

# Lincolnshire Bird Report 1996

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County Review  
Site Reviews

**Systematic List**

**Remaining Lincolnshire  
Species List**

**Results of Monitoring  
Projects:**

Breeding Bird Survey  
Wetland Bird Survey  
Territory Mapping Surveys

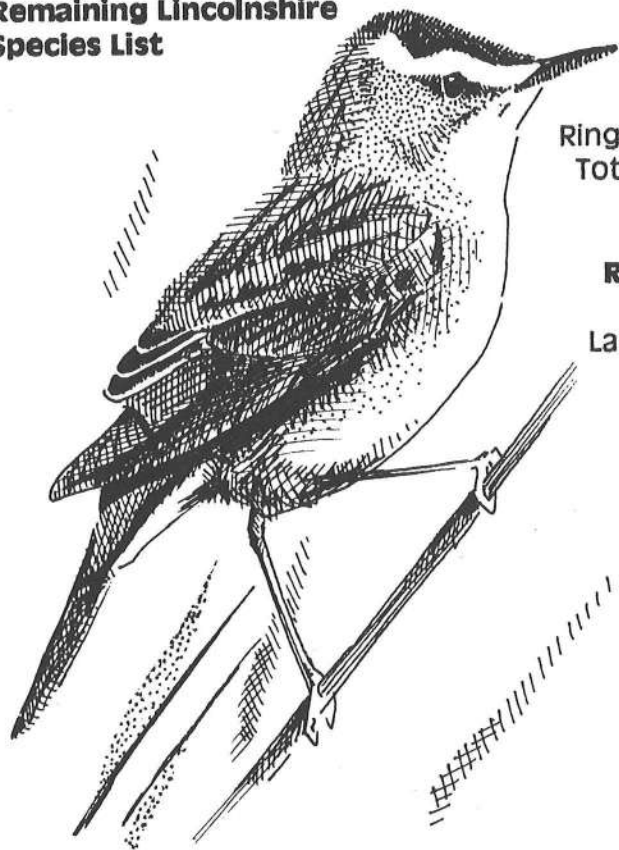
**Rookery Survey Results**

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Report**

Ringing Group Reports  
Totals and Recoveries

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White-billed Diver  
Lanceolated Warbler



**Lincolnshire Bird Club**

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## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1996

### COUNTY REVIEW

With fewer than half the normal hours of sunshine, January was the duller since records began in 1909. The first half was mild and unsettled with predominantly southerly winds, then from 21st a high pressure area intensified over the near continent and drew a bitterly cold easterly airstream of Siberian origin into the UK. With it came the largest invasion of Waxwings since the winter of 1965-66 and to many people the most memorable event of the year. Large numbers of Redwing and Fieldfare also arrived to help consume the glut of berries ripened by the long hot summer of 1995. Many of the reports of Waxwings came from town gardens or along tree-lined roadways and some even from industrial estates and shopping complexes, where the decorative planting of berry-bearing trees and shrubs proved a magnet to the birds. Birch trees also proved productive during the period, this time for the good numbers of Mealy Redpolls which remained from the invasion of November and December 1995. Two Arctic Redpolls also lingered from the previous month and three new birds were found during the first quarter of the year. Good numbers of Water Pipits continued to winter from 1995 with nine at Donna Nook, but Lapland Buntings were scarce and Snow Buntings showed little sign of recovery from the general decline of the past 20 years. Large numbers of Lapwing and Golden Plover were also present early in the month, before being pushed out by severe weather, and a Grey Phalarope at the month's end was the sole member of its genus for 1996.

February was generally cold and unsettled throughout, with a series of Atlantic depressions bringing some snow. The month saw the main arrival along the coast of the grey geese which were then present in good numbers for the rest of the early winter period. White-fronted predominated, with smaller parties of Bean and Barnacle, strongly suggesting an arrival from Holland. Pink-footed Geese also over-wintered in good numbers, with 5000 in the Wash early in the winter and a notable north-west return movement over many inland sites. An influx of grebes and sawbills, no doubt pushed west by the Arctic conditions on the continent, included more than 10 Red-necked, 25 Slavonian and six Black-necked Grebes, 500 Goosander and up to 40 Smew, representing the largest influx of these species into the county since February 1979. A long-staying drake Ring-necked Duck in deepest Lincolnshire proved popular, but was overshadowed at the month's end by a slightly oiled White-billed Diver on the River Witham, which sadly met with its untimely demise by swallowing a fisherman's Pike lure. Gib recorded a peak of over 200 Red-throated Divers, while three Black-throated and two Great Northern Divers were also present during the month. Common Buzzards continued their expansion and allowed many people the opportunity to see them in Lincolnshire, unlike the three Rough-legged Buzzards during the

early winter, none of which lingered for more than a day. Iceland Gulls were much in evidence during the period with 7-8 birds found, out-numbering the normally more common Glaucous Gull.

The cold and unsettled weather continued until the second week of March, when an anticyclone slipped across the country bringing a cold easterly airflow which persisted for the remainder of the month. A brief warm interlude around the 24th allowed the first summer migrants to trickle in. A notable passage of Red Kites began early in the month and continued into April, totaling about a dozen birds. These records may refer to wandering re-introduced birds or their offspring but persistent easterly winds and time of year suggest a genuine influx from the continent. The county's fourth American Wigeon put in a brief appearance at Toft Newton Reservoir, and up to five Avocets frequented Read's Island throughout the period, hinting perhaps at future events there. By mid-month Woodlarks had returned to their breeding grounds and five Shore Larks at Gib remained into early April – the only birds present along the whole north-east coast of England during the month. A singing Firecrest at Belton Park on 31st heralded a good spring for the species, with about 15 birds recorded to early June.

April was generally cool with biting northerly winds, but with warmer interludes and blasts of hot air from the south driving up temperatures mid-month, before cooler conditions returned. Small numbers of migrants appeared along the coast early in the month, including a good passage of Black Redstarts, but most summer visitors didn't arrive until the weekend of 20-21st, with a very early Spotted Flycatcher on 19th. A white-spotted Bluethroat at Cleethorpes in mid month was one of several which arrived on the East Coast, and eventually led to the first UK breeding record of this race. A highly mobile White Stork of unknown origin, previously seen in Northumberland, flew south into the Wash in mid-month and may have been the bird over Boston in mid May. A good influx of Spoonbills occurred, beginning with a Dutch colour-ringed bird at Killingholme on 29th and continuing into late summer, involving about 10 different birds. Marsh Harriers again featured heavily on passage and were joined by three Rough-legged Buzzards, Goshawk and Red-footed Falcon. An arrival of Dotterel from 22nd included up to 45 birds in the Tetney/North Cotes area peaking in early May, but more unusual was a Stone-curlew at the opposite end of the county. A Wryneck appeared well inland in mid month and both Serin and Golden Oriole arrived at Gib in the last week.

After a cold April, May was even worse, being the coldest since 1902. An almost constant north-easterly airstream persisted until mid month, followed by rather warmer weather with south-westerlies predominating. Traditionally a month of unusual overshoots and drift migrants, this May was rather disappointing although two Cranes, two Wrynecks, a Bluethroat and the only Temminck's Stint

of the spring passed through the county during the first week. Typically an autumn passage migrant, Little Stint made a better showing with a series of eight birds from 14th, while a strong northerly passage of Whimbrel was noted at Gib in mid month. Favourable weather conditions for grounding migrants occurred on 19th, but despite good numbers of birds further north, Lincolnshire could only manage a couple of Bluethroats and a Red-backed Shrike, although an Alpine Swift flying south over Skegness was compensation for one lucky observer. Serins were in song at Gib and Riseholme late in the month, when a Scarlet Rosefinch arrived at the former site, along with another Red-backed Shrike and 3-4 Golden Orioles. In view of its continuing increase nationally, the arrival of four Little Egrets was no surprise, but three of them together over Tetney must have been impressive.

June began dry and warm with mainly southerly winds, but then became cooler and wetter with the winds veering to the north-west. No doubt assisted by the favourable winds, an overshooting White-winged Black Tern and Kentish Plover arrived during the first week and a very late Red-backed Shrike appeared in mid month. Of the scarcer breeding birds, Marsh Harriers had another record year but the only known Montagu's Harrier nest failed. Breeding was finally proved in the county for Buzzard, after several years of speculation, but Hobbies continue to be poorly reported.

A pair of Black-necked Grebes displayed in suitable breeding habitat and nearby Lesser Black-backed Gulls attempted to breed. Despite increasing numbers of wintering Bitterns, none were seen or heard into the summer. Black Redstart probably bred at Grimsby Docks and no doubt others went undetected among the industrial acres of the Humber Bank. Few Quail were heard from suitable habitat, but the below-average numbers of nesting Pochard and Woodlark undoubtedly fail to reflect their true status. For our commoner breeding residents the prolonged winter, very cold spring and a summer drought mixed with late thunderstorms had a profound influence on their nesting fortunes, resulting in a poor breeding season for many species, especially the early nesters. Of the summer visitors, Whitethroats, Sedge Warblers and Sand Martins returned in good numbers but also experienced mixed fortunes due to the weather.

July was unsettled with increased rainfall. Unusually large numbers of waders were in the Humber at the start of the month, followed later by the more predictable return movement mid month, including the forerunners of a good Wood Sandpiper passage. A Roseate Tern in the Wash flew in the opposite direction to the growing numbers of south-bound Common and Sandwich Tern in mid month, and Yellow-legged Gulls again appeared in increasing numbers. Most unusual was a Honey Buzzard at Bonby Carrs on 2nd, almost to the day of the last record there in 1951, and a Peregrine on 14th was an exceptional date.

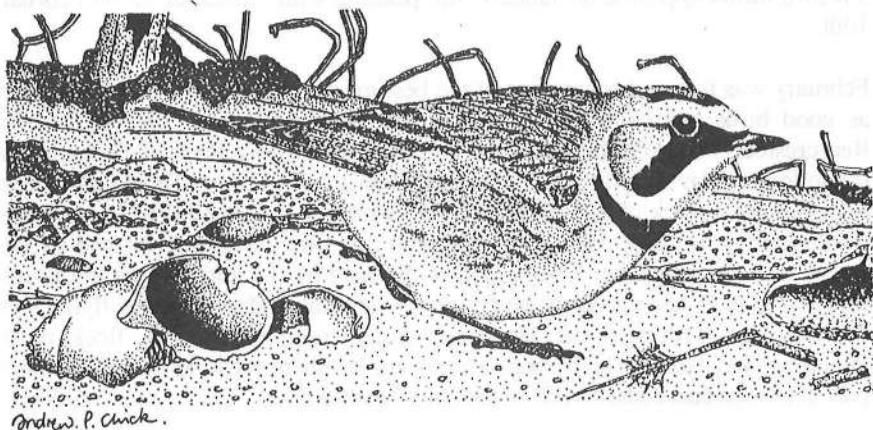
The unsettled weather continued into August, as a series of Atlantic depressions affected the country. Wader passage was in full swing by mid month, with Wood Sandpipers continuing to arrive in good numbers, the start of a good autumn influx of Purple Sandpipers, a widespread passage of Ruff and a single Temminck's Stint. Another Ring-necked Duck was found, although less obliging than the February bird, and Black Terns peaked at 90 in the Wash at the end of the month. Despite yet another August of less than conducive weather for drift migrants, small numbers of continental birds did arrive including single Icterine Warbler and Wryneck. Some huge Sand Martin roosts included a record count of 15,000 at Goxhill and Yellow Wagtails passed through in good numbers.

The first half of September was dominated by a high-pressure system to the west of Scotland producing almost constant northerly winds down the East Coast. The anticyclone then moved eastwards to settle over Scandinavia, producing an easterly airstream across the county until late in the month. An exceptional influx of Little Stints occurred throughout the month, in what was nationally the largest invasion of this species since 1960, although the often-associated Curlew Sandpipers passed through in only moderate numbers. It was a generally quiet period for sea-watching, but a good passage of Sooty Shearwaters occurred in the second week, peaking on 12-13th when over 150 flew north at Gib, along with good numbers of Fulmar, Gannet and all four skuas. Inland the Nocton Fen Marsh Harrier roost reached an all-time high of 22 during the month. A prolonged spell of easterly winds mid month produced some notable falls of common migrants and one of the best arrivals of rarities and scarce migrants for many years. The unexpected highlight was Lincolnshire's second Lanceolated Warbler, with a supporting cast of Subalpine, two Icterine, three Barred and 2-3 Yellow-browed Warblers, two Little Buntings, two Red-breasted Flycatchers, six Red-backed Shrikes, seven Firecrests, Wryneck and Bluethroat. Siskins arrived in good numbers and large-scale southerly movements of Meadow Pipits included 4600 at Gib at the month's end, with 3000 House Martins there the same day.

A constant series of Atlantic depressions dominated October, producing west to south-westerly winds, with only brief respites of south-easterlies. For the second year running a total lack of easterly winds resulted in an almost complete lack of scarce species and few common migrants. A small influx of Jays appeared on the coast and an unseasonal Hoopoe arrived in mid month, providing the sole year record. The only reasonable seabird passage occurred over 5-6th; Gib recorded a reserve record of six Black-throated Divers, and two Great Northerns passed Mablethorpe. The wintering Black-tailed Godwit flock which has established on the Humber in recent years increased to 570, more than trebling any previous year's maximum. The extreme weather did produce two vagrants from the west this month, with a Pectoral Sandpiper, the only Nearctic wader to reach

Lincolnshire this year, at the beginning and the second Green-winged Teal of the year at the end.

As with October, an almost constant series of depressions produced strong westerly winds with much rain for most of November. The month began exceptionally mild but became wintry by mid month when a long overdue blast of easterly winds brought in two Pallas's Warblers, the last on 17th and the latest county record by a week. Large numbers of this much-prized warbler had arrived in Scandinavia in mid-October leaving many birdwatchers anticipating an East Coast arrival. The appearance of two Great Grey Shrikes was notable given its national scarcity this year, the largest flock of Shore Larks for many years built up at Gib, with 43 birds present by the month's end, and a healthy Snow Bunting passage was indicated by the appearance of several birds inland. Several northerly blows provided some reasonable sea-watching conditions, producing a moderate influx of Little Auks and the autumn's largest movement of Kittiwake. The Humber Pink-footed Goose flock increased to 1500 mid month, when a Black Brant made a brief appearance in the Wash.



December was unsettled with average temperatures until mid month, followed by more settled but colder conditions thereafter, with a cold easterly wind. Associated with this hard weather later in the month was an arrival of Smew and Goosander with smaller numbers of Bean Geese, but not on the scale of February's influx. Wintering Shore Larks increased to nearly a hundred birds, recalling the heady days of the late 1960s-early 1970s, but Lapland Bunting numbers remained low. A Black Redstart in mid month was unusual, especially considering its poor autumn showing, as were 10 Crossbills at Gib, given the paucity of records this year. 1996 ended much as it had begun, with both Water Pipits and Waxwings featuring, but in much reduced numbers.

Howard Bunn



## BARTON

This was to prove a record year for the Barton patch with a new annual tally of 184 species recorded which included three additions to the Barton list. The early winter proved exceptional for divers, grebes and sawbills while the last few days of the year saw a repeat performance. A February gale produced the first of a good series of seabirds followed by a moderate autumn and good late movements in the last days of October and November.

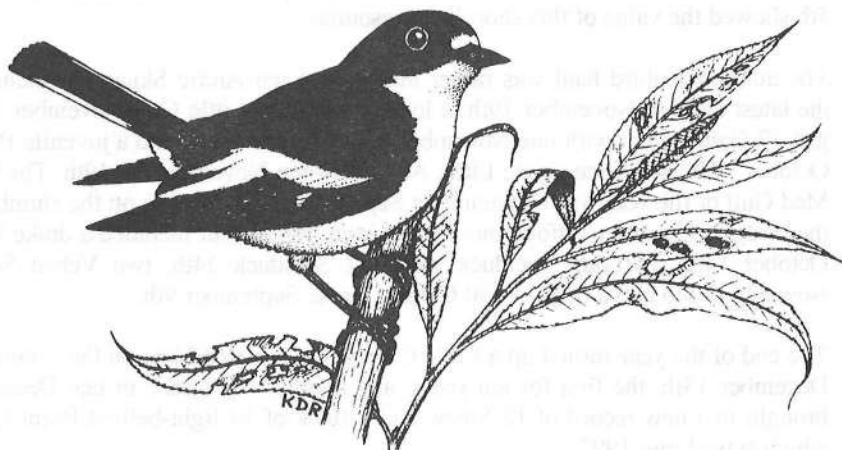
January started with a good freeze which forced the Bittern onto the ice on Pursuits Pit and also gave rise to a huge arrival of large gulls on the shore. This in turn produced an adult Glaucous Gull on 3rd and a 1st-winter Iceland on 4th. The early winter was characterised by almost constant arrivals of good birds on the pits mostly following heavy snow over January 26-27th. Minimum totals were six Smew, 19 Goosander, a male Red-breasted Merganser, three Slavonian and two Red-necked Grebes, two Red-throated and a superb 1st-winter Black-throated Diver for one afternoon on Sailing Pit. The first six Waxwings of a record influx appeared on January 9th, peaking with a flock of 32 on February 10th.

February was then to become one of the best months of local winter birding ever, as good birds just continued to appear one after the other. On 3rd a drake Red-crested Pochard did a couple of laps of Pit 25 with a flock of Pochard, and the following day added Ruff, Bar-tailed Godwit and Merlin. The coastal freeze also brought a flock of 226 Knot and 900 Dunlin to the foreshore on 4th. Most unexpected were three 1st-winter Shags on 6th, one on Sailing Pit and two on Pit 25, while a Kingfisher lashing across the road by Pursuits late on 9th proved that one at least had survived the freeze. A 1st-winter Marsh Harrier flying west off Far Ings 11th was the first mid winter patch record. A flock of 23 White-fronted Geese which spent a week on Kimberley Clarks from 11th were part of a large east coast arrival in the cold weather.

The only Jack Snipe of the year was present 17-18th but 19th was a true red-letter day. A howling north-easter with frequent snow showers but some nice sunny periods on the morning of 19th seemed to have brought in little new, but in the alders by Far Ings scrape a flock of 7 Redpolls showed well and close scrutiny showed one to be an Arctic Redpoll, a Barton first. Incredibly, after a terrible afternoon and night of gale force north-easterlies, there seemed to be little new on the pits early on 20th but a new Red-necked Grebe on the Humber was quickly followed by two Razorbills which ditched on the water and then flew off west: another new Barton bird, the second in two days. A further Razorbill and another auk then passed east and west, in addition to which a total of 49 Kittiwakes and a superb Fulmar put on an incredible show with a Black-throated Diver also putting

in an appearance. The following morning a full summer-plumaged Guillemot, no doubt a casualty of the previous two days gales, drifted west past Far Ings close inshore. The third, and another unexpected, addition to the Barton list was an adult Yellow-legged Gull on Pit25 on the afternoon of 26th, with the years only Stonechat and a flock of 19 Bewick's Swans on 28th rounding off a great month.

A single Short-eared Owl on March 3rd and a new record count of 74 Gadwall 8th were notable and 5000 Black-headed Gulls moving high to the west on 17th coincided with the first singing Chiffchaff. A Wheatear appeared on 27th and the earliest ever Little Ringed Plover on 31st. A cracking male Ring Ouzel in Far Ings north meadow, a 2nd-summer Mediterranean Gull hawking insects over Pursuits Pit and a pair of displaying summer-plumaged Red-necked Grebes, all on April 9th, marked the start of a good April spell. They were followed by two Sandwich Terns heading south on 10th and, as the weather finally turned a little warmer, a fine Tree Pipit, a party of six Black-tailed Godwits and a 1st-winter Little Gull all appeared on 15th.



Seven Marsh Harriers and two Hobbies passed through in May. Wood Warbler occurred for the first time at Barton in 1994, followed by a second in 1995, thus a singing male May 3-4th was the third in three years. The 4th added Common Sandpiper, 15 Arctic Terns east on the Humber and a cracking summer Black-necked Grebe on Pit 25. Yet another new bird for the Barton list came in the form of a male Pied Flycatcher in the viewing area on May 18th, followed next day by two Black Terns. A fishing Osprey occurred on 30th and two special birds on 31st: Wood Sandpiper at Far Ings and three Little Terns flying south west.

On the breeding bird front 10 broods of Pochard reared 30 juvs, of 8 pairs of Great Crested Grebe only 3 pairs reared 5 juvs but 4 pairs of Gadwall hatched 33 juvs. Six pairs of Bearded Tit also bred and the pair of Common Terns reared 3 juvs again for the third successive year. The recent fortunes of two species were reflected by maximum roost counts of 10,000 Sand Martins on July 31st, but only 5000 Starlings on 20th.

Autumn wader passage was fairly unexceptional apart from a juvenile Spotted Redshank on August 30th, a maximum of eight Curlew Sandpiper, 23 Little Stints (a local record in an exceptional autumn) and the first Purple Sandpipers since 1977, three different birds all moving west up the Humber on October 30th. Autumnal passerine migration is never very well marked inland so a Redstart in the viewing area on the lovely sunny afternoon of September 27th was notable as was a small run of migrant Jays over the pits October 1-22nd. Two excellent Arctic buntings, a 1st-winter Snow Bunting on October 16th and similar aged Lapland 15-25th were particularly good finds, with another Snow Bunting flying west December 1st. A total of 30 Rock Pipits moved west between October 2nd and November 2nd while a count of 380 House Sparrows on stubbles September 5th showed the value of this short lived resource.

The autumn seabird haul was rather mixed: just ten Arctic Skuas but including the latest ever on November 19th; a lone Bonxie and Little Gull November 12th; just 37 Gannets but with one November 8th; six Little Auks and a juvenile Puffin October 30th, and three single Little Auks between November 13-19th. The third Med Gull of the year was a juvenile on September 12th, feeding on the Humber at the bridge. Autumn wildfowl movements were typical but included a drake Eider October 14th, a Ruddy Shelduck with 112 Shelduck 24th, two Velvet Scoter November 14th and a peak of 290 Canada Geese September 9th.

The end of the year turned up a Little Owl on Caistor Road late on the evening of December 13th, the first for ten years, and another big freeze in late December brought in a new record of 12 Smew and a flock of 14 light-bellied Brent Geese which stayed into 1997.

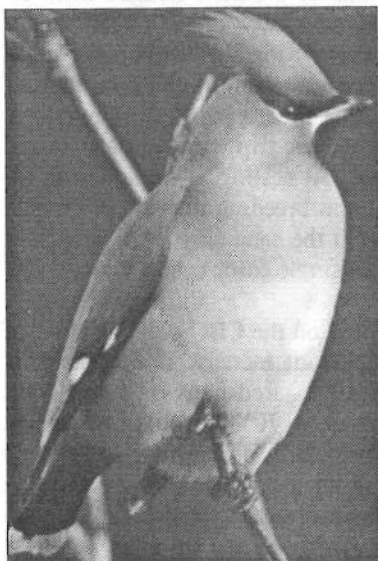
Graham P Catley

Site Locations: Barton west pits – Far Ings, Pursuits Pit.  
Barton east pits – Sailing Pit, Pit 25, Kimberley Clarks



## GIBRALTAR POINT

A total of 218 bird species were recorded during the year – possibly a reserve record. Two species not seen at all during 1995 started the year off: a Shag flying into the estuary over the viewpoint on 1st and a single Waxwing south along the east dunes on 3rd. This bird was the first of a massive national influx, with groups of 31, 35 and 61 recorded during the month. The huge Fieldfare flock seemed resident in Measures with numbers peaking at 5000 by 28th; these birds made short work of the Sea Buckthorn berries assisted by 1000 Redwing which arrived on 10th, although the latter soon dispersed inland. Up to 4000 Lapwing were present all month, commuting between the estuary and adjacent farmland, with some 12 Woodcock frequenting the farm and west dunes and a Jack Snipe often present just before dusk at Roadside Pool. Wildfowl counts included an exceptional 4000 Brent Geese on 13th, 800 Pink-footed Geese south on 17th and a flock of White-fronted Geese, briefly peaking at 78 in mid-month. This flock also included a real Gib rarity, a single Bean Goose.



Raptors included a ringtail Hen Harrier, perhaps three resident Merlins, Buzzards on six dates and Short-eared Owls on four.

Waxwing numbers peaked at the beginning of February with 145 on 1st and 67 on 4th although sightings of smaller numbers continued. The second half of the month produced a real winter storm when a period of extreme low pressure on 18-19th generated gale force north-easterlies. These combined with spring tides and gave rise to red alert flood conditions. The following days were excellent for sea-watching however with first of the year records of Fulmar, Gannet, Guillemot and Razorbill together with Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes and Kittiwakes.

### Spring passage

The first sign of spring was a Woodlark south on Feb 26th but the pace quickened in March. Indicators included a steady northerly passage of Pink-feet with 119 the largest flock; a Wheatear on 16th, with 5 on 27th, and on 28th a Sand Martin north and 316 Chaffinches south. Other highlights of the month were sightings of a Red Kite on 20th, with 2 south on 28th, the first Iceland Gull for 26 years and an Avocet flying north along the beach. Both arrivals and departures continued through April, including the first Yellow Wagtail on 7th, a Swallow and Spotted

Redshank on 8th, 1300 Redwing through on 9th, and 65 Fieldfare and 32 Snipe on 11th. Other highlights included a spate of Firecrest sightings, a good wave of raptor movements from mid-month and a White Stork over on 16th. In early May a small fall brought Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts, Wheatears, Ring Ouzel and a Wryneck, while later in the month a pristine Red-backed Shrike was present on 19-20th. Perhaps the richest period came in the last week however, which brought no less than four Golden Orioles, a Scarlet Rosefinch, a Serin, another Red-backed Shrike, more Firecrests and a passage of a hundred Turtle Doves.

### **Breeding birds**

Spring followed the pattern of recent years with warm weather early on being curtailed by colder weather. This caused some birds to postpone a nesting attempt and resulted in unsuccessful early clutches in others. The shorebird season commenced on April 20th, when the familiar fence was erected around the sanctuary area. The first Little Terns arrived on 24th and numbers then rose quickly to 45 by May 8th but the first nest was not found until the relatively late date of June 1st. By the end of the season a total of 8 chicks fledged from 13 pairs, of which only one was in the official sanctuary area! This was a noteworthy success after recent disappointing years. Ringed Plovers made more use of the sanctuary; soon after the fence was erected up to 70 could be seen in the area, with the first nest found on April 27th and new nests then regularly found into June. Most nests were protected by electric trip wires to deter foxes, although nine nests were still predated. In total, 30 nesting attempts led to 46 fledged chicks, split equally between the two main breeding areas. 1996 also saw four pairs of Oystercatchers breeding: two in the sanctuary area were both predated, and two at Greenshank's Creek, raised a single chick each.

Elsewhere on the reserve, a total of 48 species bred on the CBC plots, with 31 of these showing an increase on 1995. The significant increase in Redshank is particularly encouraging. Recent surveys of breeding Redshank on saltmarshes carried out by the RSPB have linked declines of up to 70% in some parts of the country with habitat loss and modification, particularly overgrazing. The Gib Point population all breed on ungrazed saltmarsh, their optimal habitat according to RSPB research. Whitethroat numbers continue to increase dramatically, with the CBC plots holding a staggering 107 pairs! Also on the up side, a pair of Collared Dove provided the first confirmed breeding record since 1979, and a pair of Goldcrest in the Plantation was only the second breeding record. On the down side, the record national Beech mast crop of 1995 allowed high over-winter survival of tits and finches, but unfortunately the late cold spring resulted in a lack of food and hence high pullus mortality early in the season. Wrens appeared to plummet this year, and Tree Sparrows again failed to breed – the last confirmed breeding was five years ago. Meanwhile on the Fenland lagoon, a pair of Avocets prospected nest sites over two days, but sadly moved on.

## Autumn Passage

From July the autumn wader passage began, with a build-up of birds using the estuary; 600 Bar-tailed Godwit and up to 1000 Grey Plover. The margins of the mere and the Fenland lagoon provided attractive feeding grounds for many migrants, including Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank, while Whimbrel and Greenshank were very vocal on the reserve all month. The first Merlin was back on Aug 1st, when a visible Sand Martin exodus involved 400 birds.

The first week of August saw the first Ruff and Wood Sandpiper of the year, 7th produced the first returning Short-eared Owl and Whinchat, and 11th the first autumn Pied Flycatcher and a Barn Owl. On 25th a Spoonbill moved south, this date also heralding both the start of a serious movement of hirundines and wagtails and the arrival of Fieldfare and Tree Sparrows. This period also brought a good fall of passerines and similar small falls continued through September. There was an influx of birds of prey at this time and sea-watching in mid-month was worthwhile; 12-13th brought record numbers of Gannets and Sooty Shearwaters, good counts of Fulmar and skuas and the year's only Leach's Petrel.

The best passerine landfall of the month came in the third week, involving both passage chats and warblers and the arrival of northern thrushes, Robins and finches, including a record 351 Siskin on 18th. By contrast the last week saw an incredible southerly passage of pipits, finches and hirundines, not to mention 20 House Sparrows and a single flock of 42 Rooks.

Passage of both departing and arriving birds continued through October, with Goldfinch, Brambling and Ring Ouzel all memorable, but a series of depressions resulted in almost continuous westerlies and increasingly the reserve came to be dominated by its winter birds. High tides brought impressive wader numbers again, with 25,000 Knot roosting at Greenshank Creek, and a flock of 8 Whooper Swans arrived on the estuary.



A scattering of Chiffchaffs included two eastern birds and a walk along the shore revealed 2 Snow Buntings on 2nd, joined by Rock Pipits, 2 Twite and 3 Lapland Buntings in the first week. The first Shore Larks arrived on 9th. Gull numbers on the Wash roost were impressive at this time, with 8000 Black-headed Gulls and 2000 Herring Gulls most prominent.

The highlight of the autumn was a Pallas's Warbler, found near Shoveler's Pool on 11th Nov, while the best sighting of mid-month was a flock of 56 Bewick's Swans which flew south into the Wash on 17th. By this time the Shore Lark flock numbered 32 and it continued to build to a peak of 71 by mid-December with up to 6 Snow Bunting on occasion. The end of the year was generally quiet, but the feeding station at Sykes Farm provided good winter watching, with regular sightings of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Brambling and Yellowhammer. Corn Buntings became a daily sight with a flock of up to 52 in the saltmarsh, there were 2 Waxwings in the dunes on 7th and 10 Crossbill flew west out of the Plantation on 8th.

Kevin Wilson, Mike Briggs

The full Annual Wildlife Report is available from the Secretary, Gibraltar Point NNR, The Field Station, Gibraltar Road, Skegness, PE24 4SU. Cheques (£3.50 + 50p p&p) payable to Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation.

## THE WITHAM MOUTH, BOSTON

For the purpose of this review the recording area for the Witham Mouth is from the car park near Cut End cottages at TF380392, east along the river bank to the Lincs Bird Club hide overlooking the Wash at Tabs Head, TF397394, the convergence of the tidal rivers Witham (Haven) and Welland, and to the west of the car park to the Hobhole Outfall TF365399. The site is counted monthly for WeBS throughout the year. The count area is divided into seven sub-sectors and incorporates saltmarsh, the river, river banks and arable fields.

Red-throated Divers were scarce with singles in January and others from November to the year end. The only record of Black-throated Diver was an adult on December 14th. Peak passage of Gannets occurred in September and October, but only in small numbers. The numbers of Cormorants feeding and roosting in the river mouth was down on previous years, perhaps offset by increased numbers seen heading inland at first light, now a familiar sight fishing in the local freshwater rivers and drains. A White Stork was seen flying towards the hide from Butterwick on April 17th, having roosted on a telegraph pole in Butterwick village centre on 16th. (Some video footage was taken by non bird watchers).

A skein of 19 White-fronted Geese on January 1st was the only record of this species. Up to 2000 dark-bellied Brent could be seen until May, and again from September. A Ruddy Shelduck was reported to be in the area on April 2nd. Scaup were only present in small numbers; like other sea-ducks they have decreased in recent years. Eiders were present in every month of the year, the peak being 145 on April 7th. In June the birds were in full wing moult, some showing signs of light oiling on their plumage. Common Scoters have traditionally summered in the Wash so 100+ birds on July 17th was in line with previous years, and a Velvet Scoter was seen on the same date. A male Hooded Merganser (presumed to have escaped) was on a pool near the Hobhole outfall May 4-13th, fully winged with a white darvic ring on its right leg. Red-breasted Mergansers were present to April 21st and again from early November, but no large numbers were reported.

A Red Kite flew south over North Sea Camp on January 12th. Marsh Harriers were seen regularly throughout the summer and Hen Harriers throughout the winter, but there was a decrease in numbers of the latter coinciding with the decline of the roost at nearby Frampton Marsh. There were two reports of Osprey, one south over North Sea Camp at 0845 hrs on July 18th and another on August 20th. Another species showing a notable decline was Merlin, possibly due to reduced quarry species, ie. Skylark and Twite.

A moulting adult American Golden Plover was seen among a hundred Golden Plovers from 0900-1000 hours on March 10th, on high saltmarsh, also associating with 11 Ruffs. It was re-located later that day on fields behind the sea wall. The usual Golden Plover haunts were subsequently checked regularly but it was not seen again until March 24th at Butterwick Marsh. An unprecedented count of 1260 Black-tailed Godwits was made on February 11th, with 5 of the birds colour-ringed. Enquiries via the Wash Wader Ringing Group revealed a study being carried out by UEA, the birds being ringed in Suffolk. Other good numbers counted included 208 on March 19th and 100 October 20th. The first Whimbrel of the year was on April 16th, with the highest count of 50 on August 3rd. The first Greenshank of spring was also on April 16th, but no large numbers were recorded. A single Wood Sandpiper was seen on July 27th. Five Curlew Sandpipers were seen on August 18th, with 17 Ruffs on March 10th and 12 on October 20th.

Passage of skuas and other seabirds was poor, although obviously observer coverage was biased towards weekends, when the weather was not necessarily suitable. There were two Black Terns on August 18th and two 1st-winter Little Gulls on September 21st; also on the latter date a single Little Auk was seen to land in the Welland channel and unfortunately later seen to be eaten whole by a Greater Black-backed Gull.

Skylarks were generally scarce so a concentration of 1200 birds on January 28th was unusual. A large southerly movement of Meadow Pipits was noted over 2-3 days in mid-September, involving several thousand birds. The winter maximum of 11 Rock Pipits was seen on January 21st. A Grey Wagtail was in the Hobhole area early November, and a White Wagtail on April 16th. The year maximum count of 37 Yellow Wagtails was made on September 3rd. There was a male Black Redstart at North Sea Camp on April 6th, and up to 12 Redstarts were on the south bank on September 21st. The only records of Stonechat were a single on March 10th and two on April 7th. The first Wheatear was seen on March 24th, with 8 on September 21st. Two Pied Flycatchers (one of them trapped) were at North Sea Camp on April 16th and six Mealy Redpoll were seen briefly on April 7th. The year saw a drastic reduction in Twite numbers, with only 30 maximum (formerly this species has occurred in flocks of up to 5000). A flock of up to 50 Snow Bunting was present in November-December, with one bird trapped and ringed on February 14th. Numbers of Lapland Bunting were also reduced, with only a few birds present in November-December.



Many thanks to all those observers who entered their sightings in the hide log book and others who took the time to contact me with their records.

Steve Keightley



## THE DEEPINGS

This review covers the south-west corner of the Lincolnshire Fens, from Deeping High Bank across to Bourne and down the Fen edge to Market Deeping, including all the sand and gravel pits and villages in this area.

### January-February

After a mild start the first winter period actually proved to be a very exciting one. As would be expected from an area focused on various gravel pit complexes, the chief interest came in the form of wildfowl and wetland species, pushed into the area by easterly winds and bitterly cold weather on the near continent. The show started with a party of 16 Bewick's Swans at Baston Fen on Jan 6th, hiding in their midst one of the best birds of the year, our first Bean Goose, part of the east coast influx at that time. Following this, a party of 46 White-fronted Geese arrived on 22nd, almost doubling the total for the area which previously stood at 47. This party soon moved on but a group of 14 on fields next to Tallington Lakes stayed from 28th to Feb 3rd. These fields came to be something of a goose hotspot during February with 15 Pinkfeet and perhaps some of the 850 Greylags claiming to be wild; less likely so for 3 Barnacles with a small feral breeding population resident locally, or for the 250 Canada Geese, pairs of Bar-headed Geese and the various hybrids. However, to complete the set a single Brent Goose was on Deeping High Bank on March 24th. In the Deepings, Whooper Swans always seem to be just passing through while Bewick's do occasionally stay. This year 4 parties of Whoopers came through, totalling 10 birds and there were two herds of Bewick's; up to 36 on Deeping High Bank and up to 25 out on Deeping Fen, both present until late March.

Nationally important wildfowl numbers were reached on some pits, notable totals being 152 Gadwall at Langtoft West End GP and 104 at Baston-Langtoft GP, with 573 Pochard at the latter site in February. A group of 17 Pintail at Baston Fen was huge by local standards. Two ducks, Red-crested Pochard and Smew, are local specialities. Of the former the regular population was present at Baston-Langtoft GP, but single males were also recorded at 4 other sites. Smew were recorded at 6 sites with at least 14 birds represented: 12, including 2 males, at Langtoft West End GP and 2 further red-heads at Baston Fen, all on Feb 2nd. The last was seen on March 31st. Other highlights were a Bittern at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 6th, a good showing of winter raptors, including passing Red Kite, Buzzard and Hen Harrier and longer-staying Merlin and Peregrine, and a Guillemot on Deeping High Bank March 2nd. A pair of Stonechat wintered at Baston Fen and a party of Waxwings was present briefly at Deeping St James on Feb 10th. A group of 24 Redpoll in Market Deeping on Feb 8th was the first gathering of more than a handful of birds for several years.

### **Spring migration**

First spring arrivals were Ring Ouzel, a male on Deeping High Bank on March 24th, Sand Martin 29th, Chiffchaff 30th and Swallow on 31st. A 2nd-summer Med Gull was in the gully at Baston-Langtoft GP on 30th and by contrast a flock of 600 Fieldfare still present on Deeping High Bank on April 14th was notable. By far the most exciting record of the spring was the White Stork, watched soaring over Deeping St James on May 12th and providing our second new record. More expected were a pair of Garganey at Baston-Langtoft GP on May 6th, and the same site produced some good wader records, including 460 Golden Plover March 31st, a Sanderling May 18th and a pair of Avocets on June 4th. Elsewhere Baston Fen had a Bar-tailed Godwit Mar 22-Apr 13th and 61 Snipe April 7th, while the fields along Deeping High Bank came up trumps with a lingering trip of up to 11 Dotterel, Apr 27-May 15th. Formerly a regular visitor to Bourne South Fen, this is only the second local record since 1986.

### **Breeding season**

In total, 80 species bred or probably bred, not including the territorial pair of fully-winged but locally released Bar-headed Geese. Probably our most important local breeding species, Cormorants continue to breed in the Deeping St James heronry, but with unknown success as access permission has been withdrawn. The highlight of the breeding season has to be the first confirmed breeding of Red-crested Pochard however; a female with 2 young was at Baston-Langtoft GP during June, at least one juvenile surviving through the autumn. Other notable wildfowl records were up to 5 pairs of Shelduck, at least 2 pairs of Gadwall and a total of 24 Tufted Duck broods. In what was a very poor year for the species, only a single calling Quail was heard, at Baston-Langtoft GP June 5th. Amongst the waders, 3 pairs of Oystercatcher bred at Baston-Langtoft GP, which also had similar numbers of Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers and Redshank, plus 6 pairs of Lapwing, and 2 drumming Snipe were heard at Baston Fen. The colonies of Black-headed Gull (ca 300 pairs) and Common Tern (ca 50 pairs) at Baston-Langtoft GP continue to flourish, and at least 600 pairs of Sand Martin nested in 3 colonies.

The non-breeding flock of Mute Swans on Deeping High Bank rose to 233 on June 17th, back to the numbers of the 1980s, and the phenomenon of summering Goosander continued: a male was on Langtoft West End GP June 15th and a moulting female was in Deeping St James on at least June 30th.

### **Autumn migration**

Return wader passage was poor with only 15 species moving through. The highlights were a Curlew Sandpiper at Deeping St James Oct 3rd and a couple of Jack Snipe records during September. The only evidence of this year's Little Stint invasion was a record of 2 at Baston-Langtoft GP Sep 22-24th. Similarly



disappointing, there were no large gatherings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a feature of recent years, though a single Yellow-legged Gull was on Deeping High Bank Aug 29th. Deeping High Bank also provided a series of Black Tern records, 5 birds in September and 7 Wheatears were seen there, a good passage by local standards.



A high count of 200 Yellow Wagtails came from the same site on Aug 16th, and the last Hobby was over Market Deeping Sep 22nd, the same day as the last Marsh Harrier over Deeping High Bank. Other real rarities for the autumn were a Black-necked Grebe at Baston-Langtoft GP on Aug 11th and a pair of Egyptian Geese on Deeping High Bank Oct 3rd. Finally 3 Jays moved east over Deeping St James on Oct 12th, a good record of a barely annual species.

### **November-December**

After the excitement of last winter, we could hardly expect a repeat performance. As usual the end of the year went gently, with one or two exceptions. Good counts made at Baston-Langtoft GP in November included 3500 Lapwings and 891 Coot and more notable was the passage of 83 Herring Gulls flying west on Nov 17th, remarkable for a species rarely recorded in double figures. A Red-throated Diver flew north-east over Bourne South Fen the same day. Baston Fen provided our third new species for the year in the form of a Water Pipit on Dec 25th, bringing the Deepings total to 222 and rising. A Slavonian Grebe arriving at Baston-Langtoft GP Dec 27th made this the first year since 1979 with five grebes recorded and there were up to nine Smew, including two drakes, at the same site, with another red-head at Tallington Lakes, from Dec 28th through to the year end.

Philip J Precey

## RESULTS OF MONITORING PROJECTS 1996

### BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

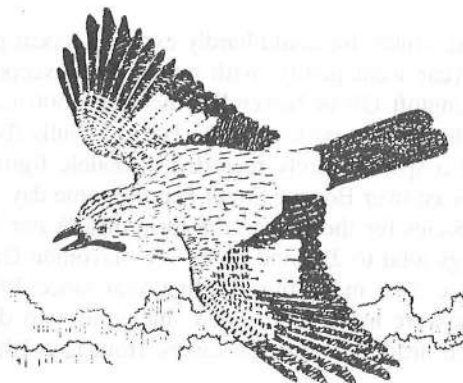
The number of 1km squares being monitored by the JNCC/BTO/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) has climbed steadily since it commenced. Thus 35 (containing 93 species) were covered in 1994, 39 in 1995 (100 species) and 42 in 1996, with a total of 101 species recorded. For purposes of monitoring this total is still rather small to give statistically significant results within the county, but it may be possible to use them for this purpose as the sample increases. Two further problems at a county level are that, as is obvious from the list below, not all the species recorded are actually breeding in Lincs, and the distribution of squares counted is biased towards the west. However this survey is designed to provide a statistically sound (random) sample for national monitoring, and will work at this level even if there are no squares on the Wolds, or in any of our heathland areas, for example, or if some of the species we record are on passage in this county.

Table 1 lists, for each species:

- a) the number of 1km squares (out of 42) in which it was recorded,
- b) the proportion of the sample squares in which it was found,
- c) the total number recorded (using the higher count from each square), and
- d) the average number found in each square containing that species.

This survey gives all birdwatchers a chance to take part in nationally important survey work. If you have a few hours to spare each year and wish to take part in BBS, please contact your BTO Rep (see front cover) or Richard Bashford at the BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. Tel: (01842) 750050

Anne Goodall



**Table 1 Species summary for the Breeding Bird survey 1996**

Species	No.	%	Tot	Av	Species	No.	%	Tot	Av
Little Grebe	1	2	2	2	Skylark	39	93	507	13
Great Crested Grebe	1	2	2	2	Sand Martin	3	7	52	17.3
Cormorant	4	10	14	3.5	Swallow	36	86	137	3.8
Grey Heron	10	24	20	2	House Martin	13	31	56	4.3
Mute Swan	6	14	27	4.5	Meadow Pipit	18	43	142	7.9
Pink-footed Goose	1	2	1	1	Yellow Wagtail	19	45	77	4.1
Greylag Goose	6	14	22	3.7	Pied Wagtail	21	50	41	2
Canada Goose	6	14	50	8.3	Wren	33	79	111	3.3
Shelduck	4	10	25	6.3	Duncock	34	81	108	3.2
Gadwall	2	5	11	5.5	Robin	29	69	108	3.7
Teal	2	5	4	2	Redstart	1	2	1	1
Mallard	30	71	233	7.8	Wheatear	5	12	12	2.4
Shoveler	1	2	8	8	Blackbird	40	95	380	9.5
Pochard	1	2	1	1	Fieldfare	3	7	72	24
Tufted Duck	8	19	40	5	Song Thrush	16	38	27	1.7
Ruddy Duck	1	2	3	3	Redwing	3	7	15	5
Marsh Harrier	1	2	2	2	Mistle Thrush	20	48	54	2.7
Sparrowhawk	5	12	8	1.6	Sedge Warbler	10	24	21	2.1
Kestrel	12	29	14	1.7	Reed Warbler	4	10	13	3.2
Red-legged Partridge	35	83	143	4.1	Lesser Whitethroat	10	24	14	1.4
Grey Partridge	15	36	43	2.9	Whitethroat	31	74	105	3.4
Pheasant	35	83	231	6.6	Garden Warbler	4	10	18	4.5
Moorhen	16	38	62	3.9	Blackcap	6	14	33	5.5
Coot	4	10	23	5.8	Chiffchaff	5	12	12	2.40
Oystercatcher	1	2	3	3	Willow Warbler	16	38	71	4.4
Little Ringed Plover	1	2	1	1	Spotted Flycatcher	3	7	3	1
Dotterel	1	2	3	3	Long-tailed Tit	5	12	13	2.6
Golden Plover	1	2	2	2	Marsh Tit	1	2	2	2
Lapwing	11	26	43	3.9	Willow Tit	1	2	6	6
Curlew	5	12	10	2	Coal Tit	4	10	6	1.5
Redshank	2	5	4	2	Blue Tit	30	71	150	5
Black-headed Gull	16	38	110	6.9	Great Tit	25	60	66	2.6
Common Gull	5	12	29	5.8	Nuthatch	1	2	1	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	7	17	18	2.6	Treecreeper	1	2	2	2
Herring Gull	7	17	24	3.4	Jay	3	7	17	5.7
Great Black-backed Gull	2	5	3	1.5	Magpie	26	62	80	3.1
Common Tern	3	7	5	1.7	Jackdaw	29	69	201	6.9
Feral Pigeon	12	29	85	7.1	Rook	28	67	493	17.6
Stock Dove	22	52	117	5.3	Carrion Crow	34	81	217	6.3
Woodpigeon	41	98	1207	29.4	Starling	36	86	817	22.7
Collared Dove	23	55	80	3.5	House Sparrow	33	79	517	15.7
Turtle Dove	14	33	24	1.7	Tree Sparrow	11	26	35	3.2
Cuckoo	21	50	41	2	Chaffinch	35	83	322	9.2
Barn Owl	3	7	3	1	Greenfinch	30	71	113	3.8
Little Owl	5	12	7	1.4	Goldfinch	21	50	149	7.1
Tawny Owl	1	2	2	2	Linnet	32	76	206	6.4
Short-eared Owl	2	5	2	1	Bullfinch	4	10	10	2.5
Swift	18	43	131	7.3	Yellowhammer	34	81	203	6
Kingfisher	1	2	1	1	Reed Bunting	16	38	45	2.8
Green Woodpecker	2	5	5	2.5	Corn Bunting	10	24	37	3.7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5	12	15	3					

## THE WETLAND BIRD SURVEY

All site totals and individual records for 1996, both for inland waters and the two estuaries have been incorporated into the Systematic List.

In January-March WeBS counters covered 22 inland sites mainly in mid-Lincolnshire (listed in Table 1). During the year a further 12 sites (listed in Table 2) were recruited and were also counted in the second winter. Some sites, mainly in the north, still lack counters (or may be being counted and reported directly to Slimbridge). Efforts will continue to ensure that all significant waters are included in the scheme. We are always happy to recruit additional counters who can spare an hour or two on a Sunday each month throughout the winter. If you know of a stretch of wetland that is important for wintering waterfowl, and suspect that it is not counted please contact one of the inland organisers. (See inside front cover.)

The Wash was again counted in every month, but counting is even more difficult than usual on the Humber between June-August, and no attempt is made to get a full count at this time. Additional offers of help are always welcome on both estuaries, whether you can give up a day regularly or just help out now and then. For further information, please contact either of the organisers. (See inside front cover.)

**Table 1 Inland sites included in the counts throughout 1996**

Grid Sq	Location	Grid Sq	Location
SE 90	Brigg Island Carr Lakes	TF 16	Bardney SBF Ponds
TA 00	Cadney Reservoir	TF 16	Metheringham Delph
TF 39	Covenham Reservoir	TF 16/15/25	R. Witham: Kirkstead-Chapel Hill
SK 98	Fillingham Lake	TF 57	Huttoft Bank Pits
TF 08	Toft Newton Reservoir	TF 55	Gibraltar Point Mere
SK 97	Riseholme Lake	SK 94	Caythorpe Lake
TF 07	R. Witham: Fiskerton -Short Ferry	SK 94	Ancaster Pits
SK 96	Hartsholme Lake	TF 24/34	South Forty-Foot Drain
SK 96	Swanholme Lakes	TF 03	Culverthorpe Lake
SK 96	Whisby Nature Park	TF 02	Grimsthorpe Park Lake
TF 06/16	Nocton Fen	TF 01	Holywell Lakes

**Table 2 Inland sites included in the counts from September 1996**

Grid Sq	Location	Grid Sq	Location
SK 97	Burton Pits	TF 22	Coronation Channel, Spalding
TF 36	Revesby Res	TF 22/21/20/10	R. Welland: Spalding - Borough Fen
TF 25	Tattershall Pits	TF 12	R. Glen, Guthram
TF 04	Sleaford Pit	TF 11	Baston Fen NR
SK 83	Denton Res	TF 11	Baston-Langtoft Pits
TF 22	R. Welland, Spalding	TF 11	Langtoft West End Pits

## TERRITORY MAPPING SURVEYS

Four territory mapping surveys are currently carried out in Lincolnshire: three common bird censuses (CBC) and one waterbird survey (WBS). In addition, an estimate of the number of pairs of each breeding species on the Theddlethorpe Dunes study area is made annually from ringing data, using a combination of regular re-trapping and presence of brood-patches. Brief descriptions of each study site are given below, and the numbers of territories/pairs of each species present in 1995 and 1996 are given in Table 1. The only change likely to be significant is the decline in Wrens between the two years, seen at all four terrestrial survey sites.

- A: CBC plot on arable farmland at Silk Willoughby (TF 04). Total area 56.5 ha, operated annually since 1965.
- B: CBC plot in dune scrub, freshwater marsh and dune grassland at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (TF 49). Total area 15ha, operated annually since 1977.
- C: CBC plots covering most of the coastal dunes, dune slack and old saltmarsh at Gib Point NNR (TF 55). Operated annually since the mid 1980s.
- D: WBS plot on the River Witham and South Delph parallel watercourse system (TF07). Total length 2 x 5km, operated annually since 1987.
- E: Breeding bird study area in dense dune scrub/woodland at Crook Bank, Theddlethorpe Dunes (TF 48). Total area 10-12ha, operated annually since 1982.

Thanks for making their data available to Geoff Atkin (Silk-Willoughby), Mike and Frances Boddy (Theddlethorpe Dunes), Janet Eastmead (River Witham), John Walker (Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR) and Rob Watson and the Reserve Staff (Gib Point).

Anne Goodall

**Table 1 Territories or pairs recorded in 1995 and 1996**

Site:	A		B		C		D		E		Total	
	95	96	95	96	95	96	95	96	95	96	95	96
Little Grebe	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	2	4
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	-	-	8	6
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	2
Shelduck	-	-	-	-	7	8	-	-	-	-	7	8
Mallard	1	2	1	1	3	3	20	27	-	-	25	33
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	-	-	6	8
Sparrowhawk	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	3

Site:	A		B		C		D		E		Total	
	95	96	95	96	95	96	95	96	95	96	95	96
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Red-legged Partridge	1	2	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	5	10
Pheasant	6	6	1	1	6	11	-	-	-	-	13	18
Moorhen	-	-	2	1	12	11	15	11	-	-	29	21
Coot	-	-	-	-	4	4	10	10	-	-	14	14
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Redshank	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	29	4	-	-	-	-	29	4
Woodpigeon	2	2	5	5	45	46	-	-	-	-	52	53
Stock Dove	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	3	2
Collared Dove	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Turtle Dove	-	-	2	2	11	12	-	-	-	-	13	14
Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	1	7
Tawny Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Skylark	14	9	-	-	21	25	-	-	-	-	35	34
Swallow	1	2	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	4	4
Meadow Pipit	1	1	1	1	32	31	-	-	-	-	34	33
Pied Wagtail	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Wren	3	-	9	5	77	50	-	-	11	3	100	58
Duncock	3	+	18	15	58	79	-	-	13	14	92	108
Robin	1	-	2	2	10	10	-	-	4	4	17	16
Nightingale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Blackbird	4	3	2	2	21	22	-	-	10	12	37	39
Song Thrush	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	4
Mistle Thrush	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Sedge Warbler	-	-	6	3	4	5	29	29	4	1	43	38
Reed Warbler	-	-	-	-	4	5	7	6	-	1	11	12
Lesser Whitethroat	-	-	2	2	9	15	-	-	17	10	28	27
Whitethroat	2	2	21	24	83	107	6	-	29	43	141	176
Garden Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Blackcap	-	-	1	1	3	4	-	-	9	7	13	12
Chiffchaff	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	1	-	4	5
Willow Warbler	-	-	15	17	39	42	-	-	12	13	66	72
Goldcrest	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Long-tailed Tit	-	-	1	1	2	3	-	-	1	5	4	9
Blue Tit	1	1	4	6	38	38	-	-	7	3	50	48
Great Tit	-	-	1	2	17	21	-	-	5	3	23	26
Magpie	-	-	2	2	14	19	-	-	1	-	17	21
Jackdaw	1	2	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	5	7
Carrion Crow	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
House Sparrow	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Tree Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-
Chaffinch	5	4	7	9	12	18	-	-	9	8	33	39
Greenfinch	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2
Goldfinch	1	-	-	-	10	6	-	-	-	-	11	6
Linnet	1	1	15	13	31	35	-	-	7	5	54	54
Redpoll	-	-	2	2	11	8	-	-	1	2	14	12
Bullfinch	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	4
Yellowhammer	2	3	4	2	9	8	-	-	1	1	16	14
Reed Bunting	4	1	4	6	9	14	4	4	1	-	22	25

# ROOKERY SURVEY 1996

## Introduction

During 1996 the BTO undertook a national survey of rookeries based on counting nests in a random sample (2.5%) of tetrads and recording the tree species used. The opportunity was taken to expand this in Lincolnshire by recruiting members to locate all the rookeries in specified 5x5 1km squares (ie one quarter of a 10km square) and count the nests in each. No information on tree species was required in the extended survey. This paper reports the results of the 1996 survey and compares them, so far as is possible, with the results of earlier surveys.

## Previous surveys

The first complete count of rookeries in Lincolnshire was carried out by the LNU in 1944-45 and reported by White (1947). This paper gives a total for nests and rookeries and also the number of rookeries in each of four size categories, but doesn't give any distribution.

In 1970 the LNU carried out a second survey and again counted rookeries and nests, assigning the rookeries to the same size categories. In this case an attempt was also made to analyse the size and distribution of rookeries according to soil type (after Jukes-Brown and Woodruffe-Peacock, 1885). The same methods were used for the 1975 BTO survey, both surveys being reported by Wilson and Needham (1976).

The BTO survey was repeated in 1980 as a sample survey of 17 x 10km squares, in addition to which LBC members covered a further eight. Data from the 1975 survey were supplied by the BTO so for these 25 squares Redshaw (1980) was able to make a direct comparison of rookeries and nests. This survey also recorded tree species used for nesting, in order to determine the impact of Dutch Elm disease (DED).

In 1985, as part of the Lincolnshire Atlas fieldwork, members were asked to map and count nesting corvids, including rookeries. Only a dozen squares, mainly in the north-west were covered, but nest tree species was again recorded.

## Results of 1996 Survey

The original aim was to cover the same quarter of each 10km square, giving a 25% sample of the whole county and ideally also of each Natural Region. (Natural Regions used are as defined in the Atlas of Lincolnshire Birds, in prep.) The first aim was reached, with 26.1% of the county covered, but the distribution between regions was uneven; not all the selected quarters were covered, while some volunteers counted additional (or alternative) squares of their own choice. Sample distribution is shown in Table 1. Here the first column gives the percentage of the county in each region and the third gives the percentage of the sample in each region; in an ideal sample these would be the same. The actual area and the proportion of each region surveyed are also given. This Table shows



**Table 1 Sample Distribution**

Region	as % of county	survey area (km <sup>2</sup> )	as % of sample	% of region sampled
Coast	5.0	83	4.4	23.4
Isle of Axholme	3.1	97	5.2	44.3
Trent Valley	12.2	140	7.5	16.2
Heath <sup>(1)</sup>	15.2	486	26.1	45.4
Cliff <sup>(2)</sup>	4.3	52	2.8	17.3
Clay Vales <sup>(3)</sup>	10.0	187	10.2	26.4
Wolds	11.3	85	4.6	10.6
Marsh	11.9	124	6.7	14.8
Fens	27.0	588	31.6	30.8

Notes

- (1) The limestone ridge south of Lincoln
- (2) The limestone ridge north of Lincoln
- (3) The Ancholme Valley and Wragby Clay triangle.

**Table 2 Rookery Counts and Density by Natural Region**

Region	counted		/100km <sup>2</sup>		est. totals		nests
	nests	rkys	nests	rkys	nests	rkys	/rkry
Coast	70	7	84	8.4	299	30	10
Isle of Axholme	374	11	386	11.3	844	25	34
Trent Valley	655	31	468	22.1	4042	191	21
Heath	2344	80	482	16.5	5161	176	29
Cliff	229	5	440	9.6	1321	29	46
Clay Vales	1515	41	810	21.9	5735	155	37
Wolds	389	14	458	16.5	3661	132	28
Marsh	337	13	272	10.5	2283	88	26
Fens	1048	49	178	8.3	3401	159	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6961</b>	<b>251</b>			<b>26747</b>	<b>995</b>	
<b>Mean</b>			<b>371</b>	<b>14.1</b>			<b>27</b>



that while some regions were surveyed in the 'right' proportions, the sample was low for the Trent Valley, the Cliff, the Wolds and the Marsh, and high for the Isle of Axholme and the Heath.

Table 2 gives the total for nests and rookeries counted and the numbers in each region. Since 26.1% of the county was surveyed, this equates to a simple county estimate of 26,670 nests in 962 rookeries, with mean density of 28 nests/rookery. However previous surveys have shown that Rook density varies between regions, so Table 2 also calculates the density of both nests and rookeries in each region, and derives from this the estimated totals shown which are considered to be closer to the real picture. The two sets of figures are very similar and the difference is likely to have arisen where some volunteers elected to count areas already known to have large rookeries. The method used to analyse the results would cancel out some of this bias but note that the small size of some samples, particularly on the Wolds, remains a possible source of error.

The 1996 results are compared with those from earlier years in Table 3. The first four rows give the percentage of all rookeries counted which fell into each size category in each year, and the next three rows the actual or estimated totals. Note that 1980 was also a sample survey and the list of 10km squares given by Redshaw (1980) shows that a very high proportion (ca 49%) of the survey area was in the Fens, very small areas were sampled in the Heath, Trent Valley and Clay Vales, and none in the Isle of Axholme. From Table 2, the Fens have a below average density of Rooks and the Clay Vales in particular a very high density. Multiplying up from the totals counted would therefore be expected to give too low a figure for the whole county. This is shown by multiplying up the totals for the same squares counted in 1975; the estimates obtained are a third less than the actual county total. Without any data on distribution of the rookeries it is not possible to derive regional densities, as has been done for 1996. The 1980 figures in Table 3 were therefore derived by multiplying up the sample totals in the same proportion required to obtain the 1975 county total from the total in the sample squares.

Finally Table 4 compares the proportion of nests in different trees for the three sample surveys which collected these data. Although the samples all suffer either from some degree of bias or small size, they do show both the importance of Ash in Lincolnshire and the effect of DED in largely removing standard elms, particularly in clumps. It was thought that Sycamore might absorb rooks which have lost elms but this seems not to have happened, perhaps because Sycamore is still not common as a farmland tree.

## Discussion

Table 3 charts a steep decline of Rooks to the mid-70s and since then a steady increase. It also shows that not only has the number of rookeries returned to post-war levels, but that the trend to larger rookeries, seen in 1980, has continued. At present this is seen mainly in an increasing proportion of medium-sized

**Table 3 Change in Size Distribution of Rookeries 1944-1996**

Year	1944	1970	1975	1980 <sup>(1)</sup>	1996 <sup>(2)</sup>
nests/rky <sup>(3)</sup>					
2-25	49.0	71.5	73.5	65.7	62.5
26-75	34.3	23.4	21.4	26.2	30.4
76-200	13.6	4.7	5.1	7.5	6.3
200+	3.1	0.4	-	0.6	0.8
total rookeries	977	731	588	(510)	995
total nests	45,110	17,614	12,513	(17,797)	26,747
av. nests/rky	46	24	21	(35)	27

**Notes:**

- (1) Nests/rookery figures from the ca 32% sample. Totals extrapolated by comparison with the 1975 survey: see text.
- (2) Nests/rookery figures from the ca 26% sample. Totals calculated by reference to density in Natural Regions: see Table 2.
- (3) All nests/rookery figures given as a percentage of the total counted in each year.

**Table 4 Tree Species Used by Nesting Rooks**

Species	1980		1985		1996	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ash	1457	33.8	443	37.0	261	42.3
Elm	871	20.2	107	9.0	0	0
Sycamore	836	19.4	186	15.6	100	16.2
Beech	467	10.8	95	8.0	44	7.1
Oak	243	5.6	62	5.2	70	11.3
Horse-chestnut	240	5.6	79	6.6	nr	-
Willow	99	2.3	88	7.4	nr	-
Pine	7	0.2	65	5.4	4	0.6
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	87	2.0	69	5.8	138	22.5
Nests in sample	4307		1194		617	

**Note (1):**

1980: lime, alder, plane, poplar, hawthorn and larch.

1985: plane, poplar and yew.

1996: surveyors were asked to note only 6 listed species and 'other deciduous'.

rookeries of 26-75 nests, with less change in the proportion of very large rookeries. In absolute terms these numbers are also increasing however; in 1975 there were only 30 rookeries of more than 75 nests in the entire county with none over 200. In 1996 there were 17 of 75+ nests in the 26% sample, two with more than 200, mainly on the Heath and in the Clay Vales. These findings appear to run counter to the current trend for farmland birds and are therefore difficult to explain. Wilson and Needham (1976) suggested that conversion of grassland to arable, and thus a reduced supply of invertebrates available to feed the nestlings, explained the decline. However loss of grassland has continued and use of insecticides had increased since the 1970s, despite which Rooks have increased. Redshaw (1980) discussed the converse suggestion that an increase in cereal acreage would benefit Rooks, in conjunction with a halt in use of poisonous seed dressings. If poisoning by seed dressings had in fact been the limiting factor, rather than loss of grassland *per se*, then its removal could certainly explain the original population upturn. However, feeding opportunities on arable farmland now appear to be very limited and a continued increase in Rooks is a paradox against this background.

An alternative possibility might be that the Rook population has actually peaked since 1980 and is now declining again. It was noted following the 1975 survey that numbers both between 1944-70 and 1970-75 had reduced by about 1000/year. The extrapolated totals for 1980 suggest an increase of about the same order between 1975-80, but if this had continued the population would now be about 34,000 rather than 26,000. This suggests that the rate of increase has at least slowed. As ever there is a need to continue monitoring this species. Redshaw (1980) suggest the need for a survey to establish where Rooks feed, particularly between May-July, but this still remains to be done.

Table 2 reveals a nearly ten-fold difference in nest density and a four-fold difference in rookery size between the Coastal region and the Clay Vales, with other regions falling between. These differences were also noted in 1970 and 1975. Wilson and Needham suggested that four patterns could be seen:

- a) areas with plenty of Rooks in many large rookeries;
- b) areas with fewer Rooks in a few larger rookeries;
- c) areas with fewer Rooks but dispersed in many smaller rookeries; and
- d) areas with very few Rooks in a few small rookeries.

They further suggested that this relates to a situation where either food, or nest sites, or both, limit population size. Thus where there is little food, pattern d) would be seen; nest site availability would probably be immaterial. As the food supply increases pattern c) would be likely to occur where nest sites are plentiful and b) where sites are more limited or the food supply is patchy. Finally where food and sites are plentiful, pattern a) would be approached.

In 1996 pattern a) is seen in the Clay Vales and on the Heath and Wolds; pattern b) in the Isle of Axholme and on the Cliff; c) in the Trent Valley and Marsh, and d) on the coast and in the Fens. This distribution agrees quite well with the

position in the 1970s, when for example some of the highest nest densities also occurred on the limestone Heath and the Wragby clays. Differences are explained by the much greater subdivision into soil types used in the earlier paper. The Fen edge sand and gravels were separated from the peat fen, for example, with a nest and colony density 3-5 times higher in the former areas than the latter. Exactly the same pattern was seen in the present survey, with many rookeries, some quite large, around both western and northern Fen edge villages. Within the peat fens themselves rookeries were much scarcer and relatively few reached double figures. The Isle of Axholme was similarly split between the clay islands and the intervening peat, with all the large rookeries associated with the former.

Overall this paper demonstrated highest densities on clay and limestone, medium densities on chalk and sand, both blown and fen edge, and lowest densities on peat and alluvium, including all the major river valleys. Comparing this analysis for the two years 1970 and 1975 it appears that mean rookery size grew, even as total density declined, in the sub-optimal areas (ie a movement from pattern c) to pattern b)) while both declined together (and more slowly) in the best areas. This would be consistent with food supply becoming more patchy in the first group but declining generally (or remaining available but killing them!) in the second. All of these observations contain pointers to the present situation, but indicate more strongly than ever the need to know where Rooks actually feed throughout the year.

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## Acknowledgements

These results could not have been obtained without the efforts of at least 50 LBC and BTO members who provided the data. It is not possible to list all the names, partly because some of the results were presented as anonymous lists, but the contribution of all involved is gratefully acknowledged.

Anne Goodall

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1996

Collated and written by Keith Atkin

## Key to Symbols:

\*B National Rarity: description required for submission to BBRC. Submitted records with decision still pending will indicate this in the entry.

\*L Rare or scarce in Lines; full description required by LBRC

\*(L) Rare or scarce in Lines; supporting details of sighting required by LBRC.

Records in these categories may not be published without the required information.

\*b nationally scarce 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.

## Key to Tables:

WeBS Totals: Monthly sum of all sector/site counts as follows.

Humber 23 sectors, Alkborough - Theddlethorpe.

Wash 17 sectors, Gib Point - Terrington Marsh.

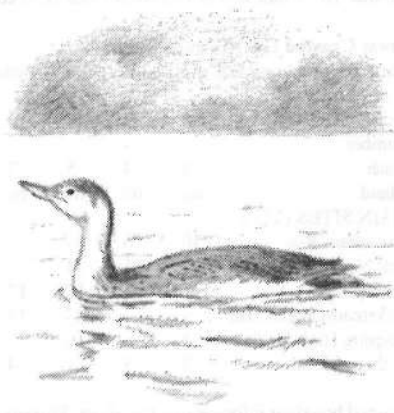
Inland 34 inland/freshwater sites with regular counts (listed in the WeBS report). Note that highest monthly counts from all sources are used; these may sometimes be higher than the reported WeBS count.

## Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Fairly common offshore passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May with peaks in mid-winter; rare inland and in summer.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	70	202	27	27	1	8	11	10	22

Most records were from Gib Point with good numbers in mid Feb. Apart from the peak on the 8th there were 180 on 11th, 130 on 14th, 52 N 16th and 80 S on 21st. Few were seen elsewhere on the coast with 1-2 at North Cotes and Skegness in Jan and 12 N at the latter site on Feb 2nd. Late spring birds were 3 at Tetney May 26th and 1 at Saltfleetby on 25th, with singles there Jun 15th and 29th. Apart from 6 S at Mablethorpe on Oct 5th, only 1-3 were recorded occasionally at Tetney, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe and Huttoft Sep-Dec. In the upper Humber a few singles were between Barton and Goxhill Jan-Apr and Dec. The only Wash records were singles at Moulton Marsh (R. Welland) in Jan and Witham Mouth in Nov. Inland singles in Jan were at Whisby Pits (to early Feb), Thurlby SP, Deeping High Bank, up to 3 at Covenham Res, then singles at Apex Pit (N Hykeham) Feb, Tattershall Pits Mar, Bourne South Fen Nov and Covenham Res Dec.



## Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Rare/very scarce winter visitor mainly Sep-Apr.

A good year began with a 1st W at Barton Pits Feb 3rd, then singles on the Humber there 20th; at Tattershall (R. Witham) 29th, Tattershall Pits Mar 1-4th, N at Gib Point Apr 7th and the last of the spring there May 12th. First of the autumn was at Gib Point Sep 28th then a record reserve count of 6 Oct 6th. A 1st W was at Toft Newton Res Dec 5-24th and one at Covenham Res also on 24th.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer* \* (L)

Rare winter visitor Aug-May.

A 1st W was at Covenham Res Jan 13th-Feb 25th (RR, RKW *et al*) and one flew N at Witham Mouth Feb 11th (SML, MCH). In autumn 2 flew S at Mablethorpe Oct 5th (GPC).

**White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* \*B

Vagrant

An adult on the R. Witham at Tattershall Bridge on Feb 29th - Mar 2nd (KDU *et al*) was seen by many observers. Unfortunately on the latter date it took an angler's pike bait and later died after swallowing the hooks. Accepted by BBRC and the 2nd county record.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	2	7	5	2	-	nc	nc	-	-	3	6	-
Wash	9	6	6	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3
Inland	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	55	76	21
MAIN SITES												
Barton	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	<10	7
Humberston	6	13	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	11
Toft Newton Res	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	21	35	3
Whisby Pits	18	9	-	12	-	-	-	13	33	31	24	6
Kirkby Pits	31	27	15	16	22	19	47	59	69	68	42	25
Gib Point	3	4	4	8	5	4	-	-	-	1	3	3

Another 10+ count was at Holywell Lake (15 Feb).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	-	-	-	-	nc	nc	1	-	-	2	-
Wash	3	4	5	7	57	6	16	3	22	12	11	3
Inland	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	202	183	128
MAIN SITES (25+)												
Covenham Res	30	6	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	5	5	11
Toft Newton Res	37	25	13	-	7	5	10	12	31	33	39	28
Kirkby Pits	2	1	12	17	17	13	23	25	12	4	1	2
Kirkstead-Chapel Hill	-	-	47	14	23	16	-	26	-	9	23	19
Deeping High Bank	8	-	10	-	-	-	19	23	-	30	32	12
Witham Mouth	3	3	1	4	25	-	3	20	13	6	2	2

Limited breeding information, but about 28 pairs from the 8 sites reported.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* \* b

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Mar.

A good year with at least 16 records mostly in the early part of the year. One was found dead at Skegness on Jan 22nd and by the end of the month there were singles at Barton West and East Pits. Both of these stayed until mid-late Mar and seem likely to have been the pair at the East Pits Apr 9th. In Feb singles were at Swanholme Lakes 9th-month's end, Covenham Res 12th and North Cotes MoD Pools 25th. Several others were found in Mar: Tattershall Pits 2-15th, Deeping St James 10th, Kirkby Pits (oiled) 14-16th, Deeping High Bank 24th, North Hykeham (Richmond Lake and Apex Pit) both on the 16th, at the latter site remaining to Apr 2nd. Also in Apr 1 flew N at Gib Point 6th.

Early autumn juvs were seen at Huttoft Aug 6th and at Covenham Res 6-12th. Singles in the Wash area were S at Gib Point Oct 27th, at Freiston Nov 17th and Leverton Dec 15th.

#### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

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

An excellent year with up to 30 records mostly in the early months. Jan-Apr: Barton-Barrow Haven Pits 3-4 Jan-Apr; Cleethorpes CP 1-2 Apr (last 24th); Tetney (canal) 1 Mar-Apr; Saltfleet Haven 1 Feb; Gib Point 3 singles Feb-Mar; Moulton Marsh 1 Feb-Mar; Crowle Pits 1 Feb; Black Bank Pits 1 Feb; Scawby Park Lake 1 Mar; Cadney Res 1-2 Jan-Feb; Toft Newton Res 1 Jan-Feb; Covenham Res 1-2 Feb-Mar; Whisby NP 1 Jan-Feb; Apex Pit (N Hyckham) 1 Feb; Kirkby Pits 1 Feb; Tattershall Bridge (R. Witham) 1-2 Feb-Mar; Tattershall Pits 1 Mar; Sleaford Pit 1 Feb. A few singles in Dec at Swanholme Lakes 15th, Tattershall Pits 22nd and Baston-Langtoft Pits 27-28th.

#### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* \*b

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Apr-Jun and Aug-Nov.

A few were recorded amongst the Slavonian influx, with 1 at Saltfleetby Feb 11th, 3 N at Gib Point on 21st, 1 at Barton Pits 25th, then 1 at Tattershall Pits on Mar 20th. There was a good passage of summer plumaged birds with singles at Toft Newton Res Apr 7-8th, Barton Pits May 4-5th, Bardney Pits 5th, then a pair Kirkby Pits on Jun 13-30th with brief display on 30th. One was at Baston-Langtofts Pits Aug 11th and two 1st winter birds were at Covenham Res 12-26th.

#### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Fairly common offshore visitor, mainly Mar-Nov. Rare in winter and very infrequent inland.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Barton	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Tetney-Horseshoe Pit	-	-	58	4	-	30	-
Donna Nook	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Saltfleetby	-	5	4	10	2	2	3
Huttoft Bank	-	2	-	-	-	3	3
Gib Point	2	9	58	4	4	15	428
Witham Mouth	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Holbeach Marsh	-	1	-	-	2	8	-

Early winter records were at Skegness Jan 4th, 2 S 31st, then 1 Barton Feb 20th with 4N Gib Point the same day. Peak movement of 428 N at Gib Point occurred on Sep 13th with last of the year there 27th.

#### **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant Jul-Nov.

An excellent year at Gib Point, but few elsewhere (199 records). Gib Point Aug: 1 S 28th, 1 N 29th. Sep: 1 N 3rd, 12 N 8th, 24 N 9th, 1 N 10th, 74 N 12th, 79N 13th, 2 17th. Oct: 1 N 29th. The only other records were at Mablethorpe 2 N Sep 13th and 1 N Oct 5th.

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Scarce/fairly common offshore visitor/passage migrant, Apr-Nov with most Sep. Occasional inland after gales.

A moderate year (c.98 records), unusually scarce in Sep. Apr: Gib Point 1 S 18th. May: Donna Nook 4 S 22nd; Tetney 7 25th. Jun: Tetney 7 4th, 7 11th; Saltfleetby 4 S 5th. Jul: Horseshoe Point 9 3rd, 11 31st; Saltfleetby 3 S 13th; Gib Point 1 S 25th. Aug: Huttoft Bank 6 S 6th, 19 S 29th. Sep: Gib Point 2 N, 1 S 8th, 3 N 9th, 2 N, 1 S 12th, 6 N 13th. Oct: Mablethorpe 3 5th; Huttoft Bank 1 S 5th.

#### **Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare/scarce offshore migrant, mainly Sep-Nov. Occasional inland.

In autumn singles flew N at Gib Point Sep 13th and Mablethorpe Oct 5th.



**Gannet *Morus bassanus***

Regular offshore visitor/passage migrant; fairly common/common Jul-Nov, scarce at other times and rare inland. The only early winter record was 1 S at Gib Point Feb 21st.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Barton-New Holland	-	-	-	-	-	14	20	1
Tetney	-	45	8	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleetby	-	7	27	11	12	3	115	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	504	1
Huttoft Bank	-	-	-	-	42	58	214	17
Gib Point	1	85	17	30	15	678	180	1
Witham Mouth-Holbeach -	-	-	-	-	11	34	4	-

Peak movements in Sep were 202 S 12th and 678 N 13th at Gib Point. In Oct, 5th: Mablethorpe 504 S, 140 N; Huttoft 214 mainly S; Gib Point 180 N. 6th: Barton 20; Saltfleetby 115 mainly N; Huttoft 60; Gib Point 149 N. Last was at Gib Point Nov 14th.

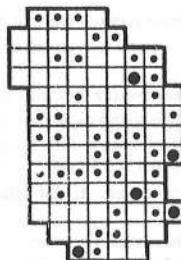
**Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

Fairly common winter visitor, mainly coastal but increasing inland and in summer. Has bred inland since 1992.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	55	33	35	26	16	uc	uc	7	48	55	46	74
Wash	37	53	68	26	39	13	216	106	111	147	123	186
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	44	131	127
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	42	70	51	40	31	3	15	16	50	68	61	93
Witham Mouth	15	7	6	12	12	7	2	10	22	12	18	50
Welland Marsh	3	7	2	3	1	7	134	8	10	10	13	5
Terrington Mar	12	20	3	-	1	-	42	50	8	9	5	5
Cadney Res	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14	21	29
Kirkby Pits	11	4	30	20	12	11	22	18	10	20	20	12
Covenham Res	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	70	65

Now widespread inland throughout the year. Returned to breed at Deeping St James after severe disturbance in 1995, but no information available. There were unusual numbers of birds showing characteristics of *P c sinensis*: Barton 1 Feb; Read's Island 1 Feb, 3 Mar, 5 Apr; Gib Point 2 Feb, 1 Mar, Apex Pits (N Hykeham) 1 Feb; Tallington Lakes 1 Feb; Toft Newton Res 1 Mar.

The map shows records all year: large dots = 50+ birds

**Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

Usually rare/scarce winter visitor Aug-May, very rare in summer. Larger influxes in some winters.

Scarce this year with singles in Jan at Gib Point 1st and S 7th, Boultham Mere 3rd, Grimsby Docks 3rd and Covenham Res 14th. In Feb 1 S Skegness 1st and 3 Barton 6th. One was at West Ashby Golf Course Mar 27th. Autumn singles were at Gib Point Sep 4th, S at Mablethorpe Nov 13th and at S Killingholme Haven 27th. About half were identified as immatures.



**Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* \* b**

Mainly rare winter visitor with occasional summer records.

The year started off well with 1-2 Barton Pits Jan-early Feb, 1 N Killingholme Pits early Jan, 1 Theddlethorpe Jan 1st, 1-2 Huttoft Pits Jan 13-18th, 1 Baston-Langtoft Pits Jan 6th, 1 Boultham Mere Jan-Mar, 1 Whisby NP Jan-early Mar, 1+ 1 long dead Messingham SQ Mar, where last of spring recorded on 27th. Present again in autumn from late Oct at Barrow Haven to early Nov. Also singles at Barton and Boultham Mere Nov-Dec, North Killingholme Dec 12th and Seacroft 27th.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

Rare visitor in all months with some birds apparently wintering.

First records in spring with 1 Kirkby Pits May 21st seen on R Bain nearby 29th, then 3 over Tetney 31st and 1 present Jun 3-4th. Also 1 at Horseshoe Point 2nd, 1 S Donna Nook same day and 1 Gib Point 3rd and 12th probably part of the original 3. An immature was at Gib Point Jul 4-25th and Aug 17-23rd.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	3	2	-	3	2	nc	nc	5	32	14	8	5
Wash	6	1	1	1	1	3	10	13	15	7	8	13
Inland	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	33	34	39
REGULAR SITES												
Gib Point	1	1	3	1	1	4	4	1	5	2	5	2
Kirkby Pits	7	4	4	4	5	6	7	6	9	4	5	3
Nocton Fen	15	-	-	-	-	-	17	15	13	-	-	6

Occupied nests during 1996 as follows:

Evedon Wood	26.....	Peacock Wood (Laughton)	8	Gatecliff Wood	12
Holbeach Hospital	19.....	Old Hag Wood	27	Deeping Mere	80
Tuetoos (Laughton)	8.....	Troy Wood	59	Howsham Wood	7
Nocton Wood	6.....	R Glen, Guthram	1	Warren Wood	5
Thornton Abbey	18.....	Kingerby Wood	8		
Willoughby Wood	27.....	Legbourne Wood	32		

Total 343 pairs, down by 27 on 1995.

**White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* \* (L)**

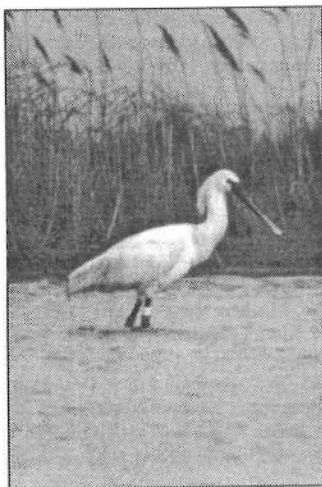
Vagrant.

In Apr 1 S at Gib Point 16th was reported from the Witham Mouth next day and in May 1 N at Boston 12th (ACS, R No) was also seen at Deeping St James.

**Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

Rare visitor, mainly coastal in Apr-May with a few summer/autumn and exceptionally in winter.

In Apr a colour-ringed bird at North Killingholme Haven 29th was presumably the same at New Holland May 4th. Next day 2 flew N at Gib Point and 2 were seen at Tetney. Also in May there was an immature at Gib Point 16th and an adult 19-20th. In Jun 2 were at Tetney 4th and 1 North Killingholme Pits 5-6th and 1 W at Shep Whites (Holbeach Marsh) 17th. In Aug a 1st S was at Whitton-Alkborough 12th and 1 flew SE at Gib Point 25th (up to 10 different birds).



**Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	14	-	16	2	-	nc	nc	-	52	99	158	114
Wash	3	2	-	9	-	2	-	2	12	5	1	0
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	367	383	359
MAIN SITES												
Barton	42	-	-	-	-	-	56	77	41	-	-	18
New Holland	66	51	65	59	56	-	-	-	41	99	154	109
Kirkby Pits	14	25	18	15	11	46	50	55	58	46	43	43
Deeping High Bank	171	185	-	-	-	233	121	126	107	184	230	207

Other 50+ counts were at Tallington Pits 50 in Feb and Lincoln (Brayford Pool) 80 in Nov.

**Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus***

Fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Mar and exceptional in summer.

Present to Apr 12th (1 Cleethorpes CP) and from Oct 28th (1 over Boston), though most had departed by late Mar, and main arrivals in mid Nov.

REGULAR SITE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Nocton Fen/Bardney Pits	39	40	18	5	20

Jan-Apr: Anderby 10 Jan; Barton 20 Jan, 19 Feb; Baston Fen NR 16 Jan; Baston Pits 8 Jan; Boultham Mere 35 Jan; Cleethorpes CP 1 Apr; Dunston Fen 26 Jan; Fosdyke Wash 16 Jan; Gib Point 18 Jan, 17 Mar; Hartsholme Park 46 Jan; Holbeach Marsh 13 Jan, 20 Mar; Langtoft Fen 25 Mar; Marston STW 34 Jan; Messingham SQ 1 Feb; New Holland 3 Jan; Skegness 16 Jan; Skellingthorpe 30 Jan; South Ferriby 5 Jan, 11 Feb; Welland Mouth 11 Feb.

Oct-Dec: Barton 3 Nov; Boston 1 Oct; Deeping High Bank 5 Dec; Donna Nook 2 Dec; Frampton Marsh 1 Nov; Freiston Marsh 8 Nov; Gib Point 56 Nov; Marston STW 3 Nov; Messingham SQ 6 Dec; Potterhanworth Fen 7 Dec; Read's Island 1 Dec; R Glen, Guthram 8 Dec; Toft Newton Res 6 Nov, 5 Dec; Witham Mouth 16 Nov.

**Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus***

Fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Apr and exceptional in summer.

Present to May 11th (3 New Holland) and from Sep 28th (1 Gib Point).

REGULAR SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	7	-	-	-	-	1	8	9	2
Huttoft Bank/Pits	2	-	3	-	-	-	2	1	4
New Holland	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	2

Jan-Apr: Anderby 16 Jan; Appleby Carrs 7 Jan; Bardney Pits 1 Feb; Barrow Haven 2 Mar; Barton 2 Jan, 1 Feb; Baston Fen NR 2 Jan; Boultham Mere 1 Feb; Chapel Hill 11 Feb, 13 Mar; Cleethorpes 12 Mar; Coningsby 1 Jan; Culverthorpe Lake 1 Jan; Doddington 29 Mar; Donna Nook 20 Jan; Holbeach Marsh 5 Jan; Moulton Marsh 21 Feb-Mar; New Bolingbroke 2 Feb; North Cotes 18 Jan; Welland Mouth 15 Feb, 21 Mar; R Witham (Fiskerton) 2 Jan; Saltfleet 24 Jan; Howdales 10 Jan-Feb; South Ferriby 1 Feb; Susworth 3 Mar; Tallington 3 Feb; Tetney 1 Apr; Thorpe Tilney Fen 21 Apr; Welland Marsh 11 Jan.

Oct-Dec: Bardney Pits 7 Dec; Baston Fen NR 8 Dec; Black Bank 1 Oct; Boultham Mere 4 Nov; Butterwick Marsh 3 Nov; Donna Nook 3 Nov, 6 Dec; Frampton Marsh 3 Dec; Grantham 14 Dec; Holbeach Marsh 4 Nov; Nocton Fen 6 Nov-Dec; N Killingholme Haven 6 Oct; R Glen (W Pinchbeck) 5 Dec; Saltfleetby 6 Nov; Skidbrooke N End 6 Dec; Toft Newton 2 Nov.

### Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Rare/scarse winter visitor, mainly coastal, Oct-Apr.

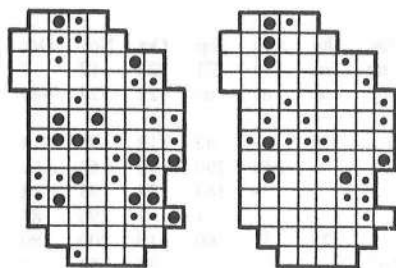
A good early winter influx with singles in Jan at Baston Fen NR 6th, Skegness (*fabalis*) and Gib Point 13th, where 1 dead (*rossicus*) 22nd. Also in Jan 2 Donna Nook 21st, 7 (*fabalis*) North Cotes 28th. More occurred in Feb with up to 8 (*rossicus*) Winteringham 4-23rd, 1 Humberston/Tetney 3rd, 2 (*rossicus*) Skegness 5th, 1 Toft Newton Res 4-15th, 1 N New Holland 19th, 6 (*rossicus*) Wroot 24-25th, 2 (*rossicus*) South Ferriby 8th-Mar 19th, 2 NW Bonby Mar 3rd. In Dec there were 7 (*rossicus*) Winteringham 26th and 4 Nocton Fen 27th.

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common winter visitor Sep-Apr, mainly to the Humber and Wash, but many inland movements.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1009	324	-	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	61	488	-
Wash	4595	498	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	21	210	330
MAIN SITES												
Winteringham-												
S Ferriby	1000	712	-	-	45	-	-	-	51	900	1500	1110
Gib Point	800	700	119	1100	4	7	1	-	-	600	539	450
Frampton-												
Holbeach Marsh	2000	1800	1800	-	-	-	-	-	23	60	210	33

Other large counts included 2500 at Friskney Marsh in Jan and 2700 Feb, with 850 Terrington Marsh Jan. An excellent year with over 5000 in the Wash in the early winter. Strong southerly movements on the coast in Jan included 800 at North Cotes and 250 Cleethorpes 10th. There were 228 Huttoft Pit 18th and at least 2800 passed through Gib Point during 8-21st.



Jan-Jun

Jul-Dec

Well marked inland movements also took place in Jan-Feb, with many flocks over 100 mainly to N and W including 760 W Boultham Mere Jan 7th and in Feb 440 W New Bolingbroke 6th, 700 over Whisby NP 7th and 400 NW Grantham 14th. Birds were present in all months, though the scattering of summer records probably involved mainly escaped or released birds. More normal numbers occurred later in the autumn and winter, but relatively few reached the south Wash. Wild birds were probably present to May 12th (45 S. Ferriby) and from Sep 10th (23 Frampton Marsh). Large dots = 250+ birds.

### White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarse winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasionally fairly common. Most *A. albifrons* with only a few Greenland race *flavirostris* recorded.

An early winter influx (up to 750 total) saw good numbers distributed around most of the coast and unusual numbers inland. Present to Apr 16th (1 NW Gib Point) and from Oct 17th (1 N Gib Point), but few recorded later in the year.

Jan-Apr: Whitton 39 Feb; Winteringham 11 Feb; S Ferriby 3 Mar; Barton 23 Feb; Humberston 115 Feb; Donna Nook 3 Jan; Huttoft Pit 26 Jan; Anderby 4 Jan; Skegness 65 Jan, 4 Feb; Gib Point 78 Jan, 25 Feb, 61 Mar, 1 Apr; Wainfleet Marsh 1 Jan; Witham Mouth 19 Jan, Frampton Marsh 10 Jan; Moulton Marsh 50 Feb, 200 Mar; Welland Marsh 2 Jan, 18 Feb, 50 Mar; Holbeach Marsh 40 Jan, 50 Mar; Cadney Res 6 Jan; Deeping High Bank 46 Jan; Kirkby Pits 13 Jan, 10 Feb, 2 Mar; Langtoft Pits 1 Feb; Messingham SQ 2 Feb; Nocton Fen 16 Jan, 5 Feb; Tallington Lakes 15 Feb; Thurlby SP 13 Jan; Toft Newton Res 3 Jan, 15 Feb.

Oct-Dec: Gib Point 8 Oct, 2 Dec; Winteringham 3 Dec. The 4 at Skegness Feb 5th showed characteristics of the Greenland race *A. flavirostris* (GPS)

#### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common feral resident; wild birds scarce in winter Sep-Apr but difficult to detect.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	9	38	28	13	8	nc	nc	40	133	459	41	62
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1461	1639	1265
MAIN SITES												
Bardney Pits	70	57	-	-	-	-	-	151	286	290	11	200
Kirkby Pits	350	420	125	160	125	65	240	500	300	180	800	750
Revesby Res	-	-	-	-	-	241	-	-	89	273	198	247

Other large counts included 350 Baston Fen NR Sep, 512 (including 60% juvs) Baston-Langtoft Pits Aug, Grimsthorpe Lake 178 Feb, 152 Mar, 150 Kirton Lindsey Quarries Feb, 130 Messingham SQ Feb, Tallington Lakes 300 Jan, 500 Feb, Tattershall Pits 1000 Nov, 730 Dec. Breeding reported from Bardney Pits, Barton Pits (10 pairs), Deeping High Bank (8 pairs with 28 juvs Jul), Ewerby Pond, Gib Point, Kirkby Pits and presumably Baston-Langtoft Pits where over 300 juvs Aug, but known to breed at many other sites.

#### Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare vagrant/escape, most birds probably the latter.

One at Alkborough Flats Mar 24th was probably the bird seen at Messingham SQ and Ashbyville Lake Mar-Aug. Another was at Boultham Mere Jun-Aug. All likely to have been escaped birds.

#### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common feral resident/partial migrant.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	33	33	55	22	21	nc	nc	180	71	126	17	7
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	422	524	444
MAIN SITES												
Ancaster SQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	42	112	198	210
Barton	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	232	290	c.50	c.50	c.50
Culverthorpe Lake	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	32	93	12
Holywell Lake	145	96	86	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	96	85
Kirkby Pits	80	250	13	21	26	6	25	50	60	110	200	80
Whisby Pits	-	65	-	-	-	167	-	-	-	30	54	7
Gib Point	-	7	12	8	13	6	-	46	103	40	-	7

Other large counts included 130 Ashbyville Lake Feb, 124 Boultham Mere Aug, 276 Fillingham Lake Sep, 149 Grimsthorpe Lake Sep, 224 Read's Island-S Ferriby Feb, 100 Skegness Feb, 250 Tallington Lakes Feb. Breeding reported from Ancaster SQ, Baston-Langtoft Pits, Kirkby Pits and Langtoft West End Pits, but known to breed at many other sites.

#### Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor, mainly to coast Oct-May. Small feral population breeds irregularly. Jan-Apr: An early winter influx (up to 150 total) most marked in the Wash. Whitton 1 Apr; Winteringham 1 Jan-Feb; Barton 9 Feb; North Killingholme 1 Jan; Humberston 3 Feb; Tetney 4 Jan; Saltfleetby 2 Jan; Skegness 7 Feb; Gib Point 1 Mar; Wainfleet Marsh 21 Jan; Moulton Marsh 35 Feb-Mar; Kirton Marsh 4 Apr; Welland Marsh 22 Jan, 25 Feb, 33 Mar; Holbeach Marsh 27 Jan, 21 Feb, 46 Mar; Kirkby Pits 8 Mar; Messingham SQ 1 Apr; Tallington Lakes 3 Feb. The majority of these were probably wild birds.

May-Sep: Messingham SQ 2 Jun; Baston-Langtoft Pits 1 Aug. These likely to be escaped/feral birds.  
 Oct-Dec: Whitton 2 Oct, 1 Nov; Winteringham 6 Nov, 4 Dec; Donna Nook 2 Dec; Saltfleet 3 Oct-Nov;  
 Saltfleetby 3 Nov; Gib Point 4 Oct, 1 Dec. Possibly all wild birds.

### **Brent Goose *Branta bernicla***

*B b bernicla* very common winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to Humber and Wash. *B b hronta* rare/scarcely visitor Oct-Mar. *B b nigricans* vagrant, 3 records last 1991 \*B.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	983	834	423	71	89	nc	nc	-	6	821	1835	590
Wash	13306	13857	15357	15322	4898	50	11	8	137	8507	13076	14092
<b>MAIN SITES</b>												
Grainthorpe Marsh	330	800	238	-	110	-	-	-	-	3000	700	110
Donna Nk-Saltfleet	1000	1000	106	-	-	-	-	-	30	400	1245	1400
Gib Point	4000	3000	3200	2000	254	-	-	-	400	400	3000	950
Friskney Marsh	200	5500	1006	750	-	-	1	-	-	120	1350	3000
Frampton-												
Kirton Marsh	3500	9214	6000	6000	2433	1	1	-	949	1950	2500	4395
Terrington Marsh	856	473	1466	3000	592	-	-	-	1	122	330	1356

Present throughout the year with up to 50 on the Wash in summer. A few moved inland in the early winter, with 1 Whisby NP Feb 4th and 5 Toft Newton Res 15th. In Mar singles were at Messingham SQ 15-16th and Deeping High Bank 24th.

*B b hrota* (Pale-bellied race) Barton 14, Dec 31st; New Holland-Goxhill Tilery 5 Feb 6th; Horseshoe Point 5 Feb 24th; Gib Point 2 Feb 11th and Mar 24th, 1 Dec 15th; Holbeach Marsh 1 Apr 3rd; Terrington Marsh 2 Apr 7th.

*B b nigricans* (Black Brant) Adult at Holbeach Marsh Nov 10th (AHJH). Accepted by BBRC

### **Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus***

Rare/scarcely feral resident or visitor from the Norfolk population. Some local releases also involved and has bred occasionally.

One present most of the year at Tattershall Pits with 2 in Nov and 1 nearby at Kirkby Pits Apr 21st. Singles in May at Thurlby SP 6-8th and Grainthorpe Marsh 12th. One was at Langtoft West End Pits Jun 2nd and there were 2 Deeping High Bank Oct 3rd.

### **Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea***

Rare vagrant, but most recent records have probably involved escaped birds.

A male was at Kirkby Pits Jan-mid Feb and one on the R Witham at Frampton Apr 2nd. On the Humber there were 3 at Whitton Aug 14th and 1 Barton Oct 24th. All probably escaped birds.

### **Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

Very common resident/partial migrant; mainly Humber/NE coast and Wash but breeds regularly inland.

Max monthly counts tabled for main sites on Humber and stretches with 1000+ birds on Wash, plus two inland sites with good numbers. Records received from 20 inland sites during the year with breeding reported at Bardney Pits, Deeping St James, Kirkby Pits, North Kelsey Moor (3 broods).

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1440	1154	435	235	259	nc	nc	542	721	1125	1830	1015
Wash	3578	6254	2297	1130	578	345	86	65	33	216	4653	6379
<b>MAIN SITES</b>												
Read's Island	280	348	31	-	-	-	664	511	60	410	95	96
Pyewipe (Grimsby)	163	42	96	135	12	-	-	-	215	535	283	365
Humberton-Tetney	110	15	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	300	110

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Skidbrooke-Saltfleet	685	480	19	22	14	-	-	-	4	16	405	250
Friskney Marsh	-	1200	212	84	-	5	5	12	-	8	86	1000
Welland Marsh	560	1350	-	98	-	58	4	4	2	2	1270	1270
N Kelsey Moor	1	2	11	42	63	76	27	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby Pits	1	9	15	26	28	19	17	9	-	1	-	-

#### **Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

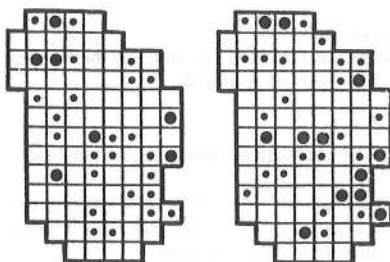
Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor. Increased numbers in recent years aided by local releases.

A male was at Grimsthorpe Lake Apr-May and one at Ancaster Pits May 30th. Males in Horncastle Jan-Apr and Nov and Huttoft Pit Aug were probably locally released as was a pinioned male at Lincoln in Jan-Feb. One was at Hartsholme CP Aug 18th, a male Messingham SQ Nov 3rd and a pair at Culverthorpe Lake Sep-Dec.

#### **Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare but regular in summer and breeds sporadically.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1112	1550	591	1	-	nc	nc	-	215	2726	1674	480
Wash	334	733	230	22	2	-	-	6	683	653	3000	1289
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	733	1066	886
MAIN SITES												
Whitton	500	1000	390	-	-	-	-	-	-	2300	1200	2500
Read's Island	470	400	300	120	2	-	-	-	50	350	200	700
Huttoft Pit	280	600	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	3450	3000	250	120	-	2	-	6	500	400	675	750
Welland Marsh	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	6	36	50	1050	51
Bardney Pits	52	400	35	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	92	18
Baston-Langtoft Pits	98	-	160	-	1	-	-	-	78	122	256	385
Kirkby Pits	20	16	12	20	2	-	-	2	450	450	280	70
Marston STW	250	200	100	23	-	-	-	-	85	150	200	200
Swanholme Lake	202	169	163	-	-	-	-	-	130	61	198	143
Whisby Pits	187	90	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	316	129	188



Jan-Jun

Jul-Dec

A few were seen in summer: 2 at Gib Point Jun 6th and one at Barton from 26th. Singles were at Huttoft Pit and Whisby NP Jul 6th.

The maps show all squares with records. Large dots = 250+ birds.

#### **American Wigeon** *Anas americana* \*B

Vagrant.

A male was at Toft Newton Res Mar 14-15th (KDu, SM *et al*). The 4th county record. Accepted by BBRC.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	213	313	293
MAIN SITES												
Barton Pits	40	56	74	-	5	42	-	37	17	50	37	37
Kirkby Pits	90	80	50	30	22	37	3	15	60	70	85	120
Swanholme Lakes	107	79	45	-	-	-	-	-	24	16	63	67
Whisby Pits	-	9	-	-	-	-	3	-	30	89	30	21
Baston-Langtoft Pits	31	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	43	-
Langtoft W End Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	110	119

Reported from 38 sites during the year. Other sites with large numbers: Apex Pits (N Hykeham) 64 Dec, Tallington Lakes 400 Feb, 90 Dec, Tattershall Pits 62 Dec. Pairs in spring and summer at many sites, but only proof of breeding at Barton where 4 broods totalling 33 juvs.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Scarce resident and common passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	362	512	5	9	-	nc	nc	50	318	102	581	336
Wash	91	174	52	40	9	-	-	45	276	51	872	170
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	259	484	400
MAIN SITES												
Read's Island	500	342	-	-	-	-	-	165	145	-	-	-
Barton	-	113	-	10	4	-	-	27	100	22	40	-
Saltfleetby	50	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	38	400	280
Gib Point	2105	500	60	13	2	3	9	47	250	350	566	765
Frampton Marsh	6	72	58	24	9	-	-	27	140	9	2	10
Bardney Pits	110	190	-	-	-	-	-	26	60	100	175	150
Kirkby Pits	160	300	70	14	1	3	5	15	145	240	310	315
Marston STW	250	150	150	-	-	-	-	-	70	100	120	150

Other large flocks included 320 Butterwick Hale Dec, 124 Messingham SQ Sep, 200 Witham Mouth Jan, 440 Freiston Marsh Nov, 156 Terrington Marsh Nov. Present in summer at several sites but no reports of breeding.

*A c carolinensis* \*L. There were two records of males of the North American race at Marton Apr 21st to May 7th (KDU, DJ, ACS) and Boultham Mere Oct 28th to Nov 11th (SPB, TB, PP, ACS, RHs, RG).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	568	324	84	28	14	nc	nc	221	479	503	655	699
Wash	847	1912	374	285	107	120	123	129	620	950	1397	1770
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	2770	2439	3417
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	529	500	24	11	8	16	19	82	400	400	200	132
Freiston Marsh	136	186	-	51	3	-	-	-	110	327	334	427
Witham Mouth	285	700	150	45	10	-	3	-	55	89	80	45
Terrington Marsh	51	147	16	17	12	-	-	-	60	41	263	190
Bardney Pits	355	180	-	-	-	-	-	30	90	90	160	240
Cadney Res	268	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	46	53	164



MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Covenham Res	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157	150	200
Culverthorpe Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	184	459	425	290
Kirkby Pits	220	400	140	75	60	125	115	120	255	255	290	290
Kirkstead-Chapel Hill	187	87	128	-	122	-	-	-	-	114	119	259
Coronation Channel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	269	356	133	520
Metheringham Delph	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	267	900	70	135

Other large flocks included 300 Brantson Fen Aug and Dunston Fen Nov.

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta* \*b

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer with sporadic breeding records.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	8	23	6	-	-	nc	nc	-	7	2	-	-
Wash	19	189	-	3	-	2	-	-	8	16	56	-
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	-	3	3
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	24	7	2	3	2	-	-	8	11	2	2	-
Welland Marsh	1	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3	-
Gedney Marsh	4	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1
Terrington Marsh	14	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-
Witham Mouth	35	4	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	2

Other large flocks were 25 Butterwick Marsh Jul 13th and 34 Shep White's (Holbeach Marsh) Oct. Smaller numbers (<20) were recorded at the following sites: Jan-May: North Cotes, Saltfleetby, Grainthorpe Marsh, Wrangle Marsh, Leverton Marsh, Butterwick Marsh, Freiston Marsh, Frampton Marsh, Kirton Marsh, Dawsmere, Ancaster Pits, Barton, Baston Fen NR, Baston Pits, Boultham Mere, Covenham Res, Donna Nook, Holbeach Marsh, Humberston, Huttoft Pit, Kirkby Pits, Marston STW, Read's Island, Saltfleet Haven, Shep White's, Skegness, Skidbrooke, South Ferriby, Swanholme Lakes, Tetney, Whisby NP. Aug-Dec: Winteringham, New Holland, Wainfleet Marsh, Freiston Marsh, Barton, Baston NR, Boultham Mere, Covenham Res, Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, Huttoft Bank, Kirkby Pits, Toft Newton Res. The only Jun records were 2 at Kirton Marsh 2nd and an injured female at Kirkby Pits all month.

#### **Garganey** *Anas querquedula* \*b

Scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor, breeding only occasionally. Has occurred in winter (rarely).

An early male was at Toft Newton Res Mar 29th. Other spring males were at Whisby NP and Boultham Mere Apr, Covenham Res May, Kirkby Pits Apr-May; pairs Kirton Marsh May, Baston-Langtoft Pits May, Marston STW May-Jun, Messingham SQ May. A male was at Gib Point early Jun. Probably bred at Marston STW where a female in Jul and up to 5 juvs in Aug-Sep, with last record early Oct. Other late summer/autumn records: Boultham Mere 1 Aug, Culverthorpe Lake 5 Sep, Huttoft Pit 1 Aug, Kirkby Pits 1 Aug-Sep, Messingham SQ 1-2 Jul-Sep, New Holland Pits 1 Aug and last at Gib Point Oct 4-5th.

#### **Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/fairly common resident and passage migrant.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	16	37	4
MAIN SITES												
Barton	7	8	17	20	-	-	8	22	7	-	14	9
Kirkby Pits	11	33	26	23	4	6	2	26	30	45	15	19

Other double fig counts: Bardney Pits 12 Jul; Baston Fen NR 11 Mar, 10 Apr; Boultham Mere 16 Mar, 14 Sep, 15 Oct; Gib Point 11 Mar, 10 Dec; North Killingholme Haven 20 Jan, 13 Dec; Whisby NP 12 Nov; Witham Mouth 10 Nov. Single fig counts during the year from the following sites: Baston-Langtoft Pits, Belton Park, Chapel Pit, Cleethorpes CP, Covenham Res, Culverthorpe Lake, Pyewipe (Grimsby), Hartsholme Lake, Holywell Lake, Huttoft Pit, Marston STW, Martin Fen, Metheringham Delph, Nocton Fen, Revesby Res, R Witham (Fiskerton), Shep White's, Sleaford Pit, Sleaford STW, Swanholme Lakes, Tattershall Pits, Toft Newton Res, Wolla Bank, Holbeach Marsh, Kirtton Marsh. Breeding reported only from Bardney Pits and Messingham SQ: a female plus 9 juvs in Jun.

#### Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally in summer, but increasing numbers of escaped birds present in the county.

A male was at Baston-Langtoft Pits Jan 1st, then 5 (2 males) there Feb-Mar, also seen at Tallington Lakes early Feb, with single males at Baston Fen NR, Langtoft West End Pits, Kirkby Pits and Ewerby Pond also in Feb and Deeping St James Mar. A male was at Barton-New Holland Pits Feb - Jun 21st and perhaps the same at Whisby NP 21-26th (both in eclipse plumage 21st). A pair bred at Baston-Langtoft Pits, producing 2 young (1st proved breeding record), with up to 6 (2 males) there and Langtoft West End Pits Sep-Dec. A female was at Kirkby Pits occasionally Oct-Dec and male at North Somercotes Lido Dec. The only other record was a male on R Witham, Kirkstead Br - Tattershall, Jan-Apr and Nov-Dec, though probably escaped from the nearby collection, as are most records from this site (often pinioned).

#### Pochard *Aythya ferina* \*b

Scarce resident with recent decline in breeding range, but a common winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	3	-	6	-	nc	nc	5	4	15	36	264
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	464	653	584
MAIN SITES												
Barton	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	72	-
Baston-L'toft Pits	450	573	250	-	-	-	-	-	13	316	227	-
Covenham Res	-	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	150	200
Kirkby Pits	175	220	65	19	2	7	10	19	30	103	205	160
New Holland	1200	1100	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	250
Toft Newton Res	140	61	52	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	72	116
Tallington Lakes	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Breeding records: Barton-Barrow Haven Pits 10 brood (30 juvs); Boultham Mere 2 broods (4 juvs); Kirkby Pits 1 brood (3 juvs); Messingham SQ 1 brood (2 juvs). A leucistic female was at Barton-New Holland Feb and Dec.

#### Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* \*L

Vagrant.

A male at Tallington Lakes Feb 2nd, 5th and 10-11th (PJP *et al*) was perhaps the same near Market Deeping Feb 3rd to Apr 3rd (AHJH). A male in eclipse plumage was at Whisby NP Aug 19th (KDu).

#### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	12	-	9	-	nc	nc	18	6	7	13	126
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	602	1293	1219
MAIN SITES												
Island Carr (Brigg)	127	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	49	72
Cadney Res	176	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	69	170

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Deeping High Bank	290	353	87	-	-	-	55	-	-	95	200	229
Kirkby Pits	210	250	150	145	115	160	270	285	285	345	220	180
Toft Newton Res	130	66	-	72	78	-	22	52	85	55	110	105
Whisby Pits	34	51	-	71	-	-	84	-	111	47	53	67

Breeding records: Barton-Barrow Haven Pits 10 broods (46 juvs); Baston-Langtoft Pits 15 broods; Blankney Res; Boultham Mere; Culverthorpe Lake; Deeping High Bank 10 broods (45 juvs); Kirkby Pits; Langtoft West End 3 broods; North Kelsey Moor 2 broods (10 juvs); R Slea Halfpenny Toll, 1 brood (5 juvs); Tallington Lakes; Toft Newton Res 1 brood (6 juvs).

#### **Scaup** *Aythya marila* \*b

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional in summer.

Small numbers fairly widespread, the only large flock being on the Humber at New Holland Jan-Feb.

Jan-Apr (mainly 1-10): Barton, New Holland 40 Jan, 117 Feb; North Killingholme Haven, Grimsby Docks. Cleethorpes, Humberston, Tetney, Huttoft Pit, Gib Point 10 Feb; Hobhole Mouth, Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, Shep White's, Holbeach Marsh, Gedney Marsh, Moulton Marsh NR, Covenham Res, R Trent (Dunham Br), Toft Newton Res 13 Jan; Swanholme Lakes, Kirkby Pits, Spalding. Two males were at Pyewipe (Grimsby) Jul 26-27th.

Sep-Dec (1-4): Barton, New Holland, Read's Island, Cleethorpes, Humberston, Mablethorpe, Gib Point, Kirton Marsh, Covenham Res, Apex Pit (N Hykeham), Toft Newton Res.

#### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Fairly common/common visitor, present all year with good numbers in the Humber and Wash.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash	342	300	319	1197	338	185	115	78	626	45	115	57
MAIN SITES												
Pyewipe-Gy Docks	50	34	100	88	-	80	51	73	67	76	7	7
Huttoft Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	47	32
Gib Point	90	15	4	5	5	13	13	11	20	17	22	17
Wrangle Marsh	22	24	210	120	209	-	-	15	16	-	72	-
Witham-Welland	142	115	75	145	92	100	67	150	107	37	17	56

Other records: Barton max 100 Jan; South Killingholme Haven 32 Nov; Cleethorpes 57 Mar; Donna Nook 3 Jun, 3 Dec; Horseshoe Point 9 Oct; Saltfleetby 35 Nov; Mablethorpe 8 Nov; Friskney Marsh max 100 Apr; Leverton Marsh max 104 Jun; Bennington Marsh 21 May; Butterwick Marsh max 50 Aug; Freiston Marsh max 31 Sep; Holbeach Marsh max 36 Jan; Dawsmere max 750 Apr; Gedney Marsh max 3 Jun and Aug; Terrington Marsh max 337 Sep.

#### **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

Very scarce as has been the pattern recently. In the early winter 2 Gib Point Jan 6th and 1 S Skegness 12th. Two flew S at Gib Point Oct 23rd and one was at Witham Mouth 29th. In Nov 2 N Huttoft Bank 13th and a male N Mablethorpe same day. One was at North Somercotes Dec 28-29th.

#### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer and inland.

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton	-	-	2	11	-	-	1	57	3	4	15	-
Saltfleetby	-	-	-	11	5	14	90	35	12	20	2	-
Huttoft Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	83	4	7	33	-
Gib Point	15	50	11	10	12	3	50	19	50	36	18	7

Westerly passage at Barton in Aug included 32 1st and 57 14th. Other max counts: Donna Nook 250 N Dec 21st; Horseshoe Point 57 Aug; Tetney 67 May; Witham Mouth 100 Jul; Holbeach Marsh 30 Sep; Terrington Marsh 37 Feb. Inland records: Covenham Res 1 Feb 10th, 1 Nov 27th, 2 Dec 6th; Toft Newton Res 1 Aug 7th, 1 Sep 3rd; Bardney Pits 3 Apr 7th.

### Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

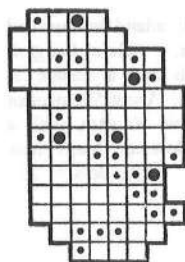
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland and summer.

In the early part of the year singles at Kirton Marsh Jan 21st, south at Gib Point Feb 14th, 2 there on Apr 20th and 1 N Trusthorpe Mar 24th. Autumn: Witham Mouth 1 Jul 17th; Mablethorpe 4 S Oct 5th; Saltfleetby 4 6th; Gib Point 4 S 5th with 3 13th; Donna Nook 2 21st. In Nov 2 Barton 14th; singles Friskney Marsh 17th and Cleethorpes 23rd. Three were inland at Covenham Res Dec 13-31st and 3 New Holland 6th.

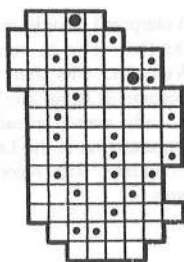
### Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	360
Wash	8	44	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	14
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	-	72	57
MAIN SITES										
Barton	-	-	24	16	-	-	-	59	28	14
Covenham Res	77	100	44	14	-	-	-	1	60	30
Kirkby Pits	11	23	39	9	-	-	-	-	4	4
New Holland	300	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	360
Whisby Pits	18	25	-	6	-	-	-	-	10	17



Jan-May



Aug-Dec

Present to May 27th (Baston-Langtoft Pits) and from Aug 9th (same site). Other large counts 26 Butterwick Marsh Feb and 24 Hubbert's Bridge Nov. Smaller nos fairly widespread on coast and inland.

Maps show all squares with records: large dot = 25+ birds.

### Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor (Oct-Apr) with occasional large influxes in hard weather.

Present to Apr 26th (Toft Newton Res) and from Nov 30th (same site). Monthly max at main sites given below (number of males in brackets).

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Nov	Dec
Barton-Barrow HavenPits	2	6(1)	5(1)	-	-	12(4)
Baston-Langtoft Pits	1	7(2)	3(2)	-	-	10(2)
Tallington Lakes	-	12(2)	12(2)	-	-	1
Toft-Newton Res	3(2)	3(2)	-	1(1)	1	3(1)

Other records: Anderby Creek 1 Jan; Cleethorpes CP 2 Feb; Deeping St James 2 Mar; Deeping High Bank 1 Feb; Apex Pit (N Hykeham) 1 Jan-Mar; North Thoresby 1 Feb; R Witham (Tattershall Br) 2 Dec; Thurlby SP 1 Jan; Whisby NP 1 Jan, 2 (1) Feb. Note that there may have been some interchange between sites in the Lincoln area and the Tallington Lakes birds may have included all the Baston-Langtoft birds in Feb-Mar.

### Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal. Rare in summer.

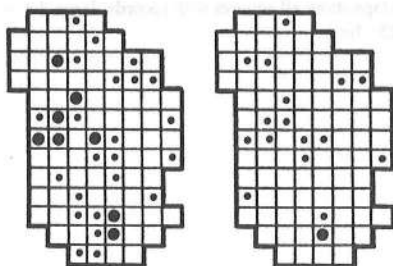
Present throughout the year in small numbers, mainly on the coast.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1	3	-	-	1	nc	nc	-	1	1	2	-
Wash	6	17	4	25	4	1	-	-	-	3	50	54
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	2	7	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	6	1	1
Witham Mouth	3	8	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	21
Gedney Marsh	1	2	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	9

Other records: Barton 1-2 Jan-Apr, 1-4 Oct-Nov; Cleethorpes 1 May, 1 Sep; Humberston Fitties 1-3 Feb-Mar, 1 Dec; Tetney 1 Jan, 1 Jun; North Cotes 1 Jan; Donna Nook 4 Feb, 1 Nov; Saltfleetby 3 Jan, 2 Jul, 1 Oct, 2 Nov; Huttoft Pit 1 Mar; Huttoft Bank 1 Mar, 3 Nov; Anderby Creek 9 Jan; Wainfleet Marsh 1 Mar, 3 Nov; Friskney Marsh 1 Feb; Wrangle Marsh 2 Jan, 21 Nov, 8 Dec; Leverton Marsh 1-3 Jan-Apr, 7 Dec; Benington Marsh 4 Apr, 1-3 Oct-Nov; Butterwick Marsh 1 Feb, 2 Apr, 6 Nov, 3 Dec; Freiston Marsh 2 Apr, 4 Nov; Welland Marsh 1-4 Jan-Jun; Moulton Marsh 3 Jan; Holbeach Marsh 1-4 Jan-May, 1 Dec; Dawsmere Marsh 11 Feb; Nenemouth 9 Jan; Terrington Marsh 1-3 Feb-Apr. Inland: Baston-Langtoft Pits 1 Jan; Swanholme Lakes 1 Feb; Toft Newton Res 2 Jan. Bardney Pits 1 Dec.

### Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly inland. Rare in summer.



Jan-Jun

Jul-Dec

Widespread records, mainly inland Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec. Two in summer, a male at Langtoft West End Pits Jun 15th and a female at Deeping St James Jun 30th. About 500 present in early winter spread over 50 sites, with a concentration in the Lincoln area. Maps show all squares with records. Large dots = 25+ birds.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	2	-	66
MAIN SITES						
Bardney Pits	21	25	1	1	-	-
Boultham Mere	31	2	5	-	-	16
Coronation Channel	32	-	-	-	-	15
Deeping High Bank	30	57	31	-	-	25
Messingham SQ	-	36	38	-	1	2

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Swanholme Lakes	35	61	31	-	-	22
Thurlby SP	55	61	25	-	-	18
Toft Newton Res	35	38	-	-	-	5

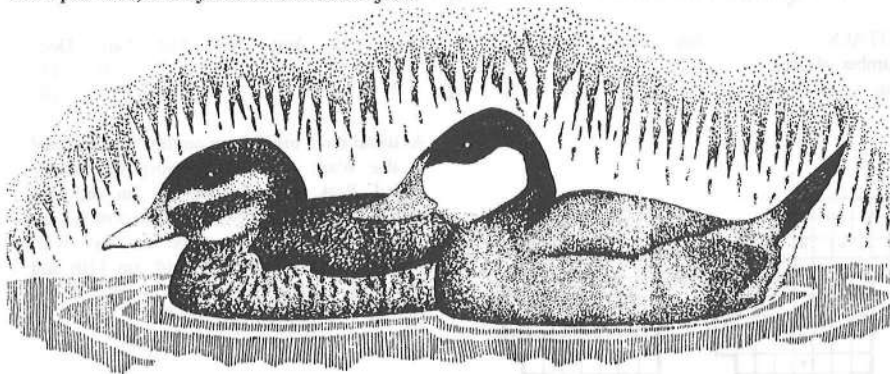
### **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce feral resident/winter visitor, breeding regularly since 1984. First recorded in 1964.

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	1	13	22	5	-	-	21	25	-	5	2	4
Kirkby Pits	1	1	3	-	4	4	8	7	1	1	5	1
Whisby Pits	1	-	2	2	4	2	2	-	1	-	-	-

Other records: Barrow Haven 6 Mar; New Holland 4 Jun, 2 Jul, 6 Sep; North Killingholme Pits 3 Apr, 3 Jun; Boultham Mere 1-3 Apr-Jul; Burton Pits 1 Feb, 1 Jun; Covenham Res 1 Jan, 3 Feb, 1 Nov, 2 Dec; Fulstow Pit 1 Jan; Grimsthorpe Lake 4 Apr, 3 May; Baston-Langtoft Pits 1 Feb; Messingham SQ 4 Mar, 3 Apr, 5 Jun; Apex Pit (N Hykeham) 2 Jan, 4 Feb, 1 Dec; North Kelsey Moor 1 Jun, 1 Sep; Sutton Brick Pit 2 Aug, 1 Oct; Swanholme Lakes 1 Apr; Tallington Lakes 1 Feb; Toft Newton Res 2 Jan, 1 Feb, 2 Nov, 2 Dec; Twigmoor 3 May; Witham on the Hill 1 Oct.

Breeding records: Barton 1 female and 3 juvs; New Holland 1 female and 5 juvs; North Killingholme Pits 1 pair bred; Kirkby Pits 1 female and 4 juvs.



### **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* \*(L)b

Rare/scarce passage migrant. Occasional in summer.

An unusual summer record was a male in the Bonby Carrs area Jul 2nd (GPC) and there were singles at Spanby Aug 4th (SK), South Witham Sep 21st (ES), with a juv at Gib Point 27-29th.

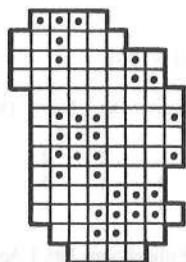
### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* \*b

Vagrant, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; recent increase partly due to introduced birds.

One seen at the Witham Mouth Jan 12th (NV) was probably the bird reported at Quadring Fen 20th and seen at Deeping High Bank 26th (EJR). A good series in spring began with one SE at Laughton Mar 5th (GPC), with others roosting at Coleby Wood (Burton Stather) 12-13th (per GPC) then seen at Cuxwold 14th (per GPC), Tathwell 26-27th (JRC, JMH) and SE passage at Gib Point 20th, with 2 28th and one SE at Ingoldsby 31st (GH). Further singles in Apr were at Messingham SQ 1st, Old Leake 3rd (SK), Horkstow (GPC) and Tetney 16th (GAM) then Swaby Valley 19th (SL, TBu). The only other record was a tagged bird NW at Gib Point Jul 23rd.

### Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* \*b

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, rare in winter. Has bred regularly since 1983; increasing steadily.



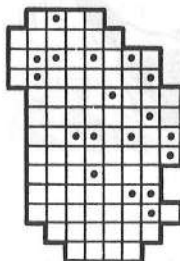
Wintering singles were at Frampton Marsh Jan 18th and Barton/Read's Island in Feb. These were joined by the first migrants and summer visitors in late Mar and early Apr. Spring passage of 1-2 birds was noted on the NE coast (Saltfleet-Humberston Fitties) on 12 days from late Mar-early Jun, with 2 at Anderby Creek Apr 15th. At Gib Point singles in late Mar were followed by 1-3 on 16 days in Apr and 7 days in May, with 1 early Jun. Another spectacular breeding season saw at least 30 breeding attempts of which 23 were successful, producing a magnificent total of 69 young. The Wash area had 14 successful nests, with 6 inland and 3 on the Humber. About half the nests were in reeds and half in crops. Autumn coastal passage saw 1-3 at Gib Point on 7 days in Aug and 3 singles in Sep, with only a few singles on the NE coast.

The roost at Nocton Fen built up from 10 in Aug to 22 in Sep, with 8 remaining in Oct and the last of the year there 29th. The map shows all 10km squares with records reported, Jan-Oct.

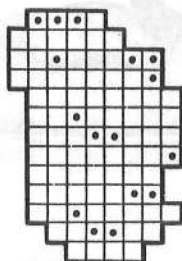
### Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; occasional in summer.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	12	5	10	5	2	1	1	-	3	7	6	11
Min no. of birds	21	13	14	8	2	1	1	-	3	13	10	19



Jan-Jun



Jul-Dec

As usual most birds were on the NE coast and in the Wash with a scattering of records inland. Peak numbers were in Jan and Dec with a max of 6 in the SW Wash roost in Jan. One or two birds remained in May with singles in summer at Cuxwold Jun 11th and Washingborough Fen Jul 9th. First of the autumn was at Gib Point Sep 8th. Maps show all squares with records.

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* \*b

Scarce passage migrant and regular summer visitor, though breeding irregularly.

After a male at Potterhanworth Fen Apr 25th all other records were in the Wash area. One pair nested but failed at the incubation stage and another 1st S male held territory with display on several occasions. The scattering of records on the Wash probably involved only these 3 birds with the last sighting of a male at Frampton and Moulton Marsh on Jun 17th.

### Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* \*(L)b

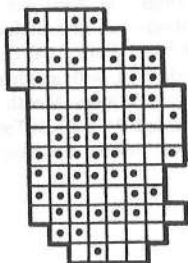
Vagrant, mainly autumn to spring; has increased in recent years.

Singles were seen in Apr at Donna Nook 2nd (SL), then in autumn at Donna Nook Aug 20th (SL).



### Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant.



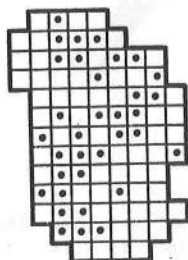
Widely reported throughout the year, though not all observers submit records and a summary would be welcome from all areas. Peak movements included 5 S at Gibraltar Point Apr 21st, with 10 seen there Sep 27th. At Huttoft Bank one flew N and another arrived off the sea Nov 13th. Breeding was reported from only 10 sites, but the true total is many times that figure. Map shows all squares with records reported.

GIB POINT	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly max	5	2	5	7	5	2	2	3	10	5	6	5

### Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, recent increase with some birds summering and perhaps breeding.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	9	6	9	7	6	7	7	9	13	7	7	12
Min no. of birds	12	8	12	13	12	7	8	20	21	17	12	15



Widely distributed throughout the year mainly in well wooded areas from the north through central parts to the south-west. Appears to have bred in 2 areas and may have done so at several other sites. Present all year NE of Scunthorpe with a pair carrying food during Jul, an adult with 3 flying young Aug 26th and 7 birds together Sep 30th. Also resident in the Tumbly Woods area with a pair displaying early May and 8 birds seen on Aug 4th. Spring coastal passage included one S at Horseshoe Point Apr 17th, 2 SW at Donna Nook 25th, with singles at Tetney 26th and Humberston May 6th. At Gib Point there was a regular passage of 1-2 birds Mar 29th-Apr 25th involving about 6-9 different birds. Fewer in autumn with singles S at Gib Point Aug 21st, at Cleethorpes Sep 16th and S at Horseshoe Point 23rd.

Map shows all squares with records reported.

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

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

All records in the first part of the year and all singles. In Jan one S at Donna Nook 12th (SL), also seen at N Somercotes Lido (J de L). One at Louth Feb 10th (GH) was possibly the same E at Donna Nook 12th (SL), with another at Sutterby 26th (per MRB). Birds on passage in Apr were NE at Donington on Bain (KDR), NW at Gib Point 19th and SE there 23rd. A late 1st S bird was at Laughton Forest May 17th (GPC).

### **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* \*b

Scarce passage migrant with occasional summer records.

First in Mar were at Messingham SQ 28th and N at Dorrington Fen 29th. Singles in April were at Read's Island 6th, S at Gib Point 23rd and W at Messingham SQ 28th. A good series in May included 1-2 at Messingham SQ 2-14th, with perhaps a different bird 28th also seen at Black Bank. Others in May were E at Barton 11th, SE at Gosberton Risegate 13th and at Tetney Lock 23rd, with another at Barton 30th and Jun 1st. Also in Jun 1 over S Witham 13th. Single birds were at Witham Mouth Jul 18th and Aug 20th; also in Aug one fishing the tideline at Holbeach Marsh 25th left W, but a different bird was at Marston STW 24th-Sep 1st, with others at Messingham SQ and Toft Newton Res also on 1st. Finally one was at Kirkby Pits 28th.

### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Fairly widespread, but relatively few reported as usually in small numbers.

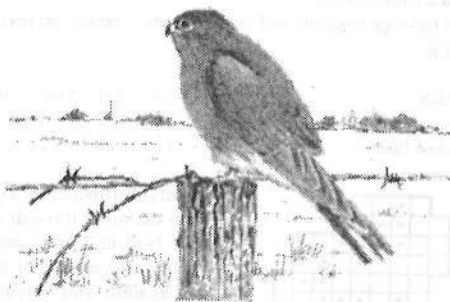
GIB POINT	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly max	6	2	3	6	3	2	6	6	20	4	3	3

Southerly passage at Gib Point in autumn included 15 Sep 27th, 8 Sep 30th and 4 Oct 19th. The only other concentrations reported were 7 at Risby Warren Jul 13th and up to 7 at Temple Wood Sep-Dec.

### **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* \*B

Vagrant.

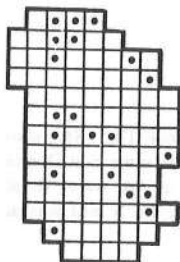
An adult male was at S Witham NR Apr 30th (ES). Accepted by BBRC.



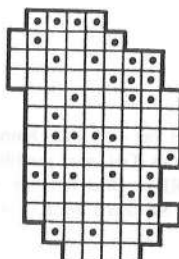
### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	15	14	12	5	1	-	2	8	16	13	14	19
Min no. of birds	17	16	13	5	1	-	2	8	20	14	17	22



Jan-May



Jul-Dec

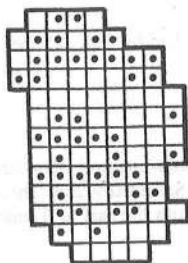
A typical year with widespread records of mainly singles, but up to 3 on the coast. Present to May 4th (N Cotes) and from late July (Cleethorpes CP male 24th and Saltfleetby immature 27th).

Maps show all squares with records reported.

### Hobby *Falco subbuteo* \*b

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

TOTALS	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	6	29	22	25	23	19	4
Minimum no. of birds	6	36	26	28	30	26	4



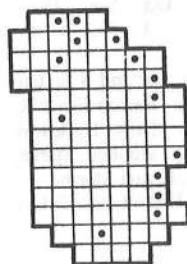
Present from Apr 19th (Metheringham Fen) to Oct 26th (Welbourn Heath). Widely distributed but a noticeable absence from much of the Wolds and N Central parts. Regular in many areas, with breeding proved at 3 sites and possible at about 4 others. Map shows all squares with records, Apr-Oct.

### Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

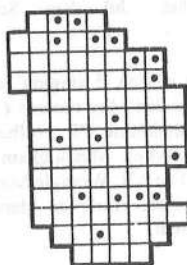
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records.

TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	3	8	5	6	1	3	7	4	6	5
Minimum no of birds	2	10	5	6	1	3	7	4	6	5

Present to Apr 21st (Saltfleetby) and from Jul 14th (Aslackby). Maps show all squares with records.



Jan-Apr



Jul-Dec

Jan-Apr records (singles unless indicated):  
Read's Island/ Barton, New Holland, Elsham Top, Messingham SQ, Pyewipe, Tetney/ Horseshoe Pt, Saltfleetby/ Theddlethorpe (2), Gib Point, Butterwick Marsh, Holbeach Marsh/Gedney Drove End, Baston Fen/ Langtoft (2), Boultham Mere.

Jul-Dec records (singles): Read's Island/ Barton, New Holland, S Killingholme Haven, Pyewipe, Humberston/Tetney/ Grainthorpe, Donna Nook/Saltfleetby, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh, Risby Warren, Goulceby, Waddington RAF, Whisby NP, Bardney Ponds/Nocton Fen/Blankney Fen, Aslackby, Donington, Baston Fen NR.

### Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	8	15	7	13	15	4	2	5	8	12	21	3
Leasingham Mill	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	39	10
Martin Fen	-	-	23	18	25	-	-	-	21	20	-	49

Other 20+ totals were Bassingham (20 May), Ewerby Pond (24 Oct), Greetwell Hollow (20 Jan), Hareby (20 Jan), Kirkby Pits (20 Feb), Waterwell Lane/S Rauceby (37 Nov), Laughton (28 Dec).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Common resident with recent decline, especially in the southern half of the county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	4	2	1		1	1	2	-	-	10	8	1
Waddington RAF	31	80	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welbourn Heath	34	25	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	35

Other large counts included Grainthorpe Haven (26 Feb), Kelstern (45 Dec), Kirkby Pits (25 Sep), North Ormsby (53 Oct).

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* \*b

Scarce summer visitor Apr-Sep, occasional in winter.

Scarce this year with first at Gib Point May 25th. Singles in Jun at Baston-Langtoft Pits 5th, Saltfleetby 7-8th, Gib Point 10-15th and Withcall 24th. A few more in Jul at Saltfleetby 2nd, Three Bridges (Saltfleetby St Peter) and Wolla Bank 6th, Frampton Marsh 6-12th, with the last at Tetney and Marston STW 28th.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	18	45	45	15	10	5	3	1	20	9	17	23

Large concentrations reported were Haverholme Park (55 Oct), Leasingham Mill (60 Oct), North Witham (100 Nov) and Welbourn Heath (81 Nov). An albino male was at Thurlby SP Mar 30th.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	5	4	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	5

Bred at Boultham Mere (2 pairs) and Barton, where 10 in Feb, 5 singing early Apr and 6 in late winter. Two were seen at Nocton Fen in mid Jun. Other Jan-May records (1-2): Baston Fen NR, Frampton Marsh, Greetwell Hollow, Freshney Bog, Hartsholme CP, Holbeach Marsh, Horkstow Carrs, Humberston, Huttoft, Kirkby Pits, Martin (Carr Dyke), Messingham SQ, Moulton Marsh, Saltfleetby, Scawby Park, Shep White's, Tetney, Thurlby Fen NR, Wrangle Marsh, Kirtton Marsh. Other Aug-Dec records (1-2): Branston Delph, Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, Huttoft Pit, Kirkby Pits, Marston STW, Messingham SQ, Tathwell, Kirtton Marsh.

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* \*L (b)

Vagrant.

One at Moggs Eye Roadside Pits (Anderby) Sep 17th (DT).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	7	13	15	15	13	6	10	18	14	18	9	6
Kirkby Pits	22	22	28	17	14	14	24	26	41	47	35	15

Large concentrations included Ancaster Pits (41 Dec), Barton (150 Jan-Mar, 70 Nov-Dec), Deeping High Bank (43 Feb), Frampton Fen (45 Jan), Haverholme Park (35 Dec), Hobhole (35 Nov), Marston STW (50 Mar), Messingham SQ (48 Jan), Nocton Fen (53 Sep), R Slca/Halfpenny Toll (37 Feb).

#### **Coot *Fulica atra***

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inland/Freshwater	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	2414	3124	2372
MAIN SITES												
Barton Pits	130	261	-	-	75	212	308	550	244	270	-	260
Covenham Res	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	320	200	200
Kirkby Pits	510	550	410	260	160	270	590	485	545	650	620	520
Messingham SQ	168	210	127	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	171	220
Swanholme Lakes	304	214	143	-	-	-	-	-	144	206	249	232
Tattershall Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	439	420	550
Whisby Pits	270	253	-	-	-	-	339	339	340	342	321	323
Baston-Langtoft												
Pits	545	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	435	550	891	-
Langtoft W. End Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122	340	359
North Hyckham Pits	183	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300

#### **Crane *Grus grus* \*(L)**

Vagrant.

Two flew SE at Gib Point May 3rd.

#### **Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

Very common coastal passage migrant/winter visitor and fairly common resident. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	814	836	542	419	196	nc	nc	502	1365	1146	1339	941
Wash	3941	11193	6057	7809	1968	1319	3276	9306	10936	7521	13298	6361
MAIN SITES (2500+)												
Gib Point	350	36	2500	100	100	29	50	1200	2400	550	60	30
Friskney Marsh	-	600	600	600	nc	80	250	3000	1000	600	500	400
Holbeach Range	300	1500	1612	950	13	242	700	1540	600	1650	4800	-
Dawsmere Marsh	72	3216	574	2533	594	382	109	2116	1953	1352	4026	2803
Terrington Marsh	1004	402	626	164	108	-	922	837	4500	615	967	1010

Widespread inland records of small numbers during the year: Baston-Langtoft Pits, 3 pairs bred; Bardney Ponds 2 Jun; Baston Fen NR 1 Apr; Boultham Mere 2 Jun; Covenham Res 1 Apr, 1 Jul; Deeping High Bank 4 Mar, 2 Jul; Kirkby Pits, up to 10 Feb – Aug; Trent Port (Marton) 2 Apr; Messingham SQ 1-3 Mar-Jul; Nocton Delph/Fen 2 Apr, 10 Aug; R Witham (Tattershall Bridge) 2 Mar; Roughton 2 Apr; South Forty Foot Drain (Boston) 2 Feb, 1 Nov; Thurlby SP 1 Mar; Whisby Pits 1 Jan-Feb, 2 Apr. Generally low numbers in the inner Humber with a maximum of 104 W at S Ferriby Jul 25th.

#### **Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* \*b**

Scarce passage migrant, rare in winter and inland. Bred in 1991 and perhaps 1992.

Up to 5 were at Read's Island Mar 4th-Apr 6th, then 2 May 11th; 3 Winteringham Mar 7th. In the outer Humber there were singles at North Cotes/Tetney Apr 14th and May 19th, the latter also seen at Saltfleetby. One flew N at Gib Point Mar 20th, with 2 there Jun 10th. At the Witham Mouth there were 10 Apr 7th and 2 on Frampton Marsh 16-20th. Two were inland at Baston-Langtoft Pits Jun 4th. The only autumn records were 2 Winteringham Haven Aug 24th and 1 Read's Island Sep 15th.

**Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus* \*(L)b

Vagrant.

One was seen between Ancaster and S Rauceby Apr 15th. (ACL, CJ, TL, GH, PT, JM, SK).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

MAIN SITES	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Gib Point	-	3	2	-	7	4	2
Thurlby SP	1	2	1	2	4	3	-
Bardney Pits	-	4	2	5	5	3	-
Kirkby Pits	1	2	9	5	6	5	4
Marston STW	2	6	4	2	-	-	-

First was at Marston Mar 26th and last at Gib Point Sep 22nd. The only breeding reports were at Witham on the Hill and Baston/Langtoft Pits, though it presumably occurred at other regular sites. Other records (1-5 birds): Coleby (Alkborough), Winteringham, Barton, N Killingholme, Pyewipe (Grimsby), Saltfleetby, Butterwick Marsh, Boultham Mere, Cadney Res, Covenham Res, Deeping St James, Messingham SQ, Apex Pit (N Hykeham), North Kelsey Moor, Toft Newton Res, West Ashby Pits, Whisby NP.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Fairly common resident and common passage migrant, mainly coastal.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	201	201	208	91	606	nc	nc	448	652	295	249	164
Wash	333	227	105	88	925	227	90	393	657	113	35	27
MAIN SITES												
Read's Island-												
S Ferryby	-	-	-	-	300	-	20	150	190	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	120	130	136	6	87	-	-	181	240	154	174	110
North Cotes	-	-	28	7	320	-	-	30	-	-	1	4
Gib Point	13	11	102	72	205	40	80	365	278	94	24	7
Witham Mouth	210	225	20	10	270	-	-	120	285	10	10	20
Kirkby Pits	-	4	19	2	7	5	11	10	13	-	-	-

The only inland breeding reported was at Baston-Langtoft Pits and Waddington RAF. Small numbers fairly widespread inland during period Feb-Sep at Bardney Pits (max 10 Aug), Boultham Mere, Covenham Res, Langtoft Common, Marston STW, North Kelsey Moor, Tattershall Thorpe, Toft Newton Res, Thurlby SP (max 24 Mar), Whisby NP and Worlaby Wold.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* \*L

Vagrant; mainly spring and summer, occasionally autumn and winter.

A female was at Saltfleetby June 5-6th (ACS, GPC) associating with migrant Ringed Plovers, Sanderlings and Dunlins.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, mainly spring.

First of the spring were 12 at Nocton Fen Apr 22nd, with 2 at Martin Dales 23rd. Up to 11 were present at Deeping High Bank Apr 27th-May 15th. There were two separate flocks in the Tetney area: up to 21 near Tetney Lock Apr 24th - May 15th and up to 34 near North Cotes Apr 28th-May 9th. The former peaked in late Apr and the latter early May, so some interchange seems likely, with a maximum of about 40-45 birds. One was still present May 23rd. Also in May there were up to 27 at Heighington Fen 6-7th and up to 17 at Wainfleet Marsh 5-19th.

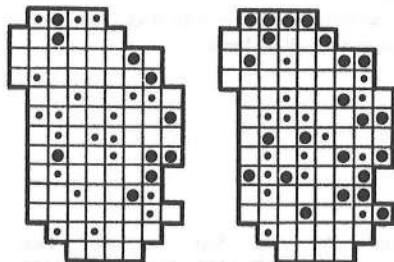
### American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* \*B

Vagrant.

One was at the Witham Mouth Mar 10th (SK) and presumably the same at Butterwick Marsh 24th (SK). Under consideration by BBRC

### Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer. Very marked increase in recent years.



Jan-Jun

Jul-Dec

Large inland flocks included 1500 Appleby Mar, 1200 Fulbeck Airfield Apr, 1000 Grimoldby Oct, 2000 Leasingham Mill Oct, 1000 New Bolingbroke Oct and 2500 North Hykeham Dec.

Maps show all squares with records. Large dots = 500+ birds.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	10088	2733	652	-	1	nc	nc	614	1630	4245	4958	8741
Wash	2478	1506	4485	2004	100	32	321	1981	3107	4921	2422	5504
MAIN SITES (2000+)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Is-S Ferriby	600	-	2000	120	-	40	714	4000	300	4000	-	400
N Holland-Goxhill	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	1200	1500	4000
Humberston Fitties-												
Tetney Haven	4000	1500	-	60	-	-	160	100	40	-	50	-
Skidbrooke N End	2510	850	3250	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	257	32
Gib Point	450	23	5000	16	-	-	30	11	280	551	901	252
Butterwick Marsh	30	114	2000	60	-	-	29	250	81	2800	482	1201
Witham Mouth	2150	550	1000	300	100	-	30	150	192	750	353	500

### Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Very common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Rare inland.

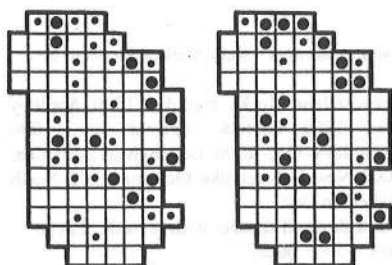
WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	490	778	1354	243	37	nc	nc	22	294	557	425	539
Wash	3576	2590	4948	4893	8123	113	238	6152	6215	7217	6087	7346
MAIN SITES (1000+)												
North Cotes	164	250	1220	15	-	-	-	16	154	76	148	156
Gib Point	800	165	9000	50	800	1	1000	2500	4000	600	55	210
Wainfleet Marsh	-	2	-	240	890	-	-	205	-	1663	25	251
Friskney Marsh	50	80	2000	500	-	1	-	250	1000	500	1400	2100
Wrangle Marsh	240	202	360	376	1530	-	1	160	110	138	502	80
Leverton Marsh	150	142	203	122	1028	9	82	200	91	148	34	275
Benington Marsh	950	390	510	521	1193	-	-	2086	300	1034	1669	1920
Welland Marsh	590	850	-	1000	756	-	90	890	-	1243	850	453

As usual rare inland with 2 Covenham Res Aug 6th, 1 Sep 24th, 1 Kirkby Pits Sep 22nd and 1 Boultham Mere Nov 16th. Small numbers fairly regular in the inner Humber with a maximum of 14 at Whitton Aug 14th.



**Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

Common resident and very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding numbers have decreased in recent years.



Jan-Jun

Jul-Dec

At Gib Point southerly movements in early Jan totalled over 10,000 during 7-14th. Large inland flocks included 1400 Covenham Res Nov-Dec, 3500 Deeping High Bank Nov, 1000 Nocton Fen Mar and 1000 Swineshead Jan.

Maps show all squares with flocks reported. Large dots = 500+ birds.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	12147	2671	676	-	5	nc	nc	107	1153	2834	8968	9352
Wash	3254	1735	2816	89	1	7	130	473	686	2160	4891	5588
MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Is-S Ferriby	6600	60	500	-	-	-	200	-	700	1035	620	700
Humberston Fifties-												
Tetney Haven	3000	1000	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3000	1000
Gib Point	3950	3000	4100	15	1	6	20	1	400	200	190	3620
Butterwick Marsh	149	112	1133	-	-	-	10	44	26	1475	2035	314
Witham Mouth	1850	600	1200	-	-	-	21	250	435	-	777	1900

**Knot *Calidris canutus***

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	6054	3322	6365	1462	-	nc	nc	24	9	3085	13702	22579
Wash	20146	19961	17601	9986	4109	670	5421	11687	18594	23280	25801	21097
MAIN SITES (5000+)												
Cleethorpes	840	260	5090	1400	-	-	-	2	-	3000	9600	8120
North Cotes	450	3000	900	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3140	9500
Gib Point	5000	800	10000	2000	3000	1500	1500	12500	28200	25000	35	500
Wainfleet Marsh	31	-	1550	727	-	-	-	3000	2500	10650	200	3100
Friskney Marsh	100	-	1050	250	-	-	-	-	5000	2000	-	-
Witham Mouth	600	1300	1950	45	-	-	-	120	1800	6000	560	2000
Welland Marsh	7300	2700	-	4001	600	-	-	803	33	220	3500	2000
Dawsmere Marsh	6275	3500	3600	950	1607	250	1530	925	1021	2650	8350	10480
Terrington Marsh	1555	1400	4400	2920	300	-	7	4200	-	-	5500	2500

Singles inland were at Thurlby SP and Kirkby Pits Apr 7th, with 2 at the latter site Sep 22nd. Fairly regular in the inner Humber, mainly in single figures, though over 200 at Barton in early Feb.

**Sanderling**

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Spring passage peaks included 690 at Cleethorpes May 19th, 584 at Tetney June 1st, 250 at Saltfleetby June 5th, 600 at Gib Point May 4th, with a high autumn total at the latter site of 800 Aug

30th. Inland passage in May included singles at Kirkby Pits 12th, Baston-Langtoft Pits 18th, Cadney Res 30th, with 3 at Toft Newton Res 19-21st. In autumn there were 2 at the latter site Jul 25th and 1 Sep 18th, then 2 Kirkby Pits 24th. One was at Covenham Res Dec 17th. In the inner Humber there were up to 3 in spring and autumn.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	241	285	370	644	1136	nc	nc	272	133	362	635	547
Wash	6	77	-	100	360	156	68	200	151	40	90	72
MAIN SITES (600+)												
Cleethorpes	114	13	108	131	690	-	-	180	28	-	-	122
Gib Point	110	155	300	275	600	230	279	800	400	300	220	68

#### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn with occasional winter records.

A good series of spring records with the first at Gib Point May 14th, 1 at Welland Marsh Jun 2nd, up to 4 at Saltfleetby 6-8th and 2 Bardney Pits 14th. A widespread autumn passage mainly from Aug to Oct peaked in late Sep. All sites with monthly max in brackets: Barton Sep (23), Oct (1), New Holland Sep (3), Nov (2), North Killingholme Sep (3), Oct (8), South Ferriby Aug (1), Sep (2), Pye's Hall Sep (2), Saltfleet Haven Sep (4), Saltfleetby Sep (20), Tetney Sep (14), Oct (10), Theddlethorpe Sep (1), Huttoft Sep (19), Oct (10), Seacroft Sep (9), Gib Point Aug (2), Sep (14), Oct (8), Witham Mouth (Sep 1), Frampton Marsh Sep (4), Oct (1), Kirtton Marsh Oct (2), Welland Marsh Sep (6), Terrington Marsh Sep (1), Bardney Pits Sep (10), Oct (2), Baston-Langtoft Pits Sep (2), Boultham Mere Sep (3), Oct (1), Nov (1), Cadney Res Sep (4), Covenham Res Sep (42), Kirkby Pits Aug (2), Sep (28), Marston STW Sep (8), Oct (2), Messingham SQ Sep (7), North Kelsey Moor Sep (18), Toft Newton Res Sep (32), Oct (11), Whisby NP Sep (5). Late birds were 2 at Baston Fen NR Dec 22nd.

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

Rare passage migrant.

Only one in spring at Messingham SQ May 5th (JTH), with 2 singles in autumn at Covenham Res Aug 18th (ACS) and Pye's Hall Sep 21st (MJTa, BC).

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* \*(L)

Vagrant.

One was at Tetney Marsh Oct 1-2nd (SM, KA, HB, ACS *et al*).

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant, rare in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn; occasional in winter.

Only two spring records at South Ferriby May 14th and Kirkby Pits Jun 13th. A moderate autumn passage Aug-Oct was almost entirely coastal. All sites with monthly max in brackets: Barton Sep (2), Oct (8), New Holland Sep (24), North Killingholme Sep (9), Oct (4), South Ferriby Aug (1), Sep (12), Oct (8), Tetney Sep (1), Pye's Hall Sep (1), Saltfleet Haven Sep (1), Huttoft Pits Sep (9), Oct (4), Seacroft Sep (1), Gib Point Aug (1), Sep (9), Oct (4), Wrangle Marsh Sep (3), Benington Marsh Aug (17), Butterwick Marsh Oct (1), Witham Mouth Aug (5), Frampton Marsh Sep (3), Shep White's (Holbeach) Aug (16), Sep (1), Terrington Marsh Oct (7), Bardney Pits Sep (3), Marston STW Sep (1), Deeping St James Oct (1). Last was at Barton Oct 26th.

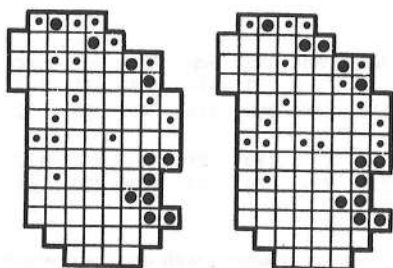
#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal.

Only on early winter record at Cleethorpes Jan 28th. A good autumn influx with 5 at the Witham Mouth Aug 18th. 4 Gib Point Sep 3rd and 2 Frampton Marsh 15th. At Huttoft Bank 1-2 occasionally present Aug 25th-Oct 5th with 5 N Sep 1st. Three flew W at Barton Oct 30th (first since 1977) and last of the year were 2 N at Mablethorpe Nov 13th.

### Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal.



Jan-Jun

Jul-Dec

Small numbers fairly widespread inland, mainly spring and autumn, max 10 Covenham Res Sep, 25 Kirkby Pits Mar, 16 Sep, 10 Thurlby SP Mar.

Maps show all squares with records. Large dots = 1000+ birds.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	7890	6026	4954	4471	1878	nc	nc	999	10135	8520	10205	9203
Wash	8335	17462	14732	18336	17645	119	6168	8949	19516	18029	14156	14150
MAIN SITES (2000+)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island	2000	1430	1000	1000	2200	-	1500	600	1600	-	1000	600
Cleethorpes	1400	600	1860	4000	570	-	-	800	6300	4370	3500	3050
Gib Point	170	130	5000	800	900	150	2000	4500	6300	4000	200	50
Wainfleet Marsh	-	-	700	704	240	-	100	800	-	3650	250	-
Friskney Marsh	-	-	700	1200	-	-	400	2000	4000	3000	1000	-
Wrangle Marsh	640	840	850	1060	3851	-	2358	92	460	1004	340	730
Benington Marsh	700	3450	780	748	2450	27	50	435	10	1015	1710	200
Butterwick Marsh	701	1210	2710	320	2560	6	500	11	768	2000	1400	675
Witham Mouth	2050	4300	2200	800	300	-	-	1500	2210	1200	1600	1660
Frampton Marsh	136	360	-	2934	1730	-	310	205	71	37	45	423
Holbeach Range	400	650	25	500	1700	50	-	3200	700	305	600	800
Dawsmere Marsh	2128	1450	1490	810	346	-	2011	608	1850	650	1613	2245
Terrington Marsh	-	3260	4080	4340	180	-	120	1520	1661	1553	1177	1510

### Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* \*b

Fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

A good series of early winter records with 1 Louth Jan 17th, 1 Barton early Feb, up to 9 Cleethorpes Jan-Mar, 2 Tetney Jan 5th, 2 Frampton Marsh Jan, 1 Holbeach Marsh Mar, up to 17 Witham Mouth Feb-Mar, 1 Marston STW Mar. In spring 1 W at Barton Apr 16th and 2 at S Ferriby 20th. A widespread autumn passage Jul-Nov; sites with double figure counts tabulated. Smaller numbers at Boultham Mere, Covenham Res, Marston STW, North Kelsey Moor, Susworth, Toft Newton Res, Barton, New Holland, Pye's Hall, South Ferriby, Winteringham, Gib Point, Nene Mouth, Shep White's (Holbeach), Wrangle, Leverton, Butterwick, Kirton, Welland and Terrington Marshes. Only 1 Dec record at N Killingholme Haven 15th.

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bardney Pits	-	18	6	-	-
Kirkby Pits	4	9	11	2	-
North Killingholme	-	-	-	20	-
Huttoft Pits	-	19	52	30	1
Frampton Marsh	2	1	3	38	-
Witham Mouth	-	3	-	12	-

**Jack Snipe** *Lymanocryptes minimus*

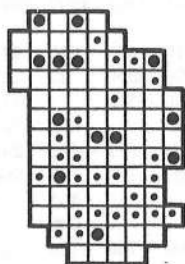
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, probably much under-recorded.

In the period Jan-Apr 1 Barton Feb, 1-2 Saltfleetby Jan-Mar, 1 Blankney Mar 10th, 1 Greetwell Hollow (Lincoln) Jan-Feb, 3 Marston STW Jan, 1 Waddington RAF Jan 22nd, 1 Gib Point Jan, Mar and Apr with last of spring there 20th (about 12 birds). First of the autumn at Donna Nook Sep 22nd, 1 early Oct, 2 late Nov; 1 Pye's Hall Dec 15th; 1 Humberston Fitties Oct-Nov; 1 Huttoft Pits Nov 13th; 1 North Killingholme Haven Oct 6th; 8 Saltfleet/Skidbrooke Dec 14th; 1 Saltfleetby Nov-Dec; 1 Alkborough Oct 9th; 1 South Ferriby Nov 16th; 1 Baston Fen NR Sep 29th; singles Messingham SQ Oct 7th and 23rd, 4 Nov 16th; 1 North Kelsey Moor Oct 9th, 1 Butterwick Marsh Dec 8th, up to 4 Gib Point Oct-Nov (about 30 birds).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Scarce/fairly common resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	26	8	11	11	2	nc	nc	2	11	27	33	23
Wash	3	5	3	5	-	1	1	4	13	5	6	10
MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marston STW	150	150	100	-	2	2	-	-	150	300	210	150
Huttoft Pits	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	15	5	-	12	20
Gib Point	10	3	9	32	3	-	3	12	10	28	13	15
Baston Fen NR	-	-	11	61	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	12
Boultham Mere	6	-	-	3	1	-	1	14	10	12	12	9
Kirkby Pits	-	1	3	11	-	-	2	15	5	3	1	-
North Kelsey Moor	5	4	15	3	-	-	-	7	8	-	7	7
Bardney Pits	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	11	1	-	2
Butterwick Hale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
Messingham SQ	-	14	12	1	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-
New Holland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
Alkborough	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	30	6	4
Pye's Hall	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	-



(All regular sites with double figure counts listed above.)  
Drumming birds: Baston Fen NR 2 Apr, Boultham Mere 1 Jul, Marston STW 2 May-Jun, Barton 1 Apr.

Map shows all squares with records reported. Large dots=10+ birds.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Coastal: (Jan-Apr), Donna Nook 1 Mar 24th, Saltfleet 1 Jan, 1 Mar 23rd, Skegness 1 Jan 30th, Tetney 1 Mar 24th, Theddlethorpe 1 Apr 11th, Wolla Bank 1 Apr 5th. (Nov-Dec), Anderby 1 Nov 22nd, Donna Nook 1 Nov-Dec, Mablethorpe 1 Nov 15th, Theddlethorpe 1 Nov 7th. Roding birds: Bourne Wood 1 Apr, Keb Wood (Broughton) 4 May, Temple Wood 2 May. Flushed on Pheasant shoots: Welbourn Heath 16 Nov 18th, Thorpe Tilney 'many' Nov 23rd, Metherringham 15 Dec 26th.

MONTHLY MAX	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	12	10	12	5	1	2	5

### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* \*b

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, usually scarce in spring and summer but sometimes common in autumn. Mostly coastal.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	5	55	2	-	3	nc	nc	287	268	549	544	529
Wash	210	1763	225	3	20	-	2009	1757	4701	2382	2115	2255
MAIN SITES (100+)												
N Killingholme Pits	2	3	-	2	-	-	120	286	453	570	-	-
Pyewipe (Grimsby)	4	31	-	-	-	-	-	17	3	526	537	530
Witham Mouth	-	1260	208	45	-	-	-	7	1	100	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	42	10	-	20	-	-	-	150	52	-	410
Welland Marsh	60	40	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	952	80	-
Holbeach Marsh	125	-	-	-	-	-	1200	1000	2000	45	35	1
Dawsmere Marsh	25	-	-	-	-	-	778	736	2700	1135	2000	2100
Nene Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	260	-	-	-	-

In the inner Humber small numbers regular spring and autumn max 32 W at New Holland Jul 27th. One showing characteristics of *L. l. islandica* at Read's Island May 18th. On the North Sea coast regular at Huttoft Jul-Nov max 24 Aug 18th. Gib Point had records from Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec max 12 in Jan and Mar. Inland: Bardney Pits 1 Aug 18th; Baston Fen NR singles Mar 22-24th, Apr 13th; Boultham Mere 11 SE Jul 11th, 1 Aug 30th; Kirkby Pits singles Jun 4th, Aug 18-29th, Oct 11-13th; Marston STW 1 Apr 13-14th; North Kelsey Moor 8 Sep 22nd, Whisby Pits 1 Aug 21st.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	477	1489	887	32	-	nc	nc	30	558	622	661	646
Wash	4283	4963	7452	1735	187	284	1980	9361	4268	2881	3907	4024
MAIN SITES (500+)												
Cleethorpes	178	880	850	16	-	-	-	23	510	498	526	340
Gib Point	750	29	7000	25	20	58	600	1300	8000	3000	22	243
Wainfleet Marsh	50	-	3500	19	-	-	300	4350	580	1516	-	412
Friskney Marsh	65	6	500	300	-	-	-	2000	1100	-	600	1000
Wrangle Marsh	240	1100	640	-	-	-	400	-	-	12	460	240
Leverton Marsh	1000	624	2171	1400	49	136	65	400	1000	500	300	900
Benington Marsh	2000	1350	90	-	125	1	-	-	-	10	465	5
Holbeach Range	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1500	-	-	600	80
Dawsmere Marsh	-	235	-	-	-	-	1190	1068	1500	760	1530	927
Terrington Marsh	45	1415	450	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	306	66

There were only small numbers in the inner Humber, max 15 South Ferriby May 26th. The only inland records were singles at Baston Fen Mar 22nd-Apr 13th, Kirkby Pits Mar 24th and Boultham Mere May 15th.

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Fairly common/common passage migrant, mainly coastal. Occasional in winter.

Recorded between Apr 6th (Shep White's, Holbeach) and Oct 19th (N Killingholme).

Strong northerly movements at Gib Point in May included 156 on 11th and 103 on 12th. Inland records: Appleby May 12th, Bardney Pits Jul 28th, Baston Pits 2 Apr 14th, Blankney Dales Aug 27th, Boultham Mere May 8th-10th, 14 N W Jul 10th, 2 Aug 19th, Kirkby Pits May 12th, Marston STW

May 6th, Sep 22nd, Messingham SQ Aug 8th, Metherringham Aug 19th, North Kelsey 4 May 5th, Redhill (Goulceby) May 4th, Risby 2 May 6th, South Witham Aug 15th, Thornton (Horncastle) 3 E Apr 28th, Toft Newton May 4th, Welbourn Heath Aug 24th, Whisby NP Apr 26th.  
Monthly max from all coastal sites recording double figure tabulated.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton	2	3	-	2	17	-	-
New Holland	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
Tetney	20	-	-	25	17	-	-
Grainthorpe	-	-	-	20	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Huttoft	-	-	-	34	21	5	-
Gib Point	15	156	3	22	17	4	2
Friskney Marsh	1	-	-	10	-	-	-
Benington Marsh	-	1	-	53	26	-	-
Butterwick Marsh	-	15	-	8	55	2	1
Witham Mouth	-	6	-	1	50	8	-
Frampton Marsh	11	30	1	27	6	4	1
Kirton Marsh	-	2	-	-	16	6	-
Welland Marsh	3	19	2	12	17	-	-
Dawsmere Marsh	-	6	-	41	75	-	14
Gedney Marsh	1	37	-	4	12	-	-
Terrington Marsh	-	2	-	11	4	1	-

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce and local breeder.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	751	592	822	69	71	nc	nc	213	919	949	768	1064
Wash	917	949	1937	1161	480	196	4588	4830	3281	2989	858	1414
MAIN SITES (500+)												
Pyewipe	177	202	213	-	12	-	-	2	290	590	590	470
Wainfleet Marsh	41	30	277	152	22	19	250	1240	250	488	210	445
Frampton Marsh	62	53	83	104	58	10	149	533	317	47	72	41
Welland Marsh	77	54	-	144	46	100	1000	320	54	382	28	66
Holbeach Range	50	45	250	75	65	10	1700	2000	175	141	-	79
Dawsmere Marsh	241	148	206	152	75	23	381	328	608	528	197	147
Terrington Marsh	126	86	359	144	-	-	991	1	642	362	36	255

A pair bred at Moortown in set-aside and reared 2 young. Widespread inland records with peaks of 70 Kirkby Pits Jan, 30 Marston STW Nov-Dec and 30 Rauceby Oct and Dec.

#### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring but fairly common in autumn. Rare but regular in winter.

Wintering singles were at Benington Marsh Jan 21st, Wrangle Marsh Feb 11th, Wainfleet Marsh Feb 11th and Mar 10th, though possibly only one bird involved. One flew N at Saltfleetby Mar 24th, singles in Apr were at Barton 6th, Gib Point 8th, 26th and 28th, then 1 at Holbeach Range May 5th. Autumn passage from Jul 9th to Nov 9th (both Gib Point) was only moderate all sites with monthly max in brackets: Barrow Haven Sep (1), Barton Aug (1), New Holland Sep (1), North Killingholme Aug (4), Sep (4), Oct (5), South Ferriby Aug (2), Sep (1), Donna Nook Sep (2), Oct (1), Tetney Marsh Jul (1), Huttoft Pits Aug (4), Sep (1), Gib Point Jul (1), Aug (5), Sep (6), Oct (2), Nov (1), Witham Mouth Aug (1), Frampton Marsh Sep (8), Kirton Marsh Aug (2), Welland Marsh Jul (2), Aug (2), Sep (18), Oct (2), Terrington Marsh Sep (1), Boultham Mere Sep (1), Oct (1), Kirkby Pits Sep (2), Marston STW Sep (1).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Relatively small numbers occur inland where it is a scarce breeder.

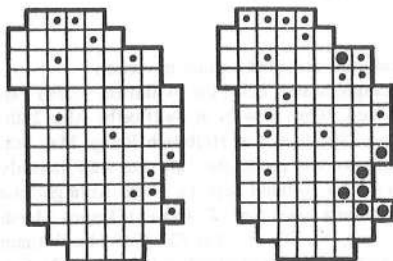
WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1253	944	659	280	27	nc	nc	694	1758	1477	1948	1601
Wash	1554	1264	1333	2318	971	403	851	1494	2456	3114	1840	1904
MAIN SITES (500+)												
North Killingholme	38	39	34	-	-	-	210	500	602	400	79	74
Pyewipe	87	109	117	152	1	-	-	-	320	530	464	425
North Cotes	91	85	118	21	15	-	-	140	60	164	567	159
Skidbrooke N End	537	420	129	13	6	-	-	-	155	110	165	218
Gib Point	150	220	150	350	35	8	110	663	350	120	200	100
Wainfleet Marsh	100	50	60	214	75	44	-	58	31	602	110	243
Frampton Marsh	166	190	261	373	174	79	234	707	436	139	195	217
Terrington Marsh	226	34	108	194	25	-	36	56	494	741	225	55

Peak inland counts: Bardney Pits 18 Jan, Cadney Res 19 Nov, Covenham Res 16 Sep, Kirkby Pits (present all year) 24 Mar, 21 Dec, Nocton Fen 11 Jan; smaller numbers at 18 other sites. Little breeding information, but a good season at Frampton Marsh where 227 pairs counted on one third of the saltmarsh. Inland breeding reported from Kirkby Pits, Marston STW and Messingham SQ.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring, fairly common in autumn; occasional in winter.

WeBS TOTALS	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Humber	3	1	-	-	15	14	1
Wash	-	19	-	54	112	156	9
MAIN SITES (10+)							
Tetney/North Cotes	2	2	2	6	12	-	2
Gib Point	6	7	2	29	24	23	22
Butterwick Marsh	-	-	-	-	5	15	-
Frampton Marsh	1	6	-	22	12	91	2
Welland Marsh	-	1	2	14	6	16	2
Holbeach Range	-	2	-	7	60	-	1
Dawsmere Marsh	-	7	-	2	2	18	-
Gedney Marsh	-	-	-	1	12	-	-
Terrington Marsh	-	2	-	9	19	4	-



Apr-Jun

Jul-Nov

Recorded between Apr 14th (Burton Pits) and Nov 3rd (Lincoln). In addition to those tabled birds were recorded from 12 sites in spring and 34 sites in autumn.

Maps show all squares with records. Large dots = 10+ birds.



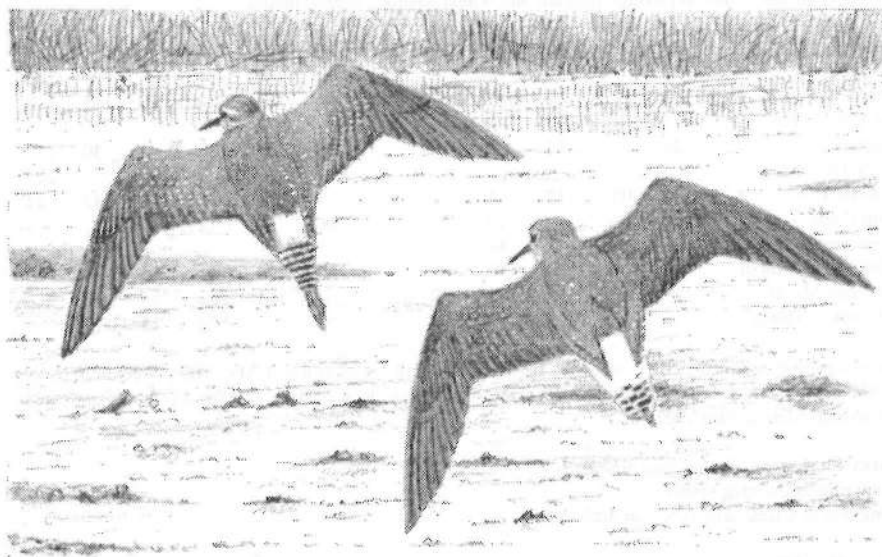
### Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring and also as a regular winter visitor.

Early winter records: Bardney Pits 1 Jan, Coningsby 1 Feb, Covenham Res 1 Jan, East Kirkby 1 Jan, Kirkby Pits 1 Jan-Feb, Kirton Holme 1 Jan, Nocton Fen 1 Jan, 3 Feb, Apex Pit (N Hykeham) 2 Jan, Sleaford STW 1 Jan, Whisby NP 1 Feb, Grimsby 1 Feb. Monthly peaks from main passage sites (5+ birds) are tabled.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bardney Pits	-	1	-	5	17	22	3	2	-
Kirkby Pits	2	1	-	3	13	15	6	1	1
Marston STW	-	-	-	-	6	7	4	-	-
N Kelsey Moor	1	1	-	-	4	5	5	3	-
Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	10	8	-	-	-
Huttoft Pits	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	-
Gib Point	-	1	-	1	13	13	4	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	2	5	3	-	-

Other Apr records at West Ashby Pits (1), Whisby NP (2), Barton (2), North Cotes (1), Three Bridges (Saltfleetby) (2). In addition to those tabled recorded from 30 sites in autumn. December records from Bardney Pits (1), Boultham Mere (1), Kirkby Pits (2), North Kelsey Moor (2).



### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

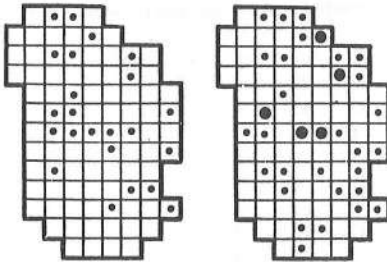
Passage migrant, usually rare in spring and scarce in autumn.

First of spring at Messingham SQ May 4-6th with others Jun 8th and 14th, Barton May 30-31st and Kirkby Pits Jun 24th. Autumn passage from mid Jul: Kirkby Pits Jul 14th, 1-2 late Jul and Aug, Fishtoft Jul 27th, Horseshoe Point Jul 31st, Huttoft Pits Jul 27th, up to 6 Aug 10-25th, Marston STW Aug 11-12th, Boultham Mere Aug 20-25th, Kirton Quarries Aug 16th. Toft Newton Res Aug 5-8th, New Holland Aug 8-11th, Gib Point up to 12 Aug Aug 8th – early Sep, Bardney Pits Sep 6th, Tetney Sep 1st. Last at Gib Point Sep 14th.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Min monthly totals	2	3	6	30	4

### Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Fairly common passage migrant, occasional in winter. Bred in 1979.



Mar-Jun

Jul-Nov

A wintering bird was at Bardney Pits Jan 5th. A widespread spring passage from Mar 21st to Jun, but no more than 4 birds per site recorded. A good autumn passage from late June to Nov 17th (S Forty Foot Drain, Boston). Peak numbers: Bardney Pits 20 Aug 25th, Boultham Mere 10, Sep 4th, Covenham Res 47 Aug 12th, Kirkby Pits 10 Sep 6th, Pyewipe (Grimsby) 16 Aug 23rd. Maps show all squares with records. Large dots = 10+ birds.

### Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	123	103	114	44	7	nc	nc	239	71	126	191	182
Wash	161	177	104	253	251	10	85	82	263	126	117	114
MAIN SITES												
Barton	20	-	72	80	35	-	38	73	60	-	30	117
New Holland	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	-	225
Cleethorpes	18	100	12	34	2	-	-	154	18	24	32	22
Gib Point	2	6	3	20	50	-	60	55	32	4	3	1
Friskney Marsh	-	100	1	30	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Butterwick Marsh	8	3	33	89	66	-	9	6	21	16	55	55
Witham Mouth	115	65	50	50	52	-	40	103	100	55	35	-
Frampton Marsh	6	2	5	4	48	-	53	7	102	23	-	36

Inland records: Thurlby SP 1 Jan 28th, 1 May 17th. Toft Newton Res 1 May 10th, 1-2 Jul 20th-Aug 10th, Kirkby Pits 1 May 12th, 1 Aug 16-18th, Covenham Res, 1 Aug 12-18th, up to 6 Sep 7-24th, Boultham Mere 2 Aug 19th.

### Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* \*(L)

Rare migrant/winter visitor.

One was at Cleethorpes (N) Jan 30th (SJM).

### Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce/fairly common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring. Exceptional inland, although sometimes seen heading inland from the Wash.

Scarce this year with the first at Pye's Hall Aug 31st. Most records were in Sep with singles N at Huttoft Bank 1st and 11th; at Gib Point 1 N 8th, 2 N 9th, 3 N and 1 S 12th and 3 N 13th. Finally 3 flew S at Mablethorpe Oct 5th.

### Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common/common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring and inland, although sometimes seen heading inland, especially from the Wash.

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Tetney Haven/Horseshoe Point	2	6	2	-	-
Saltfleetby	6	4	7	2	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	13	34	-
Huttoft Bank	-	7	6	9	25
Gib Point	6	48	127	6	-

First was at Gib Point Jul 25th and the last at Barton Nov 19th. Generally a quiet year especially in the north of the county, but good numbers at Gib Point. Peak passage there was 48 S Aug 29th and 127 N Sep 13th. Elsewhere there were 17 S and 17 N at Mablethorpe Oct 5th and 25 S at Huttoft Bank Nov 12th. Up to 4 were occasional at Barton in Aug-Sep and up to 7 were in the Wash, Witham Mouth/Holbeach Marsh, Aug-Sep. At the Nenemouth 9 flew inland Sep 8th and 12 next day.

### Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Occasional inland.

In Sep a pale-phase juv at Saltfleetby 1st eventually flew S; at Gib Point 1 N 8th, 2 juvs N 9th, 2 juvs N 12th and 6 N 13th; at Huttoft 1 juv N 14th; at Mablethorpe 2 juvs S Oct 5th.

### Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, but rare in winter and spring. Occasionally seen heading inland from the coast.

First was at Gib Point Aug 24th and last at Huttoft Bank Nov 13th.

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Huttoft Bank	1	5	3	7
Gib Point	1	24	18	-

In the upper Humber there were singles W at New Holland Sep 13th and 1 at Barton Nov 12th. Up to 8 were occasional at Horseshoe Point and Saltfleetby Aug-Oct, with 3 at Mablethorpe Sep 13th. The latter site produced the largest movement with 65 N and 31 S Oct 5th in an 8 hour sea-watch. Peak passage at Gib Point was 24 N Sep 13th and 18 N Oct 5th. Up to 3 were in the Wash, Witham Mouth/Holbeach Marsh, Aug-Sep and 1 flew inland at the Nenemouth Sep 8th.

### Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* \*b

Scarce visitor throughout the year, but most in autumn. Hybrid breeding with Black-headed gulls has occurred during recent period.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Minimum no. of birds	3	4	8	3	-	1	6	6	2	1	3	1

A good year with about 30 different birds and recorded in most months. Humber: 2nd-w Alkborough/Whitton Jan-Mar; 2nd-s Barton Apr 9th, 14th (different), W Aug 5th and 1st-w Sep 12th; 1st-s South Ferriby Jul 25-29th, ad Aug 12th; ad E North Killingholme Aug 11th; 1st-w Pyewipe (Grimsby) Jan 24th and Feb 20th, 1st-s Jun 23rd. Coast: 2nd-s Saltfleetby Aug 2nd; juv Chapel Point Aug 25th; ad Huttoft Bank Aug 29th; ads Gib Point Apr 8th, Jul 1st and 2nd-w Oct 27th. Wash: 2 ads Frampton Marsh Jul 21st. Inland: 1st-w North Hykeham (Apex Pit) Jan-Feb, Nov 29th, ad 30th-Dec 8th; 2 1st-w N Hykeham (Station Road Tip) Mar 14th; 1st-w Thurlby SP Mar 10th; 2nd-s Baston-Langtoft Pits Mar 30th; Kirkby Pits Feb 17th-Mar 10th; ads Messingham SQ Mar 16th and Jul 13th; ads Covenham Res Jul 24th, Sep 4th and 1st-w Nov 13th. In addition single hybrid Med X Black-headed Gulls at Messingham SQ Mar-May.

**Little Gull *Larus minutus* \*b**

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, occurring in all months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min no. of birds	18	3	1	9	12	7	6	20	34	-	7	40
MAIN SITES:												
Barton	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	3	1	-	3	40
Huttoft	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	4	-
Gib Point	4	-	-	1	2	1	2	3	15	-	-	-

At least 150 different birds during the year; of those aged 55% were adults. There was a regular northerly passage at Gib Point from late Aug and throughout Sep. At Barton 35 ads and 5 1st-w flew W Dec 20th. Other records Jan-Mar: Pyewipe (Grimsby) 3 Jan; Humberston 1 Jan, (different) Feb; Cleethorpes 2 Feb; Moulton Marsh 2 Jan; Kirkby Pits 1 Mar. Apr-Jun: South Ferriby 2 Jun; North Killingholme Pits 2 May; Tetney 2 Jun; Bagmoor 1 Apr; Boultham Mere 1 May; Covenham Res 1 May; Kirkby Pits 3 May; Messingham SQ 1 Apr; North Hykeham/Whisby Pits 4 Apr; North Kelsey Moor 1 Apr; Thurlby SP 1 May. Jul-Sep: South Ferriby 1 Jul; Horseshoe Point 1 Jul; Donna Nook 2 Aug; Saltfleetby 1 Jul; Holbeach Marsh 1 Aug; Witham Mouth 2 Sep; Boultham Mere 1 Aug; Covenham Res 1 Aug; Toft Newton Res 1 Sep.

**Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash	4898	1450	919	1240	772	645	2813	3941	5233	7856	998	285
MAIN SITE												
Gib Point	3000	2110	3500	5060	166	100	350	2500	6500	8000	3500	300

A combined roost with Common Gulls totalled 100,000 at Read's Island in Mar and 50,000 in Nov, with a similar mixed roost of 5000 at Tattershall Pits in Mar. Other large counts included 5000 W at Barton Mar 17th, 9500 at Butterwick Marsh Aug 1st, 2750 Witham Mouth Jan 21st, 2500 Kirkby Pits Nov 21st and 2000 at Leadenham Tip in Feb and Dec. Breeding reported at Gib Point, Bardney Pits, Boultham Mere, Kirkby Pits, Messingham SQ (35 pairs), Kirton Lindsey Quarries (40 pairs), Thurlby SP and Baston-Langtoft Pits (300 pairs).

**Common Gull *Larus canus***

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash	347	111	748	176	81	114	233	390	109	782	268	57
MAIN SITE												
Gib Point	2600	3490	2500	360	180	50	300	400	380	2200	600	300

A combined roost with Black-headed Gulls totalled 100,000 at Read's Island in Mar and 50,000 in Nov, with a similar mixed roost of 5,000 at Tattershall Pits in Mar.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

Present all year; scarce but increasing Dec-Feb, common passage Mar-May and Aug-Nov. Many immatures summer Jun-Jul. Bred 1993.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash	3	1	-	205	103	835	557	254	151	30	4	-

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	-	-	4	20	22	160	180	160	120	43	10	2
Kirkby Pits	-	50	37	60	200	-	2	35	-	-	-	-
Leadenham Tip	-	1	-	-	350	100	-	-	488	340	180	20
Boultham Mere	2	2	-	14	1	100	24	100	473	75	10	1

A pair attempted to breed at Kirkby Pits. Other large counts included 400 Alkborough/Whitton Jul and 300 Aug, 200 Normanby Jul and 180 Thurlby SP Aug. Scandinavian races reported: *L f intermedius*, 1 Barton May; 4 Huttoft Jul, 10 Aug. *L f intermedius/fuscus* 1 Thurlby SP May and 1 Barton Oct.

#### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash WeBS	1778	1402	2059	1002	1211	882	3269	231	1999	2263	1181	2523
Gib Point	350	5000	2000	600	600	200	150	100	550	2000	1300	400

Other large counts included 1000 Winterton Tip Dec, 1500 Butterwick Marsh Aug, 1295 Witham Mouth Jan and 2200 Frampton Marsh Dec.

#### **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans* \*b

Scarce visitor, mainly in autumn.

About 36 records during the year mainly adults and sub-adults. Feb: 1 Barton, 1 Blankney Fen. Apr: 1 Kirkby Pits. All other records Jun-Nov: Barton 1 Aug; Pyewipe (Grimsby) 1 Jul; Cleethorpes 1 Sep; Gib Point up to 4 Jul, 1 Sep; Boultham Mere 2 Aug; Covenham Res 2 Aug; Deeping High Bank 1 Aug; Kirkby Pits 2 Jul, 1 Aug; Leadenham Tip 1 Jun, 1-2 Oct-Nov; Lincoln 1 Oct; Messingham SQ 1 Nov; North Kelsey Moor 1 Aug; North Hykeham Tip 2 Aug; Apex Pit (N Hykeham) 2 Oct; Thorpe Tip 1 Jun; Thurlby SP 3 Jul; Whisby NP 4 Jun.

#### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides* \*(L)

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May.

A good series of early winter records with about 7-8 birds Jan-Apr: Winterton Tip 1st-w Jan 4-6th, Mar 31-Apr 6th, 3rd-w Feb 20-24th; Barton 1st-w Jan 4th; Read's Island 1st-w Feb 4th and Apr 1st; Cleethorpes 2nd-w Jan 25-28th, Mar 14th; Gib Point 2nd-w Mar 31st; Apex Pit (N Hykeham) 1st-w Jan 9-Mar 4th, also seen at Station Road Tip, 2nd-w Feb 16-17th also seen at Whisby Pits. The only late year bird was an adult at Apex Pit Nov 29th.

#### **Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.

A moderate year with about 5 birds Jan-Apr, 1 in Sep and 3 in Dec. Winterton Tip ad and 2nd-w Jan-early Feb, 1st-s Apr 16th; Read's Island 1st-w Mar 18-19th; Barton Jan 3rd; Grimsby 1st-w Mar 18-21st; Cleethorpes 1st-w Jan 26-Feb 22nd; Horseshoe Point 1st-w Mar 10th; Shep White's (Holbeach) 1st-s Apr 16th. Later in the year an adult at Gib Point Sep 27th, 2 1st-w Winterton Tip Dec 30th; 1st w Cleethorpes Dec 29-31st.

#### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor with some immatures remaining in summer.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash WeBS	87	42	39	57	141	88	282	236	196	511	461	433
Gib Point	80	90	50	60	95	25	125	100	122	500	170	84

Other large counts included 400 Barton Jan, 350 Winterton Tip Feb and 500 Dec, 243 West Halton Nov, 235 South Ferriby Dec, 100 Kirkby Pits Feb, 100 Covenham Res Nov, 115 Witham Mouth Nov.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor with smaller numbers in summer. Scarce inland.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton	-	49	6	25	21	34	-	-	-	-	5	9
Huttoft	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	25	-	1080	2
Gib Point	-	60	2	-	4	4	1	8	131	100	280	-

Other large counts included 58 at Tetney and 23 Shep White's in May. Peak southerly movement was on Nov 12th at Huttoft and Gib Point (totals tabled). An ad was inland at Messingham SQ Mar 18th.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring but common in autumn, occasional pairs in summer, rare inland.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Saltfleetby	-	5	8	120	45	20	-
Gib Point	6	18	11	265	250	125	7
Witham Mouth/Frampton	3	4	-	4	30	42	2

Present from Apr 10th (2 Barton) to Oct 16th (2 Frampton Marsh). Other large counts included 100 Donna Nook Aug, 50 Horseshoe Point Aug. Two were well up the Humber at Winteringham Aug 24th and singles inland at Boultham Mere May 5th and Hartsholme Lake 19th.

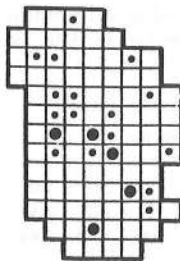
**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* \*Lb

Rare passage migrant in May and Jul-Sep.

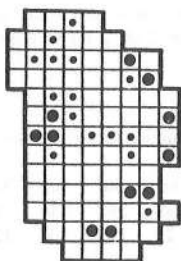
One heard at Butterwick Marsh, then seen flying N Jul 13th (SK).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Fairly common summer visitor and common passage migrant. Most breeding colonies now inland.



Apr-Jun



Jul-Oct

Present from Apr 6th (Apex Pits) to Oct 5th (Gib Point). Widespread records on the coast and many inland sites. Breeding reports from Barton, Black Bank Pits, Baston-Langtoft Pits (50 pairs), Boultham Mere, Kirkby Pits and Tattershall Pits, but only small nos and no details from main sites. Peak autumn counts were 325 Horseshoe Point Aug 28th, 35 Saltfleetby Aug 1st, 27 S and 25 N at Huttoft Aug 6th, 30 Gib Point Aug-Sep, 85 Witham Mouth Sep 15th, 39 Thurlby SP Aug 14th and up to 56 Whisby NP Jul-Aug. Maps show all squares with records; large dots = 10+ birds

### Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and sporadic breeder. Mainly coastal but there is a regular inland passage in spring.

The first were 2 at Barton Apr 12th, with 15 E there May 4th and 5 E 10th. The usual inland spring passage with 3 Covenham Res Apr 28th, 4 Messingham SQ May 4th, 20 over Broadholme May 8th, 2 Kirkby Pits 17th and 1 31st. First of the autumn at Gib Point Jul 14th where peaks of 20 Aug and 13 Sep. Also in Sep 4 Holbeach Marsh 4th, 9 inland at Nenemouth 8th, 12 on 9th, 1 Huttoft Bank 11th, singles Boultham Mere 18th and 23rd and 4 Witham Mouth 15th. Last was at Gib Point Oct 5th.

### Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Occasional inland.

Present from Apr 21st (Saltfleetby) to Sep 5th (Pyewipe/Grimsby). The only breeding records received were from Gib Point, where 13 pairs reared 8 young from a total of 29 eggs laid. Peak counts included 53 Tetney Jun 1st, 60 Saltfleetby Jul 13th, 58 Gib Point Jul 15th, 30 Holbeach Marsh Aug 2nd and 21 Witham Mouth 31st. One was inland at Boultham Mere May 25th and 3 flew SW at Barton 31st.

### Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* \*b

Fairly common passage migrant from spring to autumn.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Minimum number of birds	9	12	-	3	120	18	1

Scarce in spring but good numbers in autumn especially on the coast. First were on Apr 21st with singles Pye's Hall, Kirkby Pits, 4 Apex Pits (N Hykeham), then 2 Tattershall Pits 23rd and 1 Messingham SQ 26th. In May singles Toft Newton Res 1st, Thurlby SP 12th, Covenham Res 14-15th, Gib Point 20th, with 2 Messingham SQ 15th, 2 Barton 19th and 4 Tetney 20th. In autumn from late Jul: Barton singles Aug, 8 W 29th; North Killingholme Haven singles Aug; Saltfleetby Jul 20th; Tetney 1 Aug; Mablethorpe 7 S Sep 13th; Gib Point 1-3 late Jul-early Sep; Witham Mouth/Holbeach Marsh/Terrington Marsh regular Aug-early Sep, max 90 Holbeach Aug 27th. Boultham Mere 1 Aug; Deeping High Bank singles Aug-Sep; Tattershall Pits 1 Sep; Toft Newton Res 3 Aug. Last of the year was a late adult at Apex Pits Oct 19th.

### White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* \*B

Vagrant.

A 2nd-S bird was at Covenham Res Jun 2nd (KEW, KA, ACS, GAM, *et al*). Accepted by BBRC. The 27th county record.

### Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor but can occur in any month. Rare inland.

In the early winter 2 dead at Skegness Jan 22nd, 1 Witham Mouth 26th, 9 N Gib Point Feb 21st when 1 on the Humber at Barton, singles Chapel Six Marshes and Saltfleet Haven Mar 24th and 2 dead at Wrangle Marsh 31st. Also in Mar 1 was on R Welland at Spalding 2nd. One flew S at Gib Point May 30th. In autumn singles Huttoft Bank Sep 21st and Oct 5th. At Gib Point recorded on 8 days in Sep max 6 N 13th, 11 N Oct 5th, with 10 Mablethorpe same day, then 1 Donna Nook Nov 12th.

### Razorbill *Alca torda*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.

One was found dead at Skegness in Jan and in Feb 3 were at Barton 20th, with 3 N Gib Point 21st. One was found dead at Wrangle Marsh in Mar and 4 at Donna Nook May-Jun. Nine flew past Tetney May 25th and 1 N at Gib Point Jun 20th. In autumn singles N at Gib Point Sep 13th and S Oct 23rd, with 2 at Mablethorpe 5th.



**Little Auk *Alle alle***

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional inland and exceptional in summer.

In Feb 1 SW at Donna Nook 13th and 1 wrecked at Branston 21st was released on R Witham. A moderate influx in autumn: Barton 6 Oct 30th, 1 Nov 13-14th and 19th; Mablethorpe 3 N Nov 13th; Huttoft Bank 3 S Nov 9th, 39 N and 10 S 12th, 19 N 13th; Anderby Creek 2 N and 1 on beach Nov 13th; Gib Point 3 N Sep 13th, 3 Oct 23rd, 4 N Nov 14th, 1 N Dec 21st; Witham Mouth 1 Sep 21st was eaten by a Great Black-backed Gull; Frampton Marsh 1 flew up R Welland Oct 29th; 1 Wrangle Oct 25th later died; 1 inland at Laughton Nov 7th later died.

**Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.

In spring 2 N at Saltfleetby May 25th. Singles in autumn W at Winteringham Jul 31st, N at Gib Point Sep 8th and a juv at Barton Oct 30th.

**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia***

Common and widespread resident.

Largest counts were up to 200 at Barton all year, 500 at New Holland Jan-Mar and 700 Nov-Dec, 200 at Roughton Nov and 300 at Scotterthorpe in Dec.

**Stock Dove *Columba oenas***

Common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	100	54	27	16	14	4	5	2	6	30	9	8

Early winter flocks peaked at 115 at Whitton in Jan, 140 at Marston STW Feb, with 40 at Branston Fen, Nocton Fen, Metheringham, Kirton Holme in Jan and Winteringham Feb. Largest spring count was 72 and Bourne South Fen in mid Apr. In autumn there were 70 at Kirkby Pits in Sep, then Dec flocks of 50-60 at Risby Warren and Welbourn Heath.

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus***

Very common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	260	340	1150	1000	164	45	30	30	200	750	800	550

Large numbers in Feb included 500 at Barton, 1000 at Brigsley, 800 at Grantham with 500 at Martin Fen in Mar. Later in the year there were 500 at Bardney Pits in Oct and at West Halton in Nov, with 1000 at Timberland Fen in Dec.

**Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

Very common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	45	12	10	10	10	4	2	10	10	10	106	14

Peak numbers at Gib Point in Jan and Nov were roosting flocks. Early in the year there were 80 at Barton in Jan-Mar and 150 at Frampton Fen in Feb. Late year max were 66 at Barton in Oct, 250 at Welbourn Heath corn store Nov and 88 Burringham in Dec.

**Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

First were 2 at Holbeach on Apr 20th and last at Roughton on Sep 17th. A good spring passage at Gib Point, but relatively few elsewhere and breeding numbers remain low. In May strong southerly movements at Gib Point peaked at 268 20th and 99 31st; others included 16 at Frampton Marsh on 8th

and 20 S at Theddlethorpe on 21st, but no more than 10 elsewhere. A few moderate concentrations in autumn; Jul: 26 Deeping High Bank, 20 Frampton Marsh, 28 Gib Point; Aug: 25 Holbeach Bank.

### **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Common summer visitor.

Earliest at Grantham on Apr 4th and last at North Kelsey Moor on Sep 16th. Widespread in low numbers max of 9 at Tetney on May 25th and 11 Gib Point on 31st. Single rufous phase females at Wolla Bank in May and Saltfleetby in Jun.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

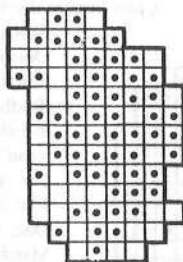
Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Widespread records during the year from 215 sites in 206 tetrads, spread over 59 10km squares. Most records were of 1-2 birds but 4 at Fulstow in Jan, 3 at Scopwick and 4 at Metherringham Delph in Mar, 4 at Stickney in April, and 3 at Martin Fen in Mar, 4 in Jul. Breeding reports from Blankney Fen, Martin Fen, near Roxton Wood, Sibsey, Stickford, Stickney and Winteringham Carrs.

ALL RECORDS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of tetrads	38	52	34	23	24	29	27	16	11	18	33	23
No. of birds	42	60	41	32	25	33	31	18	14	18	35	24

At least 6 nest-box schemes operate in Lincs: results from these are tabulated below. A ringed bird found dead at Theddlethorpe in Feb was at least 10 years old.

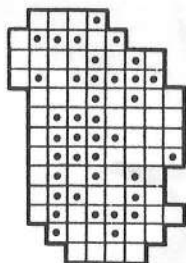
NEST-BOX SCHEMES	1996
No. of boxes checked	116
No. occupied	50
No. of chicks ringed	169
% boxes occupied	43%
Mean brood size at ringing	3.4



The map shows all 10km squares with records during the year.

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Fairly common feral resident.



Fairly widespread records during the year from about 60 sites; mainly 1-3, but 5 at Roughton early Sep. Breeding reports from Blankney Fen, Carlton le Moorland, Doddington, Horsington and Roughton. A few coastal records included singles at Witham Mouth on Feb 10th, Saltfleetby on Mar 24th and Gib Point on Sep 23rd.

The map shows all 10km squares with records during the year.

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Common resident.

Fairly widespread records during the year from about 40 sites; mainly small numbers, but at least 8 heard at Keb Wood in May, a site where not usually present. A nest-box scheme in east Lincs had 21 of 51 boxes occupied (38 chicks ringed). Singles on the coast at Seacroft on Aug 18th, Saltfleet in Nov and 1-3 at Gib Point most of the year.

### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

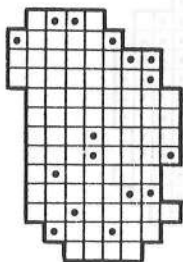
Scarce/fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Early winter roosts held up to 15 at Branston Booths in Jan-Feb and 6 at Hobhole (Fishtoft) in Jan-Mar. Others in this period were singles at Saltfleetby and Withcall in Jan at Rippingale Fen in Feb. A well co-ordinated series in late Mar were probably passage birds: 1-2 at Gib Point from the 20th; 1 at Digby Fen on 23rd; 1 at Tetney on 24th; 2 at Chapel Pit on 24th. Other singles were at Gib Point in Apr, Jun and Jul, Marston STW in May, Metheringham Fen in Jun, Temple Wood in May, Swinderby Camp in May and Theddlethorpe in Jun. Successful breeding reports from Appleby Carrs, Laughton Forest, Messingham SQ and North Kelsey Moor (at least 12 juvs in total). Late year records: North Killingholme Pits 1 in Jul, 2 Oct-Nov, Caythorpe Heath 1 in Nov; Hobhole 1 Nov-Dec; Swallow 2 in Oct; Gib Point singles Sep-Nov.

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Rare/scarce resident and scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Small numbers Humber and Wash and inland in the south of the county. Present all year, but mostly Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec. A pair bred in the South Wash and reared 2 juvs.



Jan-Jun: Barton 1 in Mar; Deeping High Bank 1 in Mar; Dorrington Fen 1 in Feb; Frampton Marsh 1 in Feb-Apr; Gedney Marsh 1 in May; Holbeach Range/Welland Marsh 1-2 in Feb-Jun; Skidbrooke N End 1 in Mar; Kirtton Marsh 1 in Jun; Martin Fen 1 in Feb; Moulton Marsh NR 2 in Mar, 1 Jun; Pye's Hall 1 in Apr; Read's Island 2 in Mar; Saltfleet 1 in Feb-Mar; Tetney 2 in Mar, 1 in Apr; Gib Point up to 5 in Jan-Mar. Jul-Dec: Blankney Dales 1 in Oct; Crowle-Althorpe 1 in Dec; Deeping High Bank 1 in Dec; Grimsby Docks 1 in Oct; Hawthorpe 2 in Dec; Welland Marsh 1 ad and 2 juvs in Jul; Marston STW 1 in Oct; Martin Fen 1 in Nov; Pye's Hall 1 in Jul, 1 Oct-Nov; South Witham 1 in Nov; Tetney 1 in Dec; Whitton 1 in Oct, 2 in Dec; Winteringham 1 in Jul; Gib Point 1-3 Aug-Dec.

The map shows all 10km squares with records during the year.

### **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

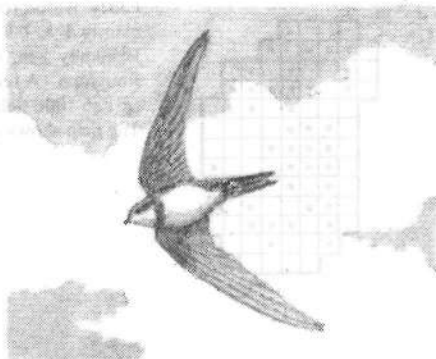
Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

First records were 2 at both Keb Wood and Laughton May 20th. Max numbers: Keb Wood 3 Jun; Scotton Common/Forest 3 May, 6 Jun, 8 Jul. Away from the NW the only record was a male at Pickworth's Plot, Doddington Jun 24th. Last report was of 3 at Laughton Common Aug 7th.

### **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* \*B

Vagrant.

One was seen at Skegness May 19th (KDu). Accepted by BBRC.



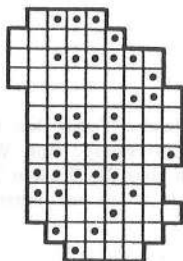
**Swift** *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Present from a new earliest date of Apr 17th (Barton) to Oct 12th (2 S Gib Point). Spring concentrations in May included 500 Barton 19th, 250 Blankney GC 28th, 200 S Frampton Marsh 19th, 400 Marston STW 18th and 1000 27th; strong southerly movements at Gib Point with 1200 19th, 3575 20th, 1400 29th and 1558 31st. No spectacular movements in mid-summer but good numbers at some coastal sites. Jun: 400 Tetney and 800 S Gib Point 10th, 1000 S Theddlethorpe and 500 S Gib Point 17th, 500 S Gib Point 28th; Jul: 800 S Gib Point 13th and 1000 Frampton Fen 27th, 400 Barton 2nd and 28th. In a long-running study at Helpringham 98 pulli were ringed in 8 houses.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.



Recorded from about 60 sites during the year, mainly 1-2, but 3 at Pyewipe (Grimsby) Aug-Sep. Breeding reported at Boultham Mere, Dunston and Tallington Lakes; also probable at Ancaster Pits and Messingham SQ. Coastal records: Buck Beck (Humberston) Sep-Oct, Dec; Tetney/North Cotes Jan, Aug-Sep, Dec; Donna Nook/Skidbrooke/Saltfleet 1-2 Oct; Theddlethorpe Apr; Gib Point Jan-Feb, Jul-Nov; Frampton Marsh Jan, Jul; Moulton Marsh Mar. The map shows all 10km squares with records during the year.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* \*b

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-Oct but occasionally to Dec. The only record was one at Donna Nook Oct 16th.

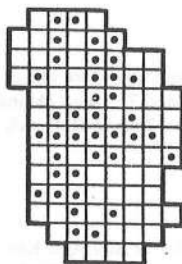
**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* \*b

Rare/scarce passage migrant Apr-May and Aug-Oct, mainly coastal.

First of the spring was one at Grasby Apr 17th, then in May singles at Gib Point 6-10th and Tetney Lock 9-29th. Only 2 in autumn at North Cotes Aug 26th and Gib Point Sep 25-29th.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

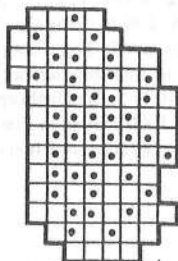
Fairly common resident and partial migrant.



Recorded from about 65 sites during the year, mainly in normal areas, with up to 4 at Kirkby Moor and 5 at Kirkby Pits. Unusual sites included 1 at Immingham Docks May, 1-2 at Covenham Res Apr-Jun and singles at Gib Point Apr and Aug-Dec. The map shows all 10km squares with records throughout the year.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.



Widespread records during the year from about 80 sites. Breeding reported at Bassingham, Boston, Boultham Mere, Metherringham, Moortown, Revesby Res, Scunthorpe, Temple Wood and Willingham Woods. Coastal records: Donna Nook Jan, Sep, Nov-Dec; Shep White's (Holbeach) Sep; Saltfleet Oct; Saltfleetby Sep-Oct; Skidbrooke Jan; Theddlethorpe Apr, Sep-Nov; Gib Point recorded all months, with 3 Jan and 2 Aug-Dec. The map shows all 10km squares with records during the year.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident.

Recorded from 18 sites during the year mainly in likely breeding areas: Bourne Woods Dec; Bradley Woods Jan-Feb, Jun; Keb Wood (Broughton) Jun; Burton Pits Apr; Culverthorpe Apr; Weelsby Woods (Grimsby) 2 Apr; Moor Farm Apr; Rigsby Wood 2 May; Roughton Moor Jun; Roxton Wood 2 Mar; Scunthorpe pair bred Apr-May; Skellingthorpe Woods Feb; Temple Wood Jun; Whisby Pits Feb; Gib Point Oct 24th, the only obvious wanderer.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* \*b

Scarce resident and passage migrant.

Early in the year passage birds at Gib Point: 1 S Feb 26th, 2 Mar 24th, 1 E 25th. No detailed breeding survey, but approx 10 pairs/territorial males in 3 areas: 7 in 2 areas of forest/heath in the NW and 2 Kirkby Moor, with 1 Moor Farm. Birds were recorded from late Feb to early Jul in the NW and Mar-Jun at Kirkby Moor/Moor Farm. The only other record was one at Donna Nook Sep 12-23rd.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Early winter concentrations in Jan included 1465 Saltfleet/Skidbrooke 14th, 1300 North Kelsey Moor 27th and 1200 Witham Mouth 28th. A census at Frampton Marsh revealed 80 breeding pairs in Jun. Main autumn passage Oct-early Nov noted at Barton and South Witham, with southerly movements in Oct at Gib Point 100 1st, 200 9th, 150 11th and 300 23rd. Late year flocks included 300 Leasingham Mill Nov, 300 Owmbly Dec, 300 Saltfleet/Skidbrooke Dec and 300 Witheringham Dec.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Exceptional inland.

Early in the year up to 10 at Donna Nook in Jan, with up to 6 Gib Point Jan-Apr where last of spring on 21st. In autumn from Oct 9th at Gib Point with up to 20 Oct, 41 Nov and 71 Dec. Donna Nook had up to 16 Nov and 20 Dec. A few on the Wash with 1 Butterwick Oct 20th, 2 Holbeach Marsh 27th and 1 Witham Mouth Nov 13th.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Present from Mar 25th (Sleaford) to Oct 21st (Gib Point). Spring peaks: Barton 800 Apr; Kirkby Pits 200 Apr; Boultham Mere 500 Apr, 200 May; Messingham SQ 250 May; Apex Pits (N Hykeham) 250 Apr; North Kelsey Moor 100 Apr; Toft Newton Res 155 May; Gib Point 100 Apr. Breeding colonies: Bardney Pits; Deeping St James area (600 pairs in 3 colonies); Kirkby Pits 1140 breeding holes in 4 main colonies; West Ashby 105 breeding holes; Witham on the Hill 12 pairs. Autumn roosts: Barton

10,000 Jul 31st, 5,000 Aug 1st; New Holland 12,000 Aug 17th; Goxhill 15,000 Aug 24th (record count); Whitton 5,000 Aug 17th. Southerly movements in Aug at Gib Point included 400 1st, 615 25th and 940 26th. Up to 500 were at Covenham Res in late Aug.

#### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

Present from Mar 13th (Ewerby Pond) to Nov 6th (Gib Point). Spring peaks: Barton 200 May; Boultham Mere 100 May; Covenham Res 300 May; Marston STW 200 May; Gib Point 2480 S May 29th. No large roosts reported, but strong southerly passage at Gib Point in Sep with 4500 27th and 1800 30th and also 1000 at Witham Mouth 15th.

#### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant, sometimes remaining to early winter.

Present from Apr 9th (Barton) to Oct 20th (Gib Point). Spring peaks: Barton 100 May; Boultham Mere 100 May; Covenham Res 200 May; Marston STW 300 May; Messingham SQ 150 May; Gib Point 3800 S May 29th. Southerly movement in Sep at Gib Point included 400 27th, 3000 30th, then 230 Oct 19th. In a long-running study of 19 colonies in 150km<sup>2</sup> in South Lincs, 304 breeding pairs were found, a density of 2.0pairs/km<sup>2</sup> and 16 pairs/colony.

#### **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Breeds locally, mainly in the western half on the county.

Present from Apr 14th (Barton Pits) to Oct 6th (Gib Point). A prolonged spring passage at Gib Point, regular in 2nd half Apr, max 9 S on 25th, then 1-3 May-early Jun. Other coastal records at Humberston Apr 24th, Donna Nook 1-2 25-26th, then 3 Cleethorpes and North Cotes May 19th. Inland records Apr-Jun mainly at breeding sites: Boultham Mere, 2 Keb Wood (Broughton), 2 Fulbeck Airfield, Grimsthorpe, 4 Laughton Forest, 2 Linwood Warren, Willingham Forest, 2 Twigmoor. In autumn 2 E Jul 25th at Gib Point, then fairly regular there from late Aug to early Oct max 7 S Sep 22nd and 10 S Oct 5th. Also 1 W at Barton Aug 31st and 1-2 at Donna Nook in late Sep and 1 Boultham Mere 21st.

#### **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mostly *A p pratensis* but migrants include *A p theresae* from Iceland.

Early winter concentrations of 100 Marston STW Jan and 60 Feb, with up to 50 at Frampton Marsh Feb. Spring passage fairly moderate with 50 at Barton and Gib Point Mar-Apr, 70 Ruskington Fen Mar, 100 Butterwick Hale Apr and 120 Apex Pits (N Hykeham) Apr. Main autumn passage in 2nd half Sep and early Oct with large scale movements at Gib Point: 1600 S Sep 28th, 4600 S 30th, 450 S Oct 1st. Elsewhere 300 Butterwick Marsh Sep 14th, 700 Witham Mouth 15th and 300 S there 28th. Numbers at Marston STW built up to 150 in Dec.

#### **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* \* (L)

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal.

Good numbers continued to winter from 1995 with up to 9 at Donna Nook and 1 Skidbrooke N End Jan; also 1-2 Marston STW Jan-Mar 2nd. In autumn singles at Gib Point Nov 2nd-late Dec (seen irregularly) and Pyewipe (Grimsby) Nov 5-28th. Others in Dec were singles Bardney Pits 11-29th, Baston Fen NR 25-29th with 2 Saltfleetby 15th.

#### **Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr; scarce inland.

Present to Apr 27th (Gib Point) and from Oct 2nd (Barton and Gib Point).

Early winter concentrations in Jan were 55 Tetney, 60 Gib Point and 11 Witham Mouth. In the Humber there were 15 East Halton Skitter early Mar. A bird of the Scandinavian race *A p littoralis* was found dead at Gib Point Mar 20th. In autumn up to 25 at Gib Point in Oct with some southerly

movements, then 80 S Nov 2nd and up to 75 present in Dec. At Barton a total of 30 flew W between Oct 2nd and Nov 2nd. Other concentrations included 15 Saltfleetby Oct, 30 Saltfleet Haven Nov, 70 Frampton Marsh Oct and 118 Nov. Inland records: Marston STW 1 Feb and Apr; 2 Coleby (Scunthorpe) Apr; 2 Covenham Res Apr; 1 Bardney Pits Oct; 4 Tattershall Pits Oct; 1 Toft Newton Res Oct.

#### Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Present from Mar 27th (Keelby) to Oct 13th (Saltfleetby). Good numbers reported in spring and autumn. Spring peaks: Bardney Pits 28 Apr; Butterwick Hale 35 May; Caythorpe Lake 50 Apr; Covenham Res 90 Apr; Grainthorpe 25 Apr; Holbeach Marsh 25 Apr; Kirton Marsh 34 May; Marston STW 140 May; Messingham SQ 25 May; North Cotes 80 Apr; Toft Newton Res 250 May; Whisby Pits 26 Apr; Gib Point 61 Apr (regular S passage mid Apr-end May). Autumn peaks: Bardney Pits 50 Aug; Covenham Res 200 Aug; Deeping High Bank 200 Aug; Frampton Marsh 40 Sep; Grainthorpe Haven 60 Sep; Pyewipe (Grimsby) 65 Aug; Marston STW 100 Aug; Nene Mouth 35 Aug. Shep White's (Holbeach) 60 Aug; Toft Newton Res 140 Aug; Whitton 40 Aug; Witham Mouth 30 Aug-Sep; Gib Point 66 Aug (regular S passage Aug-Sep).

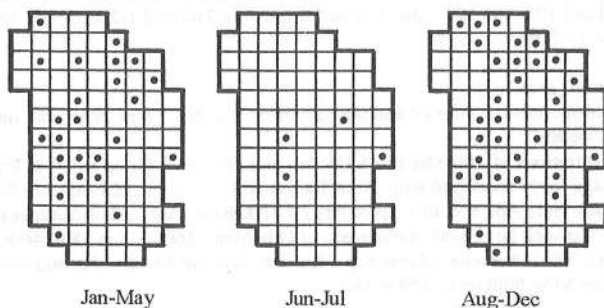
#### Blue-headed Wagtail *M fflava*

Small numbers mainly spring: Covenham Res 2 Apr 24th, 1 May 5th; North Kelsey Moor 1 Jun 12th; Potterhanworth 1 Apr 18th; Toft Newton Res 1-2 May; Marston STW 1 Aug 24th.

#### Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant (most marked on the coast) and winter visitor (mostly inland). Rare breeder, formerly sporadic but has become regular in the last few years.

Recorded from about 50 sites during the year with most in winter. Mainly 1-3, but 5 at Marston STW Mar and 6 Nov-Dec, 4 Saltfleetby Sep and 4 Gib Point Sep-Oct. Pairs bred successfully at Sleaford and Stockwith Mill. Maps show all 10km squares with records in the months indicated.



#### Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

*M a yarrelli*: common resident and passage migrant. *M a alba*: scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Covenham Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	50	25	35	-	-
Kirkby Pits	-	-	35	20	-	-	10	-	15	-	10	-
Marston STW	-	150	60	-	30	-	-	100	100	150	-	200
North Kelsey Moor	25	20	-	-	-	-	30	10	50	-	-	-
Sleaford STW	43	21	21	28	-	-	-	21	25	-	-	14
Toft Newton Res	-	-	23	-	26	-	42	65	90	-	-	-



Other large counts included 100 Bardney Pits Aug, 80 Ruskington Mar, 500 roosting Scunthorpe Steelworks (early winter), 160 roosting South Ferriby Cement Works Dec.

White Wagtail *M a alba*. Small numbers, mainly spring: Barton Apr; Boultham Mere Aug; Butterwick Marsh Mar; Covenham Res 1-2 Apr; Frampton Marsh Apr; Kirkby Pits Apr; Marston STW 1-3 Apr-May, Sep-Oct; Messingham SQ Apr-May; Skidbrooke N End May; Toft Newton Res 1-4 Apr-May, Gib Point 10 Mar, 2 Apr, 1 May.

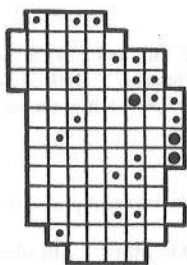
### Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, Oct-Apr, with one Jun record. Rare/scarse most winters but fairly common/ common during large-scale irruptions.

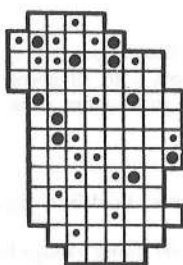
A few birds on the coast in early Jan were the forerunners of what was to become the largest invasion for many years. By the end of the month most birds were still in the east, but during Feb they became more widespread and peak numbers of over 1300 occurred. In Mar concentrations were in the west, with good numbers still in Grimsby. By Apr most had moved on although up to 100 remained in Scunthorpe. The last of the spring was at Gib Point on Apr 23rd. Largest counts in Jan were 70 at Louth and 61 at Gib Point (both on 31st) and at the latter site 31 flew S on 14th. In Feb there were 83 at Aylesby Meadows, c.200 at Grimsby, 70 at Healing, c.120 at Louth, 95 at Brigg, 75 at Scunthorpe, c.250 at Lincoln, 50 at Gainsborough, 145 at Gib Point and 60 at Boston. Numbers in Gainsborough increased to 170 in Mar and over 100 in Scunthorpe with 250 still in Lincoln. Surprisingly there were still 100 in Scunthorpe in mid-April and 26 in Lincoln, but few elsewhere. A more normal influx began in Nov with 1 Lincoln 4th, 9 Barton Pits 15th, 2 Metherringham 16th, 1 Gib Point 17th and 2 Grimsby 19th. Other in Dec were 1 Barton Pits 1st, 2 Gib Point 7th and 13 Scawby/Greetwell 30th.

Monthly Distribution	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	29	32	13	8	5	3
Minimum no. of birds	410	1352	645	163	15	16

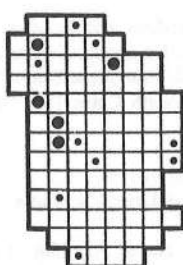
The maps show all 10km squares with records in each of the first four months of the year; large dots = 50+ birds.



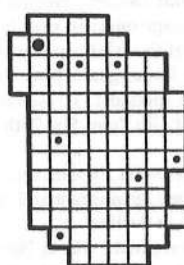
January



February



March



April

### Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	14	13	11	45	30	14	24	15	20	23	21	21

The peak count at Gib Point was on Apr 21st. Elsewhere there were 43 at Barton Oct 2nd. Poor breeding numbers reported at Theddlethorpe and Gib Point.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	14	12	19	54	32	19	14	15	68	90	41	13

Peak numbers at Gib Point were on Apr 21st, Sep 22nd and Oct 9th, with 19 S there 19th. Elsewhere there were 40 at Barton (Far Ings) Mar 9th. Fourteen breeding pairs at Theddlethorpe produced very few young.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	10	12	11	17	9	6	3	5	127	28	47	11

A passage of continental birds in late Sep peaked at 127 at Gib Point on 22nd, with 17 ringed at Theddlethorpe 24th. Elsewhere 39 were at Barton Oct 2nd and there was a late influx of 47 at Gib Point Nov 14th.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce/fairly common local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant away from breeding areas. Has declined recently.

First was a singing male at Gib Point Apr 20th. Breeding season records, singing males (or pairs where indicated) in brackets: Boultham Mere (1) May-Jun; Bourne Wood (1) May; Hatton Wood (1) May; Kirkby Moor Apr; Kirkby Pits Apr-May; Newell Wood (1 pr) May-Jun; Nocton May; North Rauceby May; Scrubbs Wood (4) Apr-Jun; South Witham (1 pr) May-Jun; Temple Wood (4) May-Jun; Theddlethorpe Dunes 3 ringed Apr-May, 1 singing to early Jun; Whisby Pits Apr-May. The only autumn records were singles at Gib Point Aug 30th and trapped Sep 7th.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* \*b

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-May and Aug-Oct.

A male of the white-spotted race *L. s. cyanecula* was at Cleethorpes (N) Apr 12-13th and another (or same) at Immingham 16th. In May singles at Donna Nook c.5th, Humberston (female) 17-18th and a male red-spotted *L. s. svecica* at North Cotes 19th. The only autumn record was an adult male red-spotted at Gib Point Sep 25th.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* \*b

Scarce passage migrant and rare and irregular winter visitor. Bred fairly regularly in recent period but currently in decline.

A wintering male was at Barrow Haven Feb 25th. A good spring passage late Mar-Apr: Ashbyville; Broadholme; Caistor; Cleethorpes (N); Donna Nook (1-3); Pyewipe (Grimsby); Huttoft Pit; Saltfleet (2); Saltfleet Haven; Saltfleetby (3); Skegness (2); Tetney RSPB; Gib Point (1-3, involving 9 different birds); Witham Mouth In summer an immature was at Grimsby Jul 2nd. Scarce in autumn with singles at Gib Point Sep 24th, Oct 14th; Pye's Hall Oct 14th; Donna Nook Oct 16th; Saltfleetby Oct 18th; Pyewipe Nov 7-10th; Covenham Res Nov 22-24th. The only Dec record was at Pyewipe on 15th.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Rare/very scarce summer visitor and scarce passage migrant in spring, fairly common/common in autumn.

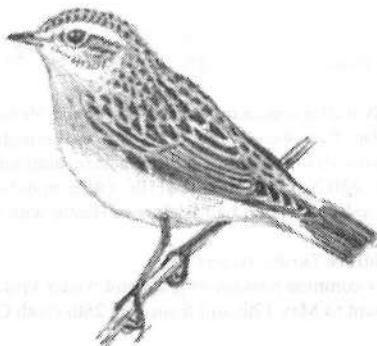
Present from Apr 6th (Saltfleetby) to Oct 10th (Theddlethorpe). Widespread in spring Apr-May, mainly 1-3: Barton; Boultham Mere; Donna Nook; Frampton Marsh; Grasby; Pye's Hall; Grimsthorpe (singing male); Humberston; Laughton (singing male); North Cotes; Saltfleetby;

Swinstead Valley; Theddlethorpe; Twigmoor (2 singing males); Willingham Woods; Gib Point (7). Autumn passage from late Aug with peak in mid Sep: Donna Nook (17, 23rd); Horseshoe Point – Pye's Hall (30, 21st); Saltfleetby 12, 24th; Skegness (10, 27th); Tetney-North Cotes (25, 22nd); Theddlethorpe (12 ringed 24th); Witham Mouth (12, 21st); Gib Point (70, 21st). Others included 1 Marston STW 1st, 1 Boultham Mere 4th; 2 Snipe Dales and 1 Barton 27th.

#### Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant and rare summer visitor.

First at Swallow Apr 3rd and last at Gib Point Oct 1st. Small numbers in spring mainly 1-3 Apr-May at Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, Pye's Hall, Holbeach Marsh, Marston STW, North Cotes, South Ferriby Cement Works, Toft Newton, RAF Waddington, Winterton, Swallow and Gib Point, where max 5 May 19th. More widespread in autumn from mid Jul at about 20 sites with peak in late Aug-early Sep: 6 Pye's Hall, 6 Holbeach Marsh, 5 Marston STW, 5 Saltfleet, 23 Gib Point.



#### Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

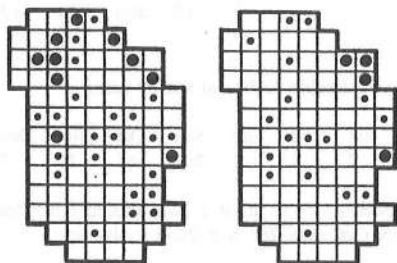
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr.

Present to May 6th (Gib Point) and from Sep 12th (RAF Waddington). Widespread records in the early part of the year, mainly 1-2 at Barrow Haven, Barton, Baston Fen NR, Cleethorpes CP, Deeping High Bank, Donna Nook, Fosdyke Wash, Frampton Marsh, Pyewipe (Grimsby), Holbeach Marsh, Marston STW, Moulton Marsh, Saltfleetby, Skegness, Snipe Dales, Spalding, Witham Mouth, Gib Point (3 different Mar). The bird at Skegness had been ringed in Cumbria the previous spring. Again 1-2 late year records at Barton, Baston Fen, Holbeach Range, Horseshoe Point, North Killingholme Haven, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, RAF Waddington and Gib Point.

#### Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Fairly common/common passage migrant.

First at Gib Point (Mar 16th) and last at Pye's Hall, Huttoft Bank and Welbourn Heath (Oct 26th). Recorded at about 70 sites reflecting passage on a broad front especially in spring.



Mar-Jun

Jul-Oct

Spring peaks: Ashbyville 13 Apr; Barton 12 Apr; Butterwick Hale 12 May; Cleethorpes (N) 30 Apr; Donna Nook 10 Apr; Grainthorpe Marsh 12 Apr; Pyewipe (Grimsby) 14 Apr; Hemswell Airfield 14 May; North Cotes 16 May; Risby Warren 53 Apr; RAF Waddington 30 Apr; Winterton Road (Scunthorpe) 10 Apr; Gib Point 13 May. Autumn peaks: Donna Nook 11 Sep; Pye's Hall 17 Sep; Humberston 27 Sep; Gib Point 21 Sep. A bird showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O o leucorhoa* at Tetney Marsh Oct 10th.

Large dots = 10+ birds

#### Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant Mar-May and Sep-Nov; rare and irregular in winter.

A wintering male was at Gib Point Jan 1-28th and a female at Frampton Feb 23rd. Mainly singles in spring at Deeping High Bank Mar 24th; Barton Apr 9th; Risby Warren 11th; Horkstow 14th; Pyewipe

(Grimsby) 15th; North Kelsey Moor 17th; Saltfleetby 21st and May 3-5th; North Cotes May 6th; Gib Point Apr 10-12th, up to 5 May 2-5th. Autumn: Skegness Sep 8th; Donna Nook Sep 23rd, 2 30th; Frampton Marsh Sep 23rd; Saltfleetby Sep 24-30th, Oct 20th; Theddlethorpe Sep 25th, Oct 27-28th; Gib Point from Sep 19-30th max 14 22nd, 1-3 Oct 20th to Nov 7th.

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	256	146	45	75	26	16	8	8	25	200	650	77

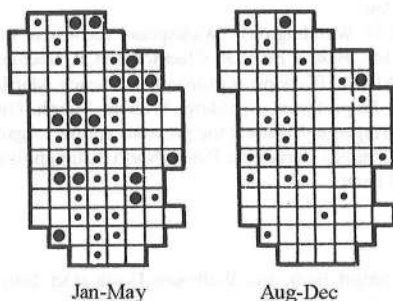
Early winter concentrations: Alkborough 50 Jan; Barton Pits 50 late Jan-early Mar; Greetwell Hollow 70 Jan; Pyewipe (Grimsby) 45 Jan; Metherringham 70 Jan; Metherringham Fen 50 Feb; Tetney 70 Jan; Whisby Pits several hundred Feb; Main autumn passage at Gib Point late Oct-early Nov, max 200 Oct 30th, 650 Nov 2nd and 600 11th. Other mid-Nov peaks included 100 Barton, 110 Winterton Carrs, 50 Horseshoe Point and 44 Welbourn Heath, with up to 90 at Alkborough in Dec.

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* \*b

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr; rare in summer.

Present to May 17th and from Aug 26th (both Gib Point).

Large numbers present in the early winter. Flocks of several hundred widespread Jan-Mar and several 4 fig counts: Barton 1000 Jan; Boston 1000 Jan; Covenham Res 1000 Jan; Grainsby 1000 Jan; Greetwell Hollow 1000 Feb; West Rasen 3000 Jan. Summed Jan peaks from 37 sites totalled 22,500. Relatively small numbers reported later in the year; peaks of 530 W Donna Nook and 400 W Gib Point Oct 30th, then 800 at Barton in Dec. Maps show all squares with records: large dots = 500+ birds.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	5000	60	13	70	1	1	12	400	54	12

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; considerable decline in last 10 years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	20	9	9	18	2	2	1	1	261	62	20	7

A lack of records reflects the present scarcity of the species. Up to 20 at Barton Pits in Jan. Peak passage of continental birds at Gib Point late Sep-early Oct, max 261 Sep 22nd. Also up to 15 at Theddlethorpe during this period.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* \*b

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr; rare in summer.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1058	35	23	1374	2	49	450	251	17

Early winter concentrations: Barton 300 Jan-Feb; Greetwell Hollow 400 Jan; RAF Scampton 200 Mar; Scawby Park 400 Mar; South Witham 200 Mar; Swanpool 200 Mar; Tetney 300 Jan; Gib Point 1058 S Jan 10th. A well marked passage in Apr: Gib Point 1300 S 9th, 480 S 10th, 250 S 16th; Saltfleetby St Peter 250 12th; Horkstow-Saxby 800 14th. Singles in summer were seen at Stapleford Jun 25th and trapped at Theddlethorpe Jul 2nd. Autumn passage from mid-Sep max 450 W Gib Point Oct 30th and 950 SW South Witham Nov 2nd. In Dec there were 600 at Barton 24th.

#### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	2	14	7	5	6	9	18	-	7	10	18	2

Peak counts during the year: RAF Waddington 40 Jun-Jul; Risby Warren 20 Jul; Deeping High Bank 30 Jul; Castle Bytham 20 Aug; Tattershall Pits 30 Aug; Barton 22 Sep; North Kelsey Moor 25 Sep; Kirkby Pits 25 Sep; Ancaster 21 Oct.

#### **Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* \*B

Vagrant.

A 1st-w was seen at Saltfleetby Sep 22nd (JRC, AR, ACS, GPC *et al*). Accepted by BBRC and the 2nd county record.

#### **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Scarce/fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Considerable decline in the last 20 years. Present from Apr 16th (2 Bourne Wood, 1 Humberston) to Sep 28th (1 trapped Gib Point). All records (mainly singles): Barton Apr-Jun; Baston Fen NR Jul; Bourne Wood 2 Apr; Burton Hills (nr Scunthorpe) Apr; Chapel Pit May; Donna Nook Apr-May (about 4 territories/pairs); Pyewipe (Grimsby) Apr, Jun-Jul; Humberston Apr; Marston 2 Jun; North Cotes 3 Apr, 1 May; Saltfleetby Jun-Aug; Saxby Carrs 2 singing Jul; Shep White's (Holbeach) Apr; Snipe Dales 2 Jul; South Ferriby Apr-Jul; Tetney May; Theddlethorpe 2 Apr, 1 singing Apr-Jun; Trent Port (Marton) Apr; Whisby Pits Jul; Winteringham Haven pair bred, ad + 2 juvs Jul; Wolla Bank Pit Apr; Gib Point Apr-May, 2 trapped Sep.

#### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Present from Apr 17th (Barton and Thurlby Fen NR) to Sep 23rd (Donna Nook and Gib Point). Spring peaks: Barton 11 Apr 20th; Baston Fen NR 70 Apr 27th; Whisby Pits 10 Apr 21st; Gib Point 11 May. In summer 29 territories on 3 km of R Witham at Fiskerton, then 30 at Marston STW Jul-Aug.

#### **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant in relatively low numbers.

Present from Apr 20th (Barton, Spalding and Gib Point) to Oct 5th (Gib Point). Few significant records received, but 6 singing in rape near Frampton Marsh early Jun and 6 territories on 3km of R. Witham at Fiskerton. In autumn 10 Aug 26th and 11 Sep 7th at Gib Point were the only double figure passage counts.

#### **Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* \*b

Rare passage migrant May-Oct, though mainly Aug-Sep; exceptional inland.

Three records at Gib Point in autumn, but possibly only 2 birds involved. One was trapped Aug 16th and a ringed bird was seen Sep 14th, with a different bird present 17th.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* \*B

Vagrant.

A 1st-w female was trapped at Theddlethorpe Sep 15th (MB). Accepted by BBRC and the 7th county record.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

Rare coastal passage migrant Aug-Dec, though mainly Aug-Sep.

Three records in Sep: 2 at Pye's Hall 6th, with 1 next day and 1 at Anderby Creek 18th.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant with noticeable increase in recent years.

Present from Apr 19th to Oct 2nd (both Gib Point). Spring peaks in May with 19 Barton 5th, 8 ringed Theddlethorpe 12th and 33 Gib Point 20th. A good breeding season at Gib Point where 15 pairs bred. In autumn max 10 Barton Aug and 43 Gib Point Sep 2nd. A bird showing characteristics of the Siberian race *S. c. blythi* at Donna Nook Sep 23rd.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter. Has recovered from a marked decline in late 1960s and early 1970s.

Present from Apr 15th (Gib Point) to Sep 28th (Gib Point and Marston STW). Spring peaks: Barton 12 Apr; Bassingham 10 pairs May; R Witham (Fiskerton) 10 territories along 3km; Holton-le-Clay old railway line 14 Apr; Horncastle-Kirkby Pits 13 singing Apr; Marston STW 20 May. A good breeding season on the coast, with 100 seen Gib Point May 12th and 107 breeding pairs; Theddlethorpe had about 43 breeding pairs, with over 40 birds trapped on several days in Jun, Jul and Aug. Autumn peaks of 58 Gib Point Aug and 20 Sep.

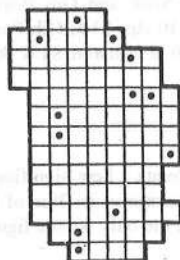
**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

Present from Apr 21st to Oct 26th (both Gib Point). Generally low numbers reported with 7 Aswarby May 31st and 8 Temple Wood Jun 10th. Peak autumn passage in Sep with 17 Gib Point 22nd, 7 Donna Nook and 5 Saltfleetby 23rd, 4 Theddlethorpe 24th.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce but increasing winter visitor Dec-Mar.



Jan-Feb

A good series of early winter records, mainly 1-2 in Jan-Feb from Barton, Boultham Mere, Hartsholme Park, Healing, Humberston, Lincoln, Little Bytham, Louth, Pinchbeck, Scunthorpe, Stamford, Theddlethorpe, Whisby, Gib Point (4). Other probable wintering birds in early Mar at Grimsby, Birchwood (Lincoln), Broadholme, North Hykeham, North Thoresby and Witham on the Hill. Generally small numbers reported in spring with 12 Twiggmoor Apr 28th, 12 Gib Point May 6th and 12 Barton 28th. In autumn a max of 18 Gib Point Sep 22nd. A few were still present at several sites in Nov, but the only Dec records were singles Barton, Grasby and Gib Point. Map shows all squares with Jan-Feb records.

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* \*L

Vagrant.

Two records in Nov at Gib Point 11th and Donna Nook 17th (NT).

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant Sep-Nov; exceptional inland.

Singles in Sep were at Tetney and Gib Point 24th, with possibly a different bird at the latter site 26-27th (locations about 1 mile apart).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. A scarce breeder to the early 20th century but no recent breeding records, despite some territorial males in recent years.

In spring singles in Apr at North Cotes 17th, Willingham Woods singing 23rd, Scunthorpe 25th, Tetney 27th, then 1 singing Barton Pits May 3-4th. Four autumn records at Gib Point Aug 2nd (trapped) and 30th, Sep 5th and 23rd (trapped).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Rare/scarce in winter.

The only early winter record was one at Gib Point Jan 14th. Generally small numbers reported in spring from mid Mar, max 9 Gib Point May 12th. In autumn 15 Donna Nook/Pye's Hall Sep 24th and 18 Gib Point 30th. A bird was still singing at Metheringham Sep 22nd. One showing characteristics of *P c abietinus* at Barton Nov 1st. Dec singles at Marston STW, Whisby Pits and Gib Point, where 1 trapped 15th showed characteristics of the Siberian race *P c tristis*.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

Present from Mar 27th (Atterby) to Oct 16th (Donna Nook). Spring peaks included 50 Barton Apr 20th, 67 Gib Point 21st, 20 Broughton Woods 28th, then 20 North Cotes May 6th. There was a record total of 42 breeding pairs at Gib Point and 25 pairs at South Witham. There was an early autumn count of 30 Barton Jul 28th, with the main peak of 150 at Gib Point Aug 27th. Another fall occurred in late Sep with 20 Grainthorpe Marsh and 12 Witham Mouth 21st, then 46 Gib Point and 20 Donna Nook 22nd.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	5	5	5	22	1	-	-	1	39	40	41	12

A poor year with no large flocks reported and not much coastal migration. The spring peak of 22 at Gib Point was on Apr 15th. In autumn, apart from the 40 at Gib Point late Sep-Nov, the only other double figure count was 20 at Tetney Sep 22nd.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus* \*b

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Occasional summer records and territorial behaviour, but no proof of breeding.

A good year with about 15 birds in spring and 10 in autumn. Spring: Belton Park singing male Mar 31st; Gib Point 1-3, Apr 8th to Jun 9th involving at least 10 birds; Moor Farm (Kirkby) Apr 13th; Saltfleetby Apr 17th; Donna Nook Apr 17th; Theddlethorpe May 25th. Autumn: Pye's Hall 1-2 Sep 20-23rd; Donna Nook Sep 21st; Tetney Sep 20th; Saltfleetby Sep 22nd; Gib Point 2 Sep 20-22nd, 1-2, Oct 12th-Nov 2nd. One was trapped at Donna Nook in Dec.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Present from Apr 19th (Branston) to Oct 1st (Gib Point). The Branston bird was a week earlier than the previous county earliest. Only small numbers reported with spring peaks of 8 Gib Point May 27th and in autumn 11 there Sep 23rd.



**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*

Rare passage migrant in May and Sep-Nov. Exceptional inland and very irregular in spring. Two records in Sep, both 1st-winters, at Donna Nook 20-23rd and Saltfleetby 22-23rd.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Passage migrant, mainly coastal; rare/scarse in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn.

Earliest at Weelsby Woods (Grimsby) Apr 23rd and latest at Skidbrooke N End Oct 14th. Other spring records in May: 1-2 regular Gib Point; Haverholme Park 13th; Barton Pits 18th; North Cotes 3 19th; Spalding 20th. An unseasonal record was one at Gib Point Jun 27th. Autumn passage from early Aug, max 10 Saltfleetby Sep 22nd, 39 Gib Point 21st. Smaller numbers recorded at 10 other coastal sites, with one inland at Sleaford Sep 30th.

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At Barton Pits up to 8 were seen Jan-Apr, with birds present in 5 areas at the beginning of the breeding season. A pair feeding young on May 12th was the only proof of breeding reported but about 6 pairs probably bred. In autumn numbers peaked at 39 Oct 2nd with 8 W on 12th. Only 6 were seen in Nov-Dec. At Gib Point a male was seen occasionally from Feb 1st-Mar 10th and later there were 2 Nov 8th. Up to 20 were present at Boultham Mere Oct 26th to the end of the year.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	15	8	7	9	4	2	1	1	10	20	26	7

Autumn peaks at Gib Point were on Oct 9th and Nov 20th. Other coastal flocks included 22 Tetney Lock Oct 5th and 15 Chapel Pit Nov 22nd. Elsewhere there were 35 Marston STW Oct 6th and 25 Ancaster Pits Nov 20th, with up to 20 at several other sites in autumn and winter.

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

Fairly common but local resident, mainly in the south-west.

All records were from usual sites in SW of the county. There were 3 pairs in Potterhanworth Wood with 8 in Oct. Otherwise 1-5 during the year at Alma Wood, Ancaster Pits, Belton Park, Bourne Wood, Denton Res, Hartsholme, Haverholme Park, Holywell, Marston, Metheringham, Nocton Fen, Nocton Hall Woods, Rauceby and Stenwith.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

Common and widespread resident.

Records from 20 sites during the year with 4-5 pairs at Barton in Apr. Singles at Gib Point in Aug and Sep and up to 5 elsewhere.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

Common resident and partial migrant.

At Gib Point 1-3 in Mar, Jul and Sep; more regular in Oct with 4 S 1st and 11 on 10th. Also in Oct 1-3 W at Barton during 1st half of month. Birds showing characteristics of the Continental race *P a ater* at Donna Nook Sep 22nd and Walcott 28th.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

Very common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	73	65	40	70	51	35	33	15	57	119	24	29

Peak at Gib Point in Oct on 9th included 51 S; also 69 S 1st and 30 S 19th. Elsewhere up to 40 at Barton in autumn, 40 at Bradley Woods in Feb and 50 at Whisby Pits in Dec. An average year at Theddlethorpe with 67 juvs trapped Jul 8th and 157 birds ringed during the year.

#### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

Very common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	32	29	30	35	35	7	21	10	45	30	17	19

Passage at Gib Point included 12 S Mar 28th, 30 S Oct 1st and 16 S 19th. Elsewhere up to 20 recorded from several sites, but good numbers at Theddlethorpe; 29 juvs trapped Jul 8th and a record 103 birds ringed during the year.

#### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Scarce/fairly common local resident, mainly in the south-west with occasional records elsewhere.

Records from the main SW area: Ancaster Pit Jul; Belton Park up to 6 spring; Blankney sings Apr, Dec; Bourne Woods 1 pair Oct-Dec; Grimsthorpe Park 2 pairs; Haverholme Park 1-3 all year; Holywell 1 pair; Metheringham 1 Aug; Nocton Hall 1-2 Jan-Mar; Sleaford 1 Aug; Stenwith; Welbourn Heath 1 Aug; Signs of a slight northwards spread with 1 College Wood Jan; 1 Hatton Wood Jan; 1 Gosling's Corner Wood NR Aug; 1 Little Scrubbs Meadow Jun and up to 3 Riseholme Oct-Dec. In the north of the county 2 Holton le Moor Mar; 1 Scawby Park Mar; up to 3 Bradley Woods Jan-Feb and 3 Weesby Woods Apr.

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant. *C. familiaris* recorded 1947 and 1990.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	1

Other coastal records: Theddlethorpe 2 Aug. Elsewhere in Mar 10 Hartsholme and 10 singing Scawby Park, up to 4 Haverholme Park all year and 4 Normanby Park in Dec.

#### **Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* \*b

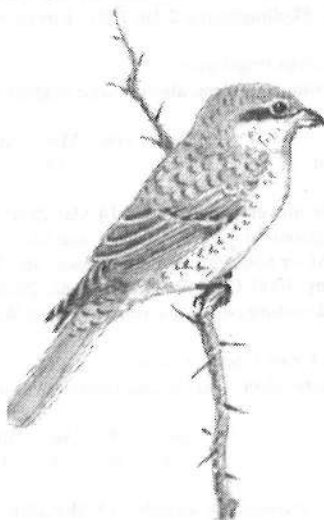
Rare migrant, mainly spring/early summer, but recorded Apr-Aug.

All records at Gib Point in spring and early summer with about 5 different birds. There was an early singing male on Apr 27th, then 3-4 birds in late May; an imm male with a female 26th, then adult males 28th and 30th. In June one singing 9th and probably the same 15th, when seen to be 1st-s male.

#### **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* \*b

Rare/scarce passage migrant, May-Jun and Jul-Oct; last bred 1978.

In spring a male at Gib Point May 19-20th, then another 30th and a female Tetney Jun 19th. A series of juvs in autumn beginning with 1 Theddlethorpe Sep 1-2nd, 1 Donna Nook 9-10th, 2 Saltfleetby 22-30th, then 1 to Oct 6th. Also 1 (not aged) Horseshoe Point Sep 22nd and 1 juv Skegness (North Shore) 27th.



**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Exceptional in summer.  
In Nov singles Saltfleetby 10th and Raithby (Spilsby) 14-15th.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

A coastal influx in Oct involved up to 20 different birds at Gib Point max 7 24th, with birds recorded from 11th to Nov 24th. Also 1-2 W at Barton on 4 days in Oct with singles Donna Nook 15th and 18th. 3 Saltfleet 19th and 1 Witham Mouth 20th. Also noted inland with 5 Saracen's Head 4th, 3 Kirkby Pits 2nd and 2 23rd, 6 SW at Marston 12th, 3 E Deeping St James 12th, 1 North Kelsey Moor 18th, 1 Kirton Holme 20th and 26th. Apart from these a max of 10 Hartsholme Mar, 10 Scrubb's Wood Mar and Aug. 20 Skellingthorpe Woods Feb.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	80	60	80	60	60	20	25	45	62	74	65	72

Other large counts at Scotterthorpe 80 Jan, 70 Dec, with up to 50 at Boultham Mere and 40 at Barton Pits.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	6	20	18	23	30	12	6	5	41	50	42	34

Spring movements included 11 N Mar 7th, 18 S 28th, 23 N Apr 25th and 10 N May 12th. In autumn 24 S Oct 19th. Large concentrations: Horsington 600 Jan, Kirkby Pits 300 Feb, Leasingham Mill 250 Aug. Roughton 400 Jan and Dec, Salmonby 400 Apr, Scrivelsby 2000 Oct.

*C m monedula*: Birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race at North Hykeham Tip 1-2 Jan-Mar, Skellingthorpe 2 Jan 25th. Kirkby Pits 1 Aug 18th and Barton 1 Nov 17th.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	-	-	14	15	3	12	-	-	42	19	3	-

Southerly movements included 14 Mar 28th, 13 Apr 17th, 15 Apr 25th and 42 Sep 30th. Maximum concentrations: Foston 1500 early and late winters, Horsington 500 Jan, Kirkby Pits 700 Aug, North Kelsey Moor 600 Aug, Rauceby Heath 500 Nov, Roughton 1200 Jan, 700 Dec, Salmonby 800 Apr, Scrivelsby 3000 Oct, Welbourn Heath 2000 Nov. Breeding season survey, see paper this issue. Reported nesting on pylons near Horkstow Wood and in the Eagle/Doddington area.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	13	22	16	39	15	16	4	4	25	35	16	21

Southerly movements included 15 Mar 28th, 17 Apr 8th, 29 24th, 28 25th, 12 May 4th and 25 Sep 30th. Concentrations included 32 New Holland Jan, 28 North Cleethorpes Mar and 45 Toft Newton Sep. *C c cornix* (Hooded Crow): Only record, 1 S at Baston Fen Nov 3rd.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	374	7	400	300	100	1000	200	1	300	395	1000	500

Peak movements included 395 W Oct 23rd, 1000 S Nov 2nd and 500 S Dec 16th. At other sites 960 W at Barton Oct 11th, 2000 SW at Tetney 23rd and 1000 NW at Witham Mouth Nov 9th. Large concentrations included 5000 roosting at Barton Jul, 2000 at Kirton Holme Jul and 300 Leadenham Tip Dec.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

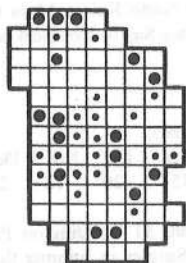
Very common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	10	8	9	11	13	9	7	6	20	65	15	12

Southerly movements at Gib Point in autumn included 20 Sep 30th, 65 Oct 1st and 21 19th. Few large concentrations reported, but 150 Revesby Aug and 380 on stubble at Barton Sep.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Common resident.



Widespread records of mainly small numbers. Breeding reports from several sites, but only a few pairs at each. Somewhat scarce on the coast with little or no passage. Flock sizes in spring, autumn and winter generally moderate with a maximum of 120 Frampton Marsh in Mar. Map shows all squares with records reported in 1996. Large dots = 25+ birds.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	50	27	316	70	400	37	15	6	56	85	95	31

Spring passage included 316 S Mar 28th and 400 S May 29th. In autumn 65 S Oct 20th, 70 S Nov 2nd and 85 S 14th. Elsewhere westerly passage in Oct at Barton included 70 11th and 99 12th. In the early winter large flocks included 100 Blankney Barff Feb, 200 Laughton Mar, 100 Metheringham Fen Mar, 100 Rigsby (Alford) Mar, 150 Swallow Feb and 100 Wellingore Heath Mar. Later in the year there were 120 Binbrook Dec, 100 North Kelsey Moor Dec and 132 Welbourn Heath Dec.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* \*b

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer.

Present to May 20th (Gib Point) and from Sep 20th (Donna Nook and Theddlethorpe). In the early part of the year generally small numbers fairly widespread. Max: Riseholme 60 Apr, Roughton 20 Feb, Saltfleet 30 Jan, Scawby Park 70 Mar, Wellingore Heath 112 Mar, Welton le Wold 22 Mar. In autumn passage in Oct included 56 S at Gib Point 9th, 17 S 20th and 10 SW South Witham 16th. Only small numbers later in the year.

**Serín** *Serinus serinus* \*(L)b

Vagrant.

A good year with 3 records. A female was at Gib Point Apr 26th and a male in song there May 26th. Another male was at Riseholme May 24th to Jun 2nd.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	85	31	39	55	6	5	3	2	16	80	27	28

Early winter concentrations included 150 Deeping High Bank Jan and 100 Scrubbs Wood Jan. Spring movements at Gib Point included 39 S Mar 28th and 40 N Apr 7th. In autumn there were 300 Sleaford GC Aug, 150 North Kelsey Moor Aug, 250 Swayfield Sep, 150 New Holland Sep, 200 Alkborough Oct, 200 Toft Oct, 80 S Gib Point Oct 11th, then 200 Binbrook Dec.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	15	2	24	70	39	8	10	5	96	120	45	30

Early in the year there were 200 Woodhall Spa GC Feb. There was a strong southerly passage at Gib Point in Apr max 70 25th and 69 27th. Autumn concentrations included 200 North Kelsey Moor Oct and 90 Baston Fen NR Nov. Strong southerly movements at Gib Point from late Sep to Nov peaked at 96 Sep 30th, 120 Oct 1st and 109 20th.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred sporadically in recent years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1	1	20	9	-	1	1	-	351	20	18	22

Small numbers in the early part of the year with 25 Willingham Woods Jan; 31 Doddington Park (Lincoln) Jan; 20 Boultham Mere Jan-Mar and 20 S at Gib Point Mar 29th. Singles in summer there Jun 26th and Jul 14th. A strong autumn passage in Sep: Gib Point 351 18th, 70 S 28th; Cleethorpes 25 19th; Louth (garden) 30 22nd; North Cotes 45 21st; South Witham 20 SW 21st. Flocks in Dec included 50 Boultham Mere, 40 Barton and 150 Whisby Pits.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	95	120	71	200	85	28	25	40	635	135	80	20

Southerly passage at Gib Point totalled over 1000 in the 2nd half of Apr max 200, 16th. Main autumn passage there in Sep with upto 150 on several days max 635 S 30th, then smaller numbers in Oct max 135 S 20th. Elsewhere flocks in excess of 100 fairly widespread: Blankney Barff 100 Feb, 100 Nov; Covenham Res 110 Oct; Donna Nook 200 Oct; Dunston Fen 100 Aug; Frampton Marsh 254 Jul, 100 Oct; Pyewipe (Grimsby) 350 Aug; Martin Fen 145 Dec; Metheringham Fen 500 Feb, 300 Mar, 100 Aug; New Holland 150 Aug, 200 Sep, North Cotes 180 N Apr 24th; North Kelsey Moor 150 Jun, 150 Aug, 200 Sep, Rowston 100 Aug; Saltfleetby 100 Jul; South Kyme 100 Feb; Timberland Fen 100 Dec; Welbourn Heath 155 Nov.

### **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly Sep-Apr. Scarce inland.

Present to Apr 27th (Gib Point) and from Oct 9th (Gib Point). Jan-Apr max: Butterwick Marsh 200 Mar; Frampton Marsh 73 Feb; Holbeach Marsh 100 Jan; Skidbrooke North End 41 Jan; Humberston Fitties 17 Jan; Moulton Marsh 150 Feb; Nenemouth 50 Jan; Saltfleet Haven 36 Mar; Saltfleetby 42 Feb; Sutton Bridge 5 Feb; Tetney Marsh 34 Jan; Winterton Tip (inland) 12 Apr; Witham Mouth 25 Jan; Gib Point 1 Apr. Oct-Dec max: Dona Nook 1 Nov; Frampton Marsh 80 Dec; Gedney Drove End 40 Nov; Holbeach Marsh 32 Dec; Horseshoe Point 100 Nov; Saltfleetby 12 Oct; Tetney Marsh 12 Nov; Witham 30 Oct; Gib Point 16 Oct.

### **Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Fairly common/common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	27	4	8	22	30	7	5	2	2	15	6	-

Max counts (25+): Boultham Mere 30 Dec; Grantham 40 Nov; Kirkby Moor 60 Jan; Laughton Forest 300 Jan, 150 Feb, 180 Mar, 25 Apr; Lincoln (south side) 30 Jan-Feb; Linwood Warren 50 Jan, 30 Mar; Manton 100 Mar; Messingham SQ 70 Nov; Whisby Pits 30 Feb.

*C. c. flammea* (Mealy Redpoll): Barton 6 Feb; Boston 1 Feb; Boultham Mere recorded Jan-Feb and Dec; Donna Nook 20 Feb, 1 Nov-Dec; Kirkby Moor several in mixed flock of 60 Jan; Laughton Forest 100 Jan; Lincoln 1 Jan; Tuetoos Wood (Laughton) 15 Mar; Morkery Woods 20 Jan; Pinchbeck 2 Jan-Feb; Saltfleetby 4 Feb; Gib Point 5 Jan, 1 Mar; Witham Mouth 6 Apr.

### **Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni* \*B

Vagrant.

Birds involved in the invasion in late 1995 continued into 1996 with a few new ones found. Accepted records: Swanholme Park (Lincoln) 2 from 1995 present to Jan 6th (DMJ, PP); Gib Point Jan 14-15th (MRB, KMW). Barton Feb 19th (GPC, ND); Laughton Forest Mar 5th (GPC).

### **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce/fairly common irruptive passage migrant and visitor mainly Jun-Apr, occasionally all year. All records at Gib Point with singles Jun 1st and 19th and 5 E 15th, then 10 Dec 8th.

### **Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* \*Lb

Vagrant.

A 1st S male was singing at Gib Point May 28th.

### **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

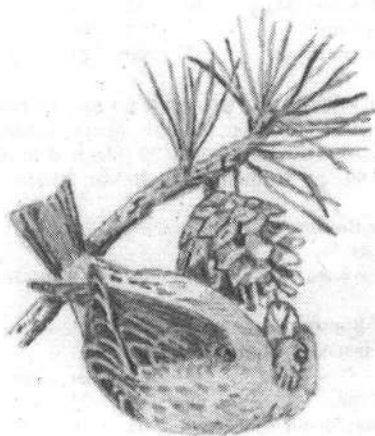
Common resident. *P. p. pyrrhula* rare autumn vagrant.

The largest numbers reported were 10 Great Scrubbs Wood Feb, 12 Whisby Pits Feb, with 10 there Dec and 11 Woodhall Spa Apr.

### **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce local resident and rare passage migrant.

Two were seen at Conisholme Mar 1st, otherwise all records at Scawby Park, with up to 5 in Mar (including a singing male) and 1 Dec.



**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Very rare inland.

Present to Mar 30th (4 Butterwick Marsh) and from Oct 9th (3 Gib Point). Very scarce both winters. Jan-Mar: Frampton Marsh 1-3 Feb-Mar; Holbeach Marsh 1 Jan; Moulton Marsh 2 Feb; Saltfleetby 1 Mar; Tetney Marsh 4 Jan, 2 Feb. Oct-Dec: Barton 1 Oct; Frampton Marsh 3 Oct, 7 Nov, 3 Dec; Skidbrooke North End 1 Dec; Witham Mouth 3 Nov, 1 Dec; Gib Point 1-3 Oct-Dec.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Fairly common/common winter visitor and passage migrant on coast. Scarce but fairly regular inland. Present to Mar 24th (Tetney Marsh and Gib Point) and from Oct 2nd (Gib Point).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	16	-	2	2	42	4
Donna Nook	31	-	-	-	45	3
Saltfleet Haven/Saltfleetby	30	18	4	-	60	1
Huttoft Bank	10	-	-	16	100	156
Gib Point	2	1	12	23	6	40

Other large flocks: Cleethorpes 50 Nov-Dec; Frampton Marsh 34 Dec; Pyewipe (Grimsby) 60 Nov-Dec; Immingham Docks 25 Nov; Kirtton Marsh 18 Feb; Witham Mouth 50 Nov, 25 Dec. Inland: Alkborough Flats 1 Dec; Bardney Ponds 1 Dec; Barton 1 Oct, 1 Dec; Burwell 1 Nov; Covenham Res 16 Nov; North Kelsey Moor 5 Dec; North Killingholme Haven 9 Nov, 1 Dec; Toft Newton Res up to 5 Nov-Dec.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	20	13	12	22	18	4	5	4	10	29	41	2
North Kelsey Moor	30	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
South Ferriby	-	-	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
Welbourn Heath	37	40	21	19	-	-	-	11	21	23	55	51

Other large flocks: Ackthorpe 60 Apr; Binbrook 60 Dec; Frampton 30 Mar; Greetwell Hollow 34 Feb; Hallington Top 30 Apr; Martin (Metheringham) 40 Mar; Metheringham 40 Dec; North Somercotes 30 Jan; Owmbly 70 Dec; Redhill (Goulceby) 40 Mar; Rigsby (Alford) 50 Mar; Sleaford STW 40 Apr; Stainton le Vale 50 Mar; Stickney 100 Mar; Swallow 60 Mar, 60 Dec.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* \*L

Vagrant.

Singles were seen at North Cotes Sep 19th (DJB) and Donna Nook 22nd (ACS, JAS, JRC).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	9	40	25	15	8	10	5	2	14	26	11	12
Witham Mouth	55	12	10	45	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other large flocks: Alkborough 60 Dec; Barton 42 Mar; Cleethorpes 40 Feb; Frampton Marsh 40 breeding pairs Jun; Gedney Drove End 33 Nov; Pyewipe-Immingham 24 singing males; Skellingthorpe 50 Feb; South Ferriby 30 Dec; Stickney 20 Mar; Tetney Marsh 24 Jan.



**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

Common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	90	45	72	53	13	-	-	1	1	7	6	52
Donna Nook	100	-	61	30	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	22	32	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-

Other large flocks: Baston Fen 200 Feb; Kirtan Lindsey Quarries 30 Mar; Moulton Marsh 30 Mar; Nocton Fen 32 Mar; Owmbly 200 Dec; Saltfleet Haven 40 Mar; Holbeach Marsh 40 Mar, 30 Apr; South Ferriby 31 May; Swallow 60 Jan; Tydd Gote 30 Dec; Welbourn Heath 50 May; Winteringham 34 Feb.

**Escapes, Feral and category D Species****Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

One was at Boultham Mere Apr 24th.

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Several records in the early part of the year: Tallington Lakes, 2 Feb 2-3rd; Whisby Pits Mar 1st; Ashbyville Mar 28th, then Messingham SQ 29th and Scawby Park 31st; Gib Point 4 Mar 24th, then 1 to Apr 8th; Kirkby Pits 2 Apr 5th.

**Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* \*B

An adult male at Fishtoft May 4-13th (JMO, SK); probably an escape as fairly approachable and wearing a white darvic ring on right leg.

**Reeve's Pheasant** *Syrnaticus reevesii*

A female was present at Gib Point Sep 17th-end of year.

**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*

A male was seen at Manton Warren Sep 16th.

**Corrections to previous reports**

1994: Black Kite: 1 Boston Jun 4th accepted by BBRC; other 3 records rejected.

1994: Pratincole sp – rejected by BBRC

1995: Rose-coloured Starling; ad Chapel St Leonards Jun 18-20th – accepted by BBRC

## ACCOUNTS OF LINCOLNSHIRE RARITIES 1996

### WHITE-BILLED DIVER AT TATTERSHALL, FEBRUARY 29TH 1996

On February 29th I decided to visit Tattershall and Kirkby Pits. The day was sunny and mild and at the last moment I opted to make a slight detour where the road runs alongside the River Witham for several miles. At around mid-day, about a mile before reaching Tattershall Bridge, I noticed a large diver underneath the nearside bank about 10 metres below the car. I immediately had a closer look through my binoculars, since the bird appeared to be a White-billed Diver. I could not believe my eyes – a White-billed Diver in Lincolnshire! I took notes and observed the bird for about an hour.

The bird was associating with a Black-throated Diver and I also realised that I had driven past two Slavonian Grebes about 200m upriver. After finishing my notes I telephoned Birdline Northeast, then went back to enjoy the bird. Unfortunately the bird died two days later, after being caught by a pike fisherman. This is the second Lincolnshire record, following one found dead in March 1976.



#### Head

Paler than Great Northern Diver, pale around the eye and also a pale area on the ear coverts. Generally darkish brown on the crown and down the back of the neck, gradually becoming paler towards the dirty white throat. Head and neck were paler than the upperparts, clearly contrasting with them.

Upperparts Generally darkish brown. Several white spots were visible on the scapulars, which would confirm that the bird was in adult winter plumage.

Underparts Whitish.

Bare parts Bill completely whitish-yellow with an obvious angle at the gonys on the lower mandible and usually held upturned in the manner of a Red-throated Diver. Legs greenish/grey and eye brownish/red.

Kevin Durose

### **LANCEOLATED WARBLER AT RIMAC, SEPTEMBER 22ND 1996**

At about 4.30 on the afternoon of Sunday September 22nd following an uneventful sea-watch at Rimac, John Clarkson, Andy Sims and Adrian Royle were walking back to the car park when they flushed a small, dark, grey-looking bird from the saltmarsh. It dived into cover but was soon flushed again and seen to be a small *Locustella* warbler but, frustratingly, only in flight. After being flushed five times however, the bird obliged by behaving in an increasingly confiding manner, eventually allowing approach to within a few feet as it fed in the short vegetation.

As soon as the salient features had been noted – its small size, heavily streaked upperparts, dark-centred tertials with narrow pale fringes, streaking on throat and breast forming a well-defined gorget, and whitish, finely-streaked undertail coverts, - JRC ran to inform other birders and pass the message to the bird information lines. By dusk about 30 birders had made it to Rimac to see the bird creeping mouse-like on the marsh. It was not seen the following day.

This was only the second Lincolnshire record, the first being in 1909. The finders were appropriately astonished, especially AR, for whom it was a lifer, as they were nowhere near Fair Isle or a mist net. This rounded off a fine day for ACS who had found a Little Bunting at Donna Nook in the morning, itself only the fifth county record.

J R Clarkson

The following notes, from the description submitted to BBRC, are provided to expand the above account.

- Size** A small bird with a neater, more compact, shorter-tailed and streamlined appearance than a Grasshopper Warbler.
- Head** Bill was fine and sharply pointed with a distinct downward curve to the pale tip of the dark horn upper mandible. Lower mandible pale dull yellowish with dark underside to tip. There was an obvious dark loreal triangle from the gape back to the eye. The large eye appeared all dark and was made more prominent by a clean whitish eye ring, broken before and behind the eye. Ear coverts a fairly uniform mousy brown; crown brown, tone depending on the light and surrounding vegetation but slightly ruddy at times, marked with lines of fairly heavy black streaks. The nape was greyer and although streaked darker the streaks were less obvious than on the crown and more especially the mantle.
- Upperparts** Mantle and back were often warm brown but sometimes appearing slightly olive brown with very heavy well-defined, continuous lines of black streaks running right down onto the rump. The black feather centres continued to the feather tips, giving a striped rather than a spotted pattern. Uppertail coverts were mousy brown with slightly darker shaft streaks. Tail feathers dark mousy brown, appearing greyer and rather short in flight. When fanned on landing the tip was typically very rounded. Individual tail feathers were pointed with pale tips. Scapulars had solid black centres with a buffish fringe. With the wing closed the greater coverts appeared brown with odd black vertical lines; when open the feathers could be seen to have a solid black central area sharply cut off from a brown fringe, the tip being blunt but slightly rounded. Tertiaries were solid black in the centre with a sharply demarcated narrow pale buffy fringe. The rest of the flight feathers were bunched at the tips giving a very rounded profile to the tip of the wing. Primary projection was about half the length of the tertiaries.
- Underparts** Chin whitish and unmarked. Throat and breast had an off-white ground colour becoming more buffish on the sides of the lower breast. The throat and breast to the bend of the wing were marked with pipit-like lines of blackish streaks. All the undertail coverts were creamy-buff with clear black drop-shaped centres.

Graham P Catley

# RINGING REPORT 1996

## MID-LINCS RINGING GROUP

### Introduction

The Mid-Lincs Ringing Group was founded in 1974 and consists of a number of enthusiastic ringers in the Market Rasen, Grimsby and Louth areas. We welcomed two new members this year, which also brought us access to coastal sites at Donna Nook and North Somercotes, a great asset in view of the likely extension of the caravan site at Saltfleet Haven. One new species was added to our totals with two Waxwings trapped at Immingham in February. Good numbers of nestlings were ringed, but both CES sites mirrored the national picture with very poor productivity. Autumn passage was equally poor although there was an influx of thrushes in November; as a result good numbers of Blackbirds were caught at Donna Nook and North Somercotes, whilst a small roost at the Walesby CES site resulted in a new record total of Redwings. With the recent departure of two ringers we were unable to continue ringing at Potterhanworth, but since the owner, Mrs Fiona Battle, was anxious for structured ringing to continue, we were able to arrange for Gordon Priestley from Ewerby to take over the site. Finally, Stuart Britton was elected to the R & M Committee this year, and will serve for the next four years.

### General Ringing Report

Totals of 3566 adults and 549 pulli of 58 species were ringed during the year. Despite different effort on various projects it is quite remarkable that the total is only 10 less than last year's, with exactly the same number of species! We tried to increase our effort in those listed as declining species but this proved difficult in either finding capture methods or locating the birds! At the beginning of the year visits to Chapel Hill Farm produced one catch of 23 Bullfinches in January but were otherwise unproductive, with very few finches. Winter garden ringing yielded the usual Starlings and Greenfinches but Siskins were totally absent this spring. After last year's record total only 10 were ringed by the Group, all in a Louth garden on Sep 22nd. Our owl boxes produced 3 broods of 3 Tawny Owls plus one singlet and a brood of 3 Barn Owls. Less effort was spent on tit boxes and this was reflected in a reduction in pullus totals of these species. More time was however devoted to finding warbler nests and this resulted in an increase in the ringing of nestling Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers.

The effort put into the coastal sites was not well rewarded due to the poor autumn passage, though Grasshopper Warblers in May and September and a December Firecrest were exceptional for us at Donna Nook. At the end of the year a flock of 20 Shore Larks were feeding on the shore line here, and colour rings were obtained from Gib Point in the hope of catching some in conjunction with their project.

## **CES Ringing**

### **1. Occupation Lane**

A very poor breeding season, with numbers of juveniles lower than any other year to date. The absence of young Lesser Whitethroats and the continued decline of Willow Warblers is a cause for concern, though the latter may be due to the change in surrounding habitat rather than a population decrease. This site continues to be good for Bullfinches, and Chiffchaffs had an excellent season, second only to Robins for the number of juveniles caught. On June 1st six members of the Group assembled at the site to celebrate the 100th consecutive CES visit. Unfortunately no-one told the birds it was a special occasion and 6 hours later we had only caught 18 - the lowest ever total, and somewhat disappointing! During the autumn we learned that the area is scheduled for thinning in 1997, though not until after the CES is finished, so we will be able to undertake another season. After the thinning we will assess the changes and decide whether the habitat has changed markedly, in which case we will re-register it as a new site.

### **2. Appleby Carr**

As elsewhere, this was a poor year for breeding birds with low totals across the board. Great Tits and Blue Tits increased, but this is mainly due to our introduced nest boxes. Willow Tits and particularly Whitethroats showed a dramatic decline in numbers, and although the site's most prolific species, Sedge Warbler, was caught in almost identical numbers this doesn't give the true picture; most birds trapped were adults, moving through the site early in the season. Very few juveniles were subsequently caught.

## **Sand Martins**

Visits were made to three colonies this year with very poor results. At Nettleton Top the sand quarry has been worked out; there were a few nests this year but the holes were inaccessible. Just one visit was made to West Ashby, but there were far fewer nest holes this year. It was also an exceptionally poor year at Moor Farm, Caistor, where only 19 Sand Martins were ringed and 9 re-trapped. The site has just about been worked out with only two small areas available for nest sites. The larger face contained about 30 nest holes and the smaller only nine. The site was visited on four occasions and there have been a lot of changes this year. Landscaping has taken place around the pond and although some sand faces have been created, on the last visit the whole face had collapsed and there was no sign of any nest holes. The fate of the birds occupying the face is unknown though there were very few birds flying around the site than in previous years. On a brighter note some suitable nesting sites have been created at Donington on Bain during recent work to extend the fishing lake. Although the scrub areas had reduced slightly because of this, the re-colonisation by Sand Martins of one of their original sites will be most welcome.

## Personnel

A ringers: Colin Smith, Stuart Britton, John Mawer; C ringers: Henry Whitehead, Martin Sizer, David Cullum, Steve Carter; Trainees: Donna Staples, Jeremy Robson; Helpers: Ian Smith, Phil Chapman, Robin Conybeare, Laura Smith, Caroline Carter and Cherry Cullum.

**Please note** that most of the ringing sites mentioned are private or have restricted access and the owners' permission is required to visit these sites

Stuart Britton  
Ringing Secretary

## THEDDLETHORPE DUNES

With the onset of a southerly airstream, Whitethroats and Willow Warblers arrived on our study site from mid-April, but our first netting session was not until the 21st when we caught 8 of the former and 6 of the latter species. In addition, an adult male Kingfisher was an unexpected catch and a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew north! A week later we caught the first of three male Nightingales, with the other two trapped in mid and late May. Though there was no evidence to confirm breeding this year, the first male was retrapped a fortnight after ringing and two Nightingales were singing against each other until early June. An early Reed Warbler was trapped on April 27th and the first Lesser Whitethroats were heard the same day. The weather then turned much colder, with strong easterly and then northerly, winds. However the migrants still came in and we ringed 74 warblers in three sessions in the first half of May, with a further 50 in the second half. It was apparent by this time that Whitethroats had arrived in good numbers but that Lesser Whitethroats were well down on the previous few years.



For the first time in our 15 years experience a Grasshopper Warbler held territory on our study site. We first heard one singing there on April 21st and trapped a male on May 21st. The bird continued to sing in the same place until the end of June, and we retrapped it on the 24th, but unfortunately we had no evidence to suggest successful breeding. The only other slightly unusual birds (for the site) ringed during May were single Redstart and Wheatear (probably of the Greenland race), 7 Garden Warblers, a Firecrest and 3 Spotted Flycatchers.



The first juveniles were trapped later in 1996 than in 1995; resident species by as much as 10-26 days and migrants by 4-8 days. Some juveniles were caught in much lower numbers (eg Wren and Blackcap) with not a single juvenile Bullfinch in 1996. The first juvenile Whitethroats appeared in the nets on June 26th - 22 of them! The first egg-laying must have been highly synchronised. Overall it was another good year for adult Whitethroats and early productivity was high, though after the first week of August, when numbers are often at their peak, the species seemed to desert the site. Blue Tits and Great Tits appeared to have had an excellent breeding season locally and capture rates for Chaffinches were at their highest ever.

We caught an adult male Long-eared Owl on June 24th, presumably a local bird, and a session on July 2nd produced an unexpected adult male Redwing, in full breeding condition. Had it been trying to breed somewhere in the county? The Constant Effort Site completed its 15th year, with the best adult catch for some years, but the lowest juvenile catch since 1991. As usual there were variations between species and not all followed this pattern, but adult Dunnock CES numbers for example were the highest since 1989, though juvenile numbers were only a third of the lowest total previously recorded in any year.

The first suggestion of autumn passage came on August 2nd, with a catch of 27 Whitethroats and 13 Willow Warblers to ring - some of them may have been 'dropped' by overcast and light drizzle at dawn. Several Pied Flycatchers arrived a week later, following a period of south-easterly winds, with two trapped on the 8th. We also ringed 38 Whitethroats and 10 Lesser Whitethroats that day, but it was to be the last good catch for a month. The first half of September brought strong north or north-easterly winds, and it was the 15th before netting was possible again. Numbers were disappointing - just 25 birds ringed - but included another unexpected arrival in a Subalpine Warbler, our second in just over 2 years.

The weather then turned more easterly, with high pressure over Scandinavia, and by the morning of September 20th there were quite a lot of continental birds on the study site, including Song Thrushes, Robins, a few Redstarts and Bramblings, some Goldcrests and a Pied Flycatcher or two. However almost continuous strong winds through the autumn restricted the number of days suitable for netting, and only two sessions were possible in October; one of these, on 23rd, did produce four Sparrowhawks, one of our best days ever for this species. One notable feature of the autumn was the scarcity of Goldcrests, very reminiscent of autumn 1986.

Our thanks go, once again, to English Nature and the Lincs Trust for allowing our studies to continue on the site.

Mike & Frances Boddy

## GIBRALTAR POINT

The total of over 3000 birds ringed in the year was the highest for over five years and the number of species (71) was one of the highest on record. Early in the year this total would have seemed unlikely, but in the end it resulted from a combination of regular ringing at winter feeding stations, the constant effort site in the West Dunes, nestbox studies, and migrant ringing in spring and autumn. Some of the highlights of the year are described below.

The first day of the year saw an immature male Ring Ouzel around the West Dunes which was caught and ringed on 2nd, then moved to the freshwater marsh for the rest of the month. Meanwhile a group of five Mealy Redpolls (one of them carrying a ring) frequented Buckthorn ringing area, joined by an Arctic Redpoll on 14th. The flock proved remarkably elusive but eventually three were trapped, though unfortunately not including either the Arctic or the ringed Mealy. Ringing at the feeder station provided Blackcap, Brambling and a single Bullfinch during the month, while in February a small flock of Tree Sparrows, plus further Bramblings, kept the team busy, though largely unsuccessful. Although never caught, a colour-ringed Stonechat gave good enough views to locate its origin, at Sellafield in Cumbria. Also colour-ringed (part of the Norfolk coast study) were the group of 12 Snow Buntings which appeared for one day on 3rd March.

After the hard (and worthwhile but not very rewarding!) stint on the CES through the summer, just rewards arrived with the autumn passage. The latter involved particularly Blackbird, Willow Warbler and Whitethroat, which were the top three species ringed in the year, but also included the first Wood Warbler of the year on 2nd August and an Icterine Warbler on 15th. A number of light falls in September provided a Nightingale and a good few Pied Flycatcher and Redstart, but despite all our best efforts, the Whinchats evaded us. So also did a ringed Icterine seen at Shovelers Pool in mid-September and giving rise to speculation that it might be the bird ringed a month earlier. Overall it was a good autumn for warblers, but there was a strong feeling that Gib had drawn the short straw by trapping a Grasshopper Warbler on the day that a Lanceolated Warbler materialised at Rimac, just 25 km to the north.

Although not contributing greatly to the total, the initiation of a colour-ringing scheme for Shore Larks is one of the most exciting projects undertaken here for some years.

Prior to 1996, only 85 Shore Larks had been ringed in Britain, from which there has been only one return. As a result of this year's scheme, 15 were colour-ringed in December, of which 11 were trapped with a similar number of Snow Buntings in the same net. The study will hopefully generate information concerning the turnover of birds at traditional wintering sites in the UK, movement between sites during the winter, migration routes along North Sea coasts and exact origins of our wintering population.

A W Paul, M Briggs

## BOSTON RINGERS ASSOCIATION

### INTRODUCTION

The Association is not an official 'group' under the BTO's definition of ringing groups, but merely a name under which to report the activities of certain South Lincs ringers (see 'Personnel' below). The group have certain priorities and objectives and individual ringers have a number of interesting projects. Some ringing of migrants is carried out during spring and autumn passage at our coastal site at Seacroft Golf course and other projects include woodland ringing, nestbox schemes (Kestrels, owls and tits), Swifts, Sand Martins, Canada Geese, Starlings, etc. Members are committed to the training of potential ringers and therefore general ringing is also carried out throughout the year.

### Review of the Year

In total, 4530 birds were ringed in Lincs during 1996, the highest ever in one year. (Totals and recoveries are included in the county report.) The year was also above average in diversity with 84 different species being ringed, though this is rather lower than the exceptional 100 species ringed in 1994. One new species – Waxwing – was added to the group's list (a welcome birthday present for AB), and four further new species were ringed on release after a period in care: Red-throated Diver, Kittiwake, Razorbill and Puffin.

Ringing highlights included a total of more than a hundred birds of prey, comprising 12 Sparrowhawks, 17 Kestrels, 54 Barn Owls and 30 Tawny Owls. The two sessions at Wyberton landfill site gave us our second highest total of Herring Gulls, and it was a record year for Swifts; nearly a hundred pulli were ringed at SK's Helpringham colony, with most of the remaining total of 227 flick-netted at Marston. Marston also accounted for doubling the group's grand total of House Martins, with 175 ringed there in the year, and for the new record total of 28 Yellow Wagtails. BH had a good year for Sand Martins, with nearly 400 at the Spalding colonies.

It was also a record year for Marsh Tit (20), Blue Tit (801) and Treecreeper (19). Among the finches it was also a record year for both Greenfinch and Goldfinch but sadly no Twite were ringed for the second successive year. Also on the down side some species have not been ringed for over 10 years, including Cuckoo, Nightjar, Wryneck and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. However, in terms of both numbers and diversity, 1996 was a very good year.

### Bourne Wood

A total of 848 birds of 24 species were ringed here during the year, although, as in previous years, this total includes some birds caught in Bob Sheppard's garden, just a few yards beyond the boundary. As usual, the majority of birds were caught between February and April at the southern end of the wood, in an area baited with seed and peanuts. About a hundred others were ringed as chicks, including one brood of Marsh

Tits, mainly in the nestboxes sited over a large area of the wood. Six Sparrowhawk and 11 Tawny Owl chicks were ringed in nests skilfully tracked down by Willie McLaughlin.

Very few birds were ringed during the summer and autumn, partly due to the low number of ringing visits but also reflecting the lower number of birds present. This apparent lack of residents, particularly scrub-nesting warblers, probably reflects the fact that as the more recently planted areas mature they become less favourable to many species.

### **Temple Wood**

The season resulted in 24 visits to the wood with a total of 463 birds, of 25 species ringed. The early part of the year was spent ringing at a feeding site, with the second and third quarters devoted to ringing migrants and breeding birds, including nestboxes.

Highlights of the year were 2 Sparrowhawks, a Fieldfare—a site first - and a Nuthatch retrapped 2 years to the day after ringing. The ringing area holds 6-8 pairs of Nightingales and this year two were ringed and 4 from earlier years were retrapped. Numbers of Blackcaps were up on previous years but other warblers were all down.

### **Seacroft Golf Course**

The total of just over 300 spring and autumn birds ringed was one of the lowest in recent years. As at other coastal sites catching is dependent on migration, particularly the weather patterns over northern Europe. This year the typical 'fall' conditions didn't occur and the result was a shortage of passage birds, though a spell in September resulted in a catch of 4 Redstarts and 6 Pied Flycatchers, the latter contributing to our record annual total of nine.

### **Gull-ringing at Wyberton**

Since 1987, 1-3 visits each year have been made to the Wyberton waste disposal site to cannon-net gulls; to date nearly 4000 have been ringed. The major species are Black-headed and Herring Gulls, with smaller numbers of Greater Black-backed, Common and Lesser Black-backed. This year over 500 gulls were caught during the first session in February with a smaller catch in November.

### **Personnel**

A ringer: Alan Ball; C ringers: Steve Keightley, Adrian Gardiner, Barry Hancock, Niven Vessey, Andrew Chick.

Acknowledgements and thanks are also due to Keith Bowden, Alison and Jeff Kew, Willie McLaughlin, Dave Mays, Mid-Lincs RG, Gordon Priestley and Bob Sheppard, and to various landowners for permission to ring on their sites.

Alan Ball, Niven Vessey

## TOTALS AND RECOVERIES

In total, 21 ringers or groups submitted totals in 1996, ringing between them 26,308 birds. Please note that the total given for 1996 in the table below is greater than the sum of full-grown birds (FG) plus pulli in certain species. This is because one ringer was unable to provide separate totals for these two groups, due to a hard-disk failure. The full total is a welcome increase on last year, and in fact the highest since 1993.

This year the table gives for each species, in addition to the 1996 and grand totals, the mean number ringed in the previous five years, 1991-95, for comparison. Three new species were added, albeit ringed after a period in care in each case. Other species totals of particular note this year are those for most of the owls, particularly Barn Owl; Yellow Wagtail, nearly doubling the previous grand total; and Waxwing, which blew the previous total out of the water! A number of 'common' species, such as Starling, unfortunately show the opposite trend.

### Lincolnshire Ringing Totals 1996

Species	FG	Pull	Total	Mean 91-95	Grand Total 1979-96
Red-throated Diver	1	0	1	-	1
Fulmar	1	0	1	<1	2
Gannet	1	0	1	<1	4
Grey Heron	1	13	14	14	576
Mute Swan	2	0	6	6	205
Canada Goose	25	5	30	35	335
Teal	1	0	1	5	85
Mallard	9	0	10	6	2089
Marsh Harrier	0	23	23	14	119
Sparrowhawk	38	10	48	53	462
Kestrel	4	45	49	42	662
Moorhen	5	0	5	15	195
Coot	7	0	7	2	479
Oystercatcher	776	1	777	461	8280
Little Ringed Plover	1	5	6	7	116
Ringed Plover	2	0	2	55	955
Golden Plover	23	0	23	6	68
Grey Plover	11	0	11	86	1668
Lapwing	7	66	73	37	384
Knot	117	0	117	491	6971
Sanderling	2	0	2	1	33
Little Stint	6	0	6	<1	20
Dunlin	1837	0	1837	1724	26806
Jack Snipe	3	0	3	6	66
Snipe	46	0	46	45	543
Woodcock	4	0	4	9	145
Black-tailed Godwit	101	0	101	36	290
Bar-tailed Godwit	320	0	320	92	2147
Whimbrel	3	0	3	7	43

Species	FG	Pull	Total	Mean 91-95	Grand Total 1979-96
Curlew	185	0	185	89	809
Redshank	80	0	80	57	1791
Green Sandpiper	1	0	1	3	37
Common Sandpiper	1	0	1	3	64
Turnstone	10	0	10	45	760
Black-headed Gull	258	350	608	291	6962
Common Gull	41	0	41	13	440
Herring Gull	294	0	294	137	1858
Great Black-backed Gull	48	0	48	19	319
Common Tern	0	99	99	88	1002
Kittiwake	1	0	1	1	8
Guillemot	8	0	8	1	14
Razorbill	1	0	1	-	4
Puffin	1	0	1	-	2
Stock Dove	3	15	18	8	436
Woodpigeon	20	3	23	25	547
Collared Dove	43	1	45	27	446
Turtle Dove	27	15	42	9	364
Cuckoo	2	0	2	2	143
Barn Owl	21	205	226	119	1189
Little Owl	2	6	8	4	84
Tawny Owl	9	76	85	28	401
Long-eared Owl	2	0	2	2	63
Nightjar	8	4	12	4	34
Swift	306	90	396	211	1898
Kingfisher	6	0	6	5	163
Green Woodpecker	7	0	7	1	30
Great Spotted Woodpecker	15	0	15	12	152
Skylark	1	0	1	33	2174
Shore Lark	15	0	15	<1	16
Sand Martin	606	0	945	636	8453
Swallow	215	33	248	268	17559
House Martin	724	23	747	572	5021
Tree Pipit	2	0	2	3	98
Meadow Pipit	65	13	78	117	1995
Yellow Wagtail	144	0	144	28	382
Grey Wagtail	7	19	26	1	20
Pied Wagtail	96	0	195	81	1187
Waxwing	48	0	48	<1	50
Wren	346	5	355	641	10725
Dunnock	742	11	757	1178	22662
Robin	563	23	592	854	14153
Nightingale	7	0	7	7	131
Black Redstart	2	0	2	2	22
Redstart	51	0	51	95	1131
Wheatear	12	0	12	9	187
Ring Ouzel	1	0	1	2	47
Blackbird	1605	51	1665	1861	39335
Fieldfare	97	0	97	16	1114
Song Thrush	227	13	242	353	10941
Redwing	259	0	260	153	4109
Mistle Thrush	18	8	26	18	371

Species	FG	Pull	Total	Mean 91-95	Grand Total 1979-96
Grasshopper Warbler	5	0	5	5	173
Sedge Warbler	128	0	128	72	3088
Reed Warbler	118	4	122	170	5330
Icterine Warbler	1	0	1	1	22
Subalpine Warbler	1	0	1	<1	3
Lesser Whitethroat	252	0	252	320	5301
Whitethroat	734	13	747	572	11896
Garden Warbler	140	0	141	138	2797
Blackcap	366	0	368	540	8845
Wood Warbler	2	0	2	2	41
Chiffchaff	138	12	150	154	2653
Willow Warbler	837	58	904	958	22915
Goldcrest	196	0	201	593	13341
Firecrest	8	0	8	2	111
Spotted Flycatcher	19	8	27	37	1059
Pied Flycatcher	59	0	59	40	737
Long-tailed Tit	380	0	395	384	5167
Marsh Tit	28	5	33	30	312
Willow Tit	52	0	53	51	1140
Coal Tit	183	15	219	161	2167
Blue Tit	2476	477	2972	2346	35756
Great Tit	1146	248	1427	1205	17423
Treecreeper	49	0	51	61	910
Jay	2	0	2	12	198
Maggpie	11	3	14	16	210
Jackdaw	5	61	66	52	391
Rook	5	8	39	49	1171
Carrion Crow	1	0	1	1	29
Starling	1066	0	1066	2014	34661
House Sparrow	275	4	279	319	6415
Tree Sparrow	44	19	63	71	5015
Chaffinch	1014	21	1038	786	10360
Brambling	26	0	26	31	1132
Greenfinch	2166	8	2176	2558	30446
Goldfinch	311	0	311	104	3201
Siskin	42	0	42	181	1193
Linnet	214	24	238	142	6569
Redpoll	32	0	32	123	6014
Bullfinch	181	0	182	211	5412
Snow Bunting	1	0	1	<1	61
Yellowhammer	72	0	73	72	3762
Reed Bunting	45	11	56	113	5038
Corn Bunting	1	28	29	18	381
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23439</b>	<b>2258</b>	<b>26308</b>	<b>26188</b>	<b>481806</b>

#### Notes

- The total for 1996 is greater than the sum of FG + pulli for certain species (and overall) since one ringer was unable to break down his figures in this way.
- The Grand Total 1979-96 is for all species ringed during this period, including those species not ringed in 1996. It also includes totals for ringing by two ringers between 1993-95 not previously reported.



## SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1996

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 recovery data on the second. Where given, distances and directions are approximate. Age when ringed is based on the 'Euring' code: the numbers do not represent age in years.

1 = Nestling or pullus

3 = Hatched during current year

4 = Hatched before current year, exact age unknown

5 = Hatched during previous calendar year

6 = Hatched more than one calendar year earlier, exact age unknown

8 = Hatched more than two calendar years earlier, exact age unknown

J = Still in juvenile plumage when trapped; M = male; F = female

v = 'controlled', ie trapped and released by a ringer

+ = shot or killed by man

x = found dead or dying.

### Oystercatcher

1	14.07.62	Holbeach	
v	08.09.75	Friskney	
v	20.08.82	Wrangle	
x	20.03.96	Morton Marsh, NORFOLK	67km ENE

3	24.09.72	Gib Point	
x	15.04.96	Borkum, Ostfriesische Inseln, GERMANY	424km E

1	17.06.95	Kval, Sandnes, Rogaland, NORWAY	
v	15.08.95	Wrangle	728km SSW

8	15.08.95	Wrangle	
vv	21.06.96	Skibotn, Storfjord, Troms, NORWAY	2102km NNE

### Knot

6	31.07.88	Wainfleet	
x	03.02.96	Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM	278km SE

### Dunlin

3M	30.09.92	Butterwick	
v	24.07.95	Tipperne, Jylland, DENMARK	616km ENE

4	19.09.93	Holbeach	
v	13.08.95	Kosakowo, Gdansk, POLAND	1225km E

### Bar-tailed Godwit

4	03.08.73	Friskney	
v	01.09.96	Wainfleet	Local

4	10.08.83	Wainfleet	
x	29.06.96	Fohr, Nordfriesische Inseln, GERMANY	566km ENE

4	22.04.94	Witsum Auf Fohr, Nordfriesische Inseln, GERMANY	
v	12.08.96	Wainfleet	563km WSW

**Curlew**

l	17.05.88	Gards Kopinge, Kristianstad, SWEDEN	
v	13.08.95	Holbeach	971km WSW
3M	19.09.93	Marston	
x	10.06.95	Oneshski, Archangel, USSR	2541km ENE

**Black-headed Gull**

6	23.01.88	Wyberton	
vv	27.03.96	Damhussoen, DENMARK	864km NE

Other birds ringed on the Wash were recovered in Norfolk and Kent.

**Herring Gull**

8	02.12.89	Wyberton	
x	06.09.96	Monster, NETHERLANDS	299km ESE

Four birds controlled on the Wash in 1996 had been ringed as pulli on the Isle of May (in 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1995). Other birds on the Wash had come from Grampian, Cleveland, Lancs and Essex; Wash-ringed birds were recovered in Norfolk (2), Fife, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland and Kent.

**Barn Owl**

4	24.08.85	Theddlethorpe Dunes	
x	18.02.96	Theddlethorpe Dunes	Local
4F	17.06.96	Bicker Fen	
x	03.11.96	Bowthorpe, Norwich, NORFOLK	102km ESE

**Blackbird**

3F	14.11.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes	
v	13.04.96	Gothenburg, SWEDEN	870km NE
4F	14.11.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes	
x	22.08.95	Uusimaa, FINLAND	1656km ENE
4F	22.10.92	Seacroft	
x	24.05.96	Ski, Akershus, NORWAY	978km NE
3F	24.09.94	Hvaler, Ostfold, NORWAY	
V	04.09.95	Theddlethorpe Dunes	910km SW

**Starling**

6M	07.02.87	Boston	
x	15.01.96	Lipuski, Rezekne, LATVIA	1802km ENE

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Anne Goodall, Neil Pyke

## REMAINING LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIES LIST

All species which have been recorded in Lincolnshire but not in 1996

Cory's Shearwater	3 records, last 1995	L	Laughing Gull	4 records, last 1984	B
Great Shearwater	10 records, last 1977	L	Sabine's Gull	last 1995	L
Balearic Shearwater	7 records, last 1989	L	Bonaparte's Gull	1 record in 1979	B
Storm Petrel	last 1994	L	Ring-billed Gull	3 records, last 1992	L
Little Bittern	9 records, last 1978	B	Gull-billed Tern	5 records, last 1978	B
Night Heron	10 records, last 1990	B	Caspian Tern	9 records, last 1992	B
Squacco Heron	2 records, 1861, 1910	B	Lesser Crested Tern	1 record in 1993	B
Cattle Egret	6 records, last 1992	B	Whiskered Tern	1 record in 1987	B
Great White Egret	2 records, 1979, 1993	B	Black Guillemot	11 records, last 1985	L
Purple Heron	22 records, last 1995	L	Pallas's Sandgrouse	last 1899	B
Black Stork	1 record in 1984	B	Ring-necked Parakeet	last 1994	
Glossy Ibis	6 records, last 1976	B	Great Spotted Cuckoo	2 records, 1971, 1974	B
Lesser White-fronted Goose	1 record in 1943	B	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2 records, 1978, 1987	B
Red-breasted Goose	3-4 records, last 1985	B	Scops Owl	1 record in 1977	B
Blue-winged Teal	5 records, last 1982	B	Snowy Owl	1 record in 1990-91	B
Ferruginous Duck	11 records, last 1981	B	Tengmalm's Owl	1 record in 1880	B
Lesser Scaup	1 record in 1995	B	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	1 record in 1989	B
Black Kite	6 records, last 1994	B	Bee-eater	21 records, last 1988	(L)
White-tailed Eagle	19 records, last 1990	L	Roller	6 records, last 1983	B
Golden Eagle	5 records, last 1927-28	L	Short-toed Lark	3 records, last 1991	L
Gyr Falcon	2 records, 1826, 1900	B	Red-rumped Swallow	9 records, last 1994	B
Black Grouse	last 1935	L	Richard's Pipit	last 1995	(L)
Little Crake	2 records, 1869, 1910	B	Tawny Pipit	7 records, last 1993	L
Corncrake	last 1992	Lb	Olive-backed Pipit	4 records, last 1992	B
Little Bustard	6 records, last 1955	B	Red-throated Pipit	2 records, 1977, 1992	B
Houbara Bustard	1 record in 1847	B	Citrine Wagtail	1 record in 1983	B
Great Bustard	last 1902	B	Dipper	last 1994	(L)
Black-winged Stilt	7 records, last 1993	B	Alpine Accentor	1 record in 1994	B
Cream-coloured Courser	1 record ca 1840	B	Rufous Bush Robin	1 record in 1963	B
Collared Pratincole	4 records, last 1981	B	Thrush Nightingale	5 records, last 1994	B
Greater Sand Plover	1 record in 1981	B	Red-flanked Bluetail	3 records, last 1988	B
Pacific Golden Plover	3 records, last 1994	B	Desert Wheatear	2 records, 1970, 1991	B
Sociable Plover	1 record in 1993	B	Celti's Warbler	4 records, last 1995	Lb
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1 record in 1966	B	Savi's Warbler	6 records, last 1992	Bb
White-rumped Sandpiper	9 records, last 1993	B	Aquatic Warbler	2 records, 1971, 1979	L
Baird's Sandpiper	3 records, last 1979	B	Blyth's Reed Warbler	1 record in 1991	B
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2 records, 1982, 1985	B	Marsh Warbler	16 records, last 1994	Lb
Broad-billed Sandpiper	7 records, last 1995	B	Great Reed Warbler	6 records, last 1990	B
Stilt Sandpiper	2 records, 1963, 1965	B	Booted Warbler	1 record in 1980	B
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	7 records, last 1995	L	Dartford Warbler	1 record in 1984	L
Great Snipe	c.24 records, last 1984	B	Sardinian Warbler	2 records, 1979, 1986	B
Long-billed Dowitcher	3 records, last 1986	B	Greenish Warbler	10 records, last 1984	B
Hudsonian Godwit	1 record in 1981	B	Arctic Warbler	8 records, last 1995	B
Marsh Sandpiper	3 records, last 1992	B	Radde's Warbler	4 records, last 1990	B
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 records, last 1990	B	Dusky Warbler	5 records, last 1990	B
Solitary Sandpiper	1 record in 1963	B	Penduline Tit	3 records, last 1994	B
Spotted Sandpiper	2 records, 1970, 1971	B	Isabelline Shrike	3 records, last 1990	B
Wilson's Phalarope	9 records, last 1987	B	Lesser Grey Shrike	4 records, last 1990	B
Red-necked Phalarope	last 1995	(L)	Woodchat Shrike	9 records, last 1995	(L)

Nutcracker	7 records, last 1976	B	White-throated Sparrow	1 record in 1992-93	B
Raven	last 1980	L	Pine Bunting	1 record in 1995	B
Rose-coloured Starling	10 records, last 1995	B	Cirl Bunting	4 records, last 1977	L
Two-barred Crossbill	1 record in 1889	B	Ortolan Bunting	31 records, last 1992	(L)
Parrot Crossbill	last 1995	Bb	Rustic Bunting	6 records, last 1994	B
American Redstart	1 record in 1982	B	Yellow-breasted Bunting	1 record in 1977	B
Northern Waterthrush	1 record in 1988	B	Black-headed Bunting	2 records, 1974, 1980	B

Keith Atkin

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