk out to the sea at Rimac, except on the part of the junior members of the party! Having reached Saltfleet Haven I located a flock of Kittiwake and about 9 Sandwich Terns settled on the beach, but all the terns looked very black about the bills despite some close scrutiny. Having negotiated the sticky bed of the old haven channel, the kids made a dash for the sea while I gave more scrutiny to the sarnies and managed to drop onto a Puffin which flew along the tide edge, twice for good measure.

As the kids threatened to attempt a North Sea crossing a quick glance behind me revealed three terns just landing on the beach a long way to the south. Through the scope I was having difficulty working out how big they were but there was no doubt as one turned its head that it had an orangy coloured bill! A double take, could they all be Commons and I had got the size wrong? But two had black bills for certain and the third definitely had an orange bill! It had to be the Lesser Crested and with a quick yell of 'I've got it', I set off at a brisk jog, trailing tripod and scope across the beach and leaving the family to the mercy of the incoming tide, but having first got Julia to confirm that I had not gone colour blind and that said tern's bill was indeed orange. I then worked my way south into a better position for the light and eventually gained superb views of the bird on the deck and in three short flights as it moved with the incoming tide. I looked around in vain for any other birders but no-one appeared so I took a few record shots with the camera and then settled down to enjoy it. It was clearly mated to a male colour-ringed

Sandwich Tern, pale green over bright green left and BTO right, the same bird it was with at Beacon Ponds and apparently the same bird it has been with for the last two years on the Farnes [J. McLaughlin pers comm]. The pair mated several times - a new breeding record for Lincs as well!

After I had watched the birds for an hour the rising tide pushed them all further north onto a higher sand bar so I made a quick jog to the car and the nearest phone where I put the word out. The tern was then twitched by a handful of observers before it again flew off north at 18-10hrs. The following day John Harriman and Wayne Gillat went down to Rimac to look for the Lesser Crested Tern and failed but had a summer-plumaged White-winged Black Tern on the beach at the Haven mouth! How many other rare terns are we missing by not having any regular coverage of most of our good tern sites?

Graham P Catley

Description

Size Very similar in size to the Sandwich Terns which it was alongside and under!

Bill Looked about the same length as Sandwich but maybe marginally deeper at the base (although the contrasting appearance of pale versus dark bills did make a difference to the apparent shape it did still look a little deeper). Bill pointed with no really marked gonys; colour was all a bright orange with a slightly paler more yellow tip although this was partly affected by the sun shining through the bill. Gape reached back to a point just before the eye which was equal to that shown by Sandwich Tern.

Head pattern Eye dark, set in black cap formed by black crown and upper nape. Black began at culmen stretching back to eye, with prominent white blaze over gape below the black forecrown; lower edge of cap then curved down slightly behind the eye to a small ear-covert patch before continuing to the nape. Shape of black at rear of crown/nape usually fairly square cut, but when the crest was relaxed it hung down to about half way down the nape/hind neck in a loose mane.

Rest of neck and underparts White

Upperparts Mantle, scapulars and wings, except primaries, were all a fairly uniform mid-grey, very close in tone to first-summer Kittiwakes which were alongside it on the beach, and always looked darker than Sandwich although degree of difference varied with the angle and brightness of the sun. Wings lacked obvious white tertial crescent shown by nearby Sandwich Terns. Primaries darker grey with a very narrow complete pale fringe visible only at close range, and a darker grey on the inner webs; wing tips fell about equal with the tail tip.

Legs Black and of similar length to Sandwich although at times looking thinner?

In flight More rakish than Sandwich and showed a shorter-looking, obviously grey tail with paler outer webs to the outermost feathers and a grey rump uniform with the rest of the upper body. Wings showed a dark block formed by the outer 4-5 primaries, the outermost looking paler, and a narrow white trailing edge to the secondaries.

COUNTY RINGING REPORT 1993

During 1993 29,054 birds were ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, an increase of 5% over 1992. The total number of pulli ringed, 2,041, represented an increase of 26% on the previous year. The 1993 totals were also slightly above the annual average since ringing records were first produced for the county in this Report, and this is illustrated in the graph below. As usual the totals include both increases and decreases in individual species and some changes between the 1992 and 1993 totals are listed below.

Swallow +7% Sand Martin 6% Sedge Warbler -30%
Whitethroat -25% Lesser Whitethroat +18% Willow Warbler No change

Although both Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler showed worrying downward trends, it is of interest that Willow Warbler totals remained static, unlike populations in southern Britain which are showing signs for concern. One new species, Hoopoe, was added to the county totals; this bird was trapped at Saltfleet and constitutes only the 38th ringing record for Britain. Other species of note included Firecrest, 4 ringed; Icterine Warbler, Barred Warbler, Wood Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatcher, 2 of each ringed; and single Hobby, Cetti's Warbler and Lapland Bunting. Away from passerines the Wash Wader Group were very active, with good numbers of Brent Geese ringed and an unprecedented catch of 173 Black-tailed Godwits, a species with a very small county total until this year.

Pulli

Interesting species ringed as pulli this year included both Hobby and Short-eared Owl. I would also like to highlight the large number of pullus Barn Owl, Swift, Common Tern and Black-headed Gull ringed in the county, as projects like these can be very time-consuming and are often overlooked.

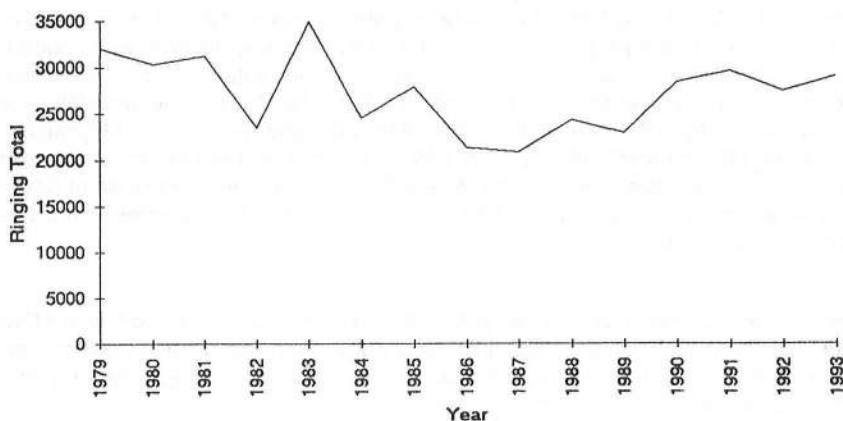
Recoveries

Some excellent recoveries were received during 1993, and details of a selection of these are given below. Some of the highlights to note are the Common Tern recovered on a ship off Mauretania, a first year Sedge Warbler from Norway to Gib Point and a first year Reed Warbler to Theddlethorpe Dunes. Also a couple of Sand Martins and a Chiffchaff were exchanged with the 'winter quarters' project in the National Park at St Louis, Senegal. As many ornithologists will be aware the Oystercatcher population took a battering during the first months of 1993, increasing the ringing recoveries for this species. Some examples are given below, and more details of the event were given in BTO News 185. I would like to thank all ringers and members of the public who took time to submit details for this report, and I apologize in advance for any inadvertent omissions. John Mawer, 18 Standish Lane, Immingham, DN40 2HA

Contributors

K Atkin, Boston Ringers Association (A G Ball, B Hancock, N Vessey, S Keightley, A Gardiner, A Chick, W McLaughlin), Birklands RG (A Ashley), A Blackburn, M & F E Boddy, P Childs, R Cosgrove, C Dobson, C du Feu, D Fogg, Gibraltar Point BO (A W Paul), R Goff, A L Goodall, S Hill, Mid-Lincs RG (C Smith, S A Britton, J R Mawer, N Bray, D Cullum, S Carter, R Conybeare, C Hughes, H Whitehead, P Chapman), J R Marshall, A G Parker, R Pearson, G Priestley (with M Lewis, K Bowden) G P Shaw, R Sheppard, W H Short, P Snow, F Stewart, N Taylor, Wakerling, J R Walker, R K Watson, N Watts, Wash Wader RG (S Wakeham)

Ringling Totals 79-93.



County Ringing Totals for 1993

Including Gibraltar Point Totals.

Species	FG	PULL	TOTAL	GRAND	Species	FG	PULL	TOTAL	GRAND
				TOTAL					TOTAL
				79-93					79-93
Grey Heron	0	9	9	520	Woodpigeon	19	2	21	479
Mute Swan	5	0	5	188	Collared Dove	26	4	30	363
Greylag Goose	4	0	4	28	Turtle Dove	1	3	4	311
Canada Goose	23	3	26	242	Cuckoo	2	0	2	135
Brent Goose	106	0	106	125	Barn Owl	14	99	113	709
Shelduck	1	0	1	11	Little Owl	1	0	1	58
Wigeon	1	0	1	33	Tawny Owl	4	27	31	253
Teal	2	0	2	70	Short-eared Owl	0	2	2	12
Mallard	3	0	3	2060	Swift	14	121	135	829
Sparrowhawk	33	4	37	300	Kingfisher	9	0	9	150
Kestrel	5	22	27	515	Hoopoe	1	0	1	1
Hobby	1	3	4	6	Wryneck	2	0	2	18
Grey Partridge	1	0	1	2	Green Woodpecker	4	0	4	23
Moorhen	10	0	10	157	Gt Spotted Woodpecker	16	0	16	112
Oystercatcher	785	0	785	6832	Skylark	18	2	20	2147
Little Ringed Plover	1	7	8	95	Sand Martin	593	0	593	5971
Ringed Plover	40	17	57	909	Swallow	50	183	233	16761
Golden Plover	6	0	6	25	House Martin	629	4	633	3138
Grey Plover	86	0	86	1493	Tree Pipit	5	0	5	91
Lapwing	6	21	27	219	Meadow Pipit	167	5	172	1765
Knot	629	0	629	5874	Yellow Wagtail	6	0	6	146
Sanderling	1	0	1	29	Grey Wagtail	1	0	1	12
Little Stint	1	0	1	14	Pied Wagtail	147	14	161	786
Dunlin	342	0	342	22775	Wren	825	0	825	9061
Ruff	14	0	14	104	Dunnock	1410	18	1428	19792
Jack Snipe	4	0	4	48	Robin	1083	15	1098	12058
Snipe	22	0	22	354	Nightingale	4	0	4	107
Woodcock	6	0	6	131	Redstart	181	0	181	866
Black-tailed Godwit	173	0	173	180	Whinchat	4	0	4	267
Bar-tailed Godwit	46	0	46	1551	Stonechat	2	0	2	15
Whimbrel	19	0	19	35	Wheatear	3	0	3	139
Curlew	168	0	168	414	Ring Ouzel	2	0	2	45
Redshank	129	0	129	1619	Blackbird	1511	73	1584	34812
Greenshank	4	0	4	29	Fieldfare	8	0	8	998
Green Sandpiper	1	0	1	26	Song Thrush	373	29	402	10163
Wood Sandpiper	1	0	1	4	Redwing	172	0	172	3618
Common Sandpiper	3	0	3	54	Mistle Thrush	6	9	15	313
Turnstone	33	0	33	670	Cetti's Warbler	1	0	1	2
Black-headed Gull	218	200	418	5734	Grasshopper Warbler	5	0	5	156
Common Gull	26	0	26	395	Sedge Warbler	55	0	55	2810
Herring Gull	169	0	169	1456	Reed Warbler	115	0	115	4937
Great Black-backed Gull	44	0	44	264	Icterine Warbler	2	0	2	20
Common Tern	0	128	128	644	Barred Warbler	2	0	2	35
Little Tern	0	8	8	458	Lesser Whitethroat	358	3	361	4389
Guillemot	7	0	7	10	Whitethroat	438	2	440	9806
Stock Dove	0	7	7	40	Garden Warbler	157	0	157	2406

				GRAND TOTAL					GRAND TOTAL
Species	FG	PULL	TOTAL	79-93	Species	FG	PULL	TOTAL	79-93
Blackcap	575	0	575	7585	Starling	2345	5	2350	31624
Yellow-browed Warbler	2	0	2	22	House Sparrow	171	0	171	5726
Wood Warbler	2	0	2	35	Tree Sparrow	23	17	40	4826
Chiffchaff	155	0	155	2225	Chaffinch	766	4	770	7768
Willow Warbler	963	50	1013	20528	Brambling	39	0	39	1061
Goldcrest	676	0	676	11868	Greenfinch	2857	16	2873	23772
Firecrest	4	0	4	100	Goldfinch	88	4	92	2625
Spotted Flycatcher	22	17	39	985	Siskin	129	0	129	499
Red-breasted Flycatcher	2	0	2	10	Linnet	118	9	127	6074
Pied Flycatcher	43	0	43	603	Twite	6	0	6	739
Long-tailed Tit	446	0	446	4050	Redpoll	45	0	45	5860
Marsh Tit	33	0	33	211	Common Crossbill	1	0	1	73
Willow Tit	61	0	61	978	Bullfinch	247	0	247	4869
Coal Tit	144	17	161	1650	Lapland Bunting	1	0	1	319
Blue Tit	1992	464	2456	27902	Yellowhammer	47	0	47	3538
Great Tit	1130	251	1381	13327	Reed Bunting	74	0	74	4730
Treecreeper	80	0	80	769	Corn Bunting	0	1	1	265
Jay	18	0	18	175	TOTALS	27,113	2,041	29,054	410,641
Magpie	6	3	9	159					
Jackdaw	11	31	42	240					
Rook	1	70	71	993					

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1993

Key to the symbols and terms used in the following list of recoveries:

Recoveries are arranged by species. The ringing details are contained on the first line and the recovery date on the second. Age when ringed is given according to the "EURING" code. These figures DO NOT represent age in years.

- 1 = Pullus, nestling or chick.
- 2 = Full grown, but year of hatching unknown.
- 3 = Hatched during the calendar year of ringing.
- 4 = Hatched before current year, exact age unknown.
- 5 = Hatched during previous calendar year.
- 6 = Hatched 2 or more calendar years before, exact age unknown.
- 8 = Hatched 3 or more calendar years before, exact age unknown.
- 12 = Hatched more than 5 calendar years before, exact age unknown.
- J = Still in juvenile plumage when ringed.

Sex: M = Male F = Female

Manner of recovery:

v = caught or trapped by ringer & released vb = breeding when controlled
 vv = ring number read in field + = shot or killed by man
 x = found dead or dying ? = manner of recovery unknown
 Movements: Where given, distances and directions are approximate

Brent Goose

4F 23.07.89 Taimyr-Delta West, Taimyr, SIBERIA
 V 30.01.93 Kirton Marsh, Boston. 5125km SW

4M 31.08.90 AS ABOVE
 V 30.01.93

4F 31.08.90 AS ABOVE
 V 30.01.93

Kestrel

1 01.07.90 Baston, Bourne
 X 18.10.93 Hambridge, Somerset 256km SW

Oystercatcher

8 07.09.86 Friskney
 X 13.01.93 Tydd Pumping Station, Cambs 36km S

8 05.10.75 Gibraltar Point
 XF 17.01.93 River Nene, Nr Wisbech, Cambs 48km SSW

5 03.08.92 Butterwick
 X 24.02.93 Hemblington, Norfolk. 99km ESE

Many Oystercatchers died of starvation on the Wash during the 1992/93 winter (See BTO News Issue No 185). These three examples are recoveries of birds desperately searching for food at inland sites where Oystercatchers are not usually found.

8 08.09.75 Friskney
 v 21.08.89 Friskney
 XF 06.01.93 Westende, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM 27km SE

8 22.09.86 Friskney
 X 10.03.93 Sunnan, Nord-Trondelag, NORWAY 1389km NNE

8 05.10.75 Gibraltar Point
 X 30.05.93 Eide, NORWAY 1089km NE

6 11.12.88 Friskney
 V 29.08.92 Holwerd Oost, Friesland, THE NETHERLANDS 378km E
 X 20.10.92 Moddergat Sea Dyke, Friesland, THE NETHERLANDS 389km

Grey Plover

6 09.09.83 Friskney
 XF 31.05.93 Engellau, Schleswig-Holstein, F R GERMANY 691km E

Dunlin

4 06.05.93 River Alvor, Faro, Algarve, PORTUGAL
 V 21.07.93 North Sea Camp, Boston 1880km NNE

This Dunlin was caught on northward migration on the River Alvor in Portugal by members of the Wash Wader Group and controlled on the return southward migration through the Wash in July!

4 26.08.76 Benington
 V 24.07.93 North Sea Camp

* Retrapped nearly 17 years after ringing.

4 30.08.91 Butterwick Marsh
 V 15.07.92 Silverstensbukten, Vaasa, FINLAND 1794km NE

Woodcock

3 09.11.91 Theddlethorpe Dunes
 + 02.01.93 Sutton Broad, Stalham, Norfolk 110km SE

Black-tailed Godwit

4F(B) 8.6.93 Sjavarborg, Borgarsveit, Skagafjardar, ICELAND.
 V 22.08.93 Holbeach St Matthew. 1805km SE
 * This record represents the third Icelandic-ringed Black-tailed Godwit to be found in Britain.

3 24.10.77 River Butley, Orford, Suffolk.
 V 18.09.93 Holbeach St Matthew 127km NW
 Extends the national longevity record for this species (previously 10 years 1 month).

Black-headed Gull

4 12.01.95 Boston
 X 13.06.93 Overmalan, Narpes Vaasa, FINLAND. 1655km NE

1 10.06.91 Rusne, Silute, LITHUANIA.
 V 30.07.92 Wrangle 1402km WSW

1 31.05.80 Hanover, F R GERMANY
 X 15.08.91 Friskney, Nr Boston 661km W
 * Killed whilst following the plough!

4 14.12.84 Keil, F R GERMANY
 V 13.03.93 Wyberton 685km W

Common Gull

1 28.06.88 Salthorn, Sjaelland, DENMARK.
 V 13.03.93 Wyberton 880km WSW

1 21.06.90 Dragsfjord, FINLAND
 X 06.01.91 Walesby 1561km SW

Herring Gull

1 23.07.92 Isle of May, Fife.
 V 03.03.93 Wyberton 395km NNW

8 30.11.91 Wyberton
 X 17.01.93 Culross, Fife. 414km NW

5 28.11.92 Wyberton
 vv 17.04.93 Nr Rotterdam, THE NETHERLANDS 323km E

Common Tern

1 09.07.92 Baston Fen
 W 19.12.92 Released on ship, Nouadhibou, MAURETANIA 3817km WSW

1 26.06.87 West Deeping
 X 02.05.93 Kingsbury, Warwick 95km WSW

Sand Martin

6M 22.03.91 Parc National Du Djoudj, SENEGAL
 V 31.07.91 Calceby Nr Louth 4335km NNE

4F 08.07.92 Spalding
 V 26.12.92 Parc Natinal Du Djoudj, SENEGAL 4287km SSW

Other movements involving Lincolnshire birds within the UK
Icklesham Sussex (6 birds), Kent (3), Herefordshire (2), Essex (1) and Cambs (1).

Blackbird

6F 18.01.92 Bourne
X 15.09.93 off Halmstad, Halland, SWEDEN 955km NE

6F 02.02.92 Owston Ferry
X 25.04.93 Hamburg, F R GERMANY 714km E

3F 21.11.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes
X 16.04.93 Ikast, Jylland, DENMARK 650km ENE

4M 06.11.91 Theddlethorpe Dunes
X 08.01.92 Agard, Jylland, DENMARK 643km ENE

3M 27.10.91 Theddlethorpe Dunes
X 21.08.92 Tveit, Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY 745km NE

3F 25.10.90 Seacroft, Skegness
X 15.10.92 Linköping, Ostergotland, SWEDEN 1119km NE

6F 18.01.92 Bourne
X 15.09.93 Off Halmstad, Halland, SWEDEN 955km NE

Redwing

3 14.10.92 Market Rasen
X 19.11.92 Bilbao, SPAIN 1138km SSW

Reed Warbler

3 04.09.93 Ido, Soderfjarden, Sodermanland, SWEDEN
V 03.10.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes 1217km WSW

Sedge Warbler

3 31.08.93 Slevdalsvatnet, Farsund, NORWAY
V 18.09.93 Gibraltar Point 681km SW

Garden Warbler

4 25.08.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
V 15.08.93 Conon Islands, Maryburgh, Highland 551km NNW

Blackcap

3M 20.09.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes
X 30.04.93 Munster, F R GERMANY 461km E

3M 07.09.92 Herselt, BELGIUM
V 27.09.92 Saltfleet 414km NW

3JM 10.8.92 Donington-on Bain
X 08.03.93 Birmendereis, ALGERIA 1861km S

Chiffchaff

3JM 18.7.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes
V 21.11.92 Parc National, Oiseaux De Djoudj, SENEGAL 4355km SSW

Willow Warbler

4M 18.05.92 Lokskar, Huvudskar, Stockholm, SWEDEN
V 30.09.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes 1293km SW

Goldcrest

3M 09.10.93 North Ronaldsay, Orkney
V 25.10.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes 686km SSE
12.11.93

3F 26.09.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes
08.04.93 Fair Isle, Bird Observatory 694km N

Blue Tit

3JF 6.8.92 West Burton, Notts
V 03.02.93 Immingham 42km ENE

3 08.10.92 Harthill, South Yorkshire
19.01.93 Nettleham 51km SE

Starling

1 31.05.92 Virolahti, Kymi, FINLAND
V 14.02.93 Bardney 1874km SW

5M 24.01.92 Lincoln
V 20.05.93 Sennells, Thy, Jylland, DENMARK 729km ENE

4F 10.11.91 Westkapelle, W-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM
V 01.01.92 Boston 292km NW

1 13.06.88 Saltholm, Sjaelland, DENMARK
V 01.01.92 Boston 879km WSW

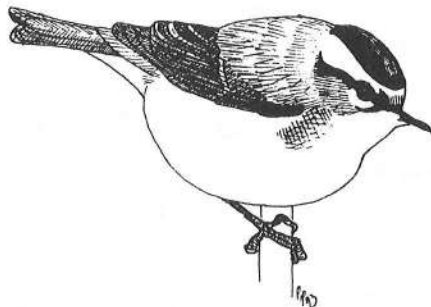
4M 26.10.91 Kennemerduinen, THE NETHERLANDS
V 08.01.92 Boston 314km W

5M 06.02.93 Immingham
X 05.04.93 Bunsoh, F R GERMANY 614km E

1 29.05.92 Odsal, SWEDEN.
X 30.03.93 Immingham 905km SW

Redpoll

3M 12.09.91 Theddlethorpe Dunes
V 23.05.93 Eyemouth, Borders Region 316km NNW



Additional species which have been recorded in Lincolnshire but not during 1993.

White-billed Diver.....	One dead 1976	Black Guillemot.....	11 last 1985
Cory's Shearwater.....	Two 1985, 1988	Pallas's Sandgrouse.....	None since 1899
Great Shearwater.....	9 last 1977	Rufous Turtle Dove.....	One 1975
Mediterranean Shearwater.....	7 last 1989	Great Spotted Cuckoo.....	Two 1971 and 1974
Little Bittern.....	9 last 1978	Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	Two 1978 and 1987
Night Heron.....	9 last 1990	Scops Owl.....	One 1977
Squacco Heron.....	Two 1861 & 1910	Eagle Owl.....	One 1879
Cattle Egret.....	6 last 1992	Snowy Owl.....	One 1990-1991
Purple Heron.....	21 last 1991	Tengmalm's Owl.....	One 1880
Black Stork.....	One 1984	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.....	One 1989
White Stork.....	10 last 1986	Bee-eater.....	21 last 1988
Glossy Ibis.....	6 last 1976	Roller.....	6 last 1983
Lesser White-fronted Goose.....	One 1943	Short-toed Lark.....	2 (3) last 1991
Red-breasted Goose.....	3 or 4 last 1985	Red-rumped Swallow.....	7 last 1988
American Wigeon.....	3 last 1991	Olive-backed Pipit.....	4 last 1992
Blue-winged Teal.....	5 last 1982	Red-throated Pipit.....	2 1977, 1992
Ferruginous Duck.....	12 last 1981	Citrine Wagtail.....	One 1983
White-tailed Eagle.....	20 last 1990	Rufous Bush Robin.....	One 1963
Golden Eagle.....	5 last 1927-28	Thrush Nightingale.....	3 last 1984
Red-footed Falcon.....	21 last 1990	Red-flanked Bluetail.....	3 last 1988
Gyr Falcon.....	Two 1826 and 1900	Desert Wheatear.....	Two 1970 & 1991
Black Grouse.....	last 1935	Lanceolated Warbler.....	One 1909
Spotted Crake.....	last 1989	Savi's Warbler.....	6 last 1992
Little Crake.....	Two 1869 and 1910	Aquatic Warbler.....	Two 1971 & 1979
Corncrake.....	Last 1992	Blyth's Reed Warbler.....	One 1991
Little Bustard.....	5 last 1955	Great Reed Warbler.....	6 last 1990
Houbara Bustard.....	One 1847	Booted Warbler.....	One 1980
Great Bustard.....	bred 1800's last 1902	Dartford Warbler.....	One 1984
Stone Curlew.....	last 1990	Subalpine Warbler.....	5 last 1985
Cream-coloured Courser.....	One about 1840	Sardinian Warbler.....	Two 1979 & 1986
Collared Pratincole.....	4 last 1981	Greenish Warbler.....	10 last 1984
Kentish Plover.....	last 1990	Arctic Warbler.....	6 last 1986
Greater Sand Plover.....	One 1981	Radde's Warbler.....	4 last 1990
Semi-palmated Sandpiper.....	One 1966	Dusky Warbler.....	5 last 1990
Baird's Sandpiper.....	3 last 1979	Pallas's Leaf Warbler.....	24 last 1992
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	76 last 1992	Penduline Tit.....	Two in 1991
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.....	Two 1982 and 1985	Isabelline Shrike.....	3 last 1990
Broad-billed Sandpiper.....	6 last 1992	Lesser Grey Shrike.....	4 last 1990
Stilt Sandpiper.....	Two 1963 and 1965	Woodchat Shrike.....	6 last 1992
Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	5 last 1989	Nutcracker.....	7 last 1976
Great Snipe.....	7 recent last 1984	Raven.....	last 1980
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	3 last 1986	Rose-coloured Starling.....	10 last 1987
Hudsonian Godwit.....	One 1981	Arctic Redpoll.....	15 last 1991
Marsh Sandpiper.....	3 last 1992	Two-barred Crossbill.....	One 1889
Lesser Yellowlegs.....	8 last 1990	Parrot Crossbill.....	67+ last 1991
Solitary Sandpiper.....	One 1963	Common Rosefinch.....	8 last 1992
Spotted Sandpiper.....	Two 1970 and 1971	American Redstart.....	One 1982
Wilson's Phalarope.....	9 last 1987	Northern Waterthrush.....	One 1988
Grey Phalarope.....	last 1990	Girl Bunting.....	4 last 1977
Laughing Gull.....	4 last 1984	Ortolan Bunting.....	31 last 1992
Bonaparte's Gull.....	One 1979	Little Bunting.....	3 last 1980
Ring-billed Gull.....	3 last 1992	Yellow-breasted Bunting.....	One 1977
Gull-billed Tern.....	5 last 1978	Black-headed Bunting.....	Two 1974 & 1980
Caspian Tern.....	8 last 1992		
Whiskered Tern.....	One 1987		

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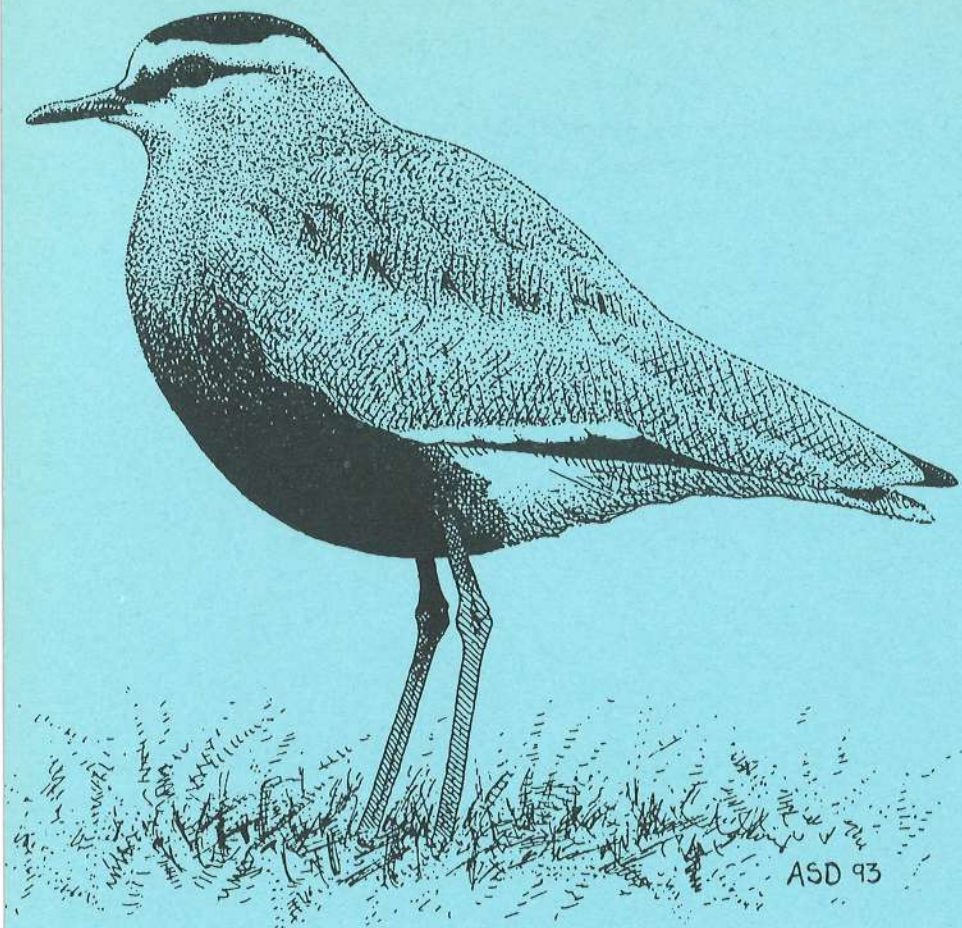
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