

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1994

Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report

Systematic List

Wetland Bird Survey
The Wash, Humber and Inland Waters

County Ringing Report

Rarities Account
Alpine Accentor

Nothern Bullfinches in Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire Bird Club

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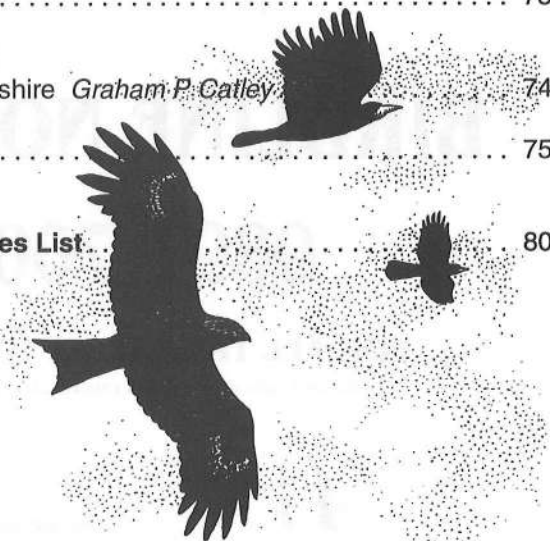
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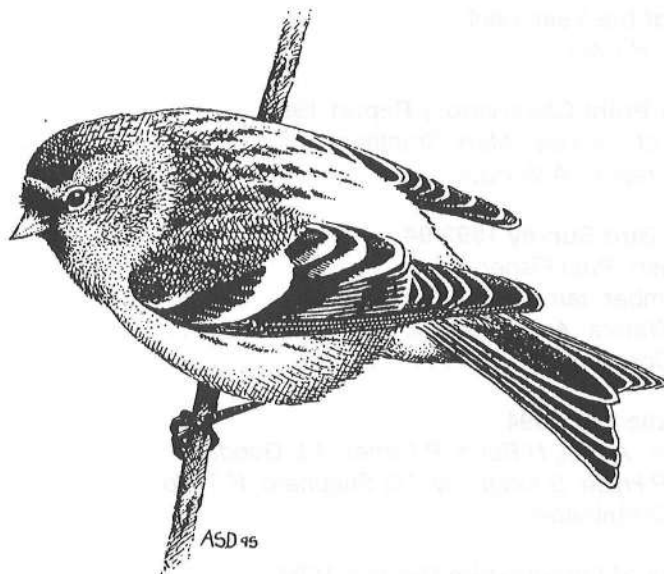
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REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1994

Compiled by Graham Catley

Three Little Egrets, the Black-bellied Dipper and a Yellow Wagtail survived the early winter period and the continuing mild weather showed in the low numbers of both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls reported at both ends of the year. The early year also brought a southerly movement of Shags for the second year running. Birds again arrived in good numbers and in odd places, with a particularly noteworthy bird roosting on Lincoln Cathedral at one stage. Wildfowl showing well included Pink-footed Goose, with a record total (for recent years) on the Humber, and the New Holland Pochard flock which reached 2000 for the first time. Good totals of Bewick's Swans wintered and there was a marked spring passage of Pink-feet heading north to Iceland during February and March. Also prominent were Stonechats with good numbers present until March, following a good winter for the species. That eye-catching sprite the Firecrest wintered in unprecedented numbers following a good autumn passage in 1993 and there were good numbers again on passage in both spring and autumn 1994, another welcome return.

The spring held a real mix of avian vagrants from several points of the compass, ranging from southern Mediterranean overshoots to Scandinavian migrants drifted across the North Sea by those hoped-for late-May easterlies. Early excitement arrived in late April with Red-rumped Swallow and Penduline Tit, both alas one-day wonders, soon followed by no less than three Purple Herons, four Spoonbills, up to four Black Kites, two Hoopoes, three Golden orioles, the first inland Woodchat Shrike, a Serin and three Stone-curlews (all at Gib Point again; how many occur on the Wolds and Heath?). With record totals of Red-footed Falcons in the UK in 1993 Lincolnshire birders somehow managed to miss them all. Thus for two to appear in a poor year for the species in 1994 was even more of a surprise, with the female at Kirkby Moor delighting large numbers of entranced visitors during its stay. Very high totals of Knot gathered in the Wash and another co-ordinated spring count of Sanderling on the Humber demonstrated again just how important this area is for this species in spring. Little Stints were in relatively good numbers for spring but had a poor autumn, together with most of the eastern waders. A good drift of Scandinavian vagrants late in May turned in two stunning Bluethroats, a very elusive male Rustic Bunting in the same bush as a Marsh Warbler, two Wrynecks, a Thrush Nightingale (close to a female Red-footed Falcon!) and no less than six Red-backed shrikes, with one in suitable breeding territory no doubt just waiting for a passing female.

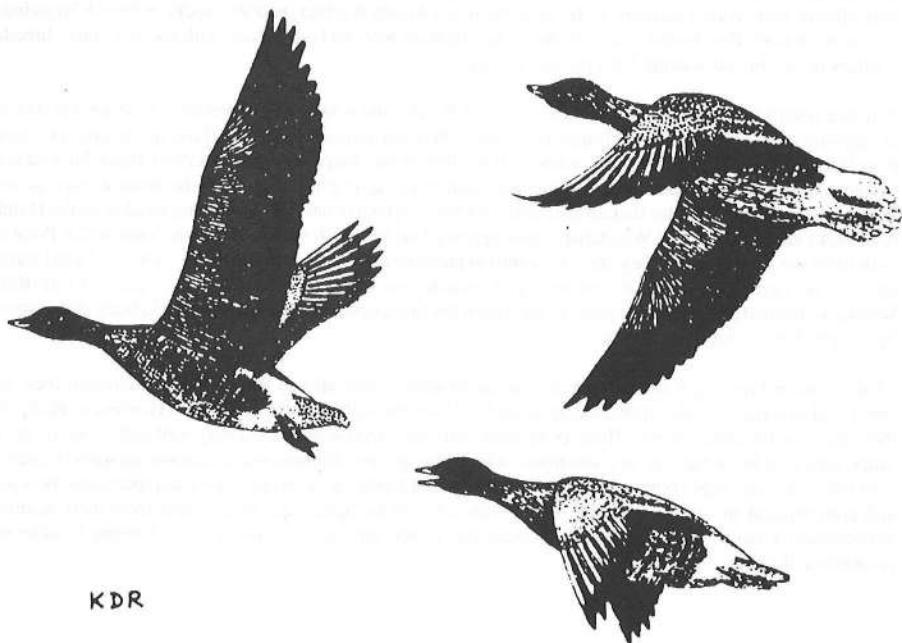
Summer continued to produce good birds, with both Pacific and American Golden Plovers again, but this year at opposite ends of the county, a trapped Subalpine Warbler providing our first June record and a Common Rosefinch; when will they breed, or when will we find them? Huge numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls frequented the Messingham area, feeding on open-plan pig-rearing sites, and the earliest ever juvenile White-winged Black Tern for Britain also arrived at Messingham in late July, following an adult on the Humber two weeks earlier. A second Woodchat Shrike appeared on the Wash with a Common Crane at Gib Point and both liked the sites so much they stayed on until September and October respectively. A Storm Petrel trapped on the coast demonstrated the incredible nightly wanderings of this small seabird and a party of four Ruddy Shelducks formed part of what appears to have been the first known genuine arrival of wild birds of this species in western Europe for over 50 years.

Of the scarcer breeding birds Cormorants increased again, Gadwall and Ruddy Ducks continued their slow spread, Marsh Harriers also increased again and total numbers of recorded Montagu's Harriers were high but there were no breeding records. Hobbies again defied accurate assessment but may well still be on the up, but Snipe appear to be on the way to extinction as a breeding species. Summer migrants showing signs of decrease in numbers and/or range contraction included Cuckoo and Turtle Dove. Woodlarks again spread into new areas and consolidated in others; will they ever break out into marginal agricultural land from their heathland strongholds? Finally Mediterranean Gulls again had mixed fortunes with hybrids still forming a rather high proportion of the breeding population.

Although the autumn was one of the best of recent years for rare eastern migrants and vagrants on the East Coast, with one or two notable exceptions, Lincolnshire did not really share in the bumper harvest. Seawatching produced good numbers of Gannets in mid September, with the totals of 78 Manx and 44 Sooty Shearwaters and fairly good numbers of Pomarine and Long-tailed Skuas being moderate for the county but poor in relation to other good years. A good fall of Scandinavian migrants in September brought in decent numbers of Whinchats, Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers together with seven Barred, five Icterine and eight Wood Warblers and 13 Wrynecks, with the earliest ever county Siberian Stonechat. A second American Golden Plover arrived and Black-tailed Godwit flocks on the Humber showed a further increase.

The easterly element of the late autumn brought 10+ Richard's Pipits, 16 Yellow-browed Warblers and a record total of seven Pallas's Warblers, while nominate Bullfinches made their own impact. Away from passerines the Apex roost attracted a vast gathering of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a coastal influx of common and Rough-legged Buzzards led to good wintering numbers of both species. Good flocks of Pink-footed Geese and Whooper Swans passed south in mid November but it was another passerine which eventually added one more species to the county list, when an Alpine Accentor was located at Saltfleetby. Probably one of the least predictable of county additions, this superb bird seemed almost at home in its chosen micro-environment along the outer edge of the dunes.

In general the year proved to be a poor one for Garganey, with only 5 records, Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Dotterel, Curlew Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Great Grey Shrike and both Long- and Short-eared Owls. On a more positive note, Wood Sandpipers showed signs of a come-back in both spring and autumn, Northern Wheatears had a good double passage and even Shorelarks appear to be recovering. Smew seem to be more regular at two sites, five of the Red Kites were wing-tagged birds, an expected sign of the times, but Peregrines continued to show well unaided and a summer bird on Lincoln Cathedral offers hope of a new breeding species if only a pair could find the site. Common Crossbills had a good spring migration but then evaporated to nothing in the later year, while that most elusive of finches, the superb Hawfinch, produced four coastal sightings: perhaps indicative of a foreign arrival, or even an unknown and volatile local population?



GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT 1994

Review of the Year

January-March

With such a mild start to the year, the Reserve was perhaps not surprisingly devoid of winter thrushes and finches. A wetter January did however keep the water level high on the Mere, encouraging a selection of wildfowl to frequent the open water. These included up to 9 **Goldeneye** and a red-head **Goosander**, whilst on adjacent fields a herd of **Bewick's Swans** reached 40 birds by February. Skeins of **Pink-footed Geese** were regularly seen, 225 on January 6th being the peak count.

At sea, unprecedented numbers of **Shag** were recorded, doubtless forced into unfavourable feeding areas by depleted fish stocks. The 58 birds heading south on February 17th beat the previous Observatory record by 54! Also around this time, records of 6 **Velvet Scoter** and 30 **Scaup** were notable, as unfortunately were the 30 **Guillemots** and other seabirds picked up dead on the beach.

On the rarity front, the period was quiet, except for the presence of two **Little Egrets** around the reserve, eventually remaining into June. A 3rd-winter **Glaucous Gull** spent a single afternoon on the estuary before going to roost, and a **Mediterranean Gull** was also seen there in late March. Returning for its second winter 'our' wing-tagged **Hen Harrier**, initially marked on Islay, was seen again at the local roost.

By March, temperatures were looking good, with clement weather bringing in our earliest records yet of **White Wagtail**, **Tree Pipit** and **House Martin**.

April-June

A month later however the weather had turned undecided, a cold April swiftly following a warm March. This spring period often produces some interesting passage migrants and this year was no exception. On the raptor front single **Red Kites** were recorded in April and June, and 3 **Ospreys** were seen, one bird followed 20 minutes later by the fourth Observatory record of **Black Kite**. We also saw our earliest ever **Honey Buzzard** on April 26th and had almost daily records of **Marsh Harrier**. More classic spring migrants also appeared in good numbers, April turning up a drake **Garganey** (another earliest record to date) on the Freshwater Marsh and at least 8 **Firecrests** and 3 **Black Redstarts**, followed by **Golden Oriole**, **Quail**, our eighth **Nightjar** record, a male **Bluetthroat** and 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** in the last week of May. Equally interesting were a long-staying **Green Woodpecker** (for 4 weeks), an influx of **Jays** peaking at 19 individuals on May 19th and 2 flyover **Spoonbills**, later seen on the North Norfolk coast. The highlight of the month however came in the form of a male **Penduline Tit** seen one evening at Shoveler's Pool, a frustratingly brief Observatory first and only the third Lincolnshire record.

Resident species had mixed fortunes, with the breeding season starting early due to mild weather but then being badly hit by a cold snap in May, with an overnight frost at the month's end. Many insectivorous species fared better with their replacement clutches however, as insect populations thrived after the wet spring; species such as **Willow Warbler** increased 100% on 1993. Notable declines were again recorded for **Turtle Dove** and some grassland species, including a 60% drop in **Reed Bunting** territories since 1990. First breeding records for the Observatory were **Treecreeper** in the Plantation and 4 pairs of **Black-headed Gulls** on the lagoon.

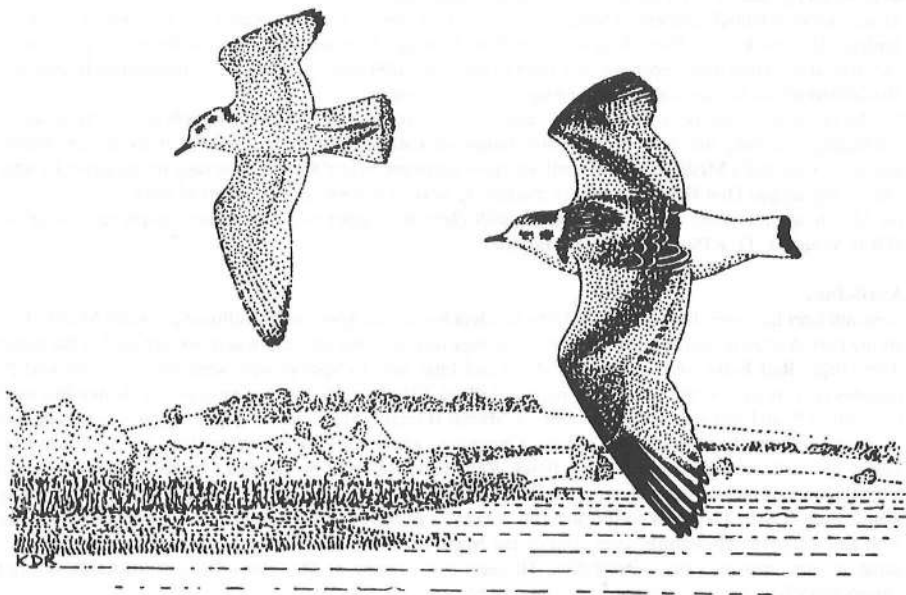
June passed quickly, only highlighted by another **Red-backed Shrike**, a **Scarlet Rosefinch** found at Aylmer Avenue and the first sighting of a **Crane** which then remained around the estuary for most of the summer.

July-September

On the estuary the **Crane** was well-watched, it's 'electric Moorhen' call audible from as far away as the Mere. It was intriguing to see it on the beach with roosting gulls, including a fine summer-plumaged **Mediterranean Gull**. Not so pleasing was the lack of success of shorebirds this year, with **Little Terns** drawing their first complete blank since 1987, mainly due to fox predation.

August saw the onset of return migration, commencing with a southward **Honey Buzzard** on 21st. North-easterly winds in the second week of September then coaxed observers into the field with the promise of good sea-watching. Most were not disappointed, with all four skua species recorded (including 3 **Long-tailed Skuas** on 16th), a single **Sabine's Gull**, several **Sooty Shearwater** and **Little Gulls** and a large

shearwater, possibly a Cory's, seen distantly. August's rarest migrant however was a **Yellow-winged Darter**, *Sympetrum flaveolum*, a continental vagrant dragonfly only sporadically recorded in Britain. In the dunes three **Wrynecks** were recorded on 17th, the first taking some 45 minutes to relocate on the Storm Ridge in drizzling rain. More remarkable was a string of **Yellow-browed Warblers** during September and October, involving between 9 and 12 individuals, two of them trapped in the East Dunes. Other scarce migrants included a very elusive **Icterine Warbler** and two **Richard's Pipits** on the New Saltmarsh and Golf Course.



October-December

Repeating the 1993-94 winter, this period was again marked by very mild weather, with consequently a dearth of finches and thrushes. Our run of **Yellow-browed Warblers** continued, following the national trend; similarly in line with the rest of the coast the Observatory's 3rd **Pallas's Warbler** was trapped in the East Dunes on November 3rd. Other rarity interest came in the form of several **Rough-legged Buzzards**, including up to 3 on a single day.

More characteristic of cold weather were the flocks of waders on the estuary, with counts of 17,000 **Lapwing** and 8,600 **Golden Plover** tripling previous maxima. High tide sequences were a real spectacle at this time, as these birds were joined by up to 30,000 **Knot** and 8,000 **Oystercatchers**.

During the early part of the winter, work in the East Dunes revealed very good numbers of **Water Rail** in the flooded dune slacks. Up to 10 were seen and heard in just one area, with other birds screaming elsewhere. Equally unexpected were several winter records of **Woodlark**, though these probably refer to one or two resident individuals, including a singing male on December 19th! The year ended as it had begun, with the appearance of a **Little Egret** in the last week of December, bringing the year full-cycle.

The Gibraltar Point Annual Report includes a systematic list of all bird species recorded plus reports of ringing and surveys and accounts of many other aspects of the reserve's natural history. For availability, please see last page of this report.

Mark Grantham

Ringling Report

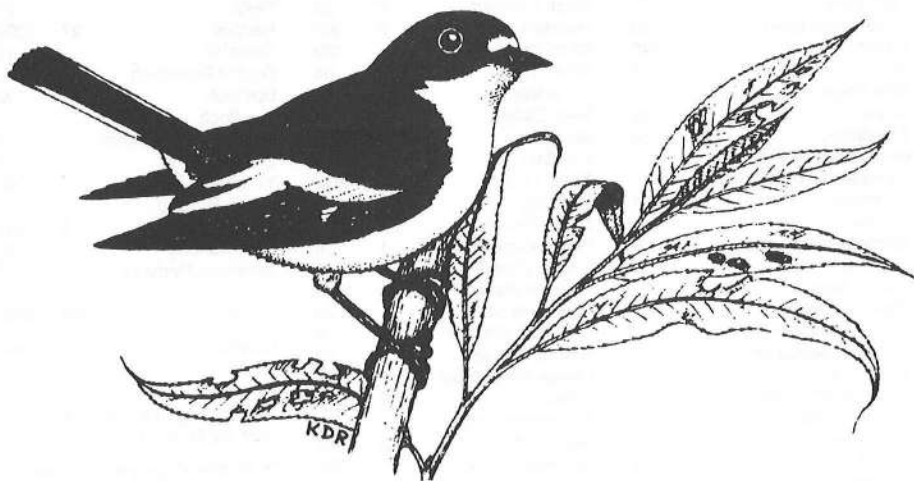
Once again I have to report a decrease in the number of birds ringed at the Observatory; the 1994 total, 1046 birds of 49 species, was 29% down on the previous year. A major cause of this low total was a drop in the number of ringing groups and individuals who stayed during the autumn migration. Normally we expect at least 3 groups, but this year we had only one. The only records during the first eight and a half months were those from the Constant Effort Site (CES) programme in the West Dunes, now in its 5th consecutive year. We were able to manage all the required visits for the CES thanks to help from Anne Goodall, who was able to stand in for me on occasion. Unfortunately the CES in 'Buckthorn', started by Ken Winfield has been discontinued since Ken was unable to carry out any ringing this year due to work commitments.

All is not gloom however, for during the latter part of the autumn a new burst of ringing enthusiasm came in the form of Ed Mackrill, Mark Grantham and John Walker, who must be thanked for their input. A diverse spread of migrants were caught during this period, including the Observatory's second ever Pallas's Warbler.

This year, alongside the totals for 1994, I have also tabulated the totals for all species since ringing commenced at Gibraltar Point. From these grand totals we can see that three species have now reached the 10,000 mark, making Blackbird, Dunnock and Willow Warbler the most-ringed species at the Observatory.

As in past years I would like to thank the reserve staff for their input into ringing via the maintenance of ringing rides and observatory facilities. With the backing of the people mentioned in this report we look forward to a very productive year in 1995.

A W Paul
Ringing Secretary



Gibraltar Point Ringing Totals 1994

| Species | 94 Total | Grand Total | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|------|--------|--|
| Little Grebe | - | 5 | Turtle Dove | - | 107 | Goldcrest | 178 | 5505 | |
| Manx Shearwater | - | 3 | Cuckoo | - | 225 | Firecrest | 1 | 49 | |
| Leach's Petrel | - | 2 | Barn Owl | - | 11 | Spotted Flycatcher | 1 | 498 | |
| Gannet | - | 1 | Little Owl | - | 12 | Red-breasted Flycatcher | - | 11 | |
| Shag | - | 1 | Tawny Owl* | 2 | 6 | Pied Flycatcher | 1 | 1427 | |
| Grey Heron | - | 1 | Long-eared Owl | - | 24 | Bearded Tit | - | 2 | |
| Shelduck | - | 2 | Short-eared Owl | - | 12 | Long-tailed Tit | 31 | 698 | |
| Wigeon | - | 1 | Nightjar | - | 2 | Marsh Tit | - | 5 | |
| Teal | - | 1 | Swift | - | 5 | Willow Tit | - | 115 | |
| Mallard | - | 12 | Kingfisher | - | 43 | Coal Tit | 1 | 108 | |
| Montagu's Harrier* | - | 2 | Wryneck | 1 | 58 | Blue Tit | 77 | 5137 | |
| Sparrowhawk | 9 | 86 | Green Woodpecker | - | 5 | Great Tit | 18 | 1687 | |
| Kestrel | 1 | 52 | Gt Spotted Woodpecker | - | 39 | Nuthatch | - | 1 | |
| Merlin | - | 1 | Lr Spotted Woodpecker | - | 1 | Tree creeper | - | 45 | |
| R-I Partridge** | - | 43 | Skylark | - | 913 | Golden Oriole | - | 1 | |
| Grey Partridge | - | 24 | Shorelark | - | 11 | Red-backed Shrike | - | 9 | |
| Pheasant | - | 36 | Sand Martin | - | 40 | Great Grey Shrike | 1 | 8 | |
| Water Rail | - | 17 | Swallow | 9 | 6033 | Jay | 2 | 14 | |
| Corncrake | - | 1 | House Martin | - | 101 | Maggie | - | 104 | |
| Moorhen | - | 8 | Tree Pipit | 1 | 93 | Jackdaw | - | 12 | |
| Coot | - | 1 | Meadow Pipit | 1 | 1676 | Hooded Crow | - | 1 | |
| Oystercatcher | - | 602 | Rock Pipit | - | 14 | Starling | 5 | 3813 | |
| Little R Plover | - | 7 | Yellow Wagtail | - | 46 | Rose-coloured Starling* | - | 1 | |
| Ringed Plover | - | 740 | Pied Wagtail | - | 32 | House Sparrow | 6 | 7747 | |
| Golden Plover | - | 1 | Waxwing | - | 2 | Tree Sparrow | - | 4505 | |
| Grey Plover | - | 12 | Wren | 81 | 3405 | Chaffinch | 32 | 1898 | |
| Lapwing | - | 27 | Duncock | 109 | 12086 | Brambling | 2 | 607 | |
| Knot | - | 131 | Rufous Bush Robin* | - | 1 | Greenfinch | 6 | 3454 | |
| Sanderling | - | 142 | Robin | 54 | 3824 | Goldfinch | 19 | 2687 | |
| Little Stint | - | 24 | Nightingale | - | 14 | Siskin | 1 | 101 | |
| Curlew Sandpiper | - | 23 | Bluethroat | - | 10 | Linnet | 2 | 3225 | |
| Dunlin | - | 745 | Black Redstart | 2 | 29 | Twite | - | 173 | |
| Ruff | - | 5 | Redstart | 2 | 1502 | Redpoll | 27 | 3209 | |
| Jack Snipe | - | 14 | Whinchat | - | 429 | Crossbill | - | 19 | |
| Snipe | - | 26 | Stonechat | - | 38 | Scarlet Rosefinch | - | 2 | |
| Woodcock | 1 | 54 | Wheatear | 1 | 301 | Bullfinch | - | 792 | |
| Black-tailed Godwit | - | 1 | Ring Ouzel | - | 66 | Hawfinch | - | 1 | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | - | 13 | Blackbird | 115 | 13182 | Northern Waterthrush | - | 1 | |
| Whimbrel | - | 1 | Fieldfare | 7 | 879 | Snow Bunting | - | 215 | |
| Curlew | - | 1 | Song Thrush | 52 | 4973 | Yellowhammer | - | 765 | |
| Spotted Redshank | - | 4 | Redwing | 54 | 1698 | Rustic Bunting | - | 1 | |
| Redshank | - | 80 | Mistle Thrush | - | 209 | Reed Bunting | 8 | 3443 | |
| Greenshank | - | 3 | Grasshopper Warbler | 1 | 18 | Corn Bunting | - | 55 | |
| Green Sandpiper | - | 5 | Sedge Warbler | - | 1076 | American Redstart | - | 1 | |
| Wood Sandpiper | - | 2 | Reed Warbler | 3 | 1536 | | | | |
| Common Sandpiper | - | 33 | Icterine Warbler | - | 23 | | | | |
| Turnstone | - | 6 | Sardinian Warbler | - | 2 | | | | |
| Black-headed Gull | - | 86 | Barred Warbler | - | 57 | | | | |
| Common Gull | - | 64 | Lesser Whitethroat | 13 | 2315 | | | | |
| Arctic Tern | - | 1 | Whitethroat | 18 | 7692 | | | | |
| Little Tern | - | 254 | Subalpine Warbler | - | 1 | | | | |
| Guillemot | - | 1 | Garden Warbler | 6 | 1482 | | | | |
| Razorbill | - | 1 | Blackcap | 48 | 2780 | | | | |
| Little Auk | - | 2 | Greenish Warbler | - | 3 | | | | |
| Puffin | - | 1 | Arctic Warbler | - | 1 | | | | |
| Stock Dove | - | 70 | Pallas' Warbler | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| Woodpigeon | 1 | 226 | Yellow-browed Warbler | 2 | 13 | | | | |
| Collared Dove | - | 13 | Wood Warbler | - | 47 | | | | |
| | | | Chiffchaff | 4 | 790 | | | | |
| | | | Willow Warbler | 28 | 13091 | | | | |
| | | | | | | Totals | 1046 | 138959 | |
| | | | | | | Species | 49 | 162 | |

* Birds ringed at sites away from the Reserve

** Further ringing of this species is now prohibited by the BTO

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY 1993-94

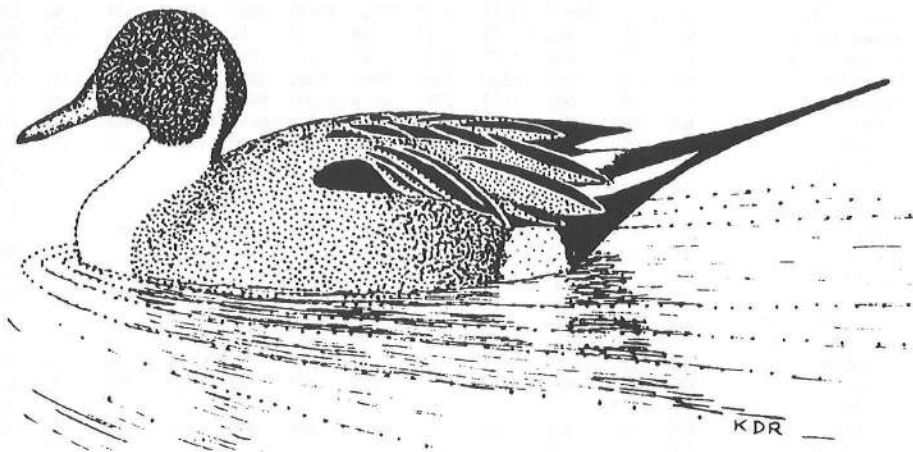
The Wash

The Wash is the most important estuary in the United Kingdom for wintering and migrating waterfowl and second only to the Wadden See in Europe. More than 15% of all the UK's wildfowl and waders counted by WeBS in winter occur on this single estuary. In order to count the Wash it is divided into 22 sectors, 17 of which are in Lincolnshire. I took up the reins as WeBS organiser this year and I would like to thank Bob Lord, my predecessor, not only for all his work over the years but also for making the transition so easy. The counts could not be done at all without the tremendous effort of all those people who turn out every month, rain or shine. James Cadbury, Norfolk organiser, and I thank you all.

Some interesting trends continue. Despite the continuing increase of Pink-footed Geese in the Norfolk part of the Wash, where this winter's peak count was 45952, there is no sign of any recovery in Lincolnshire. Brent Geese appear to be declining slightly since the peak of 1992. The long-term slight increase in Shelduck wintering numbers continues, but Pintail numbers are back to the levels of the mid 1960's following the large peak in the 1980s. It seems likely that many of them have moved their allegiance to the Nene and Ouse Washes. Of the waders, three species continue to show dramatic increases. Lapwing and Golden Plover populations in winter have grown hugely in the 1990s, although the December 1992 peak of 50616 was not repeated this year. Black-tailed Godwits have also increased since the late 1980s, not only in the winter but especially so on autumn migration - over 1000 present in September. Conversely the wintering numbers of Grey Plover and Knot appear to be declining slightly, though the steady increase in spring and autumn numbers of Grey Plover continues. The numbers of Oystercatchers in winter appear to be recovering since the bad winter of 1991-92, with a distinct improvement during the autumn passage.

Every Wash WeBS/BoEE count ever undertaken in the Wash, since 1969, is now entered into a computer database. The total number of bird records exceeds 65000 and the analysis of counts becomes relatively simple. I hope that a full account of the status of the Wash's birds will appear in a future Report.

Paul Fisher



Lincolnshire Wash Totals

| | | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | |
|----------------------|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|----|
| Red-throated Diver | RH | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 13 | 5 | - | - | - | RH |
| Black-throated Diver | BV | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | BV |
| Little Grebe | LG | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | LG |
| Great Crested Grebe | GG | 134 | 30 | 33 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 8 | GG |
| Fulmar | F. | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | F. |
| Gannet | GX | 22 | 28 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | GX |
| Cormorant | CA | 205 | 115 | 107 | 82 | 95 | 114 | 91 | 80 | 47 | 37 | CA |
| Shag | SA | - | - | 9 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | SA |
| Little Egret | -- | 1 | 5 | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | -- |
| Grey Heron | H. | 32 | 34 | 40 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 | H. |
| Mute Swan | MS | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 17 | 4 | - | 2 | MS |
| Bewick's Swan | BS | - | - | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | - | - | - | - | BS |
| Whooper Swan | WS | - | - | 12 | - | 43 | - | 40 | - | 3 | - | WS |
| Pink-footed Goose | PG | - | - | 7 | - | - | 285 | - | - | - | 2 | PG |
| Greylag Goose | GJ | - | - | - | - | - | 65 | - | - | - | 2 | GJ |
| White-fronted Goose | WG | - | - | - | - | 73 | - | - | - | - | - | WG |
| Canada Goose | CG | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | CG |
| Barnacle Goose | BY | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | BY |
| Brent Goose | BG | 13 | 4441 | 12282 | 12264 | 20395 | 19260 | 15266 | 14266 | 5890 | 11591 | BG |
| Ruddy Shelduck | -- | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | -- |
| Shelduck | SU | 545 | 910 | 2807 | 4524 | 6827 | 6077 | 4305 | 1775 | 897 | 457 | SU |
| Wigeon | WN | 14 | 748 | 1833 | 220 | 130 | 1105 | 191 | 3 | - | 1 | WN |
| Gadwall | GA | - | 8 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | GA |
| Teal | T. | 84 | 129 | 297 | 53 | 35 | 126 | 107 | 21 | 10 | - | T. |
| Mallard | MA | 177 | 813 | 923 | 339 | 1182 | 2286 | 715 | 309 | 93 | 110 | MA |
| Pintail | PT | 12 | 34 | 72 | 29 | 48 | 39 | 8 | 3 | - | - | PT |
| Shoveler | SV | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 3 | - | SV |
| Tufted Duck | TU | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | TU |
| Scaup | SP | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | SP |
| Eider | E. | 63 | 38 | 122 | 2 | 41 | 40 | 62 | 76 | 15 | 30 | E. |
| Long-tailed Duck | LN | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | LN |
| Common Scoter | CX | 9 | 70 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - | CX |
| Goldeneye | GN | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 11 | 4 | - | GN |
| R-b Merganser | RM | - | 18 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 14 | 10 | 21 | 7 | 1 | RM |
| Goosander | GD | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | GD |
| Oystercatcher | OC | 14191 | 14928 | 12535 | 8122 | 17843 | 12535 | 9413 | 9376 | 3113 | 2198 | OC |
| Ringed Plover | RP | 868 | 542 | 118 | 17 | 88 | 15 | 37 | 99 | 57 | 631 | RP |
| Golden Plover | GP | 1536 | 920 | 2337 | 2073 | 1442 | 3437 | 915 | 456 | 2260 | 10 | GP |
| Grey Plover | GV | 6294 | 7619 | 8320 | 3495 | 3058 | 2039 | 3878 | 4849 | 1526 | 7378 | GV |
| Lapwing | L. | 623 | 601 | 1093 | 2732 | 6818 | 10035 | 5981 | 84 | 6 | 18 | L. |
| Knot | KN | 2566 | 36518 | 18100 | 17856 | 23967 | 21743 | 16455 | 18859 | 2941 | 14615 | KN |
| Sanderling | SS | 970 | 33 | 50 | 60 | 80 | 40 | 20 | 1401 | 4 | 175 | SS |
| Little Stint | LX | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | LX |
| Curlew Sandpiper | CV | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | CV |
| Purple Sandpiper | PS | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | PS |
| Dunlin | DN | 9641 | 18751 | 16449 | 12148 | 12750 | 14274 | 10625 | 13921 | 5894 | 17981 | DN |
| Ruff | RU | 122 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | RU |
| Jack Snipe | JS | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | JS |
| Snipe | SN | 7 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | SN |
| Black-tailed Godwit | BW | 1699 | 486 | 366 | 128 | - | 310 | - | 44 | - | - | BW |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | BA | 4607 | 9131 | 5330 | 1863 | 1859 | 2338 | 455 | 416 | 55 | 534 | BA |
| Whimbrel | WN | 211 | 159 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 74 | WN |
| Curlew | CU | 3522 | 5853 | 3534 | 1170 | 1175 | 635 | 979 | 827 | 1396 | 82 | CU |
| Spotted Redshank | DR | 675 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | DR |
| Redshank | RK | 1821 | 3888 | 1695 | 398 | 896 | 1280 | 1040 | 894 | 781 | 354 | RK |
| Greenshank | GK | 78 | 105 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | GK |
| Green Sandpiper | GE | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | GE |
| Common Sandpiper | CS | 28 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 21 | CS |
| Turnstone | TT | 685 | 353 | 294 | 4 | 340 | 209 | 236 | 156 | 95 | 159 | TT |

The Humber

Figure 1 shows the coverage of Humber south shore WeBS sectors. Once again there were no complete counts, though coverage did improve after an autumn with poor coverage of the mid and outer estuary.

The data collected over the entire estuary (ie including Yorks north bank), during this and the previous four count seasons, identifies fourteen waterfowl species whose five year average seasonal maxima (1989-90 to 1993-94) exceed the 1% national population criterion for national importance. Nine of those fourteen species also had five year average maxima above the 1% population criterion for international importance. The species involved are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 National/International Importance of Humber Waterfowl

| | 5 year mean Humber max | % British Pop | % International Pop |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Brent Goose | 2509 | 2.5 | 1.0 |
| Shelduck | 4647 | 6.2 | 1.9 |
| Wigeon | 4076 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| Teal | 1801 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Oystercatcher | 6140 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| Golden Plover | 24841 | 9.9 | 1.4 |
| Grey Plover | 2076 | 4.8 | 1.4 |
| Lapwing | 23474 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Knot | 34650 | 11.9 | 9.4 |
| Sanderling | 610 | 2.7 | 0.6 |
| Dunlin | 25413 | 4.8 | 1.8 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 1562 | 2.9 | 1.6 |
| Curlew | 2887 | 2.4 | 0.8 |
| Redshank | 4873 | 4.4 | 3.2 |

Very much thanks to all those who participated in the counts from inner Humber organiser Keith Parker, myself for the mid-Humber and John Walker for the outer estuary.

Ian Shepherd

FIG. 1 HUMBER SOUTH SHORE WEBS COVERAGE : AUGUST 1993 TO MAY 1994

| | INNER Aldbrough → Immingham docks | | | | | | | | | | | MID Preston → Grimsby | | | | | | OUTER Plyer Hall → Theddlethorpe | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | A | B | C | D | E | F | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| AUGUST | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C |
| SEPTEMBER | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | N/C | P | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| OCTOBER | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| NOVEMBER | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| DECEMBER | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | P | N/C | ✓ | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| JANUARY | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| FEBRUARY | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| MARCH | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | P | N/C | N/C | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| APRIL | ✓ | P | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| MAY | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/C | N/C | N/C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

(✓ = full cover ; P = partial cover ; N/C = not counted)

Lincolnshire Humber Totals

| | | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | |
|---------------------|----|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|----|
| Red-throated Diver | RH | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | RH |
| Little Grebe | LG | - | - | 2 | - | 24 | 3 | 6 | 1 | - | - | LG |
| Great Crested Grebe | GG | - | - | - | 9 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | CG |
| Cormorant | CA | 2 | 34 | 29 | 64 | 68 | 117 | 84 | 120 | 50 | 6 | CA |
| Little Egret | | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | |
| Grey Heron | H. | 11 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | - | H. |
| Mute Swan | MS | 35 | 1 | 4 | - | 138 | 124 | 60 | - | 2 | 100 | MS |
| Bewick's Swan | BS | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | - | - | BS |
| Whooper Swan | WS | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | WS |
| Pink-footed Goose | PG | - | - | - | 600 | 650 | - | - | - | 4 | - | PG |
| Greylag Goose | GJ | - | - | - | - | 8 | - | 22 | 10 | - | 9 | GJ |
| Canada Goose | CG | 40 | 36 | 7 | - | - | - | 36 | 117 | 73 | 22 | CG |
| Barnacle Goose | BY | - | - | 1 | 18 | 11 | - | 1 | - | - | - | BY |
| Brent Goose | BG | - | 40 | 749 | 1402 | 896 | 1151 | 980 | 2 | 12 | - | BG |
| Shelduck | SU | 296 | 910 | 632 | 1388 | 1055 | 781 | 744 | 422 | 377 | 557 | SU |
| Wigeon | WN | 267 | 223 | 1021 | 577 | 2832 | 107 | 743 | 57 | 283 | - | WN |
| Teal | T. | 401 | 182 | 1108 | 475 | 361 | 150 | 150 | 10 | 8 | - | T. |
| Mallard | MA | 606 | 236 | 362 | 444 | 673 | 563 | 741 | 199 | 96 | 22 | MA |
| Pintail | PT | - | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | PT |
| Shoveler | SV | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | 10 | - | 1 | - | SV |
| Pochard | PO | - | - | - | 300 | 789 | 2017 | 500 | 75 | - | - | PO |
| Tufted Duck | TU | - | - | - | 300 | 421 | 372 | 170 | 36 | - | - | TU |
| Scaup | SP | - | - | - | 8 | 32 | 2 | 9 | - | - | - | SP |
| Eider | E. | - | 25 | - | 2 | 4 | 13 | 6 | 3 | - | - | E. |
| Common Scoter | CX | - | 1 | - | 54 | 283 | - | - | 4 | 2 | - | CX |
| Velvet Scoter | VS | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | VS |
| Goldeneye | GN | - | - | - | 43 | 146 | 260 | 241 | 25 | - | - | GN |
| R-b Merganser | RM | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | RM |
| Ruddy Duck | RY | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | RY |
| Oystercatcher | OC | 2 | 1467 | 296 | 2248 | 540 | 1576 | 1801 | 300 | 685 | 311 | OC |
| Avocet | AV | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | AV |
| Ringed Plover | RP | 476 | 68 | 37 | 64 | 185 | 138 | 113 | 283 | 133 | 664 | RP |
| Golden Plover | GP | 1326 | 171 | 6000 | 5610 | 8997 | 3606 | 481 | 32 | 8 | - | GP |
| Grey Plover | GV | - | 2213 | 181 | 398 | 355 | 1311 | 422 | 70 | 116 | 28 | GV |
| Lapwing | L. | 604 | 141 | 4158 | 5992 | 10132 | 6000 | 407 | 34 | 54 | - | L. |
| Knot | KN | 8 | 1615 | 336 | 7870 | 14260 | 11258 | 2990 | 112 | 390 | 878 | KN |
| Sanderling | SS | - | 301 | 108 | 234 | 317 | 311 | 410 | 420 | 374 | 2419 | SS |
| Little Stint | LX | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | LX |
| Curlew Sandpiper | CV | 10 | 3 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | CV |
| Dunlin | DN | 282 | 4634 | 2916 | 4886 | 7989 | 6879 | 3878 | 3149 | 2445 | 5026 | DN |
| Ruff | RU | 17 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | RU |
| Jack Snipe | JS | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1- | - | - | JS |
| Snipe | SN | - | 24 | 24 | 67 | 32 | 18 | 15 | 12 | 8 | - | SN |
| Black-tailed Godwit | BW | - | - | - | 2 | 68 | 73 | - | - | - | - | BW |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | BA | 8 | 174 | 9 | 115 | 327 | 607 | 318 | 3 | 9 | 33 | BA |
| Whimbrel | WM | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 31 | WM |
| Curlew | CU | 100 | 364 | 192 | 255 | 632 | 738 | 473 | 426 | 126 | 46 | CU |
| Spotted Redshank | DR | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | DR |
| Redshank | RK | 222 | 810 | 716 | 919 | 1310 | 1277 | 738 | 713 | 389 | 152 | RK |
| Greenshank | GK | 9 | 26 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | GK |
| Common Sandpiper | CS | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | CS |
| Turnstone | TT | 62 | 216 | 6 | 273 | 233 | 184 | 238 | 121 | 156 | 73 | TT |

Inland Waters

Inland waterbird counts have not been included in these annual reports since the winter of 1990-91 when the previous organiser, John Redshaw, completed his stint. Many individual surveyors continued to count their own waters each month, reporting the results directly to Slimbridge, and to all of these plus the new surveyors who have taken on areas to count for the first time this winter, grateful thanks. Hopefully in time all the major waters and as many smaller ones as possible will again be covered - new volunteers are of course always welcome!

Over the 1993-94 winter 24 (groups of) inland waters were counted, of which 5 were stretches of river or drain and the remainder lakes, pits and reservoirs. Note that these do not include any waters in (the then) South Humberside, so these figures are not strictly comparable with those given in earlier reports. Another change is that, with the incorporation of the IWC into WeBS, contributors are now asked to count waders also. The monthly bird species totals are given in Table 1, and the sites (and months) counted in Table 2.

Examination of the distribution of individual species indicates that while wintering Little Grebes are found in greater numbers on static waters than rivers, the reverse is true for Great Crested Grebes, though high numbers of this species were also found on Tattershall Pits. This water also held higher numbers of Mute Swans in some months than the Spalding-Borough Fen stretch of the River Welland, once the major wintering site for this species in the county, but approximately half the Mute Swans counted this winter were on the Brayford Pool. Headquarters for the feral geese are in the west and south-west of the county, particularly Tattershall Pits for Greylag Geese and Ancaster Pits, Denton Reservoir and Grimsthorpe Lake for Canada Geese.

Among the ducks the highest counts of Wigeon were along the Witham, at Bardney and Tattershall, and also at Baston Fen NR. Bardney Ponds and Baston Fen also held good numbers of Teal, as did the coastal pits. The highest counts of both Gadwall and Pochard this winter were made at Tattershall, but Mallard were both common and widespread, with three-figure counts from all parts of the county. Tufted Duck were also widespread, though less common, with highest counts from waters in the west. The major site for Goldeneye was Covenham Reservoir, though Whisby NP also held good numbers, particularly in late winter.

Both Moorhen and Coot were counted on all waters, with Tattershall Pits the most important site for the latter species, holding 800-900 birds in November-January. A good variety of waders were recorded but most in small numbers; most of the Snipe records came from the coast but for other species the rivers generally held higher numbers than the static waters.

Anne Goodall, John Nickson

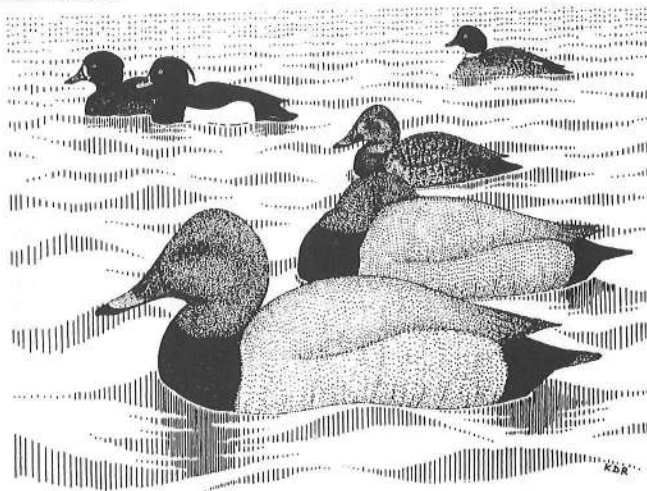


Table 1.

Totals for Inland Waters

| | | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | |
|------------------------|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|
| Little Grebe | LG | 41 | 17 | 22 | 31 | 21 | 24 | LG |
| Great Crested Grebe | GG | 121 | 77 | 66 | 76 | 138 | 140 | GG |
| Red-necked Grebe | RX | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | RX |
| Cormorant | CA | 20 | 36 | 39 | 32 | 36 | 30 | CA |
| Shag | SA | - | - | 9 | - | - | 5 | SA |
| Grey Heron | H. | 6 | 6 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 8 | H. |
| Mute Swan | MS | 218 | 270 | 210 | 178 | 161 | 113 | MS |
| Bewick's Swan | BS | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | BS |
| Whooper Swan | WS | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | WS |
| Pink-footed Goose | PG | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | PG |
| Greylag Goose | GJ | 316 | 416 | 152 | 465 | 38 | 259 | GJ |
| White-fronted Goose | WG | - | - | - | 5 | - | 5 | WG |
| Canada Goose | CG | 219 | 220 | 569 | 443 | 401 | 275 | CG |
| Barnacle Goose | BY | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 1 | BY |
| Egyptian Goose | EG | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | EG |
| Shelduck | SU | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | 10 | SU |
| Mandarin | MN | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | MN |
| Wigeon | WN | 187 | 292 | 1148 | 1446 | 796 | 484 | WN |
| Gadwall | GA | 124 | 125 | 290 | 147 | 104 | 27 | GA |
| Teal | T. | 265 | 179 | 626 | 685 | 380 | 280 | T. |
| Mallard | MA | 1214 | 1404 | 1845 | 2276 | 1632 | 1094 | MA |
| Pintail | PT | - | - | 2 | 5 | - | 2 | PT |
| Shoveler | SV | 36 | 14 | 12 | 7 | 12 | 7 | SV |
| Red-crested Pochard | RQ | - | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | RQ |
| Pochard | PO | 49 | 79 | 255 | 301 | 222 | 87 | PO |
| Tufted Duck | TU | 351 | 422 | 462 | 751 | 492 | 493 | TU |
| Scaup | SP | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | SP |
| Common Scoter | CX | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | CX |
| Velvet Scoter | VS | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | VS |
| Goldeneye | GN | - | 20 | 57 | 65 | 67 | 65 | GN |
| Red-breasted Merganser | RM | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | RM |
| Goosander | GD | - | 2 | 22 | 45 | 46 | 28 | GD |
| Ruddy Duck | RY | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | RY |
| Moorhen | MH | 184 | 140 | 211 | 164 | 202 | 154 | MH |
| Coot | CO | 1302 | 1389 | 1713 | 1795 | 1125 | 992 | CO |
| Oystercatcher | OC | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | OC |
| Ringed Plover | RP | - | - | - | - | 2 | 11 | RP |
| Golden Plover | GP | - | - | - | - | - | 22 | GP |
| Lapwing | L. | 790 | 406 | 1022 | 176 | 300 | 6 | L. |
| Dunlin | DN | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | DN |
| Snipe | SN | 25 | 14 | 10 | 44 | 79 | 15 | SN |
| Woodcock | WK | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | WK |
| Curlew | CU | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | CU |
| Redshank | RK | - | 12 | 44 | 6 | 19 | 28 | RK |
| Green Sandpiper | GE | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | GE |
| Common Sandpiper | CS | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | CS |

Table 2.

Inland Sites included in the Counts

| Grid Sq | Location | Months Counted | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| North | | | | | | | |
| TA 39 | Covenham Reservoir | - | N | D | J | F | M |
| West | | | | | | | |
| SK 98 | Fillingham Lake | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 97 | Riseholme Lake | - | - | D | J | F | M |
| SK 97 | Burton Pits NR | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 07 | R.Witham Fiskerton-Short Ferry | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 97 | Brayford Pool | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 96 | Hartsholme Lake | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 96 | Boultham Park Lake | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 96 | Swanholme Lakes | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 96 | Whisby NP | O | - | D | J | F | M |
| TF 16 | Bardney SBF Ponds | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 16-25 | R.Witham Kirkstead-Chapel Hill | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 25 | Tattershall Pits | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| SK 94 | Ancaster Pits | - | N | D | J | F | M |
| East | | | | | | | |
| TF 58 | Brickyard Pond, Sutton-on-Sea | O | - | D | J | F | M |
| TF 58-57 | Sea Bank Clay Pits NR | O | N | D | J | F | - |
| TF 55 | Gibraltar Point Mere | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| South | | | | | | | |
| TF 24-34 | South Forty-Foot Drain | O | N | D | - | F | M |
| SK 83 | Denton Reservoir | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 22 | Coronation Channel | - | - | - | J | F | M |
| TF 22-10 | R.Welland Spalding-Borough Fen | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 02 | Grimsthorpe Park Lake | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 11 | Baston Fen NR | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| TF 01 | Holywell Lakes | O | N | D | J | F | M |

Contributors to the 1993-94 Wetland Bird Survey

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| M Ackerman | C Dobson | R Lambton | C Smith |
| A Ball | R Dobson | A Lees | J Spring |
| P & A Ball | J E Eastmead | S & R Lingard | W Stirling |
| T Barnatt | L Enderby | R Lord | P Todd |
| D Bingham | J Fairhurst | B & G Martin | P Troake |
| D J Bradbeer | C Godfrey | J S Mighell | J R Walker |
| R Briggs | A L Goodall | I P Misselbrook | T Walker |
| D Bromwich | N Goom | J D Mortemore | R K Watson |
| H Bunn | B Hancock | R Nowicki | P N Watts |
| G Clayton | R & K Heath | D J B Parker | R P Weston |
| P Clement | A Housman | M Parkinson | A White |
| P G Collins | C Howard | I Paterson | K E Wilson |
| P Cox | P Hyde | B Redman | K M Wilson |
| N Crockford | L James | E J Redshaw | P Wilson |
| A Daws | C G Johnson | D E H Roberts | |
| I Dennis | S Keightley | I G Shephard | |

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1994

Species Accounts written by:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Divers to Spoonbill | P Hyde | Swans, geese and ducks | P Fisher |
| Raptors to rails | P Todd | Waders | I G Shepherd |
| Skuas to auks | S Keightley | Doves to wagtails | A Ball |
| Waxwing to flycatchers | H Bunn | Tits to buntings | A L Goodall |

Key to symbols:

- *B - National Rarity; description required for submission to British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).
Submitted records with decision still pending will indicate this in the entry.
- *L - Rare or scarce in Lincs; full description required by LBRC
- *(L) - Rare or scarce in Lincs; supporting details of sighting required by LBRC
Records in these categories may not be published without the required supporting information.
- *b - Nationally rare breeding species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP); all breeding season sightings in suitable habitat should be reported to the County Recorder asap

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Regular offshore Jul-May; most mid winter with max of 521 Jan 6th 1980.

There were 37 off Tetney Jan 9th, but otherwise most were recorded off Gib Point during the first quarter, with max daily counts of 46 Jan, 25 Feb and 33 Mar 1st, tailing off to 10 by the month end. Elsewhere 1-4 were seen in this period at Barton, Saltfleetby, Covenham and around the Wash, and one was found dead at Tetney Haven on Feb 28th. In May 1 was seen at Gib Point 1st, 8 flew north at Donna Nook 8th and 25th, 2 there 26th, and singles were at Barton 10th and east there 22nd. There were no further records until September when 6 flew south at Huttoft 14th and 1 north at Gib Point 15th, with 16 there on 18th. At several coastal/Humber sites 1-3 were seen through October and in November Gib Point recorded up to 20 daily, with up to 11 remaining into December.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Very scarce winter visitor, Sep-Mar/Apr; one summered 1982.

The well-watched individual from 1993 was present on Skegness Boating Lake Jan 1st and another was at Langtoft and Baston Pits Feb 5-18th. Two were seen off Tetney Jan 9th, and the only other early year bird was one north at the Witham Mouth on 30th. In autumn singles were at Huttoft Sep 1st and 14th and at Gib Point 17th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* *(L)

Very scarce winter visitor, Aug-Mar.

The only records were of one south at Gib Point Sep 16th and one at Saltfleet Nov 11th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Widespread resident with autumn and winter movements.

Scattered records of 1-4 birds came from all over the county in the early part of the year, with max of 6 daily at Gib Point in February and 7 at Whisby Pits 9th. In the spring there were 6 at Saltfleetby Apr 4th, 19 at Whisby 18th, 10-13 there in May, with 6-8 at Gib Point May-June. Few breeding records were received, but there were at least 13 pairs in the Barrow/Barton area with the first juvs seen on May 28th and others at Holywell, 2 pairs, Cleethorpes CP and Moor Farm. August maxima included 39 at Kirkby Pits, 15 at Cleethorpes CP and 12 at Messingham, with in September 63 at Kirkby and 40+ at Barton Pits mid-month. In October these areas continued to record good numbers: 26 at Thorpe Pits 9th, 18 Holywell 15th, 10 Whisby 17th, 25 Barton 25th and 7 at Donna Nook 30th. Late max were 30 at Kirkby Pits and 10+ Barton Pits Nov-Dec, 13 Holbeach Marsh Dec 15th, 20 Holywell 24th and many counts of 2-6 elsewhere.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Widespread breeding and wintering species, found on most suitable waters; 100 pairs in 1975 census, very obvious increase since.

Early in the year there were 31 at Toft Newton Jan 8-11th, max 25 in February, 10 Denton Res Jan 22nd, 27 North Cotes Feb 6th, 3 Whisby 9th and 14 Revesby Res 12th. More widespread activity was noted in spring, with 14 at Thurlby Pits Mar 2nd, a max of 28 at Cadney March-April, 20 on the Welland Spalding-Borough Fen Apr 4th, 14 on the South Forty Foot at Hubberts's Bridge 16th and 2-8 on many other waters during this period. Breeding records came from Kirkby Pits, much of the lower Witham, Burton Pits, Metheringham Delph, Chapel Pit, Whisby CP (5 pairs), Barton-Barrow Pits (13 pairs), and Deeping High Bank (6+ pairs). In a disturbing development the Humber Pits breeding population was persecuted by certain fishery owners, with a pair shot and 2 nests destroyed. Post-breeding flocks built up from July, with 20 at Kirkby Pits 12th, remaining into August, 15 Deeping High Bank 31st, 12 Covenham Aug 20th, 15 Coronation Channel Spalding 28th and 5-10 at Hartsholme Lake, Grimsthorpe Lake and Thurlby Pits. The only major flocks reported in the last quarter were 27 at Butterwick Marsh Sep 9th, 26 at the Witham Mouth Nov 26th and at Toft Newton Res, max 18 Oct, 34 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* *b

Scarce migrant and winter visitor, Sep-Mar/Apr; 100+ Jan-Mar 1979. Summer records 1981, 1982.

Early winter records involved singles at the Witham Mouth Jan 16th and 30th, Covenham Feb 6th-Mar 27th, Bagmoor Mar 20-26th. One at Baston Pits Apr 4th was the 5th local record and one at Barton Pits Sep 20-25th was the first juv there. Remaining records were of one with no right leg at Scotter Bottom Nov 21st into 1995 and at Barton Pits one on Dec 8th remained until 21st when it was found dead, having swallowed fishing line.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* *b

A scarce migrant and winter visitor, recorded mainly Aug-May; annual max 17 in 1979.

The only spring record was one at Barton on Apr 13th. In the autumn singles were at Covenham Oct 25th and again Nov 16-20th, Toft Newton Nov 7-11th, Barton Pits 19th, Ashbyville Dec 20-27th and on Tetney Haven/Louth Canal Dec 25th into 1995.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* *b

A scarce migrant and winter visitor recorded in most months, but mainly Mar-May, Aug-Sep.

In April a summer-plumaged adult was at Barton 11-13th. In autumn an adult and 1st-winter were at Thurlby Pits Aug 16-17th and singles were at the Humber Bridge Sep 13-14th and Deeping St James Oct 23rd. Possibly the same bird was at Whisby Nov 13th and 27th, Thorpe Lane Pit 7th-Dec 12th and Thurlby Pits Dec 18-31st.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

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

Up to 5 were recorded occasionally at Gib Point January-March. April movements included a notable 147 north at Gib Point 14th, a spring record for that site, 15 at Witham Mouth 17th with up to 20 elsewhere in the Wash, and 24 off Donna Nook May 25th. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere along the coast in May and June, and in autumn there was an unusual record of one west over the A17 at Moulton on Aug 27th. Coastal/Humber counts were unremarkable with small numbers on several dates Aug-Sep but no later records. There was a peak movement on Sep 14th, including 15 at Witham Mouth, 43 north at Gib Point and 22 at North Cotes.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce passage migrant offshore Aug-Nov, with the majority moving north. Year max 100+ in 1977; day max 29.

September is often the best month for these birds in Lincolnshire and all records were in this month: one off the Nene Mouth on 1st and one at Gib Point the same day, with 2 north 14th, 4 south 16th and 21 north 17th. At Huttoft 4 flew north 1st, 1 south 14th, 3 there on 16th and 3 north 17th, and there were 5 north at Mablethorpe on 14th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Variable numbers offshore Jul-Oct, scarce Apr-Jun & Nov; day max 694 on 10/9/1989.

There were no spring records in 1994 and autumn sightings were concentrated into little more than 6 weeks, all on the open coast. At Tetney there were 3 Sep 14th, at Donna Nook 3 north Aug 10th, 1 north Sep 16th, and at Saltfleet Haven 1 south Aug 25th. Huttoft had 1 north Aug 23rd, 2 north, then south, Sep 1st, 10 south and 3 north 14th, 3 15th, 8 16th and 1 25th. At Gib Point there were singles Sep 2nd, 3rd and 15th, 12 south 16th and 26 north on 17th, a reserve record.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* *L

Vagrant Jul-Nov.

At Huttoft Bank three birds were tape-lured for ringing on Jul 15th (AB); one had been ringed the previous evening at Tynemouth and was controlled 60km NNW of Tynemouth the following evening, demonstrating the normal nightly range of this species.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare Sep-Nov with one spring record, 2 in May 1984. Max of 183+ autumn 1989 [LBR 1989].

One flew south at Mablethorpe Sep 14th when there was also one at the Witham Mouth. Gib Point recorded singles Sep 15th, 16th and Oct 16th. A late bird was seen at Saltfleet Nov 25th.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

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

Early records were of 15 individuals north in the first quarter, virtually all off Gib Point. In spring 4 went north at North Cotes May 16th, and at Gib Point 9 north on 27th, 3 north Jun 23rd and 4 north 25th. In autumn 18 were at Donna Nook Jul 24th and up to 10 at other coastal sites that month and August records included 90 at Huttoft 11th and 33 south there on 23rd. In September there was a substantial movement between 14-16th with 136 at the Witham Mouth 14th, 150+ north at Huttoft 16th and at Gib Point 120 north 14th, 118 north 15th, 425 south 16th and 300 north 17th. Up to 30 were recorded elsewhere along the coast and at the Nene Mouth one landed in a beet field 16th and another was found walking along the roadside and returned to the sea. Final records for the year were in October with up to 20 off Huttoft and Gib Point and a juv north-west over Scunthorpe on 16th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common coastal and inland Aug-May, fewer Jun-Jul. First bred 1992 [LBR 1986, 1992].

In the first quarter there were 5-20 birds at many sites: 33 roosted on Barton lightship Jan 6th, and 51 flew west there Mar 3rd; at Saltfleetby there were up to 24 during January, 95 on Feb 27th, decreasing to 41 Apr 10th, and up to 30 were at Witham Mouth/Frampton Marsh, with 27 there Apr 24th. There were also 30 in February at Kirkby Pits, 20+ through spring and some birds present all summer, but no breeding record yet. The breeding colony at Deeping St James increased again with 71 nests and a peak count of 251 on Jul 4th. Colour-ringed birds seen at this colony came from Denmark, Abberton Res, Essex, and Tenby, Wales; this latter bird was first recorded there in October 1992. Another bird ringed at Abberton, as a nestling on May 21st 1991, was controlled at Barton on Feb 12th (ring read in the field). In the autumn Gib Point had monthly max of 50 Sep 23rd, 60 Oct 25th, 47 Nov 26th, and 61 in December. There were 29 at the Witham Mouth Oct 9th and 38 at Covenham 29th.

Individuals apparently showing characteristics of race *P.c.sinensis* were reported from the Witham Mouth Feb 19th and Kirkby Pits Apr 13th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Scarce-rare with occasional influxes.

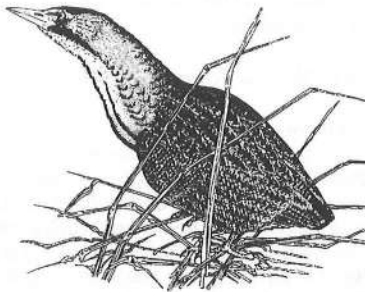
There was a succession of records in February, starting with 2 at Huttoft 9th, 1 on North Cleethorpes shore 12th, 1 at the Witham Mouth 13th, a max of 7 at Covenham and at Gib Point 58 south 17th, 10 south 18th and 2 there 27th. Movement continued into March with 2-10 south daily at Gib Point through the first week, 1 on Brayford Pool, Lincoln, 3rd-Apr 17th, roosting on Lincoln Cathedral, 3 at Grimsby Mar 5th, 1 Winthorpe 6th, 2 Toft Newton 9th and 1-2 on the Witham in Boston 14-26th and again Apr 21-28th. Also in April there

were 5 on the South Forty Foot Drain near Boston 6th and 1 at Barton 20th. Surprisingly there was only one autumn record, from Gib Point Sep 6th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* *b

Last bred 1979, max 6 booming. Now rare, with most records Oct-Mar.

Two from 1993 were at North Killingholme Haven Jan 1-31st at least. One was at Barton Pits Feb 4th until at least Mar 5th, seen again Apr 3rd-May 9th. One was at Boultham Mere on Feb 4th (a regular wintering site since 1979) and another at Deeping St James on 12th. Autumn records were again from Barton Pits Aug 30th-Sep 11th and singles were at Gib Point Sep 10-29th and probably the same individual Oct 26th (the 5th reserve record), Messingham Oct 30th, Boultham Mere from Nov 20th and Killingholme on Nov 24th.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* *b

Previously a rare overshooting migrant, mainly in spring, but recently an irregular visitor with some birds remaining for long periods.

A plethora of records from coastal locations between Horseshoe Point and the south Wash made assessment of numbers difficult, but at least 3 appear to have over-wintered from 1993, with 3 remaining on the north-east coast to April and 2 at Gib Point until June. 1-2 individuals summered but in the autumn there may have been just one bird which again over-wintered. Records as follows: in the Skegness area there were 3 at Gib Point until Jan 9th, 2 for most of February and 1-2 on many days March-June. One was at Seacroft from Jan 7th through February. Inland one was seen at Kirkby-la-Thorpe Jan 21-29th, and on the north-east coast 1 was present at Saltfleetby all of January and seen again Feb 27th; up to 3 were there Mar 11th-Apr 13th. Summer records came from Donna Nook Jul 22nd-Aug 8th (with presumably this bird at Horseshoe Point Jul 25th) and in the Wash one was at Frampton Marsh Jul 10-16th. In the last quarter probably a single bird was seen at the Witham Mouth Oct 9th, at Frampton Marsh on 4 dates Nov 15th-Dec 12th, Holbeach Marsh Dec 4th and 25th and Gib Point on 3 dates Dec 22-29th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Breeding resident and passage migrant [LBR 1985].

Occupied nests during 1994 as follows:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Abbey Wood | 15 | Willoughby | 32 | Howsham | 5 |
| Gatecliff | 12 | Laughton | 12 | Old Hag Wood | 25 |
| Kingerby | 7 | Troy Wood | 69 | Legbourne | 30 |
| Evedon Wood | 25 | Warren Wood | 3 | Friskney Decoy | 1 |
| Holbeach Hospl | 26 | The Mere Deeping | 99 | Nocton Wood | 4 |
| Total 365 | | | | | |

This total is 18 up on the total for 1993. Breeding was reported again at Nocton Wood and Friskney Decoy Wood. Of the other colonies 4 decreased slightly, 7 increased and 2 were unchanged. Reported concentrations included 26 at Nocton Fen Nov 6th and up to 15 at Barton Nov-Dec.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *L

Scarce-rare overshooting migrant, mainly spring.

There were 3 spring records, one at Boultham Mere May 10-11th (SB, DJ), and another on the freshwater marsh at Saltfleetby May 24-26th (ACS, LM et al). One was later seen at Skidbrooke June 1st (RN) but was thought by the observer to be different from the Saltfleetby bird.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

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

In May 2 flew south-east over Gib Point on 10th, apparently arriving at Cley later that day. Then in June 2 flew north over Gib Point on 12th and were later seen in Yorkshire. Is there something wrong with facilities in Lincolnshire?

[WILDFOWL: For monthly WeBS totals see the reports elsewhere in this issue].

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Widespread breeding resident. Recent surveys found 109 breeding pairs 1983, 82 pairs 1990 [LBR 1990].

Peak counts in the first quarter included 102 at the Brayford Pool Lincoln Jan 8th, 46 at Lea Marshes 10th and at New Holland 136 6th with 60 Feb 18th and Mar 29th. Breeding records submitted were even sparser than 1993: 13 pairs from 5 sites! High summer-autumn counts came from traditional sites: at Kirkby Pits, 39 June 26th, 49 Aug 1st, 60 Sep 4th; 41 at Barton Pits Aug 19th, and in the south 43 at Deeping St James Jun 8th, 136 Jul 4th, 85 Aug 20th; 145 on the R.Welland, Spalding-Borough Fen on Jul 8th; 127 at Deeping High Bank Jul 9th. At the year end there were 97 at New Holland Oct 9th, increasing to 110 by Nov 27th with 80 there on Dec 12th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Passage migrant & winter visitor Oct-Mar; summered 1986.

On the Humber the 6 birds at Winteringham from 1993 increased to 9, including 2 juvs, Jan 14-23rd, 1 adult was at Barton 30th, and at Gib Point there were 10-12 20th-31st and max 40 Feb 6-14th; an adult with a blue neck-collar was present in February and early March. Birds from 1993 also remained in the Wash early in the year, when there were max counts of 26 at Benington Marsh Jan 2nd, 23 at Wrangle 16th, 62 at Leverton 30th, with 36 north at Cut End the same day. Inland there were 3 adults and a juv on Nocton Fen Feb 14th, and the last early winter record was of 3 flying south-west at Messingham Mar 6th. First records at the year end were 2 south at Donna Nook Oct 15th, 4 south 23rd, then 7 there Nov 20th. Elsewhere in November there were singles at Covenham and Bardney Pits 2nd, 15 at the latter site on 5th; 8 at Thurlby Pits 3rd; 2 at Nocton Fen 6th, when another 9 flew over, and 3 there 24-25th, and 4 at Culverthorpe Lake 11th. December records were of 2 at North Somercotes 3rd, 2 south at Gib Point 11th and 4 north-east on 24th at Kirton Holme.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Passage migrant & winter visitor Oct-Apr, one Jun 1982.

January records were of 4 on Benington Marsh 1-2nd, 18 at Boultham Mere on 6th, 3 Leverton 13th and 20th, 2 at Wrangle 16th, 1 at Barrow Pits 24th and 3 south at Cut End on 30th. An adult at New Holland on Jan 1st remained until Feb 18th, but there were then no further records until March, when there were 2 at Leverton 3rd and 1 at Fairfield Pit 10th. The last of the spring were 5 flying north at Saltfleetby Apr 3rd. The second half of the year produced a better showing. The first were 2 at South Ferriby Sep 4th, but then no more reported until 2 at Butterwick Hale 28-29th. October saw a strong southerly passage at Gib Point, with 20 on 19th, 10 23rd, 13 26th, 21 27th and 1-3 on other dates. Passage was also seen at the Humber mouth, where 12 flew south at Donna Nook and 15 at Saltfleet on 27th, 4 at Saltfleet and 6 at Tetney the following day, with 2 at Covenham 29th. Coastal movements continued in November with 3-5 on 4 dates Donna Nook-Saltfleetby; 11 on 15th and 7 20th. In the Wash 9 flew north at Frampton 9th, 15 south 6th and 1 south at Boston Point 26th, and at Gib Point 17 flew south 17th, 3 20th. Inland during the month records came from Nocton Fen, where there were 2 13-15th, and Messingham-Scotter, 2 21-30th, 5 on Messingham SQ 23rd. A bird at new Holland nov 29th remained 1995, but the only other December records were of singles at Thornton Abbey 5th and over Lincoln 18th, 2 at Gib Point 22nd and 2 in the Messingham area to 25th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Rare Nov-March.

The group of 6 from 1993 remained with Pink-footed Geese at Winteringham into January, increasing to 8 on 14th. In December 8 flew south-east at Humberston Fitties on 24th.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Whitton-Winteringham | 1033 | - | 233 | 650 | 600 | - |
| Gib Point | 225 | 9 | 5 | 25 | 115 | 320 |

Other large Jan-Feb flocks reported were 75 Wasps Nest Jan 6th, 300 Wyberton 20th, 300 Frampton Fen 27th, 250 Marston Feb 2nd, 200 Pinchbeck South Fen 10th and 40 Gedney 13th. At this time probable movements between wintering areas were still being recorded, including 40 south at Saltfleetby Jan 1st, 134 east over Lincoln 6th, 130 south-east at Grantham 9th, 50 south-east at Holbeach 10th, 50 south at Louth 11th, 24 south at Marston 27th, and at Barton 33 west 1st, 20 7th and 18 28th. From the month end return movements started, all between north and west as follows: on 31st 275 over Sibsey, 200 Ruskington, 150 North Somercotes and 1000 Lincoln, with 450 on Feb 3rd; also in Feb 250 over Sutterton 2nd, 80 Stickford 3rd with 60 on 18th, 550 Gib Point and 1000 Louth 5th. At Grantham 300 still heading south on 7th was unusual at this time. In March there were 60 at Leverton 4th, 2 still there Apr 26th, 150 north at Gedney Mar 6th, 60 west over Lincoln 8th and 45 north at Gib Point 20th, with the last of the spring, 12 north-east there May 9th and 1 Frampton 26th. First of the autumn was 1 south at North Cotes Sep 16th, then 6 south Donna Nook 18th, 80 on the river at Barton 23rd and 36 north-west over Louth 29th. The only large autumn flock reported inland was 80 at Roughton Moor Oct 8th, but from October flocks of up to 50 birds were seen moving south down the coast at all sites Grimsby-Gib Point and east into the Wash, with larger flocks of 70 Wolla Bank Oct 8th, 82 Gib Point 25th and 250 Grimsby 27th. A larger movement was obvious on Nov 6th, when 150 were recorded at North Cotes, 170 Donna Nook, 450 Saltfleetby and 200 Theddlethorpe, all south, 130 flew east at Gib Point and inland 40 flew south-east over Walcott. Other large movements to the year end included 400 south at Saltfleetby Nov 15th; 280 south at North Cotes 21st with 100 east Dec 6th; 200 north-west over Boston Nov 22nd and several hundred south-east over Byards Leap Dec 13th. Small numbers of presumed feral birds were reported from Messingham SQ, Bardney Pits, Kirkby Pits, Chapel Pits, Ancaster and Revesby.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Normally scarce/rare Nov-Mar. An influx in Feb 1993 brought a record total of min 570. Four individual records of *A. a. flavirostris* to date.

A good showing, though not in the 1993 league. At Winteringham there were at least 8 on Jan 1st, increasing to 24 by 14th. Elsewhere 2 were at Gib Point 11th, 5 at Tattershall Pits Jan-Feb and 1 at Whisby Feb 27th. At the year end 60 flew east over Grimsby Oct 31st, and 10 were at North Cotes on Dec 4th with 7 remaining to 11th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common feral resident, first bred 1957; wild birds possibly rare winter visitors.

Peak counts at the main centres of the feral population tabled below:

| | Jan | Feb | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Hartsholme | - | - | 51 | 58 | - | - | - | - |
| Whisby Pits | - | 49 | - | 75 | - | - | - | - |
| Bardney Pits | 50 | 150 | 50 | 67 | 113 | 78 | 47 | - |
| Nocton Fen | - | - | - | 43 | 50 | - | 104 | 63 |
| Kirkby Pits | 200 | - | 88 | 275 | 350 | - | 110 | 150 |
| Revesby Res | 112 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grimsthorpe Lake | - | - | 82 | - | 61 | - | - | - |
| Langtoft Pits | - | 102 | - | - | - | - | - | 350 |

At Kirkby Pits there were 32 Apr 18th, 82 May 30th and 33 Jun 26th, and at Deeping St James 61 Mar 21st and 114 Aug 21st. Breeding records came from Whisby (3 pairs), Bardney, Deeping High Bank, Deeping St

James (5 pairs), and Langtoft GPs (6 pairs). The only movements noted were 7 in off the sea at Saltfleetby Jan 22nd, 17 north at Donna Nook June 8th and 32 east at Kirton Holme Nov 27th.

Snow Goose *Branta caerulea*

Vagrant, but escaped/feral birds confound status.

Singles were at Whisby NP in April and at Kirton Holme intermittently Apr 25th-Jun 2nd and 7 at Barton Dec 28th.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

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

Peak counts from the sites counted in two or more months as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton Pits | 27 | 27 | - | 150 | 260 | - | - | - |
| Swanholme Lake | - | - | - | 112 | 77 | - | - | - |
| Whisby Pits | - | 44 | 70 | 25 | - | - | - | 75 |
| Bardney Pits | - | - | - | 269 | 97 | - | - | - |
| Kirkby Pits | - | - | 23 | 33 | 120 | - | - | - |
| Gib Point | 100 | - | - | 100 | 205 | 70 | - | - |
| Holywell Lake | 124 | - | 82 | - | - | 110 | - | 186 |

Spring counts from the above sites were 21 at Whisby Pits Mar 12th, 10 May 15th, 40 Jun 30th; 13 Kirkby Pits May 30th and Jun 26th; 88 at Holywell Lake June 12th. Single counts came from, Langtoft Pits 46 Feb 13th, South Ferriby, 117 Mar 20th, Donna Nook, 29 Jun 7th, Messingham, 56 Aug 1st, Grimsthorpe Lake, 110 Sep 10th, Caythorpe Lake, 100 Oct 29th, and Hartsholme Lake, 33 Dec 31st. Breeding records came from Barton Pits (7 nests), Read's Island (38 nests), Whisby Pits and Kirkby Pits, and the only movement noted was 32 east at New Barnetby Jun 12th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

As ever it is difficult to separate wild and feral birds. Likely wild birds were singles at Benington on Jan 2nd and at Leverton, with Pink-footed Geese, on 13th. At New Holland 10 flew east Feb 18th and 4 were at Barton Pits Feb 24th. In October 1 flew east with Canada Geese at Hagnaby 17th and 2 flew south-west at Barton 2nd. Possibly feral/escapee birds included a flock of 7 at Winteringham in January from 1993, 4 at Messingham Apr 25th, 2 at Elsham Top May 25th, singles at Keb Wood Jun 1st and Messingham 10th, and in autumn singles at Whitton Sep 30th and Kirkby Pits Nov 2nd.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

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

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

| HUMBER | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Cleethorpes | 107 | 98 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 19 | 83 |
| Humberston | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 53 | - |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 250 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | - | 224 |
| Grainthorpe Marsh | 300 | 300 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 300 | 1000 |
| Donna Nook | 11 | 400 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 866 | 555 |
| Skidbrooke-Saltfleet | 450 | 178 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 45 | 1200 | 523 |
| Saltfleetby NNR | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 14 | 198 | 56 |
| WASH | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gibraltar Point | 550 | 185 | 130 | 95 | - | - | - | - | 12 | 20 | 9 |
| Wainfleet | 1000 | 330 | - | 32 | 140 | - | - | - | 32 | 450 | 252 |
| Friskney | - | - | 20 | 180 | 300 | - | - | - | 200 | 1500 | 500 |
| Wrangle | 1200 | 850 | 150 | 620 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 150 |
| Leverton | - | - | - | 93 | - | - | - | - | 52 | 171 | 262 |
| Benington | 550 | 250 | 600 | 120 | 350 | - | - | - | 70 | 445 | 1500 |
| Butterwick | 800 | 900 | 500 | 50 | 200 | - | - | 7 | 800 | 1080 | 855 |
| Frieston | 806 | 987 | - | - | 1544 | - | - | - | 95 | 203 | 417 |
| Witham | 750 | 1100 | 1100 | 200 | 2000 | - | - | - | 350 | - | 1800 |
| Frampton North | 4200 | 2150 | 3050 | - | 1700 | - | - | - | 440 | 1450 | 1460 |
| Frampton South | 4014 | 1560 | - | 594 | 183 | - | - | - | - | - | 222 |
| Kirton | 256 | - | 2213 | 1350 | 174 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 60 |
| Welland | 2450 | 3926 | 2370 | - | 1930 | 1 | 1 | - | 150 | 468 | 2440 |
| Holbeach | 650 | 990 | 750 | 550 | 850 | - | - | - | 10 | 1270 | 550 |
| Dawsmere | 1260 | 1250 | 1160 | 1250 | 1520 | 1 | 5 | - | 64 | - | 1170 |
| Gedney | 250 | 295 | 132 | 262 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 57 | 91 | 310 |
| Terrington | 524 | 493 | 561 | 494 | 700 | 1 | - | - | 7 | - | 192 |

WeBs counts for the Humber Mouth and Wash are tabled. Birds recorded further up the Humber were singles at Alkborough Flats Mar 16th and Ferriby 20th, 2 at Goxhill/New Holland Mar 3rd, 3 at Barton Oct 19th, 5 at Grimsby Pyewipe Nov 5th and 1 east at Barton Dec 30th. Last spring birds were 12 at Donna Nook May 26th and 2 at Frampton Marsh 30th. Small numbers were present in the western Wash in summer, then first of the autumn were 12 at Gib Point Sep 5th, 12 at Cleethorpes 16th, 4 south at Donna Nook 19th and 10 south at Huttoft 25th. Inland there were singles at Covenham Feb 15th and 22nd, 12 on 16th, 1 at Whisby NP, a site first, May 9th and 1 at Covenham again Oct 22nd.

Light-bellied Brents, *B.b.hrota*, were reported from Gedney Drove End, a juv Mar 5th, and Tetney, 2 Dec 17th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

A small number of feral birds and probably also occasional vagrants from the north Norfolk population.

Two birds were present at Tattershall in spring, then a single bird was at Kirkby Pits, now a regular site, Oct 4th and 23rd, and 2 at Gib Point on the latter date.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

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

Single birds were noted at Saltfleetby Jan 2nd and 4th from 1993 and Grimsby Pyewipe Oct 1st, with 4 at Barton Pits Jul 29th. The latter were part of a national and NW European influx which occurred in summer 1994, suggesting a true arrival of wild birds from the east.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

| HUMBER | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Read's Island | 132 | 523 | 400 | 309 | 308 | 218 | 400 | 20 | - | 179 | 178 | 210 |
| Grimsby Pyewipe | 38 | 113 | 42 | 22 | 22 | 38 | 30 | - | - | 590 | 95 | 59 |
| Cleethorpes | 34 | 141 | 5 | 17 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 142 | 126 |
| Tetney-Grainthorpe | 247 | 46 | 50 | - | 2 | 88 | 7 | 3 | - | - | 49 | 319 |
| Donna Nook | - | 6 | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 65 | 200 |
| Skidbrooke-Saltfleet | 280 | 66 | 9 | 9 | 20 | - | - | - | - | 84 | 110 | 63 |
| Saltfleetby NNR | 550 | 64 | 17 | 36 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 142 | 300 | 44 |
| WASH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gibraltar Point | 277 | 150 | 100 | 7 | 40 | 140 | 100 | 3 | 50 | 126 | 64 | 230 |
| Wainfleet | 210 | 26 | - | 1 | 5 | - | - | 22 | - | 5 | 73 | 69 |
| Friskney | - | - | 100 | 12 | 6 | - | - | - | - | 50 | 600 | 400 |
| Wrangle | 44 | 34 | 266 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 12 | - | - |
| Leverton | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 54 | 170 |
| Benington | 170 | - | 6 | 9 | 10 | 1 | - | - | - | 6 | 76 | 225 |
| Butterwick | 400 | 150 | 120 | 120 | 20 | - | - | - | 6 | 40 | 880 | 403 |
| Frieston | 572 | 290 | 69 | - | 16 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 266 | 876 | 785 |
| Witham | 500 | 227 | 200 | 180 | 18 | - | - | - | 35 | 460 | - | 150 |
| Frampton-Kirton | 306 | 233 | 137 | 32 | 80 | - | 7 | 15 | 28 | 86 | 275 | 288 |
| Welland | 1500 | 1337 | 360 | - | 65 | - | 38 | 12 | 2 | 130 | 361 | 1190 |
| Holbeach | 450 | 690 | 75 | 150 | 26 | - | 3 | - | 12 | 700 | 950 | 142 |
| Dawsmere | 1065 | 650 | 148 | 142 | 96 | - | 12 | - | 16 | 25 | 12 | 235 |
| Gedney | 250 | 80 | 100 | 41 | - | - | 8 | 10 | 5 | 71 | 139 | 1234 |
| Terrington | 584 | 438 | 151 | 202 | 105 | - | 6 | 3 | 28 | 398 | 31 | 736 |

Max monthly counts (mainly WeBS) tabled. Movement through the Humber, with peaks in February, July and late autumn is well seen, as is the indication that Gib Point also acts as a transit site. Inland there were 7 Lea Marshes Jan 10th, 2 Dunham Bridge May 1st, 1 south-east over Horncastle Jul 29th, 1 Little Bytham Sep 1st and 2 at Brayford Pool Dec 12th. At 6 inland sites 1-4 pairs bred, with breeding season pairs also present at 2 further sites.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare; local releases confound status.

Recorded at 7 sites during the year, as follows: a male was seen at Barton Pits Jan 29-31st, Feb 6th and Jun 22nd, in eclipse Jul 8-Aug 8th, 2 Jul 10th, and 1 present Sep 5th; at Sutton Brick Pit, a female or eclipse male Sep 22nd; at Boultham Mere, an eclipse male Aug 25th; on Timberland Delph/River Witham, a female on Feb 10th and Mar 18th; at Rauceby Warren a pair bred; at Tatteshall Bridge on the River Witham 4 were present Aug 24th and at Black Bank a single bird was present Nov 20th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

| HUMBER | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Alkborough Flats | 450 | 530 | - | 37 | - | - | - | 95 | 20 |
| Whitton-Winteringham | - | 133 | - | 245 | - | - | 645 | 3045 | - |
| Read's Island | 10 | 108 | 57 | 9 | - | - | - | 460 | - |
| Barton | - | - | - | 15 | 5 | 71 | 56 | 52 | - |
| North Cotes-Grainthorpe | 63 | - | - | - | 7 | 152 | - | 200 | 45 |
| Donna Nook | - | - | - | - | - | - | 110 | 300 | 200 |
| Saltfleetby NNR | 34 | 52 | - | - | - | - | 254 | - | 70 |

| WASH | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Gibraltar Point | 740 | 60 | - | - | 4 | 35 | 85 | 350 | 25 |
| Wainfleet | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1500 | 12 |
| Leverton | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 150 | 4 |
| Butterwick | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 10 | 153 | 4 |
| Freiston | 160 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 48 | 489 | 286 |
| Witham | 25 | 55 | - | - | - | 490 | - | - | 10 |
| Frampton | - | 34 | - | - | - | 200 | 220 | 400 | 44 |
| Welland | 75 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 250 | 355 |
| Holbeach | 85 | 18 | 2 | - | - | 30 | 260 | 148 | 660 |
| INLAND WATERS | | | | | | | | | |
| Messingham SQ | - | - | - | - | 12 | - | 116 | - | - |
| Whisby NP | - | 50 | 14 | 14 | - | - | 66 | 145 | 154 |
| Bardney Pits | 83 | 20 | - | - | - | - | 35 | - | 400 |
| Kirkby Pits | 35 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 500 | 60 | 60 |
| Baston Fen | 430 | 530 | 250 | - | - | - | - | 125 | 610 |

Monthly reported max from the more important areas are tabled. Timing of main spring departure is well shown, as is the timing of autumn arrival on the coast, then the move to the inner Humber and Wash and inland waters. Other notable flocks early in the year were 85 at Swanholme Lake Jan 9th and 200 East Butterwick Feb 12th. Summering birds included a pair at Deeping St James, and single males at Whisby NP June 6th, Kirkby Pits 12th, Read's Island Jul 14th and Saltfleetby 17th. Notable flocks at the year end included 70 at Covenham Nov 5th, 39 at Langtoft West End 11th, 47 there Dec 12th, and a December max of 300 at Marston STW.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Both breeding and winter numbers increasing with most Sep-Apr.

Counts from regular resorts as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton/Barrow | 25 | 20 | 10 | 13 | - | - | - | 14 | 38 |
| Swanholme Lake | 35 | - | - | - | 13 | 16 | - | - | 59 |
| Whisby NP | 24 | 24 | 18 | 4 | - | 7 | 57 | 38 | 15 |
| Kirkby Pits | 100 | 22 | - | 13 | 24 | 63 | 110 | - | 55 |
| Kirkby Moor | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | - | 4 | - | - | 22 |
| Gib Point | 22 | 15 | 9 | - | - | - | - | 12 | - |
| Baston Fen | 8 | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 50 |
| Holywell Lake | 23 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 30 | - |
| Langtoft GP | 59 | 36 | 7 | - | - | - | 40 | 87 | 65 |

Elsewhere in the early months there were 3 at Covenham Jan-Feb, 12 North Hykeham Jan 5th and 9 there Apr 21st, 7 Boultham Mere Jan 29th, 15 Toft Newton Feb 13th, 7 Marston STW Feb 20th and 5 Grimsthorpe Lake Apr 10th. Breeding was proved for the first time at Bardney and Barton Pits, where broods of 10 and 8 respectively were seen, and at least one pair reared young at both Kirkby Pits and Kirkby Moor. Also in May-June there were 1-6 birds at Burton Pits, Whisby NP, Denton Res and Deeping St James. In August there were 32 at the latter site on 21st and 35 moved south at Gib Point on 29th. The only other late concentrations reported were 12 at Covenham Nov 19-25th and 28 at Messingham 20th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

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

Totals from main sites were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton/Barrow | 55 | - | - | - | 78 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 70 |
| Whisby NP | - | 45 | 16 | - | 2 | - | 48 | 60 | 96 |
| Bardney Pits | 100 | - | 60 | - | 2 | 150 | 300 | 203 | - |
| Kirkby Pits | - | 4 | - | 2 | 60 | 104 | 120 | 50 | 260 |
| Gib Point | 500 | 500 | 310 | 50 | 150 | 310 | 645 | 575 | 350 |
| Baston Fen | 380 | - | 145 | - | - | 15 | - | - | 280 |
| Marston STW | 210 | 100 | - | - | - | - | 150 | - | 300 |
| Tetney | - | - | - | - | 48 | 55 | - | - | - |
| Horseshoe Point | - | - | - | - | 10 | 34 | - | - | - |
| Huttoft Pits | - | - | - | - | 140 | 153 | - | - | - |
| Frampton Marsh | - | - | - | - | - | 40 | - | 80 | 89 |

No breeding was proved, but June birds were present at Barton Pits, Whisby NP, Gib Point and Marston STW. Autumn counts at other coastal sites included 800 at Winteringham/Ferriby Sep 13th, 50 Pyes Hall 20th, 60 Grainthorpe Marsh 30th and 132 on Holbeach Marsh Aug 21st. Inland there were 15 at Deeping St James Aug 21st, 13 North Kelsey Moor Sep 4th, 100 Nov 4th, 60 Nocton Fen Sep 11th and 100 at Messingham Oct 30th. At Butterwick Marsh 300 flew east on Nov 20th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Large numbers all year.

Peak numbers at regularly counted sites:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Covenham Res | - | 270 | - | - | - | - | - | 350 | - |
| Bardney Pits | 400 | - | 53 | - | - | 104 | 550 | 231 | - |
| Nocton Fen | 96 | 180 | 84 | 125 | 240 | 440 | - | 230 | 260 |
| Metheringham Fen/Delph | - | - | 84 | - | - | 150 | 168 | - | - |
| Kirkby Pits | 340 | - | - | - | 160 | - | 270 | 180 | 750 |
| Gib Point | 270 | 25 | 4 | - | 220 | 500 | 500 | 150 | 550 |
| Witham Mouth | - | 150 | 185 | - | - | - | 127 | - | - |
| Coronation Channel | - | - | - | 390 | 336 | - | - | - | - |
| Marston STW | 55 | - | - | - | - | - | 150 | - | - |
| Baston Fen | 350 | - | 190 | - | - | - | - | - | 170 |

Other larger concentrations reported included 165 at Revesby Res in January, 250 at New Holland and 239 at Huttoft Pits, both in August.

Pintail *Anas acuta* *b

Regular but scarce, Jul-May. Bred 1940 & 1952.

Very poor numbers in both winter periods. Early in the year the highest counts were max 7 at Gib Point in January and 8 at Saltfleetby Feb 27th with 1-5 at Barton Pits, Swanholme Lakes, Whisby NP, Bardney Pits and Baston Fen. In April one was at Messingham 1st and a pair at Barton 16th, a female there May 1st. Early returning birds arrived in July, 3 at Huttoft 10th, 9 Gib Point 23rd, then 1 Huttoft Aug 21st, 11 Gib Point 23rd. Main passage came in September: 36 at Horseshoe Point 7th, 12 flying west at Barton 8th, 11 at Holbeach Marsh 10th, 28 Tetney 14th, 31 at Huttoft 15th and 16 at Gib Point 18th. At Donna Nook 3 flew south 7th and 8 south 23rd. The only other counts in double figures to the year end were 12 at Huttoft Oct 8th, 17 at Gib Point 22nd, 10 at the Witham Mouth and 60 Terrington, year max for the site, in December. Smaller numbers were recorded at Winteringham, Messingham, Covenham Res, Kirkby Pits, Marston STW, Baston Fen and Deeping St James.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* *b

Scarce Mar-Oct, irregular breeder.

All records came in the spring, and all were drakes. One at Gib Point on Apr 1st was the earliest ever there, with possibly the same bird at Saltfleetby 2nd. At Barton there were singles Apr 25th and 29th, May 11th and 15th, with another at Apex Pit on the latter date.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton Pits | 9 | - | 9 | 11 | - | 30 | 55 | 12 | - | 9 |
| Messingham SQ | - | - | 4 | 3 | - | 18 | - | 24 | - | - |
| Whisby NP | - | 12 | - | - | - | 5 | - | 15 | 10 | - |
| Kirkby Pits | 85 | - | 30 | 21 | 2 | 18 | - | 32 | 29 | 22 |
| Gib Point | 3 | 3 | 18 | - | - | 2 | 5 | 18 | 16 | 16 |

Proven breeding records included a nest with 10 eggs at Saltfleetby, broods of 10 at Arnold's Meadow NR and 6 at Nocton Fen. There were also 4-5 pairs at Barton but only 1 brood seen, 4 pairs at Baston Fen and 1-3 at South Ferriby, Read's Island, North Killingholme Pits, Bardney Pits and Marston STW, with 4 males at Tetney Apr 7th and 2 at Donna Nook May 14th. Other than those tabled, the only records in the early months were at Covenham, max 5 Feb 26th, and 8 at Witham Mouth Mar 13th. Double figure counts from August were 14 at Huttoft Pits 21st, 30 on Sep 15th, 20 at Winteringham Nov 27th and 29 at Baston Fen Dec 24th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Rare; local releases and escapes confound status.

Records came from the 5 sites frequented in 1993. A drake was at New Holland Jan 1st. On the River Witham, Kirkstead Bridge-Timberland Delph, there was a pair Feb 10th, then a single male seen May 26th, Jun 18th and Oct 7th. In the south of the county a pair was still present at Baston Pits in February, 3 birds there on 10th, and 2 pairs at Langtoft West End Pits Jan-Mar, with 2 males at Deeping St James Apr-May.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* *b

Rare breeder, common Sep-Mar. Max flocks 1650 1991, 1850 1993.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton/New Holland | 2000 | 1000 | 546 | - | 56 | 546 | 620 |
| Toft Newton | 85 | 89 | - | - | - | 38 | 65 |
| Thurlby SP | 21 | - | - | 30 | 178 | 78 | 58 |
| Kirkby Pits | 310 | - | - | - | 290 | 290 | 425 |
| Langtoft Pits | 324 | - | - | - | - | 93 | 91 |

In the middle Humber flock drakes outnumbered ducks by about 4:1. Also in January there were 134 at Apex Pit 2nd and 400 at Baston GP 31st. Breeding was confirmed at Barrow Haven and Barton Pits (6 pairs, 25 young), and birds were also present in the breeding season at Kirkby Pits, 2 May 2nd, Donna Nook 1 6th, Whisby NP 1 mid-month, Gib Point 2 22nd, and Burton Pits, 2 Jun 5th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common all year.

Monthly max from regularly watched sites as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| New Holland | 340 | 170 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 200 | 250 |
| Covenham Res | 260 | 170 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 140 | - |
| Toft Newton Res | 136 | 163 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 78 | 80 |
| Kirkby Pits | - | 220 | - | 123 | 130 | 180 | 160 | 225 | 290 | 260 | 140 | 350 |

Other three-figure counts included 200 at Baston GP Jan 31st, 250 at Kirkstead Bridge Feb 22nd, 103 Deeping St James Mar 27th and 320 at Deeping High Bank on Dec 3rd. At least 41 broods were reported, max 19 at Barton Pits (124 young), 10 at Whisby NP and 8 from Deeping High Bank (24 young).

Scaup *Aythya marila* *b

Variable winter numbers Sep-Apr, rare May-Aug; brood found 1944.

Regular sightings in the first four months came from the Humber Bank. At Barton Pits at least one bird was seen occasionally from Jan 1st to mid-March, with 6 (2M) Jan 30th and 3 Feb 17th; a pair was present from Apr 1-24th, joined by a 2nd female from at least 10th, then a female alone to 30th; Barrow Pits had 3 birds Jan 24th and 3 females Feb 2nd; at Barrow Haven there was 1 bird on Jan 10th; at New Holland at least 12 Jan 15th, a male Mar 10th and 5 (3M) Apr 17th; and at Goxhill a female Mar 10th. Elsewhere on the coast there was a female at Cleethorpes Jan 1st, 30 north at Gib Point Feb 20th, 3 south Mar 6th and 27th, and at Cut End 2 males Apr 24th and one May 15th. Inland single birds were at Burton Pits Jan 3rd, Thurlby Pits 10th, Toft Newton Mar 1st; a 1st-winter stayed at Bardney Pits Jan 3rd-Feb 12th, and a female at Messingham SQ Feb 12th to at least April 25th, seen again May 14th. First of the autumn was 1 at Gib Sep 16th, then a female at Barton 18th, 5 birds there Oct 8th, 2 15th and 6 Dec 3rd. At New Holland there were 6 birds Nov 16th, 4 27th and 10 Dec 14th; at Cleethorpes singles Oct 16th and Nov 27th; at Donna Nook a 1st winter-female Oct 8-23rd, at Boston Point 3 Nov 26th, and the only inland bird, a female at Covenham Dec 11th.

Hybrid *Aythya*: Presumed Red-crested Pochard x Pochard hybrids were seen at New Holland Jan 15th, Toft Newton Res Mar 1st, Boultham Mere Mar 15th and a pair near Kirkstead Bridge Apr 19th. A drake Pochard x Tufted Duck was at Langtoft Pits on Jan 8th and Mar 6th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Common in the Wash, scarce on coast/Humber; largest Humber flock 52 on 18/11/93. Variable passage numbers with max 900 at Freiston 8/3/1986.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Wrangle | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 90 | 32 | - | - | - |
| Leverton | - | - | - | 40 | - | - | 3 | - | 27 | - | - | - |
| Benington | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 101 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Butterwick | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 30 | 16 | 7 | - |
| Freiston | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 23 | - | - | - |
| Witham | 40 | 35 | 53 | 15 | 20 | - | 3 | 5 | 29 | - | 10 | 12 |
| Frampton | 6 | 15 | 18 | - | 7 | - | 41 | 30 | 2 | - | - | 10 |

Monthly max counts from the north-west Wash coast tabled. Elsewhere in the Wash 4-12 were occasionally noted, with 56 off Terrington in October. Numbers in the Humber were much lower. The main flock at Tetney-Grainthorpe averaged 6-9 birds all year with 13 Jan 23rd and 11 May 8th. Only single numbers were recorded at other sites except for 26 north at Donna Nook Nov 22nd and at Barton flocks of 39 Oct 19th, 16 Nov 11th and 6 27th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce/regular Sep-Apr, very rare May-Jul.

Another poor year, with records of only 12 birds from 4 sites. In January 1 was at Horseshoe Point 5th and 3 at the Witham Mouth 16th. A single bird at Gib Point Mar 5th was joined by 4 others on 6th, and at the same site a drake was present Oct 16th and 1 flew south on Nov 13th. The only inland bird was a long-staying female at Covenham Res, from Nov 11th into 1995.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common on passage Jul-Nov, lesser numbers Dec-Jun. Max 1500 Nov 1976.

Present but scarce in all months. At Barton spring birds moved east and autumn birds west but on the North Sea coast most movements seen were southerly throughout, though small northerly movements also occurred

July-September. In the early winter all records came from Gib Point, with max 50 north Feb 25th; spring passage peak there was 85 south May 27th, with otherwise only single records of 2-4 birds each at 4 sites Barton-Saltfleetby. In June 3 were off Saltfleetby 12th, 35 south at Gib Point 18th and 70 south Donna Nook 21st. Autumn passage began at the end of July with 30 north at Saltfleetby 22nd, 19 north Gib Point 23rd, 38 west at Barton 28th, and peaked in mid-September but max numbers recorded were only 30 north Gib Point, 70 off Huttoft and 31 west at Barton all 15th and 30 at Tetney 18th. The only inland record was a female at Toft Newton Oct 13th and single birds were seen in the Wash, at Butterwick Marsh Sep 10th and Witham Mouth Oct 9th. Also in October 30 flew south at Gib Point 8th and 13 16th, when there were also 5 off Saltfleetby. November records included 34 Barton 5th and 4 there 18th, with 35 south at Donna Nook on the latter date, but only 1-2 elsewhere along the coast to the year end.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce Jul-Mar; 100 Nov 1976.

Again a poor year, with no records at all from the Humber. In spring 6 flew south at Gib Point Feb 1st and a 1st winter drake remained at Toft Newton Res Mar 9th-Apr 26th, with the same or another there May 12th. In autumn 1 flew north at Huttoft Aug 11th and 8 on Sep 1st, and singles were present at Gib Point Sep 1-2nd and 17th. Last of the year was 1 at Covenham Res Nov 5th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common Oct-Apr, very rare May-Aug/Sep. Max flock 400 Feb 1991.

Monthly max at the main sites as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| New Holland | 260 | 240 | - | - | - | 236 | 264 |
| Covenham Res | 54 | 86 | 37 | 18 | 8 | 76 | 20 |
| Whisby NP | 22 | 22 | 21 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Langtoft W. End | 27 | 63 | 29 | - | - | - | 16 |

Also up to 15 present in January-February at Witham Mouth, with smaller numbers at Barton Pits, Kirkby Pits, Boston, Deeping St James and Gib Point, where an individual showing a bright red bill tip attracted notice. Small numbers remained into April and several females into May, at Whisby NP 1st, Kirkby Pits 2nd, 2 at North Kelsey Moor 8th and Barton Pits several dates, last 23rd. First of the autumn was an early bird at Barton Pits Jul 24th. To the year's end 10 at Donna Nook Nov 18th was the highest count, with 2-6 at 10 other sites.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

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

An average year, perhaps slightly better than the last two. In the first winter period the male at Langtoft Pits from 1993 was seen regularly with 1-6 redheads to at least Mar 13th, then a redhead alone to 21st. The male at Toft Newton, again from 1993, remained until at least Feb 25th, with a redhead on Jan 15th. At Kirkby Pits 1-2 redheads were present in mid-January, then in spring a redhead was at Barton Pits Apr 3-11th and a male at Toft Newton May 15-25th. In the late winter redheads were reported from Covenham Nov 13-15th, Kirkby Moor Lake Dec 4th and Toft Newton 13th, the latter joined by a male on 14th (possibly the same one, returning for its 4th winter at this site) to the year end. At Langtoft 2 redheads and a male arrived late December and were also present into 1995.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce Sep-Apr, rare May-Jul.

As usual, most regular in the Wash: at Gedney Drove End there were 11 on Jan 16th and 14 on Mar 13th; at Witham Mouth 3 Jan 16th and singles to the end of April with 7 Apr 17th, and 1-2 in the period at Hobhole Drain, South Forty-foot Drain and Holbeach Marsh. At Gib Point there were 7 Jan 31st and 1-2 to early April, and the only other record was of 4 at North Cotes Jan 3rd. First autumn birds were 4 at Leverton Marsh Sep 7th followed by singles at Huttoft 15th, Tetney 18th, Leverton again 21st; at Witham Mouth there were 2 on 15th and 4 25th. Main movement came in early October when 4 flew west at Barton 4th and 8th, 26 were at

Gib Point 6th, 2 Tetney 9th, then 5 Gib 16th and 1 Barton 19th, 2 there Nov 5th. Again at Gib Point there were 14 Nov 6th then 2-7 to Dec 12th and the only other records were 3 Witham mouth Nov 26th, 2 Donna Nook Dec 2nd.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Fairly common Nov-Mar, very rare Apr-Oct.

Monthly max from regularly watched sites given below:

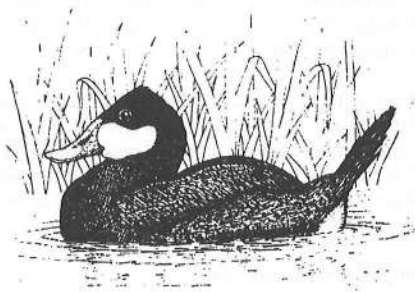
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Swanholme Lake | 3 | 27 | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Thurlby Pit | 16 | 66 | 51 | 1 | 1 | - | 21 |
| Apex Pit | 53 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Whisby NP | 9 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Bardney Pits | 11 | 10 | 11 | 1 | - | - | 11 |
| Gib Point | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | 4 | 2 |

Highest site counts elsewhere in the first quarter were 6 Messingham SQ Jan 10th, 14 Spalding Coronation Channel 17th, 12 Denton Res (a very high number for the site) 22nd, 6 Bardney Lock Feb 7th and 11 Deeping Fen 18th; otherwise 1-3 at Alkborough Flats, Barton, Grainthorpe, Seacroft, Butterwick Hale, Covenham, Market Rasen BP, Toft Newton, Boultham Mere, Kirkby Moor, Baston Fen and the Deepings. A redhead, possibly injured, remained on Coronation Channel June-August, and there was 1 on the River Welland at Deeping Fen Jun 16th. Late winter records, again of only 1-3 birds, came from Read's Island, Barton, Messingham SQ, Scotter Bottom, Covenham, Witham Mouth and Tallington GP.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

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

At Barton-Barrow 6 pairs were proved to breed with 2 pairs rearing 2 broods; additionally several other birds, both males and females, were present. Autumn max was 20 in mid-September, with 7 present in November and 6 December. Breeding was also confirmed at Messingham SQ (1 pr, 2 young), Whisby NP (1 pr, 4 young) and Kirkby Pits (1 pr, 2 young) and 1-2 birds were present all year at North Killingholme and New Holland, but no young were seen. Early year records of single birds came from Covenham, Toft Newton, Fulstow, Boultham Mere, Apex Pits and Langtoft GP and 1-2 birds were at Sutton BP March-September, 1-4 on Grimsthorpe Lake May-July and a female at Denton Res Jun 8th.



Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* *(L)b

Vagrant May & Aug-Oct; 60+ records to end 1993, annual max 11 in 1993. Extreme dates: Apr 27th-Oct 27th.

Another good year with birds present both spring and autumn. In spring one flew north-west over Gib Point Apr 26th. In the autumn singles flew south at Chapel Point Aug 12th and Gib Point 21st, and another was at Gib Point on Sep 11th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* *B

Vagrant.

All records were of single birds, most forming a tight cluster in May, when one flew south-east over Frampton Fen on 2nd (SK), one was at Mareham-le-Fen/Tumby Woods 5th (CJ et al) and possibly the same bird south at Gib Point 6th (SK). There was then one over Boston on Jun 4th (PH). (All still pending acceptance by BBRC.)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* *b

Vagrant, with a recent increase in winter/early spring records. At least 28 birds recorded between 1969-93. A good number of records, with the number of wing-tagged individuals indicating that mainly released birds are involved. One was at Tetney Mar 5th and a wing-tagged bird flew west at Barton 8th. One was present at Gib Point Apr 2-3rd and wing-tagged birds were seen in May at Kirkby Green 30th and over Scunthorpe 31st. One was at Colsterworth June 24th and a wing-tagged bird at Gib Point 26th was the 5th Observatory record.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* *b

Rare breeding bird with numbers increasing on passage Apr-Jun, Aug-Oct. Bred 1962 then from 1983. Early returning birds were at Holbeach Marsh Mar 27th and Apr 9th, with a marked influx in late April including 2 females in off the sea at Tetney 24th and 4 at Holbeach Marsh 26th. Breeding success was good this year. Around the Wash 11 attempts were made, one failing completely and the remainder raising 32 young. Away from the coast 2 nests were successful with 5 young reared, the first proven inland breeding in the county this century. On the Humber 2 pairs attempted to nest, one being successful with 2 young reared. In autumn a large roost built up on Nocton Fen with counts of 16 Aug 23rd, 12 Sep 4th, and up to 4 birds there to the month end.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Bred to 1872; 26 killed in one day in 1820 in Market Rasen breeding area. Now scarce winter visitor and passage migrant Sep-Dec & Mar-May, rare summer.

Max Jan-Feb counts from the two Wash roosts were 7 and 9 birds, and in this period wing-tagged birds were seen at Baston Fen (2 different), Binbrook Jan 15-Feb 8th, Saltfleetby Mar 3rd and a male from Islay at Gib Point Jan 2-16th and again in late March. Late spring records came from Gib Point May 2nd, Frampton 4th and North Cotes, a male on 30th. Summer records came from Billingham, an imm male Jun 4th, and Barnetby Jul 25th; the second year in succession with summer records. Return passage started with an early male at Donna Nook Aug 30th, then none until a male at Gedney Drove End Sep 10th and others at Nocton Fen, North Cotes and Gib Point, including 'their' male from Islay seen from Sep 15th to the month end. A colour-ringed male was seen at Austen Fen Nov 11th and Wash roost max counts to the year end were 6 and 4 with up to 4 at Donna Nook. Scattered records at this time came from other coastal/Humber sites with inland records at Winteringham, Risby Warren, Bonby Carrs, Scopwick, Potterhanworth, Nocton Fen, Tumby Woodside and Deeping Fen.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* *b

Scarce passage migrant Apr-Sep and sporadic breeder. Bred 1951, 1956, 2 pairs 1965, 1969, 1980, 1-2 pairs 1987-89 and 1992-93. Extreme dates: Apr 24th-Oct 19th.

First of the year was a female on Leverton Marsh Apr 14-15th, then single females/immature males were recorded between late April and the end of May at Pyes Hall, Gib Point, Kirton Marsh, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach St Matthew, Elsham Wold and Boothby Graffoe Heath. Two pairs were seen at opposite ends of the county, at Skidbrooke May 5th and in the south Fens in late May and early June, but no successful breeding attempt was recorded. Later records of females/immature males came from Dunston Fen Jun 26th and Jul 18th, Gib Point Jun 8th and 26th, Jul 4th, 8th and 21-23rd, with others in July at Frampton Marsh 5th, 15th and 30-31st, Tetney 10th, Gedney Drove End 24th and Holbeach Marsh 29th. There was also an adult male at Frampton Marsh on 30th.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* *(L)b

Very rare vagrant; attempted to breed 1864.

A good year, with a female seen at Marston STW on May 2nd and 8th (TML) and a juvenile controlled at Theddlethorpe Oct 18th (MB), having been ringed as a nestling in Norway on Jun 26th; the first foreign-ringed Goshawk caught in the UK. Other autumn sightings came from South Witham Oct 16th and Nov 24th (ES), clutching a Pheasant on the latter occasion! Finally one was seen at Kirkby Moor on Nov 6th (BH) and again Dec 29th (DT).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

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

Probably now resident in all parts of the county, with even the Fens having an increasing breeding population. Multiple records were of 3 roosting at Barton Pits through January, 3 Saltfleetby Aug 7th and 4 at Gib Point Oct 24th.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Mainly passage and winter visitor; numbers increasing and birds now summering. Bred to 1888.

Widespread in both winter periods and present in all months; suggestions of breeding pairs came from two areas, but the confirmed breeding record is still awaited. Between January and April records of 1-2 individuals came from Risby Warren, Weelsby Wood, Messingham, Toft Newton, Riseholme. South Carlton, Burton, Wragby, Whisby NP, Blankney, Timberland, Ancaster, Scallows Hall, Belton Park and Denton-Woolsthorpe. Later spring records came from Ancaster Apr 28th, Tumby Woods, 2 May 6th, and Swallow 1 11th. June birds were at Manton-Greetwell, 1-2 seen regularly 8-22nd, then in July there were 1-2 birds in the Appleby area all month, singles at Revesby 22nd and Gib Point 30th. September birds were scattered; 3 at Stainfield Wood 6th, singles at Tortoiseshell Wood 9th and Scamblesby 18th. In the Nocton-Branston Fen area 1-2 birds were recorded Sep-Dec and at Risby Warren up to 5 birds, including at least 1 juv, were present from September to the year's end. In early October 2 birds were at Denton-Woolsthorpe 9th and at Welbourn 1 bird was present from 4th with a second from 14th into November. A notable influx occurred between Oct 22-30th, part of a national East Coast arrival, with coastal records from Humberston, Tetney, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Chapel St Leonards and Gib Point and inland up to 3 at Ancaster by the month's end, singles at Bonby Carrs and North Rauceby 30th. Coastal records continued from Gib Point, where birds were present on 23 days in November and 17 in December, with one at Frampton Marsh Nov 16th, but all other Nov-Dec records came from inland sites: in addition to the long-stay birds already mentioned there were singles at Riseholme, Kirkby on Bain, Blankney and Revesby, 2-3 birds at Bonby Carrs, Saxby Wold, Willingham Woods and Ancaster.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* *(L)

Rare winter visitor Oct-Apr. Best recent years 1974-75 with 20+ birds. Total of 108+ individuals 1960-1993. No records were received for the first 9 months of the year, but this was more than made up for by the last quarter as the county had its share of the East Coast influx. Several of these birds were long-stayers and provided opportunities to see both buzzard species together. Coastal records began on Oct 20th with a single at Grainthorpe, then others at Donna Nook 23rd, Theddlethorpe Dunes 24th and Howden's Pullover 28th, while Gib Point had 5 different birds between 23-28th including 3 24th; most of the birds seen were juveniles. The first inland record came from Rigsby Wood where a juv was found ill on Oct 31st and taken into care. A number of birds were present in the fen/heath area SW of Lincoln Nov-Dec; up to 3 were seen regularly on Nocton Fen and 1-2 at Green Man Wood, Blankney, and Digby Quarry, with singles at Potterhanworth Heath and RAF Digby Nov 7th, Southrey Wood (2) and Potterhanworth Wood Dec 18th and Blankney Fen 23rd. Away from this area 2 were at East Heckington Dec 12th, singles at Swallow 20th and Frampton Marsh 21st.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* *b

Increasing passage migrant Mar-Oct; some immatures in summer. Extreme dates: Mar 10th-Dec 4th.

An average year with a good spring passage and poorer autumn. Early birds were at Whisby on Apr 17th and over the Hobhole on 24th, with another bird at Twigmoor and then Messingham SQ the same date. The bulk of spring passage however took place in May, with singles at Worlaby Top 2nd, Gib Point 6th and 8th and Tetney 10th, and possibly the same bird at Witham Mouth, Gib Point and Anderby Creek on 15th. One was seen at North Rauceby 17th, up to 3 at Toft Newton 18-24th and singles at Thurlby GP 20th, Skidbrooke-Donna Nook 22nd, Woolsthorpe and Butterwick 23rd and last of the spring at Donna Nook-North Cotes on 24th. Autumn passage began with a single at Messingham SQ Jul 10th; another bird there on Aug 26th was probably the bird present at Scotter Bottom Fish Farm 22-28th. Last of the year was at Friskney Marsh Sep 10th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

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

Breeding records submitted were widespread but clearly unrepresentative; autumn max counts at Gib were 5 August, 3 September, 7 October, 4 November, and elsewhere 4 at Kirkby-on-Bain Sep 4th, 3 at Frampton Marsh 10th and 5 Nocton Fen Nov 11th.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* *B
Vagrant; 21 records to date, the last in 1990. A well-watched imm female (probably 2nd-summer) was at Kirkby Moor 14-19th (AP et al) and an adult female at Donna Nook-Pyes Hall 22-25th (AJH, JW) with presumably the same at North Cotes 26th (DHu). Accepted by BBRC.



Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor Sep-May with passage Aug-Nov and Mar-May. Occasional in summer; bred 1860, 1852, 1875.

Coastal/Humber records for the first third of the year, all singles, came from Barton, New Holland, Grimsby, Tetney, Grainthorpe, Skidbrooke, Saltfleet and Saltfleetby, and in the Wash 4 were at Butterwick Feb 8th, and singles at Wrangle Marsh, Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, RAF Holbeach and Nene Mouth. Inland birds were seen at Winterton Tip, Kelstern, Limber, Elsham-Worlaby, Thorpe-le-Vale, Binbrook, Little London, Lincoln, Waddington, Whisby, Nocton Fen, Wellingore, Martin, Tattershall Bridge, Timberland Fen, Mareham-le-Fen, New York, Thorpe Tilney, Foston, South Witham NR and Baston Fen. In May a singles were at Moulton Marsh 1st, Tetney-North Cotes, a female 10-24th, Donna Nook 22nd and Frampton Marsh 24th. Gib had one or more birds on 4 days between 12-21st, and the last 24-27th.

Early returning birds were at Nocton Fen Jul 17th and Aug 23rd, Gib from Jul 30th through August, Donna Nook Aug 1st, Tetney 9th and 14th, Read's Island 16th, Holbeach Marsh 21st and Frampton Marsh 23rd. In the last third of the year 1-2 were at all coastal locations between Grimsby Pyewipe and Gib Point, up the Humber to Barton and around the Wash to Holbeach. Inland records included singles from Winteringham, Swallow, North Kelsey, Cadney, Scawby, Stainfield, Whisby, Nocton Fen, Stixwold, Kirkby Pits, Cranwell, Ancaster, Kirton Holme, Marston, Frampton Fen, Holbeach Fen, Baston Fen and Crowland.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* *b

Passage Apr-Sep 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]. Extreme dates: Jan 20th-Oct 25th.

First spring records in April came from Kirkby Moor and Great Gonerby 24-26th. May-Jun records came from 29 inland sites and Jul-Aug records from a further 24, throughout the county; birds were also widely reported from the coast between the Nene Mouth and Ferriby. Breeding was proven at only two sites but 6 other sites had birds present all summer, with juvs seen in August at 3 of these sites and at two further previous breeding sites. The last passage birds were at Barton Sep 16th, Donna Nook 18th and Saltfleetby Oct 10th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the early part of the year coastal birds, singles except where noted, were at Alkborough Flats (male), Barton (male and female), North Cotes, Saltfleetby, Gib Point, Witham Mouth (imm), Frampton Marsh and Holbeach

Marsh, with inland birds at Worlaby Carrs (imm), Keb Wood-Appleby Carrs, Hackthorn (imm), Welbourne Heath, Gedney Drove End and Baston Fen NR. April birds were at Gib Point, a male on 5 days 4-26th, Messingham SQ, a female 6th, Nocton Fen 10th and Leverton 15th, with the last of the spring in the Wash, at Frampton Marsh May 6th and Holbeach Marsh 29th. An interesting summer record was a bird roosting on Lincoln Cathedral Jul 11-24th, with probably this bird seen in flight over the city 25th. Early autumn birds were reported from Tetney Aug 13th, Nocton Fen 14th and Barton 22nd, with a more general build-up from September, when further coastal records came from Saltfleetby 3rd, Gib Point 5th, Donna Nook 11th and Humberston Fitties 12th, and over the same period there were inland birds at Thurlby and Kirkby Pits 4th. From mid-month to the year end records, mainly singles, came from the Humber Bridge/Barton Pits area (juv), Grimsby Pyewipe (2 different birds), Cleethorpes, Tetney, Pyes Hall, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh, Nene Mouth, Keb Wood, Bonby Carrs (ad), Tetney Blow Wells, Lincoln Cathedral, Nocton Fen, Welbourne Heath and Deeping Fen.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

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

Double figure counts came from Haverholme Park, 10 on Jan 12th, Gib Point, 15 Dec 12th and Kirkby Pits, 17 Dec 22nd. At Nocton Fen there were 72 in one field on Oct 2nd, but only 25 there by Nov 13th.



Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Declining or stable resident but widespread.

The largest group recorded in the year was 39 at Winteringham Jan 3rd, with 17 at Barton Cliff 4th and 10 at Marshchapel 17th. Later in the year there were 22 at North Kelsey Moor Aug 23-25th, 13, including two very pale birds, at Toft Newton Res Aug 30th, 14 Snarford Nov 7th, 24 Horseshoe Point 10th, 22 Hareby 19th, 20 Welbourne Heath Dec 19th and 10 at Ruskington 24th.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix* *b

Very variable numbers Apr-Sep with recent good years 1987, 1988, 1989.

May records were all of coastal arrivals: Grainthorpe May 6-11th and 15th, 2 on 8th, Gib Point 22nd and Saltfleetby 25th. From June onward there were 1-2 calling males at Hallington Top, Cold Hanworth, Scothern, Welbourne Heath, Thurlby Fen, Belmont House to Jul 7th, Donna Nook to Jul 17th and Saltfleetby-Great Carlton to Aug 12th. Also in July 7 were heard at Temple Bruer 10th, with 1-2 birds at Keb Wood-Appleby Station, Baston Fen, Thurlby Fen, and many of the heaths south of Lincoln. Two were flushed at Frampton Marsh on Aug 1st.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident; numbers supplemented by local releases.

Largest groups reported were 50 at Kirton Holme Dec 4th and 67 at Deeping High Bank 19th.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

In the early months there were reports of 1-2 birds at 6 sites, with max at Gib Point of 4 in January and 6 February and at Barton Pits 22 in this period. From March at least 8 calling males were at the latter site and 2 pairs bred at Saltfleetby NNR, with other May-June sightings at Messingham, Huttoft Pit and Gib Point. From October to the year end a total of at least 40 birds were reported from 12 sites, coastal and inland; mainly singles, but 12 at Gib Point Nov 10th and at least 20 at Barton from late November into 1995.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Widespread and common breeding resident.

Few concentrations were reported in the early months: 45 at Marston STW Jan 25th and c100 at Barton from 1993 through Jan-Feb. Some 6 pairs each bred at Whisby NP and Gib Point and in the autumn there were 41 at Messingham Aug 1st, 36 Kirkby Pits the same day and 45 Sep 4th; 29 Nocton Fen Aug 14th, 35 Sep 11th;

13 Gib Point Aug 29th, 19 Sep 8th, and c20 Marston STW September-October. December concentrations included 46 at Holywell 2nd, 22 Black Bank 18th, 75 Deeping High Bank 19th, 52 Deeping St James 24th and c140 at Barton.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Widespread breeding resident with large autumn/winter passage population.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Toft Newton | 200 | 175 | 166 | - | - | - | - | 120 | 123 |
| Whisby NP | - | - | 119 | - | 108 | - | - | - | - |
| Kirkby Pits | - | - | - | 410 | 590 | 900 | 830 | 870 | 700 |
| Deeping St James | - | - | - | - | - | 124 | - | 210 | - |
| Langtoft | 488 | 206 | 79 | - | - | - | 198 | 307 | 381 |

Monthly max from all sites submitting three-figure records for at least 2 months are tabled. The only other high count early in the year came from the Barton-Barrow Pits, where there were c200 in January. In the autumn there were 116 at Swanholme Sep 11th and 404 at Messingham Nov 20th.

Crane *Grus grus* *(L)

Vagrant. County total approx 28 to 1993.

After the 'touch and go' of April 1993, an adult bird was at Gib Point Jun 24-25th, then almost daily Jul 7th to the end of September, occasionally in October with last record 14th (KMW et al). Presumably the same bird was at Wainfleet Sep 11th (EJR).

[WADERS: For monthly WeBS totals on the Humber and Wash see the reports elsewhere in this issue].

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 340 | 415 | 132 | 243 | 71 | - | - | 142 | 480 | 1220 | 480 | 400 |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 700 | 748 | 43 | 190 | 103 | - | - | 917 | 1040 | 240 | 510 | 317 |
| Grainthorpe | 500 | 550 | - | 130 | - | - | - | - | 1000 | - | - | 95 |
| Gibraltar Point | 2750 | 1100 | 800 | 370 | 80 | - | 135 | 7500 | 5000 | 3000 | 8000 | 2300 |
| Friskney/Wrangle | 1800 | 1700 | 1465 | 882 | 400 | - | 244 | 7 | 80 | 3022 | 18 | 880 |
| Leverton-Benington | 450 | 350 | 212 | 16 | 10 | - | 78 | 40 | 368 | 107 | 22 | 450 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 656 | 119 | 1025 | 100 | 227 | - | 294 | 100 | 777 | 882 | 447 | 325 |
| Witham Mouth-Frampton | 80 | 202 | 141 | 105 | 341 | 9 | 1000 | 13 | 1234 | 160 | 500 | 308 |
| Welland Mouth-Dawsmere | 5560 | 6950 | 5528 | 1440 | 739 | - | 3758 | 3868 | 2525 | 2884 | 376 | 2425 |
| Terrington | 4000 | 6 | 926 | 544 | 437 | - | 1039 | 5000 | 2660 | 5000 | - | - |

Highest day counts each month from the main estuarine sites are tabled. Westerly passage past Barton included 23 Apr 11th, 13 Aug 2nd and 96 7th. An early inland passage bird was at Toft Newton Res Feb 20th, then 2 Messingham Mar 6-7th, 2 Bagmoor 17th, 2 Kirkby Pits 30th. Late spring birds were 1 at Messingham Apr 5th, 2 there 23rd; 2 Whisby on 4 dates 6-25th, singles there May 15th, Jun 19th; 1-2 Kirkby Pits occasionally Apr 18th-May 2nd, and 1 at Covenham Res May 7th. No reports of inland breeding pairs were received, but along the coast breeding pairs were reported from Tetney/North Cotes, Donna Nook/Saltfleetby (12 clutches, at least 5 failed), Saltfleetby (pair with young Jul 2nd) and Gib Point. Four post or failed breeders were at Messingham Jun 22nd, 2 there 23rd, with just two autumn inland records, 3 Baston GP Jul 9th and 3 Kirkby Pits Jul 12th. Late winter singles were inland at Toft Newton Res Dec 4th and North Kelsey Airfield Dec 31st.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta* *b

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

There were no records in either winter period this year but a good series of 10 spring records involved about 10 birds. The first was at Saltfleetby Mar 27th, with possibly the same bird south past Gib Point later that day, then 2 Gib Point Apr 28th and a single there May 11-13th, 2 inland at Baston Pits 21st, 2 Frampton Marsh May 22-23rd, then 2 Holbeach Marsh 29th, with 2 Gib Point the same day perhaps different birds. In the north, 2 overflying Worlaby/Elsham May 2nd were no doubt the same 2 seen at Barton Pits that day. There was a single midsummer record, 2 Horseshoe Point Jun 24th, then a series of reports from the South Ferriby/Read's Island area during the second half of Jul, involving adults with juvs which had moved from the Blacktoft Sands breeding site: 1 female Jul 13, male and 2 juvs 14-28th, a different male and 1 juv 28-30th, then a single bird Aug 21-29th. Lastly, 2 flew east past Winterringham on Sep 4th.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedinenus* *(L)b

Vagrant.

Two were present at Gib Point May 11th, with probably a different bird on 31st.

Pratincole sp *B

Vagrant

One at Wrangle Jun 14th (SK) was thought most likely to be Black-winged but unfortunately did not give good enough views to allow specific identification. There are 4 Lincs records of Collared (last 1981) and none yet of Black-winged nor Oriental, but one other Pratincole sp. Pending acceptance by BBRC.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Small numbers on passage Mar-Jun and Jul-early Oct; also scarce and local breeder. First bred 1950; 40 pairs at 20 sites 1970, 33 pairs at 24 sites 1984 [LBR 1985].

First spring birds were 2 Thurlby Pits Mar 29th, 2 Kirkby Pits 31st then 1 Gib Point Apr 7th, 3 Apex Pits 8th. There were 1-3 on occasional dates in April-May at Messingham, Toft Newton Res, North Kelsey Moor, South Ferriby, Barton, Cadney Res, Whisby NP, Bardney Pits and Marston STW, with 6 Thurlby Pits Apr 19th and 4 Alkborough Flats May 3rd. The only breeding season reports were 5 at Kirkby Pits late May to at least mid-June (no details of any breeding attempt submitted); a pair at Marston STW May-June which failed to breed; and singles in June at Gib Point (8 dates) and Whisby NP (2 dates). Late June singles were at South Ferriby 22nd and Barton Pits 26th and 30th, with 2 Messingham 22nd and 26th. Highest July-August counts were 7 at Bardney Pits Jul 25-31st and 4 there Aug 6th, 8 Messingham Jul 26th, 12 Thurlby Pits Aug 19th and 4 North Kelsey Moor late Aug, 8 there 23rd. Otherwise there were records of 1-2 birds on occasional dates at South Ferriby, Barton Pits, New Holland, Killingholme Pits, Grimsby Pyewipe, Tetney, Saltfleet Haven, Cadney Res, Toft Newton Res, Kirkby Pits, Marston STW and Langtoft GP. As usual there were fewer September records, this year only singles at Killingholme Pits 2nd, Bardney Pits 11th and 13th, Whisby NP 12th and Gib Point 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Resident breeding bird, marked passage May-Jun and Jul-Sep. Inland breeding began 1963; 190 pairs 1970, 152 pairs (11 inland) 1973, 242 pairs (36 inland) 1984.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read's Island-S Ferriby | 1 | 1 | 30 | 14 | 230 | 7 | 100 | 253 | - | - | 28 | - |
| Barton-Goxhill | 44 | 25 | - | - | 104 | 4 | - | 90 | 108 | 85 | 64 | 1 |
| Killingham-Immingham | - | - | - | 4 | 60 | - | - | 17 | 213 | - | - | 94 |
| Grimsby Pyewipe | - | - | 4 | - | 450 | - | - | 200 | - | - | - | - |
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 140 | 91 | 110 | 81 | 175 | - | - | 230 | 280 | 13 | 133 | 152 |
| Tetney-North Cotes | - | 4 | 25 | - | 92 | - | - | 19 | 15 | 80 | 11 | 4 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleet | 12 | 1 | 83 | 18 | 20 | - | - | 10 | 1 | 12 | - | - |
| Saltfleetby NNR | - | 2 | 21 | 12 | 22 | - | - | - | 68 | 5 | - | - |
| Gib Point | - | 46 | 76 | 97 | 30 | 10 | 80 | 218 | 350 | 15 | - | - |
| Witham Mouth-Frampton | - | - | - | 52 | 150 | - | - | 250 | 64 | 429 | 62 | - |

Highest reported day counts per month are tabled (but note only one count submitted for many sites/months). The inner Humber flock totalled 30-45 birds during January-February, then 60-80 during November, but seemed to desert the area in December. The south Humber mouth flock totalled around 140 during January-February and again 140 to 155 in November-December. As usual spring passage peaked in May, with highest counts of 230 Read's Island 8th, 190 South Ferriby 19th, 175 Cleethorpes and 150 Frampton both 22nd and 450 Pyewipe 23rd. Widespread records of 1-5 birds came from inland pits March-October, with 18 Thurlby Pits in March and 13 there April. Inland breeding was reported from Baston GP, 2 pairs, Langtoft GP and Bardney Pits both 1 pair, South Ferriby Cement Works 3 pairs April, 4 juvs seen, and up to 12 birds were at Kirkby Pits in June. Along the coast, no details of breeding came from Tetney; there were 23 clutches Donna Nook/Saltfleet by late July, of which at least 11 failed, and 20-25 pairs bred at Gib Point, a decrease on the previous year. There were July passage peaks of 100 at Read's Island 27th and max 80 at Gib Point, then much larger passage numbers through August-September as tabled above. As usual numbers were generally lower in October, though there were 85 Barton/Goxhill 2nd, 80 Tetney/North Cotes 9th, and an extraordinary 429 Witham Mouth also 9th.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare but regular spring passage migrant late Apr-May and rare autumn passage bird Aug-Sep.

Another rather poor year with just 5 spring records, involving 13 birds, and none during autumn. The first birds were 2 Grainthorpe Apr 25th, then a small scale arrival in early May included 2 Worlaby 2-4th, 2 Norton Disney 3rd and 6 North Cotes 4th. A late spring bird was at Donna Nook May 29th.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *B

Vagrant.

Two birds seen on the Wash from the 5th and 6th county records. An adult at Holbeach Marsh Jul 24th (AHJH) was followed by an adult, in moult, at Butterwick Marsh on Oct 8th (PH, SK) seen there again 16th (CJ). Both accepted by BBRC.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* *B

Vagrant.

For the second year in succession an adult was found at South Ferriby in early July. This year's adult male on Jul 10-11th (GPC) forms the 3rd county record, all first seen in July and all within the last decade. Accepted by BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Large wintering population, also passage Mar-May and Jul-Nov.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| ESTUARINE/COASTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whitton | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8000 | 700 |
| Winteringham/S Ferriby | 1010 | 5 | - | 35 | - | 48 | 1500 | 1430 | 500 | 2100 | 15700 | - |
| New Holland/Goxhill | 1500 | 1000 | 1500 | - | - | - | - | 70 | 600 | 100 | 8 | 400 |
| Grimsby Pyewipe | 476 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1200 | - |
| Cleethorpes/Humberston | 620 | 2000 | 32 | 8 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1000 | 8000 | 1000 |
| Tetney/Grainthorpe | - | 400 | - | - | - | 160 | 400 | 760 | 4000 | 4200 | 6900 | 5100 |
| Donna Nook/Saltfleet | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1000 | - | 4021 | 1100 |
| Saltfleetby NNR | 2100 | 300 | 200 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1500 | - |
| Anderby Creek | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1200 | - | - |
| Gib Point | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 300 | 1200 | 5000 | 8600 | 5000 |
| Leverton/Benington | 150 | 62 | 174 | 1450 | - | - | 24 | - | 263 | 1000 | 384 | 2670 |
| Butterwick/Freiston | 50 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 107 | 700 | 50 | 5000 | 2220 | 187 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 2528 | 805 | 170 | - | 10 | - | 32 | - | 2201 | 502 | 520 | 2000 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 480 | - | 75 | 810 | - | - | 511 | 500 | 1200 | 528 | 815 | 686 |
| Terrington | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1655 | - | 3320 |

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| INLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cadney Carrs | - | - | - | 1200 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grasby | - | - | 1000 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Binbrook | 70 | 70 | 2200 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Toft Newton | 1500 | - | 1200 | - | - | - | - | - | 350 | - | - | - |
| Wispington | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1250 | - | - |
| North Hykeham | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1500 |
| Blankney Fen | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1000 | - |
| Swinderby | 1700 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| East Heckington | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1000 | 1000 |
| Syston Park | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2000 | - | - |
| Foston | - | - | - | 1100 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2000 | - |

All sites providing at least one flock of 1000 or two of 500 or more are tabled. There were also 500 at Swineshead in January, 700 Huttoft February, 500 Dorington Dyke March, 500 Caythorpe April and 500 Nocton Fen October.

Early year flocks around the Humber mouth had largely gone by early March, as had the Witham Mouth/Frampton flock on the Wash, but there were still 1500 on inner Humber at New Holland/Goxhill Mar 3rd. Large spring passage flocks are shown and included both inland and Wash birds, but no flocks were reported from the Humber. As usual spring passage was virtually over by the end of April, the last spring birds being 10 at Frampton in mid month. First returnees on the Humber were 9 at South Ferriby Jun 20th then 48 there 27th and 160 Horseshoe Point 29th. In July there were 400 South Ferriby/Read's Island by 12th and 1500 by 28th with 400 North Cotes/Grainthorpe by the month end. Large flocks were present on the Humber through August-September and on the Wash from mid-September, but 350 at Toft Newton was the only large inland flock until October.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 105 | 65 | 6 | 24 | - | - | - | 8 | 107 | 430 | 30 | - |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 1009 | 85 | - | 33 | 100 | - | - | 310 | 645 | - | 230 | 227 |
| Grainthorpe | 43 | 131 | 4 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 219 | 135 | 105 | 175 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleet | 142 | 54 | 45 | 14 | 80 | - | - | - | 250 | 84 | 25 | 11 |
| Gib Point | 250 | 450 | 1500 | 110 | 250 | 6 | 70 | 700 | 5000 | 5000 | 1500 | 70 |
| Wainfleet | 160 | - | - | - | 13 | - | 6 | 14 | 50 | 227 | - | - |
| Friskney-Wrangle | 200 | 100 | 1000 | 240 | 700 | - | 45 | 220 | 480 | 660 | 14 | 400 |
| Leverton-Benington | 60 | 2025 | 500 | 306 | 600 | - | 38 | 45 | 620 | 985 | 248 | 1610 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 227 | 448 | 377 | 200 | 819 | - | 18 | 265 | 611 | 314 | 92 | 144 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 145 | 374 | 341 | 75 | 442 | 5 | 17 | 365 | 891 | 984 | 1033 | 470 |
| Kirton | 187 | 8 | 67 | - | 34 | - | 1055 | 75 | 110 | 145 | 10 | 5 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 810 | 638 | 1950 | 485 | 2516 | - | 686 | 1522 | 3050 | 567 | 174 | 979 |
| Gedney-Terrington | - | 205 | 605 | 220 | 2444 | - | 101 | 3225 | 1141 | 2024 | 3 | 48 |

Highest monthly max from all sites providing at least one count exceeding 200 birds are tabled. A few passage birds were present along the inner Humber during May, including 7 each at South Ferriby 2nd and Barton 21st, and again August-October, with autumn peaks of 13 Barton Oct 2nd and 15 there 29th. There were inland spring records, all of singles, at Kirkby Pits May 12th and 15th, and Thurlby Pits May 13th. The only inland autumn bird was at Marston STW Aug 29th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Huge autumn passage Sep-Dec and large numbers winter. Still widespread but possibly still decreasing as a breeding species.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|
| ESTUARINE/COASTAL SITES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Winterringham-Ferriby | 3000 | 109 | 15 | 3 | 6 | - | 375 | - | - | 12700 | 3600 |
| New Holland-Goxhill | 4000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 500 | 350 | 700 | 1500 |
| E Halton-Killingholme | 1090 | 13 | - | - | - | - | 80 | 7 | - | 187 | 2430 |
| Grimsby Pyewipe | 480 | 127 | 18 | 38 | 28 | - | - | - | 2000 | 3600 | 1000 |
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 310 | 300 | 1 | 6 | 3 | - | - | 200 | 4 | 11000 | - |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 2000 | 55 | - | - | 840 | - | 115 | 250 | 350 | 9000 | 3900 |
| Grainthorpe | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1000 | - | 2800 | 1800 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleet | - | 70 | - | - | - | - | - | 500 | - | 12000 | 4500 |
| Saltfleetby NNR | 2500 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 20000 | 2000 |
| Gib Point | 5000 | 2000 | 2000 | - | - | - | 200 | 300 | 2000 | 16000 | 17000 |
| Friskney-Wrangle | 1200 | 100 | 35 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 145 | 650 | 1300 |
| Leverton-Benington | 525 | 44 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 190 | 1508 | 1756 | 1655 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 425 | 670 | - | - | - | 193 | 36 | 150 | 1200 | 3034 | 1340 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 4946 | 5538 | - | - | - | 101 | 791 | 558 | 1036 | 838 | 1800 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 334 | 14 | - | 3 | - | 64 | 275 | 5 | 309 | 7000 | 4500 |
| Gedney-Terrington | 235 | 2000 | - | - | - | 25 | 33 | 20 | 229 | 519 | 4908 |

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| INLAND SITES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Toft Newton | - | - | 1000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 900 | 2500 |
| Nocton Fen | - | - | - | - | - | - | 280 | 200 | 2000 | 1500 | 1100 |
| East Heckington | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3000 | 2500 |
| Swineshead | 1500 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1000 | - |

Other flocks of 1000+ noted in January included 1970 Kirton Marsh, 3000 Huttoft and 1000 Anderby Creek. Large scale emmigration from Humber and inland sites occurred during February, but there were still 2000 Gib Point and Gedney, 5538 Witham Mouth-Frampton in mid month. An unusually late passage flock of 840 was at Tetney May 22nd. No breeding information submitted. Early returning birds were noted from mid-July, including 440 at Kirkby Pits 12th, 350 South Ferriby 14th, 380 Messingham 24th then 800 South Ferriby Aug 3rd. Large autumn flocks in addition to those shown included 900 Bourne Fen Sep 18th, 900 Wolla Bank 22nd, 950 Ruskington Oct 13th, 1000 Bardney Pits 15th and 1500 Old Somersby 18th. A huge arrival during November was reflected across the county but particularly around the South Humber where the WeBS count 27th totalled a massive 58,716 including 20,000 between Cleethorpes and North Cotes and 20,000 using Saltfleetby NNR. The Lincs Wash November WeBS total was 11,018, with other high November counts of 2500 Blankney Fen 1st, 2000 Long Sutton 19th and 8000 Moulton Marsh 21st.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 10112 | 2040 | 43 | 212 | 40 | - | - | 4 | 100 | 4000 | 6500 | 8000 |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 287 | 175 | - | - | 850 | - | - | 490 | 108 | - | 3330 | 719 |
| Grainthorpe | 400 | 116 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 50 | 1010 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleet | 411 | 350 | 38 | 6 | - | - | - | 250 | 9 | 137 | 1770 | 510 |
| Gib Point | 10000 | 500 | 4000 | 450 | 160 | 17 | 1125 | 9000 | 25000 | 21500 | 30000 | 100 |
| Wainfleet | 1200 | 450 | - | - | - | - | 45 | 20 | - | 80 | - | 1000 |
| Friskney-Wrangle | 600 | 1100 | 7100 | 600 | - | - | - | - | 80 | 2250 | 300 | 800 |
| Leverton-Benington | 52 | 100 | 500 | 61 | 12 | - | 418 | - | 300 | 684 | 1300 | 850 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 2300 | 2140 | 1120 | 150 | - | - | - | 230 | 550 | 610 | 8892 | 8000 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 3118 | 2250 | 1955 | 150 | 350 | - | 60 | 181 | 126 | 900 | 760 | 350 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 12500 | 8850 | 6950 | 1560 | 10000 | - | 3734 | 6860 | 6000 | 2700 | 2250 | 8920 |
| Gedney-Terrington | 1958 | 1500 | 1180 | 420 | 4220 | - | 70 | 150 | 7510 | 13900 | - | 130 |

All sites providing at least one monthly max exceeding 1000 birds are tabled. The Lincs Wash WeBS produced an exceptional count for May totalling 14615 birds, including 14220 between the Welland Mouth and Terrington. Along the inner/middle Humber there were 20 Goxhill Jan 18th, 130 Immingham Docks and 38 Barton both Feb 20th, the Barton flock remaining to 29th. At Grimsby Pyewipe there were 250 May 23rd but no spring records from sites further upriver. In autumn there were occasional singles Read's Island-Barton mid July-October, with 5 Oct 3rd and 19th and an exceptional 80 Oct 23rd. Inland there were spring records, singles at Tattershall Thorpe Apr 13th and Thurlby Pits May 2nd, then 4 autumn records of singles at Thurlby Pits Jul 28th, Bardney Pits Aug 11th, Kirkby Pits Aug 14th and 3 Baston GP Sep 18th. A full summer-plumaged bird was seen at Saltfleetby Jan 22nd.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Marked spring passage Apr-Jun, fewer Jul-Oct; common in winter on the outer Humber.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 224 | 180 | 42 | 224 | 670 | - | - | 150 | 400 | 107 | 50 | 282 |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 71 | 35 | 33 | - | 1390 | - | - | 225 | 56 | - | 29 | 23 |
| Grainthorpe | 2 | 71 | 80 | 47 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 | 122 | 52 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleet | - | 7 | 8 | 5 | 390 | - | - | - | 5 | 13 | 28 | 20 |
| Saltfleetby | 14 | 177 | 57 | 98 | 302 | - | 40 | 12 | 343 | 49 | 28 | 8 |
| Gib Point | 45 | 50 | 80 | 65 | 500 | 60 | 590 | 360 | 850 | 18 | 59 | 25 |

Monthly max reported from the main sites are tabled. The wintering population on the Humber mouth sandflats, Cleethorpes to Saltfleetby, totalled around 400 birds during both early and late winter periods, with 60 Mablethorpe Feb 13th (the only record submitted for the North Sea coast) and around 40-60 birds in winter at Gib Point. The importance of Lincs sandflats to Sanderling on spring passage May was again shown by the total of 2419 from simultaneous counts on the Humber May 22nd, in addition to the max count of 500 at Gib Point. As usual, peak autumn numbers on the Humber were lower than those for spring, but Gib Point had its year max of 850 on autumn passage, Sep 8th. Inland, there was an early single at Thurlby Pit Mar 31st then a flurry of records during the peak May passage period: 1-3 at Thurlby, Kirkby and Bardney Pits and Kirton Quarries 12-16th, while flocks of 16 Covenham Res and 23 Toft Newton Res all arrived 15th. The only inland autumn record was a single at Thurlby Pits Jul 24th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant May-Jun, more regular Jul-Oct with periodic good autumn movements; one winter record, Dec 29th 1972.

A good spring passage but autumn passage was rather poor with no day totals of more than 3 from any site. The first spring records were of singles at South Ferriby May 3-8th and Donna Nook 4th, then a small but widespread influx mid-May, including 4 South Ferriby 13th, 6 there 14th and 1 to 19th, 3 Donna Nook 16th and singles at Thurlby 12th, Barton and Gib Point 15th, and Baston GP 14th and 21st. First autumn birds were at Thurlby Pits Jul 22-23rd and 28th but the only August records were of singles at Gib Point 4th, 16th and 28th. Records were more widespread throughout September with occasional singles at 8 sites, up to 2 at Huttoft, Gib Point and Toft Newton Res and up to 3 at Donna Nook. In October there were singles at Barton and Toft Newton Res 2nd, 2 Winteringham 11th, 1 Whisby NP 13th and the last at Bardney Pits 17th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* *(L)

Rare passage migrant mainly late Apr-Jun & Aug-Oct.

A typical showing for the species in Lincs, with just two spring and one autumn passage records, all involving single birds: at Alkborough Flats May 3rd (CN,JH), Kirton Quarries May 16th (CN) and Baston GP Jul 22nd (SG).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

There was just one spring passage record this year, 1 Kirkby Pits May 2nd. Autumn passage was rather poor, with no July records and only 2 singles in August, at Cleethorpes shore 7th and Kirkby Pits 16th. Birds were

widespread in September, but there were records of only 1-3 birds at 8 sites, up to 4 at Holbeach and a max count of 9 at Barton 15th. During October there were singles at Barton and Gib Point 2nd, Winteringham 9th, 3 Bardney Pits 2nd with 1 until 9th and a final single at South Ferriby 10th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

The only early records came from the north end of Cleethorpes shore, singles Jan 13th and Mar 1st probably involving the same wintering individual. Possibly the same bird was back at nearby Grimsby Pyewipe Sep 16th and at Cleethorpes again from Dec 4th to the year's end. There were also singles at Saltfleet Haven Nov 5th and Covenham Res Nov 14-17th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Winteringham-Barrow | 1019 | 510 | 1016 | 1440 | 778 | 4 | 560 | 400 | - | - | 1000 | 655 |
| New Holland-Immingham | 336 | 1000 | 520 | - | 27 | - | - | 7 | 173 | 210 | 204 | 1324 |
| Pyewipe-Grainthorpe | 3582 | 1664 | 1043 | 983 | 4226 | - | - | 2335 | 5480 | 5569 | 3052 | 3375 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleetby | 1975 | 727 | 730 | 422 | 42 | - | - | 140 | 250 | 1523 | 1212 | 1408 |
| Gib Point | 1000 | 200 | 1250 | 500 | 200 | 50 | 800 | 3000 | 2000 | 3300 | 5000 | 60 |
| Friskney-Wrangle | - | 1350 | 4000 | 200 | 600 | - | 6 | 75 | 200 | 435 | 100 | - |
| Leverton-Benington | 130 | 200 | 250 | 250 | 400 | - | 396 | 200 | 726 | 528 | 585 | 370 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 810 | 900 | 1200 | 250 | 2275 | - | 2954 | 140 | 700 | 975 | 1030 | 460 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 3256 | 2148 | 3700 | 1150 | 700 | - | 1650 | 1450 | 1790 | 4400 | 1710 | 1130 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 5220 | 2026 | 1865 | 2150 | 3100 | - | 3955 | 2020 | 4440 | 5896 | - | 3780 |
| Gedney-Terrington | 4410 | 3750 | 2810 | 1850 | 1000 | - | 4030 | 500 | 4110 | 617 | 500 | 1403 |

The South Humber population was around 7000 at both ends of the year, whilst on Lincs Wash there were 10000-14000 January-February and 7500-9500 November-December. Good May passage flocks included 3060 Cleethorpes, 2275 Butterwick, 3100 Holbeach area and an exceptional 11000 Gedney-Terrington in mid-month. Large autumn passage flocks had arrived on the Lincs Wash by mid-July when there were around 8000 between Welland Mouth and the Norfolk border, 6000 between Butterwick and Kirtton. The only Humber July counts came from South Ferriby where there were 18 on 7th, 230 mid-month and 560 by 31st. Small numbers were recorded at inland sites all months March-November with most April-May and August-September. Highest inland counts were 15 Bardney Pits May 7th, 10 there Sep 29th, and 11 Toft Newton Res May 15th. On Aug 6th 300 flew inland from Nene Mouth in a 5-hour watch.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* *b

Passage migrant and rare wintering bird, most Mar-May & Jun-Nov.

Records in the early winter included 1 New Holland Jan 15th, 4 Witham Mouth Jan 22nd, 11 there 30th and 1 Feb 13th but no reports from the usual wintering site at Grimsby Pyewipe. After April singles at Witham Mouth 4th and Gib Point 28th, there was a widespread arrival starting May 2-3rd. Spring/autumn monthly max for all sites providing records for two or more months are tabled, and other single figure counts between May 2-11th came from Bonby Carrs, North Cotes, Thoresby Bridges, Frampton Marsh and Marston GP. The only late May record was of 6 west at Barton Pits 21st.

| | May | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | | May | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Alkborough Flats | 45 | - | - | - | 18 | Frampton | 15 | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| S Ferriby/Read's Is. | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | Holbeach | - | - | 1 | 12 | 28 |
| New Holland | - | 4 | 5 | - | - | Covenham Res | - | - | - | 23 | 18 |
| N Kelsey Moor | - | - | 8 | 10 | - | Kirkby Pits | 30 | 2 | 8 | 13 | - |
| Donna Nook | 7 | - | 8 | 8 | 3 | Bardney Pits | 4 | - | 6 | 3 | - |
| Gib Point | 23 | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | Marston STW | 10 | - | 3 | - | - |

The first returning birds were 1 Kirkby Pits Jun 28th then 2 there Jul 2nd. Autumn passage was generally poor, with single figure maxima for most sites. Widespread records of 1-5 came from suitable sites but the only flock of 20+ (additional to table) was 21 Moulton Marsh Oct 29th. Late winter records were of 1 at Frampton Nov 3rd, 2 Nocton Fen and 1 Cleethorpes Shore 23rd and 1 Grimsby Pyewipe Dec 9th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage bird Sep-Nov & Apr.

1-2 birds seen occasionally at 12 sites January-April, involving around 18 individuals: 2 Barton shore from 1993 to Jan 6th, 2 Killingholme Pits Jan 4th, 1 Pyes Hall Jan 11th, 1 Tetney 31st, 1 Seacroft Jan 28th-Feb 22nd, 2 Metheringham Feb 20th and 2 Messingham Mar 2nd, up to 3 Saltfleetby January-February, 1 Whisby NP Mar 13th, 1 Thurlby Pit Mar 18th and Apr 7th, 1 Gib Point 18th and 23rd, 1 Frampton Apr 21st. First returnee at Baston Fen arrived Sep 30th, then passage birds at Donna Nook Mere Oct 4-31st, max 3 on 18th, Huttoft Pit Oct 8th, Saltfleetby 13th, Gib Point 22-23rd, 2 Messingham Oct 30th and 1 there Nov 8th. Presumed wintering birds were at Barton Nov 12th to the year's end, 1-2 Saltfleetby Nov 11-29th, up to 3 Baston Fen NR 11-17th, 1 Cleethorpes 30th, 6 Huttoft Bank Nov 6th and 3 Dec 17th and 1 at Immingham Dec 25th. (About 24 late year birds at 10 sites.)

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton Pits | 10 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 9 | 14 |
| North Killingholme Pits | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 28 | 18 | - |
| Messingham SQ | - | 2 | - | - | 5 | 10 | - | 15 | - | - |
| North Kelsey Moor | 51 | - | 21 | 1 | - | 14 | 27 | 11 | 11 | 25 |
| Donna Nook | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 1 | 10 | 5 | - |
| Saltfleetby | 16 | 5 | 5 | - | 2 | - | 3 | 12 | 33 | 7 |
| Gib Point | - | 11 | 5 | 18 | - | 14 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 6 |
| Kirkby Pits | - | - | - | - | 2 | 16 | 6 | - | 6 | - |
| Bardney Pits | - | - | - | - | 2 | 13 | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| Whisby NP | - | - | 12 | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Marston STW | - | - | - | 2 | 30 | 60 | 100 | 9 | 50 | 50 |

The table shows highest counts per month, January-April and July-December from all sites providing counts in at least two months and site max of at least 10 Snipe. Other parties of 10 or more were 26 Boultham Mere Feb 6th, 61 Goxhill Feb 18th, 11 max New Holland Aug 27th-Sep 4th, 11 Cleethorpes shore Nov 30th and 18 Huttoft Dec 17th. 'Drumming' birds were reported from: Marston STW, 1 April, 3 in May/June; Baston Fen 1 June; Alkborough Flats 5 Apr 24th, and Barton Pits 1 Apr 29th. An adult with juv was at Barton Pits Aug 3rd, but there were only 2 other breeding season records: 1 calling at Kirkby Moor in May, but no further activity recorded, 1 Messingham Jun 22nd.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

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

The scattered reports received give little indication of the status of this species, either in winter or during the breeding season. Only Gib Point provided records in all winter months, with monthly max 3 January-March and 1 December. Otherwise there were only 12 winter reports from 11 sites, all singles except 5 Belton Jan 30th. At least 24 were roding in Laughton Forest Jun 6th and 2 nearby at Scotton Common 30th. Also in the north-west 4 roding Keb Wood, Appleby, Jun 2nd, 6 roding Broughton 7th. The only other breeding season reports received were 3 roding Nocton Wood Jun 1st, 3 roding Whisby NP Jun 9th and 2 there 12th - no reports from any woodlands in the east or south-west of the county. On the coast in autumn, after 1 Gib Point Sep 16th, main arrivals were, as usual, from mid-Oct to mid-Nov but with only 1-2 at most sites and peaks of 5 Pyes Hall Oct 20th, 5 Gib Point Nov 6th and 6 there 12th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* *b

Scarce in spring, more numerous Jul-Oct with wintering flocks in the Wash and recently on the Humber. Last bred 1979.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Grimsby Pyewipe | 77 | - | 96 | 7 | - | 90 | - | 145 | 150 | 80 |
| Holbeach | 230 | - | - | - | 153 | 171 | 1200 | 830 | 145 | 668 |

Once again these areas held the only wintering flocks. Early in the year the only other reports were 44 Freiston mid-March and 3 south Gib Point Mar 28th. First spring birds were 3 Messingham Apr 24th, 2 Read's Island Apr 30th then during May 1 Gib Point 2-3rd and 21st, 3 Alkborough 7th, 1 Whisby NP 8th and 12-13th, 1 South Ferriby 12th and 5 Frampton 26th, and last of the spring was at South Ferriby Jun 2nd and 7th. Up to 4 returning birds were at South Ferriby/Read's Island Jun 27-29th, then during July-September there were 1-3 occasionally at Tetney-North Cotes and Frampton, and on single dates at Kirkby Pits, Bardney Pits, Thurlby Pits, South Witham, Wainfleet and Butterwick. Larger parties were more regular along the inner Humber: up to 4 Read's Island Jul 12-24th and 7 there Aug 3rd; 9 New Holland Aug 31st then 13 there Sep 2nd, 9 on 4th, 24 on 13th. Gedney Drove End held 75 Aug 21st. In October there were 30 at Wrangle 9th and 100 North Killingholme Pits 1st then 110 9th, the latter thought to be the same flock as the Pyewipe birds. Late year birds were 74 on Cleethorpes shore and 30 Humberston shore, both at high tide roost Nov 27th and presumed same as the Pyewipe flock, 1 Barton Nov 30th, Dec 3rd and 28 Gib Point Dec 4th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 282 | 160 | - | 9 | 2 | - | - | 4 | 1000 | 34 | 122 | 190 |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 253 | 64 | - | - | 11 | - | - | 14 | 32 | - | 126 | 72 |
| Grainthorpe | 58 | 61 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 20 | 1 | 101 | 101 |
| Gib Point | 1000 | 2000 | 20 | 4 | 25 | 25 | 200 | 1400 | 1000 | 3000 | 750 | 150 |
| Wainfleet | - | - | - | - | - | - | 800 | 1100 | 4000 | 20 | 702 | 20 |
| Friskney-Wrangle | - | 65 | 270 | - | 150 | - | - | - | 120 | 220 | - | 40 |
| Leverton-Benington | 1050 | - | 6 | - | 6 | - | 99 | - | 64 | 2000 | 1220 | 700 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 480 | 10 | 29 | - | 17 | - | 68 | 72 | 44 | 43 | 101 | 380 |
| Witham M-Frampton | 134 | 104 | 100 | 55 | 4 | - | 11 | - | 39 | 132 | 30 | 39 |
| Welland M-Dawsmere | 634 | 180 | - | - | 321 | - | 1550 | 2360 | 1600 | 336 | - | 1438 |
| Gedney-Terrington | - | 51 | - | - | 11 | - | 122 | 52 | 9 | 104 | 17 | 5 |

Highest reported monthly max from all sites regularly holding 100+ birds are tabled. On the inner Humber both passages were rather poor. There were occasional records during May but max at South Ferriby was only 10 on 19th and at Barton 9, 19-22nd. In autumn South Ferriby had 11 Jul 29th, 9 Aug 19th, with at Barton 1 Jul 20th, 3 Aug 10th, 2-3 adults late August-early September and up to 9 juvs September, 12 Oct 2nd. Inland there was a flurry of records 8-15th May: 1 Whisby NP 8th and 13th, 1 Kirkby Pits 11th and 15th, 2 Messingham 12th, 2 Bardney Pits 14th, 11 over Toft Newton 15th then 2 Baston GP May 21st.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to common passage migrant Apr-Jun and Jul-Oct; occasional winter records. Rare inland.

First of the year were 8 at Gib Point Mar 27th, then 1 North Killingholme Apr 4th. Low numbers were widespread at suitable estuarine sites by mid-month, with the first larger flocks reported 24th. Monthly reported max from the best-watched sites are tabled, but note that only one count was submitted for some sites/months.

| | Apr | May | Jul | Aug | Sept |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Tetney-North Cotes | 32 | 30 | 14 | 25 | 9 |
| Grainthorpe Marsh | 24 | 40 | - | - | - |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleet | 1 | 15 | 2 | 30 | 13 |
| Saltfleetby NNR | 20 | 26 | 11 | - | - |
| Gib Point | 80 | 58 | 47 | 28 | 15 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 35 | 40 | - | - | - |
| Holbeach | 3 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 28 |

There were also 21 at Huttoft May 21st and 23 Gedney Drove End Jul 24th. Once again few counts were received from Saltfleetby in autumn and none for Grainthorpe or large areas of the Wash. Some indication of the numbers using the Wash in autumn comes from an observation of around 250 departing inland over Nene Mouth during a 5-hour watch Aug 6th. Away from the main sites there were smaller numbers on the inner Humber: 1-3 regular late April-late May and mid July-mid August with spring max of 9 west at Barton Apr 24th, 8 South Ferriby May 2nd and in autumn 17 south-west at Barton Jul 31st and singles there to Sep 11th. Inland there were 1-4 occasionally, late April to mid-May at Messingham, Kirkby Pits, Apex Pits and Marston STW, with 12 north-east over Louth May 13th and 7 Kirkby Moor 15th. Inland the autumn max was 16 at Bardney Pits Jul 31st, with occasional singles at Kirkby Pits July-August and a late bird at Marston STW Sep 11th. Larger numbers than usual remained in September, including 28 Holbeach 10th, 15 Gib Point 18th, then October records on 7 days at Gib Point, 2 at Tetney and 4 Witham Mouth 9th, 1 Grainthorpe 10th and the last at Butterwick, 12th and 16th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Common on coasts all year with passage Mar-Apr and Jul-Oct, fewer inland. Rare breeder.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Winteringham-Barrow | 130 | 31 | 130 | 40 | 15 | 50 | 192 | 110 | 220 | - | 98 | 143 |
| New Holland-Immingham | 69 | 27 | 234 | 21 | 2 | - | - | 15 | 7 | 3 | 66 | 11 |
| Pycuipie-Grainthorpe | 199 | 136 | 113 | 46 | 19 | - | 478 | 659 | 115 | 299 | 198 | 398 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleetby | 390 | 250 | 164 | 25 | 10 | - | 10 | - | 229 | 66 | 67 | 46 |
| Gib Point | 80 | 120 | 99 | 50 | 12 | 10 | 150 | 150 | 400 | 21 | 20 | 29 |
| Wainfleet | 18 | 201 | - | 6 | 3 | - | 211 | 600 | 150 | 370 | 100 | 35 |
| Friskney-Wrangle | 42 | 30 | 215 | 72 | 1 | - | 265 | 180 | 110 | 119 | 4 | 206 |
| Leverton-Benington | 45 | 22 | 22 | 29 | 17 | - | 44 | 4 | 279 | 415 | 152 | 63 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 32 | 91 | 146 | 30 | 1 | - | 46 | 351 | 180 | 360 | 143 | 35 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 141 | 144 | 168 | 208 | 23 | 11 | 129 | 191 | 840 | 422 | 60 | 105 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 75 | 266 | 198 | 757 | 3 | - | 1926 | 1162 | 1630 | 1408 | 85 | 887 |
| Gedney-Terrington | 247 | 186 | 23 | 230 | 4 | - | 754 | 402 | 838 | 891 | 38 | 60 |

Up to 800 were present along the South Humber early in the year and up to 600 in December, whilst on the Lincs Wash there were up to 1000 and 1400 respectively, including around 900 in the Holbeach area. Highest numbers were on the Wash in autumn when WeBS counts totalled 2500+ July, 3000 August, 4000 September and October. Few inland flocks were reported: 34 Marston STW Jan 4-6th, 50 August-September; 16 Grantham STW Sep 19th and 12 Old Bollingbroke Oct 30th. Otherwise 1-4 passage birds were reported inland April-early June and late June-July. A nest was found at North Rauceby and pairs held territory at Poston, Cranwell airfield and Fulbeck.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common on passage in Wash Jun-Oct, variable numbers elsewhere Apr-Nov; rare in winter.

There were early year singles at Donna Nook Jan 19th, Wainfleet Feb 6th and Tetney Mar 27th, followed by a poor spring passage, mirroring those of recent years, with only 6 reports of singles: Alkborough Apr 17th, Frampton 29th, Gib Point May 4th and 20-21st, Skidbrooke shore 11th and Witham Mouth 15th. Returning non-breeders were at Gib Point Jun 7th, 26th and the only July bird on 3rd, Kirkby Pits Jun 16th. Another poor autumn passage with county totals of just 10-11 August, 12-14 September, 4 October: 1-2 birds

occasionally at Tetney, North Cotes, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Gib Point, Frampton, Messingham, North Kelsey Moor, Bardney Pits, Kirkby Pits and Marston STW, with 3 at Somercotes Haven Sep 4th and at Horseshoe Point 8th. One at Frampton Oct 28th and Nov 2nd remained to overwinter.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| Alkborough-Immingham | 258 | 250 | 227 | 48 | 17 | - | 120 | 256 | 420 | 200 | 292 | 452 |
| Pyewipe-Grainthorpe | 702 | 472 | 369 | 257 | 130 | - | - | 578 | 585 | 331 | 1016 | 687 |
| Donna Nook-Saltfleetby | 265 | 200 | 117 | 84 | 5 | - | - | - | 292 | 322 | 217 | 289 |
| Gib Point | 110 | 90 | 170 | 130 | 16 | 25 | 68 | 180 | 280 | 500 | 70 | 86 |
| Friskney-Wrangle | 160 | 70 | 175 | 56 | 4 | - | 54 | 14 | 260 | 275 | 40 | 103 |
| Butterwick-Freiston | 83 | 110 | 50 | 50 | 20 | - | 52 | 48 | 195 | 66 | 266 | 53 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 339 | 232 | 277 | 124 | 79 | 372 | 210 | 436 | 1493 | 804 | 71 | 71 |
| Welland Mth-Dawsmere | 153 | 265 | 146 | 146 | 111 | - | 780 | 336 | 1728 | 193 | 49 | 418 |
| Gedney-Terrington | 143 | 155 | 83 | 139 | 53 | - | 1226 | 501 | 833 | 498 | 18 | 64 |

Other flocks of 100+ were 150 at Benington and 143 Kirton in January. Scattered inland records of single figures covered all months except January, with higher counts being 13 at Covenham Res Mar 26th, 15 Kirkby Pits and 24 over Whisby NP both May 2nd, 15 Baston Fen Dec 18th and 10 there 28th. The breeding population was poorly documented: around 50 pairs at Tetney and a June max of 372 birds Frampton were the only coastal data received, whilst 2 pairs Marston STW April-June was the only inland breeding season report.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce to common passage migrant Apr-Jun and Jul-Nov; rare in winter.

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tetney-North Cotes | 1 | 4 | - | 6 | 16 | 9 | 2 |
| Horseshoe Point-Grainthorpe | - | 1 | - | 6 | 17 | 8 | 1 |
| Saltfleetby | - | 2 | - | 1 | 8 | 13 | 2 |
| Gib Point | 3 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 18 | 18 | 1 |
| Witham Mth-Frampton | 1 | 6 | - | - | 3 | 23 | 3 |
| Holbeach | - | - | - | 22 | - | 15 | - |

Highest counts from main sites providing records are tabled. The first spring passage birds arrived last week April: up to 3 Gib Point 23-30th, singles Tetney and Donna Nook 24th and Frampton 26th. Main spring passage was generally light: in addition to tabled peaks 1 at South Ferriby, 3 Barton both May 2nd, 1 Pyes Hall 18th; inland 1 Apex Pits, 3 Bardney Pits both 2nd, 1 Messingham 4th, 1 Marston STW 8th, other singles there, Bardney and Covenham Res 15th and North Kelsey Moor 19th and 21-22nd. Returning non-breeders were at Messingham, 4 Jun 24th, and 1 Tetney Jul 2nd. The only non-tabled sites reporting birds in July were Read's Island, with singles 11th onwards and Kirkby Pits, 1 18-19th. The peak of 22 at Holbeach occurred Jul 24th. As shown above, main passage took place through August-September when 1-3 birds were found at all suitable coastal sites, 4 Moulton Marsh Sep 10th, 4 Barton 25th and 10 flew inland from Nene Mouth Aug 6th. Inland numbers were lower with 1-2 at suitable sites August-Sep 18th, 4 Kirkby Pits Aug 16th and the last at Bardney Pits Oct 1-2nd. October coastal/estuary birds were at Barton, 1 2nd, 2 Saltfleetby and 3 Frampton 9th, 2 Tetney/North Cotes 16th and 1 there 21st, 1 Grainthorpe 16th and 20th and the last at Gib Point 21-24th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Recorded all months with peak passage in Mar-May and Jun-Sep.

Present throughout the year. In January-March 14 birds, mainly singles, were reported from Risby Warren, Appleby, Messingham, North Kelsey Moor, South Cockerington (2), Kirkby Pits (2), Nocton Fen, North Hykeham, Burton Pits and Baston Fen (3). Max counts for passage months at main sites are tabled.

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| North Kelsey Moor | 3 | - | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| Kirkby Pits | 1 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 6 | - |
| Bardney Pits | 3 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Marston STW | 1 | - | 1 | 9 | 14 | 14 | - |
| Gib Point | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |

Another poor spring passage with widespread singles in April but max of only 3 North Kelsey Moor and Bardney, both 10th, and only 3 May singles. Return passage from mid-June to mid-October peaked in July-August when reports of 1-2 birds were widespread. From November wintering birds were at North Kelsey Moor (2), Covenham Res, Bardney Pits, Apex Pits, Marston STW and Baston Fen.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Scarce on passage late Apr-Jun and Jul-Oct.

Both spring and autumn passage numbers were better than average with totals of 11-14 May, 5 July, 9-11 August and 5 September. First of the spring were 2 Kirkby Pits May 2nd, 1 there 8th. There was a marked arrival in mid-May involving singles Covenham Res 10th, Gib Point and Messingham 12th, 3 Saltfleetby 15th, 2 there 19th, 1 North Kelsey Moor 18-19th. A late bird was at Thurlby Pits Jun 4th and there was an unusual single at Donna Nook 20th. Autumn passage extended from mid-July to mid-September, peaking in August. In July there were 2 Kirkby Pits 18th, 1 Donna Nook 22nd, 2 Bardney Pits 24th. All August records were of singles, Gib Point 2nd, Kirkby Pits 6th and 16th, Frampton 8th, Bardney Pits 11-15th, 20th and 23rd, Humberston 12th, south past Huttoft 17th, Caistor 26th, and North Kelsey Moor 26th-Sep 9th. Other September singles at Thurlby Pits 2nd, Gib Point 4th, west past Barton 13th and the last at Marston STW 17-18th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Scarce to fairly common on passage Apr-Jun and Jul-Oct with occasional winter records. Bred 1979.

First of the spring at Kirkby Pits Apr 22nd then a widespread arrival 23-24th. After this 1-3 were regular at suitable sites to the last in late May, but max were only 5 Kirkby Pits Apr 23rd, 6 Tetney-North Cotes May 7th, 8 Gib Point 15th, 6 Toft Newton Res 19th and 6 Donna Nook-Saltfleet 22nd. First returnee was at North Kelsey Moor Jul 7th, then small parties widespread to mid September with peaks of 15 South Ferriby Jul 14th, 12 Gib Point 30th, 14 Tetney-North Cotes Aug 3rd, 11 9th and Sep 11th, 12 Witham Mouth Aug 26th and 10 Covenham Res Sep 7th. In October there were 1-2 Gib Point 1-3rd, Toft Newton Res 2-5th, 1 Tetney-North Cotes 6th and the last 4 there 9th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common on coasts Jul-Apr/May with notable spring and autumn passage flocks.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Barton | 120 | 96 | - | 136 | 60 | 64 | 64 | 88 | - | 60 | - |
| New Holland | 50 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 42 | - | 24 |
| Cleethorpes-Humberston | 102 | 80 | 84 | 101 | 4 | - | 148 | 370 | 176 | 180 | 73 |
| Tetney-North Cotes | 24 | 97 | 26 | 11 | 3 | - | 12 | 13 | - | 10 | 85 |
| Gib Point | - | - | - | - | 35 | - | 14 | 50 | - | - | - |
| Witham Mouth | - | 100 | - | 50 | - | - | 150 | - | 200 | - | - |
| Frampton Marsh | - | 17 | - | - | 17 | 20 | 50 | 20 | - | - | - |

Monthly reported max at main sites tabled. Other early year records of 10+ were 20 at Nene Mouth Feb 2nd, 20 Grainthorpe 20th. Additional spring passage max of 10+ came from Leverton, 20 Apr 15-17th and 15 26th, and South Ferriby, 12 May 4th, 10 there 26th. Inland there were 5 spring records involving 7 birds: 1 Cadney Res, 2 Thurlby Pits both May 3rd, singles Whisby NP and Kirkby Pits both 15th and the last, 2 Thurlby Pits 16th. The only inland autumn record was 3 Cadney Res Aug 25th. On the inner Humber there were 18 at South Ferriby-Read's Island Jul 18th, 13 25th, 40 Aug 3rd, and on the Wash 20 at Holbeach Marsh Sep 5th and 24th. At the year end there were parties of 27 at both Pyewipe and Grainthorpe Dec 11th.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce to fairly common Sep-Nov, rare Dec-Jan & May; 300+ 1985, 1988 & 1993; highest recent day counts 74 24/9/1988, 92 29/9/1988, c200 21/10/1993. [LBR 1993]

First 2 flew south at Gib Point Aug 14th, followed by a single at Winthorpe on 16th, a 2nd-summer bird at Barton on 22nd and a single at Tetney 27th. On Sep 1st there were 4 at Huttoft, 3 at Gib Point and 11 flew inland at Nene Mouth, then a single at Gib Point on 7th. Main autumn passage occurred mid-month, when there were 2 at the Humber Bridge, 2 North Cotes and 3 at Gib Point on 14th, 3 north at Gib Point 15th, a juv at Donna Nook, 2 at Huttoft, 6 south at Gib Point and 2 adults at Witham Mouth all on 16th, 2 at Gib Point 17th and one there the next day, when 3 flew inland at Nene mouth. Highest count of the year was 45 at Nene Mouth, heading inland on Oct 3rd, and last of the year was a single at Gib Point 16th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Regular/common Jul-Oct, rare Nov-Jan & Apr-Jun. Highest day counts 423 4/9/1984, 386 29/9/1991 [LBR 1993].

A good set of records, though no spring sightings. Autumn passage began in early August with 18 inland at Nene Mouth 6th, 14 at Gib Point 7th and 6 at Huttoft 11th. Later in the month there were 13 at Tetney on 21st, 10 Barton 22nd, 8 31st, 6 at Huttoft 23rd and 5 at Horseshoe Point 24th. Larger numbers occurred from the month end; after 8 at Huttoft and 9 south at Gib Point 31st there were 6 at Tetney, c130 past Huttoft and 43 over Huttoft Pits, 13 at Gib Point and 63 moving inland at Nene Mouth, all on Sep 1st. Main passage period was the 6 days beginning on 13th, with 8 at Saltfleetby that day, then on 14th, 42 were at Barton, 56 at North Cotes, 54 at Mablethorpe, 91 south and 43 north at Huttoft, 31 north at Gib Point, 82 at Witham Mouth and 10 at Nene Mouth. The following day there were 16 at Barton, 51 north at Gib Point, 60 at Huttoft and 28 at Nene Mouth. Highest count of the year was 203 at Gib Point on 16th with 24 at Huttoft and the same number at Nene Mouth; 70 were at Gib Point on 17th and 42 there the next day. Numbers then tailed off, with 9 at Witham Mouth 25th, 18 north at Gib Point, 7 at Nene Mouth and 2 at Barton Oct 3rd, 10 north at Gib Point and 4 at Cleethorpes on 16th. The only November record was a single at Gib Point on 6th, and last bird of the year was at Nene Mouth, Dec 31st.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare to scarce Jul-Oct. Exceptional recent years 1976, 1985 (67), 1988 (66), 1991; highest day count 26 29/9/1991 [LBR 1988 & 1993].

A good series of records, the majority in mid-September. An adult was at Winthorpe Aug 16th, then 3 juvs at Barton 31st. On Sep 1st there was a juv at Barton, heading inland, a sub-adult at Huttoft and a juv at Gib Point, with 9 inland at Nene Mouth. On 14th 3 were at North Cotes, 2 juvs at Gib Point and a juv at Gosberton Risegate, feeding on earthworms in an onion field, then on 15th 4 juvs at the Humber Bridge and 5 heading inland at Nene Mouth. An adult was at Pyes Hall 16th, when there were also 2 adults and a juv at Huttoft and 3 juvs at Gib Point. Another juv was at Gib Point on 18th and one remained at Witham Mouth 24-25th. Latest bird of the year was a single at Nene Mouth, flying up and down the saltings on Oct 3rd.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Scarce-fairly common Jul-Nov, rare Dec-Mar; highest recent day counts 216 29/9/1991, 171 14/9/93 [LBR 1993]

First bird of the autumn was at Witham Mouth Aug 9th, apparently exhausted but later seen to fly off, then singles at Witham Mouth 11th, Gib Point 13th and Horseshoe Point 24th. A good passage was noted on Sep 1st, when 50 passed Huttoft and 70 headed inland at the Nene Mouth, but peak passage was recorded

mid-month: on 14th there were 32 at North Cotes, 58 at Huttoft and 5 at Witham Mouth; on 15th, 11 were at Barton, 30 off Huttoft, 16 flew north at Gib Point and 57 flew inland at Nene Mouth; on 16th, 8 were off Huttoft, 71 flew south at Gib Point, 8 were at Witham Mouth and 64 headed inland at Nene Mouth, and on 17th 13 were at Gib Point. There were then 15 at Witham Mouth on 25th and 5 north at Gib Point Oct 3rd, with the highest count of the autumn the same day: 195 birds flying inland at Nene Mouth. On 16th there were 3 at Gib Point and 7 at Donna Nook, then a single at Holbeach Marsh Nov 7th and finally 3 at Nene Mouth, Dec 31st.

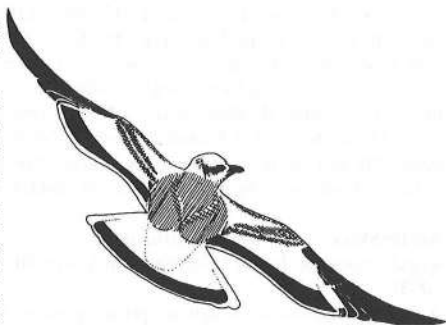
Skua sp: 350 at Nene Mouth Sep 1st and 340 there on Oct 10th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* *b

First recorded 1950, now present all months with up to 20 pa; 30+ in 1993. Hybrid pairs bred 1991-1993 [LBR 1991].

At North Hykeham Apex Pits up to 5 1st-winter birds and 2 adults were present Jan 2nd-Mar 20th and other records in the first quarter came from Kirkby Pits, a 1st-winter Jan 15th, Feb 5th and 14th; Skegness, 1 on 10th; Cleethorpes, a single Mar 1st and 2 adults 24th, another adult at Scunthorpe 7th and a 1st-winter at Gib Point 21st. At Messingham SQ 1-2 hybrids were present from Mar 6th, with an adult from Apr 10th; a mixed pair (with Black-headed Gull) hatched 2 chicks, which were deserted and not seen after May 30th. An adult was at Kirkby Pits May 12th, then in July a 1st-summer bird

was at Gib Point on 10th, with an adult on 30th, another adult was on the Ermine Estate, Lincoln, on 18th and 2 adults on Holbeach Marsh, 24th, one of them a hybrid. In August adult birds were at Gib Point 6th, South Ferriby 11th, Skegness 14th and Winthorpe 16th, and a 2nd-winter bird was at Donna Nook Sep 6-7th. Late autumn records came from Barkston, an adult Oct 8th and a 1st-winter 9th, and Ancaster Pits, an adult 9th. A 2nd-winter was at Barton Nov 29th ad up to 4 1st-winters were present at North Hykeham Apex Pits in November, with one remaining to the year end.



Little Gull *Larus minutus* *b

Very variable numbers Apr-Jun and Jul-Nov, rare but regular Dec-Mar.

Recorded in all months February-November, with the first birds, 2 adults, at Gib Point Feb 13th, then singles at Skegness 15th and Gib Point again 16th. The only March bird was at Witham Mouth on 13th, with in April singles at 3 sites and 2 imms at South Ferriby 23rd and at Barton 30th-May 1st. Peak spring passage occurred in May, with singles reported from Barton, Messingham SQ, Kirton Quarries, North Cotes, North Hykeham Apex Pits and Kirkby Pits. Three June and one July record came from some of the same sites, all singles, as were three early August sightings. Two birds were at Saltfleet Haven Aug 11th and the first juv of the year was at Barton on 14th. Autumn passage quickened from the month end, but numbers were not high. Gib Point had 1 Aug 28th, 3 1st-winters Sep 1st and 2 adults 3rd; a 1st-winter was at Chapel St Leonards on Aug 28th, an adult at Barton Sep 2nd, 2 at Covenham on 7th, 1 at Toft Newton 11th and 3 Mablethorpe 14th. Single juvs were at the Humber Bridge and Spalding on 15th, and the 8 birds past Huttoft on this date was the highest count of the year. Remaining records were all of single birds, at Pyes Hall 21st, Theddlethorpe 25th and last of the year at Sutton Pit, Oct 2nd.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* *L

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

An adult was present at Gib Point Sep 17th (IS).

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 6100 pairs in 1973; Kirton/Frampton held 22,000 pairs in 1974.

Max numbers for the first quarter included 1000 birds at Gib Point Jan, 1800 Feb and 1000 Mar. Leucistic birds were at North Hykeham Apex Pits, Jan 15-16th, described as all creamy white except for normally-marked undersides of the primaries, and Kirkby Pits 24th and Feb 5th. In April there were 400 1st-summerers at Barton 15th and 300 birds at Whisby NP 17th. Breeding records came from Gib Point, Kirkby Pits, Whisby NP (15 pairs) and Bardney Pits (11 pairs), but the formerly nationally important colony on Frampton Marsh again failed to fledge significant numbers of young. The first fledged juvs were noted at Barton Jun 30th. Highest counts for August were of c1000 birds at Barton, 1920 at Frampton Marsh 15th and 1100 at Gib Point 16th, with max 1000 Sep, 3000 Oct and 2000 Nov. Other November counts included 650 North Kelsey Moor 4th, 3800 Frampton Marsh 15th and 1300 at Leadenham Tip 22nd, with 1600 there on Dec 17th. Another leucistic bird was at Apex Pits Dec 27th, all white except for ear and primary coverts, with the highest count of the year, 20,000 birds, roosting there on this date; at Gib Point there were 650 on 28th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very large wintering population and passage numbers.

Highest numbers recorded January and December, but even then the counts appear low; perhaps under-recorded in the Wash and Humber where very large numbers roost. Max counts for the early year were 1000 at Gib Point January, 1400 February, 500 March and 200 April. There were 1500 at Barton Jan 17th, 1500 Goxhill 18th and 700 at Barton (of which 95% adults) on Feb 11th. A good passage of adults was noted at Barton from Mar 17-27th, with increasing numbers of 1st-summer birds from 30th; 250 there by May and 366 on 25th. At Donna Nook there were 430 on May 22nd, at Snipe Dales 700, July 30th, and the first juv of the year was recorded at Winteringham on Aug 3rd. Gib Point max counts for the second half of the year were 800 July, c100 September, 500 October, 150 November and 200 December. Highest count of the year was 10,000 at North Hykeham Apex Pits on Dec 27th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

L.f.graellsii present all year: rare but increasing Dec-Feb, passage Mar-May and Aug-Nov, summers Jun-Jul; bred 1993. *L.f.intermedius* (*fuscus*?) occur mainly summer/autumn but winter records increasing. Early winter records included 5 at North Hykeham Apex Pits Jan 2nd, 7 Feb 18th; 8 at Kirkby Pits Jan 24th and Mar 26th, and 8 at Whisby NP the same day; c120 there by Apr 3rd. Courtship was noted at Kirkby Pits on Apr 14th and one pair attempted to nest in early May, with 3 other pairs present and showing courtship behaviour, but unfortunately the attempt was unsuccessful. Also in May 60 birds were present at Gib Point 9th and 160 at Messingham SQ 12th, with a very large flock of 1050 there on Jun 7th and 230 at Whitton on Jun 12th. In the autumn there were 120 at Gib Point Jul 10th, 15 at Marston STW 16th, 85 at Thurlby Pits Aug 17th, 97 at Deeping High Bank 27th, 180 Gib Point Sep 16th, c450 at Leadenham Tip Oct 4th and 500 Nov 22nd, 1310 at Apex Pits, highest count of the year, Oct 11th, and 300 at Frampton Marsh Nov 15th. December birds were 50 at Whisby NP 3rd, 3 at Leadenham Tip 17th and 10 at Apex Pits 27th. Adults of the race *intermedius* were present at Kirkby Pits, Jan 24th and Feb 5th, with a 2nd-winter bird there 14th. An adult *intermedius* at Louth Tip Jan 24th was possibly the same bird present in 1992-93, and a few birds of this race were among a large flock at Messingham SQ on June 10th. Birds reportedly showing characters of the race *fuscus* were present at Apex Pits Mar 26th and at Nocton Fen Aug 20-30th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

No exceptional numbers reported. All the following are max monthly figures. At Gib Point there were 700 January, 600 February and 500 March; c2000 (90% adults) at Winterton Tip Jan 14th. Spring/summer max for Gib Point were 1500 April, 200 May, 300 June, 200 July and 50 Aug 3-21st. There were 560 at Frampton Marsh Sep 15th and a dark-backed, pink-legged bird at Barton Oct 15th. Autumn max at Gib Point were 250 Oct 30th, increasing to 400 Nov 13th, and there were 500 present at North Hykeham Apex Pits on Dec 27th. A 1st-winter suggesting characteristics of a 1st-winter Thayer's Gull was present at Winterton Tip on Mar 18th (GPC).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* *b

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

An adult was at North Hykeham Apex Pits Jan 23rd, with a 2nd-summer there Apr 20th, 2 adults Jun 18th and 1 adult on 20th. Whisby NP also had the same 2 adults 18th, and 1 20th, and other single adults were at Kirkby Pits Aug 6th and Gib Point Sep 3rd. Three adults were at Leadenham Tip Oct 25th with 2 still present on Dec 31st.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus* *(L)

Rare/scarce Dec-early May, most on passage Mar-Apr.

The 1st-winter bird present at North Hykeham Apex Pit from Dec 1993 was still there Jan 10th (KD), with a different 1st-winter bird at Thorpe Pit 11th (KD). The Apex bird was also seen at Station Road Tip, North Hykeham on Jan 2nd (ACS,GPC). A 2nd-winter bird was present at Bagmoor/Winterton Mines Jan 15th (JH).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

All records in January and February. First bird of the year was a 1st-winter on Cleethorpes Shore Jan 1st, then single adults at Winterton Tip 3rd-Feb 13th, Humberston 30th and Louth Tip Feb 5th. A 3rd-winter bird was at Gib Point 7th and a 2nd-winter at Barton 11th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Common Sep-Apr; immatures summer.

Peak numbers were recorded September-November, but the species is perhaps under-recorded. There were 100 at Barton Jan 9th, with at Gib Point, 50 January-February, a max of 60 March-April, 20 on Jun 26th, rising to 150 Jul 14th. At Gedney Drove End there were 44 Jul 24th, and inland at Covenham 31 Aug 12th. Gib Point had 100 by Aug 7th, 200 by 21st, and there were 47 at Grimsby Pyewipe 29th. In mid-September there were 566 at Frampton Marsh and a max of 200 still at Gib Point, but 500 there on Oct 8th. Also in October Donna Nook had 155 on 16th, and 30 were at Leadenham the following day. In November there were 400 at Frampton Marsh 15th, 200 at Gib Point 11th, falling to 100 by mid-month and only 40 on Dec 11th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

Recorded in all months except November. Maximum monthly coastal counts and all inland records are given. In the early winter there were 500 at Nene Mouth Jan 17th, one inland at Thorpe Tip 21st, 40 heading west at Barton Feb 14th and 725 heading south at Gib Point March 26th. In the Wash there were 28 at Holbeach Marsh on Apr 10th and in May 115 at Donna Nook 25th, 86 there 27th. At the Humber Bridge there were 32 June 11th and at Saltfleetby 12 Jul 2nd, then 20 at Gib Point Aug 9th. Also in August a juv was at Whisby NP 28th, and in September 5 were at Huttoft Pits 1st, 72 north at Gib Point 15th and 62 there 17th; 48 passed the same site on Oct 3rd. Finally 200/hr were recorded heading west at Nene Mouth on Dec 31st.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce Mar-May, common Jun-Oct. Six pairs bred 1950. Extreme dates: Mar 12-Dec 8th.

First returning birds were 3 at Gib Point Apr 4th with 6 there 21st, then regular on the coast from 24th. Inland there were 2 at North Hykeham Apex Pits on 23rd, one at Billingham on 28th. Highest spring count was 35 at Donna Nook May 24th, then in autumn 95 at Gib Point Jul 7th, 400 23rd, but the main movements occurred in August. Peak numbers were 180 at Gib Point 4th, 30 Cleethorpes 7th, 85 Tetney 9th, 50 Horseshoe Point 10th, 20 Saltfleet Haven 18th, 60 Saltfleetby 28th, and 50 North Cleethorpes 30th. In September there were 80 at Gib Point and 142 at the Nene Mouth on 1st, 200 south at Donna Nook on 7th, 16 at Huttoft on 16th, 5 at Holbeach Marsh, 24th, then 21 Gib Point Oct 1st and the last, 3 birds at Cleethorpes on 9th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Common on passage Apr-May and Jul-Oct; 700 7/8/1971, 500 26/8/1991. Census 1973 found 120 pairs with 45 inland; expansion inland but coastal decline since. Extreme dates: Mar 19th-Nov 4th.

First records for the year were single birds inland at Kirton Holme Apr 17th and Pinchbeck 22nd, then at several coastal sites from 23rd; 100 at Witham Mouth 24th. In May there were 75 at Whisby NP 7th, 11 at Marston STW 22nd and 17 at Kirkby Pits 30th. Up to 34 pairs nested at Whisby with the first young seen on Jun 20th and at least 10 juvs on 27th, including one in a Black-headed Gull nest with 2 juv Black-headed Gulls; 50 birds, including juvs, were present on Jul 17th. 123 pulli were ringed at Baston, 6 pairs nested at Kirkby Pits, outcome unknown, and a pair reared 3 juvs at Barton Far Ings NR. On Jul 28th 30 were at Tetney, 96 roosted at the south end of Cleethorpes shore Aug 7th, 21 were at Surfleet Seas End 19th, 150 at Witham Mouth 23rd and 120 at Gib Point 26th. In September there were 51 west at Barton on 1st, 100 at Horseshoe Point 7th, 60 at Gib Point and 75 Holbeach Marsh, 10th, 63 at Witham Mouth 11th and 28 west at the Humber Bridge on 12th. On 16th there were 16 at Coronation Channel, Spalding, then 3 at Witham Mouth 24th. The last were at Barton, a juv Oct 2nd and an adult there the next day.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Variable spring passage Apr-Jun, scarce but some large flocks Jul-Oct: 3,500 20/8/1982. Bred 1954 & 1956. Extreme dates: April 11th-Nov 4th.

Spring passage began in mid-Apr with one at Messingham SQ 16th and 2 east at Barton 17th, then 4 there 30th and 6 May 19th. Several sites recorded single birds in May; one remained at Kirkby Pits 11-19th, and peak inland count was the 17 at Bardney on 15th. A 1st-summer bird was at Whisby NP Jun 7-19th and a juv was at Toft Newton from mid-June. Early autumn passage birds were 4 at Gib Point Jul 16th, then 3 at Donna Nook Aug 4th, and the heaviest movement seen occurred on 26th when 27 moved south at Gib Point. Small numbers were reported from coastal localities from early September including 3 at Wolla Bank 4th, 12 south at Gib Point 16th and 5 there 19th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Passage Apr-Jun & Jul-Aug and coastal breeder: recent max 205 pairs 1977. Extreme dates: Apr 11th-Oct 19th.

First of the spring were 2 at Gib Point Apr 22nd, 2 Barton 27th. Coastal records in summer included 4 at Tetney, May 8th, rising to 30 in June with 8 nests counted. All were predated, but one pair relaid, 2 adults and 2 juvs present in July; 2 pairs bred at Donna Nook, 4 birds there Aug 8th; 12 at Saltfleet Haven Jul 17th; 8 at Saltfleetby Jun 12th, 3 Jul 21st; max 40 birds at Gib Point May-June, 2 adults and 2 juvs there Jul 16th. A colour-ringed juv was present at Holbeach Marsh Jul 29th. In August there were 3 at Frampton Marsh 5th, 7 at Humberston 12th, 3 Gib Point 23rd, 15 at Holbeach Marsh 21st, 7 25th, 4 Sep 10th and the last 2 birds of the year there Oct 1st.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* *b

Very variable numbers Apr-Jun & Jul-Oct; 390 on 2/5/1990. Extreme dates: Apr 1st-Nov 10th.

First birds were present at Kirkby Pits Apr 23rd, Barton Pits and Tetney 24th. The main spring passage occurred in two waves, May 1-3rd and 13-17th, but no large numbers were recorded, maxima being 4 at Messingham SQ 3rd and 3 at Langtoft Pits 15th. Return passage occurred mid-August to mid-September, the highest counts coming from the Witham Mouth: 25 Aug 11th, rising to 35 there on 23rd. In September there were 2 at Barton Pits 1st, a juv at Toft Newton 5-11th, 4 at Holbeach Marsh, from 7th with 10 there on 10th, and 6 at the Humber Bridge 15th. The last of the year was a juv at Barton on Oct 2nd, a total of c150 birds being recorded for the year.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* *B

Vagrant May-Jun and Aug-Oct.

An adult/2nd-summer seen at Barton on Jul 16th (SR,GPC), was also recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve later that day. A juv present at Messingham SQ on Jul 25th (RH,GPC,JTH) was the earliest ever record of a juv in Britain. These birds form the 25th and 26th county records; both accepted by BBRC.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

A poor year with no large numbers reported. There were up to 4 in January at Gib Point and other singles at Tetney 16th and Witham Mouth Jan 30th. The February Beached Birds Survey recorded 4 tideline corpses

at Tetney, 1 Mablethorpe and 30 at Gib Point. Live February birds were 1 at Huttoft and 2 Mablethorpe 13th, one Boston town centre 14th, 3 Gib Point 18th and 2 there Mar 4th, then none until 16 at Donna Nook May 25th. September singles were at Witham Mouth, North Cotes and Gib Point. The highest count of the year was of 26 birds heading north past Gib Point Oct 16th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

A very poor year, the only record being one north at Gib Point Oct 16th.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Scarce offshore.

As with the other auks, a poor year, the only record being a 1st-winter at Barton, Dec 22nd

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident, high numbers in urban areas.

Maximum flock sizes reported were 500 at New Holland in August and 400 at Barton in early December.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Largest numbers recorded were 80 at Heighington Jan 2nd, 55 Metherringham Fen and 50+ Goxhill Marsh, both Feb 23rd, 46 at Gib Point Sep 9th and 68 Frampton Marsh Nov 15th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Common resident with huge winter flocks.

In the early part of the year, max numbers were 2500 at Gib Point in January with 1000 February, 1000+ Postland Fen Feb 9th, 1000 Timberland Fen 12th, 1500 Holbeach Marsh 23rd and 1130 at Toft Newton Mar 3rd. In the latter part of the year there were concentrations of 2000 at Gib Point in October, 2000 Marston STW Oct 30th, 1000 Metherringham and 6000 roosting at Harmston Nov 24th and 1000 Alkborough Dec 29th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common and widespread with larger concentrations in winter and in urban areas.

There were few submitted records of large numbers and the only concentrations of more than a hundred birds reported were 107 Gib Point Jan 14th, 150 Temple Bruer Feb 27th and 300 New Holland Nov 27th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Declining; summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant. Wintered 1966-67.

The first bird of spring was at Gib Point on Apr 22nd, followed by 3 at Barton 24th, Moulton Marsh and Grainthorpe 25th, 2 Baston Fen and 2 Kirkby Pits 26th, then widespread records over the next few days. This species continues to decline and the maximum number recorded was 66 at Frampton Marsh on May 25th with up to 30 at Gib Point during the month. There were few September records and the last report received was of 14 at Holbeach Bank on Sep 21st.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Occasional records may refer to straying birds from the British feral population but others may be escapes.

At Gib Point there were 2 Apr 4th, 1 intermittently Nov 7-26th, and at Butterwick Marsh an adult female Oct 8th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

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

The first of the year was at Walcot on Apr 11th, then no further records for 10 days until singles at Theddlethorpe 21st, Pinchbeck and Barton 22nd, Saxby Top and Baston Fen 23rd, and generally from 24th. A rufous female was present at Barton May 1st-Jun 13th. Max numbers in summer were 8 at Whisby NP and

7 pairs at Donna Nook. Few were recorded after mid-August with 1 Marston STW on 28th, Pyes Hall Sep 1-6th and the last at Louth on 18th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

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

Few significant records were received. There was the usual increase in sightings in February-March due to daylight hunting birds, particularly in bad weather. Breeding records included 26 young fledging from 7 nest-boxes at Deeping St James and 3 pairs at Stickney.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Declining and very local resident, now apparently absent from many areas. Breeding records, apart from 4 pairs at Deeping Fen, comprised single pairs at Cold Hanworth, Boultham Mere, Stickford, Marston STW, Dowsby, Gosberton, Kirton End and Friskney Fen, clearly demonstrating a bias to the south of the county. All records now required for this species.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread and increasing resident.

This species is overlooked by most birders and its nocturnal habits guarantee few records. A pair bred at Gib Point.



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Local resident, more widespread and numerous in winter and on passage Mar-Apr and Sep-Nov. Numbers very variable from year to year.

Early year roost counts included 3 at Deeping Fen January-February, up to 7 at Hobhole January, 4 February and one staying until May 5th, and 2 at the Brant/Witham confluence Jan 25th. Spring coastal records came only from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR: 2 Mar 10th and 1 Apr 20th. Breeding pairs were reported from Broughton Woods (2), Laughton Forest, Bourne Wood and possibly Gib Point. Autumn passage was again small scale and with records confined to the north east coast: singles at Theddlethorpe Sep 5th, North Cotes Oct 20th, Grainthorpe 30th and Saltfleetby Nov 19th. Late year roost counts included up to 4 on the Brant, 6 Deeping Fen and up to 3 at Hobhole in December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Rare breeder, widespread but in very variable numbers on passage and in winter. Twelve nests on Read's Island 1973.

Maximum numbers at the beginning of the year were 8 at Binbrook in January, 9 February then 5 until early April; 4 Baston Fen February and 5 Gedney Drove End on Mar 6th. No proved breeding records were received but summer birds recorded included 2 at Gib Point Jun 15th, 1 Donna Nook Jul 23-24th. Birds were noted generally in small numbers again from September and late year roost counts included 2 on Read's Island November, 4 December.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce and very localised summer visitor. Population estimate of 49 adults in 1970, 59 churring males found in 1992 survey [LBR 1992]. Extreme dates: May 16th-Nov 28th.

The bulk of the breeding population were at Laughton Forest where there were 29 churring males with others at Crowle Waste (6), Keb Wood (2) and Scotton Common. Single birds were recorded at Gib Point May 21st, Whisby May 20th, Boultham Moor (2) Aug 15th, Donna Nook 20th and Short Ferry Sep 5th.

Swift *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor and passage bird. Extreme dates: Apr 18th-Nov 11th.

First of the year were singles at Kirton Holme Apr 21st, Gib Point 24-27th, North Somercotes and Barton 25th, North Cotes and Welbourne 28th, Nocton, Frampton Marsh and Spalding 29th, then generally in small numbers increasing to 100 at Kirkby-on-Bain May 11th. There was a pronounced arrival in mid-May with

150 at Gib Point and 250 Toft Newton 15th, 250 Barton 16th. Passage birds were noted at 300/hour at Tetney on May 23rd. A partial albino with white rump and undertail coverts was at Barton Pits on May 27th and Jun 6th. There were some marked movements in late June with 1700 at Gib Point 19th, 2000 Tetney 20th, 2000 Theddlethorpe 26th. Southerly movements at Gib Point in July included 1000 4th, 1000 10th and 2000 26th. Birds were scarce by mid-September with 30 Gib Point and 2 Donna Nook 11th, then singles at Barton 16th, Gib Point 19th, Barton 21st, Risby Warren 22nd. Late individuals were at Immingham Oct 23rd and Alford Nov 11th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Widespread resident with breeding numbers affected by severity of winters; passage Apr-May & Aug-Nov. Reports came from some 20 locations during January-March. Breeding pairs were reported at Deeping St James, Foston, Ancaster, Kirkby Pits, Barton Pits, 3 pairs at Whisby and 2 pairs at Burton, one of which raised 2 broods. Coastal records included one at Tetney RSPB Reserve and a juv at Crook Bank, Theddlethorpe, both Jun 26th. Singles were regular at Holbeach Marsh July-August and Gib Point recorded up to 3 September-October. Birds became widespread again September-December with records from 30 locations.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* *b

Vagrant, nearly annual, most Apr-Jun.

There were just two records during the year; one at Raithby near Spilsby on Apr 26th and one at Strubby Heliport on May 5th.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* *b

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

There were 2 spring records, singles at North Kelsey Moor May 3rd and North Cotes 16th. A good showing in autumn included 2 birds inland, one caught by a cat and later released at Nocton Fen on Sep 3rd, and one just north of Grasby 5-7th. Coastal records were of singles at Saltfleetby Aug 27th and Sep 2-4th, Skegness Sep 2-3rd, Saltfleet 19th, Donna Nook 21-24th and Saltfleet Haven 22nd. At Gib Point in September there was 1 15-16th, 3 on 17th, 2 18-25th, with at least 4 individuals involved.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Local resident and rare migrant.

As always, records received are a poor representation of the population. There was a scatter of records January-March away from breeding areas, including 2 at Barton and singles at Winteringham Haven, Messingham SQ, Covenham and Gib Point. Breeding records were received from Bagmoor, Brumby, Whisby, Kirkby Moor, Moor Farm, Woodhall Spa, Bourne and Deeping St James. Two were present in Tortoiseshell Wood and Temple Wood and one at Gib Point in May, and one in Grantham Alma Wood on Oct 26th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Widespread resident; movements Jul-Apr include large continental influxes in some winters.

Breeding records were received for Whisby, Kirkby Moor, Moor Farm, Woodhall Spa, Boston, Bourne Wood, Temple Wood and Deeping St James, again a poor reflection of the real situation. Autumn coastal records came from North Cotes Sep 5th, Donna Nook 18th, Theddlethorpe and Gib Point both months with at least 3 at Gib Point on Oct 12th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Local resident.

Early in the year, birds were noted at Weelsby Woods, Swallow, Linwood Warren, Burton Pits, Hartsholme Park, Hoplands Wood, Nocton Fen, Tattershall Thorpe, Haverholme Park, Aswarby, Bourne Wood and Deeping St James. Breeding records came from Scunthorpe Kingsway Woods, Burton Pits, Kirkby Moor, Moor Farm and Haverholme Park, with one at Holton-le-Moor in May. Post-breeding records, away from the sites already listed, were of singles at Stixwold in August, South Witham in September, Gosberton Pits and Tallington in October.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* *b

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 12 singing males were reported from 6 sites, with at least 5 pairs confirmed as breeding. NW Area: At the main breeding site 5 males were in song, of which at least 2 were paired, while nearby another pair was present in suitable habitat. At a 3rd site in this Area 9 fledged young seen on one day would indicate the presence of at least 2 pairs. UW Area: One site held a singing male from Mar 15th into April. E Area: Two sites, each hosting 2 singing males, produced a combined minimum of 9 fledged young. One of the males had been colour-ringed at Lynford in the Norfolk Brecks in 1993. At Gib Point there was 1 Feb 27th, 3 28th, 1 March 9-10th and Apr 26th and singles intermittently from Nov 21st to Dec 19th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

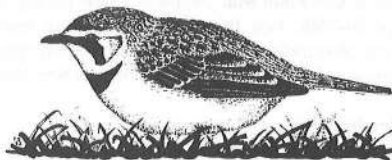
Widespread breeding bird, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Concentrations in the early winter included 120 at Holbeach Marsh Jan 16th, 160 at Saltfleetby Feb 13th, including one individual exhibiting characters of *ssp dulcivox* (GPC), and 50 Metheringham 23rd. Movements were noted again from October with 540 at Gib Point on 2nd, 200 there 8th, 300 18th and 150 Nov 2nd. Inland there were 100 at Metheringham on Nov 19th. December concentrations included 150 Barton 7th, 150 Alkborough Flats, 200 Goxhill and 500 Welbourne Heath all 23rd and 100 Swallow 28th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Greatly decreased winter visitor, slight increase in recent years.

In the early part of the year 6 remained at Saltfleetby from 1993 to Apr 10th. The first in autumn, at Gib Point from Sep 30th to Oct 3rd, equalled the earliest ever record there. Another was at Saltfleetby Oct 23rd with 4 there Nov 5th, 2 9-19th then 3 from 25th into 1995. There were also 5 at Donna Nook from Dec 18th into 1995.



Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor; huge decline 1984 - recovery since. Extreme dates: Mar 12th-Nov 20th.

First records were in March, singles at Gib Point 13th, Whisby NP 19th, Kirkby Pits and Boston 24th, then widespread on 27th including 20 Kirkby Pits, 6 Messingham SQ and 20 Deeping St James. Main passage was in early April. Breeding records received were 100 pairs Pinchbeck Marsh, 200 pairs Kirkby Pits, 20 pairs Whisby NP, 20 pairs Ancaster and 6 pairs at Little Bytham. Autumn roosts had established by late July with 3500 Witheringham 28th, 2500 Barton Far Ings NR Aug 2nd, peaking there at 10,000 14th, then 6000 18th dropping to 250 Sep 20th and the last on 27th. At Read's Island there were 2000 Jul 30-31st. There was only one October record, 2 at Barton on 3rd.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Summer breeder & passage migrant; max roost 250,000 16/9/1982. Extreme dates: Feb 4th-Dec 8th.

First of the year was at North Somercotes on Mar 28th, followed by singles at Bagmoor 29th and Thurlby SP 31st. In April there were singles at Gib Point and Bagmoor 1st, Boston, Ashbyville, Whisby and Frampton Marsh all on 2nd, 2 at Gib Point 3rd, 2 Witham Mouth 6th. After 18th birds became more numerous, including 320 Gib Point on 24th. By late August numbers of passage birds were building up, with 1500 at Gib Point 26th; 500/hour were noted at Frampton Marsh on Sep 2nd. A late brood fledged at South Witham on Oct 6th with the last there on 11th. Coastal records of stragglers continued until November at Chapel Pits 5th, Saltfleet 5-6th, 3 Gib Point 6th and finally at Saltfleetby on 15th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* *B

Rare vagrant.

One was present at Messingham SQ on Apr 23rd (WG); the 9th county record and the first since 1988. Accepted by BBRC.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Summer visitor and passage migrant with breeding numbers declining. Extreme dates: Mar 2nd-Dec 20th. First arrivals were 1 at Gib Point on Mar 25th, 3 at North Somercotes and 1 at Stallingborough 31st, then singles at Skegness Apr 3rd and Spalding 6th followed by the main arrival from 21st. Over 200 were at Covenham Res throughout May. Many observers noted a drop in breeding numbers so the decline apparently continues. Passage started in late August with 120 Gib Point 26th, 200 there Sep 4-26th, 200 Barton Sep 20th and 400 Risby Warren 22nd. Late records were at Donna Nook and Saltfleet Nov 5th, Gib Point 6th and 17th, Saltfleetby 15th and finally at Donna Nook 27th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* *(L)

Rare, Sep-Jan.

A good autumn with 10-12 individuals. Two at Gib Point on Sep 21st were the earliest ever observatory record with probably the same 2 staying nearby at Seacroft 27-29th. Singles were at Sandilands Oct 12th, Pyes Hall 15th, North Cotes 18th, 2 Skidbrooke 18-20th, 1 staying until 30th. Finally in November singles at Trusthorpe and Saltfleetby 6th and Pyes Hall 15th.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Local summer visitor and passage migrant Apr-May, Aug-Sep. Extreme dates: Mar 24th-Nov 9th.

One at Gib Point Mar 24th was a new county earliest record, with 1-2 there in April and 2 at Cleethorpes Apr 24-25th. Few breeding records were received. In autumn a light coastal passage late August-late September included singles at North Cleethorpes, North Cotes, Donna Nook and Skegness. Birds were more regular at Gib Point with a max of 7 on Sep 15th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant Mar-Apr & Sep-Oct.

Apart from 80 at Bagmoor Jan 16th, no large numbers were noted until spring passage from mid-March with maxima of 30 over Barton in 2 hours on 24th, 88 in 2 hours 26th, 120 Risby Warren and 70 Thornton Abbey also 26th. Over 50 pairs bred at Frampton Marsh. There were few notable passage movements except Sep 22nd when there were 100 at Pyes Hall, 200 passed Saltfleet, 60 Theddlethorpe and 220 Gib Point.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common on coast Sep-Mar with heavy passage Oct. *A.p.littoralis* rare, Mar-Apr & Nov.

Early year max were 60 Gib Point, 50 each at Saltfleet, Saltfleetby and Frampton Marsh in January; 40 Gib Point and 50 Frampton Marsh in February and 30 Gib Point in March. A bird belonging to the Scandinavian/Baltic race *A.p.littoralis* was at Gedney Drove End Mar 5th. Returning birds in autumn were noted from mid-September with 1 Gib Point 16th, 2 Pyes Hall and 1 Saltfleet 22nd and 1 North Cotes 27th. Winter max were 102 Frampton Marsh, 10 Gib Point and 30 Donna Nook in October, 175 Frampton Marsh in November, 114 Frampton Marsh and 40 Gib Point in December.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* *(L)

Rare, Oct-Apr.

In the first part of the year there was one at Saltfleetby Jan 1st-Feb 27th with 2 there Mar 10-11th, one of which stayed until Apr 3rd. Another was at Marston STW Mar 31st-Apr 5th. There was just one record in autumn, at Howden's Pullover Nov 23rd.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Common summer breeder & passage migrant Apr-May & Aug-Sept. Rare winter. *M.f.flava* regular Apr-Jun. *M.f.thunbergi* rare May-Jun. *M.f.cinerocephala* records 4/5/83, 31/5/84. Races (except *flava* & *flavissima*) *L

A female overwintered at Marston STW from 1993 until March. First returning bird in spring was a 2nd individual at Marston on March 21st with 5 at Covenham Res on 22nd. There was then a steady increase with a spring peak on Apr 24th, including 34 at Tetney, 45 Covenham, 20 Gib Point, 10 Witham Mouth and 10 Kirton Marsh. Autumn maxima were 50 Gib Point Aug 15th, 25 Bardney 20th, 60 Deeping High Bank 27th,

60 Marston 28th with 90 there 29th, 20 Horncastle Sep 7th, 25 by the Humber Bridge on 11th, 12 Bourne 18th. Last records were in October, 1 at Marston 1st, 6 Boston STW 7th and 1 Gib Point 19-22nd.
M.f.flava: 2 were at Covenham Res Apr 24th, 1 Donna Nook 24th, a male at Barton 28th, 1 Toft Newton 17th, 1 Gib Point May 25th and a male at Donna Nook June 11th.
M.f.thunbergi: one at Marston STW May 15-17th (AL,GH,TML)

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Fairly common on passage Sep-Nov, regular Dec-Aug. Sporadic breeder, now steadily increasing. During January-March birds were seen at Alkborough Flats, Barton, New Holland, Chapel St Leonards, Gib Point (2), North Kelsey Moor, Limber Pond, Laughton Forest, Louth, Greetwell, Cowbridge, Lincoln, Hartsholme Park, Kirkby Pits (2), Anwick, Sleaford, Haverholme, Grantham, Marston (3), Baston (3), Thurlby, and South Witham. Breeding records came from Hubbard's Hills, Louth, 2 birds nest-building Mar 25th; Tealby, a pair with young Jul 2nd; Holywell Lake, a pair fledged 3 young; Haverholme Park, and Boston, where there were two adults with a young bird in the town centre May 25th. Other summer records included singles occasionally throughout at Gib Point, 1 at Welbourne in July, and 2 imms at Kirkby Pits early Aug. Returning birds were present from September at Barton (2) Cleethorpes, North Cotes, Keddington and the Witham Mouth, with a max of 4 at Gib Point. During October-December records came from Barton (4), New Holland, North Killingholme (2), Grimsby (2), Cleethorpes (2), Theddlethorpe, Skegness, Fishtoft (3), Boston, Witham Mouth, Brumby Common, North Kelsey Moor, Cadney Res, Tetney Blow Wells, Covenham, Louth (5), Toft Newton, Market Rasen, Saxilby, Cowbridge, Lincoln, Whisby, Bardney (2), Ruskington, Sleaford, Haverholme, Marston (8), Sutterton, Holbeach, Holywell, Baston and Stamford.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common resident and passage migrant. *M.a.alba* regular on passage Mar-Jun. In the first half-year maxima were 287 at Marston STW on Jan 1st, 130 there on 6th, with up to 200 at the nearby roost at the A1 Service Station, Grantham, during Jan, 60 at North Kelsey on Mar 13th and 73 at Toft Newton on Apr 6th. Autumn max were 79 at Toft Newton Jul 26th, 70 Bardney/Nocton Fen Aug 2nd, 100 20th, 150 North Kelsey Moor 18th with 100 there in early September, and 75 Bourne playing fields Sep 18th. In winter there were up to 500 at the Scunthorpe British Steel roost during December and 140 at South Ferriby on 28th.
M.a.alba: There were 1-2 birds at Marston STW and Gib Point from mid-March to late April, 1 Whisby Apr 17th, 2 Frampton Marsh 28th, up to 5 at Toft Newton and 3 at Covenham Res in April and singles at Toft Newton May 3rd, Gib Point 30th and Frampton Marsh Jun 6th.

Waxwing *Bombusilla garrulus*

Very variable numbers Oct-Apr, best recent winter 1988-89. The only report was of a single at Saltfleetby on Nov 8th, the poorest showing since 1985.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* *(L)

Vagrant. A bird of the nominate race *C.c.cinclus* remained at Cliff Farm, Heighington until Mar 5th, having been present from the previous November.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Widespread and very common resident. Too little data received to monitor any trends, but counts from Gib Point indicate a buoyant population, with increased numbers from late September-early November suggesting an unobtrusive autumn passage.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 19 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 24 | 30 | 26 | 19 | 40 | 32 | 44 | 15 |

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

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

A fairly pronounced passage at Gib Point was evident with an increase to 70 on Sep 8th and 60 on Oct 22nd. Otherwise there were no significant records reported. A bird was seen eating nuts from a garden feeder at Lincoln in January, an act that a number now seem to have learnt.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* *B

Vagrant

A most unexpected county first involved a probable adult at Saltfleetby from Nov 14th-18th (PMT,ABO); see separate account. Accepted by BBRC.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Widespread resident with coastal passage Sep-Nov and Mar-Apr.

No spring coastal passage was evident, although 10 at Barton Far Ings on Apr 3rd were thought to include some pre-migration continental birds. Autumn passage was very modest with maxima at Gib Point of 30 on Sep 18th, 34 on Oct 30th and Nov 10th. A small arrival along the NE coast on Oct 10th included 10 at North Cotes and 6 at Pye's Hall. Inland at Barton Pits 30+ were present Nov 5th.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* *B

Vagrant.

One was seen at Pyes Hall, Grainthorpe on May 22nd (AHJH,JW) and a 1st winter bird was trapped at Saltfleet on Sep 17th (JRM,SAB). Both accepted by BBRC. The 4th and 5th county records respectively, the former being the first acceptable non-trapped record.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Local breeder, 100 males 1980 [LBR 1980]. Extreme dates: Apr 10th-Sep 23rd.

Typically the first arrivals appeared at Whisby Pits on Apr 4th where 5 males remained to sing during the summer. Others during April were 2 each at Kirkby Moor and Kirkby Pits, with birds present into June at both sites and adults observed feeding young at Kirkby Moor on Jun 16th. In May 2 were at Laughton Forest 8-16th, singles at Holton-le-Moor 10th and Woodhall Spa 20th, 3 at Southrey Wood 22nd and upto 4 at Rauceby High Wood into June. A fairly poor reflection of the status of this under recorded species. On the coast migrants were at Theddlethorpe Apr 27th and Saltfleetby May 25th, with an autumn bird there on Sep 3rd.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* *b

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

Males of the Red-spotted race *L s svecica* were at Skegness on May 22nd and Gib Point on 25th, with a winter-plumaged bird at Grainthorpe on Sep 19th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* *b

Scarce-common on passage Mar-May and Sep-Nov, rare winter and summer; max of 5 pairs 1981, 86 & 87. A wintering bird was at Lincoln Cathedral Jan 8th. A reasonable spring passage began in March with birds at Donna Nook 26th and Skegness 29th. One was at Barton from Apr 7th-10th, 2 at Humberston Fitties 8th, Cherry Willingham 10th, Donna Nook 15-16th, Holbeach 16th, Boston 19-22nd and Grimsby Docks 20th, but unfortunately no subsequent records from this former breeding site. Gib Point recorded singles on eight days during the month with the first on 11th, and 3 were present on 26th. In May singles were at North Cotes 23rd and Gib Point 8th and 21st, with a late bird there on Jun 8th. Return movement commenced in October with singles at Gib Point on four dates 11th-18th, Grainthorpe on 15th, 2 at Stallinborough on 22nd, Sandilands on 23rd, then Gib Point and Saltfleetby Nov 3rd, Donna Nook 4th and a late bird again at Gib Point on 25th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Rare summer visitor with max 6-7 pairs; more common on passage Apr-May & Aug-Oct. Extreme dates: Mar 26th-Nov 10th.

First noted at Gib Point on Apr 19th and 23rd, with the main arrival on 24th; 1-2 birds at 6 coastal sites and also inland at Barton and Twigmoor. Coastal birds were again evident from May 10th to the month's end with several sites reporting a total of about 15 individuals. Birds in suitable breeding habitat were at Laughton May 19th, 4 in song at Twigmoor Jun 11th and a singing male at Whisby on 19th. Returning birds were present on the coast from Aug 21st at Gib Point and from 24th at Theddlethorpe, with small numbers noted until the main arrival over Sep 15-23rd when at least 70 birds were present from Cleethorpes to the Wash. These included peaks of 19 at Donna Nook, 7 Grainthorpe, 6 North Cotes and 36 Gib Point, all on 21st, 16 Saltfleetby on 22nd and 5 Theddlethorpe 23rd. In October one was at Saltfleetby on 2nd and 5 at Gib Point the same day, 2 remaining until 8th, and the last at Grainthorpe on 17th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common on passage Apr-Jun & Jul-Oct but no recent proven breeding. Extreme dates: Apr 2nd-Nov 22nd.

A reasonable spring passage began with 2 early birds at Donna Nook and one at Gib Point all Apr 24th, increasing to 4 at the latter site on 30th, and singles at Marston on 29th, Barton 30th and 2 Worlaby Top also 30th. In May 1-2 remained at Gib Point until 22nd, singles were at Moulton Marsh 2nd, Grainthorpe Marsh 6th, Barton 21-22nd, North Cotes 23rd, with 3 at Grainthorpe 25th and 2 Donna Nook 27th. Inland one was at Grasley on 3rd with the last of the spring at Fiskerton Jun 8th. First of the autumn were all inland: 2 at Nocton Fen and one Deeping Fen Jul 16th, 2 juvs Snarford 27th, 2 Marston Aug 5th and a single Kirkby Pits 14th. Coastal passage commenced on 19th, reaching peak counts over Sep 15-22nd, with smaller numbers present until Oct 14th and a late bird at Humberston Nov 6th (see table below). The only coastal sites to reach double figures were Gib Point with its highest ever reserve day count of 35 on Sep 15th and Saltfleetby with 19 on 22nd. Inland there was a max of 16 at Witheringham Aug 29th with 5 at Barton and 2 Risby Warren both Sep 13th.

Autumn totals at coastal locations:

| | Aug | | Sept | | | | Oct | |
|-----------------|-----|----|------|----|----|----|-----|---|
| Week commencing | 20 | 27 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 8 |
| Minimum numbers | 15 | 16 | 12 | 63 | 82 | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Number of sites | 4 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 3 |

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

Following last autumn's large influx it was not surprising that many remained to winter with a minimum of 47 recorded during the January-March period: 15 along the Humber Bank (Witheringham-North Cotes), 14 along the coast (Donna Nook-Gib Point) 9 in the Wash and 9 inland. The sole spring record was at Donna Nook on Apr 24th. The first autumn birds were in September with 3 at Gib Point on 18th and a single at North Cleethorpes 29th. October produced 10 birds from coastal sites and a further 8 birds at inland localities. While only 2 new birds in November could be added to the 6 still present from the previous month, all of these remained to the year end together with 3 further new birds arriving in December.

A female/first winter showing characteristics of one or other of the Siberian races *S.t. maura/stejnegeri* was at Donna Nook on Sep 22nd (GPC et al). Accepted by BBRC.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common on passage Mar-Jun and Jul-Oct. Extreme dates: Mar 9th-Dec 30th.

A reasonable spring passage began with inland records at Deeping St Nicholas Mar 11th and Binbrook 12th, with the first coastal birds at Gib Point and Grimsby Pyewipe 14th. Notable influxes were apparent at the beginning and end of April and over May 23-29th with day site max in the latter period of 17 Donna Nook 23rd, 8 Gib Point 25th and 9 Grimsby Pyewipe 29th. The last was at Kirton Fen 6th. Two birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o. leucorhoa* were at Gib Point May 25th.

Spring totals at coastal locations:

| | Mar | | | | Apr | | | | May | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Week commencing | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Minimum numbers | 5 | 3 | 32 | 47 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 43 | 18 | 14 | 47 | 19 |
| Number of sites | 5 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 3 |

Several sites noted 1-2 returning birds from Jul 13th, with the main migration occurring from late Aug-Sep; max of 30 at Gib Point Sep 16th and 15 Donna Nook 22nd, but no other sites managing double figures. The last coastal and inland records were from Donna Nook Oct 18th and Risby Warren 25th respectively.

Autumn totals at coastal locations:

| | Aug | | | Sept | | | | Oct | |
|-----------------|-----|----|----|------|----|----|----|-----|---|
| Week commencing | 13 | 20 | 27 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 8 |
| Minimum number | 8 | 37 | 26 | 10 | 53 | 45 | 57 | 13 | 2 |
| Number of sites | 5 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 5 | 2 |

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Passage migrant in variable numbers Mar-May & Sep-Nov, very rare winter.

An average year by recent standards with 2 at North Cotes and a single Butterwick Hale Apr 14th followed by singles at Kirkby Moor 16th, Cleethorpes and Gib Point 22nd, 2 at the latter site on 23rd and singles 27th-29th, Frampton Marsh 24th, inland at Barton Quarry 26th, Horncastle 29th and Saxby Wold 30th. In May further singles at Grainthorpe Marsh 6th-7th, Welbourne Heath 15th, Skegness 22nd and Gib Point on the 6th, 15th and 16th. Similar numbers occurred during the autumn beginning with the arrival of 3 at Gib Point on Sep 15th and singles at Grainthorpe and Saltfleetby 24th. Gib Point continued an intermittent run of 1-2 birds throughout September-October with 4 on Oct 23rd and the last there on 27th. Further October birds were at Marshchapel and Saltfleetby 6-7th, Covenham Res 17th, Theddlethorpe 21st, Skegness 23rd and Skidbrooke 30th, with the last at Cleethorpes Nov 11th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common and widespread resident; passage Mar-Apr & Sep-Dec.

There were no large gatherings during the early year, with Gib Point reporting relatively low numbers and a max of only 50 on Jan 7th, until a small scale arrival of autumn immigrants from mid-September. Peak numbers occurred during October-November with 300 at Gib Point on Oct 25th, 250 on 29th and 450 on Nov 18th, well down on previous years. Elsewhere 30 were at Barton Pits Oct 9th, 140 there Nov 5th and 50 on 20th, 200 at Saltfleet Oct 17th, 20 at Tetney 19th, 42 North Cotes Nov 6th, 65 Grainthorpe 10th and 22 Frampton Marsh 11th. In December Gib Point had an influx of 90 on 12th and 40 were in Normanby Park 25th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* *b

Winter visitor, common Sep-Apr, rare May-Aug.

Good numbers remained in the coastal sea-buckthorn during January with a peak at Gib Point of 750 on 7th and 500 at Saltfleetby on 10th. Elsewhere during the first winter period counts of 200 and over included 200 at North Killingholme Pits Jan 6th, 200 Belchford 16th, 420 Market Rasen 28th, then in February 400 Grasby 5th, 300 Martin 7th, 300 Alkborough 11th, 350 Toft Newton Res 25th, 500 Deeping High Bank 27th, 1000 Blankney Fen and 400 Washingborough Mar 1st, 400 Beelsby 25th and 200 Walesby 30th, with a further 17 sites reporting smaller numbers. April saw the largest return movements of recent years with 500 Edlington and 75 North Kelsey Moor 2nd, 40 Barton Far Ings 3rd, 400 Brandy Wharf and 50 Whisby NP 4th and 200 Tetford 16th, thereafter numbers declining steadily with several sites reporting birds to the months end and the last at Burton Pits May 2nd, 12 Kirton Holme 3rd and a late straggler at Gib Point 29th.

First autumn arrivals were at North Cotes Aug 23rd and Gib Point Sep 1st, with low numbers until an influx on Oct 17th produced peak counts of 100 Barton Pits, 300 Grainthorpe, 250 both Donna Nook and Theddlethorpe, 500 Saltfleet, 200 Grasby and 400 Welbourne Heath. The following day saw 350 at Barton Pits, 150 North Cotes and 100 Holton le Moor, then 500 Gib Point from 19th peaking at 750 on 22nd, 200 Grainthorpe 20th, 150 Saltfleetby 23rd, 100 Ruskington and 1300 south over South Witham 24th, 100 Kirton

Marsh 29th and 400 Hougham 30th. Only small numbers were on the coast to the year end, max counts at Gib Point of 350 Nov 18th, 300 on Dec 29th and 100 Saltfleetby Nov 19th. Inland 200 Temple Bruer Nov 22nd, 120 Saxby All Saints 26th and 150 West Halton Dec 27th were the highest counts received, presumably most birds having left the county.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Widespread resident, has declined. Passage Sep-Nov.

An increase in breeding pairs was reported from the Lincoln and Metheringham areas, although the general paucity of records would suggest a continuing decline elsewhere. Gib Point reported only single figure counts January-mid September, except for 12 on Apr 20th. A small scale autumn influx included 12 off the sea at Theddlethorpe Sep 22nd and a maximum of 63 at Gib Point 25th. At Barton Pits peak numbers were 17 on Oct 19th and 24 Dec 16-18th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* *b

Winter visitor, common Sep-Apr, rare Jun-Aug. Four records of *T.i.coburni*, all shot 1935-45.

Generally low numbers during the first winter period, notable flocks being 150 at Normanby Park Jan 14th, 190 at Barrow Haven 28th, 100 Tattershall Thorpe 29th, 200 Belton Park 30th, 100 Aswarby Feb 27th and 120 Grasby Mar 10th. Another 400 birds from 10 sites were also reported during this period. Return passage peaked at Gib Point on Mar 28th with 150 birds and 70 were at Kirkby Moor 27th. Several sites reported single figure counts until the last on April 27th. Unseasonal birds were noted in June at Scampton airfield on 1st and Gib Point 23rd, before the first autumn birds arrived along the coast from Sep 15th. Gib Point had 450 on Sep 25th but numbers at most sites were generally below 50 until mid-October. The main influx occurred from 16th, when 50 in five minutes overflew Barton; 'hundreds' were reported from Saltfleetby 17th with 100 Swanpool same day, 500 Gib Point and 60 North Cotes 18th, 80 south at South Witham 24th, 200 Belton Park 29th and 60 Saltfleet 30th. As with Fieldfare, most birds appear to have passed through the county by late winter, with few further records and none exceeding 100 to the year end.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident, has increased. Local movements Jun-Sep.

Notable early year records included 20 at Welton-le-Wold on Feb 18th and a probable passage bird on Cleethorpes shore Apr 27th. Post-breeding flocks included 20 Manton Warren Jun 10th, 13 Welbourne Heath 24th, 22 Gib Point 26th, 35 Benniworth Aug 14th and 42 Metheringham 29th, 35 New York Sep 3rd, 40 Blankney 10th and 14 Barton 23rd. Migrants or dispersing juvs were on the coast from mid-September with 5 Holbeach Bank 21st, 5 Donna Nook 23rd, 14 Saltfleetby 24th, 21 Grainthorpe Oct 1st and 12 Gib Point 7th. Finally 21 at Whisby NP Dec 30th. Indications are that the increase continues, in contrast to Song Thrush, with Mistle Thrush reported to be outnumbering that species by 3:1 at South Witham.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Declining summer visitor & passage migrant Apr-Jun. Extreme dates: Apr 6th-Oct 13th.

Following the first at North Cotes on Apr 23rd, another 24 appeared during the spring at numerous coastal and inland sites. Some of these remained into the summer and breeding was suspected at Barton Pits, North Cleethorpes, North Cotes, Donna Nook (3 pairs), Huttoft, Anderby, Donington-on-Bain (2 pairs), Benniworth Haven and Walcott. Autumn migrants were at North Cotes Sep 3rd and Gib Point 22nd and 26th, the latter date being the second latest reserve record.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Widespread summer breeder, passage Apr-May & Aug-Oct. Extreme dates: Apr 1st-Oct 13th.

A small but widespread arrival began on Apr 22nd and continued into late May, although no sites reported double figures. A noticeable decline in breeding numbers was reported from both Barton and Burton Pits, but no assessments were received from other areas. Few autumn records with the last birds being 3 at Saltfleetby Sep 3rd, Gib Point on 20th, and a late straggler at North Cleethorpes on Oct 4th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* *L b

Vagrant, mostly late spring (9 of 16 in June).

A singing male was at North Cotes on May 23-24th (DJB, GPC, SR), the 16th County record and only the 3rd for May.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Local but fairly common breeder, scarce on passage. Extreme dates: Apr 9th-Nov 13th.

Not unusually the first of the spring appeared at Barton Pits, 7 on Apr 24th with another at Thurlby Fen same day, but birds remained scarce until a protracted arrival throughout May, with 28 singing at Messingham on 28th being by far the highest count. As with Sedge Warbler, breeding numbers were reported to be down on 1993 at both Barton and Burton Pits, although insufficient information was received to confirm this decrease elsewhere. Despite this a good post-breeding population of 100+ was at Barton Pits Sept 8th, falling to only 5 by 25th. Autumn passage records came mainly from Gib Point, peaks being 6 on Aug 13th and 7 on Sep 18th with the last there on Oct 11th, and the only other coastal reports were 2 at Grainthorpe Sep 21st and 1 Theddlethorpe Oct 4th. Last of the year was at Barton on 15th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *b

Rare passage migrant May & Jul-Oct with year max of 20 1977.

One at Chapel St Leonards Aug 14th preceded a small arrival in early September, with singles at Donna Nook from 1-5th, Gib Point and another at Chapel St Leonards both on 3rd and one trapped at Seacroft 4th.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* *B

Vagrant

A 1st-summer male showing characteristics of the nominate race *S.c. cantillans* was trapped at Theddlethorpe on Jun 28th (MB, FEB). The 6th county record and the first for June, the previous records having all been in May. Accepted by BBRC.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Rare and declining coastal passage migrant Aug-Nov.

A good showing by recent standards, mirroring those of the 1970s. The first was trapped at Theddlethorpe Aug 30th, followed by singles at Grainthorpe Sep 1st, Skegness 2-4th, Chapel St Leonards 3rd, consorting with an Icterine Warbler, another trapped at Theddlethorpe 7th, 1 at Donna Nook 10-12th and the last at Frampton Marsh 15th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Widespread summer visitor & passage migrant. Extreme dates: Apr 4th-Nov 14th.

The first spring report was from Norton Disney on Apr 22nd with the main arrival over the following week. The max day count during this period from each of the 14 sites submitting reports totalled 46 birds, including 10 at Barton Pits 24th and 15 at Gib Point on 26th. Both Whisby NP and Gib Point reported 12 breeding pairs, the latter being slightly above the recent average. Autumn passage peaked late August-mid September, with 86 at Gib Point on Sep 16th being the reserve's second highest count. Barton Pits had more than 30 on Aug 23rd but elsewhere there were only single figure counts, most having departed by late September with the last at Gib Point and Skegness on Oct 16th. Birds showing characteristics of the Siberian race *S.c. blythi* were trapped at Theddlethorpe Sep 22nd and Oct 5th (MB).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor & passage migrant. Extreme dates: Feb 26th-Nov 12th.

The first arrivals were on the coast Apr 22nd, followed by an influx on 25th when 25 were in song at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe and 15 at Gib Point, increasing rapidly to peak counts of 61 at Gib Point on May 2nd and 60 at Saltfleetby on 8th. Gib Point had a breeding population of 72 pairs but autumn passage there was barely perceptible with a September max of only 20 during the first week, when 40 were at Saltfleetby. Numbers thereafter fell to the last of the month at Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe on 22nd and Gib Point on 29th, where the sole Oct bird was seen on 8th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant. Extreme dates: Jan 1st-Nov 27th.

A poor spring passage on the coast with the first at Gib Point on Apr 26th, 2 there May 1-2nd, and singles at Grainthorpe on 4th and 25th. Inland breeding reports included 10 pairs at Whisby NP, 7 pairs at South Witham and 'many' pairs at Woodhall Spa, with 5 additional sites reporting 1-2 pairs. In common with several other migrants, peak numbers occurred during early September with 8 at Gib Point and 6 at North Cotes on 3rd. A further arrival on 21st produced 6 at both Grainthorpe and Saltfleetby, with a further 1-2 at several other sites. The last were at Gib Point and North Cotes on Oct 12th and Pinchbeck on 20th, with a straggler at Skegness on Nov 6th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common and increasing as a breeder and on passage; also increasing but still scarce Dec-Mar.

There were reports of 16 birds (cf 25 in 1993) overwintering in various localities up to the first week in March, all of singles except for 3 at Gib Point in January. Spring arrivals were noted from Apr 4th, with 12 at Barton Pits 24th and a max at Gib Point of 7 on May 4th. Several breeding season reports of 1-2 pairs with 9 pairs at Whisby NP in June. A typical scattering of autumn records, Gib Point noting birds from Aug 23rd with an influx of 40 on 29th and up to 15 on 3 dates in September. Only 1-2 were reported from other coastal sites through to mid-October, with the second winter period (Dec-1995) producing 10 overwintering birds.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* *L

Vagrant

A total of 7 were found along the coast in what was nationally a record breaking year for this species, with the UK autumn total accounting for nearly a quarter of the all-time total to date. The first was at Donna Nook (Ponderosa) on Oct 17th (PMT, AHJH, GPC) then singles at Saltfleetby (PMT) and Theddlethorpe (KDD) both on 19th, one trapped at Gib Point Nov 3rd, another at Saltfleetby 4th (PMT), one at Skegness on 5th (JH, DMJ) and finally Chapel St Leonards on 5-6th (JH, DMJ, SR). There have been 26 previous records, with a max of 4 in any one year.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

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

An exceptional arrival at Gib Point from Sep 22nd included 3 on 26-27th and 2 on Oct 7-8th with singles on many dates to the months end, involving a minimum of 9 birds. There were relatively few elsewhere by comparison, just 3 at Saltfleetby Sep 23rd with another Oct 12th, Anderby Creek Sep 25th, one trapped at Seacroft Oct 13th and the last at Grainthorpe Oct 15th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce on passage late Apr-Jun & Aug-Sep. Bred to 1920 (4-5 pairs), with occasional nesting records since.

A male was in song at Ruskington on Apr 27th, followed by coastal birds at Donna Nook May 7th and Gib Point 15th. The latter site had 5 autumn records Aug 6-Sep 4th including 2 birds on Sep 3rd. Elsewhere a juv at Barton was a first for the site Aug 22-25th, with others at Chapel Point 14th and one trapped at Seacroft Sep 16th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

The only early winter record came from Alkborough Jan 22nd. A bird at Gib Point Mar 3rd then preceded a widespread arrival from 12th, when mainly 1-2 birds were reported from 22 localities to the months end. Spring max at Gib Point was 6 on 29th, with the only double figure counts of 12 in Laughton Forest and 12 at Whisby NP on 4th and 10th respectively. Autumn migration began in early September with 7 at Saltfleetby on 4th and a peak of 15 at Gib Point on 13th, the second highest reserve count. One ringed at Theddlethorpe July 25th was still present Oct 8th. Birds were widespread until the end of October, with 16 still present in November at scattered sites, and December records from Theddlethorpe 16th and Deeping St James 18th. Birds showing the characteristics of the race *abietinus* were noted at Gib Point Sep 18th and Nov 11th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Extreme dates: Feb 9th-Nov 10th.

Gib Point recorded its second earliest ever on Mar 31st, followed by widespread reports of small numbers throughout April, with peak counts of 33 at Messingham SQ on 23rd, 55 at Gib Point and 120 Barton Pits both on 24th and 25 at Saltfleetby as late as May 30th. A bird exhibiting characteristics of the northern race *P.t.acredula* was seen at Grainthorpe on May 23rd. Breeding pairs included 39 at Gib Point, 25 at Whisby NP and 23 along 3km of South Witham verge reserve. Autumn passage at Gib Point peaked on Aug 29th with 100+, the only site to exceed an August day max of 10. Most birds had left by mid-Sep, although 20 were at Anderby Creek on 18th, with the last at North Cotes on Oct 10th and Gib Point 22nd, this being the second latest reserve record.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

A spring max of 18 at Gib Point on Mar 21st was the only significant record until the arrival of the first autumn migrants there from Sep 6th, rising to 40 on 28th, 100 on Oct 8th and an influx of 200 from Oct 22-26th. Highest counts elsewhere along the coast included 60+ at Donna Nook and 15+ Grainthorpe on Oct 17th, 20 at North Cotes 18th and 20 Anderby on 20th. Thereafter 25 still at Gib Point Nov 21st and an influx of 30 at North Cotes Dec 9th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* *b

Scarce on passage Mar-May and Sep-Nov; rare winter Dec-Feb.

At least 8 birds were seen during the early winter period, equalling the previous record of 1980/81. At Normanby Park the 2 birds first seen the previous November remained until Jan 16th. Up to 5 were at Hartsholme Park Jan 22nd-Mar 6th and one was seen in a Grimsby garden on Jan 10th. There was an impressive and protracted spring passage, starting with one at East Kirby Mar 25th-Apr 5th, followed by a triple arrival at Gib Point, Grainthorpe and Barton Pits on 30th. April birds were at Ancaster GP 9-10th and North Cotes 24th, but Gib Point stole the show, recording 21 bird days involving 8-10 birds, with at least 4 present from 4-5th. Additionally 5 singles were there in May, with the last 2 on 26th, and one was at Skegness 22nd. A reasonable autumn passage began with one at Gib Point on Sep 27th followed by 6 bird days in October and 3 in November (c5 autumn birds). Elsewhere singles at Saltfleetby Oct 19th, North Cotes and Grainthorpe 20th, the latter remaining to 23rd and at both Anderby Creek and Trusthorpe 21st. Finally in November singles were at Skegness on 5th with another at Trusthorpe 6th and the last at Gib Point on 10th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Local but fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant May-Jun & Sep-Oct. Extreme dates: Apr 26th-Dec 5th.

A poor spring coastal passage with the only records from Gib Point, beginning with an early bird on Apr 30th and continuing until Jun 2nd, with a max of 5 May 21st. There was a typical scattering of inland records from late May, until one at Gib Point Aug 25th heralded a return passage on the coast. Numbers peaked in late September with 4 at Saltfleetby on 22nd and 10 at Gib Point 23rd, then fell rapidly with the only October records being 1 at Barton and 2 Gib Point on 2nd and the last at Stamford on 4th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

A first winter bird at Donna Nook on Sep 18th was probably a different bird to the one there on 21st.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Passage migrant, scarce to fairly common Apr-May and Aug-Oct. Last breeding record 1901. Extreme dates: Apr 11th-Nov 4th.

Spring birds were at Gib Point on Apr 23rd with 2 on May 15th, and at Grainthorpe from May 11-23rd, with a max of 5 on 16th. Autumn passage began with 2 at Cleethorpes on Aug 21st, with maximum numbers in early September including 6 at Donna Nook on 1st, 16 at Gib Point 2nd and 5 North Cotes 3rd. A later influx produced 7 at Donna Nook on 21st and 10 Saltfleetby 22nd, with the last at Gib Point on Oct 8th. Records can be summarised as follows:

| | Aug | | Sep | | | | Oct |
|-----------------|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|
| Week commencing | 20 | 27 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 |
| Numbers | 16 | 29 | 14 | 6 | 23 | 5 | 2 |
| Locations | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 |

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

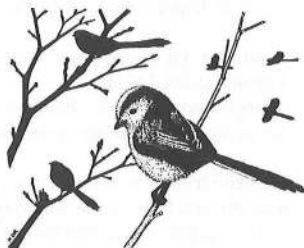
Rare and very local resident; first record 3 pairs 1968, max 30-40 pairs 1983. Autumn and winter movements.

Numbers remained low on the Humber Bank with a total of 13 birds counted Jan 6th and 4 pairs breeding, though few managed more than one brood. At a second site a pair was present all year; breeding was not proved but there were 5 birds there Oct 29th. Elsewhere a single male was at Saltfleetby Jan 10th, then in autumn 2 at Wolla Bank Oct 8th, singles at Gib Point 21-22nd, and 2 at Boultham Mere Nov 4th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

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

Parties of 10-20 birds were reported from 4 sites early in the year with 40 in 2 flocks at Whisby NP Feb 13th. In July there were 50+ on Blankney golf course, down to 22 by October, and elsewhere in autumn 10-20 at 7 sites, 40 at Gosberton Brickpits Oct 22nd. Gib Point's January-September population of 7-14 birds increased to 40 in October, 20-30 to the year end, and other evidence of autumn coastal/Humber movements included 21 west at Barton Oct 15th and 38 ringed at Theddlethorpe on 30th.



Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Local resident, especially in the south-west.

Reported present all year (1-3 pairs) at 5 traditional sites, with occasional records from another 5. At Donna Nook 1 heard calling all morning on Apr 23rd eventually left, heading north.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Widespread resident.

No unusual records; 1-4 birds reported from 5 sites in winter and 2 further sites in summer, with single pairs all year at Ancaster Sand Quarries and Haverholme Park, 4-5 pairs at Barton.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant Mar-Apr & Sep-Nov.

There were records of 1-2 birds in parks and gardens throughout the county, with 6 at Belton Park Mar 30th and c30 in Woodhall Spa Ostler's Plantation Aug 2nd the largest concentrations reported. On the coast/Humber 1 was at Gib Point Sep 1st, 4 at Barton Far Ings Oct 15th and 1 Donna Nook 28th.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident.

The resident Gib Point population of 20-40 birds was greatly augmented by passage birds in autumn with a max count of at least 480 Sep 9th and up to 60 in October. There were 23 in Winteringham reedbeds Oct 9th, but no other reports of large concentrations.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident.

At Gib Point a steady population of 15-25 birds all year increased to 50 in March, but otherwise no relevant records were submitted.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

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

This species seems to be continuing its gentle spread. Sites in the core SW breeding area reported 1-3 pairs, with records from previously extralimital sites including 1 at Muckton Wood Jan 26th, 2 at Metheringham in February and 1 at Whisby Mar 27th. Pairs were present all year at Ancaster Pits, Woodhall Spa and in Bradley Woods, though no breeding was proved. The saga of Weelsby Woods continues, with 1-2 birds present from late November to the year end, and following the vague 1992 report 1 was at Normanby Park, Scunthorpe, from Dec 25th into 1995.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

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

An average year with no unusual movements. Records of 1-3 birds came from 12 sites within the breeding area, mainly early in the year, with 4 seen together in Willingham Woods Jan 6th. At Gib Point there were 2-3 birds January-April and a first breeding record for the reserve, and 1 was at Barton Oct 19th.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* *B

Vagrant. [LBR 1991]

A single bird seen at Gib Point on Apr 27th (Mr & Mrs JC et al) was a new Obs record and 3rd for the county, following 2 birds further up the coast at Wolla Bank in Oct 1991. Accepted by BBRC.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *b

Rare migrant May-Jun & Aug-Sep.

Following the typical pattern of the last few years, singing males were found at Gib Point on May 23rd, Aswarby 27th and Barton Quarry 30th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *b

Passage migrant, scarce May-Jun & Jul-Oct; year max 40 in 1977. Last bred 1978.

In May female birds were on the coast at North Cleethorpes 26th and Gib Point 27th, with males at Saltfleet Haven 28th, Gib Point 29th and Jun 8th. An interesting record was of a male at Snipe Dales in June, though unfortunately only for 3 days, 11-13th. Autumn juveniles were at Pyes Hall Sep 13th, Saltfleet Haven 19-22nd, and a 4th for the year at Gib Point 28th.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Declining and now rare winter visitor and passage migrant Sep-Apr [LBR 1982].

One was found dead at Holbeach Hurn Mar 23rd, then in April passage birds were at Barton Far Ings 11th and North Owersby 27th. In October a 1st winter bird was at Gib Point 16th, and a single at Skegness 22nd was probably the bird at Gib Point 23-26th.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *(L)

Vagrant

A female/1st summer male at Barton Far Ings May 1st (SR, GPC et al) was the first for the area and the first away from the sea coast. A female remained in the Frampton Marsh/Witham Mouth area Jul 30th-Sep 13th (LJ et al). The 7th and 8th county records.



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common woodland resident with periodic invasions [LBR 1983].

Records of 1-4 birds came from sites within the breeding range, with 5 at Woodhall Spa all year and 7 Roxton Woods Mar 26th. The autumn 1993 influx continued to produce coastal records and evidence of return spring passage, including 5 at Goxhill Jan 18th, 6+ Feb 6th; singles at North Killingholme Haven Jan-Feb, 3+ in April, singles also at Rimac Apr 26th and North Cotes May 8th. In the south-east there were 2 in central Boston on Feb 5th, 2 at Frampton Marsh 9th, and at Gib Point 10 Apr 28th and a max of 19 in May. In the autumn 3 flew NW high over Louth on Sep 28th and 11 SW over South Witham Oct 10th with an unusual record of 1 at Kirton Holme 29th. Arrivals seem to have overflowed the coast however, with the only record there being 1 west at Donna Nook on Nov 4th.

Maggie *Pica pica*

Increasing and very common resident, large winter roosts.

Numbers appear to have been down slightly, with no 3-figure gatherings or roosts reported. Max counts in the early months were c40 at Gib Point January-February, then c20 through June, and at Barton 29 Jan 4th, 53 Mar 20th. There were also 12 at Frampton Marsh Jan 31st, 20+ at Whisby Feb 27th, 21 Mar 12th. In autumn there were 14 at Ruskington Sep 15th, but otherwise only Gib Point reported double figures; 20-30 July-November, 60 Dec 29th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Resident with winter immigration and some passage. Five records of *C.m.monedula* this century, last in Nov 1983.

Winter flocks appeared to be both smaller and scarcer than previously in both winter periods. In January there were c180 feeding at Winterton Tip and 112 at Barton Cliff; 73 crossed the river from Barton Mar 31st, and Gib Point had a March max of 128 birds. In late summer there were c600 at Roughton Jul 24th, 60+ at North Kelsey Moor Aug 3rd, 58 Toft Newton 5th, 80 Sep 25th, and 400 Biscathorpe Aug 28th. At South Witham there were 125 on Oct 9th, and 100 moved south at Gib Point 26th. The only winter roost counted was Thornton Abbey, where there were c1000 Dec 3rd.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident with large winter flocks.

No feeding flocks or roost counts were reported for the early part of the year, and there were no reports of spring or autumn passage. Post breeding flocks included c400 at Roughton July 24th and 300 Toft Newton Aug 8th, and there were c6000 in Harmston Low Fields Nov 24th. The Thornton Abbey roost totalled 2500 birds Dec 3rd.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Widespread resident with some coastal passage and winter non-breeder flocks.

Very few concentrations reported. Gib Point max counts were 21 March, 11 April, then single figures to the autumn. There were 18 at Barton Apr 20th, 23 Whitton Jun 12th, and a small October passage: 70 at Donna Nook Oct 7th, 36 Barrow Haven foreshore 9th, 30 at Gib 6-9th, then 60 south there 25th and 50 south 26th. At Whisby there were 22 Nov 6th, and at Barton c20 Nov-Dec.

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

An average year by recent standards, with most birds in the early months. A single bird was present at Gib Point all January and into February with 2 on Feb 8th and 12th. Singles were also reported south of Louth Feb 2nd, south of Horncastle 26th, at Beelsby Mar 4th and last of the spring at Rimac Apr 3rd. The only late year record at Gib Point was one on Oct 27th, and another was at Tetford Dec 2nd.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

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

The decline in numbers of this species continued through 1994. Peak counts reported early in the year were 2000 at North Kelsey and 200 Gib Point in February, 1000 and 450 respectively in March. In April there was a flock of 300 at Goxhill, but there were no reports of spring passage. Largest post breeding flocks were c1000 at North Kelsey Moor Jun 30th, 2000 Gib Point Jul 1st, c1000 roosting at Far Ings in early July, increasing to 1500 by the end of the month, 2000 roosting at New Holland in early August and 500 at Donna

Nook Aug 8th. First autumn passage reported was 2500 north at Donna Nook Sep 22nd, but main movements began in mid-October: at Gib Point 500 18th, 200 21st and 450 30th, at Donna Nook 2500 17th, and light migration over South Witham reported between 5-24th. Max counts in the last quarter at Frampton Marsh were 1000 October, 770 November and 800 December; at Toft Newton there were 900 Oct 30th, and at Leadenham Tip 400 Nov 22nd, 500 Dec 17th; numbers at North Kelsey Moor built up from 500 at the end of October to 1000 by the year end, and Gib Point had a December max of 400.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Declining but widespread resident.

The few reports received all indicate continuing decline: a South Witham garden flock containing c70 birds in the early 70s now has 25-35; Gib Point max for the year was 10 birds on Apr 27th; the only record at Frampton Marsh was of 22 birds on Sep 26th, and the largest flock reported for the county was c50 at Barton Dec 7th.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Declining and local resident and passage migrant.

Another good year by recent standards; this species now appears to be steadily making ground again in many parts of the county. For comparison with 1993, 28 sites reported a summed peak total of 1053 birds in January-March, an increase of nearly 40%. Of these, 11 sites held 20-50 birds with larger flocks of 60 at Kirton Marsh Jan 10th, c300 Swinderby 30th, 55 Toft Newton Feb 2nd, 69 Skegness 5th, 100 Hackthorn 6th and 54 Thornton Abbey Mar 26th. Confirmed breeding records of 1-3 pairs came from only 7 sites, but 12 others held 1-10 birds April-July. Numbers were smaller in the last quarter, with the summed peak of 447 birds at 19 sites being similar to the 1993 total. Most sites held 10-30 birds and notable were 60 at Witham Mouth Nov 26th, 50 at Barton 30th and 60 at Marston STW in Dec.



Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

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

Feeding flocks of 100-150 birds in January-March were noted at Worlaby Carrs, Walesby, North Kelsey Moor, Swallow, Blankney Fen and Blyton/Northorpe, with 400 each at Greetwell/Messingham, Laughton and Tealby, 500 in Bourne South Fen and 600 at Hatcliffe. Spring passage was noted at Gib Point, where 827 birds in total were recorded on 8 dates Mar 3-24th, including 140 8th and 130 16th. By contrast the autumn max at Gib Point was only 40 on Oct 22nd and the only other movement reported was of 8 west at Barton Oct 15th. Feeding concentrations were also smaller at the year's end, with 100 on Welbourne Heath and c150 at Metherringham Delph in November and 150 on North Kelsey airfield in December being the only large flocks reported.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* *b

Winter visitor in very variable numbers Sep-May.

Widespread in both winter periods, with records of 1-9 birds from 16 sites in the first quarter and 20 in the second, including Laughton and Willingham Forest, Norton Disney and Bourne Woods. Larger concentrations reported in the first period were 100 south of Horncastle Jan 24th, 800 Greetwell/Manton Feb 2nd and 100 Bourne South Fen 3rd, with 50-60 at Worlaby Carrs, Eagle and Kirkby Pits. In April there were 200 at Blyton/Northorpe 9th, 2 flew north at Theddlethorpe 25th and last of the spring was one at Gib Point May 1st. An early bird flew south at Theddlethorpe Jun 30th but the next arrivals were 2 at Saltfleet Sep 22nd, 2 Gib Point 23rd and 6 Saltfleetby 24th. Large concentrations were scarcer in the last quarter; c40 at Seacroft Oct 22nd, max 40 at Gib in October down to 15 in December and 10 at Walesby Dec 15th.

Serín *Serinus serinus* *(L)b

Vagrant

One was at Gib Point May 27th (SR).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Large feeding flocks early in the year were reported from North Kelsey Moor, 200 January, still 100 in March, Heighington, 2-300 January-February, Willoughby 310 January, 220 February; 400 New Holland, c200 each Worlaby Carrs, Swinderby and Reedham, all in January; 150 each Normanby Park and Skegness February and 135 Ulceby Cross in March. An unusual record was of 100 feeding at Marston STW Jun 5th. Little coastal passage was evident, but 3 Norwegian birds were trapped at Theddlethorpe in October. Flocks were smaller and fewer in the last quarter; c50 at Gib Point throughout, 200 Navenby Heath Nov 11th, 200 Metheringham Fen from 19th into December and 80 at Alkborough Dec 28th were the largest reported.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant Apr-May and Sep-Oct.

Flocks of 50+ birds in the early months included 110 at Willoughby and 400 south of Horncastle in January, with 100-150 at Heighington and North Kelsey Moor through to March, 60-100 at both sites in April. Also in April there were 85 at Gib Point 24th, with a May max of 24. Feeding flocks began to build again from mid August; Gib Point had its month max of 24 on 14th, and there were c50 at Bardney Pits 20th, 30 on Welbourne Heath 21st, 30 Holbeach Marsh 22nd and 100 Marston STW 29th. Inland in September there were charms of 100 in a Deeping St Nicholas garden 17th, 65 in Bourne South Fen and c80 at Kirkby Pits both 18th and 60 at Stallingborough 26th. On the coast there were 150 at Donna Nook Sep 18th, c60 at Pyes Hall 19th and 80 at Grimsby Pyewipe 28th, but coastal sites saw highest numbers through October, when there were max counts of 100 Tetney, 65 North Cotes, 100 Saltfleet and 126 Gib Point. Numbers then decreased to the year end with later flocks of only 35 Saltfleetby Nov 19th, 56 Kirton Holme 26th and 40 North Kelsey airfield Dec 31st.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

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

Widespread and in good numbers, but no June records for the third year. In the early months records of 1-3 and occasionally 4-8 birds came from 19 sites, including many gardens, with larger flocks of 20 at Hartsholme Mar 6th, 25 Willingham Forest 23rd, 30 Loughton Forest Apr 3rd, 150 Bourne Woods 4th, 30 Ancaster 9th and 100+ near Kirton Apr 16th. A small passage was noted at Theddlethorpe in April, including 9 north on 21st. Gib Point had max counts of 39 in April and 5 in May, then 5 Jul 5th and 3 29th, but no evidence of breeding. A single bird was at Nocton Sep 5th, but coastal passage at Gib Point began with 4 south Sep 9th, continuing steadily through October with double figures on many days, including 70 Sep 17th, 100 18th, 35 21st, 47 26th and 140 Oct 24th. In the same period parties of 1-3 birds were also reported at Pyes Hall, Donna Nook, Saltfleet and Anderby Creek, with 6 at Theddlethorpe Oct 6th and c20 at Seacroft 22nd. Garden feeding was not reported up to the year's end, but winter flocks included 40 Belton Oct 29th, 25 Chapel St Leonards Nov 6th, 150 Grimsthorpe 20th, max c30 each at Hartsholme Dec 15th, Messingham 18th, Welbourne Heath 23rd, Bradley Woods 26th and finally 120 North Kelsey airfield 31st.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Widespread resident but has declined; passage movements Apr and Sep-Nov.

No evidence of an upturn for this species yet, but though some areas report breeding numbers still declining, winter flocks appear as widespread as and no smaller than those of the last 2-3 years. All flocks of 50+ birds included. January max were 150 at Barton, 100 Barrow, 300 Goxhill/New Holland, 80 at North Kelsey Moor and c100 at Swinderby. There were c150 at Chapel Hill Feb 7th, 150 at Risby Mar 20th and c200 on Blankney Heath 26th. Coastal passage included min 100 at Gib Point Apr 20-28th with 200 27th, with summer max there of 45 May, 20 June, 50 July and August; Frampton Marsh reported c90 Jul 31st and c200 in Aug, feeding on oilseed rape. At Austen Fen there were 200 Sep 12th but autumn coastal passage began in mid-September and included 80 at Gib Point 16th, 100 17th, 60 at Donna Nook and 200+ at Anderby Creek 18th, 50 at Theddlethorpe 22nd. On North Kelsey Moor a flock of 100 from Sep 22nd remained into November, and other October-December flocks included 150 Alkborough, 100+ Barton, 80 Swallow, 150 Metheringham Fen, 94 Aswarby, and 200 on Bourne Fen.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Common coastal winter visitor Sep-Apr, rare inland.

In January 15 flew west at New Holland 1st and there were 30 at Tetney on 31st. All other early year coastal records came from two wintering flocks, at Saltfleetby where numbers peaked at 400 Jan 23rd, and in the inner Wash where there were 85 on Moulton Marsh Feb 18th and 100 on Frampton Marsh Mar 6th, with the last there on Apr 28th. An inland passage flock was found on the Wolds near Grasby in early March, with c50 on 3rd, down to 10 by 15th. First of the autumn were 6 at Cleethorpes Sep 24th and 1 Gib Point 26th, then a steady movement at many coastal/Humber sites through October, with peaks of 55 at Pyes Hall 17th, 35 Grainthorpe 20th and 25 Gib 22nd, 10 west at Barton 26th; 2 were inland at Bardney 16th. Wintering flocks were present on the north-east coast at Humberston Fitties, max 60 Nov 26th-Dec 1st, Saltfleet Haven, 60 Nov 26th, and Saltfleetby, at least 100 in two flocks Nov 19th. In the Wash Frampton had a max of 230 in November and 50 were at Holbeach Marsh Dec 25th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

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

Still scarce and in low numbers, with records from only 13 sites in the year. In the first four months there were reports of 40+ in Willingham Woods Jan 10th, 20 at Tattershall 31st, max 8 at Whisby Mar 27th, 40 at North Kelsey Moor Apr 3rd, and smaller numbers at Burton Pits and Laughton Forest. At Theddlethorpe there were 10 Apr 25th, the max count of a very poor year. There were 3 birds at Rimac May 19th, but the only reports of summer birds came from Gib Point, which had a day max of 20 each month April-July, 10 August and 14 September. The only records at Donna Nook were a single Sep 19th and 2 Oct 12th, but Gib Point saw a steady passage through October, with 50 8th and 34 23rd, then declining to single figures through December. Autumn passage peaks at Barton were 25 Oct 15th and 16 Nov 27th, but the only record from Twigmoor was 1-2 birds Dec 25th.

C.f.flammea: small numbers were noted during the October passage, including singles at Gib Point 16th, Pyes Hall and Donna Nook 17th and 4 at Humberston Fitties 19th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

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

A better year than the last two, though records were confined to a small number of traditional sites and there were no reports of breeding. There were no wintering records but a steady arrival was apparent at Gib Point from late March, with 5 24th, 2 26th, 13 27th, 6 30th, then 3-6 on several days through April. In Laughton Forest there were 25 by Mar 27th, increasing to 60 Apr 3rd, 73 4th, but no records after 17 on 19th. Elsewhere in spring there were 18 in Bourne Woods Apr 3rd, 3 at Linwood Warren 10th and a party of 7 at Sowdale May 18th. Whisby NP had its 2nd record, a single female on Jun 1st and at Scotton Common there were 24 on 10th and 1 26th. Also on 26th there were 4 at Moor Farm and 3 Bourne Woods, the latter seen also next day and the last reported bird of the year, a male trapped there, on 28th.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *L b

Vagrant.

A female/1st summer male at Gib Point on Jun 18th (KMW) was the 4th record for the Observatory and the 9th for the county.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common and widespread resident.

The largest flocks reported were 7 at Barton Pits Jan 2nd, 10 Messingham Mar 6th and 6 in both winter periods at Whisby NP and Gib Point. There were 2 birds of the nominate (northern) race at Donna Nook Oct 16th, 4 there, 2 at Saltfleet and 1 at Pyes Hall all on 17th. See separate paper.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Very local presumed resident with very rare passage records.

Records were more widespread than for some years with several on the coast, but numbers were very low, and no records at all came from some of the main breeding sites. One flew south at Kirton Marsh Jan 8th,

another was at Kirkby Moor Feb 6th and the only flock of the year comprised 8 birds at Scawby Woods, Mar 3rd. A single bird at Gib Point Apr 4th was only the 14th record for the Observatory, and another spring coastal record came from Donna Nook May 22nd. Finally another single visited Skegness Tip on Nov 4th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* *b

Winter coastal visitor in variable numbers Sep-Mar; very rare inland.

Generally scarce in both winter periods. In the early part of the year there were records of 1-3 at Alkborough Flats, Barton, Cleethorpes, Tetney, Skidbrooke, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Gib Point and RAF Friskney, with the only flock of any size on Frampton Marsh, peaking at c40 in mid-February. Up to 6 were also seen at the Witham Mouth in March, then a single at Hobhole outfall Apr 2nd and the last birds, 5 at Frampton 4th. Autumn movements were scanty, with single birds south at Gib Point and Skidbrooke in September, then in October-December 1-3 birds occasionally at these sites and also at Winteringham, Humberston, North Cotes, Pyes Hall, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook and Holbeach Marsh. The largest flocks reported were 6 at Butterwick Oct 25th and 10 at Witham Mouth, Dec 31st.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* *b

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

In the early months the main wintering area at Saltfleetby again held most of the birds reported, numbers peaking at 70 in early February but down to 12 by the month's end. There were 19 at Huttoft on Jan 13th but single figures only on the north-east coast and Gib Point; last of the spring were 10 at Holbeach Bank, Apr 6th. Autumn birds were at Saltfleet Sep 16-18th, 4 on 22nd, Gib Point 2 18-24th, 3 27th, and a single at Grimsby Docks 30th. Highest numbers in the last quarter were on the north-east coast, where there were at least 32 birds at Tetney-North Cotes in December, 22 at Humberston Fitties 4th and 3 at North Cleethorpes 9th and 25th. The Saltfleetby flock held only c10 birds and elsewhere there were 7 at East Halton Skitter and singles at Stallingborough, Killingholme and unusually, inland at Nocton Fen in November, a max of 7 at Gib Point and up to 5 at Frampton Marsh.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Widespread and common resident with large winter flocks.

Some improvement in numbers was clearly visible this year, with more and slightly larger winter flocks reported from most areas. In the first third of the year flocks of 20-50 birds were noted at North Ormsby, Belchford, Navenby Heath, Temple Bruer, Walcott, Skegness, Holbeach Bank and Aswarby, with 100+ at Grasby Jan 8th, 200 Tealby 9th, 400 there Feb 13th, 200 Hackthorn Feb 6th, 50+ at Barton 11th and 100 at Swallow Apr 14th. At the year's end flocks with up to 50 birds were at Winteringham, Donna Nook, North Kelsey airfield, Culverthorpe and Frampton Marsh; also 100 on Welbourne Heath Nov 11th, 88 at Barton Dec 7th and 200+ on Goxhill Marsh 23rd.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* *B

A male at North Cotes on May 23-24th (DJB, GPC, SR) provided a spring record for the third year in succession and the sixth county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Local and declining resident and passage bird Sept-Nov.

A better year than of late with more winter flocks reported, though these are still only medium-sized. Feeding flocks in January-February included 60 on Alkborough Flats, 45 near Barton, 25 in Timberland Fen, 20 on Frampton Marsh and 52 at Deeping St Nicholas. In June there were max 24 on Frampton Marsh, c40 pairs bred on Donna Nook NR, 8-9 pairs at Whisby NP and a similar number in 20 acres of rape at Deeping St Nicholas. End of the year feeding flocks were smaller, with 25 and 40+ at North Cotes and Pyes Hall respectively September-November, 25 at Barton in November, max counts at Gib Point of 16 Sep, 26 Nov, and inland 12 on North Kelsey airfield Dec 27th.



Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Declining resident with larger winter flocks/roosts.

An average-to-good year in recent terms for both breeding and wintering records. Larger coastal flocks early in the year included 41 at Donna Nook Feb 4th, 33 at Moulton Marsh NR 18th, 150 Holbeach Bank 21st, then in April 30+ in the Barton area and a max of 16 on Frampton Marsh. Gib Point max counts were 29 in January, 56 February, 42 March and 23 April. Double-figure inland flocks in this period were 60 at Binbrook Jan 3rd, 10 at Kelstern 20th, 13 Heighington Mar 4th, 60+ Covenham 5th, 16 at North Kelsey Moor April 23rd and max 10 at Caythorpe through March-April. Breeding season records of 1-3 singing males came from 21 sites, mainly on the Wolds and Heath but also the Scunthorpe area and the Witham Fens, with 4 males singing at Whitton, Worlaby Top and Marston STW, 5 on Digby Fen, 6 on Welbourne Heath and 8 on Dunston Fen. In the well-surveyed area in the south of the county there were estimated to be 110 males on Deeping Fen, 40 singing north of the Welland, 15 at Baston Fen and 12 in Langtoft Fen. Nests/adults with young were found at Aunby and Little Warren in the south-west. Winter flocks of 10-20 birds built up by November-December at Goxhill Marsh, Grasby, Saltfleet Haven, Maidenwell, Kirton Marsh and Tallington, with larger flocks of 78 at Barton, c100 Donna Nook, 30 Saltfleet Haven, 25 Saltfleetby, 100 Branston Fen, 70+ Navenby Heath, 25 Welbourne Heath, 35 Frampton Marsh, and c150 each at Deeping Fen and Deeping High Bank.

Escapes and Feral (Category D) Species

Bar-headed Goose

Gib Point, 1 Jan 11th, Feb 19th; Messingham SQ 1 Jan 10th and Feb 6th, 4 Apr 17-18th; Whisby NP, probably the same 4 for 3 weeks late April-early May; Kirkby Pits 2 May 5th.

Wood Duck

Walcott Fen, 1 Mar 21st; Barton Far Ings, 1 Jul 24th.

Falcon sp *Falco* sp

A large falcon at Saltfleetby January-mid February was thought to be an immature Lanner *Falco biarmicus* (ACS, GPC et al). Another at Cadney Oct 13-14th (JH) was considered to be a Saker *Falco cherrug*. Descriptions would need to be submitted to BBRC even for consideration for category D status.

Reeve's Pheasant

Gib Point, 1 from early April-end of November.

Contributors to the 1994 Systematic List

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| S Abbott | C Brooks | S Foster | R & K Heath | LTNC | P J Preece | W B Sterling |
| M Ackermann | H Bunn | A C Frost | B Hedley | N Marks | D Purnell | B Sutherland |
| R Allan | P Burnett | A J Gardiner | M Henry | O Marks | D S Purnell | P Todd |
| K Armstrong | J Cadbury | D George | A Housman | K A Marshall | J Rance | D Townsend |
| G Atkin | S Carter | Gib Point BO | C Howard | L Marshall | B Redman | P M Troake |
| K Atkin | G P Catley | S Gillings | J G Hoyle | B Martin | E J Redshaw | J Turner |
| M J & M A | A Chapman | B Glover | M Humberstone | G Martin | R Riddington | M Varley |
| Atkinson | G Clayton | C Godfrey | P A Hyde | T Martin | D Roberts | J R Walker |
| A Ball | P Clement | A L Goodall | L James | J R Mawer | K & W Robertson | P Walker |
| P & A Ball | P G Collins | D Goxhill | D J Jenkins | J S Mighell | K Robinson | T Walker |
| T Barnett | M Cottingham | N Grantham | C & S Jennings | J P Misselbrook | J Robson | M Warren |
| A L Barratt | M Cousins | M J Gray | G Johnson | P Misselbrook | S Routledge | R K Watson |
| G & Y Beasley | N Croxford | J & K Grimes | C Jules | G P F Montgomery | A Royle | J Watt |
| A J Bellamy | P Croft | Grimshy Area | S Keightley | S Moore | RSPB | P N Watts |
| D Bingham | D Cullum | Group | Dr T Kerry | J D Mortemore | A J Selby | J Wheldon |
| Bird Line NE | C Dawn | Mr & Mrs G C | D C Kirby | J Nelson | R E Scott | Whisby NP |
| Birding World | A T Daws | Hall | J de Lucy | R Newton | A Shearsmith | A White |
| Birklands RG | I Dennis | M C Hall | M Langworth | R Nowicki | I G Shepherd | R B Wilkinson |
| A Bladon | R Dobson | B Hancock | A D Leather | A Nuttall | E Simms | S Williams |
| M & FE Boddy | N Drinkall | G Hardy | D Lee | G Orton | A C Sims | K E Wilson |
| Borrill | K D Durose | J T Harriman | T M Lee | D J Parker | C Smith | K M Wilson |
| A Borrows | J E Eastmead | A Harris | A Lees | D Parkin | D Smith | D K Wright |
| S P Botham | G M S Easy | K K Harrison | D Lingard | J Parkin | I D Smith | |
| D J Bradbeer | P Eaves | M E Harrison | S M Lister | M & J H P | J A Smith | |
| R Briggs | I Edwards | A H J & J Harrop | P Locking | P Parkinson | M A Smith | |
| S Britton | L Enderby | R & L Harvey | R Lorand | I Paterson | N Smith | |
| D R Bromwich | A Evans | J A Hayes | S Lorand | M & M Peck | J A & Spring | |
| W P Brooking | G J Fenwick | P Haywood | N A Lound | J Pickley | G C Steele | |

SPECIES NEW TO LINCOLNSHIRE 1994

Alpine Accentor at Rimac, November 14th-18th

On Monday November 14th, Amanda Burrows and I chose Rimac as our birding venue, prompted by a call I had received the previous day concerning a possible Dusky Warbler there. We did not venture out until the afternoon and it was about 1330 hours when we were almost at the pill box where the warbler had been seen. At this point a bird flew across the track and settled out of view on the edge of the saltmarsh. This stopped us in our tracks, as it had pale brown upperparts with heavy dark streaking, reminiscent of Whinchat, although clearly larger with jizz unlike any common British bird. Very intrigued, we edged forwards in anticipation of a decent view. Fortunately it soon hopped out onto the short-turfed track and after a quick look with the binoculars and a closer scrutiny through my scope we were hit with the sight of a large accentor. Even at first glance it was obviously not just a Dunnock. Indeed it had 'rare' written all over it! It took a short while for its various features to sink in - in particular the yellow base to its otherwise dark bill, the blackish mottled light grey throat patch, the rich orange-red tone to the lower breast and flanks and the conspicuous white spots to the tips of the black greater coverts. These, and other features, clearly added up to it's being a pristine Alpine Accentor, previously unrecorded in Lincolnshire. We figured that surely someone else must have seen it before us, and were half expecting to see a few twitchers arriving at any time. It soon transpired that this was not the case, and after years of searching for the big one we had at last been blessed, leaving me with a sense of unreality for about two days! The bird appeared to be very settled, intent on actively feeding, and I released the news that afternoon.

At dawn the next day a small crowd had gathered at Rimac. Fortunately for all the bird was still present and it performed obligingly to about 250 watchers that day; a collection on site raised about £127 towards the Reserve and the LTNC. A steady flow of twitchers continued over the subsequent days until the 18th, when it was last sighted briefly, early in the morning.

Throughout its stay the bird remained loyal to the long strip of short grass along the track separating the saltmarsh from a dense belt of sea buckthorn scrub, a far cry from the mountainous terrain way above sea level with which this species is normally associated. On the day of discovery at least, this dense scrub belt provided shelter from the moderate south-westerly winds, perhaps the reason for the bird deciding to settle there. Birders had crossed this area that morning and the previous day so it may have been a fresh arrival; alternatively it may have been pushed by the winds from a more exposed area. In any case, the bird was certainly much appreciated by all who saw it. It was a well-photographed and filmed bird, helped by its confiding, approachable nature, even making in onto a regional TV news slot.

In a British context this constitutes the 39th record, although only the fourth since 1978. Of the ten records since 1958, seven have arrived in spring between April 8th and June 27th. The Rimac bird ties in with the two other late-season birds which arrived on October 20th and November 4th.

Much to my disappointment, I never did see the possible Dusky Warbler!

Paul Troake



See also article by GPC in *Birding World* (7:436) for discussion on ageing etc.

ORNITHOLOGICAL EVENTS IN 1994

Northern Bullfinches in Lincolnshire

The late autumn of 1994 was excellent for eastern vagrants on the coast but a much more mundane species caught some observers' attention. An unprecedented arrival of Bullfinches of the nominate race, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*, was noted from the Northern Isles right down the East Coast, providing observers with a real chance to get to grips with this subspecies.

Status

Nine races are generally recognised in the Bullfinch complex with British breeding birds belonging to *P p pileata*. The nominate race breeds from Scandinavia south to southern France, Italy and the Balkans and east to northern Mongolia. Birds from the north and east of this range move south or south-east to winter in southern Europe, northern Turkey, etc. These movements usually occur mid October-November, occasionally into December, with onward movements caused by severe weather or food shortage (Clement et al 1993, 'Finches and Sparrows'). Small numbers occur annually in the Northern Isles and less regularly at favoured east coast watch points as far south as Yorkshire where at Flamborough a total of 35 birds were noted between 1975 and 1993, all between Oct 8th and Nov 28th (Newsome in FOG for 1994).

The only Lincolnshire records given in BoLaSH prior to 1990 were those at two sites on the Humber bank in autumn 1978. As the sole observer of these birds I now regard them as being inadequately proven and recommend their removal from the Lincolnshire archive. There appear to be no earlier records, so the only record which remains acceptable is of a male at Ponderosa, Donna Nook, on October 21st 1990 (GPC, HB et al). This bird occurred in the fall which also produced two Dusky Warblers, Radde's and Pallas's Warblers, Olive-backed Pipit, Arctic Redpoll and up to five Parrot Crossbills on the north Lincs coast, and also coincided with a multiple occurrence at Flamborough.

The first birds located in 1994 were a male and female at Ponderosa, Donna Nook, on Oct 16th (HB); on the same day a record total of 19 arrived at Flamborough and at least one at Spurn. Next day there were four at Ponderosa, two males and two females, with two females at Saltfleet village and a fifth, confiding female at Pyes Hall (GPC). At Gib Point a party of 2-6 birds present in the plantation during the second half of October apparently showed characteristics of the nominate race but full descriptions, including any reference to the distinctive calls, are lacking. It is possible that there were other birds which went unrecorded, especially as 17th was a Monday, but there were no further Lincs records after this date. This is surprising since the first major arrival on Shetland occurred Oct 27-30 and the peak count of 77 on Fair Isle was made on Nov 1st. Indeed it was an outstanding autumn in the Northern Isles with at least 300 birds recorded on Shetland alone and up to seven birds remained there to December with several overwintering. The ratio of males to females there was however 11:3 (Shetland Bird Report for 1994).

Identification

My own notes on the identification of this race are given here for reference. The single most distinctive feature which I noted was their call note. The call did not immediately suggest Bullfinch, if the bird was not visible, being so different to the calls of our resident birds. I noted the calls as louder, less nasal, clearer toned and more melodic than British birds' calls: a *peeeoop*. This feature alone renders individuals instantly recognisable as not of the British race.

Size and bulk are notoriously difficult to judge on lone birds but northern Bullfinches gave me the impression of being large, thick-necked, and stockier than our resident birds. As regards plumage, I found the females far more distinctive than the males due to more obvious differences in plumage tones, which I noted as a slightly pink tinged mauve with the only true grey tones on the nape and little contrast between the upperparts and underparts. In flight especially they appeared very pale compared to resident birds. Interestingly the female observed feeding on nettles at close range at Pyes Hall showed a white wedge at the base of the inner web of one of the outer tail feathers. Males appeared larger, brighter, cleaner birds with a beautiful pale grey mantle and scapulars and with more white on the lower belly.

Graham P Catley

COUNTY RINGING REPORT 1994

Compiled by John Mawer

At 24,461 the ringing total for 1994 was nearly 16% down compared with the previous year although as stated in earlier reports this could be due to a number of factors which include weather patterns, research into selected species and not least the cost of rings and equipment. A far more accurate method of assessing breeding populations can be obtained through the Constant Effort Site (CES) scheme. For this project twelve visits are made at regular intervals during the spring and summer, each visit using a fixed amount of netting over a fixed time span. When this is repeated over a number of years the results can be analysed and used in both local and national population monitoring. Next year I hope to survey the sites which operate within Lincolnshire and report on the data they are producing.

One species which does not require an intricate monitoring programme to record an increase over the last year was the Siskin, as garden ringers encountered substantial numbers at their feeding stations. This delightful finch visited many areas throughout the county with ringing hot-spots around Market Rasen and Bourne; county ringing totals soared from a total of 499 for the last 15 years to 364 during 1994 alone. Controls and recoveries are given in the final section of this report.

During the autumn and to a lesser extent in spring the focus turns to passage migrants at our coastal sites and again it has been a productive year for rarities and semi-rarities including single Wryneck, Thrush Nightingale, Ring Ouzel, Icterine Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Firecrest and Great Grey Shrike, with multiple Yellow-browed Warbler (3), Wood Warbler (3), Long-eared Owl (2) and Barred Warbler (2). Other noteworthy species ringed during the year included Crossbill, Nightjar (6), Water Rail, Curlew Sandpiper, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and two Storm Petrels.

The controls and recoveries submitted this year must be some of the most interesting to date. Pride of place must go to the control of a first year Goshawk at Theddlethorpe, the first control of this species from abroad, but also worthy of note (albeit a late report due to problems in the Norwegian ringing scheme) is a Peregrine Falcon recovered as a road casualty near Alford. Surviving the first year for any bird is a huge obstacle and the three young Kestrels listed in the recoveries section all met a sad if not unexpected early demise. These recoveries have been highlighted as a rare instance of a full brood being recovered, this record showing the value of pullus ringing as an aid to research into dispersal of young.

Storm Petrel ringing has been well publicised in north-eastern counties over the last few years and Lincolnshire although geographically sited on the outer fringes of the most productive areas has provided interesting results. The six birds caught in six years have provided four movements to date including during 1994 a control of a Huttoft ringed bird in Norway, and another bird ringed on Tyneside on July 14th, controlled at Huttoft on 15th and recaptured again the following night in Northumberland.

I would like to end this report by thanking all ringers and other members of the public who took time to submit details for it; my apologies to anyone not listed for their accidental omission.

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, A L Goodall, E Mackrill, M Grantham, J R Walker), R Goff, 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, S Wain, R Wakerling (with C Hughes), R K Watson, N Watts, Wash Wader Group (S Wakeham).

County Ringing Totals for 1994 - including Gibraltar Point Totals.

| Species | FG | PULL | TOTAL | GRAND TOTAL | 79-94 | Common Gull | 1 | - | 1 | 396 | Booted Warbler | - | - | - | 1 |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|-------------|-------|----------------------|------|-----|------|-------|-----------------------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Little Grebe | - | - | - | 7 | - | Ls Blk-backed Gull | 25 | - | 25 | 27 | Icterine Warbler | 1 | - | 1 | 20 |
| Gt Crested Grebe | - | - | - | 13 | - | Herring Gull | 108 | - | 108 | 1564 | Subalpine Warbler | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Manx Shearwater | - | - | - | 12 | - | Gt Blk-backed Gull | 7 | - | 7 | 271 | Sardinian Warbler | - | - | - | 2 |
| Storm Petrel | 2 | - | 2 | 5 | - | Sandwich Tern | - | - | - | 38 | Barred Warbler | 2 | - | 2 | 37 |
| Leach's Petrel | - | - | - | 5 | - | Common Tern | - | 123 | 123 | 767 | Ls Whitethroat | 259 | - | 259 | 4648 |
| Gannet | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | - | Arctic Tern | - | - | - | 2 | Whitethroat | 435 | 8 | 443 | 10249 |
| Cormorant | - | - | - | 1 | - | Little Tern | - | - | - | 458 | Garden Warbler | 134 | - | 134 | 2540 |
| Shag | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | - | Guillemot | 2 | - | 2 | 12 | Blackcap | 457 | 3 | 460 | 8045 |
| Grey Heron | - | 24 | 24 | 544 | - | Razorbill | - | - | - | 3 | Greenish Warbler | - | - | - | 2 |
| Mute Swan | 4 | 7 | 11 | 199 | - | Little Auk | - | - | - | 10 | Arctic Warbler | - | - | - | 2 |
| Greylag Goose | 3 | 2 | 5 | 33 | - | Puffin | - | - | - | 1 | Pallas's Warbler | 1 | - | 1 | 3 |
| Canada Goose | 18 | 7 | 25 | 267 | - | Stock Dove | 2 | 5 | 7 | 408 | Yellow-browed Warbler | 3 | - | 3 | 3 |
| Brent Goose | - | - | - | 125 | - | Woodpigeon | 19 | 4 | 23 | 502 | Radde's Warbler | - | - | - | 2 |
| Shelduck | - | - | - | 11 | - | Collared Dove | 8 | 6 | 14 | 377 | Wood Warbler | 3 | - | 3 | 38 |
| Wigeon | 1 | - | 1 | 34 | - | Turtle Dove | 6 | 4 | 10 | 321 | Chiffchaff | 141 | 5 | 146 | 2371 |
| Gadwall | - | - | - | 22 | - | Cuckoo | 1 | 1 | 2 | 136 | Willow Warbler | 628 | 85 | 713 | 21241 |
| Teal | 1 | - | 1 | 71 | - | Barn Owl | 13 | 130 | 143 | 852 | Goldcrest | 456 | - | 456 | 12324 |
| Mallard | 5 | 2 | 7 | 2067 | - | Little Owl | 1 | 6 | 7 | 65 | Firecrest | 1 | - | 1 | 101 |
| Pintail | - | - | - | -3 | - | Tawny Owl | 9 | 28 | 37 | 290 | Spotted Flycatcher | 7 | 8 | 15 | 1000 |
| Shoveler | - | - | - | 9 | - | Long-eared Owl | 2 | - | 2 | 56 | Rd-brst'd Flycatcher | - | - | - | 10 |
| Pochard | - | - | - | 40 | - | Short-eared Owl | - | - | - | 12 | Pied Flycatcher | 25 | - | 25 | 628 |
| Tufted Duck | - | 7 | 7 | 486 | - | Nightjar | 6 | - | 6 | 10 | Bearded Tit | - | - | - | 19 |
| Scaup | - | - | - | 53 | - | Swift | 88 | 117 | 205 | 1034 | Long-tailed Tit | 377 | - | 377 | 4427 |
| Marsh Harrier | - | - | - | 16 | - | Kingfisher | 4 | - | 4 | 154 | Marsh Tit | 34 | - | 34 | 245 |
| Montagu's Harrier | - | - | - | 16 | - | Hoopoe | - | - | - | 1 | Willow Tit | 58 | - | 58 | 1036 |
| Sparrowhawk | 45 | 27 | 72 | 372 | - | Wryneck | 1 | - | 1 | 19 | Coal Tit | 130 | 42 | 172 | 1822 |
| Kestrel | 6 | 50 | 56 | 571 | - | Green Woodpecker | - | - | - | 23 | Blue Tit | 2109 | 702 | 2811 | 30713 |
| Merlin | - | - | - | 6 | - | Gt Sp Woodpecker | 11 | 1 | 1 | 124 | Great Tit | 1076 | 501 | 1577 | 14904 |
| Hobby | - | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | Ls Sp Woodpecker | 1 | - | 1 | 15 | Nuthatch | 2 | - | 2 | 27 |
| Red-lgd Partridge | - | - | - | 25 | - | Woodlark | - | - | - | 17 | Tree Creeper | 42 | - | 42 | 811 |
| Grey Partridge | - | - | - | 2 | - | Skylark | - | 9 | 9 | 2156 | Golden Oriole | - | - | - | 2 |
| Pheasant | - | - | - | 28 | - | Sand Martin | 270 | - | 270 | 6241 | Red-backed Shrike | - | - | - | 6 |
| Water Rail | 1 | - | 1 | 12 | - | Swallow | 78 | 231 | 309 | 17070 | Great Grey Shrike | 1 | - | 1 | 5 |
| Moorhen | 10 | 5 | 15 | 172 | - | House Martin | 615 | 8 | 623 | 3761 | Jay | 14 | - | 14 | 189 |
| Coot | 7 | - | 7 | 472 | - | Olive-backed Pipit | - | - | - | 1 | Maggie | 8 | - | 8 | 167 |
| Oystercatcher | 152 | - | 152 | 6984 | - | Tree Pipit | 1 | - | 1 | 92 | Jackdaw | 5 | 48 | 53 | 293 |
| Little Ringed Plover | 1 | 4 | 5 | 100 | - | Meadow Pipit | 48 | 14 | 62 | 1827 | Rook | - | 80 | 80 | 1073 |
| Ringed Plover | 12 | 12 | 24 | 933 | - | Rock Pipit | - | - | - | 13 | Carion Crow | - | 1 | 1 | 28 |
| Golden Plover | - | - | - | 25 | - | Yellow Wagtail | 37 | - | 37 | 183 | Starling | 1026 | 7 | 1033 | 32657 |
| Grey Plover | 124 | - | 124 | 1617 | - | Grey Wagtail | - | - | - | 12 | House Sparrow | 207 | - | 207 | 5933 |
| Lapwing | 2 | 28 | 30 | 249 | - | Pied Wagtail | 36 | 31 | 67 | 853 | Tree Sparrow | 42 | 11 | 53 | 4879 |
| Knot | 881 | - | 881 | 6755 | - | Waxwing | - | - | - | 2 | Chaffinch | 802 | 32 | 834 | 8602 |
| Sanderling | - | - | - | 29 | - | Wren | 598 | 7 | 605 | 9666 | Brambling | 26 | - | 26 | 1087 |
| Little Stint | - | - | - | 14 | - | Dunnoek | 999 | 15 | 1014 | 20806 | Greenfinch | 2524 | 35 | 2559 | 26331 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | - | - | - | 1 | - | Robin | 711 | 31 | 742 | 12800 | Goldfinch | 165 | - | 165 | 2790 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 1 | - | 1 | 11 | - | Thrush Nightingale | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | Siskin | 364 | - | 364 | 863 |
| Purple Sandpiper | - | - | - | 4 | - | Nightingale | 8 | - | 8 | 115 | Linnet | 107 | 73 | 180 | 6254 |
| Dunlin | 1713 | - | 1713 | 24488 | - | Bluthroat | - | - | - | 3 | Twite | 7 | - | 7 | 746 |
| Ruff | - | - | - | 104 | - | Red-flanked Bluetail | - | - | - | 1 | Redpol | 68 | - | 68 | 5928 |
| Jack Snipe | 7 | - | 7 | 55 | - | Black Redstart | 8 | - | 8 | 20 | Arctic Redpoll | - | - | - | 1 |
| Snipe | 18 | - | 18 | 372 | - | Redstart | 17 | - | 17 | 883 | Crossbill | 1 | - | 1 | 74 |
| Woodcock | 2 | - | 2 | 133 | - | Whinchat | - | - | - | 267 | Scarlet Rosefinch | - | - | - | 3 |
| Black-tailed Godwit | - | - | - | 180 | - | Stonechat | - | - | - | 15 | Bullfinch | 186 | 2 | 188 | 5057 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 189 | - | 189 | 1740 | - | Wheatear | 11 | - | 11 | 150 | Wt-throat Sparrow | - | - | - | 1 |
| Whimbrel | 4 | - | 4 | 39 | - | Ring Ouzel | 1 | - | 1 | 46 | Hawfinch | - | - | - | 1 |
| Curlew | 87 | - | 87 | 501 | - | Blackbird | 1307 | 159 | 1466 | 36278 | American Redstart | - | - | - | 1 |
| Spotted Redshank | - | - | - | 6 | - | Fieldfare | 17 | - | 17 | 1015 | Northern Waterthrush | - | - | - | 1 |
| Redshank | 14 | 5 | 19 | 1638 | - | Song Thrush | 294 | 34 | 328 | 10491 | Lapland Bunting | - | - | - | 319 |
| Greenshank | - | - | - | 29 | - | Redwing | 159 | - | 159 | 3777 | Snow Bunting | - | - | - | 60 |
| Green Sandpiper | 6 | - | 6 | 32 | - | Mistle Thrush | 9 | 8 | 17 | 330 | Yellowhammer | 53 | - | 53 | 3591 |
| Wood Sandpiper | - | - | - | 4 | - | Cetti's Warbler | - | - | - | 2 | Reed Bunting | 127 | - | 127 | 4857 |
| Corn Sandpiper | 3 | - | 3 | 57 | - | Grasshpr Warbler | 6 | - | 6 | 162 | Red-headed Bunting | - | - | - | 1 |
| Turnstone | 49 | - | 49 | 719 | - | Sedge Warbler | 55 | - | 55 | 2862 | Corn Bunting | - | 51 | 51 | 316 |
| Blk-headed Gull | 124 | 298 | 422 | 6156 | - | Blyth's Reed Warbler | - | - | - | 1 | TOTALS | 21,321 | 3140 | 24461 | 435102 |
| | | | | | | Marsh Warbler | - | - | - | 2 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Reed Warbler | 110 | 5 | 115 | 5052 | | | | | |

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1994

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

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

- 1 = Pullus, nestling or chick.
- 2 = Full grown, 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 ago, exact age unknown.
- 8 = Hatched 3 or more calendar years ago, exact age unknown.
- J = Still in juvenile plumage when ringed.
- 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

Where given, distances and directions are approximate.

Storm Petrel

- 4 07.08.92 Huttoft Bank, Mablethorpe
- v 25.08.93 Krakeness, **Norway**: 1013km NNE

- 4 14.07.94 Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear
- v 15.07.94 Huttoft Bank, Mablethorpe: 225km SSE
- v 16.07.94 Snook Point, Northumberland: 285km NNW

This species can turn up breathtaking movements; through a concerted effort at Huttoft Bank, the only realistic ringing point in Lincolnshire, 5 new birds have been ringed and one bird controlled, producing 3 recoveries to date.

Grey Heron

- 1 05.06.93 Gainsborough
- x 01.11.93 Seaton Ross, York: 52km NNW

Teal

- 4 13.03.93 Marston
- + 17.10.94 Skals, Fjordenge, **Denmark**: 757km ENE

Goshawk

- 1 26.06.94 Gauslandskogen, Rogaland, **Norway**
- v 18.10.94 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 681km SSW

Sparrowhawk

- 3M 31.10.93 Near Craiselound, Epworth
- v 16.08.94 Stodmarsh, Kent: 275km SSE

Kestrel

- 1 04.07.94 Fulletby, Horncastle
- x 16.10.94 Tongue, Spalding: 55km SSW

- 1 04.07.94 Fulletby, Horncastle
- x 16.10.94 Great Kelk, Yorkshire (road casualty): 87km NNW

- 1 04.07.94 Fulletby, Horncastle
- x 11.09.94 Near Huttoft: 22km E

To have a full brood of any species recovered is unusual, but this brood of Kestrels were all recovered within 3 months of ringing, and two actually on the same day!

Peregrine Falcon

- 1 28.06.88 Buskerud, **Norway**
- x 05.04.89 Thimbleby: 957km SW

Coot

- 6M 28.02.94 Lound, Retford, Notts
- x 06.04.94 Grimsby: 63km ENE

Oystercatcher

- 6 24.07.67 Snettisham, Norfolk
v 21.08.89 Friskney: 27km NNW
v 21.08.93 Friskney

Wash Wader Group's oldest recorded Oystercatcher, just over 26 years. The national record is 31 years 6 months.

- 3 21.11.87 Friskney
x 13.06.93 Sondel, Friesland, **The Netherlands**: 362km E

- 6 03.01.87 Friskney
x 23.11.93 Baie Dumont, St Michel, Manche, **France**:
506km SSW

- 5 05.11.78 Friskney
v 26.07.91 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**: 1376km NNE
v 19.03.92 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**:
vv 25.07.92 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**:
v 14.03.93 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**:
vv 26.09.93 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**:
v 23.03.94 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**:
vv 22.06.94 Malm, Nord-Trøndelag, **Norway**:

Site fidelity has helped build up a valuable record of the history of this individual. Note that the spring return dates are all within 10 days of each other in mid-March. The bird fledged 3 young in 1991, 4 in 1992 and 2 in 1993 but no breeding information was given for 1994. Also of interest are the 'last seen' dates for each season. In 1991 & 1992, when 3 and 4 young were raised, departure was late in July and in 1993, when 2 chicks were fledged, departure was delayed until September. However in 1994, when breeding may have failed, the bird was not seen beyond late June and could have arrived back on the Wash at the beginning of July.

Ringed Plover

- 4 07.07.93 Oulu, **Finland**
x 07.05.94 Gibraltar Point: 1959km SW

Grey Plover

- 6 29.08.92 Butterwick
F+ 05.09.93 Brevands, Manche, **France**: 413km SSW
3 14.09.86 Ujscie Wisly K Swibna, Gdansk, **Poland**:
v 20.02.88 Friskney: 1238km W

The first Polish ringed Grey Plover to be recovered in the UK.

Dunlin

- 1 14.06.85 Engidalur, Barardalur, Sudur Thingeyjar, **Iceland**
v 16.07.91 Wrangle: 1696km SE

3 10.08.80 Great Aynov Island, Murmansk, **Russia**
v 13.08.83 Bennington: 2486km SW
v 26.07.90 Freiston
v 31.07.92 North Sea Camp

An example of autumn site fidelity with all Wash captures only a few km apart.

Woodcock

- 3 04.11.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes
+ 21.12.93 Biggleswade, Beds: 146km SSW

Bar-tailed Godwit

- 4 14.08.87 Wainfleet
Fx 26.04.94 Ballum, Skaerbaek, Jylland, **Denmark**: 589km ENE

Black-headed Gull

- 4 31.01.92 Thorpe-on-the Hill
x 04.05.94 Evjarvi, **Finland**: 1808km NE

4 22.10.88 Wyberton Landfill, Boston
vv 19.06.93 Mustankorkean, Vaasa, **Finland**: 1837km NE

4 11.11.90 Boston
x 08.08.92 Matas, Lappi, **Finland**: 2018km NE

4 01.12.90 Wyberton Landfill, Boston
vv 18.06.93 Ratapiha-Alue, **Finland**: 1892km ENE

4 27.01.93 Thorpe-on-the Hill
x 08.04.94 Harensas Gemla, Nr Vaxjo, **Sweden**: 1058km ENE

6 05.04.85 Sortedamssøen, Copenhagen, **Denmark**
v 16.03.91 Wyberton Landfill, Boston: 870km WSW

4 30.11.91 Wyberton Landfill, Boston
vv 02.04.94 Copenhagen, **Denmark**: 866km ENE

6 10.03.93 Wladyslawow, Gdansk, **Poland**
v 12.02.94 Wyberton Landfill, Boston: 1223km W

6 14.01.87 Boston
vv 29.05.87 Utterslev, **Denmark**: 864km ENE
vv 30.03.88 Utterslev, **Denmark**:
vv 07.04.88 Utterslev, **Denmark**:
vv 09.04.88 Utterslev, **Denmark**:
vv 17.03.89 Utterslev, **Denmark**:
vv 04.03.92 Utterslev, **Denmark**:
vv 27.07.92 Utterslev, **Denmark**:
vv 27.07.92 7km
vv 18.07.93 Frihavnen, **Denmark**:

Common Gull

- 5 01.12.90 Wyberton Landfill, Boston
x 30.07.93 Jokilahti, Mikkeli, **Finland**: 1881km ENE

Herring Gull

- 8 03.12.88 Wyberton Landfill, Boston
x 15.04.94 Allmenningen, Sor-Trondelag, **Norway**:
1370km NNE

Great Black-backed Gull

- 1 04.07.78 Gjosundholmen, Haram, **Norway**
v 06.11.93 Wyberton Landfill, Boston: 1127km SSW

Barn Owl

- 1 24.06.93 Harrington, Spilsby
x 11.01.94 Attleborough, Norfolk: 103km SE

Sand Martin

Lincs birds moved to or from Sussex (14), Notts (3), and South Yorks (1).

Pied Wagtail

- 3 28.12.93 Gonnerby Moor, Grantham
x 26.05.94 Kettleby, Leics: 22km SW

Blackbird

- 3 21.11.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 20.12.93 Reinberg, Rostock, **Germany**: 859km E

4F 29.10.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes

- x 14.02.94 Enniskerry, Wicklow, **Ireland**: 426km W

Song Thrush

- 3 23.09.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 24.12.93 Paradas, Sevilla, **Spain**: 1839km SSW

Reed Warbler

- 3 04.09.93 Ido, Soderfjarden, Sodermanland, **Sweden**
v 03.10.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 1217km WSW

3 09.09.91 Gibraltar Point

- x 05.09.92 Reze Les Nantes, **France**: 669km SSW

Sedge Warbler

- 3 08.08.93 Icklesham, Sussex
v 14.07.94 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 276km N

3 14.08.93 Appleby Carr

- v 14.09.93 Icklesham, Sussex: 311km S

3 18.09.93 Icklesham, Sussex

- v 15.07.94 Appleby Carr: 311km S

Blackcap

- 3M 19.08.92 Ruttem, Limburg, **Belgium**
v 20.09.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 460km NW

3F 12.09.93 St Albans Head, Purbeck, Dorset

- v 26.06.94 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 348km NNE

Chiffchaff

- 4M 26.07.92 Theddlethorpe Dunes
v 16.04.94 Hitchin STW, Herts: 159km SSE

Goldcrest

- 3M 12.10.93 Signildskar, Eckero, Aland, **Finland**
v 25.10.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 1385km WSW

3M 09.10.93 Holland, North Ronaldsay

- v 25.10.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes: 686km SSE

v 12.11.93 Theddlethorpe Dunes

Starling

- 4M 24.01.92 Lincoln
v 20.05.93 Sennels, Thy Jutland, **Denmark**: 729km ENE

1 31.05.92 Virolahti, Kymi, **Finland**

- v 14.02.93 Bardney: 1874km WSW

1 29.05.91 Sahalahti, Hame, **Finland**

- v 02.03.93 Boston: 1736km WSW

6F 04.01.93 Boston

- + 15.10.93 St Marie du Mont, Manche, **France**: 409km SSW

6M 29.01.94 Boston

- x 03.05.94 Schwel, Weser Ems, **Germany**: 560km E

6M 01.02.94 Bourne

- x 20.10.94 Grajewo, Lomza, **Poland**: 1524km E

6F 22.02.94 Boston

- x 29.05.94 Palsjo, Malmohus, **Sweden**: 887km ENE

Also 6 Lincs birds involved in movements to The Netherlands.

Chaffinch

- 4M 07.11.92 Oostvoorne, Groene Strand, Zuid, **The Netherlands**
v 19.02.94 Langworth: 333km WNW

Greenfinch

- 2F 09.10.94 Ronekilen, Mandal, Vest-Agder, **Norway**
v 21.10.94 Theddlethorpe St Helen: 685km SW

3F 10.07.93 Hovden, Hareid, More og Romsdal, **Norway**

- v 25.02.94 Three bridges, Saltfleetby: 1055km SSW

Siskin

- 4F 07.10.93 Liege, **Belgium**
v 28.03.94 Market Rasen: 530km NW

5F 03.03.94 Malone, Belfast

- v 02.04.94 Market Rasen: 391km ESE

6M 02.04.94 Market Rasen

- v 19.04.94 Ballochraggan, Highland: 539km NNW

Lincs birds also moved to or from Salop (2), Derbys (1), Gloucs (1) and Notts (1).

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| White-billed Diver | 1 record, found dead 1976 | B | Gull-billed Tern | 5 records, last 1978 | B |
| Cory's Shearwater | 2 records, 1985 and 1988 | L | Caspian Tern | 9 records, last 1992 | B |
| Great Shearwater | 10 records, last 1977 | L | Lesser Crested Tern | 1 record, in 1993 | B b |
| Med Shearwater | 7 records, last 1989 | L | Roseate Tern | last 1993 | L b |
| Little Bittern | 9 records, last 1978 | B b | Whiskered Tern | 1 record, in 1987 | B |
| Night Heron | 10 records, last 1990 | B | Black Guillemot | 11 records, last 1985 | L |
| Squacco Heron | 2 records, 1861 and 1910 | B | Little Auk | last 1993 | |
| Cattle Egret | 6 records, last 1992 | B | Pallas's Sandprouse | no recent records, last 1899 | B |
| Great White Egret | 2 records, 1979 and 1993 | B | Great Spotted Cuckoo | 2 records, 1971 and 1974 | B |
| Black Stork | 1 record, in 1984 | B | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 2 records, 1978 and 1987 | B |
| White Stork | 10 records, last 1986 | (L) | Scops Owl | 1 record, in 1977 | B |
| Glossy Ibis | 6 records, last 1976 | B | Eagle Owl | 1 record, in 1879 | B |
| Lsr Wt-fronted Goose | 1 record, in 1943 | B | Snowy Owl | 1 record, in 1990-1991 | B b |
| Red-breasted Goose | 3-4 recent records, last 1985 | B | Tengmalm's Owl | 1 record, in 1880 | B |
| American Wigeon | 3 records, last 1991 | B | Alpine Swift | 10 records, last 1993 | B |
| Blue-winged Teal | 5 records, last 1982 | B b | Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | 1 record, in 1989 | B |
| Ring-necked Duck | 4 records, last 1993 | B | Bee-eater | 21 records, last 1988 | (L)b |
| Ferruginous Duck | 11 records, last 1981 | L | Roller | 6 records, last 1983 | B |
| White-tailed Eagle | 19 records, last 1990 | B b | Short-toed Lark | 3 records, last 1991 | B |
| Golden Eagle | 5 records, last 1927-28 | L | Tawny Pipit | 7 records, last 1993 | L |
| Gyr Falcon | 2 records, 1826 and 1900 | B | Olive-backed Pipit | 4 records, last 1992 | B |
| Black Grouse | last 1935 | L | Red-throated Pipit | 2 records, 1977 and 1992 | B |
| Spotted Crane | last 1989 | (L)b | Citrine Wagtail | 1 record, in 1983 | B b |
| Little Crane | 2 records, 1869 and 1910 | B | Rufous Bush Robin | 1 record, in 1963 | B |
| Corncrake | Last 1992 | L b | Red-flanked Bluetail | 3 records, last 1988 | B |
| Little Bustard | 6 records, last 1955 | B | Desert Wheatear | 2 records, 1970 and 1991 | B |
| Houbara Bustard | 1 record, in 1847 | B | Cetti's Warbler | 3 records, last 1993 | L b |
| Great Bustard | last 1902 | B | Lanceolated Warbler | 1 record, in 1909 | B |
| Black-winged Stilt | 7 records, last 1993 | B b | Savi's Warbler | 6 records, last 1992 | L b |
| Cream-coloured Courser | 1 record, about 1840 | B | Aquatic Warbler | 2 records, 1971 and 1979 | L |
| Collared Pratincole | 4 records, last 1981 | B | Blyth's Reed Warbler | 1 record, in 1991 | B |
| Kentish Plover | last 1990 | (L)b | Great Reed Warbler | 6 records, last 1990 | B b |
| Greater Sand Plover | 1 record, in 1981 | B | Booted Warbler | 1 record, in 1980 | B b |
| Sociable Plover | 1 record, in 1993 | B | Dartford Warbler | 1 record, in 1984 | L b |
| Semi-palmated Sandpiper | 1 record, in 1966 | B | Sardinian Warbler | 2 records, 1979 and 1986 | B |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | 9 records, last 1993 | B | Greenish Warbler | 10 records, last 1984 | B b |
| Baird's Sandpiper | 3 records, last 1979 | B | Arctic Warbler | 6 records, last 1986 | B |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 76 records, last 1992 | (L)b | Radde's Warbler | 4 records, last 1990 | B |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 2 records, 1982 and 1985 | B | Dusky Warbler | 5 records, last 1990 | B |
| Broad-billed Sandpiper | 6 records, last 1992 | B b | Isabelline Shrike | 3 records, last 1990 | B |
| Stilt Sandpiper | 2 records, 1963 and 1965 | B | Lesser Grey Shrike | 4 records, last 1990 | B |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | 7 records, last 1989 | L | Nutcracker | 7 records, last 1976 | B |
| Great Snipe | 4 recent records, last 1984 | B | Raven | last 1980 | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | 3 records, last 1986 | B | Rose-coloured Starling | 10 records, last 1987 | B |
| Hudsonian Godwit | 1 record, in 1981 | B | Arctic Redpoll | 12 records, last 1991 | B |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 3 records, last 1992 | B | Two-barred Crossbill | 1 record, in 1889 | B |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 8 records, last 1990 | B | Parrot Crossbill | 100+ records, last 1991 | B b |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 1 record, in 1963 | B | American Redstart | 1 record, in 1982 | B |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 2 records, 1970 and 1971 | B b | Northern Waterthrush | 1 record, in 1988 | B |
| Wilson's Phalarope | 9 records, last 1987 | B | White-throated Sparrow | 1 record, in 1992-93 | B |
| Red-necked Phalarope | last 1993 | (L)b | Cirl Bunting | 4 records, last 1977 | L b |
| Grey Phalarope | last 1990 | (L) | Ortolan Bunting | 31 records, last 1992 | (L) |
| Laughing Gull | 4 records, last 1984 | B | Little Bunting | 3 records, last 1980 | B |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 1 record, in 1979 | B | Yellow-breasted Bunting | 1 record, in 1977 | B b |
| Ring-billed Gull | 3 records, last 1993 | L | Black-headed Bunting | 2 records, 1974 and 1980 | B |

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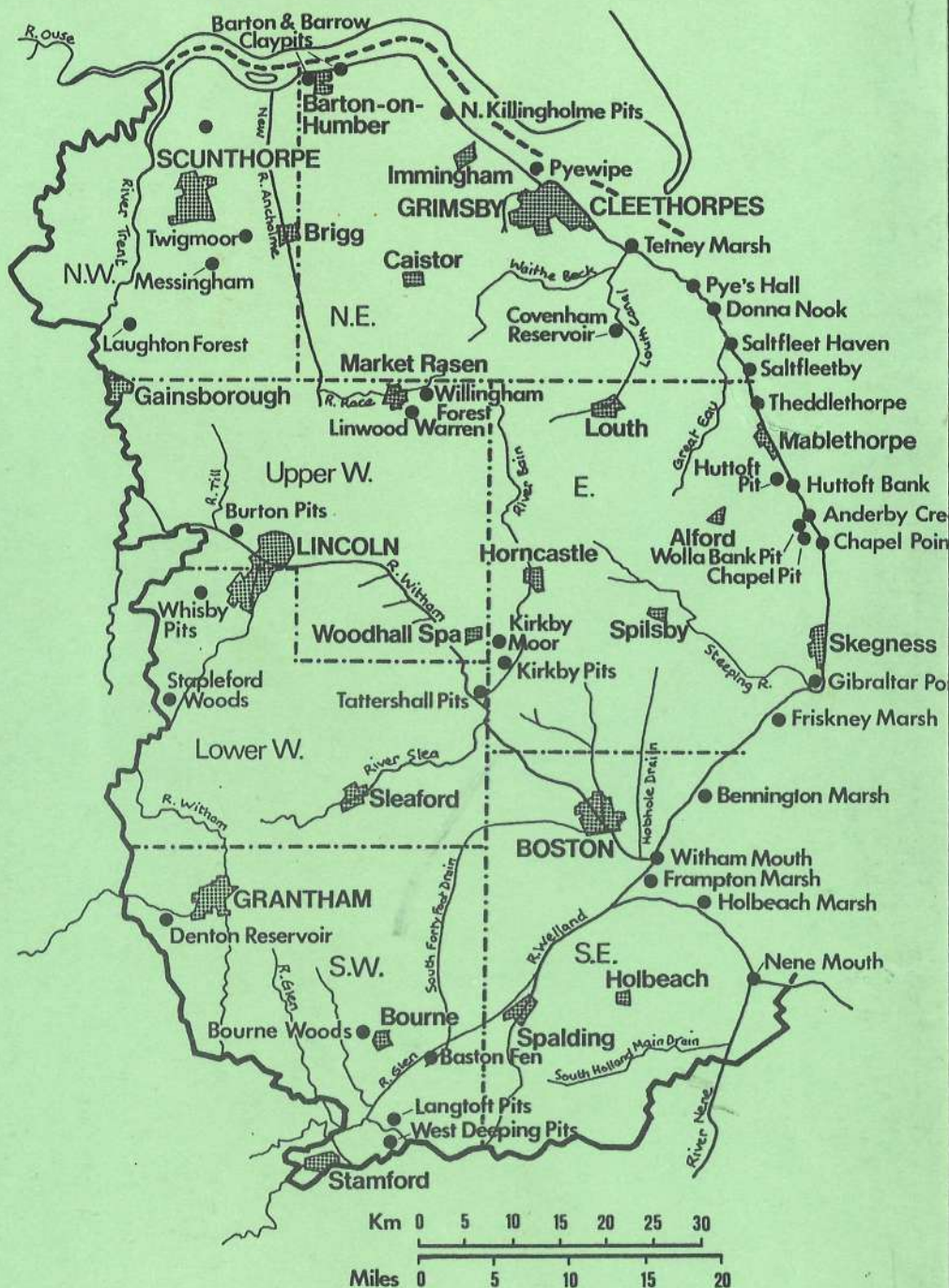
Gresham 23 mins Cley. Cosy lodge in our garden, sleeps 2.

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