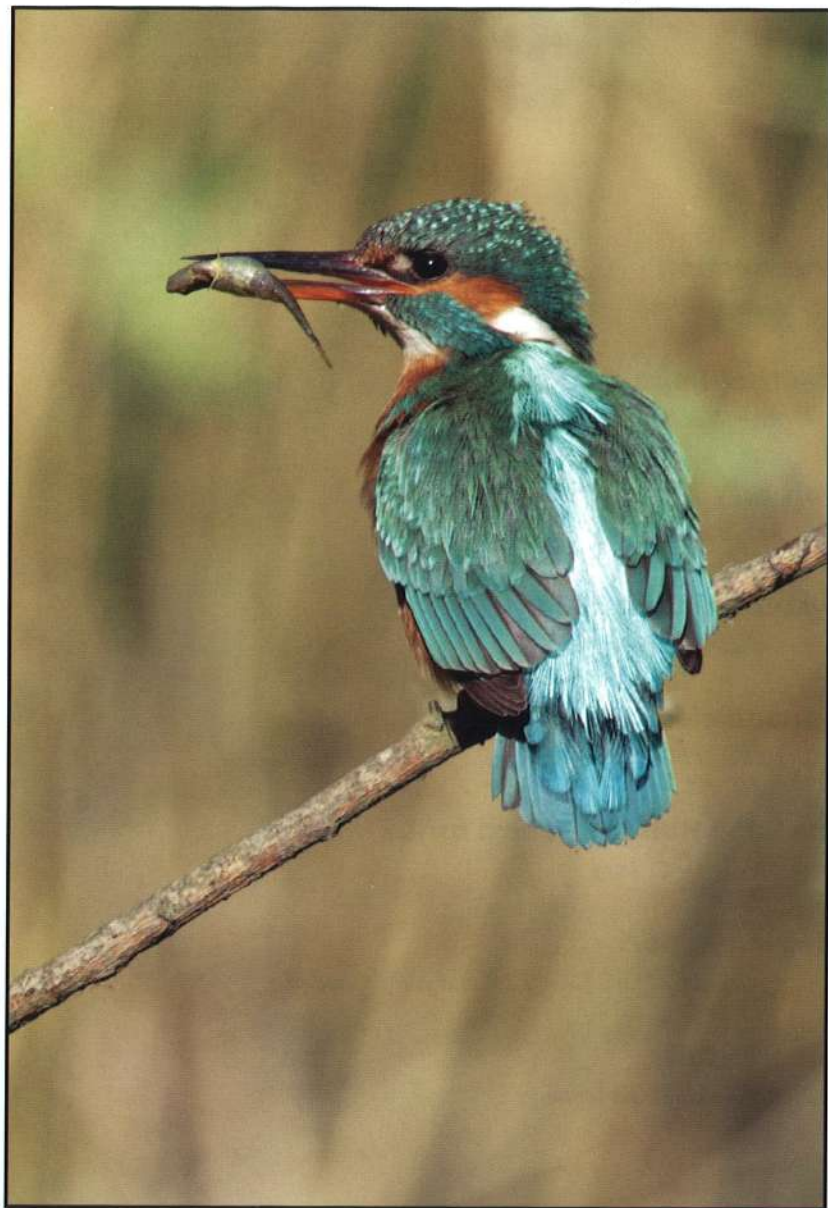


Welcome to the 2008 Bird Report



Kingfisher: Neil Smith



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**

www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk

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THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB

The club was inaugurated in September 1979 with the following aims:

- to encourage and further an interest in the bird life of the historic county of Lincolnshire
- to collect and publish information on bird movements and populations
- to encourage conservation of the wildlife of the county
- to provide sound information on which conservation policies can be based.

Joining the Lincolnshire Bird Club is a great way to make new birdwatching friends and contacts in Lincolnshire! If you are a "beginner", but keen to become actively involved in birding, you will find that learning about your county's wild birds - how, when and where to see them - is both easier and more enjoyable when undertaken in the company of our local enthusiasts. If you're already an active birdwatcher you can add another dimension to your birding by becoming involved in our varied local activities.

WHO are we?

All sorts of people are members, linked by their interest in birds and birdwatching in our county. Our membership covers a wide range of birding experience from the newest "beginner" to "expert". Everyone is welcome.

WHAT do we do?

Apart from providing a social forum for local birdwatchers we also

- organise our own surveys of bird species in Lincolnshire
- take part in national bird surveys and censuses, organised by national conservation bodies
- hold an annual slide show / lecture meeting on AGM evening
- provide a newsletter, Lincolnshire Bird News, at intervals through each year
- publish an annual Lincolnshire Bird Report, featuring the systematic list of birds, the county ringing report, reports on long and short-term surveys, Lincolnshire site annual reviews, plus other reports on our county's birds
- provide access to the Lincolnshire Bird Club forum - <http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/forum>

WHY not join us?

Yearly subscription runs from January to December, and includes entitlement to one FREE copy of the Lincolnshire Bird Report, free copies of Lincolnshire Bird News for one year. New subscriptions received after October 1st cover the following full calendar year. Even if you are unable to take an active part in our surveys your subscription would be put to valuable use in funding our fieldwork and in the publication of its results, both of which are important if we are to gain a better understanding of the fortunes of our county's wild bird populations.

Data Sources used in the 2008 Bird Report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2008 bird report.

Heronry Data. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Barrie Wilkinson for supplying data on breeding Grey Heron and Little Egret in Lincolnshire. This long running dataset is extremely important for the monitoring of herons in Lincolnshire, and we would encourage all bird club members to submit data to this survey.

WeBS Data. Data was supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) in association with The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org)

BirdTrack Data. Data supplied by BirdTrack has been used in the production of the 2008 bird report. BirdTrack provides free online bird recording software for Britain and Ireland and is being developed in a partnership between the BTO, RSPB and Birdwatch Ireland. All Lincolnshire records are available for download by the bird club. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdtrack.net>.

BirdGuides Data. Data supplied by BirdGuides Ltd has been used in the production of the 2008 bird report. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdguides.com/>.

Gibraltar Point Dataset. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Kev Wilson for supplying data from Gibraltar Point NNR.

Whisby Nature Park Dataset. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Grahame Hopwood for supplying data from Whisby Nature Park.

Ringling Report Data. We would like to thank the Boston Ringing Group, the Mid-Lincs Ringing Group, Wash Wader Group and the Birkland Ringing group for submitting their annual ringing reports. As well as Mark Grantham from the British Trust for Ornithology for submitting ringing recovery data used in the ringing report section.

RSPB. Breeding bird data from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserves at Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore and Tetney Marshes was used in the report, as was data from the RSPB Harrier Protection Scheme. <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Weather Data. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to RAF Waddington for supplying weather data for the 2008 bird report. With particular thanks to Garreth Boardman and Brian Eke.

We are also grateful to all individual members and non-members who have submitted data via the Lincolnshire Bird Club forum or direct to the county bird recorder. For a complete list of individual record contributors with reference to their initials used in the text, please refer to the list on page 146.

LBC Database Team

All records that are submitted on the LBC Forum and via the online records system are collated by Colin and Sheila Jennings. The amount of work that Colin and Sheila do in gathering these records is outstanding, and should not be underestimated. At the end of each month they produce a spreadsheet that contains all the bird records for that month. The spreadsheet is entered into the LBC database, which is maintained and administered by Janet Eastmead.

Contributing Authors

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2008 Lincolnshire Bird Club report. We are very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in volunteering to help produce future bird reports, please contact chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk.

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The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2008 Lincolnshire Bird Club report. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2008 and many are referred to in the text. All images are labeled with the photographer's name, their contact details are listed below.

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Bird recording system in Lincolnshire.

One of the roles of the Lincolnshire Bird Club is to produce a county bird report. The 2008 report is the first annual bird report to be produced by the Lincolnshire Bird Club since 1996. In order to produce the 2009 report quicker and smoother we have made a few changes to the recording system, in particular the introduction of an online rare bird verification system.

In order for the annual bird report to be robust and accurate we need to have a system that verifies all description species before they are included in the annual report. A list of description species can be downloaded from the Lincolnshire Bird Club website. Over the past year we have received a number of records from various online rare bird systems, and clearly not all these reports are accurate. It is therefore very important that we have a systematic approach to verification of ALL rare birds occurring in Lincolnshire prior to the production of the annual report.

The county bird recorder for Lincolnshire is Steve Keightley – recorder@lincsbirdclub.co.uk. The role of the county bird recorder is to collate reports of bird sightings, be they rarities, breeding birds or simply regular counts from one location. He also acts as a conduit for passing such records to other bird recording bodies, such as the British Birds Rarities Committee and Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Please bear in mind that the recorder (like everyone working for the Bird Club) is a volunteer, and often has a large number of correspondence to deal with.

Working closely with the bird recorder, is the Lincolnshire Rarities Committee consisting of the following members; Steve Keightley, Paul French, Steve Botham, Kevin Durose, Bill Sterling and Wayne Gillatt. All description species that occur in Lincolnshire are assessed by this team. A majority decision is required for any species to be accepted or rejected, and only accepted species are included in the annual LBC bird report.

In order to make the verification process a bit smoother an online system has been developed, the online system is administrated by Andrew Chick and Roy Harvey. Neither have any influence over the decision of the rarities panel.

To aid the county recorder and to hopefully speed up the process of gathering records of description species, a number of people have been approached to act as regional recorders. These are Grahame Hopwood (Lincoln Area), John Clarkson (Louth Area), John Harry (Tattershall and Coningsby Area), Wayne Gillatt (Scunthorpe Area), Kev Wilson (Gib Point) and Graham Catley (North Lincs Area). The role of the 'regional recorder' is to make sure the data that appear in the LBC database is correct so that the verification process can be undertaken as quickly as possible. The regional recorders have no influence over the decision of the rarities panel, but if they are unable to gather the required information and advise accordingly, it is unlikely that the record will be accepted.

The LBC Database and Gathering Records in General

We aim to have a complete and workable database for each year by the end of February the following year. This means that all description birds are verified by that date. We intend to publish a monthly list of species that occurred and require a description, allowing everyone the opportunity to submit their records.

Proof Reading the Lincolnshire Bird Club 2008 report

The bird club is very grateful to John Badley, Graham Catley and Steve Keightley for proof reading the 2008 bird report.

Thank you

The 2008 report has been a very steep learning curve for me, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who gave their free time, energy and resources to make it possible. I would particularly like to thank Paul French, Graham Catley, Steve Keightley, Neil Smith, Ian Nixon and John Badley for their valued input and comments at the final stage of its production.

Andrew Chick December 2009

WEATHER REPORT 2008

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to RAF Waddington for supplying weather data for the 2008 bird report. With particular thanks to Garreth Boardman and Brian Eke. All temperature, rainfall and sunshine hour measurements are taken from the meteorological station at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire NGR SK 985 649. (Key: kt = knots)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean Daily Max (°C)	8.8	8.9	9.1	11.7	17.9	18.4	21.2	20.7	17.2	13.3	8.9	5.5
Mean Night Min (°C)	4.4	2.1	2.9	4.1	8.4	10.7	12.5	13.5	10.5	7.0	5.1	1.6
Total Rainfall (mm)	96.6	17.2	61.6	51.0	41.2	514.5	105.4	60.4	81.6	43.6	72.1	31.0
Total Sunshine (hours)	52.3	125.2	120.4	133.7	210.0	173.3	174.7	116.8	111.9	130.5	60.2	69.5

January

January was a wet and windy month but also mild with total sunshine just below average. Rainfall was almost double the norm, most of this falling in the first three weeks and there were only six dry days. However, daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were again well up on the average by over 3°C. It was also a windy month, with 12 days giving gusts of 30kt or more and a gale occurred on the last day with a maximum gust of 46kt.

February

A dry, warm and sunny month. Average daily maximum temperatures were up 3°C on the norm, with night time minimum temperatures also up. The month was quite windy however, with eight days giving us gusting winds of over 30kt, and two days gusting into the 40kt's. The Rainfall total for the month was less than 50% of expected. A sunshine total of 125.2 hours was recorded.

March

Daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were around normal for March. However, rainfall totals were up around a third on the average, with a very wet day on the 15th. We also had some significant snowfall over Easter, with everyone waking up to a winter wonderland on Easter Sunday! The wind featured strongly throughout the month, with 12 days giving us gusts in excess of 30kt, three days of 40kt or more, and a whopping 54kt gust at the start of the month!

April

An average April with typical sunshine and showers. We had a particularly cool week starting around the middle of the month, but temperatures rallied during the final week, thus daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were pretty well spot on what is expected. Rainfall figures were up some 25% on the average, with more cloud and therefore less sunshine than expected.

May

Daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were up overall, around two degrees above normal. The month started off with average temperatures, then we had a nice warm spell from the 5th to the 12th with temperatures into the low to mid 20's °C, followed by a chilly spell from the 16th to the 20th with maximum daily temperatures of only 12 or 13°C. The monthly total rainfall was slightly down on the average, with it being mainly dry up until the 25th, followed by a very wet end to the month. The sunshine total was up a pleasant 10 hours on the average.

June

Daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were around the norm expected, except that we had slightly warmer nighttime minimum temperatures. Rainfall totals were up a small amount on the usual, with a very wet day on the 3rd. Sunshine totals were down almost 25 hours on the usual monthly total. The month was quite windy from the 18th onwards with many days having fresh, occasionally strong, south-westerly winds.

July

A wet month with temperatures slightly above the 50 year average. Sunshine hours were slightly below the norm with more sunnier days occurring in the latter half of July. Rainfall however was twice the July average with 65mm falling over just two days on the 11th and 31st – both thunderstorm events. Rainfall was recorded on 20 days during the month. It was interesting to note the wide temperature range between the lowest and the highest temperature, proving once again the variability of the British Summer!

August

Although daily average maximum and minimum temperatures worked out around the normal, most days had maximum temperatures only in the 18 – 21°C range, with a highest maximum for the month being only 23.4 °C. August was extremely cloudy giving us warmer nights but also a very low sunshine total. It was also very wet with rain on 23 of the available 31 days of August!

September

Daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were around the normal expected. Rainfall totals were well up on the average with a very wet first week and a dampish finale, but we did enjoy a dry spell from the 13th to the 20th. In association with this, sunshine totals were down almost 30 hours on the norm, this following on from a very dull August. However, on the plus side, the last two weekends of September provided us with some very pleasant Autumnal sunshine, and accompanied by light winds, made up a bit for such a poor summer!

October

Daily average temperatures by day and by night and rainfall totals were pretty well spot on the norm, as indeed were most other elements. However, the key to why October was such a pleasant feeling month was down to the sunshine – an extra 25 hours above the average – that occurred week after week on each Saturday and Sunday! It was somewhat unusual to have the weather turn fine and sunny as the weekend neared each week, but nonetheless it was a very welcome phenomenon!

November

Dull, dreary and drab for a lot of the month, particularly the first week, which only produced 0.2 hours of sunshine! Daily average maximum and minimum temperatures were around the norm, with the sunshine total a little bit down on the expected. However, the Rainfall total was well up on the average, with very wet days on the 1st, 8th, and 9th.

December

Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures were lower than usual. The month started cold, becoming average around the 16th, mild from the 18th to the 22nd and then becoming very cold as the month drew to an end. The maximum temperature on the 31st was only -1.5°C . Rainfall totals were well down on the average with no measurable precipitation from the 19th. A high sunshine total, up 20 hours on the norm, not too far from the record December high in 2001.

OBITUARY

Eric Simms: naturalist, ornithologist, author and conservationist

Born on August 24, 1921. He died on March 1, 2009, aged 87

An ornithologist, a naturalist and a prolific author, Eric Simms made a pioneering contribution to the art and science of wildlife observation and sound recording during his years at the BBC from the 1950s onwards, during which he made more than 7,000 radio broadcasts and several hundred television appearances.

He was also a busy author, notably of four titles in the celebrated Collins New Naturalist Series, including *British Warblers* (1985) and *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (1992) which have come to be regarded as collectors' items. Among his many accomplishments, Simms was that rare creature: an apologist for the feral pigeon, whose passage from the wild rock dove of sea cliffs to canny and omnivorous exploiter of urban conditions he celebrated in his quirky and interesting book *The Public Life of the Street Pigeon* (1976).

Simms was an indefatigable conservationist, both in London and out of it. When he retired with his wife Thelma to Lincolnshire in 1980 he soon found himself a worthwhile project in the discovery of an area of apparently unremarkable roadside verges and banks alongside the A1. Recognising its immense potential as an ecosystem, he worked on it for the next dozen years, clearing litter, digging out intrusive shrubs and encouraging the return of plants, and the visits of insects and birds. Many rare species were recorded on the site, including orchids, and there was a stunning display of native cowslips every spring. By 1992 it had been granted the status of a county nature reserve — the South Witham Nature Reserve.

Eric Simms was born in London in 1921, the son of the head gardener at the private gardens of Ladbroke Square. Educated at an LCC elementary school he won a scholarship to Latymer Upper School from where he went in 1939 to read history at Merton College, Oxford. The birdlife of London had fascinated him from an early age and continued to do so for the rest of his life. At Oxford he joined a bird-ringing project on Christ Church Meadow. But war soon claimed him. A keen University Air Squadron member as an undergraduate, he was called up into the RAF in 1941 and by 1943 was serving as a bomb aimer and second pilot in Lancasters, in which he flew 27 raids over Germany, including such heavily defended targets as Berlin, Mannheim and Frankfurt. In 1944 he was awarded the DFC, his citation praising his "skill and determination which have been an inspiration to the crews with which he flies".

After being demobbed he was a schoolmaster for several years in Warwickshire, where he also continued his studies in ornithology, serving on the research committee of the West Midland Bird Club and identifying a migration route across the county en route from the Wash to the Severn.

In 1951 the legendary German-born naturalist Ludwig Koch retired as the BBC's director of wildlife sound recordings and Simms succeeded him.

Over the next decade he produced a host of wildlife recordings, the first on magnetic tape, capturing the sounds of such birds as the stone curlew, peregrine and little-ringed plover, and animals such as the badger and even fish.

As the corporation's resident ornithologist he launched *The Countryside* in 1952, and it became a flagship programme, bringing the sounds of nature into Britain's homes in ever-greater clarity and with much more detail, as recording techniques developed. Simms presented it until 1990. He was also from the 1960s onwards involved with the BBC Schools Television Service for which he presented a number of natural history programmes. As a freelance from the late 1960s onwards, he continued to produce,

present and edit a wide range of programmes, among them Nature Notebook for the BBC World Service.

Simms had published his first book, *Bird Migrants*, in 1952; he became prolific from the 1970s onwards with *Woodland Birds* (1971) and *British Thrushes* (1978) — both for the New Naturalist series — *Birds of Town and Village* (1979) and *Natural History of Birds* (1983). His autobiography, *Birds of the Air*, appeared in 1976.

As a Londoner born and bred he was particularly interested in nature's coexistence with urban man. As an adult, family man and working Londoner, he had a home in Dollis Hill, where he made a particular study of the blackbird (whose song became one of his choices for *Desert Island Discs* when he was invited on to the programme)

He was also borough sites officer for the London Borough of Brent and a founder member of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group. When the Welsh Harp (Brent Reservoir), that ostensibly unprepossessing but in fact remarkable urban habitat alongside the North Circular Road, was under threat from development, he made a powerful speech at the public inquiry that made an important contribution to the success of the appeal against it. Today a wide variety of duck and other waterfowl winter on its waters, and snipe, lapwing, herons and egrets, besides a wide variety of passerines, can be enjoyed along its shores.

In retirement, besides tending his South Witham Nature Reserve, he continued with his studies of blackbirds, recording many fascinating variations in behaviour. He had a wide variety of interests outside the natural world, including aviation, architecture and music.

In 1981 he became Honorary President of the Lincolnshire Bird Club, a position he held till his death.

His wife, Thelma, whom he had married when she was an officer in the WAAF in 1943, died in 2001. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Eric Simms, DFC, naturalist and author, was born on August 24, 1921. He died on March 1, 2009, aged 87.

Obituary reproduced with permission from the Times Newspaper – March 21st 2009

Eric Simms was a true giant of the birding world.

Early on during the ten years that I was chairman of the Lincolnshire Bird Club I was tasked with the job of approaching Eric to be our Hon President.

He received me at his South Witham home, as he always did, with great enthusiasm. For several hours I would listen to him reminiscing about the great characters he had met and the marvellous birds he had seen. He had a wonderful ear for birdsong and his recordings, published before fancy equipment was available, were a joy to hear. His books were masterpieces. He considered it an honour to be asked to be our president. The photos that adorned his study/library were a who's who of the greats of natural history.

He once held a huge audience of bird club members spellbound. We had been expecting Dave Cotteridge to speak at our AGM, but unfortunately his car broke down. Without notes, Eric stood up from the audience, came to the front and spoke for one and a half hours. No slides, just a master of his craft at work. Then we had a question time! What a night....what a man! We shall not see his like again.

Those were the halcyon days of the Bird Club and it was a privilege to be the chairman and an honour to have Eric Simms as our president.

Bob Sheppard.
September 2009

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2008

Collated by Paul French

Key to Symbols

LBRC - Rare or scarce in Lincs: Full description required for consideration by the Lincolnshire Bird Club Records Committee.

RBBP - Nationally scarce breeding species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel; any breeding season sighting in suitable habitat should be reported to the County Recorder as soon as possible.

BBRC - National rarity: Description required for submission to British Birds Rarities Committee. Records in this category are never published in the annual report or input to the database if they have not been submitted to BBRC.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Site peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anwick Fen	54	79	-	51	2	1	18	39	37	24	8	24
Apex Pit	46	35	33	21	6	11	34	42	23	9	8	9
Barrow Haven area	67	81	67	31	156	-	-	166	127	73	36	112
Brayford Pool, Lincoln	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	57	48	39	22
Deeping Lakes NR	51	-	20	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	10
Kirkby on Bain GP	40	23	16	19	11	23	44	49	40	38	26	24
Messingham SQ	22	-	-	-	-	7	12	14	15	44	15	24
Metheringham Delph	82	51	47	-	34	4	4	10	23	15	83	70
New Holland	41	13	16	68	52	-	-	-	70	80	180	36
Nocton Fen	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	86
R. Welland (Spalding)	151	153	70	45	61	-	28	34	103	128	102	189
Tattershall Lakes CP	29	22	18	20	19	6	18	17	20	15	19	16

Under-recorded. Reported from approx 70 sites, with breeding reported from Anwick Fen, Barton, Billingham, Boultham Mere, Ewerby, Far Ings, Ruskington Fen and Pinchbeck. Large counts not in the table include 108 Branston Fen Jan 10th, 43 in Lincoln Jun 20th, 108 Far Ings Aug 11th, 37 Alkborough Flats Aug 26th, 53 Pinchbeck Slupe NR Oct 31st, 47 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Dec 7th, 30 Baston Fen Dec 21st and finally 80 Bardney Pits Dec 26th.

Tundra Swan (Bewick's Swan) *Cygnus columbianus*

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

Whistling Swan *C c columbianus*: Vagrant; first confirmed Lincolnshire record of this subspecies in 1998; BBRC.

During the first winter period, four were at Deeping High Bank Jan 5th, with two there Jan 12th-13th, four back again on Feb 5th and then back to the two Feb 10th. At Branston Fen/Bardney/Nocton Fen, a herd was present from Jan 9th-Feb 21st. Initially comprising 12 birds, it gradually increased to 18 on Jan 12th, then 29 on Jan 19th. Just 14 were left on the final date. Elsewhere, singles were at Langholme Wood Jan 12th and Frampton Fen Jan 17th, seven flew through Freiston Shore Feb 18th, one was at Sandilands/Huttoft Bank Pit Feb 16th-Mar 9th. A single was seen at Thoresby Bridge

Apr 16th. A poor showing in the autumn/winter with eight past Witham Mouth Nov 16th, five past Freiston Shore Nov 17th and five at Donna Nook Nov 19th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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

Wintering birds in Jan-Feb were reported from seven sites, with herds of 14 at New Holland until Mar 6th, seven at Nocton Fen increasing to 14 on Jan 28th, up to 38 in the Sandilands/Huttoft Bank Pit area (until Mar 13th), up to 21 at Deeping High Bank, 28 at Baston Fen Feb 28th, two at Appleby Carrs and North Kyme Fen Jan 12th. In Mar, migrants were noted heading north at several sites, as well as some lingering winter flocks. The breakdown is 15 Bagmoor/Winterton Floods 8th, four Fillingham Lake 9th, eight Frampton Marsh 9th, 46 Freiston Shore 11th, 170 Frampton Marsh 15th, 37 Cleethorpes 15th, 33 Baston-Langtoft GP 15th, 60 Bourne 16th, seven Barton 16th, 75 Little Hale (near Heckington) 17th, 15 Frampton Marsh 22nd, 110 Anwick Fen 27th, 100 Frampton Marsh 27th, 7 Freiston Shore 27th, 80 Ruskington 27th, 46 Covenham Res 27th-28th, 25 Frampton Marsh 28th, 20 Frampton Marsh 20th, nine Freiston Shore 30th, 72 Spalding Marsh 31st, seven Messingham SQ 31st, and six Freiston Shore 31st. One at Whisby NP Mar 18th was found in an exhausted state and was easily caught, and taken to Weirfield Wildlife Hospital. This bird had a coloured Darvic ring on its leg, and had been ringed in Iceland on Aug 21st 1995 as a full grown (3 years+) female. After recovering at Weirfield, the swan was brought back to Whisby and released on Jun 1st, but was not subsequently recorded. A few lingerers and late passage birds were noted in Apr, with 12 Apex Pit 4th, 28 Baumber and then Market Rasen Golf Course 2nd, nine Messingham SQ 2nd, 50 Worlaby Carrs 2nd, 40 Freiston Shore 8th, 13 Far Ings 12th and finally one Thoresby Bridge 16th. The first autumn migrants were four at Gib Point and singles at Huttoft Bank Pit, Mablethorpe and Messingham SQ Oct 4th. Passage was then reported from at least 26 sites, with the peak of sightings occurring from Oct 18th-Nov 16th. Sightings from the main sites were: Donna Nook; 15 Oct 19th, with 25 Oct 24th, 21 Oct 27th, 13 Nov 9th, 22 Nov 12th and one Nov 14th-Dec 30th, Freiston Shore; 1-6 Oct 5th-29th, 45 Nov 13th, Gib Point; 40 Oct 15th, 25 Oct 18th-19th, 49 Oct 27th, 33 Nov 11th (with near daily sightings of 1-20 throughout Oct-Dec), Saltfleet; 15 Oct 19th, 57 Oct 27th, 16 Nov 9th, 13 Nov 12th, Witham Mouth; 26 Nov 9th, 12 Nov 22nd and Wroot; 12 Oct 24th, 16 Oct 27th, 38 Oct 30th and 47 Nov 3rd. In Dec, there were 25 at Mogg's Eye 1st-5th, three Barrow Haven Pits 3rd, 23 Huttoft Bank Pit 6th with 26 there 29th, six Messingham SQ 7th, one Covenham Res 8th, one Freiston Shore 11th, 13 Thorpe 17th and finally three Donna Nook 31st.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Winter visitor, mainly coastal, Oct-Apr. Two races. A *f fabalis* ('Taiga' bean goose) is rare. A *f rossicus* ('Tundra' bean goose) is scarce.

A reasonably poor year with just six records. The only sighting in the first half of the year, possibly of a feral bird, was one with 12 Greylag Geese at Burgh le Marsh on May 21st. The remainder of the records were from Nov; two at Humberson Fitties on 6th, a *rossicus* at Saltfleet Haven from 8th to 10th, a *rossicus* at Read's Island/South Ferriby on 15th, two *rossicus* at Wingland Marsh near Sutton Bridge on 18th and one racially unspecified bird at Worlaby Carrs on 30th.



Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* Saltfleet Haven © Graham Catley, 9th November 2008

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common winter visitor Sep-Apr, mainly to the Humber and Wash, but many coastal and inland movements. A few injured/escaped birds occasional in summer; a female incubated an infertile clutch in 1975.

Up to seven birds summered at Freiston Shore. The first of the autumn were 15 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 18th.

Humber peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	850	-	58	-	-	-	-	-	700	350	-	-
Barton area	570	135	120	8	-	-	-	-	200	500	50	-
Reads Island area	2000	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	140	6200	1500	940
Tetney Marsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	740	380	-	-
The Wash												
Butterwick	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	2
Freiston Shore	250	2	2	8	7	7	4	-	10	-	-	4
Friskney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	89	-
Gedney	220	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1857	2085	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	60	220	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	400	-
Leverton	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	1	-
Terrington	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wainfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	98	-
Welland	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	30
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	210
Wash total	472	224	2	13	7	7	4	-	236	2420	2913	246
Other sites												
Donna Nook	320	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5300	-	480	80
Pye's Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2800	260	35	-
Risby Warren	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8000	430	500	-
Saltfleetby	2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	478	-	30	-
Whisby area	190	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	130	250	200	150
Worlabby Carrs	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	550	540	84

Note that most of the autumn counts away from the Humber relate to passage birds, not feeding birds. Other counts in excess of a thousand birds were; 1000 at Risby Warren on Jan 2nd, 1100 at Louth on Jan 28th, 1100 at RAF Waddington on Oct 12th, 1900 at Wingland Marsh on Nov 18th and 1650 Winteringham Dec 24th.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarcely winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasionally fairly common. Most *A. a. albifrons* with few *A. f. flavirostris* recorded.

No large flocks were recorded this year and only three occurrences were for more than a couple of days. One was at Alkborough Flats on Jan 2nd-3rd, three were at Deeping Lakes from Jan 3rd-5th, three were at Hagnaby Lock from Feb 1st-24th and an adult was at Baston-Langtoft Pits from Mar 29th-30th. Three (two adults and a juv) at Manby/Carlton Flashes on Nov 8th, a family party of six (two adults and four juveniles) was at Frampton Marsh from Nov 9th into 2009, one at Gib Point on Nov 9th, one at Tattershall Lakes CP on Nov 18th and one at Whitton Sands on Dec 24th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Formerly a common resident in the Fens up to about 1800. Feral population established in the 1950s with rapid expansion and now common. Wild birds present (scarce) Sep-Apr, but difficult to detect.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats area	1000	-	18	-	-	212	500	1100	1200	1200	20	-
Anwick Fen	-	165	-	12	4	65	3	16	5	-	-	45
Apex Pit	1	58	38	36	10	76	100	-	-	263	93	94
Barton Pits	80	104	100	20	20	90	-	-	-	-	1	7
Benniworth	52	78	18	-	-	-	53	107	-	-	-	120
Freiston Shore	50	6	6	4	7	8	15	20	12	35	40	150
Hartsholme CP	38	41	16	12	57	80	5	26	23	17	119	30
Kirkby on Bain GP	450	130	46	120	140	385	375	500	1000	800	600	400
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	-	43	500	450	259	380	500	650
Tattershall Lakes CP	430	255	210	157	180	500	267	360	350	21	280	-
Whisby NP	4	91	62	61	47	115	131	6	20	267	2	166

Other significant counts were 300 Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Dec 14th, 200 Nocton Fen on Dec 29th, 200 RAF Waddington on Oct 12th, 200 Short Ferry Jan 15th, 175 Manby/Carlton Flashes Nov 8th and 150 Hagnaby Lock/Fen Feb 2nd. Breeding occurred at several sites with 112 young seen at Whitton-Alkborough, 13 broods totaling 67 young at Barton/Far Ings in Apr, and approx 14 pairs raised 56+ young at Whisby NP.

Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common resident, introduced from North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The taxonomic status of the Canada geese has recently changed with Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (comprising subspecies *canadensis*, *fulva*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *occidentalis* and *parvipes*) and Lesser Canada Goose *B. hutchinsii* (comprising subspecies *hutchinsii*, *leucopareia*, *minima* and *taverneri*) now being recognised. Only Greater Canada Goose occurs as a feral resident in Britain.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	21	37	11	7	3	48	24	4	-	1	15	1
Gib Point	4	2	14	28	28	28	36	57	-	-	26	14
Freiston Shore	-	-	9	8	29	24	-	35	-	450	250	550
Hartsholme CP	54	38	13	36	50	32	39	40	37	53	95	17
Stanton's Pit	83	47	45	16	25	6	199	138	8	120	1	-

Away from these key sites, other large counts of over 30 individuals included 36 at Holywell Lake in May, 48 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe in Jun, 100 at Ingoldmells and 72 at Tetney in Jul, 58 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe and 49 at Messingham in Aug, 45 at Alkborough Flats and 147 at Covenham Reservoir in Sep, 400 at Mablethorpe in Oct, 65 at Manby/Carlton Flashes and 54 at Toynton St Peter in Nov and finally 115 at Benniworth in Dec. There were widespread reports of 1-30 birds at smaller waterbodies across the county.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor, mainly to the coast, Oct-May. A small feral population has bred irregularly since the late 1980s.

During Jan-Mar, between 1-4 individuals were reported at Freiston Shore, Tetney Marsh, Whitton, Deeping Lakes NR, Gib Point, Benniworth, Kirkby on Bain GP and Messingham SQ, with a flock of 348 recorded off Alkborough Flats on Whitton Sands on Feb 4th. Between May-Sep, 1-4 birds were present at Cleethorpes, Messingham SQ, Freiston Shore, Gib Point, Freiston Shore and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, many of the same sites as frequented during the winter period and suggesting that most such birds were also of feral origin. During Oct-Dec, 1-5 individuals were recorded at Kirkby on Bain GP, Witham Mouth, Huttoft Bank Pit, Freiston Shore, Humberston Fitties, Donna Nook, Deeping Lakes NR and Messingham SQ and there was also a concentration of birds at Alkborough Flats in the second winter period where 468 were present in Oct. There was a suggestion of a coastal movement, potentially pertaining to wild birds in the first few days of Oct; eight were recorded at Tetney Marsh on Oct 2nd, 12 flew south at Mablethorpe on the 3rd and four flew south at the same site the next day.

The Humber flock developed from a pair of injured birds, given by the Humber Wildfowl Refuge warden to a local farmer who lives on the foreshore at Whitton in 1975, initially breeding in his yard. This population increased to 33 individuals birds at which stage they began to wander onto the Humber and Whitton Sands, occasionally attracting colour ringed wild birds (from Caerlaverock, Dumfries & Galloway). Eventually they started to breed on Whitton Sands and this semi-resident flock has increased in size rapidly reaching 215 Dec 2005, 238 in Nov 2006, 326 in Sep 2007 and 468 Oct 2008 (G. Catley in litt.).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

(Dark-bellied Brent Goose) *B b bernicla*: very common winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to Humber and Wash. Now much more common than previously, and recently scarce but regular in summer, especially on the Wash. Occasionally feeds some distance inland.

Wash WeBS Totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bennington	330	310	-	45	80	-	-	-	2	310	350	600
Butterwick	600	460	315	295	86	-	-	-	-	240	674	620
Dawsmere	86	400	285	140	-	-	-	-	-	47	50	-

Frampton Marsh	900	900	1250	450	-	-	-	-	2	110	800	1450
Freiston	300	250	1200	30	307	-	-	-	66	950	760	510
Gedney	170	156	-	137	120	2	-	-	110	333	420	-
Gib Point	315	400	360	52	2	3	-	-	5	81	180	44
Holbeach	240	185	550	250	-	-	-	-	100	270	200	-
Leverton	310	400	450	120	38	-	1	1	44	335	238	-
Terrington	362	590	526	985	336	-	-	-	24	62	-	-
Wainfleet	1077	682	862	68	21	-	-	-	-	62	535	-
Welland	-	400	800	450	270	-	-	-	14	220	900	-
Witham	2000	1000	1000	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	1200	1500
Wrangle	840	300	-	22	-	-	2	40	30	350	362	380
Totals	7530	6433	7598	4544	1260	5	3	41	397	3370	6669	5104

Other sites

Donna Nook	1540	520	37	100	-	-	-	-	-	60	800	740
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Present throughout the year but only summer records were up to three at Freiston Shore and one at Gib Point. A few birds were reported from non-coastal sites: one at Covenham Res Jan 21st, three at Toft Newton Res Feb 19th, one at Far Ings NNR Apr 9th-19th and one at RAF Waddington Nov 11th.

(Pale-bellied Brent Goose) *B b hrota*: rare/scarce visitor Oct-Mar.

In the first winter period, on the north coast, three were present at Donna Nook on Jan 1st and one at the same site on Jan 13th, with presumably another the same day at Horseshoe Point and seen again on Feb 10th. Gib Point hosted singles on Jan 8th, 27th and Feb 2nd. Further south on The Wash, two were present at Freiston Shore from Jan 2nd-Apr 6th, with one lingering until May 5th. Perhaps the same individuals were responsible for occasional sightings at Frampton, Wyberton and the Witham Mouth in Jan-Mar. There was a significant influx in the second winter period, the first arriving at Freiston Shore in Sep and staying until the end of the year when joined by a second bird from Dec 29th. Four were discovered at Cleethorpes on Oct 14th-18th, five arrived at Tetney on Oct 15th where four remained until Nov 23rd. Three were present in the Donna Nook/Pye's Hall area on Nov 3rd, when one was also present at Saltfleet Haven. Two birds were again present at Donna Nook/Pye's Hall on Nov 8th. During Dec, one of the Donna Nook birds was recorded at Grainthorpe Marsh on 6th and it or another was at Stonebridge on 16th.



Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B b hrota* Freiston Shore
© Neil Smith, February 2008



Black Brant *B b nigricans* Freiston Shore
© Steve Keightley, 31st March 2008

(Black Brant) *B b nigricans*: Former vagrant with just three records to 1991. Now annual in small numbers, mainly in The Wash; LBRC

A single adult was present at Gib Point from Jan 8th-Mar 2nd (GPBO, CJJ, SJ), during which time it or another was observed at Friskney Marsh on Feb 21st (JRW, EJM). Another individual (or possibly the same bird relocating) was present around Freiston Shore/Frampton/Wyberton from Mar 30th-Apr 6th, with two birds present on the latter date (PRF, SK, PS).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare/scarce feral visitor. Some local releases also involved and has bred occasionally.

Following the first report for the year at Donna Nook, with two on Jan 2nd, up to eight were reported in the first quarter of the year in the Kirkby and Tattershall Pits area and 1-2 were seen at various sites in the Lincoln area. Other records in the first quarter came from Caenby Corner, with two on Jan 26th, and the same number at Fillingham Lake on Feb 16th, Messingham on Mar 16th and Covenham St Bartholomew on Mar 23rd. Counts in the second quarter included five at Scotter Bottom on Apr 13th, four at Whisby NP on May 1st and 10 (including juveniles) in the Kirkby/Tattershall area in Jun. Records in the third quarter of the year included a party of eight which appeared at Covenham Res on Sep 1st, seven of which remained to the 27th, with perhaps five of these being the birds seen at Far Ings NNR on the 28th. The fourth quarter produced the two highest counts of the year, both from Kirkby on Bain, with 17 on Oct 16th and then 32 on Dec 2nd.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare. Vagrant/feral birds are recorded in most years, probably mainly the latter category. Small flocks are a regular occurrence pattern and are unique to this species amongst escaped or vagrant wildfowl.

Early spring records began with three at Coronation Channel, Spalding on Mar 9th with presumably the same birds at Grummit's Scrape two days later. Two were then noted at Baston Fen on Mar 16th. Three birds were subsequently at Langtoft Pits, Baston on Mar 30th with two on May 4th and one still present on the 18th. The final spring record concerned two birds at Frampton Marsh on May 20th. Autumn records began with a single at Covenham Res on Aug 29th, this was followed by two at Read's Island from Sep 4th-23rd. A small flock of eight birds was found at Fiskerton Fen on Sep 13th and presumably these birds commuted to Frampton Marsh and back on 13-14th. Either this flock or a different flock of eight flew west over the Humber Bridge on 14th. Finally, after an absence of records for over a month, this species was noted again at Read's Island, with six birds being seen on Oct 28th.



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Barton © Graham Catley, 14th September 2008

Common Shelduck (Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

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

In the first quarter of the year at Freiston Shore there were 240 in Jan rising to 380 in Feb and then 333 in Mar. At the opposite end of the county 740 were noted on the WeBS count at Alkborough Flats on Jan 24th with 629 at Read's Island on Jan 12th – also on a WeBS count! Elsewhere 60 were at Donna Nook during Jan-Feb and at Barton 32 were noted on 27th Feb with 30 the next day at Pyewipe. Inland counts in the first quarter included 16 at Toft Newton Mar 23rd and 23 at Kirkby on Mar 27th. The only three figure counts in the second quarter came from Barton where there were 126 on Apr 26th and 100 on May 23rd. At Freiston Shore numbers had fallen to 20 birds by the end of Apr. Numbers fell in late summer as birds departed for the annual moult, usually chiefly to the German coast, with counts slowly increasing in the third quarter with 76 at Freiston Shore during Sep. Other significant counts in Sep were 325 at Wainfleet Marsh on 14th, 300 at Horseshoe Point on 21st and 150 at Witham Mouth the same day. In the south-east of the county in the fourth quarter of the year numbers had risen to 300 at Witham Mouth by Oct 4th whilst in the north-east there were c250 at Pye's Hall and c150 at Tetney Marsh on Oct 6th. At Friskney 150 were noted on Nov 16th increasing to c400 by mid-Dec. A maximum of 254 was noted at Alkborough Flats during Dec, with the year's highest count of 809 at Freiston Shore the same month.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

Four records involving seven birds. A male was at Far Ings NNR on Feb 27th-28th, a pair (of unknown origin) was at Belton Park on Apr 3rd, three were at Stanton's Pit, Witham on the Hill on May 18th, and a female was at Covenham Res on Nov 29th-Dec 31st.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Humber peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1400	800	-	-	1	8	-	12	148	12	500	780
Barton Pits	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Holland-Goxhill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	-	-	-
Read's Island area	907	650	380	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Ferriby area	207	106	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	120	300	-	-
Whitton area	285	110	138	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Wash												
Butterwick	28	117	14	-	-	-	-	-	4	37	42	222
Dawsmere	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132	-
Frampton Marsh	54	6	-	-	-	3	-	3	200	22	1	96
Freiston Shore	525	369	56	3	-	-	1	17	4000	1800	830	400
Gedney	70	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	119	11	-
Gib Point	152	112	48	-	4	4	-	1	99	140	200	90
Holbeach	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	27	255	-

Kirton Marsh	8	18	38	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	1
Leverton	171	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	192	-
Terrington	225	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	40	30	-	-
Wainfleet	120	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	220	-
Welland	-	70	110	-	-	-	-	-	44	70	1130	1
Witham	200	100	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	500	400
Total	1608	931	355	9	4	7	1	21	4456	2679	3513	1220
Other sites												
Apex Pit	329	264	234	1	-	-	-	-	7	1	1	55
Baston Fen	125	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Covenham Res	239	64	-	2	-	-	-	-	20	11	-	-
Deeping Lakes NR	100	-	20	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Hagnaby Lock Fen	-	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	16	-
Huttoft Pit	125	-	40	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	4	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	130	85	60	-	-	2	2	2	200	160	260	50
Whisby NP	130	7	21	-	-	-	-	1	6	27	42	21

Other notable counts in the first winter period were as follows: Jan; 350 at Lea Marsh, 60 at Nocton Fen, 65 on the R. Welland near Spalding and 90 at Trent Port, Feb; 45 at Messingham SQ, 57 at Moulton Marsh and 46 on the R. Welland near Spalding, Mar; 10 at Toft Newton Res and 20 at Wainfleet Bank. Spring and summer records were thin on the ground, and those not listed above were: Apr; one at Donna Nook, two at Messingham SQ and one at Paradise Pool, May; singles at Bardney Pits and Donna Nook, Jun; one at East Kirkby, Jul; one at Messingham SQ. As shown in the table, autumn arrivals began in Aug, but the main arrival was in Sep. The number of sites recording Wigeon was actually quite small, with very small numbers of birds being counted at just two additional sites in Aug, seven other sites in Sep and six other sites in Oct. The only notable winter counts not listed in the table were 380 at Mablethorpe and 260 at Saltfleet on Nov 2nd, 125 at Donna Nook on Nov 12th, 150 at Pinchbeck and 450 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 14th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor. Increased numbers since 1970s, with breeding now regular mainly on Fenland rivers and drains.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	23	35	46	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Anwick Fen	-	-	-	-	3	7	11	6	15	-	2	1
Apex Pit	219	153	123	4	-	-	1	-	-	9	2	39
Boultham Mere	11	-	-	1	6	-	-	29	61	56	-	27
Barton Pits	95	86	4	4	23	59	70	-	-	37	-	40
Frampton Marsh	12	7	2	2	3	-	-	2	1	-	-	12
Gib Point	40	18	9	3	2	2	2	5	3	-	6	5
Kirkby on Bain GP	80	80	60	18	15	55	25	110	170	200	145	110
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	3	-	22	-	17	70	50	18	26
Tattershall Lakes CP	110	109	31	9	-	-	-	11	50	220	105	34
Whisby NP	70	38	9	9	2	5	18	35	88	77	70	37
Whisby Pits	24	13	-	4	1	1	-	-	41	36	10	20

Breeding was confirmed from just four sites (Barton Pits, Alkborough Flats, Kirkby on Bain GP and Gainsborough). In addition to the totals detailed above, birds were reported from a wide variety of sites across the county. However, the only notable

counts not detailed above were 50 at Read's Island-South Ferriby on Feb 18th, 30 at Toft Newton on Feb 27th and 30 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jun 5th. Small numbers were reported from a further 40 sites.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Common migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer, with localised breeding.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	419	104	180	51	-	107	148	1630	30	1182	1100	950
Anwick Fen	22	21	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	10	135
Boultham Mere	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	2	13	20	47	5
Donna Nook	100	60	40	38	-	-	-	60	-	-	110	230
Frampton Marsh	22	80	22	-	1	-	1	130	140	300	250	600
Freiston Shore	100	352	68	2	-	2	2	9	112	200	900	342
Gib Point	100	10	12	9	-	-	3	83	15	55	85	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	60	45	45	20	-	2	5	30	290	360	65	197
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	4	2	3	-	32	112	-	-	20
Whisby NP	63	-	2	10	1	2	3	-	9	62	60	225

There was one report of confirmed breeding this year, a female with five ducklings at Crowle Waste in Jun (GPC), and several sites hosted birds in May, Jun and Jul. Other large counts received included 500 at Bonby Carrs on Jan 12th, 320 on the Humber off Barton on Jan 20th, 154 at Butterwick Common/Hale on Jan 29th, 300+ on the Humber off Barton on Aug 30th, 800 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 14th, 115 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Dec 20th and 300 at Worlaby Carrs on Dec 26th.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant; LBRC

In the first part of the year, one remained at Alkborough Flats from 2007 until Mar 2nd (ND et al). One was then at Whisby NP on Jan 6th (DN) and another was at Gib Point on Mar 1st (KMW). In the late winter period, a series of records came from the Humber again, with two birds on Nov 15th: one at Alkborough Flats (GPC) and one at Trent Falls (ND). The Alkborough Flats bird stayed until the year's end. All records refer to drakes. An excellent year, even allowing for a returning bird on the Humber.



Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* Alkborough Flats © Graham Catley, February 2008

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Wash peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dawsmere	405	268	-	9	-	-	-	-	7	4	102	-
Frampton Marsh	26	26	49	25	34	24	32	2	2	119	85	109
Freiston Shore	165	112	106	50	79	77	25	50	209	405	235	111
Gedney	99	110	-	14	3	21	-	-	57	169	200	-
Gib Point	47	32	36	26	24	27	47	96	156	136	80	75
Holbeach Marsh	26	45	50	10	3	20	-	32	93	60	31	-
Kirton Marsh	33	29	38	19	11	7	1	7	27	68	56	23
Leverton	11	15	10	16	2	-	-	-	30	70	125	-
Terrington	15	52	15	10	4	-	-	-	22	41	-	-
Wainfleet	128	20	14	8	-	-	-	-	5	65	17	-
Witham	150	-	50	20	-	50	50	-	250	-	90	-
Wrangle	81	6	-	7	2	-	3	186	52	38	5	262
Other sites												
Anwick Fen	-	9	-	11	31	36	12	32	180	35	65	270
Barrow Haven area	230	263	233	32	25	-	-	106	62	27	52	35
New Holland area	380	306	210	92	33	-	-	156	75	72	166	264
Coronation Channel	352	23	115	98	68	137	199	104	109	243	291	194
Kirkby on Bain GP	23	105	50	80	115	160	270	400	200	300	390	550
Metheringham Delph	4	50	3	-	50	2	55	210	120	100	30	65
R. Welland (Spalding)	52	62	48	28	53	-	2	103	80	76	94	100
Tattershall Lakes CP	184	155	135	130	130	120	200	230	220	180	160	170
Whisby NP	44	11	11	33	34	35	117	99	84	97	44	152

Clearly under recorded, this common resident is supplemented by immigrants from the Continent during Sep-Oct. Despite the lack of counts from The Wash, there also seems to have been an influx of birds into the county in Dec.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer with sporadic breeding records, but none recently **RBBP**

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akborough Flats	-	-	1	-	6	40	14	-	8
Freiston Shore	28	10	2	2	2	16	40	4	60
Frampton Marsh	10	7	-	-	-	-	3	3	20
Witham Mouth	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	50	6

The largest count by far was of 318 at Terrington Marsh on Jan 12th. Other notable counts in the first winter period included 25 at Lea Marsh on Jan 29th and 17 on Read's Island on Jan 6th. Birds were recorded from just a further four sites during this period. In the latter half of the year, 53 were recorded on Read's Island on Nov 15th, with birds recorded from just a further 14 sites.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant, rare summer visitor, breeding occasionally. Exceptional in winter. **RBBP**

A good scattering of records this year comprising at least 27 birds from approx 18 sites, although breeding was not confirmed. The first was at Whisby NP on Mar 27th,

followed by a pair at Baston Fen on Mar 30th. Further spring records were three at Far Ings and two at Gib Point on Apr 17th, a pair at Baston & Langtoft GP on Apr 19th, singles at Manby Flashes on Apr 22nd, Kirkby on Bain GP on Apr 24th, Alkborough Flats on Apr 25th-29th and Hagnaby Lock on Apr 27th. During May three were at Halton Marshes on 2nd, two were at Marston STW on 4th and then singles were at Whisby NP on 5th, Far Ings NNR on 6th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on 7th & 9th-10th, Alkborough Flats on 9th, Bardney Pits on 18th & 23rd. Moving into Jun, two were at Whisby NP on 7th, followed by two at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on 9th, two at Frampton Marsh on 17th (with 1 there on 23rd) and one at Grainthorpe Fen on 24th. There were no Jul records, but in Aug, there was an eclipse drake at Baston & Langtoft GP on 7th-10th and again on 16th & 21st, then singles at Messingham SQ on 8th & 24th, Frampton Marsh on 9th & 11th and Alkborough Flats on 11th & 15th-16th. In Sept, there were singles at Tetney Marsh on 1st, Alkborough Flats on 7th, Manby Flashes on 8th and finally Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 16th.



Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Covenham Res
© Dean Eades, 10th December 2008



Garganey *Anas querquedula* Far Ings, Barton
© Don Davies, 17th April 2008

Northern Shoveler (Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/fairly common resident and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	7	22	65	150	-	62	-	-
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	81	-	47
Boultham Mere	27	45	57	42	-	-	-	17	35	38	18	15
Barton Pits	12	56	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	21	50	37
Kirkby on Bain GP	17	2	2	6	3	8	4	17	32	7	10	19
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	6	22	30	14	10
Whisby NP	28	25	27	2	2	1	5	-	3	16	14	21

Just two reports of breeding, with a brood at Alkborough Flats and one juv seen at Messingham SQ in Jul. Small numbers were scattered throughout the county all year, with the only other notable count being 43 at Gib Point on Jan 30th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer. Increasing numbers of feral birds present in the county. **RBBP**

The only site to hold any number of birds was Baston-Langtoft GP. The peak count here in the first winter period was 38 on Jan 13th. This rapidly dwindled to just four in Mar and three in Apr. Numbers then increased again in the second winter period, with up to 52 on Nov 29th. Just two birds on Dec 17th may indicate movement away from this

site. Elsewhere, there were singles at Whisby NP in Jan-Feb, Kirkby on Bain GP in Jan-Mar and Far Ings NNR in May-Sep, two at Swanholme Lakes in Jan-Mar and again in Nov, two at Tattershall Lakes CP in Jan-Mar, four at Thurlby Sand Pit in Feb, five at Apex Pit in Feb-Apr, 1-3 at Hartsholme CP during Apr-Dec, two at Grummit's Scrape (Baston Fen) in Apr and one on Railway Pit (Lincoln) in Oct with three there in Nov.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Scarce breeder, but a common winter visitor. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boultham Mere	12	19	-	4	2	7	-	3	-	18	32	5
Kirkby on Bain GP	80	80	36	17	15	19	27	26	44	140	54	48
Tattershall Lakes CP	168	90	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	16	110
Whisby NP	68	19	8	6	2	5	12	1	3	112	30	135
Whisby Pits	26	18	9	-	-	3	2	6	-	60	18	17

The only breeding report was of a minimum of six broods at Barton Pits. The highest count of the year was 200 at Deeping Lakes NR on Jan 3rd. There were only a further two counts of over a hundred not listed in the table; 154 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 17th and 126 at Barton Pits on Dec 31st. Birds were reported from a further 23 sites during the year scattered throughout the county. Most birds had left by the end of Feb, and the main arrival of birds in the autumn was not until Oct.



Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* Cleethorpes © Nick Clayton, 2nd February 2008

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	46	54	50	44	9	2	19	59	239	179	253	347
Gib Point	26	50	37	37	28	35	34	24	16	25	21	14
Kirkby on Bain GP	270	200	185	190	120	95	285	250	360	-	195	285
New Holland area	169	46	18	8	4	-	-	1	4	14	16	70
River Welland	160	128	150	91	29	-	20	17	117	151	196	267
Swanholme Lakes	50	68	37	37	2	-	19	11	55	41	37	14
Tattershall Lakes CP	125	95	79	80	30	39	16	25	40	100	100	75
Whisby NP	149	127	-	106	92	58	247	343	83	93	70	32

Breeding records were received from Alkborough Flats (four prs), Anwick Fen, Frampton Marsh (2 prs), Gib Point, Boultham Mere, Kirkby on Bain GP, North Kelsey

Moor and Whisby NP (11prs). Peak counts in the first winter period included 134 at Pinchbeck Slupe NR and 250 at Deeping Lakes NR on Jan 3rd. During the autumn and winter period, peak counts not included in the table above included 206 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jul 24th, 200 at Cadney Res on Aug 12th and 145 at Toft Newton Res on Dec 14th. Birds were well distributed around the county, with birds recorded from a further 37 sites in mostly small numbers.

Greater Scaup (Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer; bred in 1944.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Covenham Res	-	-	6	12	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Witham Mouth	-	2	-	-	1	2	11

Inland records were a 1st yr male at Boultham Mere on Jan 2nd, one at Messingham SQ on Apr 20th, one at Spalding on Jul 19th and a fem at Bardney Pits on Dec 26th-30th. Along the coast and not detailed in the table, peak counts in Jan were three at Barton Pits. In March, there were two at Barton. Spring passage included one at Freiston Shore on Apr 18th, one at Barton on Apr 27th, another at Freiston Shore on May 5th and a female at Barrow Haven on May 15th. In the summer period, there were up to two males at Gib Point on Jul 8th-13th, and there were singles at Freiston Shore on Aug 2nd-13th and Donna Nook on Aug 3rd. The autumn passage on the coast began with singles at Mablethorpe on Oct 3rd, on the Humber off Barton on Oct 4th and Tetney Marsh on Oct 11th. In Dec, one was at Alkborough flats on 14th, followed by five at Barton on 27th.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, present in all months. Under-recorded because most of the population stays well offshore. Mainly in The Wash, and very rare inland.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Freiston Shore	76	80	300	200	11	32	8	30	64	10	100	10
Witham Mouth	20	23	4	12	-	32	1	54	-	-	300	700
Friskney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	35	200
Leverton	-	17	-	-	18	-	14	19	21	68	29	-

The area between Witham Mouth and Butterwick Marsh remains the best place to see this species, and the Freiston Shore and Witham Mouth counts may involve some overlap. However, given the large numbers known to inhabit The Wash, these figures may represent a small percentage of birds in Lincolnshire waters. Elsewhere, there was a single off Trusthorpe on Jan 5th, four off Horseshoe Point on Jan 6th, increasing to 16 on Jan 13th, singles at Donna Nook on Aug 9th and 16th with 26 there on Nov 1st, two off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 6th, one off Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Sep 24th with 15 there on Dec 6th, two off Chapel Point on Oct 4th and eight there on Oct 31st and four off Mablethorpe on Oct 9th with 26 there on Nov 1st increasing to 47 the next day.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

A female at Barton Pits from Jan 1st-Apr 19th with two females present from Jan 17th-Apr 8th. A female at Covenham Res from Nov 1st-Dec 12th had moved to Bardney Pits on Dec 26th-30th. Two were off Freiston Shore on Oct 30th-Nov 3rd, one off Gib Point on Oct 30th increased to two the following day, two went south past Mablethorpe on Nov 1st and there were three there the next day, two were off Witham Mouth on Nov 2nd-22nd (probably the same birds as off Freiston Shore), one was off Donna Nook on Nov 12th and one was off Trusthorpe on Nov 16th.



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* Covenham Reservoir © Neil Smith, October 2008

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer and rare inland.

Inland records came from three sites; five at Covenham Res on Mar 17th, decreasing to three on Mar 27th. This then increased to eight on Apr 1st, decreasing to four the next day. Six were found at Deeping Lakes NR on Mar 27th, with three at Deeping High Bank on Apr 20th. Eight were then at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 7th. A single was found at Covenham Res on Nov 19th and another single was at Toft Newton Res on Dec 14th. Along the coast during the first half of the year, there were 47 off Tetney Marsh on Jan 6th, 15 off Gib Point on Jan 13th increasing to 40 on Jan 22nd and then 70 on Jan 27th, 150 off Sutton on Sea on Jan 23rd, 15 off Freiston Shore on Jan 27th, three off Gib Point on Mar 8th and 24 at Barton Pits on Mar 31st. Summer records comprised 10 off Gib Point on Jun 14th increasing to 25 on Jul 5th, 120 off Donna Nook on Jun 29th, six of Saltfleet Haven on Jul 6th, one off Freiston Shore on Jul 22nd and three off Gib Point on Jul 28th. Autumn passage started early in Aug, with 35 off Tetney Marsh on 8th, 70 off Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on 16th with possibly the same birds comprising nine at Howden's Pullover and 60 at Chapel Point on 17th, 35 off Wolla Bank on 18th, 11 off Chapel Point on 23rd, 16 off Freiston Shore on 24th increasing to 32 on 30th when there were also 50 off Tetney Marsh, three off Winteringham and 170 off Witham Mouth. During Sep, peak counts were 22 off Chapel Point, 50 off Freiston Shore, 60 of Gib Point, 38 off Mogg's Eye, 12 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, 35 off Tetney Marsh and 18 off Trusthorpe. Peak counts in Oct were 11 off Chapel Point, seven off Cleethorpes, 70 off Gib Point, 11 on the Humber off Barton, 35 off Mablethorpe, 110 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 301 off Trusthorpe. During Nov, peak counts were 107 off Donna Nook, 200

of Freiston Shore, 60 off Gib Point, 27 on the Humber off Barton, nine off Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace, 240 off Mablethorpe, 180 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, 34 off Trusthorpe and 170 off Witham Mouth. The only Dec record was of 70 off Rimac on 30th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

In the first winter period, two were off Sutton on Sea on Jan 23rd, and a 1st w drake was at Goxhill-New Holland on Feb 9th before moving to Barton Pits on Mar 15th-May 15th. A drake was off Chapel Point on Aug 18th and 23rd. Further singles were off Gib Point on Oct 31st, Donna Nook on Nov 1st, Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Nov 22nd, Witham Mouth on Nov 15th-16th and Freiston Shore on Nov 30th. Multiple counts were two off Winteringham on Oct 17th, three off Mablethorpe on Nov 1st with two there the next day, three off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 3rd, two off Gib Point on Nov 9th, three off Trusthorpe on Nov 16th and finally three off Freiston Shore on Dec 29th.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	15	14	11	8	-	-	1	10
Covenham Res	14	56	22	12	-	2	30	37
Freiston Shore	43	26	100	50	1	10	35	76
Kirkby on Bain GP	5	28	20	7	-	1	2	6
Tattershall Lakes CP	17	18	8	2	-	-	6	14
Toft Newton Res	-	15	6	4	-	-	-	25
Whisby NP	18	24	10	16	-	3	5	16

Recorded from a total of 37 sites. The only other 100+ counts were of 420 roosting on the Humber off Skitter Ness, Goxhill on Jan 5th with over 200 there on Feb 9th. There were also 130 on Barton Pits on Mar 8th. In addition to the Freiston bird above, the only other May record was of one off Gedney Drove End on 15th. There were no records during Jun-Sep, with the first birds of the autumn being four off Witham Mouth on Oct 4th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

A drake was at Deeping Lakes NR on Jan 1st-3rd, when a redhead arrived and remained until 13th on its own. Two redheads were at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 2nd-Mar 17th, with three redheads there from Jan 25th-Feb 14th and again on Mar 17th. One remained until Mar 30th. At Barton, a drake was at Far Ings NNR from Jan 1st-Mar 14th and was seen displaying to female Goldeneyes. A redhead was at North Killingholme Pits on Jan 5th. Elsewhere, a redhead was at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 2nd-Mar 23rd and was joined by a drake on Jan 19th-Mar 27th. A drake was at North Thoresby Fisheries on Feb 17th-23rd while a drake arrived at Covenham Res on Feb 21st-27th. In the autumn/winter period, the drake returned to Far Ings on Nov 26th-Dec 31st at least. A drake was at Baston-Langtoft GP on Dec 16th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

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

Peak counts in The Wash	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	16	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8
Freiston Shore	3	18	150	6	-	16	20	-
Friskney	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-
Gedney	5	9	-	-	-	-	1	-
Gib Point	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Leverton	8	-	2	-	-	9	9	-
Wainfleet	2	-	-	-	-	3	14	-
Witham Mouth	4	3	2	5	-	-	5	1
Wrangle	-	-	-	11	3	4	-	4

Inland records were of two at Deeping High Bank on Jan 27th-Feb 7th with three there on Feb 4th. Two were at the same location on Dec 27th with three on Dec 29th. One was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Dec 5th. Single figure counts from outside The Wash came from just seven other sites along the coast. In the Humber three flew west past Goxhill Haven on Jul 12th and one was off Barton on Oct 17th. The only summer record was a single at Gib Point on Jul 20th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baston-Langtoft GP	6	1	1	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	1	3	-	-	3	-	4
Covenham Res	1	-	-	1	-	4	9
Deeping High Bank	4	3	-	-	-	-	3
Fillingham Lake	2	-	6	-	-	9	20
Hartsholme CP	6	12	4	-	-	-	18
R. Welland (Spalding)	17	10	18	2	-	-	-
Swanholme Lakes	47	19	8	-	-	22	7

Recorded from a further 34 sites scattered throughout the county. Other noteworthy flocks were five at Trent Port on Jan 9th, 17 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 10th, six at Bardney Lock on Feb 21st, nine at South Ferriby on Oct 19th and six at Arnold's Meadow NR on Nov 15th. Coastal migrants were limited to singles at Gib Point on Feb 2nd, Horseshoe Point on Jun 4th, Freiston Shore on Oct 26th, on the Humber off Barton on Nov 2nd, Donna Nook on Dec 14th and nine north-east past North Killingholme on Dec 22nd.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce feral breeder, declining passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	22	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	42	45	52
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	9	-	1	-	-
Barton Pits	85	89	68	5	4	11	6	-	-	11	15	88
Boultham Mere	-	-	2	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Gib Point	-	1	3	2	1	6	2	6	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	-	-	1	1	4	3	5	-	1	-	-
Thurlby Sand Pit	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Whisby NP	2	-	-	2	2	2	1	4	2	5	4	1
Whisby Pits	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	4	4	2	-

Breeding was reported from Barton Pits, and a brood at Gib Point suggested breeding occurred there as well. Birds were reported from a further 10 sites but only in single figures. The decline in numbers over the last few years is due to the success of the DEFRA/CSL scheme to eradicate them.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident

Counts of 20+ early in the year were noted at Swallow with 27 in Jan and 57 in Feb whilst 44 were at Hungerton Mar 26th. From Aug to Dec there were regularly 30+ at Anwick Fen with a peak of 74 on Sep 13th. Other large counts were 22 on Nocton Fen Oct 24th and 28 Welbourn Heath Nov 14th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

High counts were 20 RAF Waddington Jan 5th, 14 Blankney Barff Jun 22nd, 12 Worlaby Carrs and Swanpool Sep 22nd, c.20 Stonebridge Sep 28th, 17 Swanpool Nov 12th and 28 Welbourn Heath Dec 5th. 10+ were noted at a few other sites but it would appear that the decline continues. Received breeding records were confined to four territories at Tetney and one territory at Freiston Shore.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor Apr-Sep; rare in winter. Probably much under-recorded. RBBP

Rather scarce this year. The first was at Donna Nook May 12th, then at Frampton Marsh where 1-2 were heard regularly until Sep 9th. One was at Grummitt's Scrape May 22nd. Single males were heard singing at Kirmond-le-Mire Jul 13th, Walesby Jul 21st, Toft Newton Reservoir Jul 27th, Carrington Jul 29th, Stenigot Aug 3rd, Scotterthorpe, Aug 6th, Sudbrook Aug 13th and 2 were at Frampton West End Aug 19th. The final bird of the year was flushed from long grass at Alkborough Flats Sep 18th.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

Large concentrations reported were 65 Billingham Apr 12th, 48 Haverholme Park Apr 24th, 58 Swallow in Oct, 80 Anwick Fen Oct 6th, 60 there on 12th and 45 on 18th, 170 Haverholme Park Nov 9th, 60 Anwick Fen Nov 30th and 45 there on Dec 21st.

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.

In the first quarter of the year, winter visitors were noted in small numbers on the coast throughout the period Jan-Mar. Peak counts were of 80 off Gib Point in Jan, 19 off Donna Nook in Feb and 45 off Gib Point in Mar. A single bird wintering at Far Ings NNR remained until Mar 30th, the only report received away from coastal

waters during the year. An early summer bird was noted off Freiston Shore on 19th Jun, possibly the same individual seen there during Jul and Aug. The main autumn arrival occurred during late Sep when maxima of 15 were recorded at Mogg's Eye on 23rd and 20 at Witham Mouth on 27th. Coastal sites continued to record small numbers into Oct with double figure counts at Mablethorpe (10) and Saltfleet (12) on 5th. Further south, nine were off Gib Point on 30th and up to six were in the Wash off Freiston Shore. Monthly maxima during Nov were of 10 off Freiston Shore and 17 off Mablethorpe, but only single figure counts elsewhere. Dec counts were few and far between with just 1-4 birds seen at four coastal sites.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Scarce winter visitor to coastal and inland waters. Mainly Sep-Apr, rare in summer.

Black-throated Divers remained true to form and were of rarity status during 2008. Just a single bird was seen in the first winter period, off Gib Point on Jan 27th. There were just three further records later in the year, with singles off Mablethorpe on Oct 9th, Freiston Shore on Oct 31st and possibly the same bird at the Witham Mouth on Nov 2nd.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Rare/scarce winter visitor Aug-May. Mainly coastal and exceptional in summer.

Only a single bird was seen in the early part of the year, off Gib Point on Jan 8th. The second part of 2008 was considerably better with singles in Oct off Gib Point on 30th and Tetney on 31st. In Nov there were (exceptionally) up to three in the Wash off Freiston Shore and Witham Mouth and into Dec. Gib Point and Trusthorpe also recorded singles on Nov 12th and Nov 22nd respectively.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor, the latter especially noticeable in coastal regions.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Freiston Shore	14	12	14	10	-	4	5	1	27	17	20	17
Gib Point	10	1	13	11	-	-	12	12	24	6	6	7
Kirkby on Bain GP	47	31	32	23	11	12	28	53	77	65	48	38
Moulton Marsh	5	5	4	3	-	-	1	3	15	4	16	5
Whisby NP	9	11	14	10	5	8	16	12	24	16	13	14

Other significant counts included 20 at Donna Nook in Jan and 23 in Feb, 29 Welland Mouth Sep 20th and 21 on Tetney Marsh Oct 28th. Autumn totals of 70-100 birds were present on Barton Pits. Immigrants arrive from Sept to Nov, significantly increasing numbers as the chart clearly shows. Although a widespread breeding species the only two breeding reports were from Cogglesford Mill, R Sleas, where an adult with four juvs were first seen Jul 3rd, and from Barton Pits, where there were an estimated 25-30 prs.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor. At least a threefold increase in breeding pairs 1975-95, mainly as a result of the sustained colonisation of major rivers and drains.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit (N Hykeham) 18	23	11	8	3	1	6	10	23	17	32	36	
Freiston Shore	1	-	6	26	4	2	18	1	31	30	20	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	5	12	17	21	24	20	16	34	24	24	11	1
R. Welland (Spalding)	7	12	5	24	18	-	29	22	25	17	14	5
Tattershall Lakes	14	14	25	19	14	17	18	18	19	16	18	15
Whisby NP	3	4	4	8	9	9	28	21	16	8	4	-

Other significant counts include 16 at Bagmoor/Winterton floods in Jan, 16 at Witham Mouth in Jul and at Covenham Res there were peaks of 51 in Oct, 68 in Dec and at Toft Newton Res there were 44 in Oct. Although an increasingly common breeding species reports of successful breeding came from just two sites in Jul; one juv was reported at Pinchbeck and three were at Far Ings NNR.



Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
Far Ings, Barton © Don Davies, 19th March 2008



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Covenham Res © Russell Hayes, 27th September 2008

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, Sep-Apr.

Only one was recorded in the early part of the year, at Gib Point on Jan 18th. One was at Humberston Aug 22nd and one in juv plumage stayed at Covenham Res from Sep 23rd-Oct 4th. One was at Freiston Shore on Oct 17th-Nov 1st, and the final bird of the year was at Chapel Point Oct 30th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

Nine birds were recorded beginning with two at Gib Point Jan 29th and one at Apex Pit Feb 10th. There were no further records until Sept when a winter plumage ad was at Frampton Marsh from Sep 3rd-13th. Another was at Covenham Res Oct 9th-17th and one at Freiston Shore in Oct stayed until Nov 2nd on which date there was another at Witham Mouth. Another was at Freiston Shore Nov 13th and one at Bagmoor stayed from Nov 7th-Dec 6th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A winter plumage adult was at Deeping Lakes from Mar 24th-Apr 10th. In the spring, two were at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods Apr 28th, two were at Covenham Res May 15th with another there on Jul 22nd. Three juvs were recorded at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods Jul 27th. A single was at Covenham Res on Aug 17th-Sep 16th and was joined

by another on Aug 20th. Singles were also at Barton Pits on Aug 20th, Humberston Fitties and Tetney Marsh on Aug 23rd and Toft Newton Res Sep 12th. Breeding birds were first noted at Site A on Apr 12th when there were two, with a third there on Apr 22nd and a peak of five adults by May 18th. During Jun and Jul up to four adults and three juvs were regularly noted; numbers declined steadily through Aug, presumably as birds dispersed, and the final bird was a juv on Oct 9th.



Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Covenham Reservoir © Neil Smith, 2008

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

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

In the first quarter gale force winds with some snow admixed produced an excellent winter record of 131 off Chapel Point on Feb 1st. In the second quarter there were counts of 11 off Freiston on May 25th with seven off Donna Nook the next day. There was then a dearth of records until the third quarter with the first returning bird off Donna Nook on Aug 9th. Odd ones and twos were then noted until the fourth quarter when five were off Mablethorpe on Nov 1st.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant Jul-Nov, mostly Sep. A few winter records, Dec-Jan.

It was a poor year for this long-distance migrant that brought few records when passing on its circular Atlantic migration. In Sep a strong NNE wind on the 23rd produced 3-4 off Chapel Point and three off Trusthorpe. The following day there were three off Gib Point. The final record was a single off Mablethorpe on Oct 5th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

In the spring, three off Donna Nook on May 24th were followed by six off the same site two days later. There was a single summer record with 10 reported heading north off Gib Point on Jul 5th. Autumn records began with a single off Sandilands on Aug 14th and in the same month two passed north off Gib Point on 19th. An unusual inland sighting from Covenham Res came on Sep 4th. There were then a series of records on Sep 23rd with a single off Chapel Point, four off Mogg's Eye and two off Trusthorpe.

Next day a single passed Gib Point and this site also had the final record of the year with a single on Oct 3rd.

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare offshore migrant generally Sep-Nov, but also May and Dec-Jan. Exceptional inland. LBRC

The only report for the year was a single off Winteringham on Oct 17th (ND, GPC)

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regular offshore visitor/passage migrant most of the year. Fairly common/common Jul-Nov, but scarce at other times and rare inland.

In the first quarter a dozen were noted off Freiston Shore on Mar 22nd. In the second quarter Freiston Shore had a maximum of 7 on May 24th with 9 off Huttoft Bank next day. In the third quarter the first significant count came on Jul 12th when there were 30 off Gib Point followed by 24 off Donna Nook on 13th. On Aug 9th 25 were off Donna Nook and 32 off Huttoft Bank. The highest Aug count was 40 off Gib Point on 24th. Numbers increased in Sep with easterly winds on 6th producing 91 off Freiston Shore and 72 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. The NNE wind on Sep 23rd that produced small numbers of shearwaters off the coast also brought counts of 108 off Barton on 24th, 70 off Chapel Point and the same figure off Mogg's Eye. In the fourth quarter strong north-westerlies and rain on Oct 3rd resulted in counts of 109 off Gib Point and 261 off Mablethorpe, and 40 off Barton on Oct 4th. Numbers generally then dropped but Mablethorpe still produced counts of 77 on Oct 9th and 83 on Nov 1st. No double figure counts were submitted after early Nov.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Fairly common winter visitor, mainly coastal but increasing numbers inland and in summer. Inland breeding colony established 1992.

In the first quarter, Jan counts from the Lincoln area pits included 16 at Whisby on 6th and 32 at the Apex Pit on 13th. Coastal records included 35 at Gib Point on 13th whilst on the Humber 30 were at Alkborough Flats on 19th. Counts of 16 then came from Apex Pit on Feb 10th and Metherringham Delph on 28th. A total of 116 were noted at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 9th Mar. On Mar 14th 10 were at Messingham, with the same count from the same site in the second quarter on Apr 21st and 23rd. At Boultham Mere there were 10 on Apr 22nd with 16 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits the same day. On May 6th, 32 were noted at Alkborough Flats with 10 at Far Ings NNR on Jun 22nd and 33 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe on 27th. In the third quarter 43 were at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe on Jul 23rd with a peak count at this site of 52 on Sep 5th. At Tetney Marsh 40 were noted on Aug 23rd and at Gib Point there were 35 on Aug 30th. In the fourth quarter following 46 noted at Gib Point on Oct 19th there were 121 at this site on Oct 30th whilst 29 were at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Oct 26th and a peak of 37 at Barton Pits during the month. Counts of 70 then came from both the Apex Pit and Gib Point on Nov 16th. At Covenham Res a record of 118 on Nov 28th was followed by 182 there on Dec 16th.

For the first year since 1992, no occupied nests were recorded at the only breeding site in Lincs.

Deeping St James	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Occupied nests	136	126	135	88	97	93	79	45	67	50	0

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Usually rare/scarse winter visitor Aug-May to coast and inland but with occasional larger influxes. Exceptional in summer.

In the first quarter a bird arrived at Covenham Res on Jan 10th and remained in residence until Feb 9th. Singles were also noted at Witham Mouth on Jan 26th and Feb 10th. The only records in the second quarter came on Apr 7th with singles in Boston and at Witham Mouth. In the third quarter a bird was at Witham Mouth on Aug 3rd-23rd. A juv was at Barton Pits on Aug 23rd. There were then five at Witham Mouth on Sep 12th with one at Freiston on 18th and two at Witham Mouth on 27th. In the fourth quarter following a single at Mablethorpe on Oct 3rd two were at Witham Mouth the next day rising to three on 5th. An immature arrived in Grimsby Docks on Oct 14th and stayed until at least Nov 18th. A single was at Freiston Shore on Oct 17th. The highest count of the year came from Witham Mouth where there were 12 on Nov 2nd but then only a single was present at this site on Nov 22nd increasing to four on Nov 30th with the last record from this site being a single on Dec 14th.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare breeder, rare winter visitor. Previously bred to early 19th century and from 1940s-1979. RBBP

From Jan-Mar wintering birds were noted at four sites, most regularly at Far Ings NNR, where there were up to three birds, with booming heard in mid-Mar, and at Boultham Mere where there were two birds. One was at Huttoft Pit Mar 9th. During the breeding season a minimum of three males were booming regularly at Barton Pits, but there was no proof of successful breeding, and little indication of possible breeding elsewhere with one heard Kirkby-on-Bain Apr 20th and booming males at two further sites in the county. An unusual summer record was one seen at Doddington Jul 7th. From Aug until the end of the year 1-2 were noted at Far Ings NNR, one was at Huttoft Aug 5th, one was at Boultham Mere from Oct-Dec.



Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* Far Ings, Barton
© Don Davies, 23rd March 2008



Black-crowned Night Heron
Nycticorax nycticorax Far Ings, Barton
© Graham Catley, April 2008

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Vagrant; LBRC

An immature bird found at Far Ings NNR Apr 5th (GHu) proved to be very elusive and was seen on just one other date, Apr 19th (RHu, SRo, ND).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Vagrant; BBRC

A very well watched bird was seen by many Lincs birders at Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 30th-31st, then Little Cawthorpe Feb 3rd before moving to Legbourne Feb 4th where it remained in a roadside sheep field until Feb 18th (per Bird information services). Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p544.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Formerly a rare/scarcely visitor in all months, a few wintering since 1993/94. Now a scarce breeding bird and increasingly common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No of sites	22	18	19	26	22	15	19	25	20	16	17	25
High count	52	53	45	69	81	87	184	339	567	246	324	74

The table above is a summary of high counts from all sites. It seems remarkable that in 1999 there were only eight records. There has been an explosion of records since then owing to increasingly mild winters and the establishing of at least three breeding colonies. Birds are mainly noted on coastal marsh sites and are fairly evenly distributed from the Humber to the Wash but in the autumn there is a significant increase in records from the Wash reserves and Witham Mouth that accounts for half the county records at that time. Inland records are also steadily increasing. Breeding was recorded from three locations totalling 22 nests.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Gibraltar Point © Matt Latham, August 2008

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	8	7	-	2	-	36	-	1	16	5	6	8
Wash	3	3	-	1	4	-	2	4	11	4	-	2
Inland	4	4	8	13	15	10	13	21	16	17	7	16

Other significant totals included 9 at Wasps Nest Jan 23rd, 11 Ewerby Fen May 5th, 11 Anwick Fen Aug 10th and nine at Freiston Shore in Sep. Breeding reports were:

Abbey Wood (Thornton Curtis)	43
Appletree ness (Haverholme Park)	12
Air Ministry Plantation (Twigmoor Hall)	0
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	6
Dowsby Fen	5
Frampton Hall	1

Hartsholme Country Park	1
Hospital Cottage Spinney	9
Howsham Wood	present
Kingerby Wood	16
Kirkby Pits (west)	3
Legbourne Wood	12
Long Wood (Fiskerton)	8
Lower Barff Wood	9
Nocton Wood	1
The Mere, Deeping St James	10
Patterson's Pit	14
Stainfield Wood	2
Troy Wood	24
Tuetoos Wood	9
Warren Plantation (N Somercotes)	18
Warren Wood (Gainsborough)	0
Welland Farm	2
Willoughby Wood	21

The total number of occupied nests in 2008 was 237 compared with 265 in 2007; this is a large drop but probably partly due to lack of count at Howsham Wood and no proper count at Deeping St James due to the sad death of Tony Vine.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Vagrant; LBRC

A decent year, with seven records, although potentially only two birds involved. The first was one found at Swanpool, Lincoln, on May 29th-30th (B & D Scarborough, ACS et al). Last seen around 0830hrs, presumably this bird was then seen flying over Bardney Pits during the morning (SB), and then what may well have been this bird was found feeding in a newly mown field at Alvingham, nr Louth, at 1700hrs on the 30th (AN). There was then a lull in sightings until possibly the same bird was seen in fields just south of Louth on Jun 27th-28th (BMC, JCK, GL). Things then took an interesting twist, as this bird was last noted at 0730hrs, and just over eight hours later at 1600hrs, two were flushed from fields at Wainfleet, with one flying off eastwards into The Wash and the other being lost to view (MG). What must have been this bird was then seen flying south at Freiston Shore on Jun 29th (J Fisher, SK) and was relocated at 1125hrs that morning in a newly mown field next to the Cut End car park (PRF). It was accidentally flushed by the farmer and flew south across Frampton Marsh and was lost to view.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Vagrant; BBRC

A colour-ringed 2nd winter individual (6PJ) was first seen flying south at Donna Nook on Jan 31st (RL-S, SL). It was then refound at Mogg's Eye (PBH, NAL) and remained around here and Huttoft Bank until the next day. It was then relocated at Donna Nook (SL) on Feb 2nd where it remained faithful until Mar 19th. The bird had been ringed on Jun 6th 2006 as a nestling at the Fao colony, Coto Donana, Spain, a rhumb-line movement of nearly 1900 km and the first time a foreign-ringed Glossy Ibis has been reported in the UK. The 8th county record, and the first since one in 1976. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p548.



Roy Harvey

Glossy Ibis, Donna Nook. February 2008

Dean Eades





Neil Smith



Roy Harvey

Nick Clayton



Cattle Egret, Legbourne. February 2008

Andrew Chick



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

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

The first of the year was present at Gib Point on Apr 12th. At Alkborough Flats, single birds occurred on Apr 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th and 24th-27th and May 10th The latter bird being the colour ringed adult bird seen on the site in 2007. One was present at Gib Point again between Apr 25th-27th. One was present for fifteen minutes at Kirkby on Bain on May 7th with perhaps the same bird located at Rimac the next day, staying until the 9th. A single bird was present at Gib Point on Jun 6th with three together the next day, staying until the 8th, one of which was colour-ringed. One was present at the Nene Mouth on Aug 5th and one was nearby at the Witham Mouth on Sep 2nd. Also in Sep, one was at Grainthorpe Haven on 18th, with the same bird present the next day at Horseshoe Point. There was a small flurry of records in Oct, the first at Gib Point on the 7th, followed by two together at Alkborough Flats between 14th-17th, with presumably the same two at Read's Island on the 17th, with another at Donna Nook on 17th, presumably the same as one at Grainthorpe Haven on the 19th. The final bird of the year was present at Rimac on Nov 18th. The colour-ringed bird at Gib Point on Jun 7th-8th was originally ringed in the colony at Oosterkwelder, in the Netherlands on Jun 10th 2006. This bird was subsequently resighted on Jul 23rd 2006 at Hauke-Haien-Koog in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) before relocating, probably to winter at Oued Tamri in Morocco where it was seen on Nov 4th 2006. It was present on the Rio Guadalhorce in Malaga (Spain) on Sep 29th 2007 and then made its first documented visit to the UK in 2008: it was first observed at the Llanelli Wetland Centre on May 26th, then at Flamborough Head on Jun 7th before relocating to Gib Point the next day!



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Freiston Shore
© Steve Keightley, 29th June 2008



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Alkborough Flats © Graham Catley,
October 2008

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

Spring passage was light as normal, with one north over Skidbrooke and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 28th being the only record (JS, SL). Autumn passage, in contrast, was of a magnitude only seen once before in the county and totalled approx 63 individuals, although some overlap may have occurred. See table for full breakdown, and an article on this influx can be found on page 123.

Site	Date	Total	Observer
Donna Nook	13 September 2008	2	SL

Gibraltar Point	13 September 2008	1	KMW
Pyes Hall	13 September 2008	1	CA
Barton	14 September 2008	3	GPC
Candlesby	14 September 2008	2	AN
Donna Nook	14 September 2008	1	SL, ND
Frampton Marsh	14 September 2008	6	PAH, SK
Gibraltar Point	14 September 2008	16	RHay, KMW
Saltfleet	14 September 2008	3	JS
Spilsby	14 September 2008	1	PRF
Welton le Marsh	14 September 2008	3	EJM
Frampton Marsh	15 September 2008	1	PS
Gibraltar Point	15 September 2008	1	KMW
Saltfleet	15 September 2008	1	JS
Alkborough Flats	16 September 2008	1	GPC
Langworth	16 September 2008	1	PAH
Donna Nook	17 September 2008	1	SL
Thorton Abbey	17 September 2008	1	GPC
Barton	18 September 2008	2	GPC, RKW
Grainthorpe Haven	18 September 2008	1	TWh
Saltfleet	18 September 2008	3	JRW
Croft Marsh	20 September 2008	1	EJM
Frampton Marsh	20 September 2008	2	PRF
Freiston Shore	20 September 2008	1	JB, SK
Shep Whites	20 September 2008	1	KDR
Welton le Marsh	20 September 2008	2	EJM
Witham Mouth	21 September 2008	1	SK
Messingham SQ	02 October 2008	2	AHu
Gibraltar Point	27 October 2008	1	KMW

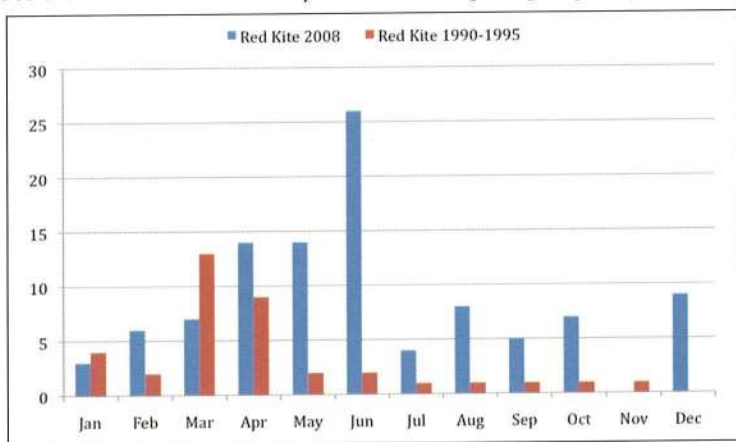
Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Scarce, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; increasing due to re-introduced birds. Bred to 19th century. **RBBP**

The status of the Red Kite in Lincolnshire continues to go from strength to strength with breeding confirmed at a minimum of one locality in 2008. The number of sightings also continues to rise; in 1988 there were a then record number of eight sightings in the year. This had increased to 14 by 1998, but allowing for some duplication, there were an amazing 102 sightings reported in 2008. Most of the records involved single birds but away from breeding sites there were four records of two birds together and one of three moving south-west at Alkborough Flats on Sep 13th during the large influx of Honey Buzzards and Ospreys. The highest count was of six birds soaring in a thermal over Louth on Jun 9th. Accurate reports of wing-tagged birds produce an insight into the movements of birds from their natal areas and around the county. Surprisingly only one bird was observed well enough for the tags to be read and only 12 were noted as un-tagged; it would be useful for observers to make a note of any tags present even if they could not be read. A wing-tagged juvenile at Farforth from Oct 6th-27th had fledged in Rutland in 2008.

Comparison of records from 2008 with those from 1990-1995 reveals a changing pattern of occurrence. The former predominance of early spring records, that presumably involved continental overshoots, has been changed to involve a late spring early summer peak in records, although the early spring passage is still obvious and

there are also more winter records. With the huge increase in the reintroduced breeding population there is now a large surplus of non-breeding immature birds that wander widely in the breeding season when they are expelled from breeding territories, and these birds form the bulk of the early summer records. Those areas in the south and west of the county closest to the release areas produced the highest number of records with only five coastal occurrences; Tetney Jan 5th and Mar 11th, Frampton Marsh Mar 30th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Jun 19th and Gib Point Aug 11th. This is in contrast to the dominance in earlier years of coastal passage sightings.

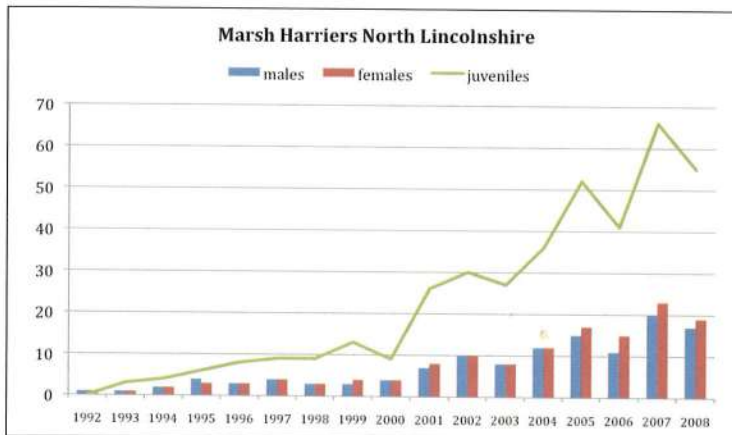
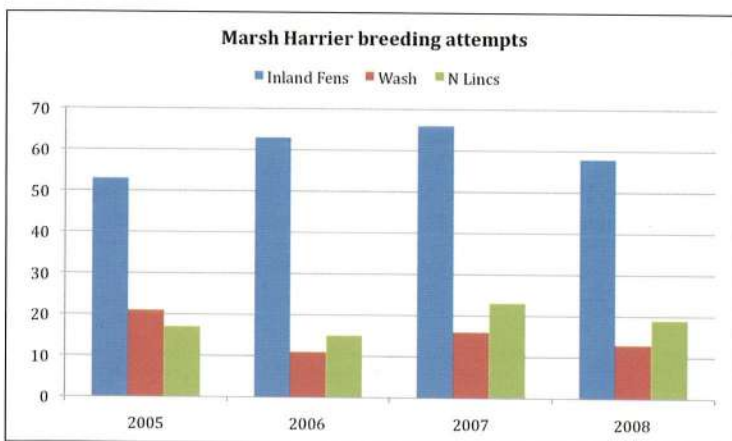


Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, rare in winter. **RBBP**

The number of wintering birds in the county has increased markedly in recent years; on the upper Humber there were 18 birds in Jan and at least 15 in Feb in two main roosts, both of which were in Yorkshire, but other smaller roosts were also used in North Lincolnshire with numbers varying; from the main roosts birds spread out to hunt over a large area of North Lincolnshire during the day. Elsewhere in Jan-Feb single birds were seen at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 2nd and 26th, Great Postland Jan 11th, Frampton Marsh Jan 18th, Gib Point Feb 10th, Dorrington Fen Feb 12th and Baston Fen Feb 17th. From Mar-Sep most of the records came from breeding sites or the home ranges of breeding birds with odd passage birds on the coast. In the north of the county 17 males and 19 females fledged 55 young; elsewhere there were 13 breeding attempts in the Wash and 58 attempts in the inland Fens. Comparative data for the three major locations are shown in the charts below.

The major autumn roost in the county that has held up to 49 birds in Aug-Sep was not counted again in 2008, but it is suspected that the roost has been deserted due to changes in the land use. In late winter there were again 16-19 birds wintering around the Humber with more satellite roosts being used by 1-3 birds than in previous winters. Away from North Lincolnshire the only Nov-Dec records were singles at Nocton Fen Nov 7th, Witham Mouth 9th and Frampton Marsh 13th, Cleethorpes 20th, Baston and Langtoft 22nd, Metherringham Delph 25th, Anwick Fen 30th, Nocton Fen Dec 3rd-23rd, Frampton Marsh 9th, Witham Mouth 21st and Baston Fen 24th.



North Lincolnshire breeding Marsh Harrier data courtesy of G P Catley



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Far Ings, Barton © Don Davies, 18th April 2008

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; rare in summer. Bred to 1872. This species has become less numerous in the last 10 years. Former roosting sites on the Wash used to hold double figures throughout the winter periods.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	13	15	17	8	2	1	2	4	3	6	3	7
Min. birds	17	24	14	8	2	1	1	6	4	8	3	7

The majority of records involved ringtails but several adult males were also recorded. More interestingly, over the last few years a small number of reports have involved single birds summering. This may eventually lead to a successful breeding attempt within the county, any birds from late May to August should be considered.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

A total of 36 records received this year referring to at least 11 birds. All the records referred to ringtail birds. The first of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Apr 29th. This was followed by four records in May: singles at Baumber and Rimac on 5th, Gedney Drove End on 12th and Saltfleetby on 20th. In Jun there were singles at Gib Point on 3rd and at Hawthorpe on 14th. In Jul-Aug there was a good series of records with birds seen at Gib Point on Jul 5th-Aug 13th, Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore on Jul 9th-Aug 28th, RAF Cranwell on Jul 21st, Ingoldmells Aug 2nd-4th, Covenham Res on Aug 5th and the final record of the year was inland at Fillingham Lake on Sep 14th. Breeding was restricted to just one pair fledging one juvenile.

Northern Goshawk (Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare, mainly autumn to spring; has increased in recent years. LBRC RBBP

Just two verified records so far this year, with one at Stenigot on Mar 14th (DS et al) and it or another at Red Hill-Goulceby on Aug 12th (DS).



Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Suddbrooke © Nick Clayton, 24th April 2008



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Far Ings, Barton
© Don Davies, 18th September 2008

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Common resident and passage migrant. After extinction as a breeder in 1950s, due to pesticides and persecution, recolonised rapidly from the early 1980s. Recorded county-wide. No specific breeding data was received, and the data does not lend itself to analysing population trends. Autumn passage was evident along the coast.

In Sep, there were five at Saltfleet on 14th, four at Gib Point on 18th and seven at Donna Nook and four at Saltfleet on 27th. After a lull in sightings, seven passed through Gib Point on Nov 2nd, but there was no indication of movement elsewhere along the coast in Nov.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Bred to 19th century before local extinction. Now fairly common breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Widespread records from a total of 125 sites. No reports of breeding received, but this species is now a widespread breeding resident in most parts of the county, and has even moved into the Fens in the last few years, although records from the Fens remain less numerous than elsewhere. Evidence of passage in the autumn was quite limited. There were no definite migrants through Gib Point as the picture was clouded by local birds, although 1-2 were seen on Sep 14th, 18th, 21st, 26th, 27th and 29th, and Oct 11th, 27th and 28th. Further up the coast, two at Pye's Hall on Sep 14th probably arrived with the Honey Buzzard influx and were followed there by one on Sep 20th and three on Sep 27th. Along the Ancholme Valley, large autumn counts at Worlaby Carrs comprised 23 on Aug 30th, 15 on Sep 7th, 11 on Sep 10th and 22 on Sep 20th. The last count here also ties in with the Honey Buzzard influx and probably comprised Continental birds. Nearby, 10 were over Thornton Abbey, Goxhill on Sep 17th.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor. **LBRC**

Two records this year, with the first being a 2nd cal yr in the Grainthorpe/Pye's Hall/ Donna Nook area on Jan 26th-27th (CA, HB, AJH et al). In the autumn a 2nd cal yr female was found in the Rowgate Hill/Farforth/Scamblesby area of The Wolds on Nov 7th, and was observed on and off into 2009 (DS et al).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant, rare in summer. **RBBP**

Spring passage was light with the earliest arrival a coastal bird seen at Tetney on Apr 12th. There were a further five records between Apr 20th-25th, one inland at Boultham Mere, the others coastal and possibly involving just 2 individuals. Similarly in May there were 5 sightings between 4th-31st, with possibly the same individual being seen on 4th at Baston, 8th at Sudbrooke and 9th at Worlaby. One was at Gib Point on 10th, Friskney on 31st and Donna Nook on Jun 7th. Two at North Thoresby on Jul 18th were either failed breeders or summering birds. Autumn passage began on Aug 2nd with a single at Freiston Shore, and a further 19 sites recorded singles during the month. Most were of birds seen on just one day, but one or more birds were seen all month on the Freiston-Frampton coastal sector and at Boultham Mere. A major east coast arrival of raptors on the 13th brought a minimum of 22 birds to the county with 9+ juveniles along the Humber and Ancholme during the next ten days. Many made protracted stays suggestive of recuperative feeding following long flights with, for example, a juvenile male and female at Barton pits to October 16th and one to the 19th with a new bird passing west on the 20th.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

A grossly under-reported species in the county, with observers recording them from a total of 119 sites and the peak count (83) occurred in Sep. Sixteen were recorded at Donna Nook on 14th, and this was reflected elsewhere at other coastal sites in the UK which also recorded significant movements in Sep (e.g. 41 in one morning at Dungeness). It is not possible to determine if this small influx resulted in any greater numbers over-wintering.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total no sites	31	24	27	26	28	24	22	25	27	19	29	20
Min no birds	59	47	48	44	39	46	36	65	83	52	50	44

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce in summer. Bred sporadically in the 19th century.

The totals for 2008 seem fairly typical with most being recorded along the coastal strip and numbers peaking during Jan and Dec. Where do these originate? British breeding birds tend to be resident but disperse altitudinally after the breeding season towards the coast and are a familiar winter visitor to most coastal areas. *The Birds of Lincolnshire & South Humberside* (1989) notes a recovery in the county of a Shetland-ringed nestling, and a small number of UK birds travel even further afield. Recent BTO ringing reports (2006, 2007) show that most UK-ringed birds recovered abroad have moved to France (30) or Spain (8), whereas by far the majority of foreign-ringed Merlins recovered in the UK are from Iceland (29).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total no sites	24	12	9	3	2	0	0	10	10	12	11	16
Min no birds	26	13	11	3	2	0	0	12	11	13	14	23

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to early 1900s and sporadically in the 1970s, regularly from the mid-1980s. Exceptional in winter. **RBBP**

First birds of the spring arrived on Apr 26th at Worlaby Carrs, Whisby and Market Deeping. It is impossible to know the degree of overlap between sightings, but 29 sites recorded birds during May, when most arrived. There were noticeable peaks on 5th, 11th and 18th. Baston had a maximum of 10 birds late month, most other sites recording singletons. Many of these sightings must refer to migrants and first-summer non-breeders. There are possibly in excess of 80 prs in the county based on extrapolated data, but their secretive nature makes proving breeding difficult. In the autumn, there was a notable arrival of juveniles in mid-Sep associated with the same weather system that brought the Honey Buzzards, including three tame juveniles at Barton Pits from Sep 13th-30th, with one staying to Oct 1st. There were two further records of single birds in early Oct, the last on 13th at South Somercotes. Records were received from a total of 91 different sites in all during Apr-Oct.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total no sites	4	29	26	23	27	36	2
Min no birds	4	49	29	27	40	42	2

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records. Has summered since 1998.

Regularly recorded in all months of the year, with several well-known and publicised breeding pairs in the county. A total of 82 different sites reported records during the year, with peak numbers occurring during the early winter. The majority of foreign-ringed Peregrines found in the UK are Scandinavian (a pullus ringed in Norway in 2005 was recovered in the county in 2006) but very few UK birds seem to move abroad (BTO Ringing Report 2006). The recently established county breeding population has added more interest to the local scene and further raises the profile of this magnificent raptor. Breeding was confirmed at two sites: Lincoln Cathedral where two young were raised and a confidential site in South Kesteven where 3 males successfully fledged. Attempted breeding occurred at Immingham Docks where a pair successfully laid a pair of eggs which were unfortunately washed out in heavy spring rain. Possible breeding was reported from Scunthorpe Steel works, but the outcome from this site was unknown.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total no sites	21	15	22	13	7	6	8	12	17	23	23	18
Min no birds	25	18	27	14	11	11	11	17	22	26	34	24

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce resident, fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Much under-recorded. **RBBP**

In the first quarter ones and twos were widely scattered at both coastal and inland sites although 20 were counted at Barton during Mar. There were few reports during the second quarter although there were three at Far Ings NNR on Apr 11th and two at Baston Fen on Apr 30th. The only breeding report was an estimated 15-25 prs at Barton Pits. Elsewhere, a single was at Baston Fen on Jul 20th. Thereafter birds were widely reported with 1-2 at many localities in the third quarter, with four at Marston STW on Sep 4th the highest count reported. In the fourth quarter singles were reported at a dozen sites with two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 28th.

Corn Crane (Corncrake) *Crex crex*

Vagrant. Former summer visitor, declined in 19th century and ceased breeding early 20th. **LBRC RBBP**

The only record involved one heard singing in a rape field at Baumber on 17th May (GRo).

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

The following table illustrates peak monthly counts at selected sites:

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kirkby on Bain GP	34	20	44	27	25	15	43	44	56	50	56	40
R. Welland	44	34	-	16	-	-	-	29	12	16	15	41
Tattershall CP	51	37	48	-	21	13	37	41	50	40	60	50

In addition to the above, 22 were at Deeping Lakes on Jan 3rd with c20 at the same site on Mar 14th. In Feb, 21 were at Baston Fen on 17th with a similar count at

Stallingborough on 22nd. In Mar, c20 were at Gib Point on Mar 14th. There were also 41 at Baston Fen on May 11th. Clearly under recorded.



Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Cleethorpes © Matt Latham, December 2008

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The following table illustrates peak monthly counts at selected sites:

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	444	219	221	77	17	-	86	174	372	441	452	653
Gib Point	55	5	47	36	3	-	18	22	2	-	30	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	425	305	225	154	100	175	410	560	660	560	650	460
Tattershall CP	502	314	149	85	59	75	135	185	200	350	330	370
Whisby NP	316	182	111	82	105	125	238	259	310	285	302	371

As illustrated in the table, numbers quickly dropped across the county after the first quarter and then increased again during the third quarter, particularly from Sep when local numbers were augmented by arriving migrants. In addition to the above, the following notable counts were made; 150 at Deeping Lakes on Jan 3rd, 116 at Boultham Mere on Aug 8th, c200 at Messingham on Sep 21st, 116 at Toft Newton on Dec 14th and 566 at Barton on Dec 27th.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Vagrant/rare, recorded most months. Bred and a common migrant to 16/17th centuries. LBRC

All records came in early spring. The first of the year was in the Sandilands/Huttoft Pit area on Mar 7th-8th (DS, DLI) and was followed by a single at North Thoresby Fisheries on Mar 16th (CA). On Apr 5th, five were noted circling over Normanby (CCG). At Gib Point a single was noted on Apr 8th (HM). Later the same month, three were at Toft Newton on Apr 15th (RH, DHur) and finally two were at Baston Fen on Apr 20th (PNW, EJR).

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common coastal passage migrant/winter visitor and fairly common resident. Scarce inland, but a few breeding records there in last 10 years.

Wash WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	140	1	-	6	3	40	-	1	-	-	10	-
Butterwick	800	6	10	9	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dawsmere	1100	1012	-	40	-	-	1051	1060	1400	1500	2200	-

Frampton Marsh	600	15	26	27	285	22	22	12	1	2	78	61
Freiston Shore	1501	1616	1238	712	305	402	747	125	4	5	700	775
Friskney	1200	1200	-	250	152	200	305	400	200	-	3	600
Gib Point	74	2483	1189	530	117	95	419	1204	1745	3005	1453	15
Holbeach Marsh	750	660	120	702	6	9	149	1300	2300	170	200	-
Leverton	1210	1490	1620	570	178	-	14	12	-	-	191	-
Terrington	1750	955	754	361	132	-	1007	675	3950	1700	-	-
Wainfleet	591	700	1952	176	6	-	26	426	276	1716	6291	-
Welland		808	526	6	28	11	274	427	500	800	800	70
Witham	100	75	75	50	-	-	40	-	-	-	10	-
Wrangle	430	46	-	308	2	-	29	26	330	384	646	3034

Elsewhere, there were no large counts, but the species was widespread along the coast and inland in single and double figure counts. Breeding reports were restricted to one pr at Jobs Lane Pit, one pr at Kirkby on Bain GP, 12 prs at Freiston Shore, 14 prs at Frampton Marsh, 12 prs at Tetney, three prs at Alkborough Flats and a possible pr at Roughton. There was a surprising paucity of records from the Humber WeBS counts with the notable exception of two sites at the mouth of the Humber. Here there were 2400 at Horseshoe Point in Jan with 2600 there in Oct, and 620 at Donna Nook in Sep. See ringing report.

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta

Scarce breeder, fairly common passage migrant, rare in winter and inland. **BBBB**

Wintering singles were noted at North Killingholme Haven Pits and Freiston Shore. The first returning birds were a single at Gib Point and 41 on Read's Island on Feb 10th. Breeding was attempted at six sites: 1pr at Messingham SQ, 1pr at Kirkby on Bain GP, 2 prs at North Killingholme Haven, 3 prs at Worlaby Carrs, 24 prs at Gib Point, 41 prs at Freiston Shore and 84 prs at Alkborough Flats. The colony at Alkborough only managed to fledge three young while the Gib colony at least 19 juvs managed to fledge. Elsewhere, recorded from 24 sites. Inland single figure counts came from Bagmooor/ Winterton Floods, Bardney Pits, Branston Island, Grainthorpe Fen, Messingham SQ, Kirkby on Bain GP, Thorpe St Peter and Worlaby Carrs. Peak coastal counts were 600 at Winterringham Haven, 193 at Alkborough Flats, 117 on Read's Island, 70 at Gib Point and 62 at Freiston Shore, although the Humber counts at least will involve a large (or complete) overlap in birds. At the tail end of the year, one was at Donna Nook on Nov 4th and singles lingered into Dec at Freiston Shore and Gib Point.



Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, June 2008

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*

Vagrant. Bred to early 1900s and again in 1989. LBRC RBBP

One was seen in a paddock adjacent to the River Long Eau near Saltfleetby St Peter on Apr 24th (MEH).

Little Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950.

The first migrant was a single at Barton Pits on Mar 15th. The next arrivals were not until Mar 27th, with two at both Baston-Langtoft GP and Jobs Lane Pit (with four there on 29th) and a single at Kirkby on Bain GP. Reports were then received from a further 15 sites during the spring. Breeding was confirmed from Alkborough Flats where four prs fledged nine young, and at Whisby NP where one pr raised one chick, and was suspected but not proven at Gib Point. The first bird of the autumn migration was probably a single at Covenham Res on Jun 30th. This was followed by approx 30 birds spread over 10 sites. The latest record was of a single at Kirkby on Bain GP on Oct 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Fairly common resident and common passage migrant, mainly coastal. Breeding has spread to inland sites in last 40 years.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	138	1	9	91	2
Freiston Shore	23	29	70	3	20	4	8	75	40	95	-	1
Gib Point	2	7	30	70	29	12	20	42	1	5	-	-
Witham	40	50	250	20	-	3	-	-	85	-	200	150

Non-WeBS peak counts

Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	22	106	17	11	85	110	51	-	-
Freiston Shore	60	70	270	24	13	7	20	200	200	95	35	3
Gib Point	9	53	102	90	200	30	90	402	247	42	15	22

A pronounced passage is evident from the table above, and it is interesting to compare the difference between WeBS data and casual records received. WeBS records are undoubtedly a more standardised and reliable way of assessing numbers of birds over large sites (such as The Wash or Humber), but the higher counts received indicate the true importance of these individual sites for these species. Obvious migrants (most likely of the northern race *tundrae*) were noted in May-Jun, with a count of 130 at Donna Nook on May 18th being the largest count not covered in the table. Inland counts of migrants were received from just 12 sites and were mostly of single figure counts in May-Jun and Aug-Sep. Humber counts of autumn migrants included 124 at Barton on Aug 13th. Mid-winter records seem to be genuinely scarce and restricted to the Wash and occasional bird on the Humber. A colour-ringed bird at Pyewipe on Dec 10th was ringed at Snettisham, Norfolk, as a breeding adult six months earlier on Jun 7th. The only breeding record received was from Freiston Shore, where there were six prs. On a negative note, there were no breeding birds at Tetney this year, the first time this has happened since monitoring began in the mid-1970's.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant, mainly spring.

A poor year for this species, with just two records involving three birds. Two were at Bonby on May 5th (ND) and an adult was at Winteringham Haven on Aug 20th-21st (GPC, ND et al).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Vagrant; LBRC

The only record was of a juv at Fillingham Lake on Nov 4th-5th (DN).

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.

Wash WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	1400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	4
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107	1102	2300	3300	-
Dawsmere	2050	1060	-	-	-	-	-	1900	1400	751	4940	-
Frampton Marsh	-	200	-	-	-	-	7	14	-	-	543	-
Freiston Shore	4050	2100	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	85	-	1215
Friskney	110	212	-	300	-	-	665	132	1	1500	1500	440
Gedney	-	859	-	-	-	-	-	-	1800	565	3770	-
Gib Point	4200	435	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holbeach	-	180	-	-	-	-	1765	120	800	-	-	-
Kirton	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	1810	-
Leverton	2026	925	-	-	-	-	99	1350	116	1504	330	-
Terrington	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1658	900	275	-	-
Wainfleet	222	2217	-	381	-	-	17	1980	270	4360	5580	-
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	190	1800	-	2300	7146	2
Witham	-	1200	-	-	-	-	50	-	75	-	-	1900
Wrangle	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	215	3571	3815	521	310
Other sites peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	6500	3000	-	9	-	-	200	-	1000	1300	3000	2800
Anwick Fen	1400	62	-	-	-	-	-	350	26	3200	1200	280
Donna Nook	900	200	95	60	-	-	2	2000	-	2000	2650	-
Tetney Marsh	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	700	2000	-	2000

As is evident from the table, Golden Plovers are virtually absent in May and Jun, with the first returning flocks arriving in Aug and peaking in Oct-Nov. Numbers may tail off later in the winter as birds continue to move deeper into the country. Other counts over a thousand were: 3000 at Digby Fen on Mar 13th, 1500 at Winteringham Haven on Aug 2nd rising to 2000 on Aug 21st, 2500 at Dorrington Fen on Oct 8th, 1500 at Branston Fen on Oct 21st, 1000 at both Messingham SQ and Nocton Fen on Oct 29th, 1700 at Anderby Creek on Nov 3rd and 2000 at Goxhill-East Halton on Dec 9th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	-	-	-	20	15	-	-	8	6	6	-	-
Butterwick	311	155	57	24	44	-	-	257	757	3	61	73

Dawsmere	11	-	-	-	-	-	41	202	150	50	52	-
Frampton Marsh	180	270	214	22	219	9	80	410	180	10	48	77
Freiston Shore	3	1	37	2	65	6	13	115	3	70	22	-
Friskney	-	-	-	500	340	5	-	51	200	30	5	12
Gedney	782	1181	-	1552	500	-	52	2123	1660	976	265	-
Gib Point	8	950	600	111	165	370	10	31	150	230	623	86
Holbeach	39	50	120	112	115	-	-	-	82	95	120	-
Kirton	10	-	17	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Leverton	330	278	442	1054	1313	-	130	140	156	384	570	-
Terrington	340	7	50	161	230	-	-	21	38	161	-	-
Wainfleet	700	860	1490	682	1100	-	152	-	785	504	657	-
Welland	-	-	500	480	60	-	-	74	400	35	128	220
Witham	-	50	40	40	-	-	4	-	18	-	100	20
Wrangle	139	1300	-	273	1500	-	36	178	512	455	152	907
Totals	2853	5102	3567	4990	5667	390	518	3610	5097	3009	2817	1395

Widely and thinly distributed along the coast, but no large numbers outside of The Wash. Grey Plovers are present in large numbers in The Wash for ten months of the year, with only Jun and Jul providing a lull in records. The record of 370 from Gib Point in Jun was made on the 8th, and probably represented a northbound flock exiting The Wash. The apparent drop in Dec should be viewed with caution, as many counts are not undertaken over the Christmas period. Elsewhere, 300 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 20th and 750 at Cleethorpes LNR on Sep 17th were the only counts over 50. The only inland records were of singles at Willingham by Stow on May 5th and both Toft Newton Res and Kirby on Bain GP on May 9th.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Fairly common resident and very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Wash WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	254	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	250	6
Butterwick	66	21	15	-	8	-	-	-	86	103	764	142
Dawsmere	16	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	85	10	15
Frampton Marsh	1010	2164	2	3	13	31	930	294	404	398	2605	3312
Freiston Shore	625	1630	1	3	14	5	1	-	5	200	726	478
Friskney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	50	35	45
Gedney	695	737	-	-	-	-	-	1	139	117	1615	310
Gib Point	412	940	23	33	18	8	17	14	43	67	59	235
Holbeach	45	23	1	-	2	-	-	-	7	97	800	-
Kirton	-	450	3	-	9	23	50	-	200	1	924	14
Leverton	201	266	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	390	92	-
Terrington	432	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	72	-	-
Wainfleet	144	318	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	165	863	-
Welland	-	620	4	4	5	-	-	99	125	155	5000	168
Witham	-	2000	-	-	-	2	10	-	1800	-	150	1200
Wrangle	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	224	502	205

Other site counts

Alkborough Flats	10120	3500	-	-	-	-	200	-	2200	-	3000	3000
Anwick Fen	800	64	2	6	14	13	7	2100	350	1580	1450	245
Donna Nook	1400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	1500
Kirkby on Bain GP	80	150	17	15	20	27	70	200	600	120	1400	400

During Jan and in addition to the numbers in the table, the following counts over 1000 were received: Gib Point 3000, Goxhill Marsh 2000, Lea Marsh 1500, North Killingholme 1800, RAF Waddington 2000, Welland Mouth 5000. In Feb, the only other large count was of 1600 at Pyewipe. Numbers quickly dwindled in Mar, with the largest count being 500 at Dorrington Fen on Mar 4th. Breeding reports were received from Anwick (2+ prs), Branston Island (1+ pr), Dorrington (1pr), Frampton Marsh (5 prs), Freiston Shore (7 prs), RAF Waddington (12 prs), Whisby NP (1 pr) and Worlaby Carrs (2+ prs), although this species will be vastly under-recorded. Autumn passage began in Jul, with 100 at Messingham SQ on 4th and numbers quickly built up at most sites. Reported from a total of 57 sites in the autumn, making this one of the most widespread wader species. Large flocks not detailed above included 1310 on the R. Welland (Spalding – Borough Fen) Sep 14th, 1000 on Read's Island on Oct 19th, and 2000 at Bishopbridge on Nov 18th. An arrival in late Dec included 1000 at Tetney Marsh and 1120 at Donna Nook on 21st and 1000 at Nocton Fen and 750 at Messingham SQ on 24th. The Wash is the most important site for this species in the country, and the Humber is not far behind.



Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, February 2008



Red Knot *Calidris canutus* and **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, August 2008

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

Wash WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Butterwick	20	-	160	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-
Dawsmere	8200	1080	-	250	-	-	200	3700	900	230	6000	-
Frampton Marsh	4000	8000	1500	-	19	25	92	230	1	15000	1800	11000
Freiston Shore	1900	30	2000	1000	15	800	2300	710	400	380	900	125
Friskney	500	4000	-	-	400	-	135	4000	15000	5000	150	3000
Gedney	125	1300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	770	8000	2100	3200	120	2450	11	2538	225	3000	25300	98
Holbeach	2600	350	100	720	310	-	-	1200	600	2300	500	-
Leverton	2100	2250	2605	1200	1210	-	238	3675	5240	3500	2847	-
Terrington	1	70	947	65	180	-	-	30	-	-	-	-
Wainfleet	410	5300	6400	5385	115	-	4730	5700	22160	9638	7925	-
Welland	-	1400	1500	700	2000	-	-	-	-	8000	15000	150
Witham	1500	-	500	650	-	200	1600	-	1500	-	1100	1050
Wrangle	500	-	-	100	950	-	61	889	7000	3600	-	500
Humber counts												
Cleethorpes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9000	-	1000	-
Donna Nook	300	150	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	200	10	130

Horseshoe Point	1900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6000	-	-
Pyewipe	-	400	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

This species was surprisingly scarce away from the Wash, with most counts on the Humber coming from the Yorkshire side. Knots are an early returning migrant, with the first birds turning up in late Jun. They are also quite mobile around the Wash, with birds seemingly arriving on the Lincs side and later moving to the Norfolk side. Just one inland bird was reported, at Toft Newton Res on Sep 2nd. See also ringing report.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	350	-	-	180	-	-	50	26
Gib Point	600	180	265	465	1500	430	1300	2400	1760	700	180	240

The two sites in the table account for the majority of Lincs records this year, and clear peaks are evident during spring and autumn passage. Elsewhere, birds were surprisingly absent all along the coast between Donna Nook and Gib Point during the first half of the year, with records of 66 at Brickyard Lane End on Jan 5th, six at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and eight at Chapel Point on Feb 2nd, three at Trusthorpe on Feb 9th and 16 at Sandilands on Apr 10th being the only sightings reported. In the Humber and Wash, this species is surprisingly scarce, and this is no doubt due to the lack of suitable sandy sediments. Nonetheless, two were at Barton on Apr 23rd, 1-6 were at Alkborough Flats on Apr 23rd-May 21st, seven were at Welland Marsh on May 23rd and six were at Freiston Shore in May. The first migrants of the autumn were 65 at Gib Point on Jul 4th. Numbers here grew rapidly to a peak of 2400 on Aug 5th. Away from Gib, the first of the autumn were surprisingly at Freiston Shore with 1-2 on Jul 22nd-Aug 5th. Other arrivals in Aug included 20 at Tetney Marsh on 4th and 6-20 at various sites between Gib Point and Donna Nook. The protracted autumn passage was evident at many sites along the coast, with 10 at Tetney Marsh on Sep 10th being the peak count for that month, while in Oct there were peaks of 12 at Chapel Point, 20 at Freiston Shore, 54 at Mablethorpe, 12 at Paradise, 60 at Tetney Marsh and 64 at Trusthorpe. Wintering birds were almost completely restricted to Gib Point and Donna Nook, with the only other record being nine at Chapel Point on Dec 20th. Inland records were few and far between. In spring, singles appeared at Branston Island on May 8th, Toft Newton Res on May 21st and 23rd, Messingham SQ on May 22nd and Covenham Res on May 25th. In the autumn, the only inland record was of one at Covenham Res on Aug 7th. An unusual record was of one flying inland at Frampton Marsh on Jan 19th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

Noted from just 13 sites. During the opening winter period, 1-2 were at Alkborough Flats from Jan 1st-6th, with 1-4 there on Feb 4th-Mar 15th, increasing to five on Mar 17th-19th. Numbers then dropped and just one remained until May 2nd. At Freiston Shore, a single was present Jan 26th-30th, with 1-2 there on Feb 9th-Mar 8th, increasing to 1-3 on Mar 9th-Apr 28th. Spring passage began on May 5th with singles at Gib Point and Kirkby on Bain GP, and was followed by one at Freiston Shore on May 13th-18th with two there on 17th, singles at Alkborough Flats on May 15th and 20th-24th, Gib Point on May 22nd, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 22nd-23rd and Thorpe St Peter on May 23rd. The only Jun record was of one at Freiston Shore on 3rd and 7th. Autumn passage began in early Aug, with one at Alkborough Flats on 3rd. The

next arrival there was two on 12th increasing to four on 14th, after which 1-5 were present until Sep 9th. Another arrival was apparent on Sep 10th when 17 were counted there, dwindling to 10 on 13th and then to just one on 22nd, before another arrival of seven was noted on 24th, increasing to an impressive 19 on Sep 28th. The count then decreased to three on Oct 6th before increasing again to 20 on Oct 11th. Numbers then steadily declined, with only five on Oct 21st. Five were still present on Nov 24th, and 1-3 were present until the years end. A count of 13 at Winteringham on Sep 21st may have been Alkborough birds relocating briefly. It's impossible to say how many individuals were involved, but a reasonable turnover of individuals during migration is to be expected. At Freiston Shore, singles arrived on Jul 29th-Aug 2nd, Aug 17th-20th and Sep 3rd-9th. There were then 3-4 present on Sep 16th-19th, and 10 arrived on Sep 20th. Smaller numbers were present until the last record of two on Oct 17th. Elsewhere, 1-2 were at Gib Point from Aug 1st-Oct 12th and singles were at Tetney Marsh on Aug 13th and Sep 29th-Oct 6th, at Toft Newton Res on Sep 10th-13th and Oct 5th, at Covenham Res intermittently on Sep 15th-Oct 12th with an unusual winter record from there on Dec 29th-31st, at Humberstone Yacht Club Pools on Sep 16th and Oct 4th-8th, at Donna Nook on Oct 4th and at Paradise and Kirkby on Bain GP on Oct 5th with three at Kirkby on Bain GP on Oct 14th-15th.



Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Toft Newton © Matt Latham, October 2008



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Toft Newton © Dean Eades, 19th May 2008

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

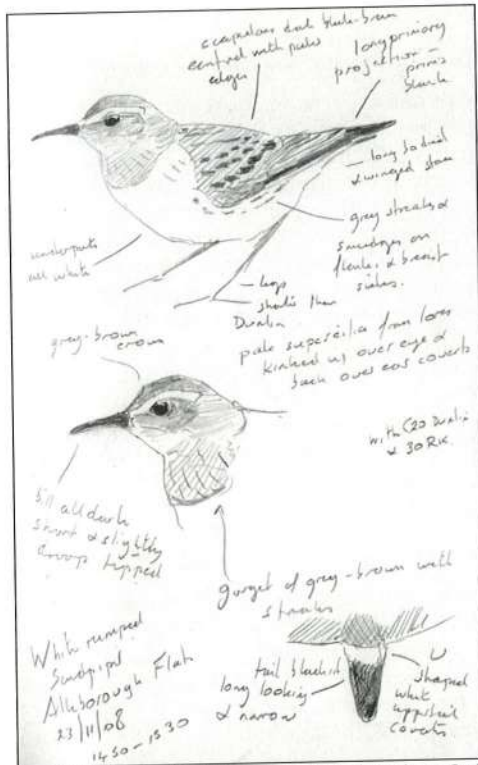
Rare passage migrant. LBRC

Eight birds in one year is an excellent total, especially considering that five were together. The first single turned up at Kirkby on Bain GP on May 6th-8th (KDR, TGu et al) and was followed by one trapped and ringed at Blankney Quarry on May 14th (KBo, GPr) and a single at Toft Newton on May 19th-20th (DE, JTH, RHa). An unprecedented flock of five was found at Alkborough Flats on May 22nd-25th with at least four there the following day and at least one there on 28th (GPC, CN et al).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant; LBRC

One was at Alkborough Flats on Nov 23rd and 30th (GPC, ND). Nov records are not unheard of for this species, indeed the first two county records both made it into Nov, but this is the latest ever.



White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Alkborough Flats © Graham Catley, 23rd November 2008

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Vagrant; LBRC

An adult was at Gib Point intermittently from Jul 24th-Aug 17th (KMW et al), one was at Freiston Shore from Aug 17th-18th (PS et al) and a juv was there on Sep 20th (SK). An extraordinary arrival at Alkborough Flats comprised 2 juvs on Sep 24th increasing to four juvs on the 28th with 3 to 29th and one remaining to Oct 6th (ND et al). A further single was at Gib Point on Sep 25th.



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
Gibraltar Point © Russell Hayes, 7th August 2008



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Gibraltar
Point © Russell Hayes, 21st September 2008

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn. Rare in winter.

Five spring records, with one at Freiston Shore on Apr 28th-29th, two at Cleethorpes on May 2nd and singles at Gib Point on May 6th, Frampton Marsh on May 9th and again at Gib Point on Jun 3rd. Autumn passage began on Jul 12th with an adult at Freiston Shore. There were three distinct main arrivals: 18 at Freiston Shore on Aug 2nd, 36 at Gib Point on Aug 17th and 20 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 10th (rising to 30 on Sep 13th). Interestingly, each of these arrivals was very local and not mirrored at the other main sites. At Alkborough Flats, there were 1-7 regularly from Jul 20th-Oct 22nd, at Freiston Shore there were 1-4 regularly from Jul 12th-Sep 21st, with the last record from this site being a small arrival of six on Sep 23rd. At Gib Point, there were 1-5 from Jul 24th-Sep 23rd with a late single on Oct 1st. Records from other sites were as follows: one at Cleethorpes on Aug 2nd, one at Tetney Marsh on Aug 3rd-6th, 1-2 at Humberstone Yacht Club Pools on Aug 6th and again on Aug 30th-Sep 5th with three there on Sep 16th, three at Donna Nook on Aug 16th, one at Cleethorpes on Oct 14th and finally two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 19th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

The only report from the first winter period was of a single at Witham Mouth on Jan 13th. Two juvs at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 23rd were the first of the autumn, but the next did not occur until five flew north past Mablethorpe on Oct 3rd. One was then at Trusthorpe on Oct 11th and presumably another flew north past Mablethorpe on Nov 1st. Elsewhere, singles were at Cleethorpes North Wall on Nov 15th and Dec 17th at least, at Witham Mouth on Nov 16th-18th and at Covenham Res on Nov 23rd-27th.



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Covenham Res © Russell Hayes, 26th November 2008

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal. Bred to early 20th century and in 1958.

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Butterwick	315	75	150	-	108	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Dawsmere	200	1530	-	-	-	-	635	1400	20	450	600	-
Frampton Marsh	950	1400	1700	490	40	10	1480	2028	760	3300	2880	555
Freiston Shore	2	75	1200	1200	81	10	2500	1550	2025	420	700	305
Friskney	1000	1400	-	600	1000	-	320	2000	2000	1000	200	1000
Gedney	275	975	-	1145	-	-	461	730	-	540	450	-
Gib Point	520	2700	400	650	227	103	1910	1523	70	133	2300	5
Holbeach	2250	400	450	300	400	-	185	620	-	800	900	-
Leverton	845	1160	876	1220	756	-	3000	937	743	633	767	-
Terrington	1480	29	350	111	-	292	292	61	26	180	-	-
Wainfleet	2685	1250	3250	1660	660	-	2008	1350	-	1675	1260	-
Welland	-	600	300	500	3	-	3	40	-	-	200	80
Witham	2400	3025	1500	1450	-	-	2000	-	1000	-	1800	1200
Wrangle	135	2000	-	100	50	-	240	540	220	265	17	850
Totals	13057	16619	10176	9426	3325	415	15034	12779	6864	9399	12074	3995

Other site counts

Alkborough Flats	60	202	-	183	60	10	240	190	450	500	130	22
Donna Nook	250	-	500	-	-	-	-	320	-	-	12	-
Pyewipe	50	400	300	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

From the table, it is clear that the main arrival takes place in Jul, with many birds continuing to wintering sites elsewhere. Small numbers were scattered along the coast and the Humber away from the main sites, with peak counts of 300 at Chowder Ness Jul 25th, 600 Tetney Marsh Aug 6th, 400 Read's Island Oct 26th, 1200 North Killingholme Haven Pits Oct 28th, 2500 Read's Island Dec 10th, 200 Humberstone Fitties Dec 21st and 700 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Dec 28th. Inland records were in short supply, but comprised singles at Baston-Langtoft GP and Kirkby on Bain GP Mar 27th and Apr 26th, Jobs Lane Pit Mar 29th, eight at Covenham Res May 4th with one there May 9th, one at Kirkby on Bain GP May 5th-7th, one at Branston Island May 9th, one at Covenham Res on Aug 3rd and two there on Aug 23rd, two at Kirkby on Bain GP Oct 14th-16th and finally one at Covenham Res Nov 21st.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Vagrant; BBRC

An adult was at Alkborough Flats on May 16th-18th (GPC, ND, CCG, WG et al). This is the 10th record for Lincs. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p555.



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* Alkborough Flats © Graham Catley, 16th-18th May 2008

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant; LBRC

One was at Alkborough Flats on Jul 14th, then 18th-19th and then again on Aug 3rd (GPC, ND et al). All sightings presumed to relate to one bird.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Bred to 19th century. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	4	6	17	3	2	24	38	97	75	35	3
Frampton Marsh	7	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	5	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	-	2	-	25	2	4	1	3	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	5	4	2	2	9	3	1	-	-
Humberstone Yacht Club	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	2	-	-
Manby/Carlton Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	2	-	-

A clear arrival in Jul, increasing in number and spread in Aug is apparent. A small number of wintering birds from 2007 stayed on into 2008, but the same seems unlikely to have happened going into 2009. The peak counts detailed here represent absolute minimums for the site in that month, as no doubt a turnover of birds would have taken place. Recorded from a further 13 sites. The highest counts were 11 at East Halton Mar 18th with 22 there Mar 22nd, nine at North Killingholme Haven Mar 22nd and eight at Marston STW Sep 15th. Smaller numbers were at several coastal sites. Inland singles were at Hagnaby Lock/Fen Jul 12th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods Jul 17th-24th, Covenham Res Aug 23rd and Worlaby Carrs Nov 22nd.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Probably much under-recorded. RBBP

Recorded from 17 sites. In the first winter period, singles were present intermittently at Rimac Jan 1st, Donna Nook Jan 1st-Mar 9th, Nocton Fen Jan 6th, Trent Port Jan 9th, Gib Point Jan 19th-Mar 19th, Humberstone Yacht Club Pools Jan 22nd, Frampton Marsh Jan 22nd-Feb 18th, Howden's Pullover Feb 9th-27th, Boultham Mere Feb 11th, Barton Mar 5th, and Saltfleetby Mar 9th. Also in this period there were two at Laughton Forest Jan 19th with three there Feb 12th to Mar 7th, three at Barton Jan 20th with two on Feb 3rd, three together at Jobs Lane Pit Jan 26th-Feb 7th with two there Feb 24th. The last bird of the period was at Nocton Fen Apr 8th. An early autumn migrant was at Frampton Marsh Sep 14th and the only Oct records were of singles at Kirkby on Bain GP on 5th, Alkborough Flats on 22nd, and Gib Point on 30th and three at Pyewipe on Oct 21st. A further 14-15 individuals were found in the second winter period, with singles at Donna Nook Nov 1st and 6th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Nov 3rd, Wrangle Bank Nov 12th, Gib Point Nov 15th-26th, Worlaby Carrs Nov 24th and 28th, Laughton Forest Nov 27th, Howden's Pullover Dec 7th and Freiston Shore Dec 14th. A count of four was made at Owston Ferry Dec 14th and three were at Jobs Lane Pit Dec 17th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Rare breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only double figure counts in the first winter period were 90 in Laughton Forest, 65 at Rimac, 58 at Trent Port, 40 at Gib Point and 15 at Job's Lane Pit in Jan, 15 at

Frampton Marsh, 16 at Baston Fen NR 10 at Gib Point and 10 at Metheringham Delph in Feb and 14 at Freiston Shore and 21 at Saltfleetby in Mar. There were no breeding season records or any indications of breeding. A sad state of affairs considering there were 216 drumming birds in 1971. The first of the autumn was at Gib Point Jul 13th, and was followed by 1-2 birds at six sites, and eight at Alkborough Flats Jul 28th. The peak count in Aug was 36 at Frampton Marsh, and there were single figure counts at a further nine sites. The main arrival began in Sep, with counts of 30 at Marston STW Sep 4th, 23 at Worlaby Carrs Sep 7th, 40 at Alkborough Flats Sep 20th, 24 at Messingham SQ Sep 21st rising to 37 Sep 27th and 27 at West Ashby Sep 22nd. The same sites featured in Oct with mostly single figure counts, but the peak count at Messingham SQ had risen to 62 by 14th. Other larger counts in Oct were 28 at Worlaby Carrs, 26 at both Frampton Marsh and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 11 at Tetney Marsh. Larger wintering concentrations in Dec were 45 at Freiston Shore, 26 at Jobs Lane Pit and Gib Point, 19 at Frampton Marsh, 16 at Anwick Fen and 10 at Messingham SQ.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded in most months, except Aug and Sep. Single figure counts were reported from 18 sites during Jan-Mar with a peak of five at Gib Point on Mar 15th. During Apr-Jul there were reports from nine sites, and roding was seen at Horsington Wood, Ostler's Plantation and Temple Wood. The first arrival of the autumn was four at Crook Bank Oct 16th, but the next report was not until Oct 30th. From that date there were near daily records of 1-10 from many coastal sites until mid-Nov, with outstanding counts of 21 at Gib Point Oct 31st increasing to 55 Nov 2nd. From mid-Nov, reports were received from more inland than coastal sites and demonstrated the movement of birds away from the coast as winter progresses. A total of 13 sites held 1-2 birds, with a max daily count of four at Whisby Pits Dec 13th. The true status of this species in winter is unknown, as most birds will winter in private woodland. An indication of this was the total of 203 birds shot in Welton le Marsh woods on Jan 29th alone, and 184 birds shot in a single day in Dec on the Brocklesby estate.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1200	-	2000	300
Freiston Shore	20	10	8	3	-	-	-	1	5133	3535	3	115
Gedney	-	-	-	1	-	-	856	650	1150	352	40	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	1000	500	200	4	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	1250	2100	682	19	-	-
Witham	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	-	1800	-	200	200
Totals	20	10	8	4	-	7	3176	3750	4132	571	244	200

Humber peak counts

Alkborough Flats	116	90	108	180	80	78	270	168	15	137	-	12
North Killingholme Pits	2430	1200	1420	850	-	-	1000	3140	3550	4000	3000	2500

Away from the tabled sites above, single figure wintering birds were at Humberstone Yacht Club Pools and occasional birds were elsewhere within The Wash. Spring passage was noticeable on the Humber and almost absent on The Wash. Inland birds in spring were up to four at Messingham SQ Apr 14th-27th and one at Manby/Carlton Flashes

Jun 29th. The first returning migrants were those at Alkborough Flats, plus a flock of 30 at Witham Mouth Jun 28th. Autumn passage began in earnest in Jul, but the only inland records were four at Messingham SQ on 6th and 40 at Long Sutton on 21st. It was much the same story for the rest of the autumn. The only records away from the main sites were three at Donna Nook Aug 2nd, two at Kirkby on Bain GP Aug 3rd with three there on Aug 10th, five at Manby/Carlton Flashes Aug 6th, two at Wolla Bank Aug 18th, 14 at Chapel St Leonards Aug 19th, and finally 40 at Salfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and one at Tetney Marsh Aug 23rd. Further arrivals were evident in Sep with the first large flock of 1000 recorded at Freiston Shore on 15th. Inland birds during the remainder of the year were seven at Covenham Res Sep 8th, one at West Ashby Sep 9th, two at Kirkby on Bain GP Sep 18th-21st and one at Whisby NP Oct 1st-Nov 11th. Both the Humber and The Wash remain internationally important for this species.



Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, 24th November 2008

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dawsmere	1470	740	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	311	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4400	7	-
Freiston	175	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Friskney	700	700	-	600	-	-	2	800	800	1000	400	700
Gib Point	23	3	4	45	-	-	-	40	23	37	13	33
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	-	25	50	-
Leverton	1420	1800	3060	261	37	-	161	850	3123	2100	2510	-
Terrington	197	126	70	-	2	-	-	35	3	4	-	-
Wainfleet	601	3550	4200	140	-	-	536	-	3325	2275	3717	-
Welland	-	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350
Witham	15	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	57
Wrangle	70	1500	-	110	23	-	500	516	5350	770	30	1250

Recorded from several coastal sites during the first winter period, although the only significant count not in the table was 131 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Jan. Spring passage was largely unnoticed, although 450 at Gib Point May 7th were probably migrants. The only Jun records were of 200 at Witham Mouth on 8th and 28th. Autumn passage began in Jul, and the first flocks were 200 at Tetney Marsh

Aug 2nd and 200 at Freiston Shore Aug 22nd. The only inland record was of one at Messingham SQ Oct 29th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

The first of the year was a single at Freiston Shore Apr 9th. Passage was then light but constant until three at Freiston Shore May 23rd. The only flocks into double figures were 13 at Rimac Apr 22nd, 50 at Frampton Marsh Apr 27th, 25 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Apr 28th, 17 at Gib Point May 2nd and 61 at Benington Jun 8th. Inland records were restricted to singles at Covenham Res Apr 21st-26th, Lea Marsh Apr 27th and North Kelsey Moor May 3rd, with a flock of five at North Kelsey Moor May 5th and 10 at Worlaby Carrs May 3rd. Autumn passage began with six at Witham Mouth Jun 28th. In Jul birds were reported from 20 sites with the largest flock being 27 at Freiston Shore, this increased to 23 sites in Aug but the largest flock size was only 20, again at Freiston Shore. A notable inland record was 10 at Covenham St Mary Aug 7th. Passage slowed down in Sep with single figure counts from just 10 sites. The final bird of the year was one at Pye's Hall Oct 12th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

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

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	30	64	-	6	10	-	-	16	25	45	30	45
Butterwick	23	120	47	39	-	-	-	314	160	34	38	4
Dawsmere	24	26	-	24	-	-	52	8	13	51	415	6
Frampton Marsh	27	76	85	46	3	41	567	64	53	285	116	102
Freiston	78	57	269	39	52	4	258	12	48	344	124	135
Friskney	150	206	-	25	3	150	80	220	400	215	80	58
Gedney	3	63	-	17	-	9	26	165	195	80	14	21
Gib Point	75	398	213	42	11	35	125	36	83	88	140	41
Holbeach	13	-	91	14	2	-	400	-	232	10	300	-
Kirton	66	174	27	35	-	1	4	5	6	36	78	68
Leverton	51	372	30	27	8	-	459	779	403	507	53	-
Terrington	36	229	204	52	18	-	193	153	1054	585	-	-
Wainfleet	391	383	327	21	8	-	1057	447	1008	286	256	-
Welland	-	-	26	14	48	17	16	3	60	40	82	-
Witham	45	250	200	65	-	-	30	-	55	-	156	300
Wrangle	39	18	-	193	36	-	238	168	1162	241	67	414

Humber WeBS totals

Alkborough Flats	223	262	181	194	2	11	60	70	110	170	372	413
Immingham Docks	-	8	11	2	-	-	-	9	17	21	-	-
Killingholme Marsh	-	2	13	10	-	-	-	26	3	45	20	92
New Holland area	24	62	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	72	2	110
Read's Island area	614	335	215	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitton Ness area	81	86	42	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Possible breeding attempts were reported from Nocton Fen, Welbourn Low Fields and Foston. The largest numbers outside of The Wash were at Alkborough Flats in Oct, Donna Nook in Feb and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Dec.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, rare/scarse in spring but fairly common in autumn. Rare but regular in winter.

Wintering birds from 2007 were apparent, with 1-2 at Alkborough Flats and singles at Gib Point, Freiston Shore and Gedney Drove End in Jan-Mar. Up to eight were then at Alkborough Flats/Trent Falls Mar 9th. Possibly early migrants were nine at Alkborough Flats Apr 17th and this was the largest gathering of the spring. During Apr-May, singles were at Alkborough Flats, Freiston Shore and Gib Point, and late singles or early returning birds were noted in Jun at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh and Alkborough Flats. Autumn passage was very protracted, with 1-2 noted at 12 sites Aug-Oct. The latest passage bird was at Pye's Hall Oct 26th. At Alkborough Flats, six arrived on Sep 7th, increasing to seven Sep 23rd and then 11 Oct 22nd. Two were still present Dec 25th and were set to winter. The only inland record was one at Covenham Res Sep 8th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	82	62	-	9	2	16	-	14	10	25	1	2
Butterwick	23	139	22	48	15	-	-	34	101	101	40	53
Dawsmere	21	27	-	47	-	-	132	30	45	99	78	9
Frampton Marsh	92	103	225	163	50	37	378	417	786	896	798	198
Freiston Shore	128	264	449	25	38	12	500	352	900	402	139	713
Friskney	30	70	-	45	40	6	18	40	8	12	30	25
Gedney	90	69	-	42	19	57	19	328	133	179	41	54
Gib Point	147	138	64	149	18	16	63	75	106	134	250	221
Holbeach	31	19	56	95	3	6	28	-	30	114	53	-
Kirton	34	36	14	24	4	11	1	6	9	16	10	22
Leverton	13	32	55	39	22	-	63	26	50	191	62	-
Terrington	64	168	45	19	14	-	24	99	268	365	-	-
Wainfleet	56	83	263	49	27	-	181	13	1	74	185	-
Welland	-	166	155	112	18	3	3	232	280	250	217	17
Witham	105	250	150	50	-	6	55	-	50	-	50	210
Wrangle	33	34	-	179	26	-	59	30	57	48	92	369
Totals	949	1660	1498	1095	269	170	1524	1696	2834	2906	2046	1893
Humber peak totals												
Alkborough Flats	55	100	-	-	-	32	-	26	70	300	40	27
Barrow Haven area	14	53	92	50	-	-	-	-	4	66	250	108
Donna Nook	-	126	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	170
Immingham Docks	-	61	28	78	-	-	-	109	5	18	-	16
Killingholme Marsh	-	51	41	9	-	-	-	1	1	-	82	68
New Holland area	4	102	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
North Killingholme Pits	-	17	18	3	-	-	-	5	-	42	3	-
Pyewipe	3	120	30	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Read's Island	106	65	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	70	120	-	-
Totals	182	695	469	170	-	32	-	441	150	563	415	389

In common with other sites around Britain, numbers in The Wash peak in the autumn as birds move through to wintering grounds further south and west. The incomplete figures from the Humber preclude any attempt at analysis. Reported from at least 21 inland sites throughout the county, but scarce along the coast between Gib Point and Donna Nook. Highest inland figure was 60 at Kirkby on Bain GP in Jan. Breeding bird surveys produced 213 prs on Frampton Marsh (up from 163 in 2007 and a five yr high after an all time low of 99 prs in 2004) that included three prs on the newly created wet grassland, 64 prs at Tetney Marsh, 13 prs at Alkborough Flats, 10 prs at Freiston Shore, two prs at Worlabby Carrs and one pr at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods. A colour-ringed individual at Chowder Ness Jul 25th was ringed on Sep 30th 2007 at Levington Lagoon, Suffolk TM2338 as an adult and last seen on the River Orwell, Suffolk on Apr 1st 2008.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Approx six birds were present in the first winter period, with two at Donna Nook and singles at Howden's Pullover, Somercotes Haven, Saltfleet Haven and Read's Island. Spring passage produced 1-5 birds from 26 sites, mainly coastal. Peak counts were five at Baston-Langtoft GP May 4th and five at Freiston Shore May 5th. Other inland records were singles at Covenham Res Apr 15th, Crowle Waste Moors Apr 25th, Kirkby on Bain GP May 6th, Toft Newton Res May 7th-12th, Marston STW May 8th, Swanpool May 9th, Market Rasen and Potterhanworth Fen May 13th, Messingham SQ May 13th and 27th and Whisby NP May 24th-28th. Two on Branston Island May 8th increased to three the next day.

Wash WeBS totals	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Dawsmere	28	88	25	-
Frampton Marsh	84	101	7	1
Freiston Shore	1	17	2	-
Gib Point	3	26	1	-
Holbeach	68	4	35	9
Other Wash sites	18	14	9	2
Total	202	250	79	12

Autumn passage was protracted, beginning in late Jun with two at Witham Mouth on 28th and three at Alkborough Flats on 30th. The Wash is the most important site in the country for passage Greenshanks, and the totals for the Lincs sectors are tabled above. The total of 250 in Aug is significantly higher than the 201 reported in 2006/07 for the entire Wash (Austin et al, 2008). The main arrival was in Jul, with further arrivals in Aug. Elsewhere, there were peak counts of 11 at Humberstone Yacht Club Pools Aug 17th, 20 at Alkborough Flats Aug 22nd, 11 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Aug 23rd and 12 at Pye's Hall Sep 17th. Inland singles were reported from Covenham Res Jul 14th, Whisby NP Jul 31st, Bardney Pits and Messingham SQ Aug 4th, Kirkby on Bain GP Aug 10th, Cadney Res Aug 12th and Apex Pit Sep 13th. In addition, there were three at Manby/Carlton Flashes Jul 6th and Aug 3rd, two at Kirkby on Bain GP Aug 24th and two at Covenham Res Aug 30th with one to Sep 8th. Nov records of singles came from Gib Point, Alkborough Flats and Donna Nook, and one was seen into Dec at Donna Nook-Grainthorpe Marsh.



Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Freiston Shore © Steve Keightley, 5th May 2008

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

During Jan-Mar, singles were reported from 21 widespread sites, with other counts of four at North Kelsey Moor Jan 5th, four at Saxilby Jan 13th, two at Marston STW Jan 26th increasing to five Mar 15th-19th and two at Tattershall Mar 25th. Spring passage was light and restricted to mostly single birds at 12 sites, although three at Donna Nook May 28th were noteworthy. After this record, there was a gap of over two weeks before the next, and this was two at Grainthorpe Fen Jun 16th, and they probably signified the start of the autumn passage. From Jul-Oct, birds were reported from 42 widely scattered sites. Most sites held 1-5 birds, but double figure counts were 16 at Kirkby on Bain GP Jul 21st, 18 at Manby/Carlton Flashes and 10 at Marston STW Aug 2nd, 10 at Alkborough Flats Aug 3rd, 10 at Frampton Marsh in Jul rising to 12 in Aug and 12 at Grainthorpe Fen in Aug. Small numbers remained into Dec, with three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, two at Bourne South Fen and singles at Covenham Res, Branston Fen, Woodhall Spa, Thurlby Sand Pit, Messingham SQ and Whisby NP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

The first of the spring was on May 4th at Baston-Langtoft GP. Multiple spring arrivals comprised five at Alkborough Flats on May 5th, two at Butterwick Hale on May 8th and two at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 10th. Further singles in May were recorded from Messingham SQ on 8th, Branston Island on 9th, Freiston Shore on 12th-14th and 16th-17th and Grainthorpe Fen on 20th. Late spring birds or possibly the first returning birds of the autumn were single adults at Kirkby on Bain GP on Jun 13th and Gib Point on Jun 20th. The arrival of autumn migrants proper did not start until Jul 17th with a single at Alkborough Flats. At least a further nine individuals were seen in Jul, with four at Gib Point on 28th increasing to six on the 30th being the highest count of the month. The other Jul records were singles at Freiston Shore on 22nd-28th, Huttoft Pit on 30th and Covenham Res on 31st. In Aug, multiple counts were three at Manby Flashes on the 2nd, two at Huttoft Pit on the 3rd, five at Gib Point on the 5th, four west over Chowder Ness on 17th and three at Grainthorpe Haven on the 31st. In addition, single birds were recorded at Tetney Marsh on 1st, Marston STW on 10th,

Covenham Res on 12th-17th, Alkborough Flats on 16th, Frampton Marsh on 17th and Freiston Shore on 18th. Sep records were limited to a flock of five at Freiston Shore on 6th (four there the following day) and singles at Alkborough Flats on 12th-13th and Stanton's Pit on 13th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Just one bird in the first winter period, at Trent Port Jan 9th and 22nd at least. The first of the spring passage was a single at Marston STW Apr 8th, and was followed by 1-5 birds at 31 widely scattered sites. Higher counts were six at Covenham Res Apr 28th-May 9th with 10 there May 19th and seven at Alkborough Flats Jun 28th. There was no pause in the migration, with birds present throughout Jun-Jul. From Jul-Oct, birds were reported from approx 40 sites. There were two distinct peaks of occurrence, the first from Jul 26th- Aug 4th and the second from Sep 15th-20th. Most records were of 1-9 birds, but larger counts were 13 at Alkborough Flats Jul 6th, 24 at Gib Point and 32 along the R. Witham and R. Welland (from Boston Belle cruise) Jul 26th, 12 at Freiston Shore Jul 27th-Aug 8th, 10 at Covenham Res Jul 31st, 11 at Tetney Marsh Aug 1st-3rd, 14 at Gib Point Aug 2nd, 10 at Covenham Res Sep 17th-18th. The final birds of the year were singles at Grimsby Docks and Kirkby on Bain GP Oct 16th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

Wash WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Benington	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	60	-	-	-
Butterwick	17	10	6	25	20	-	-	3	15	3	3	12
Frampton Marsh	6	12	11	16	-	-	8	22	9	5	5	3
Freiston	12	7	50	6	5	35	40	110	115	100	75	5
Gib Point	3	5	2	20	4	3	2	20	2	3	2	9
Leverton	-	5	3	-	7	-	32	-	5	20	15	-
Terrington	37	18	16	1	1	-	-	1	-	10	-	-
Welland	-	24	-	-	1	-	23	5	286	1	44	-
Witham	55	100	-	25	-	-	10	-	50	-	250	65
Wrangle	100	-	-	10	-	-	-	5	-	45	1	-
Humber totals												
Barrow Haven	47	50	250	80	-	-	-	10	111	4	150	100
Barton	-	-	350	220	-	-	-	30	-	292	-	-
New Holland	90	270	-	100	-	-	-	1	30	180	250	440

Probably under-recorded in The Wash as large numbers roost on the offshore buoys over high tides. Strictly coastal during Jan-Mar, with a further good count of 77 at Cleethorpes Feb 16th. Spring passage was recorded at just nine sites, although inland there was one at Kirkby on Bain GP May 6th-8th, five at Covenham Res May 9th decreasing to one by May 30th, one at Messingham SQ May 12th-13th and eight there May 27th, 1-2 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods May 23rd-25th and finally one at Whisby NP May 30th. Autumn passage began in earnest in early Aug, but from Jul-Dec birds were reported from just 20 sites. The only inland record was of five at Covenham Res Sep 7th. Peak counts not in the table were 40 at Shep Whites Aug 5th and 75 at Cleethorpes Sep 1st.



Avocet: Neil Smith



Oystercatcher: Nick Clayton



Curlew: Neil Smith



Sanderling: Matt Latham

Main Image: Grey Phalarope by Matt Latham



Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Humberston © Mark Latham, March 2008

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Vagrant; BBRC

One was at Alkborough Flats on Sep 16th-21st (GPC et al). This was the 9th record for Lincs but the first since 1987. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p558.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

Three records represents a good year. Two arrived within a few miles of each other on the NE coast on Sep 17th: a juv at Humberstone Yacht Club Pools (RPi) and the other at Donna Nook (SL). The final record was of a juv at Freiston Shore that commuted between the reservoir and Shooters Pool on Sep 19th-21st (PS et al).



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Freiston Shore © Russell Hayes, 22nd September 2008 (left) and **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* Alkborough Flats © Graham Catley, September 2008 (right)

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn, exceptional in winter. LBRC

Three records involving four birds make for an average year. Two were at Covenham Res on Sep 4th-8th with one remaining until the 10th (RHa, SL et al). One was at Barton on Oct 30th (GPC), one flew north past Freiston Shore on Nov 1st (JB, PAH, PS et al) and another turned up at Covenham Res on Nov 21st-Dec 24th (GL et al).



Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Covenham Reservoir © Neil Smith, November 2008

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Generally scarce but exceptionally fairly common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring. Exceptional inland.

There was one early and unusual record of an adult at Gib Point May 11th. Autumn passage was poor with only 31 birds recorded. The first was at Mablethorpe Jul 22nd followed in Aug by two at Saltfleetby 9th, one at Gib Point 10th, one at Freiston Shore 22nd, two at Gib Point 24th, one at Donna Nook 25th and one at Witham Mouth 30th. During Sept there was a juv at Gib Point 12th and 7 (the highest day count of the year) at Chapel Point 23rd. There was a flurry of records in early Oct with two at Freiston Shore, one at Huttoft Car Terrace 1st, two Gib Point 3rd, three Mablethorpe 3rd, and four Wingland Marsh also on 3rd. The final birds of the year were singles at Donna Nook and Freiston Shore Nov 1st.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common/common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring and inland.

This was an exceptional year with a total of 750 records submitted from Jul-Nov at coastal watch points. Jul counts were modest with 1-3 recorded widely and high counts of eight at Gib Point 12th and 23 there on 13th. The majority of records were in Aug when 461 were noted. The highest counts all came from Gib Point where there were 95 on 10th, 56 on 13th, 30 S on 19th, 120 on 24th and 31 on 30th. Elsewhere single figures were recorded except for 10 at Chapel Point 23rd. The total for Sept was 146 with 14 Freiston Shore 5th, 13 Saltfleetby 6th, 18 Mogg's Eye and 10 Trusthorpe 23rd and 10 at Witham Mouth 27th. Oct sightings peaked on 3rd when there were 29 Gib Point, 15 S at Mablethorpe and 30 past Wingland Marsh with small numbers on a few other dates. The year ended in Nov with singles at Freiston Shore and at Mablethorpe 1st.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Rare inland. LBRC

A very poor year with only seven birds reported. One at Conisholme May 28th is possibly only the third spring record for the county, and a most unusual inland record. The first of the autumn was at Mogg's Eye Sep 23rd. Two juvs were at Wingland Marsh

Oct 3rd and another at Witham Mouth on 5th. A juv flew S at Mablethorpe Oct 9th and the final bird of the year was at Donna Nook Oct 25th.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, but rare in winter and spring.

The first of the year was at Gib Point Jul 13th and the last record was four at Witham Mouth Nov 22nd. Only two were reported in Aug and autumn passage began more earnestly on Sep 5th when there were 10 past Freiston Shore and five off there on 6th. On Sep 23rd, 21 passed Mogg's Eye, comprising almost half the month's total of 48. Oct accounted for 80 records with 1-4 seen widely but most sightings were on 3rd when there were 28 at Gib Point, 13 at Mablethorpe and 19 at Wingland Marsh. In Nov there were 18 records with a peak of five past Mablethorpe on 1st; also of interest was a lone bird W past the Humber Bridge viewing area on 2nd.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare autumn passage migrant, from Jul-Oct. Exceptional inland. LBRC

An adult went north past Freiston Shore Aug 30th (JB, PRF), one flew N at Chapel Point Sept 23rd (EJM), a juv was at Barton Sep 24th (GPC) and finally, one was seen during a WeBS count at Donna Nook 30th Oct (SL).

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Common but declining passage migrant and winter visitor with smaller numbers in summer. Scarce inland.

Significantly less than the average for the 1990's with fewer than 1000 birds in total. Not recorded in Apr, Jun or Dec. The only double figure count in the first half of the year was 70 at Chapel Point on Feb 1st. Sightings increased from mid-Aug through to late Nov, with double figure counts at Gib Point; 45 on Aug 19th, 300 on Aug 24th, 20 on Sep 24th and 14 on Oct 3rd, Chapel Pit 45 on Sep 23rd and 13 at Chapel Point on Oct 4th, Freiston Shore 11 in Nov, Mablethorpe 61 on Nov 1st and Witham Mouth with 210 on Nov 22nd. There were two inland records this year; two at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Mar 22nd and five at Covenham Res the following day.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	-	3500	-	-	-	-	-	-	5000	12000
Tattershall Lakes CP 4000	4200	5300	-	-	-	-	-	280	7500	9500
Kirkby on Bain GP	1300	2000	700	60	150	300	700	800	100	2000
Leverton	40	2030	2632	512	617	3575	3133	191	3750	-
Tetney Marshes	-	-	-	-	-	12000	3000	1000	30	-
Witham Mouth	1200	-	375	-	2400	400	-	-	250	800

Other counts of over 1000 birds were 2250 at Anwick Fen on Aug 10th, 15000 at Covenham on Sep 9th, 3000 at Donna Nook on Aug 25th, 1150 at Frampton Marsh on Oct 17th, 1060 at Freiston Shore in March, 1000 at Friskney on Dec 15th, 5600 at Gibraltar Point on Feb 3rd, 3000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 26th, 1000 at Station Road Tip (North Hykeham) on Dec 28th and 6978 at Wainfleet on Aug 16th. Breeding reports came from Whisby Pits 142 prs and Freiston Shore 367 prs.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min no of birds	2	-	3	15	39	32	16	14	14	-	10	-

The year started with one at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits Jan 3rd and another at Chowder Ness Jan 13th-20th. Passage birds began to appear from the end of Mar when there were two at Covenham Res 27th. Larger numbers appeared at inland waters in Apr with three each at Toft Newton Res, Alkborough Flats, Messingham SQ and five at Covenham Res in the latter part of the month. In May, high counts included eight Alkborough Flats 1st, eight Covenham Res 5th and 12 Alkborough Flats 31st. Where ages were reported, these birds were mainly 2nd cal yrs, with some adults and just one 3rd cal yr. Numbers continued to increase at Alkborough during the first part of Jun, peaking at 25 on 11th; elsewhere the highest count was of six at Gib Point on 2nd. In Jul there were seven at Gib Point 12th and six past Mablethorpe 22nd. During Aug and Sept a few birds were at inland sites but the majority were seen in small numbers passing coastal watchpoints with five past Cleethorpes Aug 3rd and six past Chapel Point Sep 24th being high counts. The final birds of the year were two at Donna Nook Nov 1st and eight at Freiston Shore Nov 11th.



Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* Cleethorpes © Matt Latham, December 2008

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce visitor throughout the year, but most in autumn. **RBBP**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min no of birds	7	11	8	5	11	10	17	15	2	8	0	3

A very good year for this species with about 65 birds being reported from 32 sites spread widely around the county. There were no breeding records but a non-breeding pair was present in the gull colony throughout the season at Whisby Pits. Elsewhere 1-2 were evenly distributed throughout the year apart from the anomalous month of Nov when none were reported. Higher counts include three at Frampton Marsh Mar 29th, three Freiston Shore Jun 7th-8th, three Read's Island Jul 4th, four Bagmoor/Winterton Floods



Graham Catley



Russell Hayes

Graham Catley



Audouin's Gull, Huttoft-Chapel Point. August 2008

Pete Haywood



Jul 17th and three at North Cotes village the same day. Three were at Cleethorpes Aug 2nd and three at Ingoldmells Aug 17th. An adult with ring no. 3K45 was at Gib Point Jul 19th and at Chapel Point the following day where it was seen again Aug 23rd. Also of interest was a bird at Cleethorpes throughout Oct, ringed as a pullus in Denmark on Jun 24th 2008 wearing metal ring no. 6H1602 and white plastic ring no. 35L1.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

Vagrant; BBRC

One, a near-adult, was present for two lucky observers briefly at Huttoft Bank on Aug 15th before flying off south (KA, PBH). Thankfully it was relocated in the Chapel Point area Aug 17th-23rd (KDD, DMJ et al) where it proceeded to show intermittently, but would disappear for extended periods out to sea. The first county record, and only the 5th record for Britain. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p559

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The highest count of the year came from Covenham Res with 3000 on Feb 2nd. Other counts in excess of 250 were from Apex Pit with 750 on Feb 10th, 500 on Feb 14th, 500 on Dec 14th and 1500 on Dec 27th, Gibraltar Point 1180 on Feb 3rd, Tetney Marsh 1000 on Aug 20th, Benniworth 300 on Jul 27th, Freiston Shore 300 on Mar 9th and Swallow 400 in Oct and 300 in Nov.

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.

Typically most numerous in summer and autumn. Counts of 100+ were reported from Boultham Mere 100 on Oct 18th, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 110 on Jun 10th and 150 on Aug 10th, Nocton Fen 120 on Aug 19th, Tetney Marsh 150 on Aug 29th, Welbourne Heath, 172 on Oct 17th and Whisby NP 120 on Jul 27th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, increasing numbers breed.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	956	30	173	93	48	9	277	124	519	146	576	300
Freiston Shore	55	208	345	389	100	289	265	20	102	400	300	102
Gedney	34	47	2	225	105	183	264	245	45	21	22	-
Gib Point	150	530	650	565	80	380	90	5	21	10	90	22
Holbeach	172*	880	600	545	211	267	650	505	540	180	420	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	200	250	250	200	200	50	40	130	200	450	500	900
Leverton	37	1189	65	310	70	-	511	76	219	64	490	-
Wainfleet	134	128	284	116	135	-	93	490	37	66	115	-
Witham Mouth	1800	-	250	250	-	150	150	-	350	-	300	2200

Other significant counts Apex Pit 500 on Dec 27th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 1000 on Dec 28th, Station Road Tip (North Hykeham) 550 on Dec 28th, Tattershall Lakes CP 200 on Jan 29th, Terrington 500 on Feb 9th, 650 on Apr 6th and 600 in Jul 19th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Rare/scarse visitor, mainly in autumn. RBBP

A rather poor year with approx 16 individuals involved. The only records from the first winter period were adults at Whisby NP Jan-Feb and at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods during Feb, a 2nd cal yr at Thurlby Sand Pit in Feb with a 3rd cal yr there in Mar. During the main summer-autumn arrival period, a 3rd cal year was at Barton Jul 6th, one was at Alkborough Flats Jul 15th, with three there Aug 3rd, four by Aug 22nd and two Sep 2nd. One remained at Kirkby on Bain GP throughout Jul-Oct. A 4th cal yr was at Gib Point during Aug. Two at Boultham Mere in Oct comprised an ad & 3rd cal yr. In the second winter period, presumably the same ad returned to Whisby NP during Nov-Dec, an ad was at Gainsborough in Nov and one was at Apex Pit in Dec.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May. LBRC

Seven records during 2008 is about the norm for recent times. The first of the year was a 2nd cal yr at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 2nd (DMJ). At Bagmoor/Winterton Floods a 2nd cal yr on Mar 8th and Apr 19th (ND, GPC) was followed by a 4th cal yr there from Mar 20th-Apr 27th (JTH, ND). In the second winter period a 4th cal yr was at the Humber Bridge Viewing Area (ND) and at Barton Pits (GPC) on Nov 2nd, a 1st cal yr was at Huttoft Pit on Nov 21st (AJH, SJMe). The last of the year, a 3rd cal yr at Apex Pit on Dec 26th, was a nice Christmas present for the finder (RT).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

A minimum of 13 records represented a good year. One or more 2nd cal yr were at Bagmoor intermittently on Jan 2nd-Apr 25th probably visiting Alkborough Flats on Mar 16th, a 2nd cal yr was at Stallingborough on Feb 27th then at Immingham on Feb 28th. A 2nd cal yr was at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 17th and 23rd, Gib Point had a 3rd cal yr on Mar 2nd. A 1st cal yr was at Saltfleet on Nov 2nd, then at Donna Nook a 2nd cal yr was present in the seal colony from Nov 5th-Dec 16th. At Barton a 1st cal yr was present on Nov 26th. A 2nd cal yr was at Covenham Res on Nov 28th and finally a 1st cal yr was at Pyewipe on Dec 4th.



Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Donna Nook © Roy Harvey, November 2008

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	650
Kirkby on Bain GP	200	20	250	150	150	90	30	110	100	200	200	200
Frampton Marsh	450	-	110	30	2	2	627	482	317	128	567	64
Gib Point	30	3	300	3	5	50	142	56	50	18	45	11
Tattershall Lakes CP	50	120	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	120
Whisby NP	500	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	8	100	690

Other counts of over 100 were from Freiston Shore 100 Sep 19th and 20th, North Hykeham Pits 350 Dec 7th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe 300 Dec 28th, Station Road Tip (North Hykeham) 850 on Dec 28th, Wainfleet 286 Aug 16th and Lincoln Tip 850 on Dec 28th.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Occasional inland. **RBBP**

First recorded at Gibraltar Point on the late date of May 2nd. Present in low numbers throughout the summer until the last on Sep 20th at Welland Mouth. Just six locations had counts of 10 or more; 13 at Freiston Shore on Jul 22nd and 41 on Aug 3rd, Gibraltar Point, with peak monthly counts of 55 in May, 42 in Jun and 41 in Jul, Shep Whites 20 on Aug 5th, Tetney Marsh 14 on 31st May, 18 on Jun 18th and 11 on Jul 26th and Witham Mouth 16 on Aug 30th. Breeding was restricted to 52 prs attempting to nest at Gib Point, but only two juvs fledged. At Tetney, there were no breeding prs this year, although the flock of 18 present there on Jun 18th had been displaced from Easington (E. Yorks).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Vagrant; **BBRC**

An adult spent 45 minutes on the sailing pit at Barton on Jun 7th (GPC). It was seen the next day on the Ouse Washes, (Cambs). Only the 4th county record. Accepted by **BBRC**. *British Birds* 102, p565

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Fairly common passage migrant from spring to autumn. **RBBP**

The first of the year were two at Covenham Res Apr 30th. The last was one at Freiston Shore Oct 26th. The main arrivals occurred during the first 10 days of May and the second half of August and comprised; up to five at Covenham Res Apr 30th-May 9th, three at Kirkby on Bain GP May 3rd & 5th, with one there on 7th increasing to seven on 8th-9th and another single there May 15th, two at Messingham SQ May 4th with one on May 7th, four at Boultham Mere May 4th, one at Toft Newton Res May 4th, with two there May 7th and nine May 9th, two at Baston-Langtoft GP May 4th, with one there May 8th and seven May 10th, two at Bardney Pits May 5th, one at Freiston Shore May 5th, four at Apex Pit May 9th-10th and one there on 30th, four at Deeping Lakes May 21st, one at Gib Point Jun 3rd, one at Kirkby on Bain GP Jul 2nd, singles at Covenham Res Jul 29th and Aug 4th with three there on Aug 5th and one on Aug 7th-8th, singles at Freiston Shore Aug 2nd and 5th, three at Tetney Marsh Aug 3rd, one at Cleethorpes Aug 3rd, two at Shep Whites Aug 5th, six at Covenham Res Aug 17th

increased to a peak of 18 on 21st, numbers then declined until eight there on Aug 27th, four at Saltfleet Haven Aug 19th, six at Frampton Marsh Aug 12th, seven at Witham Mouth Aug 17th, one at Horseshoe Point Aug 20th, two at Gib Point Aug 24th, two at Barton Aug 30th, one at Witham Mouth Aug 30th was followed by a passage of 19 on 31st, one on Sep 2nd and three there on Sep 6th, singles at Cleethorpes Sep 2nd & 5th, three at Frampton Marsh Sep 6th, one at Covenham Res Sep 6th-7th, three at Kirkby on Bain GP Sep 11th, four at Pywipe Sept 12th, one at Barton Sept 13th, one at Gib Point on Oct 13th and finally a late bird at Freiston Shore Oct 26th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Vagrant; LBRC

The sole record of the year was a juvenile with Black Terns at Covenham Res on Aug 20th-21st (R Ahmed et al).

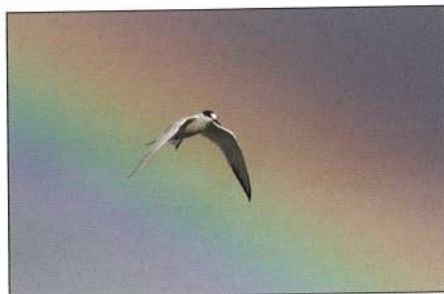
Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring but common in autumn. Rare inland. Occasional pairs in summer,

The first two records of the year were coincidentally also the only inland records. Five were at Boultham Mere on Apr 22nd with four at Toft Newton Res the following day. The last report of the year was of three at Freiston Shore on Oct 26th. Very scarce in the spring/early summer, with just two reports from Apr, two in May and three in Jun. Numbers started to increase from early Jul to a peak in Aug. At Gib Point several counts of over 100 during July were dwarfed by two huge counts in Aug, with 5100 on 10th and 3200 on 24th, with the count on the 10th probably constituting a county record. Elsewhere, three-figure counts were at Leverton 146 on Jul 19th, Donna Nook 710 on Aug 3rd, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 150 on Aug 9th, Freiston Shore 110 on Aug 18th, Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace 100 on Aug 19th, Saltfleet 180 on Aug 19th, Wolla Bank 100 on Aug 20th and Chapel Point 200 on Aug 23rd.



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Toft Newton
© Nick Clayton, 7th May 2008



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Covenham Res
© Nick Clayton, 2nd September 2008

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

The first of the year were three at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Apr 21st and the last were two at Freiston Shore on Oct 26th. Present throughout the summer with breeding at several inland and coastal sites, including Whisby NP where 18 pairs

fledged 36 young, Barton, Barrow Haven Pits where 4 pairs bred and Freiston Shore where 41 pairs bred. Peak numbers generally occurred in late summer. The highest counts were at Gibraltar Point with 950 on Aug 10th and 700 on Aug 24th, Tetney Marsh with 800 on Aug 20th and Freiston Shore with 500 on Jun 29th. Inland the peak count was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits with 45 on Jul 7th.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare passage migrant in May and Jul-Sep. LBRC RBBP

An excellent year with 11 records involving up to 19 birds. None in the spring, but the autumn started early with two ads and two juvs at Witham Mouth on Jun 28th (JB et al). At Freiston Shore four on Jul 4th (GH, PS), two ads on Jul 10th (PS) and four ads on Jul 11th (AP, ACS, PS). At Gib Point one on Jul 11th, then two ringed birds on 12th-13th (DKW et al). One at Freiston Shore on Jul 22nd (PRF), two at Gib Point on Aug 3rd (EJM, JPS) and single ads there on Aug 13th (per KMW) and 23rd-24th with two again on 25th (RHay et al). The last of the year were two ads and a juv at Witham Mouth on Aug 30th (JB).

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 of the year was a single at Covenham Res on Apr 21st. The following day, 50 were present increasing to a peak of 85 on 23rd, with 21 on 30th. At Kirkby on Bain GP there were 25 on Apr 22nd, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods held 21 on Apr 23rd and 24 flew east at Alkborough Flats on Apr 22nd with 13 there on May 17th. Elsewhere single figure counts were made from four other sites. The last of the spring was three at Witham Mouth on May 18th. Autumn started on Jun 26th with one at Freiston Shore. Single figure counts were made until August when 45 were at Gib Point on 10th. The only inland records in the autumn were two at Messingham SQ on Aug 8th. There were just two records in September and one in October, which was the last of the year, at Gib Point on Oct 13th.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

There were no records outside autumn this year. The first were one N and one S at Huttoft Bank on Jul 17th, followed by singles at Freiston Shore on Aug 2nd and Chapel Point on Aug 17th. Later in Aug, there were singles at Witham Mouth on the 23rd and at Witham Mouth, Freiston Shore and Gib Point on the 30th. Singles, perhaps the same bird, at Barton on Aug 30th and Sep 6th were the only records away from the coast or Wash. On Sep 7th, one was seen at Chapel Point and two at Trusthorpe. A cluster of records on Sep 23rd-24th included a maximum of five at Mogg's Eye on the 23rd, and these were followed by the highest count by far of the year: 150 in The Wash off Witham Mouth on Sep 27th. One at Mablethorpe on Oct 23rd was the only report that month but there was one at Freiston Shore and 16 at Mablethorpe (14 N and two S) on Nov 1st. The last of the year was one at Trusthorpe on Nov 16th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

The only reports were of singles at Freiston Shore on May 6th, Gib Point on Aug 10th and Mablethorpe on Oct 23rd.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

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

A poor year. One was at Freiston Shore on Nov 2nd with two there on Nov 13th and one at Huttoft Bank on Nov 22nd.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

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

The only records involved one at Huttoft Bank on Jul 17th (ACS, PBe) and two at Freiston Shore on Nov 1st (JB, PS et al).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident.

As usual, this species was patchily reported. The largest count was 450 at Immingham on Jul 14th. At Freiston Shore there were 30-60 through much of the year, though fewer in mid summer and more in autumn, peaking at about 100 on Oct 15th. Other reports of 30 or more were 85 at Anwick Fen on Nov 30th, 53 at Whisby NP on Feb 18th with 45 there on Jul 25th, and 30 at North Kyme Fen on Jan 20th.

Stock Pigeon *Columba oenas*

Common resident and passage migrant.

There was an absence of systematic counts from most areas, and the only count exceeding 50 was 85 at Dorrington on Dec 29th. Other counts of 25 or more came from widespread locations and in various months: 25 at Alkborough Flats in Jan, 38 at Covenham Res in Feb, 30 at Haltoft End in Apr, 40 at Far Ings in Jul, 40 at Donna Nook in Sep, and 34 at Anwick Fen in Oct.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

The table shows monthly peaks from selected localities with counts made in most or all months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anwick Fen	320	460	-	35	65	260	90	260	170	300	820	1360
Dorrington	47	375	-	80	16	63	20	23	420	35	120	40
Freiston Shore	9	16	30	10	7	20	6	7	6	500	2000	15
Swallow	200	250	100	150	100	100	100	77	200	400	100	200
Welbourn Heath	637	807	106	60	32	27	27	-	56	311	177	637

Higher totals than in the table included up to 4000 at RAF Waddington in Jan, 3000 at Worlaby Carrs in Feb, 2500 at Dalderby and at Deeping Lakes NR in Jan, and 2300 at Dorrington Fen also in Jan. Counts of 1000-2000 came from a further nine places, during Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec. While most of these high counts were in winter, a pronounced autumn passage peak was evident at Freiston Shore, where there were usually fewer than 50 but much larger numbers from Oct 22nd to Nov 13th when the peak of about 2000 occurred.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

The counts received do not reflect this species' abundance in towns and villages. The highest total of 97 came from a WeBS count along the River Welland upstream from Spalding on Oct 19th. There were 84 at nearby Pinchbeck on Nov 17th, and other counts exceeding 50 were 58 at North Kyme Fen in Jan and 57 along the R. Welland in Nov. Counts of 20-48 came from a further eight localities.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Widespread but declining summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

The first of spring were singles at Kirkby on Bain and Water's Edge, Barton, on Apr 26th followed by widespread reports of 1-3 the next day. At Whisby NP, seven territories were established, up from 4-5 in 2007, and this proved to be the largest concentration reported. "High" counts elsewhere were four males at Barton on Jun 1st, four at Gib Point on Jun 1st and 14th, five at Pinchbeck Slupe NR on Jun 14th with four there on Jul 20th, four at Chowder Ness on Sep 1st, and five at Navenby on Sep 3rd. There were widespread records until the end of Aug, but after Sep 5th the only reports were one at Tetney Marsh on Sep 16th, one remaining at Chowder Ness to Sep 17th and two at Dunsby on Sep 20th.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

Still no sign of establishment in the county. Early in the year, one was in Weelsby Woods on Feb 5th-12th. Later, one was nearby at Humberston Fitties and Tetney Marsh on Aug 2nd-6th, and perhaps the same bird re-appeared at Humberston Fitties on Nov 13th. At the far end of the county, one was at Bourne on Oct 30th.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

The first was one at Far Ings NNR on Apr 19th followed by singles at Whisby NP and Kirkby Moor on the 21st, before a widespread rush of records on Apr 21st-24th. Birds were noted throughout the county from then until mid Jun but very few reports were of more than two together. The highest totals were six at Donna Nook throughout the summer with seven at nearby Pye's Hall on May 18th. Reports of three came from Baston Fen NR, Moor Farm/Ostler's Plantation and Crowle Moors, and there was thought to be a total of four calling males at Whisby. Birds were seen or heard less frequently in late Jun, and at only six localities in Jul. After a couple of records in the first few days of Aug, the last were one at Tetney Marsh on Aug 14th and one at Worlaby Carrs on Aug 25th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

Reported from 57 sites during the year including around 26 sites during the breeding season.

Of 29 nests monitored, mainly in the fenland areas around Lincoln and south Lincolnshire, eight failed at egg and/or young chick stage due to very dry conditions. Little Owls in Lincolnshire are quite dependent on earthworms during the breeding season, and very dry conditions reduce this food availability. Rain arrived later in May to save the later broods and between 47 and 58 chicks fledged.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Widespread common resident with good breeding years coinciding with peaks in vole population cycles.

Peak numbers occurred in the early part of the year, possibly due to birds either struggling for food and therefore having to hunt in daylight, or due to birds daylight hunting for extra food in order to build up condition for breeding. Peak individual counts were seven at Worlaby Carrs in Jan and six at Nocton Fen in Mar. Barn Owls were reported from 220 sites during the year which is a poor reflection on the 900 or so pairs thought to exist in the county. 2008 was a poor vole year, and the breeding success generally was quite low, most pairs raising just one or two chicks. In one study, 151 nests were monitored, of which 31 failed and a total of 317 chicks were raised. Most of the failures were in low-lying fenland areas and may have been the result of low vole numbers due to flooding in these areas during summer 2007.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident.

Reports, fairly evenly spread through the months, came from about 50 widespread locations, though few in the open Fens. There was one at Welland Mouth on Sep 20th. Most records were of one or two birds, and some of the larger counts may have involved family parties. The latter included four at Whisby NP in May and five at Swallow in Jul, but also six were heard at Messingham SQ on Oct 26th.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

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

The species was sparsely reported and no significant roosts were noted. The first were one at Messingham SQ on Mar 2nd and one at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Mar 11th. In Apr, there were singles at Gib Point on the 3rd and 27th. A little later in spring, there were two at Holywell Lake, near Little Bytham, on May 5th, one in Willingham Forest on Jun 20th, and one at Pye's Hall on May 30th and Jun 5th. The only firm evidence of breeding was the presence of juveniles at Crowle Waste in Jun, Keb Wood on Jul 7th and Messingham SQ on Aug 10th. In autumn, there were singles at Rimac on Oct 5th, Pye's Hall on Oct 12th and Nov 5th, Tetney Marsh on Oct 17th, and three at Frampton Marsh on Nov 13th. Lastly, one was reported at Messingham SQ on three dates during Dec 24th-30th.



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* Frampton Marsh © Paul Sullivan, 13th November 2008

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Est. minimum total	15	23	25	14	2	3	0	6	15	22	21	29
Number of sites	8	13	16	12	2	3	0	3	9	14	11	18

Early in the year, the largest counts were from Worlabby Carrs, with six on Jan 1st and 4-5 until early Mar, followed by a gradual decline. Five were reported from Baston-Langtoft Pits on Mar 3rd, with 1-2 in that area for much of Mar. There were three at Nocton Fen on Feb 2nd and at North Kyme on Feb 10th, and 1-2 at many other coastal or fenland sites from Alkborough Flats to Gib Point and Deeping High Bank. During Apr, there continued to be widespread records of one or occasionally two, but in May the only birds were one at Saltfleet on the 4th and one at Tetney Marsh on the 7th. Later, there were singles at Alkborough Flats on Jun 2nd, Horseshoe Point on Jun 4th and 11th, and Freiston Shore on Jun 16th-24th. After none in Jul, there were four at Wainfleet Marsh on Aug 23rd, just possibly a family party, with one at Gib Point on Aug 4th and another there on Aug 27th, when there was also one at Tetney. More appeared from early Sep, including three at Freiston Shore on the 6th and at Worlabby Carrs on the 7th-8th. On Oct 15th, one was at Alkborough Flats at the same time as two on Whitton Sand, and Worlabby Carrs still held three on Oct 22nd. Later there were peaks of four at Grainthorpe Haven on Nov 7th and at Worlabby Carrs on Nov 15th, and threes at five other sites, but most sightings were of 1-2.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

The first was one heard at Ostler's Plantation/Kirkby Moor NR on May 23rd, with further reports of singles there through to Jul 1st and a pair on Jun 23rd. At Laughton, eight males and a female were present Jun 8th-9th, while at Crowle Moors, there were three on Jun 17th and four on Aug 1st. Other reports from breeding areas were two in Willingham Forest on Jun 20th and four at Keb Wood on Jul 4th. This is not a complete

summary of their breeding population as some locations within these sites were not monitored. Three coastal migrants were seen in autumn: one at Gib Point on Aug 12th, one at North Somercotes on Sep 2nd, one at Crook Bank on Oct 8th-9th with another flushed at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 17th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

There was a general arrival at the end of Apr with small numbers recorded widely from 26th and peaks of 30 at Barton 27th, 25 Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, 27 Covenham Res, 25 Whisby and 150 Toft Newton Res all on 28th and 150 at Covenham Res 30th. In May there was an influx in the latter half of the month with peak counts of 75 Apex Pit 18th, 30 Borough Fen, Spalding 18th, 200 Covenham Res 19th, 120 Toft Newton Res 26th and 100 Boultham Mere 27th. These are very poor numbers indicating a dramatic decline in the fortunes of this species; a decade ago the counts would have been 5-10 times higher. Heavy rain and a strong south westerly wind in north western England on Jun 16th-17th coincided with a notable movement of displaced (or non breeding) birds passing Gib Point: 4040 on 17th, 4600 on 18th, 1250 on 19th and 1780 on 21st. During Jun there were 114 at Donna Nook 28th and 40 Freiston Shore 29th. Significant mid-summer movements were noted at Alkborough Flats with 1100 on Jul 6th, Gib Point with 11000 birds on Jul 7th and 2150 on 8th, and 500 Freiston Shore Jul 18th. There were few significant breeding site records but 160 at Nettleham 3rd Jul and 50 were at Little Hale early Aug. The study of the nesting colony at New Street, Helpringham, entered its 22nd year. The number of breeding birds remained static at around 200 pairs. A total of 34 juveniles were ringed from a sample of three houses. This brings the total of pulli ringed at this site to 1320. Small Southerly movements were widely noted in Aug. At Gib Point there were 3000 on Aug 1st and 1600 the next day, then smaller numbers recorded to end of the month. There were 100 south at Huttoft on Aug 19th and 150 south at Tetney on the same day. At Gib Point 47 went past Sep 2nd, with 16 on Sep 12th, one at Tetney on Sep 20th and finally three birds at Gib Point on Sep 21st.



Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Far Ings, Barton © Don Davis, 4th July 2008

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Continuing mild winters are probably helping this species which was reported from over 60 sites throughout the year with 1-2 at most. There were 3 pairs at Barton pits, with further evidence of probable breeding from Nocton Fen and Messingham SQ. Coastal peaks were three at Pye's Hall Sept 20th, three at Freiston Shore in Sept, three at Frampton Marsh Oct 13th and a German ringed bird was trapped at Saltfleet Oct 29th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-Oct, rarely to Dec. **LBRC RBBP**

A good year for this southern species with five or six records. One was at Gib Point Apr 27th (RKW, EJM) with another at Donna Nook Apr 28th (SL). The second of the spring appeared at Gib Point May 18th (EJM et al) and another was at Fillingham May 24th-29th (DN, ACM et al). There were two late records in Nov with one at N Somercotes 9th (SL) and probably the same bird was seen on the forecourt of a disused garage in Saltfleet St Clements on 11th (M Yapp).

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Rare/scarce passage migrant Apr-May and Aug-Oct, mainly coastal. Bred to early 20th century. **RBBP**

The only spring record was one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 27th. All other records came in Sep with singles at Gib Point on 7th, Welton le Marsh on 10th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 13th with it or another on 16th at Sea View.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

This species was widely distributed during the breeding season with notable counts of six at Belton Park on Apr 28th and a similar count at Ostler's Plantation on Jun 23rd. Green Woodpeckers were rarely reported from the south-east of the county except for reports from Frampton on Aug 9th and in Oct and at Spalding on Jan 10th and 15th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

This species was widely reported except in the south-east of the county. High counts were of five at Anwick Fen on Jan 25th, six at Bourne Wood on Apr 13th, five at Elsea/Math Woods on May 5th and 10 at Chambers Wood on Nov 18th. In early spring a single at Wrangle Bank on Mar 9th was noteworthy. At Pye's Hall two on Sep 26th were clearly migrants and there were several other reports of single migrants during the autumn.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident.

Recorded from just seven sites this year. All reports during the year as follows: Neville Wood on Jan 4th and 6th; Owlet Plantation on Jan 25th, Feb 10th and two on Mar 19th; Kirkby Moor on Jan 27th and May 4th; Whisby Pits on Apr 2nd and Nov 8th; Normanby Hall CP on Apr 12th; Black Walk Nook on Apr 20th and Frampton village

on Jun 23rd. This paucity of records represents either under-recording of this often secretive species, or a genuine decline.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and from 1984, steadily increasing and spreading. **RBBP**

There were no coastal migrants or wintering flocks recorded, and no full breeding survey was undertaken. Records came only from breeding areas over a short season from the first three at Kirkby Moor on Feb 9th to the last there on Jul 15th. In the Kirkby Moor area, up to four were recorded. At Laughton Forest, during Mar-Apr about six territories were noted with females seen in four of them and one nest located. In the Risby-Manton area, 1-2 were reported in four areas between Feb and Jun.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding numbers have declined in recent years.

Concentrations of 50 or more were reported in several coastal areas, including Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore and along the east coast from Theddlethorpe north to Donna Nook, and at four inland locations: Welbourn Heath, RAF Waddington, Benniworth and Toft Newton. With the exception of up to 95 at Welbourn Heath during Apr-Jun, all of these were during Jan-Mar or Oct-Dec. The largest totals were 430 at Howden's Pullover on Jan 13th, 200 on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Nov and Dec and 175 at Welbourn Heath on Jan 16th. The only breeding reports received were 47 territories at Freiston Shore and 58 at Frampton Marsh.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

In Mar, one at Alkborough Flats on 8th and singles at Baston-Langtoft GP on the 10th and 15th preceded a more widespread arrival from the 24th when the first count in double-figures came with 12 at Thurlby Sand Pit. There were 100 at both Far Ings and Messingham SQ by Apr 5th, and 300 at Baston-Langtoft Pits on the 6th. After that there were 100-120 at Barton in late Apr but no more counts exceeding 100 until the end of Jun. No breeding reports were received. The largest post-breeding flocks were at Alkborough Flats, where there were 200 by Jun 26th, 2000 by Jul 7th and a peak of 5000 roosting there on Aug 16th. Southerly movement was evident from early Jul, including 100 S at Covenham Res on the 9th, 200 S at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 10th and 70 S at Huttoft Pit on the 11th. Numbers also built up at Barton, from 100 on Jul 7th to 400 on Aug 10th and 600 on Aug 30th. At Gib Point, there were 220 on Aug 24th and 250 on the 25th. In early Sep, there were still 100 at Marston STW on the 2nd-4th and 50 at Whisby NP on the 5th but subsequently no more than 12. The last were eight at Whisby NP on Oct 6th and one at Messingham SQ on Oct 9th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter but recorded in most months.

There were four Mar records involving five birds, the first being one at Humberston on the 27th. There were 10 at Far Ings by Apr 5th and 80 at Baston-Langtoft Pits on the 6th. The only other counts exceeding 50 in spring were 150 at Whisby NP on the

19th, 50 at Manby/Carlton Flashes on Apr 22nd, 60 at Barton on Apr 28th and 200 at Saltfleet on May 4th. Larger concentrations were evident from mid Jul, including 320 at Donna Nook on Jul 12th, with 400 there on the 16th, 200 at Shep Whites on Aug 5th and 300 at RAF Waddington on Aug 8th. By late Aug, counts of over 100 were widespread, including 850 on Aug 22nd and 2500 on the 25th at Saltfleet, and 2000 on Aug 24th and 800 on the 27th at Gib Point. In Sep, the highest counts were 1500 at Gib Point on the 12th and 500 at Freiston Shore on the 19th, but there were no totals over 100 after the 21st. In Oct, there were reports most days until the 17th and high counts of 19 at Honington on the 9th, 15 at Alkborough Flats on the 6th, 15 at Keadby on the 9th, and 14 at Gib Point on the 26th. Five Nov reports of singles ended with one in Lincoln on the 11th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

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

One at Messingham SQ on Apr 1st was the first of the year. There were 10 at both Baston-Langtoft GP on the 6th and Whisby NP on the 11th. Spring counts generally were small, the highest being 40 at Anwick on May 4th, 50 at Whisby Pits on May 24th and 200 at Boultham Mere on May 27th. In high summer, there were a few counts in the range 50-70 and the first larger count of autumn was 200 again at Boultham Mere on Aug 23rd, quickly followed by 150 at Gib Point on the 24th and 600 at Saltfleet on the 25th. The first three weeks of Sep saw counts over 100 from six widely spread localities, including 300 at Covenham Res on the 2nd, 400 at Whisby Pits on the 5th and 300 at Alkborough Flats on the 16th. From Sep 21st, no count exceeded 25, and 15 at Crook Bank on Oct 12th was the last double-figure count. After seven at Woodhall Spa on Oct 25th, there were three Nov singles, the last being one at Baston Fen on the 22nd.



Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Alkborough Flats © Graham Catley, 12th October 2008

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, rarely Dec-Jan and Apr-May. LBRC

A wintering bird was present along the sea embankment between Howden's Pullover and Donna Nook from Jan 12th-Apr 12th (SL, JRW, CMO et al). This 91 day residence makes this the longest staying bird ever recorded in the county. In the autumn one was at Gib Point on Oct 31st (DJW). Inland a first-winter bird was on the Trent foreshore at Alkborough Flats from Oct 12th-13th (GPC, ND et al) this being the first record for this locality.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce/fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Breeds locally, mainly in the western half of the county.

The first arrivals noted on breeding sites were one at Linwood Warren on Apr 23rd, with 31 in two areas of Loughton Forest on Apr 28th. Formerly a common summer migrant and breeding bird, Smith & Cornwallis noted the status of the Tree Pipit as follows: "*A locally common summer visitor in many northern, western and south-western districts, but very scarce in most eastern parts of the county. It is particularly numerous on the heaths of the north-west and in similar country around Market Rasen, Woodall Spa and in the district west and south-west of Lincoln.*" Forty years later Atkin & Lorand still claimed that the species was "*A fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. It is widespread in the north-west, central and south-west of the county where it breeds in open woodland, young conifer plantations and on heathland.*" Breeding is now confined to three localities in the north-west of the county and Linwood / Walesby. The only bird reported from the latter site was on Apr 23rd. In Loughton Forest / Scotton Common (the county stronghold) there were 36 territories while the three reported at Crowle Waste was presumably a serious underestimate of the population there; the third site in the north-west was not surveyed but typically holds 5-7 territories. Coastal passage birds in spring were noted at Gib Point Apr 27th, Donna Nook May 3rd and 28th and North Cotes May 29th. Autumnal coastal passage was noted from Aug 16th-Sep 27th, with 33 birds recorded between Pye's Hall and Frampton Marsh. There were clear peaks between Aug 21st-31st with 12 birds reported including seven at Gib Point on Aug 29th and Sep 12th-27th with multiple sightings being three at Freiston Shore 12th, two at Saltfleet 15th and two at Gib Point 27th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were few notable counts in Jan-Feb with 160 on Frampton Marsh being the most significant; up to 35 were at Freiston Shore. Spring passage in Mar-Apr included flocks of 28 Donington-on-Bain Mar 9th and 25 Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore. There were up to 58 at Frampton Marsh and 40 at Freiston Shore in Apr-May. The only breeding season records received were of 160 territories at Frampton Marsh, 98 territories at Alkborough Flats, 58 territories in 1233ha of mainly arable farmland and Humber embankment between Grimsby and Immingham Docks and 28 territories at Freiston Shore. Up to 100 were recorded at several coastal sites during Sep and the first week of Oct but typically the late winter produced much more modest counts. Peak autumn passage counts were 6600 S at Gib Point Sep 12th with 1800 S at Frampton Marsh Sep 13th, 470 at Saltfleet Sep 14th, 350 Freiston Shore Sep 19th, 520 Saltfleet, 300 Gib Point and 200 Friskney Sep 20th, with 150 south at Chapel Point Oct 4th, 150

Saltfleet Oct 5th and 80 Donna Nook Oct 11th being the last large counts of the year. Totals of 30-40 were recorded from Freiston and Frampton Marsh in Nov-Dec.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

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

The only double figure counts came from Frampton Marsh; 41 Jan, 49 Feb, 14 Mar, 70 Nov and 83 Dec, Freiston Shore 15 in Mar, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 21 Jan 1st, 17 Oct 19th and 45 Dec 14th, Gib Point 12 Oct 19th and 15 Nov 16th, Saltfleet 19 Mar 9th, and Howden's Pullover 40 Jan 13th. Coastal totals are known to exceed many of these counts. Inland birds appeared at Covenham Res Apr 15th and Oct 5th, 9th, two on 10th and 28th, Baston and Langtoft Pits Apr 5th. Most, if not all of our wintering Rock Pipits are of the Scandinavian race *A. p. littoralis*, but the only individuals actually identified as such were one seen at Alkborough Flats on Feb 17th and one photographed at Barton on Mar 5th.



Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* Covenham Res
© Nick Clayton, 12th October 2008



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (aberrant
resembling *lutea*) Covenham Res
© Nick Clayton, 14th April 2008

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing. LBRC

An unprecedented wintering flock was located at Alkborough Flats in Jan with 24 seen on the 4th (GPC, ND et al) being eclipsed by a count of 40 on the 12th (WG) over five times the previous highest county total of seven birds. The flock fed on a wet, harvested oilseed rape field but moved between there and Island Farm Garthorpe (I Henderson) on the west of the Trent and Blacktoft Sands RSPB (E Yorks) where they typically roosted. There were still 24 birds on Feb 4th after which the field dried out and there were then only 1-3 birds present through to Mar 14th. Perhaps one of these birds moved to Gainsborough where it stayed from Feb 4th-Apr 9th (DN, AWa). A second wintering flock was located at Donna Nook where there were up to 10 birds in Jan-Feb peaking at 14 birds on Mar 17th-21st with the last four seen on Mar 27th. In the autumn the first returning bird was seen at Donna Nook on Oct 26th with three to mid Dec and a peak of five on the 21st (SL et al). Elsewhere at Gib Point there were singles in Jan 27th and Feb 10th with four on Apr 7th and one 16th, at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 3 on Jan 1st, singles on Feb 9th and Mar 9th, Dec 14th and 28th, Freiston Shore Nov 11th and East Halton Skitter Dec 9th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

M f flavissima: Common summer visitor and passage migrant, mostly Apr-Sep; exceptional in winter but recorded in all months. Breeds mainly in lowland areas.

M.f.flava (Blue-headed Wagtail): Scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. Has bred sporadically.

M.f.thunbergi (Grey-headed Wagtail): Rare and irregular spring migrant.

M.f.cinerocephala (Ashy-headed Wagtail): Two spring records.

Males resembling other races have occurred, but are most likely to be hybrids.

L/BBRC all races other than *flavissima*

The first bird of the spring was on Mar 29th at Gib Point followed by two more on 31st at Baston-Langtoft GP and Spalding Marsh. Birds continued to arrive during Apr and May. Notable counts were of 25 at Covenham Res on Apr 16th and 20 on several dates in Apr at Toft Newton Res. Far fewer were reported during Jun, with the maximum count being of seven at Honington on 17th. Numbers slowly increased during Jul, but there were no records of breeding birds submitted. The maximum count was of 11 at Donna Nook on 24th with 6-8 on several dates at Covenham Res, Humberston Fitties, and Toft Newton. Aug saw higher numbers with 1-6 at many sites and monthly maxima at the main sites of 35 Grainthorpe Haven 11th, 15 at Nocton Fen 12th, 30 Alkborough 13th, 38 Witham Mouth 21st, 40 Gib Point 27th, and 27 Freiston Shore 28th. Numbers increased during Sep with maxima of 40 at Dunsby 2nd, 25 Alkborough 6th, 40 at Freiston 12th, 45 at Frampton Marsh 13th, 20 at the Witham Mouth 16th, 32 at RAF Waddington 17th and 30 at Metherringham 27th. The last bird of the autumn was at Far Ings on Oct 13th.

Blue-headed wagtail *M.f.flava*. Single males were seen on Apr 15th & May 19th at Toft Newton Res, and also at Cowbit on Apr 28th.

Grey-headed wagtail *M.f.thunbergi*. Two males resembling this race were seen at Covenham Res on Apr 13th-14th and another was at Donna Nook on Apr 28th. Several autumn records were submitted but await descriptions.

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 at 55 sites with a minimum of 114 individuals involved. In the first four months of 2009, records were scarce with a maximum of 15 birds reported. Breeding birds begin laying from late Mar onwards and definite breeding was reported from five sites, with possible breeding at a sixth. Summer records were largely of adults and juveniles at or near the breeding sites. More sites were involved in the autumn with 15-20 birds reported from 20 sites, mainly coastal, during Sep and Oct. UK birds are partial migrants and wintering populations may be supplemented by birds from northern Europe and the Low Countries. However, there was little evidence of any immigration from these sources and the autumn total remained more or less the same until the end of the year.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

M a yarrelli: Common resident and passage migrant.

M.a.alba: Scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun.

Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarelli*. Recorded everywhere in the county, although larger counts were restricted to a few sites. The highest Jan total was 20 at Kirton Marsh while 23 at RAF Waddington on Feb 15th was the highest count during that month. Tattershall CP had 40 on Mar 6th. During Apr-May, 62 were at Covenham Res on Apr 16th and 16 at Toft Newton Res on May 4th. There were no double figure totals from elsewhere. Autumn counts were much higher as expected, with 50 at Grainthorpe Haven on Aug 11th and 100 at RAF Waddington on 20th. Numbers increased at the latter site to 160 by mid-Sep. 75 were at Tattershall CP on Sep 24th and 100 were reported at Metherringham on 27th. Several sites reported 15-35 during Oct-Nov. Dec saw far fewer birds reported, with the highest count being 18 at Baston Fen on 24th.

White Wagtail *M.a.alba*, Arrival of nominate *alba* in central Europe and southern Scandinavia occurs from Feb onwards but with the bulk in Mar and Apr. This was reflected in the county with five sites recording 1-2 birds from Mar 21st. This spring migration continued into Apr with a further 13 sites recording 1-3 birds each, and Covenham Res proving a wagtail magnet as usual with nine on 13th. Only 5-6 individuals were noted in May, the last bird being at Covenham Res on 21st. Autumn records of possible *alba* were scarce, unsurprising given that juveniles are not safely separable from *yarelli* on plumage detail.



White Wagtail *M.a.alba* Covenham Res
© Nick Clayton, 14th April 2008



Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
Lincoln © Russell Hayes, 21st November 2008

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

Five in Lincoln on Jan 9th and two in the Market Rasen area on Jan 19th-Feb 23rd were the only records in the first half of 2008. One or two birds on the coast and five at Barton on Oct 31st preceded a larger arrival in early Nov, when daily totals of up to 25 birds were recorded in the first week. Up to 15 were at Gib Point and 12 in Spilsby with 2-6 birds elsewhere. Birds remained largely in the northern half of the county, and by the 3rd week of Nov Lincoln hosted a well-watched flock of up to 40 birds. During Dec birds were more widespread with records from 18 sites and further south to Freiston Shore. The Lincoln flock numbered 25-29 birds on several dates in the first week, 17 in Louth on 2nd and 2-10 birds were seen elsewhere. Given their nomadic habits it is difficult to know how many birds were present in all but 50 during the month seems a minimum estimate. The last birds of the year were four at Whisby Pits on Dec 31st.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Vagrant; LBRC

A single individual of the nominate race *C.c.cinclus*, Black-bellied Dipper, was at Gib Point on Nov 4th (JPS).

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

British & Irish Wrens are largely sedentary but some do move southwards and towards the coast for the winter. Indeed, in 2007 there came news of the 5th BTO-ringed Wren recovered in the Netherlands. In the county, 17 sites recorded double figure counts during the year in at least one month. Highest totals were from Whisby NP with maxima of 48 in Apr and 44 in Jun, while Dorrington and Haverholme Park recorded 21 and 18 respectively. Later in the year counts included 28 at Ruskington in Jul, 36 at Anwick Fen in Sep and 12 were trapped at Crook Bank in early Oct. To put these counts into partial context, the BTO Breeding Bird Survey (2008) reported that Wrens in England had shown an increase of 16% since 1995.

Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Over the year, this familiar species was reported from all corners of the county in varying numbers. Significant counts were made during Jan-Mar, with 10 at Deeping Lakes, 15 at Benniworth, 16 at Ruskington Fen 19 at Donington-on-Bain, 12 at Hundleby, 20 at Silk Willoughby, 12 at Welbourne Heath and 23 at Whisby NP. In the autumn, there was a small arrival with 31 at Gib Point on Aug 28th but thereafter influxes of up to 80 per day from Sep 12th to Oct 12th. A larger influx of 95 was noted on Oct 24th. Elsewhere in the autumn, 21 were ringed at Crook Bank on 21st Sep. Ringing evidence shows that the majority of British Dunnocks generally remain within a kilometre of their natal site, but over much of the rest of the range Dunnocks are migratory. Most foreign-ringed birds recovered in the UK originate in Norway and the Low Countries. Mar-Apr and Oct-Nov are the periods when most continental birds are on the move.

European 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	30	37	24	40	14	8	5	24	214	105	230	35
Whisby NP	64	60	53	57	35	27	18	52	60	57	24	30

A comparison of monthly maximum counts from a coastal and an inland site where regular counts are undertaken. All other counts over 30, some which would have involved continental migrants, were: 26 Anwick Fen Sept 13th, 40 Seacroft Sept 26th, and at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 100 Sept 26th, 40 on Oct 30th and 120 on Nov 2nd.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The first bird was typically a singing male at Whisby NP on Apr 15th. All breeding season records are as follows, and show a worrying trend with many former sites now either vacant or with very low numbers. Whisby NP, survey work confirmed 10 singing males; Bourne Wood, one Apr 16th; Newball, one trapped and ringed Apr 26th; Kirkby Moor, one Apr-Jun; Chambers Wood, three Apr 26th; Temple Wood, one May 3rd. Elsewhere spring migrants were at Donna Nook on May 4th and 16th, with the latter trapped and ringed. The last bird was at Whisby NP on Jun 24th. No autumn records.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Mostly a rare passage migrant in spring and autumn, but with one exceptional record of a territorial male.

Two records; one of the White-spotted form trapped and ringed at Gib Point on May 4th (MRB) and one at Horseshoe Point on Nov 4th (RL).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Vagrant; BBRC

Two records make this an excellent year for this species. A 1st win male was well watched and photographed at Chapel Six Marshes on Nov 6th (EJM & M.Mackrill et al) and another 1st win was trapped and ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 8th (BRG). The 6th and 7th county records. First bird accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p572, second bird currently pending.



Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* Chapel Six Marshes © Graham Catley, 6th November 2008

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant, rare and irregular breeder and winter visitor. **RBBP**

The first of the year was a male at Cleethorpes on Mar 26th, following by singles at Gib Point on the 30th and Thimbleby on the 31st. In Apr there was just one bird at Burton-le-Coggles between 10th-12th. During May there were singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (Paradise) on 8th-9th and Donna Nook from 28th-30th with Jun producing a single record at Gib Point on the 7th. A juv bird photographed at Buck Beck Outfall, Cleethorpes on Jul 11th still had an obvious gape line indicating that it may have been locally bred. There were a couple of late summer/early autumn records, with individuals from Gib Point on Jul 31st and Brigg on Aug 22nd. Undisputed autumn passage birds in Oct included up to three birds at Gib Point from the 31st to the 4th Nov, and singles at South Somercoates on Nov 10th, and Louth on Nov 11th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

Spring passage started off with a male at Freiston Shore on Apr 13th followed by a female at Hougham on the 26th, and another male at Freiston Shore on the 27th. In May migrants included one on the 11th and three on the 28th at Donna Nook, and the third bird for Freiston Shore also on the 28th. Probable breeding records include a male at Market Rasen Golf Course on May 1st, a male and a juv seen in the adjacent Linwood Warren on Jul 20th, and two birds in Laughton Forest on May 6th. Autumn

passage was much more pronounced with up to three early birds at Gib Point between Jul 23rd and 30th and inland, singles at Trent Port on Aug 21st and Boultham Mere on Aug 30th. However, the main arrival took place in Sept with singles at Freiston Shore on the 5th and 7th, and Donna Nook on the 6th, followed mid month by a noticeable fall on the coast. Max counts included 18 at Pye's Hall on the 15th, 50 at Donna Nook on the 16th, 24 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 16th, 8 at Saltfleet on the 16th, and 7 at Seacroft (Skegness) on the 17th. Only one record of a single bird was received for Gib Point on the 18th. Numbers tailed off towards the month's end with between one to four birds reported from already mentioned sites. In addition up to two were at Baumber between the 18th and 19th, two at Horseshoe Point on the 25th, and singles at Alkborough Flats on the 16th and 19th and Frampton on the 20th. The last bird of the year was at Donna Nook on the late date of Nov 6th.



Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, September 2008



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Covenham Res © Nick Clayton, 22nd April 2008

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant and rare summer visitor. Formerly bred.

Spring passage began on May 1st with one at Swanpool, Lincoln followed by singles at Frampton Marsh on the 3rd and Donna Nook on the 4th. In a poor spring just four more individuals were recorded from Bonby Top, Alkborough Flats, Tetney Lock and Donna Nook between May 5th and 28th. Autumn passage began on Jul 13th with singles at Owmbly and Searby, followed by two in Scunthorpe on the 16th and four at Risby Warren on the 27th. In Aug between one to four birds were reported from nine sites. In Sept, 1-4 birds were reported from 17 sites with counts over four including six at RAF Waddington on the 4th, five at Pye's Hall on the 13th, eight at Donna Nook on the 14th, and five at Rimac on the 27th. There was just one Oct record of a single at Paradise on the 2nd.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

S. t. maureaus/stejnegeri (Siberian Stonechat) Vagrant. BBRC

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	20	27	32	2	2	1	1	1	16	21	18	13
Min. birds	41	61	115	5	5	6	5	7	46	61	30	30

Very widespread during the first three months of the year with many records from both coastal and inland sites involving one to ten birds. The high number of birds during Mar undoubtedly involved passage as well as wintering birds. Peak numbers included 13 Worlaby Carrs on Jan 2nd, nine Donna Nook on Feb 28th, nine Alkborough Flats and



Steve Keightley

Dean Eades



Nick Clayton

Desert Wheatear, Saltfleet Haven. November 2008



20 Risby Warren both on Mar 9th and eight Gib Point Mar 25th. Almost all records from Apr-Aug involved summering birds at Risby Warren where at least one pair bred with adults seen feeding young birds on May 18th. The last four months saw a gradual return of wintering birds, again with a good mix of coastal and inland locations. Peak numbers during this time included 15 at Rimac on Oct 11th, 12 at Seacroft on Oct 28th, and up to five at Worlaby Carrs in Nov-Dec.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Fairly common/common passage migrant. Formerly a local breeder but no recent proof, although territorial pairs are fairly regular in late spring.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	-	-	9	24	21	-	3	26	34	5	2	-
Min. birds	-	-	17	99	85	-	4	56	130	8	2	-

First birds were singles at Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, and Howden's Pullover all on Mar 16th. Not many birds appeared to pass through. Spring peak day counts over ten birds included 34 at Waddington and 12 Risby Warren both on Apr 27th, and 18 Bonby Top on May 5th. Similarly autumn peak day counts appeared poor and only Waddington recorded over 10 birds with 22 Waddington on Sept 4th, all other locations recording between 1-10 birds. The last for the year were singles at Donna Nook on Nov 8th and Pye's Hall on Nov 11th. Individuals showing characteristics of the Greenland race during the year were at Donna Nook on Apr 26th and two at Waddington on Apr 27th.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

Vagrant; BBRC

An approachable female present at Saltfleet from Nov 8th-14th was the fourth county record (SNT et al). The previous records were in 1970, 1991 and 1999. Accepted by BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p574.



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Pye's Hall © Russell Hayes, 8th November 2008

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

A male at Far Ings from Apr 16th-23rd was the first bird for the year, followed by a productive spring with singles at Deeping Lakes and Gib Point on Apr 19th, Greetwell Warren on 20th, Chowder Ness on 21st, Alkborough Flats and Cleethorpes both on 22nd, Tetney Lock on 24th, Witham Mouth on 26th, Chowder Ness on 27th, Risby Warren on 27th - 28th, Seaview on 28th and Freiston Shore on 28th-29th. May was quieter with only two records of single birds at Heckington Fen on the 1st, and Donna Nook on 28th-31st. Autumn passage was also productive with single birds unless otherwise stated at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sept 6th, Donna Nook Oct 22nd, up to five at Gib Point between Oct 30th-Nov 2nd, a minimum of six at Pye's Hall between Nov 2nd and 16th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 2nd and 9th, a minimum of four Donna Nook between Nov 3rd and 16th (possibly some overlap with Pye's Hall), Tetney Marsh Nov 3rd-4th, Wrangle Bank on Nov 12th and finally Gib Point on Nov 23rd.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were few notable early year records with no three-figure counts reported. The only counts over 50 were: 61 Whisby NP during Jan, 55 Ruskington Fen on Feb 10th, 58 Welbourn Heath Feb 20th, 60 Whisby NP during Apr and 60 Billing Apr 12th. Autumn passage was more evident at both inland and coastal locations and during Oct included: 80 at Boultham Mere on 14th, 300 Donna Nook, 140 Saltfleet and 120 Tetney Marsh on 30th and 450 Gib Point on 31st. Nov records included 79 Whisby NP (monthly max count), 450 Donna Nook, c1745 Gib Point and 700 Saltfleet all on the 2nd, 400 Donna Nook on 6th and finally 100 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 8th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

At the start of the year flocks were widely recorded but no really large numbers were seen and the only counts over 200 birds were: 201 Welbourn Heath on Jan 16th, 255 North Kyme Fen on Jan 20th, c200 Little Hale on Jan 22nd, 200 Swallow on Jan 29th, c200 Benniworth Feb 10th, 257 along the R. Welland on Mar 8th and 200 Worlabby Carrs on Mar 23rd. Numbers typically declined during Apr and one at Gib Point and seven at Great Sturton both on the 27th were the last of the majority of wintering birds. There was just one May record of a single at Freiston Shore on the 27th. Three early autumn birds were at Torksey on Aug 14th followed by 12 at Far Ings over a month later on Sept 16th and eight at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sept 27th. Small numbers continued to arrive through early Oct with the first significant influx noted by the middle of the month and continuing into Nov-Dec. Higher numbers were recorded than earlier in the year, with flocks of up to 250 frequent but those of 300 or over as follows: c500 Messingham SQ on Oct 17th, c650 Ruskington Oct 29th, 350 Worlabby Carrs on Nov 1st, 300 Gib Point on Nov 2nd, c300 Tetney Marsh Nov 4th, c550 Worlabby Carrs on Nov 22nd, c400 Frampton Marsh and c400 Nocton Fen both on Dec 3rd, c300 Worlabby Carrs Dec 9th and finally 370 Anwick Fen Dec 27th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This species appears to continue to be in decline as few notable records were received during the year. During the first three months only 1-4 birds were recorded from a number of mostly inland sites, with only one significant count of 20 at Barton on Mar 23rd. Breeding season records were similarly in short supply and apart from single figures again from a variety of sites, the only location where any surveying took place was Whisby NP where 12 territories were recorded. The trend of single figures continued into Sept when there was some passage of continental birds with 12 at Saltfleet on the 20th, 10 at Pye's Hall on the 22nd, 20 at Donna Nook on the 25th, 20 at Gib Point and around 40 at Saltfleet both on the 27th. Oct was quieter with 30 at Saltfleet on the 4th, 45 at Saltfleet and 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 30th the only notable counts. Final double figure counts of 10 at Gib Point and c80 at Saltfleet both on Nov 2nd signalled the end of any passage, and the species retreated back into the usual pattern of single figures to the year's end.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Like Fieldfare, there were no large numbers recorded in the first part of the year with only small flocks of up to 70 widespread. Any return passage was also poor with only one significant count of 600 at Gib Point on Mar 15th. There were only a few records of singles during Apr, and only one double figure count of 12 at Gib Point on the 16th. Single birds at Great Sturton and Ruskington Fen both on Apr 27th marked the last birds of the winter, with no summer records. Autumn started off with 20 at Chowder Ness on Sept 7th. Six at Gib Point on Sept 24th were followed by a steady trickle of birds. The main influx wasn't until mid Oct with many birds seen between the 16th-19th of the month. The largest site counts during this time were 1000 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 16th and 300 Messingham SQ on the 17th. Migrants continued throughout the rest of Oct and into Nov, most involving counts of 100 or less, but with occasional flocks numbering into the low hundreds. Notable during this time were c500 Donna Nook on Oct 30th, c300 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 8th, and inland, c350 Swanpool, Lincoln on Nov 11th. The latter half of Nov was fairly quiet as was Dec although 140 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 14th suggested that small groups were still arriving into the county from the continent.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Small numbers between 1-10 were widely noted in the first quarter, with only one count into double figures at Pinchbeck Slupe NR on Jan 20th. The only breeding information came from Whisby NP where there were four territories and Pinchbeck with juvenile birds early May. Post breeding flocks involving 20 birds or more included, 30 Kirkby Moor Jun 1st, 20 Tattershall Lakes Jun 17th, 20 Toynton St Peter Jul 22nd and 25 Little Hale Jul 28th. Flocks from the autumn to the year's end included: 21 RAF Waddington Sept 4th, 16 Worlaby Carrs Sept 7th, 15 Wispington Sept 20th, 18 Honington Oct 2nd, 20 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Oct 16th, 10 Freiston Shore Nov 15th-18th and up to 15 Messingham SQ Dec 24th-30th.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Vagrant; LBRC, RBBP

One, probably a female, was at Far Ings NNR from Jan 20th-Mar 18th (ND, GPC), and a male was at Messingham SQ from Feb 17th-Mar 30th (ND et al); at both locations there had been records in Nov 2007 and probably the same birds were involved. More significantly, a singing male – possibly the Messingham bird – was found in the Bagmoor area on Apr 5th (ND) and noted frequently through to Jun, with a family party of four juveniles seen on Jul 30th and Aug 3rd (JTH, ND). This is the first confirmed breeding in Lincolnshire. Later in the year, one at Baston Fen on Oct 18th-19th (KKH) was perhaps the male that had been noted there intermittently since Apr 2006. One at Marston STW on Nov 16th and Dec 24th (ACL) remained until Feb 2009; it was trapped and recorded as a first-winter female.

Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce/fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Considerable decline in the last 20 years.

A mere 38 records were received from around 18 localities. The first was one at Laughton Forest on Apr 13th, then two on Apr 18th at Whisby NP where 1-2 were heard most days to the 26th and one again on Jun 21st. At Barton Pits, males were heard singing at three spots over Apr 21st-27th, including two on the 27th, and in one place one was again singing on Jun 7th. Around the coast, the maximum at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR was five on Apr 25th and May 8th, at Gib Point there were two on Apr 27th, one on May 14th and one on Jul 12th, and singles were reported from Immingham, Humberston Fitties, Horseshoe Point and Donna Nook, while the only report from the Wash was one at Frampton Marsh on May 11th. At Crowle Moors, there were three on Apr 25th with one on May 21st, while at Twyford Wood there were three on May 10th and Jun 20th and one on Jul 11th. Inland reports of singles were from North Thoresby in Apr, Billingham in May, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in May-Jun, and Helpringham in Jul. The last records of the year were both on Aug 3rd; one at North Killingholme and one, still singing, at Gib Point.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

One at Far Ings NNR on Apr 9th was the first, and three were at Barton Pits by Apr 17th but the first reported elsewhere was one at Whisby NP on Apr 18th. Reports were much more widespread in the last third of the month after large arrivals from the 20th. Though a widespread breeding species, few counts for extensive areas were submitted, with totals of ten or more from only eight locations. The highest were 12 at Donna Nook on May 1st, 16 at Ewerby Fen on May 5th, and 20 at Whisby NP on May 17th. There was no clear evidence of elevated passage numbers, and the highest count after Jun 21st was ten at Marston STW on Sep 4th. Only five records of singles followed that, the last being at Freiston Shore on Sep 19th and 21st.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Vagrant, LBRC, RBBP

There was a notable arrival along the coast in late May. The first were at Donna Nook (SL) and Pye's Hall (CA, AJH) on May 27th, with a different bird at Donna Nook on the 28th (JS, SL) and no fewer than three there on the 29th (RH a SL) and one remaining

on the 31st (SL). At Gib Point, there were three on May 28th (KNW, DKW), and there were singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 29th (JRN), Skegness on the 31st (IB) and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 4th (GH, BMC). Most if not all of these birds were singing males, and a total of 10-12 birds were involved. There had been only 21 individuals previously in Lincolnshire. Putting these figures in a national context, there was an arrival all along the east coast on May, with about 50 reported between Shetland and Essex on 27th-31st, including nine just over the Humber in the Spurn area (E. Yorks) on 28th.

Previous records:

Location	Date	Notes
Tetney	Oct 8th 1961	trapped
Bardney	Jun 14th-16th 1964	singing
Ancaster	Aug 16th 1966	trapped
Donna Nook	May 28th 1978	singing
Donna Nook	Jun 5th-7th 1979	singing
Saltfleetby	Jun 5th 1979	trapped
Theddlethorpe	May 17th 1980	
Messingham	Jun 4th-10th 1983	singing
Messingham	Jun 3rd 1985	singing
Chapel Pit	Jun 4th 1986	singing
Saltfleetby	Aug 24th 1986	
Chapel Point	Oct 22nd-23rd 1988	
North Cotes	Jun 7th 1992	singing
Barton	Jun 8th-10th 1992	singing
Barton	Jun 16th 1992	singing (different bird to previous)
Skegness	Oct 16th 1993	
North Cotes	May 23rd-24th 1994	singing
Barton Far Ings	May 31st-Jun 18th 1997	singing
Gib Point	Jun 4th 1998	singing
Gib Point	May 31st-Jun 6th 1999	singing
Fiskerton	Jun 25th-Jul 12th 2001	singing

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, has increased in the last 10 years.

Unusually, the first on Apr 5th at Far Ings preceded the first Sedge Warbler, and was the earliest ever at Barton pits. After further reports there on the 11th and 13th, the next was one at Whisby NP on the 19th, after which they became more widespread. There were numerous reports throughout the summer, but few systematic counts of more than a handful. Totals of ten or more came from only ten places, including 12 at Water's Edge, Barton, on May 6th, 12 at Pinchbeck Slupe NR on Jul 20th, 21 at Kirkby on Bain pits on Jun 14th, and 13 at Anwick Fen on Aug 31st. Reports continued quite frequently throughout much of Sep, with six at Marston STW on the 4th and seven ringed at Crook Bank on the 14th. The only Oct records were singles at Donna Nook on the 5th and 13th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

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

A remarkable arrival took place on May 28th, involving three in the Donna Nook area (CA, HB et al) and one at Gib Point (KMW, DKW). Two, including a singing

male, remained at Donna Nook and Pye's Hall on the 29th. Another singing male was found inland at Crowle Moors on Jun 5th (GPC). In autumn, there was one at North Somercotes on Sep 4th (PL) and another at Gib Point on Sep 25th-29th (JPS et al)

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Up to mid Mar, there were birds at seven widely spread localities, mostly singles but three at Little Hale on Jan 29th and two at Healing on Mar 15th. Migrants evidently started to arrive in the last days of Mar and were widespread by Apr 6th. Only small numbers were reported however, with an Apr maximum of 11 at Whisby NP. This was one of the best-reported places, with monthly maxima of 40 in May and 41 in Jun, well above any other counts. The only other sites reporting ten or more at any time during the year were Haverholme Park with 11 in May, Chambers Farm Wood with about 20 on May 18th, and the Crook Bank ringing site with 12 on Aug 31st and 17 on Sep 21st. Reports came from only five localities in Oct but from seven, all coastal, in Nov, including six at Gib Point on the 6th and five at Donna Nook on the 12th. Subsequently, the only records were singles at Gib Point and Stonebridge on Nov 16th, Gib Point again on Dec 21st and Sleaford on Dec 25th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

The first was singing at Whisby NP on the Apr 22nd. There were about 20 at Chambers Farm Wood on May 18th, and monthly maxima at Whisby of 14 in May and 20 in Jun. No more than six were reported from anywhere else, and there was little evidence of spring or autumn passage on the coast. In Sep, there were records of 1-2 from seven locations, with the last at Pye's Hall and Saltfleet on the 27th. There was in addition a straggler at Gib Point on Nov 1st.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

Just two records this year. One was trapped at Crook Bank on Aug 16th (BRG) and one was at Gib Point on Sep 26th (NAL).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was at Whisby NP on Apr 20th with many widespread records from the 22nd. The highest spring counts were 11 at Saltfleet and seven at Donna Nook on May 4th, and nine at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 8th. Although present throughout the county at low density, few reports are submitted away from the coast. Inland maxima were five at Whisby NP on Apr 23rd and May 23rd, five in the Bagmoor area on Apr 28th, and there were also five at Far Ings on Apr 26th. In autumn, high counts again came from the coast, including 14 at Gib Point on Aug 29th, eight trapped at Crook Bank on Aug 31st, and seven at Churchill Lane End on Sep 18th. Occurrence was regular until Oct 2nd but then there was a gap until a late flurry with one at Gib Point on Oct 30th and five there on the 31st with one remaining until Nov 2nd. There was also one at Rimac on Nov 2nd and probably a different bird at Saltfleet on the 3rd.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

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

The first records came from Ewerby Waithe Common on Apr 15th and Gib Point on Apr 16th, with widespread reports from the 22nd-24th. On the 25th, there were 25 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR where there were 50 on May 8th. Seven other coastal and inland localities recorded ten or more during May, including 38 at Donna Nook on May 1st, and the monthly peaks at Whisby NP during May, Jun and Jul were 32, 26 and 36 respectively. Autumn totals were smaller, the largest being 15 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 1st, after which no count exceeded five. Reports continued throughout much of Sep, becoming increasingly restricted to the coast, but abruptly ceased after two at Pye's Hall and three at Seacroft on Sep 26th.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Vagrant; LBRC, RBBP

One was at Gib Point from Jan 1st-27th (JPS et al). This bird had been found on 29th Nov 2007.



Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* Gibraltar Point
© Russell Hayes, 27th January 2008



Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Donna Nook © Graham Catley, 4th November 2008

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant; LBRC

An arrival in late Oct/early Nov with 1-2 birds at Gib Point from 30th Oct-2nd Nov (EJM et al), one at Seaview Farm Nov 1st-2nd (CA et al), one Saltfleet village Nov 3rd (SRO), one Pye's Hall 3rd (GW et al) with three there on the 4th (GPC et al) and two there on the 5th (RHa), and finally one at Anderby Creek also on the 5th (ACL).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant Sep-Nov; exceptional inland. Has increased and become regular in recent years.

A good series of records, with at least 21 individuals involved. The first arrivals of the autumn were on Sep 22nd with one at Crook Bank and two at Donna Nook. There were then two again at Donna Nook on Sep 25th. A small arrival on Sep 26th comprised two at Pye's Hall, three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and one at Seacroft Golf Course. The next day one was at Gib Point, with it or another staying until Nov 12th. There were then no new arrivals until singles at Tetney and inland at Legbourne on Oct 11th and at Saltfleet the next day. Later records consisted of birds at Anderby Creek on Nov 5th and North Cotes Point on Nov 5th-6th. Finally, one was at Donna Nook Nov 7th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant.

A total of six recorded this year with spring birds in May at Horseshoe Point on the 7th, Gib Point 18th and Rimac 29th. Autumn records consisted of singles at Gib Point Aug 3rd and 25th and one at Seaview Farm Sep 21st-22nd.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

P c tristis (Siberian Chiffchaff): LBRC

Wintering birds were observed at five sites in the Jan-Feb period with two at Messingham SQ being the peak on Feb 17th. Then in Mar, 112 birds were recorded from 27 sites and probably included some wintering birds moving north. In Apr, the max count was 14 at Chambers Farm Wood on the 26th. In May 20 were recorded at Whisby Pits as a monthly max rising to 35 in Jun. Autumn passage began in Aug with nine at Crook Bank on the 10th and peaks of six at three sites along the coast in Sep. The main arrival at Gib was on Sep 12th when 12 were counted, rising to 25 on Sep 17th. In Oct there was a peak of ten at Gib Point on the 12th. In Nov, four were recorded at Gib Point on the 9th. In Dec singles were at two sites in Sleaford, Covenham, Marston STW and Whisby Pits.



Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Covenham Res © Nick Clayton, 11th December 2008



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* Frampton Marsh
(North End) © Steve Keightley, 6th April 2008

Siberian Chiffchaff *P c tristis*: One was trapped at Crook Bank on Oct 21st (BRG).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

P t yakutensis: BBRC

The first record of the year was at Far Ings NNR on the Mar 30th, with three at Whisby Pits the next day. In May, there were 21 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 8th. Autumn passage was well documented at Gib Point, where a small arrival of 15 on Aug 2nd increased hugely to 118 on Aug 3rd. Numbers then dwindled until another influx of 124 on Aug 13th increasing to 152 the following day. The biggest influx was on the 20th when 245 arrived and increased to 421 on 21st. Numbers quickly dropped to 17 on 25th before another arrival of 71 on 26th. These arrivals were represented elsewhere on the coast, where there were 20 at Saltfleet on 20th, 27 at Freiston Shore on 20th with seven there the next day and up to 25 on 22nd. Nearby, there were 21 at Witham Mouth also on 21st. During Sep, records were received from most coastal sites with

peaks of 13 at Saltfleet on the 15th and at Donna Nook on the 26th. The final record of the year was a late bird at Gib Point on the Oct 31st.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reports came from almost 60 localities countywide, but most were of coastal migrants rather than inland breeding or wintering populations. The table shows monthly peaks in areas holding more than 50 on any one day. There was a strong autumn passage.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	12	300	-
Saltfleet-Crook Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	70	250	-
Gib Point	8	5	20	8	1	-	-	5	480	125	600	5

Early in the year there were only single-figure counts except at Gib Point on Mar 15th-20th, peaking at 20 on the first date. Through the summer, during May-Jul, only small counts of up to six were made. More widespread migrants started to appear in early Sep, with 64 at Gib Point on Sep 7th and an early peak there of 200 on the 13th. A phase of heavy passage took place during Sep 20th-27th, with over 200 at Gib Point most days and 480 on the 25th, 300 at Crook Bank on the 21st, 180 on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 26th, and counts of 50-80 at Seacroft, Seaview and Donna Nook. A slacker period followed though still with regular counts of 50 or more, and 123 on Oct 12th and 125 on the 31st at Gib Point, before another phase of heavy passage on Nov 2nd-6th. On the first date there were 300 at Donna Nook, 250 at Saltfleet and 600 at Gib Point, where numbers tailed off to 80 by the 7th, but there were also 200 at Donna Nook on the 6th. Counts at Gib Point remained in double-figures until the 16th, plus one record of 14 on Nov 28th, but otherwise the highest count anywhere after Nov 7th was the Whisby NP peak of nine in Dec. There were up to 15 at Freiston Shore and 20 at Moulton Marsh in autumn but the only double-figure count well inland throughout the year was 11 at Honington on Oct 8th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Rare summer records and territorial behaviour; **RBBP**

None in Jan but singles at Burton upon Stather on Feb 10th, Baston on Feb 15th and 20th, singing on at least the first date and Grimsby on Feb 28th. Spring passage lasted from Mar 15th to May 4th. At Gib Point, there were 41 bird-days, and peaks of three on Mar 15th, five on Mar 30th, four on Mar 31st and three on Apr 4th. Elsewhere were one singing at Barton on Mar 16th, one in Boston on Apr 5th, and along the R. Witham at Frampton Marsh on 7th and 12th. An unusual summer record was one at Gib Point on Jun 4th. Autumn records came in three very small waves. The first involved singles at Gib Point on Sep 24th and 26th, with one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 26th. The second wave comprised two at Gib Point on Oct 6th and two at Crook Bank on Oct 9th. The third wave extended from Oct 30th to Nov 8th, with singles at Gib Point on seven dates and two there on Nov 1st, plus singles at Tetney Marsh on Oct 31st, Donna Nook on Nov 1st, and Crook Bank on Nov 8th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Formerly common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was at Normanby Park on May 7th, with others soon following. There were scattered coastal migrants through to Jun 1st, mostly 1-2, but nine at Donna Nook on May 28th and eight there on the 29th were the highest counts. During the summer, reports came from about 20 likely breeding localities throughout the county, and it was confirmed at six, including four pairs at Dunsby. The largest inland groups were nine at Swanpool on Aug 22nd and eight, including juveniles, at Ancaster on the 31st. From mid Sep, most records were on the coast, and the maximum was 13 at Pye's Hall on Sep 15th with ten there the next day. The highest counts further south were six at Churchill Lane End and four at Gib Point on Sep 18th, when there were six at Pye's Hall, and eight at Crook Bank on Sep 21st-22nd. Records continued regularly to Sep 28th, including four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and three at Pye's Hall on the 26th. One later record was one at Gib Point on Oct 4th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Rare passage migrant in May and Sep-Nov. Exceptional inland and in spring. LBRC

One was seen at Donna Nook on May 28th (SL). One was trapped at Crook Bank on Sep 22nd (BRG), and other singles were seen at Rimac on Sep 24th-26th (CA, CJJ, SJ et al) and at Freiston Shore on Sep 26th (JB, PS).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

The only record in spring was two at Donna Nook on May 28th. The first of the autumn was a juvenile at Donna Nook on the rather early date of Jul 27th but the next was not until three at Crook Bank on Aug 14th. There were three singles on Aug 16th-17th, at Donna Nook, Saltfleet and Pye's Hall, then one at Gib Point on Aug 30th and four at Crook Bank on Aug 30th-31st. The next was not until Sep 13th but there were then about 40 over the next two weeks. Counts of four or more were four at Crook Bank on Sep 14th, five on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 15th, five at Donna Nook also on the 15th with six there next day, and four at Gib Point on the 18th. The only one away from the coast was at Swanpool on Sep 23rd. There were still three in the Saltfleetby area on Sep 26th but one at Sea View on the 27th was the last.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

There were records at Barton Pits, mostly from Far Ings NNR, in most months of the year. In the first half, reports were sporadic, with a peak of five on Jan 20th-28th, but one juvenile was seen on Jun 6th and two on Jul 3rd. Sightings in the area became more frequent in autumn, including five on Oct 13th, and four on Nov 30th. At Huttoft Bank Pit, two were seen on May 18th and 25th, three on Jun 1st and four on Jul 5th and 17th, noted as juveniles on the last date. The implication of the records is that one pair bred successfully at each of Barton and Huttoft. Two at Whitton on Jul 27th were presumably early dispersing birds. A little further along the Humber, at Winteringham, where there had been several on Feb 10th, more typical autumn records occurred of 15 on Sep 28th and 30 on Oct 17th. Further south, two were at Gib Point on Oct 16th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

A. c. caudatus (Northern Long-tailed Tit): BBRC

Widely reported from around 70 locations countywide. In Jan, there were counts of 20 or more at four places, most notably a peak of 81 at Whisby NP and also 38 at Anwick Fen. Whisby also recorded up to 60 in Feb and up to 34 in Mar, but there were no other counts over 20 until Jun. Productivity was clearly good, as 20 or more were reported in around 15 places during Jun-Dec. The Whisby monthly maxima ranged from 58 to a peak of 102 in Oct. No fewer than 108 were ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in the week ending Oct 17th. Other places with counts of 30 or more were Gib Point with 50 on Oct 28th, Honington with 38 on Oct 8th, Messingham SQ with 35 on Sep 21st, Anwick Fen with 32 on Oct 12th and Donna Nook with 30 on Nov 13th.



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* Far Ings, Barton
© Don Davies, 20th March 2008



Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* Louth
© Nick Clayton, 28th January 2008

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Birds were seen in good numbers throughout the year with a peak count of 89 occurring at Whisby NP in Feb and an average of 63 throughout the year. Gib Point had the next highest total with 60 birds being seen on Jan 27th. Ringing data from Newball Wood peaked at 35 individuals trapped on Feb 16th compared to an annual total of 193. This marks an 11% decline when compared to the 217 individuals trapped in 2007. Most other sightings throughout the county didn't reach double figures.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common Resident.

A maximum count of 102 birds occurred on Mar 30th at Gib Point; more than double the normal total for the site. The next highest totals for a site occurred at Whisby NP where an average of 43 individuals was seen throughout the year. Ringing totals compare with those for Blue Tit with 198 individuals being trapped in 2008 compared to 240 in 2007, a 17.5% decline at Newball Wood. The highest number handled in one day occurred on Feb 16th when 53 individuals were trapped coming to the feeding station.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant.

A maximum of 40 birds were seen at Ostler's Plantation on Jun 26th. Gipsy Bridge provided the next highest total with 13 birds on Dec 22nd. All other sightings were in single figures. Coal Tits occur throughout the year at Newball Wood with numbers

peaking throughout the winter months when the birds actively visit the feeders. The highest total in any visit was 8 individuals which occurred on Dec 24th, followed by 6 birds on Dec 26th. Other visits produced just 1 or 2 birds. Numbers of birds trapped at Newball almost doubled between 2007 and 2008.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Once common and widespread, now seriously declining with most records from the northern half of the county.

Around 60% of reports came from three well-watched areas: Far Ings NNR, Messingham SQ and Whisby NP but the species evidently is still well-distributed away from the lowest-lying land of the coastal marshes and fens, though the only records in the extreme south-west were at Belton Park in Jan, Holywell Lake in May and Twyford Wood in Dec. The highest counts were monthly maxima of seven at Whisby NP in Aug and Oct, four at Belton Park on Jan 26th, Haverholme Park, Ostler's Plantation and Burgh on Bain. Breeding records received were three prs at Barton Pits and one pr at Laughton Forest. Despite the widespread records, it seems likely that the national decline is affecting Lincolnshire, and more records would be welcome. Observers should not under-estimate the difficulties of identification, and any non-calling birds away from the core areas should be carefully scrutinised. The severity of the decline in Britain could well have been masked by mis-identifications.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

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

Reports came from 14 localities in the south-west of the county, as far north as Neville and Potterhanworth Woods. However, numbers were small and maxima were four at Ingoldsby on Jun 14th and three at Belton Park in Mar and Apr.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce/fairly common local resident in the south-west.

The south-west of the county continues to be the species' stronghold with widespread records in woodlands from Bourne and Belton to Potterhanworth and Whisby, but there are also smaller populations near Gainsborough, Normanby and Grimsby. In the south-west, maxima were five at Anwick Fen in Jan, four at Belton Park in Mar, and records of three at Elsea/Math Woods, Haverholme Park and Blankney GC. Around Gainsborough, there were five in Thurlby Wood in Jan and three in Gainsborough itself in Oct. At Normanby Hall CP, the maximum was four in Feb and Oct. Near Grimsby, as well as frequent records of 1-2 in Bradley and Weelsby Woods, one was seen at Roxton Wood in Jan. Away from these areas, there was one record of a single bird at Welton le Marsh on Apr 21st.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

With the exception of their western fringes, there were no records from the Fens, nor from the coastal zone except in woods near Grimsby. Elsewhere the species was widely reported though typically present at low densities. The highest count anywhere was seven at Moor Farm NR on Jul 12th, and there were four at Honington on Apr 15th. Counts of three were made at a handful of other places: Normanby Hall CP (including an adult feeding two fledglings), Messingham SQ, Swanpool, Kirkby Moor NR and Ostler's Plantation, Alma Wood, and Baston Fen NR.



Matt Latham

Southern Grey Shrike, Grainthorpe Haven. November 2008

Dean Eades





Neil Smith

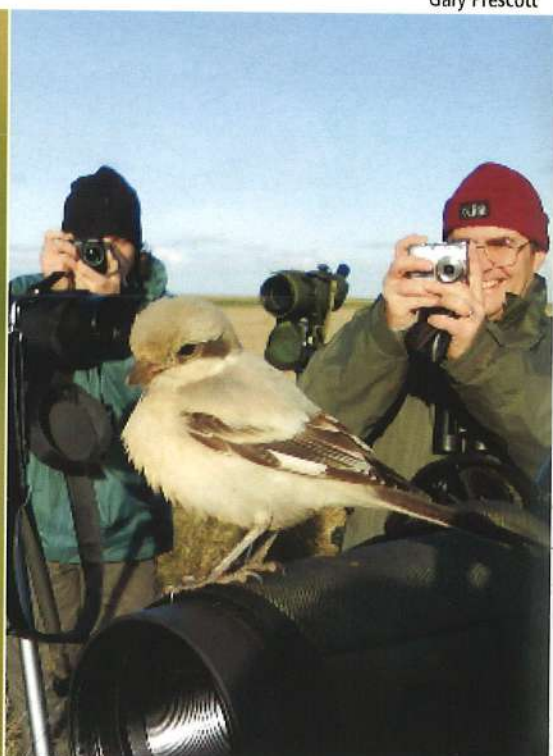
Nick Clayton



Steve Keightley

Gary Prescott

Southern Grey Shrike, Grainthorpe Haven. November 2008





Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* Bradley Wood
© Dean Eades, February 2008



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* Risby Warren
© Russell Hayes, 1st May 2008

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

An immature male was singing at North Cotes Point on the morning of May 29th, before flying off inland (JS).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage migrant and occasional summer visitor. Former rare breeder: LBRC, RBBP

In the spring a female was at Pye's Hall from May 27th-28th (SL), a male was at Donna Nook Jun 3rd (ACo), a male was at Freiston Shore (PS) and a female was at Gib Point on Jun 4th (DJW). In the autumn there was just one record of a juvenile at Pye's Hall on Sep 7th (PBH, PMa).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage migrant and rare winter visitor Oct-Apr. Exceptional in summer. LBRC.

A returning spring migrant was on Risby Warren from Apr 26th-May 1st (KSp, SSs, ND et al) was matched by a single autumn record at Horseshoe Point on Sep 25th (RL).

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Vagrant; BBRC

L.m pallidirostris (Steppe Grey Shrike) Vagrant; BBRC.

A particularly obliging first-winter bird of the race *L. m. pallidirostris* found at Grainthorpe Marsh on Nov 7th-26th stayed in the same small area throughout its stay, and was one of the most photographed and twitched British birds of all time (per birding information services). Considered at the time to be a first for Lincolnshire, it has since been relegated to second place by the recent acceptance of a bird at the Nene Mouth in Nov 2005. All British records are attributable to *L. m. pallidirostris*, known as Steppe Grey Shrike. Currently grouped within Southern Grey Shrike, it seems likely to be separated into its own distinct species in due course. The current English name is slightly inappropriate however, as the species does not inhabit the steppe at all, and is more a bird of the Saxual and semi-desert areas. Accepted BBRC. *British Birds* 102, p589.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Vagrant; LBRC

A bird found in the late evening on Jun 30th at Saltfleet Haven (GW, SDT) was considered to be possibly of the Balearic race *L s badius* but this was not confirmed.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

A maximum count of eight birds at Whisby was the only record of note apart from singles away from breeding habitats at Wrangle Bank Feb 20th and Nov 24th and Wingland Marsh May 29th.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

Parties of up to 15 birds were widespread with slightly higher numbers of up to 20 at Freiston Shore and up to 26 at Whisby NP. A regular roost at Far Ings held peaks of 58 Jan 20th and 63 Dec 3rd.



Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* Far Ings, Barton © Don Davis, 19th March 2008

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Several large winter roosts in the county were not monitored; of the records submitted the only significant concentrations were as follows: 200 Beniworth Jan 24th, 180 Deeping Lakes Jan 3rd, 1000 RAF Waddington 21st, 6000 Scrivelsby Park 27th, 2500 Kingerby Wood 29th. Up to 200 were at Kirkby-Tattershall in Jun, 200 at Whisby in Jul, 300 Swallow Sep and 5500 at the Scrivelsby roost in Dec. A total of 115 at Gib Point on Mar 29th were presumably departing winter visitors.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

No breeding information received; winter roosts/gatherings of note were of 350 Baston Fen Jan 13th, 750 RAF Waddington 21st, 300 Beniworth 24th, 4000 West Halton 25th, 1000 Scrivelsby Park 27th and 2500 Kingerby Wood 29th; up to 400 were at Kirkby-Tattershall in Jun with 700 in Jul then 300 Swallow Sep, 1500 Scrivelsby Park Dec 15th and 500 Kirkby-Tattershall 23rd. Several other large winter roosts were not monitored.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Concentrations of up to 40 birds were noted at a wide variety of localities with more notable flocks including; 250 Kirkby Moor Jan 28th, 42 Anwick Fen Jun 29th, 80 Donna Nook Aug-Dec, 170 W at Trusthorpe Oct 11th and 68 Whisby Pits Nov 22nd.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Resident to 18th century but now a rare breeder and rare/scarcely visitor; LBRC

There were no reports of breeding, but up to three birds were in the usual Belton Park/Grantham area throughout the year. Birds were reported at Woodnook, 2 Feb 29th, Gib Point Apr 3rd (KMW), Welton-le-Marsh May 24th (EJM), Gedney Drove End Jun 10th (ACS), Sutterton Jun 14th (PAH), Twyford Wood Aug 27th (VF), Scopwick Sep 10th (ABa), two Woodall Spa Sep 27th (JWa), two Cawkwell Oct 20th (DS), two Nocton Fen Oct 21st-22nd (JWa, RHay) and Dec 29th-30th (RHay), one Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Oct 23rd (BRG) and two Red Hill Goulceby Oct 29th(BGu).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Very widespread, and found in all corners of the county. The only large flocks during the first winter period were 1000 Deeping Lakes NR Jan 3rd and 2800 at RAF Waddington Jan 21st. Spring passage was noted at Gib Point with up to 500 present throughout Mar, and a clear increase to 1890 on Mar 20th. Nearby, 2000 were at Frampton Marsh Mar 21st. Another movement of 1180 was noted at Gib Point on Mar 31st, and then numbers tailed off significantly. The first large flock of the autumn was 2000 at Black Bank, Messingham on Oct 27th. An influx occurred towards the end of Oct and into Nov, with the main flocks noted being 1400 Gib Point Oct 29th, 1100 at Saltfleet Oct 30th, 1000 Worlaby Carrs Oct 30th, 1200 Horseshoe Point and 2000 west at Barton Oct 31st, 1800 Donna Nook Nov 2nd, 1200 Gib Point Nov 3rd. Large winter flocks were few and far between, but 10000 were at Messingham SQ Nov 14th and 10000 were at Boultham Mere Nov 17th.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Vagrant LBRC

Two records this year. An adult was in gardens around Mablethorpe Jun 28th-30th (PBH, PMA, RHa) and an adult was present with about 200 Starlings at Black Bank, Messingham on Oct 27th (JTH).



Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* Mablethorpe
© Roy Harvey (Video Grab) June 2008



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Fulbeck © Andrew P. Chick, April 2008

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Widespread records received, but no indication of increases, declines or movements were noted.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Widespread reports and double figure counts from many sites. The highest counts during the first winter period came from Welbourn Heath, with peaks of 318 in Jan, 110 in Feb and 115 in Mar. The next highest counts received were 38 at Swayfield and 31 at Dunsby Fen in Feb. During the spring, an obvious increase occurred at Far Ings to 50 on Apr 18th. Breeding season counts were typically single figure and widespread, but an increase in numbers in Aug carried through into Oct and represents significant arrivals from outside the county. The first indication of migration was at Gib Point when 45 appeared on Aug 20th and was followed by double figure counts until Aug 29th. There was then a lull in records until 12 on Sep 20th, 54 on Sep 29th, 82 on Oct 6th and 150 on Oct 9th. Passage peaked at Gib Point in mid-Oct, with 105 on 13th, 241 on 16th, 156 on 24th and 114 on 27th. Elsewhere on the coast, 30 were at Freiston Shore on 14th with 40 there on 16th and 120 were at Crook Bank on 17th with 100 there on 19th. In the late winter period, Welbourn Heath again supported good numbers, with 108 on Nov 14th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first winter period there were few large concentrations; groups of 50 and above were recorded as follows; 63 at Welbourn Heath in Jan, 67 in Mar and 56 in Apr, 90 at Frampton Marsh in Jan, 54 at Hanthorpe in Feb, 100 at Thoresway in Feb-Mar, 57 at Whisby Pits in Mar, 53 at Donington on Bain in Mar, 60 at Hungerton in Mar and a more noteworthy 400 at Gib Point on Mar 29th, presumably migrants. Through the spring and summer there were few remarkable counts or observations, although the monthly maximum of 71 in May at Whisby Pits was noteworthy, with 49 at the same time in June. Autumn passage was apparently very weak (or more likely under-recorded?) with the only large counts on the coastal strip in Sep-Oct including 40 at Tetney on Oct 9th and 40 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 30th. Elsewhere there were 30 at Swallow, 51 at Whisby Pits and 40 at Honington all in Oct. Nov counts were generally modest, with the exception of 97 at Welbourn Heath on the 14th

and there were only two Dec counts of over 40 individuals; 80 at Welbourn Heath and 42 at Owlet Plantation.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer.

A poor year for this species. In the first winter period double figure counts came only with 20 at Wroot in Jan, 200 at Potterhanworth Fen in Feb and 100 in Mar, 15 at Gipsey Bridge in Mar, 12 at Baumber in Mar, 70 at Appleby Carrs in Mar and 11 at Gib Point in Apr. Records of 1-9 were widespread in Apr with the last two at Whisby NP on the 26th. The first of the autumn was at Horseshoe Point on Sep 18th, followed by 20 at Gib Point on the 24th, with other September reports coming from Pye's Hall, Sea View, Brickyard Lane End, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Seacroft. Thereafter numbers remained very low and principally confined to coastal spots, with double figure counts only coming from Pye's Hall where there were 27 on Nov 3rd and 15 the next day, and 30 inland at Epworth Turbary on Dec 17th.



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, March 2008

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Early winter concentrations in Jan included 55 at Deeping Lakes, 90 at Toft Hill and 80 at North Kyme Fen but there were no three figure counts. There were no significant summer concentrations and autumn passage did not become heavy until October when there were two big counts; 300 at Crook Bank on the 4th and 400 at Gib Point on the 13th. There were few noteworthy counts during the remainder of the year with the exception of 80 at Whisby in Nov, 90 at Freiston Shore and 200 at Epworth Turbary in Dec.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Reports were widespread in the first half of the year, but the only count of over 100 individuals came from Pye's Hall with 120 on Jan 10th. There was no evidence of a significant spring passage or any large late summer aggregations until autumn passage commenced in September. Peak autumn counts over 200 in Sep included 250 at Worlabby Carrs, 200 at Far Ings and 200 at Crook Bank. During Oct, there were 800 at Gib Point and 350 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. Numbers were more modest through Nov-Dec with three figure counts restricted to 100 New Barnetby, 100 Freiston Shore, 148 Welbourn Heath and 100 at Baston Fen.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer but may breed in some years.

Numbers in the first winter period were generally low, counts of over 30 in Jan came from Lincoln (30), Barton Water (40), Barton Pits (40), Tetney Marshes (45) with counts in Feb even lower although the species remained widespread, with max counts of 28 at Toynton St Peter and 30 at Gedney Drove End. Single figure counts in Mar were the norm with the exception of 11 at Loughton Forest, 20 at Market Rasen, 60 at Gib Point (on the 29th) and 18 at Toynton St Peter. Apr produced a renewed push with high counts of 60 at Bourne Woods, 40 at Kirkby Moor and 30 at Kirkby on Bain. Aside from 40 at Market Rasen on the first day of the month, May records of 1-3 birds came from a further four sites. Jun reports of 1-4 individuals came from Greetwell Hollow Quarry, Whisby NP, Donington, Osgodby, Scunthorpe, Seaview and Messingham SQ, whilst in Jul reports came from Whisby Pits, Belton Park, Anwick Fen, Moor Farm NR, Crowle Waste/Moors, Market Rasen Golf & Race Courses with at least the last three being potential breeding places. Numbers built up in August with double figure counts at Messingham (15), Market Rasen (80), Linwood Warren (30) and Moor Farm NR (10). Autumn passage was underway in earnest by early Sep and included a staggering count of 3200 south at Gib Point on the 12th; other high counts during the month included 50 at Worlabby Carrs, 150 at Freiston Shore, 60 at Seacroft and 250 at Crook Bank but birds were widespread at most coastal sites. This passage continued into Oct with 140 at Messingham, 50 at Swanpool, 70 at Crook Bank, 100 at Gib Point and 100 at Freiston Shore. Nov counts were generally more modest with the exception of another huge count of 1000 through Crook Bank on the 8th. High Dec counts included 37 at Hartsholme CP, 65 at Kirkby on Bain GP and 30 at Butterwick Common/Hale.



Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* © Matt Latham 2008 (left) and © Neil Smith 2008 (right)

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flocks of over 200 individuals in the first winter period occurred in Jan, with 200 at Tetney, 350 at Donna Nook, 420 at Horseshoe Point, 350 at Howden's Pullover and 200 at Donington on Bain after which there were no large counts as birds returned to



Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Freiston Shore © Neil Smith, May 2008

breeding territories. High Apr counts of 80 at Burringham on the 19th, 105 at Anwick on the 20th and 60 at Freiston Shore on the 24th may be indicative of migration and these numbers persisted at some of the sites for several days afterwards. Numbers remained fairly static during the summer until autumn passage and post-breeding dispersal got under way in earnest in Sep when high counts were 210 at Frampton Marsh, 120 at Tetney, 300 at Friskney, 300 at Donna Nook and 330 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. Numbers throughout Oct were more modest with the exception of 100 at Tetney.

Wintering flocks did not build up until late Nov when there were 300 at Worlaby Carrs and into Dec with 176 at Welbourn Heath, 140 at Nocton Fen, 250 at Worlaby Carrs and 160 at Dorrington.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

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

Present at eight sites in the first winter period. High counts in Jan included 150 at Donna Nook, 75 at Pye's Hall and 20 at Grainthorpe Marsh. Recorded in lower numbers and at fewer sites in Feb, with 105 at Frampton Marsh and 120 at Donna Nook. Little change in numbers in Mar with up to 110 at Frampton Marsh and a few small groups in the Donna Nook/Pye's Hall area. The last records of the spring concerned a flock of five at Stonebridge on Apr 1st and 40 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 4th. The first of the autumn were a group of six at Donna Nook on Oct 4th followed by one inland at RAF Waddington on Oct 12th. Birds were reported from 11 sites in the second winter period with Oct maxima of 24 at Donna Nook and 24 at Saltfleet, Nov high counts of 110 Donna Nook, 35 Cleethorpes and 31 Frampton Marsh and two were reported at Far Ings on the 30th. Reports were more widespread in Dec with site maxima of 200 Donna Nook, 95 Frampton Marsh and 38 Humberston.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Widespread in very low numbers in the first winter period. The only double figure count concerned 10 at Bourne Woods on Apr 13th. Incredibly there were no reports between one at Lea Marsh on Apr 27th and six at Donna Nook on Sep 13th. Is this species really extinct as a breeder? It would certainly warrant further investigation. There was a significant coastal passage in Sep with high counts of 15 at Frampton Marsh on 20th, 50 at Seacroft on the 26th, 50 at Freiston Shore on the 28th and inland where there were 30 at Swanpool on the 27th. This movement continued into Oct with high counts of 30 Swanpool, 40 Whisby NP, 35 Boultham Mere, 25 Linwood Warren and 20 Walesby. Numbers were generally low in Nov with only one double figure count; 26 at Anwick Fen on the 30th. A flock of 70 at Loughton Forest on Dec 28th was the largest of the year, but other double figure December counts only came from Whisby NP (15) and Owlet Plantation (10).

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce/rare winter visitor, but probably overlooked. **LBRC**

In the first winter period there were singles at Stallingborough on Feb 22nd (JW1) and at Barton intermittently Feb 25th-Apr 21st (GPC, PRF) One at Donna Nook on Nov 1st (SL) was the vanguard of a small Nov influx including one at Gib Point on the 3rd (MG), one at Mogg's Eye on the 5th (ACL), one at Donna Nook on the 6th-7th (SL) and one at Pye's Hall on the 6th (SRo) and then six in the Donna Nook/Horseshoe Point/Grainthorpe Haven area from the 11th-13th (KD Shaw, JJSquire).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Rare/scarce irruptive winter visitor; **LBRC**

One of the race *exilipes* accompanied a flock of six Common Redpolls at Horseshoe Point on Nov 11th (K D Shaw, J J Squire).

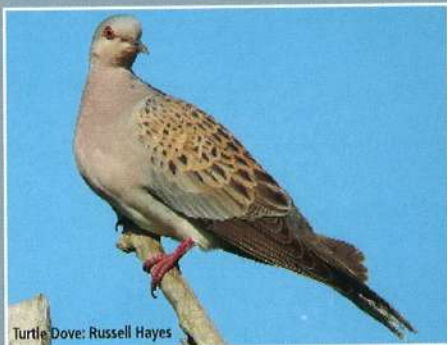
Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce/fairly common irruptive passage migrant and visitor, mainly Jun-Apr, occasionally all year. Proved to breed on a few occasions.

There were no reports during the first winter period. The first of the year weren't recorded until Apr 21st when two were present at Humberston Fitties/Tetney Haven. This was followed by a trickle of birds through May; two at Gib Point on the 11th and 29th, 13 at Market Rasen Golf & Race Courses on the 11th and 17 at Messingham SQ on the 22nd. This trickle was followed by a full-on invasion through Jun; 20 at Loughton Forest on Jun 8th might have been part of this earlier push, but from Jun 13th, when six were present at Gib Point until the end of Aug, flocks were reported at least somewhere in the county almost daily. Counts at key sites are presented in the table below, other high counts in Jun included 35 at Kirkby Moor, 26 at Keb Wood and 22 at Willingham Woods. At the end of the month and into Jul there was a pulse of arrivals at coastal sites including on The Wash 12 at Frampton and 10 at Freiston. Other high Jul counts included 20 at Woodhall Spa, 14 at Dog Kennel Wood and 14 at Middle Rasen. Although still widespread in August, numbers were down with double figure counts away from key sites only from Linwood Warren (12) and Middle Warren (12). There were only two reports in Sep, three each at Messingham and Gib Point. Oct appeared to produce fresh arrivals with high counts of 20 at Loughton Forest, 15 at



Grey Partridge: Nick Clayton



Turtle Dove: Russell Hayes



Meadow Pipit: Matt Latham



Yellow Wagtail: Matt Latham



Walesby Moor and 9 at Linwood Warren but in Nov the only site recording Crossbills away from Gib Point was Arnold's Meadow NR which hosted two on the 15th. Three sites hosted birds in Dec comprising 13 at Market Rasen, 10 at Laughton Forest and two at Owllet Plantation.

Site Maxima	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	3	6	4	7	3	2	19	-
Messingham SQ	17	9	-	20	-	-	-	-
Ostler's Plantation	-	20	14	-	-	-	-	-
Market Rasen	13	-	14	14	-	15	-	13



Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Woodhall Spa © Russell Hayes, 15th June 2008



Common Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Market Rasen © Nick Clayton, 2nd February 2008

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant; LBRC RBBP

Two records of three individuals were both in the classic late May/early Jun window, when this species occurs most frequently. Both records emanated from Gib Point where there were two on May 28th (KMW, DKW) and one on June 3rd (DJW).

Common Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident.

Reports of 1-10 individuals were widespread across the county throughout the year. Reports of over ten individuals came consistently only from Whisby NP, but other sites also recording counts over this threshold included: 20 at Croxton in Jan and 14 at Greetwell Hollow in Dec.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whisby NP	8	7	15	13	7	-	4	19	15	20	31	27

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. RBBP

The status of this species in the county remains rather unclear, the only records from traditional sites where breeding might take place concerned one at Revesby on Feb 28th and two together at Briggate Lodge Golf Course, Scawby on Mar 19th. All the remaining records concerned individuals on the coastal strip of which only one, a single unseasonal individual at Wildmore Fen on Jun 2nd-3rd, occurred during the first half of the year. The remaining records all fell in a ten day period. At Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR there was one at Sea View Farm on Nov 2nd and at least one at Crook Bank on Nov 8th. The final record of the year was a single at Gib Point on Nov 12th.

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce local passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Rare inland.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	9	5	5	1	7	12	8
Min birds	85	12	17	2	10	43	11

Passage birds are more numerous than wintering birds and extensive ringing data from Lincolnshire in the late 1980's (per A.G. Ball) has indicated local birds are usually of Scandinavian origin. Wintering birds were recorded from Jan 1st onwards, exclusively at coastal sites, reflecting the status in the rest of the UK. An impressive flock of 60 was at Rimac on Jan 1st, but elsewhere during Jan-Mar much smaller numbers of between 4-8 birds were recorded at Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, Howden's Pullover, Pye's Hall and Saltfleet Haven and the last record in the first half of the year was one on Mar 22nd at Freiston Shore. One noteworthy record was of four present at Alkborough Flats from 2007 until Feb 4th. The first arrival of the autumn was two at Pye's Hall on Sep 22nd. Small numbers then arrived during Oct but the main arrival occurred throughout Nov. A noteworthy record was of two at Alkborough Flats on Oct 12th with one staying to Oct 27th. Birds were seen until the end of Dec, but whether the smaller counts reflect onwards movement or a lessening of observer activity is unknown.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Regular local winter visitor and passage migrant on coast, mainly Sep-Apr; exceptional in summer. Scarce but fairly regular inland.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	12	3	3	8	17	7
Min birds	306	128	7	24	430	289

As with Lapland Bunting wintering birds were seen from Jan 1st onwards. Return movements northwards begin in early to mid Feb and this is reflected in the dwindling numbers from early Feb. Up to 100 were at Donna Nook on Feb 2nd but hardly any elsewhere and virtually all had gone by the month's end. Just a few remained into Mar, with the final record coming from Pyewipe on 20th. The first of the autumn were two at Mablethorpe on Oct 3rd, but the major arrival was from the last week of Oct-mid Nov. Counts of 76 at Saltfleet and 100 at Cleethorpes were the largest although five other coastal sites had 20 or more. Fewer birds were reported during Dec, but a notable flock of 161 was at Saltfleet on 1st with 80 at Donna Nook until 7th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident. Numbers decreased through the 1980s.

A largely sedentary species in the UK, with most ringing recoveries within 20km of the natal area. Flocks of Yellowhammers during the winter months are a familiar scene in many parts, with notable counts during Jan of 120 at Benniworth, 117 at Welbourne Heath and 100 at Swanfield. The Welbourne flock increased to 158 on Feb 20th, 100 were at Goulceby on 17th, and 52 were at Benniworth on 24th. Birds began dispersing during Mar but there were still 40-90 birds at half a dozen sites, and by mid-Apr low counts reflected birds returning to breeding territories. In the autumn small flocks began to appear in Sep with 22 at Moulton Marsh on 29th the highest count. Fewer sites reported birds during Oct, but 37 at Honington on 8th and 63 at Welbourne Heath on 17th were noteworthy. Up to 53 remained at the latter site in Nov and there were 37 in

Dec. A count of 80 at Wispington on 15th was the highest for the month, but overall numbers did not reach those seen in Jan.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant; LBRC

One was found at Seacroft, just north of Gib Point on Oct 31st (KMW, EJM).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	20	21	26	28	30	12	13	17	18
Min birds	202	246	131	124	107	116	138	105	193

Records were received from 92 sites across the county during 2008, 29 of them reporting double figure counts in at least one month. Almost all of the UK population are resident with some dispersing away from their breeding areas, although movements of more than 50km are rare. Summary totals are tabulated and these show that the largest counts are recorded during the winter period. These are almost certainly under-estimates for the county as there were significant sites missing from most monthly returns.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Few UK Corn Buntings move very far at all outside the breeding season – 14,326 had been ringed in the UK up to the end of 2007 and to date there has been just a single foreign recovery, from France. Wintering flocks wander extensively in local areas though and this may be one reason for the very variable numbers recorded. Counts were received from 51 sites throughout the year, but from a maximum of only 16 in any one month (Apr). This difference may reflect true absences or observer variability. The overall counts are almost certainly a large under-estimate of the county totals with no counts at all received from important areas in the southern Fens.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total sites	7	7	4	16	12	11	8	6	2	2	3	4
Min birds	64	70	49	247	22	26	26	7	17	8	4	70

Appendix 1 – Records of species not currently accepted onto the full British list

Category E - Escapes

This list includes those species that may have non self-sustaining wild populations and any individuals from species that are on the British list, but which are known or strongly believed to have been of captive origin.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Escape. Native to Australia and New Zealand

One present all year at Benniworth and three reported at Bourne in Jan, May and Dec. Singles were at Fillingham Lake Jan 9th, Metherringham Delph Jan 27th, Nocton Fen Feb 23rd-Mar 13th, Bardney Pits Mar 26th, Tattershall Lakes CP Jul 23rd-Dec 16th and Far Ings Sep 13th. Two were on the R. Welland at Spalding on Dec 15th.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

Vagrant; the only acceptable wild record to date was in Jan 1943. BBRC

Two were reported from Cleethorpes on March 27th. Not submitted to BBRC, and most likely escapes.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Escape. Native to Mongolia and China, wintering in India.

One at Fillingham Lake on Jan 9th and Mar 9th, four at Ingoldmells Jul 22nd with presumably three of these at Gib Point on Aug 24th. One at Deeping Lakes Aug 31st and Dec 20th and one at Alkborough Flats Sep 2nd.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare. Vagrant/escaped birds recorded most years, probably mainly the latter category. BBRC only if individuals can be assigned to race.

One was present at Gibraltar Point on Aug 24th, with perhaps it and two more reported with feral Greylag Geese from nearby Burgh Marsh on Nov 4th-6th. None of these sightings is likely to pertain to wild birds.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Rare. Vagrant/escaped birds have been recorded in several recent years, most if not all probably in the latter category. Yet to be considered by BBRC.

A single individual considered an escape by the observer was present in the Whitton-Bagmoor area Dec 5th-14th.

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Escape. Native to southern Africa

One at Ancaster Pits/Woodland Waters Jan 27th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Escape. Native to Central and South America

One at Stoke Rochford & Park Feb 13th and one at North Hykeham Pits all year, with four on Apex Pit Mar 31st.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Escape. Native to North America

An ad male at Covenham Res Feb 23rd.

New Zealand Scaup *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

Escape. Native to New Zealand

Two at Gib Point Oct 5th with one remaining to Dec 12th.

Harris Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Escape. Native to the Americas

One at Heapham Aug 9th and one at Nocton Fen Oct 27th.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

Escape/Vagrant. Native to Eurasia and none accepted on British list.

One (or hybrid) at Witham Mouth Jan 13th and another at Baston Fen NR Aug 24th.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

Escape.

One was reported at Leasingham Apr 1st.

Appendix 2 – Records without any supporting details

The following records are on either the list of species considered by BBRC or LBRC, and do not have any supporting details or descriptions. They have therefore not been admitted to the county records. If descriptions are submitted by the finder or anyone else who saw the bird and is accepted by the relevant committee, they will be admitted to the records and published in the next report.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Vagrant; LBRC

Covenham Res Sep 11th

Bagmoor/Winterton Floods Oct 28th

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Vagrant; BBRC

Manby Jan 26th

Kirkby-on-Bain GP on Feb 4th, 9th and 16th

Middlemarsh, Skegness Feb 28th

Holbeach Fen Mar 1st

Butterwick Village Mar 3rd

Howdales Mar 11th

Great Egret (Great White Egret) *Egretta alba*

Vagrant; LBRC

Howden's Pullover Mar 16th

Humberston Village and Humberston Fitties Apr 5th

Horseshoe Point Aug 27th

Wingland Marsh Oct 20th

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Vagrant; LBRC

Market Deeping May 25th

Corby Glen July 20th

Northern Goshawk (Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare, mainly autumn to spring; has increased in recent years. LBRC RBBP

Winteringham Apr 6th

Messingham SQ May 11th

Messingham SQ Aug 8th

Donna Nook Nov 14th

Saltfleet Dec 3rd

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. LBRC

Dorrington Fen Nov 9th and 26th

Far-Ings/Barton Nov 9th

Welton-Le-Marsh Nov 13th

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Vagrant; formerly more common on migration and bred to early 20th century. LBRC
RBBP

Gib Point Sep 8th

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Vagrant; LBRC

Rimac Oct 5th

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Rare autumn passage migrant, from Jul-Oct. Exceptional inland. LBRC

Chapel Point Aug 22nd

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Rare visitor, mainly autumn and winter. LBRC

Thurlby Sand Pit Jan 13th

Gainsborough Nov 11th

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Vagrant; BBRC

Kirkby on Bain GP Jul 25th

European Roller (Roller) *Coracias garrulus*

Vagrant; BBRC

Donna Nook Jun 28th

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, rarely Dec-Jan and Apr-May. LBRC

Pye's Hall Sep 23rd

Gib Point Sep 26th

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing. LBRC

Grainthorpe Haven on Nov 2nd and 4th

North Thoresby Dec 2nd

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*

Vagrant; BBRC

Skegness Nov 22nd

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Vagrant; LBRC, RBBP

Fishmere End Jun 10th-16th

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

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

Freiston Shore May 28th

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

Barnetby-le-Wold May 10th

Toby's Hill, Saltfleet Sep 8th

Horseshoe Point Sep 25th

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage migrant and occasional summer visitor. Former rare breeder. LBRC, RBBP

Cleethorpes May 29th

Pye's Hall Jun 5th

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage migrant and rare winter visitor Oct-Apr. Exceptional in summer. LBRC.

Gib Point Sep 25th

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Vagrant; LBRC, RBBP

Humberston Fitties/Tetney Haven Apr 28th.

THE 2008 HONEY BUZZARD INFLUX

Alexander C. Lees

When the dust settled on the mammoth influx of Honey Buzzards into eastern England in September 2000 commentators were running short of superlatives and the phrases 'unprecedented' and 'once in a lifetime' accompanied most published accounts of the movement. Fast-forward to 2008 and the east coast was once again subject to a pernicious invasion approaching the magnitude of 2000. Lightning had struck twice in the same place! This influx of 2008 started at 0843 on Sep 13th when one bird came in-off the sea in Suffolk. The first Lincs record of the day was of a bird flying SW and then inland at Donna Nook at 1130, with another 'in-off' at Pye's Hall at 1430. The only other sighting from Day 1 of the influx concerned a single that headed NW at Gibraltar Point, this compared to a total of nearly 200 countrywide. This probably does not mean that fewer birds arrived on the Lincs coast on the first day but that there were insufficient observers in the field to survey them efficiently. Numbers of birders - even on Saturdays - on the Lincs coast can be pretty low....

The following day however produced records of 35 birds from seven sites with observers systematically doing migration watches looking for Honey Buzzards, some duplication of coasting birds is likely in these tallies but during the course of the day 16 birds passed over Gibraltar Point and six over Frampton Marsh. This former count represents the second highest Lincolnshire day count ever, after the 25 birds through Gibraltar Point on Sep 20th 2000. Over the following days there was a steady stream of singles and small parties moving through, peaking at seven individuals on the 20th (Figure 1). The behaviour of some reported late birds was notably unusual for Honey Buzzards and as not all these records have been vetted the data should be interpreted with caution. Moreover, interpreting peaks in our under-watched county is difficult. There are no consistent migration watches at Gibraltar Point, and the main movement seems to have taken place on a Sunday meaning that any follow up counting would have been difficult during the week. It may not have only been the 14th that could have produced big counts, and in reality the line between Sun 14th and Sat 20th is likely to have been much smoother.

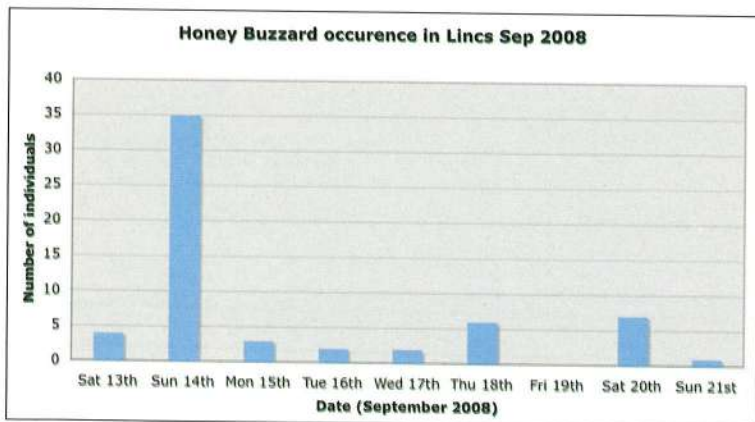


Figure 1. Daily breakdown of Honey Buzzard passage through Lincolnshire in September 2008.

The period 1850–1999 produced records of just 80 Honey Buzzards in Lincs, the following year there were 97, followed by 58 in the period 2001–2007 and then 67 in 2008 (Catley 2001). So, why have there been two influxes in a decade, apparently without historical precedent? What triggered these movements? Population change, freak weather event, observer behaviour or something different? The British population of Honey Buzzards has not increased significantly over the time period, with the number of confirmed pairs typically in the high teens or twenties. Much has been written on the status of breeding Honey Buzzards, for which much information was formerly kept quiet owing to problems of egg collecting, but the British population is not thought to number more than 60 pairs (e.g. Brown and Grice 2005; Combridge *et al.* 2003). The European population is estimated at 41,200–48,677 breeding pairs with a further 70,000–100,000 breeding in Russia east to the Urals (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997). In Europe, the species is stable, widespread and relatively abundant, although few long-term studies are available (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997). Finland and Germany hold significant populations that have apparently experienced recent declines (Tucker & Heath 1994). Recent analysis of trends in migrants through Falsterbo, Sweden have shown a continuing decline (Kjellén & Roos 2000). This rules out population change as a driver, if anything there are probably fewer Honey Buzzards on the Continent than 30 years ago and the British population has not grown substantially. Both the 2000 and 2008 influxes were associated with similar weather patterns, good departure conditions in Scandinavia, coupled with very strong easterly winds and bad weather over the southern North Sea. In 2008, a high-pressure system over Russia moved west into Scandinavia stalling a low-pressure system over the UK that should have prevented its eastwards passage. However, the low continued to move east under the high, delivering

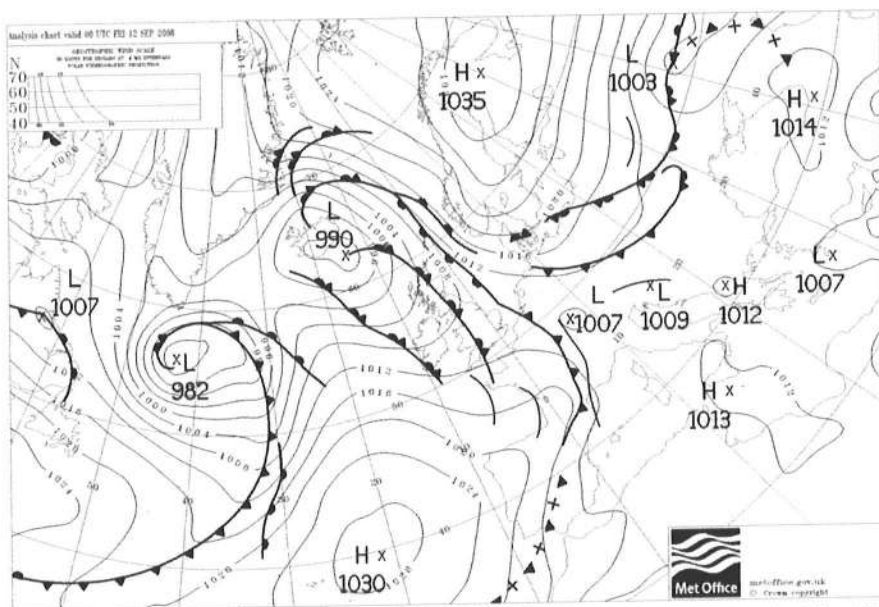


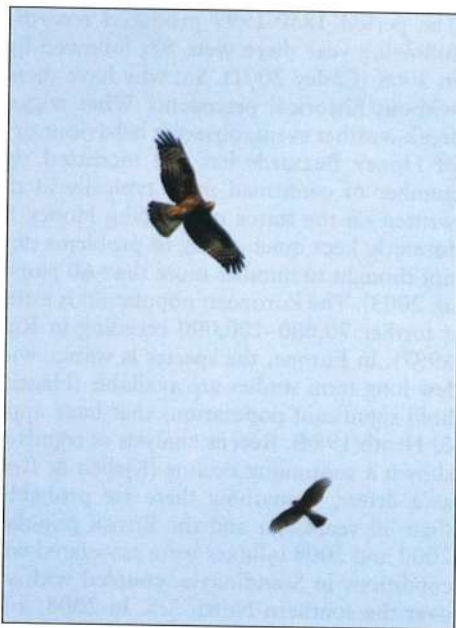
Figure 2. Synoptic chart for Sep 12th 2008. Note multiple weather fronts hanging over the UK and the North Sea and a strong easterly airstream from the Baltic on the edge of a big Scandinavian high pressure.

a strong easterly airflow into the UK from southern Scandinavia (Figure 2). It is assumed therefore that migrating Honey Buzzards followed the high pressure south and then met with the low-pressure system that drifted them across into the UK. This is a convincing proximate reason for the drift, but why have there not been any past influxes, given that such a compilation of circumstances would be expected to occur at least once or so a decade?

The explanation for this almost certainly lies not with any change in status of either Honey Buzzards or prevailing weather systems but with observer behaviour. There are now more active field observers in the country than ever before, and modern telecommunications efficiency (pagers and the internet) means that once the first inkling of a major ornithological event is under way, then observers are able to react to it and get into the field immediately. Still, careful searching of historical literature does reveal several smaller influxes, which had they been monitored with the same

number of observers as today might have proven to be equally large. These movements included a major displacement of over 100 individuals in September 1993, including 11 past Minsmere (Suffok) in four hours. Other broad winged raptors caught up in this last influx included substantial numbers of Common Buzzards, Ospreys and two Black Kites over Minsmere (Moss 1995). Autumn 1976 also produced a similar incursion associated with an easterly airflow from Sep 17th onwards (Wallace 1981). Going much further back, in September 1881 between 20 and 30 Honey Buzzards were collected in Norfolk (Riviere 1930). How many were actually involved in this influx is anyone's guess. Back in Lincolnshire there were records of four birds in autumns 1864 and 1908, which also hint at a possibly more widespread arrival (Catley 2001).

So, where did these Honey Buzzards come from and how and why did they arrive here? We are now much better placed to analyse drift movements of raptors with a European wide perspective as the network of observers grows across the near Continent and migration data become available over the internet (e.g. www.trektellen.nl). Figure 3. shows daily counts of migrant Honey Buzzards from Denmark, the Benelux countries (Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland) and the UK. As can be seen from examination of the graph, there was a big push of migrating Honey Buzzards through Denmark on the 11th. This was followed by a lull in records on the 12th and then a large arrival of Honey Buzzards in Benelux and the UK on the 13th. Numbers in the UK peaked the next day, whilst numbers in Benelux decreased rapidly after the 14th after which there were virtually no records. Small numbers remained in the UK for a further 14 days, with a spike at the end of the month. This last pulse might pertain to higher coverage rates (weekend bias) rather than a last pulse of migrants. Indeed it is fortunate that the



Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Frampton Marsh © Paul French, September 2008

first two days of the event occurred over a weekend that we have such good data. Birds probably lingered in England longer than on the near-Continent because of the stress of the North Sea crossing, which would have depleted their fat reserves and forced them to rest and try and find the shortest sea-crossing back. Some may have attempted to feed in the UK, although as a general rule Honey Buzzards do not feed on migration (although cf. Panuccio *et al.* 2006).

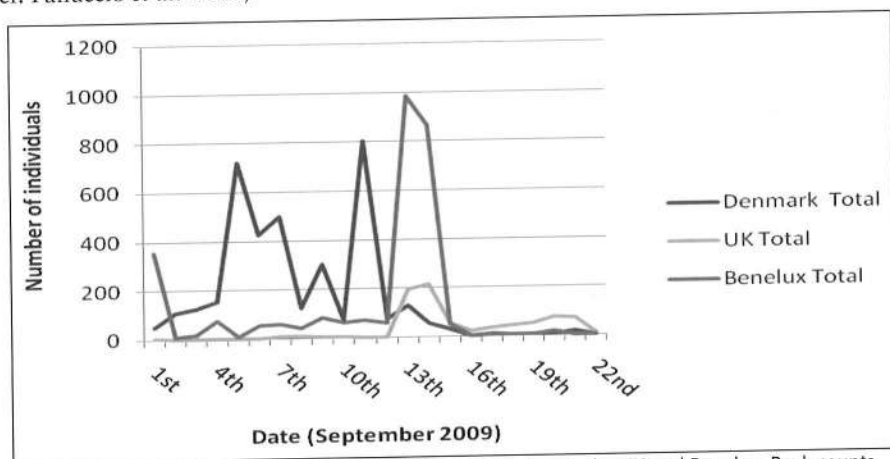
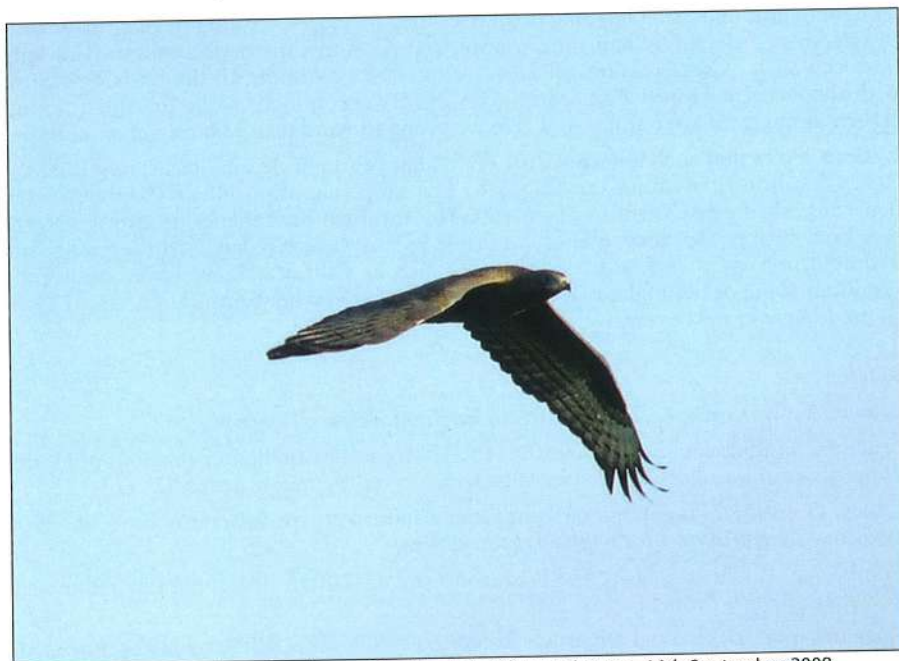


Figure 3. Honey Buzzard migration volume through Denmark, the UK and Benelux. Peak counts occurred in Denmark two days before the large numbers Synoptic chart for the 12th September 2008, note multiple weather fronts hanging of birds reached the UK and Benelux.



Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* Gibraltar Point © Russell Hayes, 14th September 2008

The breakdown of visible counts in Denmark (www.dofbasen.dk/) shows a peak of movement in the north of Denmark on the Sep 11th (although information on count times and duration is absent). If we assume a simultaneous departure time for many individuals, then by virtue of near-simultaneous arrival times of Honey Buzzards in north-east England and Norfolk on the 13th (between 0800 and 0900) then the equidistant departure point on the North Sea coast would be somewhere in central Denmark. Honey Buzzards travelling under normal migration conditions typically travel at about 30 km/h (150 km/day) over a normal 5-hour migration period under good conditions. Thorup *et al.* (2003) indicated adverse drift (i.e. birds trying to fly south but with the wind cutting across their intended direction from the east) across the migration route would reduce the total speed to about 26 km/h with a light to moderate breeze. So an even stronger cross-wind would slow their rate of passage down still further to say circa 24 km/h. The distance across the North Sea from a point in northern Denmark to north-east England/Norfolk is about 700-750 km (assuming the displacement occurred overland in Denmark). Applying a 23 km/h hour calculation to the time that the birds made landfall in the UK would indicate that the displacement occurred in the early afternoon in Denmark on Sep 11th. Then, 30-32 hours later birds started to arrive on the English east coast at around 0830 on the morning of the 13th. A non-stop sea-crossing of 32 hours (or even more) is easily achievable by Honey Buzzards without them becoming exhausted and making use of the cross wind for lift by flying slightly across it. Indeed, a juvenile satellite-tagged by Roy Dennis ended up being drifted west beyond the Azores, and is believed to have stayed aloft for at least 100 hours before presumably drowning (www.roydennis.org/honey-buzzard/index.asp). Honey Buzzard migration strategies are intermediate between typical flapping flyers like falcons and specialised soaring raptors like *Milvus* kites and typical *Buteo* buzzards. Honey Buzzards alternate between soaring and flapping; combining gliding and flapping in straight flights, and using flapping flight over long distances, making them more flexible in migratory behaviour than pure soaring raptors and thus better able to deal with obstacles such as sea-crossings (Bruderer *et al.* 1994). Almost all the birds associated with these recent Honey Buzzard influxes aged were thought to be juveniles, an age class that migrates after adults and is more prone to wind drift (Thorup *et al.* 2003).

It seems likely that such amazing drift events happen on a decadal basis, requiring the right condition of weather conditions to first stop migrating Honey Buzzards from departing, then cause them to move on mass, and then drift them out into the North Sea. Lincolnshire's location makes it a prime region to receive such drift migrants and it should not come as a surprise that sites such as Gibraltar Point have consistently produced some of the highest counts in the country. Maybe we can hope for a Lesser-spotted Eagle in the next movement!

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RINGING REPORT

The Lincolnshire Bird Club would like to thank the following ringing group for submitting their annual ringing reports:

The Mid-Lincs Ringing Group
The Boston Ringing Group
The Birkland Ringing Group
Wash Wader Ringing Group

The ringing totals for 2008 has been prepared by Anne Goodall. The ringing recovery report was prepared by Mark Grantham

2008 Lincolnshire Ringing Totals

	2008 totals		1979-2008	
	Full Grown	Pull	Total	Grand Total
Little Grebe	7	0	7	19
Gannet	3	0	3	10
Grey Heron	0	23	23	705
Mute Swan	62	0	62	324
Greylag Goose	37	0	37	351
Canada Goose	27	0	27	525
Shelduck	2	1	3	31
Mallard	15	5	20	2156
Marsh Harrier	0	4	4	307
Sparrowhawk	38	0	38	850
Common Buzzard	1	1	2	36
Kestrel	11	201	212	2401
Merlin	2	0	2	14
Hobby	0	1	1	20
Grey Partridge	2	0	2	10
Water Rail	1	0	1	44
Moorhen	10	0	10	273
Coot	5	1	6	504
Oystercatcher	176	2	178	11479
Avocet	0	5	5	11
Little Ringed Plover	5	1	6	215
Ringed Plover	11	2	13	1131
Golden Plover	36	0	36	223
Grey Plover	23	0	23	1818
Lapwing	0	31	31	847
Knot	333	0	333	9086
Sanderling	18	0	18	78
Temminck's Stint	1	0	1	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1	0	1	16
Dunlin	185	0	185	30001
Jack Snipe	1	0	1	81
Snipe	15	0	15	754
Woodcock	8	0	8	211
Black-Tailed Godwit	4	0	4	1009
Curlew	8	0	8	1791
Redshank	50	0	50	2324
Green Sandpiper	7	0	7	66

Turnstone	1	0	1	1243
Black-Headed Gull	3	45	48	8375
Common Gull	1	0	1	479
Stock Dove	43	55	98	970
Woodpigeon	42	23	65	925
Collared Dove	54	2	56	928
Turtle Dove	3	2	5	494
Cuckoo	1	0	1	194
Barn Owl	120	628	748	6669
Little Owl	19	79	98	620
Tawny Owl	3	45	48	1098
Swift	119	34	153	4247
Kingfisher	16	0	16	275
Wryneck	1	0	1	24
Green Woodpecker	7	0	7	69
Great Spotted Woodpecker	78	0	78	657
Skylark	1	3	4	2345
Sand Martin	550	0	550	15399
Swallow	1068	291	1359	24764
House Martin	873	0	873	9825
Tree Pipit	10	0	10	120
Meadow Pipit	50	0	50	3292
Yellow Wagtail	5	10	15	798
Grey Wagtail	9	0	9	205
Pied Wagtail	77	28	105	1868
Waxwing	1	0	1	52
Wren	594	11	605	16458
Dunnock	1037	6	1043	32897
Robin	881	26	907	23350
Nightingale	2	0	2	180
Bluethroat	1	0	1	4
Red-Flanked Bluetail	1	0	1	2
Redstart	53	0	53	1507
Whinchat	4	0	4	315
Stonechat	3	0	3	46
Wheatear	5	0	5	252
Ring Ousel	1	0	1	66
Blackbird	2435	38	2473	60590
Fieldfare	28	0	28	1338
Song Thrush	362	16	378	14480
Redwing	280	0	280	6754
Mistle Thrush	4	6	10	590
Grasshopper Warbler	1	0	1	206
Sedge Warbler	191	0	191	4143
Reed Warbler	260	1	261	7958
Barred Warbler	1	0	1	47
Lesser Whitethroat	142	0	142	6559
Whitethroat	345	0	345	16169
Garden Warbler	64	0	64	3524
Blackcap	463	0	463	13443
Pallas's Warbler	2	0	2	6

Yellow-Browed Warbler	3	0	3	50
Wood Warbler	2	0	2	51
Chiffchaff	306	0	306	4874
Willow Warbler	719	0	719	28584
Goldcrest	2777	0	2777	27682
Firecrest	7	0	7	200
Spotted Flycatcher	22	6	28	1248
Red-Breasted Flycatcher	1	0	1	14
Pied Flycatcher	35	0	35	953
Long-Tailed Tit	950	0	950	9965
Marsh Tit	7	0	7	477
Willow Tit	7	0	7	1375
Coal Tit	252	28	280	4548
Blue Tit	1450	567	2017	65573
Great Tit	1411	469	1880	36645
Nuthatch	8	0	8	273
Treecreeper	41	0	41	1328
Jay	10	0	10	295
Magpie	14	1	15	373
Jackdaw	12	182	194	1944
Rook	5	1	6	1300
Carion Crow	4	7	11	94
Starling	466	10	476	40636
House Sparrow	455	30	485	11573
Tree Sparrow	614	239	853	9147
Chaffinch	1561	0	1561	20673
Brambling	147	0	147	1674
Greenfinch	3121	9	3130	53038
Goldfinch	1970	9	1979	9713
Siskin	1860	0	1860	5658
Linnet	105	2	107	7532
Redpoll sl	-	-	-	6271
Common Redpoll	1	0	1	4
Lesser Redpoll	51	0	51	329
Crossbill	1	0	1	82
Bullfinch	147	0	147	6995
Yellowhammer	268	0	268	5697
Reed Bunting	228	0	228	6759
Corn Bunting	3	0	3	431
Total ringed	30461	3187	33648	751947
No of species			126	212

Ringed Recovery Report compiled by Mark Grantham

Cormorant

5250304 Nestling 02/07/2008 Puffin Island, Anglesey
 Ring read 15/08/2008 Brook Farm, Burwell, Lincs 271 km

This is a rather quick movement (44 days) of a bird away from its natal area.

Little Egret

GM41337	Nestling	31/05/2008	Terrington St Clement, Norfolk	
	Colour ring read	20/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	36 km
	Colour ring read	12/10/2008	Gibraltar Point	
	Colour ring read	16/10/2008	Gibraltar Point	
GJ54746	Nestling	08/06/2008	Terrington St Clement, Norfolk	
	Colour ring read	25/12/2008	Frampton Marsh, Boston, Lincs	27 km

Colour-ringed birds from this newly-established colony in the southern Wash have also been seen as far north as Cleveland.

Spoonbill

DEW 259289	Nestling	10/06/2006	Oland, Langeness, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany	
	Colour ring read	08/06/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	579 km

Colour-ringing of Spoonbills on the Continent has lead to a large number of sightings in the UK, though it is surprising this bird hadn't been seen since ringing.

Mute Swan

Z46966	2 years+	08/03/1996	Stamford, Lincs	
	Found sick and released	26/03/2008	Stamford	3 km
W08839	3 years+	18/08/2002	Fairburn Ings, North Yorks	
	Fresh dead: hit power lines	13/02/2008	Theddlethorpe Dunes, Lincs	109 km
U9485	Nestling	30/07/1996	Clifton Campville	
	Fresh dead	24/01/2008	Lade Bank	122 km

Though not moving far, Z46966 was over 12 years old when found, having been ringed as an adult: it was released at the same site on 15/05/2008. Also shown are two movements over 100 km.

Whooper Swan

ISR A4400	3 years+	21/08/1995	Sudura, Myvatnsheidi, Sudur-Thingeyjar, Iceland	
	Found sick, fate unknown	18/03/2008	Whisby Nature Reserve, Lincs	1639 km

It is perhaps unusual to find an Icelandic Whooper Swan so far east, though it was sick when found.

Teal

EW37615	First-year	19/11/2007	Mahee Island, Strangford Lough, Co Down	
	Shot	21/11/2008	Marshchapel, Grimsby, Lincs	388 km

An interesting switch in wintering area.

Mallard

GF47881	First-year	12/10/1995	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough, Cams	
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Shot 11/01/2008 Cowbit Wash, Spalding, Lincs 11 km
 Though this bird hadn't travelled very far, it was nearly 13 years old when shot.

Pintail

FH02306 First-year 25/02/2006 Slimbridge, Gloucs
 Shot 22/01/2008 Sutton Bridge, Lincs 210 km

Similar to the Teal above, this Pintail appears to be wintering further east when shot.

Pochard

GN63263 Full grown 22/11/2005 Martin Mere, Lancs
 Found dead 10/01/2008 North Thoresby, Lincs 188 km

Red Kite

GF72679 Nestling 18/06/1999 Glapthorn Cow Pasture, Northants
 Fresh dead 05/03/2008 near Greatford, Lincs 23 km

With the continued colonisation of Red Kites away from release sites, this movement into the county is to be expected. The bird was also carrying a transmitter when found.

Buzzard

GN96078 Nestling 20/06/2006 Twyford Wood, Lincs
 Dead on road 15/01/2008 Ravendale, Humbs 81 km
 GN82042 Nestling 05/06/2005 Brands Hill Wood, Barton in Fabis,
 Notts
 Found shot 15/04/2008 Lincoln, Lincs 60 km

As Buzzard numbers also increase in the county, movements into the county will become more frequent.

Kestrel

EW23216 Nestling 13/06/2007 Sutton St Edmund, Lincs
 Fresh dead 02/03/2008 Chadshunt, Warks 118 km
 EL88755 Nestling 01/06/2008 Sandwith Moor, North Yorks
 Dead with 08/07/2008 near Newark-on-Trent, Lincs 119 km
 head injury
 EL29377 Nestling 01/07/2008 Great Doddington, Northants
 Dying: poor 19/08/2008 Sandilands, Lincs 134 km
 condition
 EL29083 Nestling 28/05/2005 Southern Green, Herts
 Long dead 09/01/2008 Tetney, Lincs 171 km
 (skeletal)

Apart from local movements, those shown are all over 100 km and include birds dispersing into the county from all directions.

Merlin

EL13335 Nestling 11/07/2008 Site Confidential, Derbys
 Fresh dead: hit Toynton-all-Saints, near Spilsby,

	conservatory window	17/08/2008	Lincs	119 km
DB32405	Nestling	02/07/2007	North York Moors, North Yorks	
	Found dead with broken wing	02/03/2008	Wigtoft, Boston, Lincs	179 km

Both these birds, ringed as nestlings, met unfortunate ends in the county. Note in particular the quick movement (37 days) of EL13335. DB32405 was also carrying a remote device on its other leg when found.

Hobby

EW23492	Nestling	06/08/2007	Haconby Fen, Bourne, Lincs	
	Fresh dead	15/07/2008	Aussenhafen Hooksiel, Wangerland, Weser-Ems, Germany	565 km

This is quite an exceptional movement of a bird ringed in the nest, found in the middle of the breeding season in Germany. This is only the second BTO-ringed Hobby to be found in Germany.

Oystercatcher

FP74610	Second-year	24/08/2005	Friskney New Marsh, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: hit power lines	02/06/2008	Dalesundet, Solund, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway	932 km
FP62406	3 years+	20/08/2005	Wainfleet Marsh, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: RTA	14/07/2008	Hethel, near Norwich, Norfolk	85 km
FP08129	3 years+	31/08/1999	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs	
	Ring read	01/07/2008	Reservaat Balgzandpolder, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, Netherlands	316 km
FA97586	First-year	11/09/1998	Butterwick, Lincs	
	Ring read	01/07/2008	Reservaat Balgzandpolder, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, Netherlands	316 km
FA97244	3 years+	21/08/2001	Wainfleet Marsh, Lincs	
	Long dead	25/05/2008	Opeinde, Friesland, Netherlands	383 km
FA97242	3 years+	21/08/2001	Wainfleet Marsh, Lincs	
	Found alive: caught in fishing net	24/05/2008	Havnnnes, Troms, Norway	2130 km
FA89752	Second-year	22/07/1997	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs	
	Found alive	23/05/2008	Finnestad, Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway	762 km
FA89682	Third-year	21/07/1997	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs	
	Fresh dead	04/10/2008	Neuharlingensiel, Weser-Ems, Germany	513 km
FA89304	First-year	10/08/1998	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs	
	Ring read	15/04/2008	Store Lungegardsvann, Berge, Hordaland, Norway	893 km
FA89221	2 years+	10/08/1998	Leverton Outgate, Lincs	
	Ring read	30/06/2008	Reservaat Balgzandpolder, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, Netherlands	313 km

FA40430	2 years+ Found dead: hit by train	21/08/1993 05/06/2008	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs near Trondheim, Sor-Trondelag, Norway	1331 km
FA37616	3 years+ Fresh dead: predated	01/08/1992 12/07/2008	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs Halandsvannet, Randaberg, Rogaland, Norway	760 km
FA33448	Second-year Ring read	30/07/1992 14/03/2008	Wrangle Tofts, Lincs Hoornseplas, Haren, Groningen, Netherlands	427 km
	Ring read	18/03/2008	Kaap Hoorn, Haren, Groningen, Netherlands	427 km
FA29336	Nestling Recaught	08/06/2005 31/08/2008	Dewar Burn, Borders Wainfleet Marsh, Lincs	364 km
FA15190	3 years+ Found dead: tangled in fishing line	18/08/1989 15/07/2008	Friskney, Lincs Avaldsnes, Faroy, Rogaland	769 km
FA11833	Second-year Ring read	11/09/1987 06/07/2008	Friskney Reservaat Balgzandpolder, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, Netherlands	310 km
FA11326	1 year+ Found dead: predated	10/08/1987 23/04/2008	Friskney New Marsh, Lincs Klaebu, Sor-Trondelag, Norway	1284 km
FA07303	First-year Fresh dead: RTA	12/08/1993 01/07/2008	Friskney New Marsh, Lincs Hundvag, Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway	741 km

This wide range of movements comes from the targeted work of the Wash Wader Ringing Group. Note the age at finding of FA11833: almost 21 years old. Also of note was FP62406 that actually met its untimely end on the Lotus cars test track outside Norwich.

Knot

SX06086	1 year+ Recaught	25/10/1992 12/01/2008	Friskney, Skegness, Lincs Munlochy Bay, Highland	571 km
SV77509	1 year+ Recaught	31/12/2006 03/08/2008	Saltburn, Invergordon, Highland Wainfleet Marsh, Lincs	585 km
SV24681	First-year Recaught	21/02/2004 30/08/2008	Heysham, near Lancaster, Lancs Wainfleet Marsh, Lincs	238 km
CE51530	First-year Recaught	31/08/1988 03/04/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania	3960 km

It has become increasingly difficult to catch Knot in the western part of the Wash, but these movements show how cosmopolitan birds using this area can be. CE51530 is only the third BTO-ringed Knot to be found in Mauritania.

Black-tailed Godwit

EL09357	1 year+ Fresh dead: head injury	12/08/2006 15/07/2008	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs Iken Marsh, near Iken, Suffolk	128 km
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The expanding Icelandic breeding population of Black-tailed Godwits winter widely along the east coast of Britain. This adult demonstrates how birds can wander widely within this new wintering area.

Curlew

FA62410	1 year+	28/09/1996	Holbeach St Matthew, Lincs	
	Fresh dead:	09/05/2008	Tuomipera, Ylivieska, Oulu,	
	predated		Finland	1890 km

This bird was, remarkably, taken by a Goshawk in its Finnish breeding grounds.

Redshank

DD63764	1 year+	30/09/2007	Wrangle Tofts, Lincs	
	Leg and ring found	07/01/2008	Arbroath, Tay	429 km
DD26919	First-year	10/04/2005	Acle Marshes, Norfolk	
	Recaught	02/08/2008	Wrangle Tofts, Lincs	110 km

Mediterranean Gull

BLB E911406	3 years+	11/04/2007	Zandvliet, Antwerpen, Belgium	
	Recaught	03/04/2008	Baston, Market Deeping, Lincs	351 km

Large numbers of Mediterranean Gulls are colour-ringed on the Continent, though records from the county are still surprisingly scarce.

Black-headed Gull

EW74660	2 years+	11/04/2008	Baston Fen, Market Deeping, Lincs	
	Colour ring read	10/08/2008	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Dyfed	318 km
EW46108	Nestling	08/06/2007	Loch Urr, Moniave, Dumfries	
	Recaught	11/04/2008	Baston Fen, Market Deeping, Lincs	359 km
ES94572	Nestling	27/06/2001	St Peters Chapel, Bradwell, Essex	
	Long dead	18/08/2008	Freiston Shore, Lincs	147 km
ES90287	Nestling	02/06/1996	Langtoft Fen, Lincs	
	Ring read	26/12/2008	Slimbridge, Gloucs	178 km
EL95866	Nestling	10/06/2007	Coquet Island, Amble, Northumbs	
	Found dead	27/06/2008	Kirkby-on-Bain, Lincs	261 km
EG48345	Nestling	07/06/2003	Baston Pits, Bourne, Lincs	
	Recaught	17/02/2008	Pittance Park, Edwinstowe, Notts	70 km

Herring Gull

GG97345	First-year	16/11/1996	Slippery Gowt Landfill, Wyberton, Lincs	
	Ring read	20/05/2008	Isle of May, Fife	396 km
GG77854	Nestling	13/07/2008	Havergate Island, Suffolk	
	Colour ring read	01/10/2008	Huttoft Bank, Lincs	156 km
GG76729	Fourth-year	28/11/1992	Slippery Gowt Landfill, Wyberton, Lincs	
	Long dead	10/12/2008	Bergen op Zoom, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands	334 km

GG60985	3 years+ Found dying: broken wing	30/11/1991 05/08/2008	Wyberton, Boston, Lincs Altens Industrial Park, Aberdeen, Grampian	480 km
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These movements show some of the origins of birds found in the county in winter, with birds found in Fife and The Netherlands in the breeding season.

Common Tern

SX72382	Nestling Recaught	02/07/1994 30/09/2008	Baston Fen, Lincs Parque National Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, Huelva, Spain	1792 km
SV44782	Nestling Recaught	16/06/2002 27/04/2008	Deeping Fen, Lincs Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	285 km

These two movements show birds found on autumn passage in Spain and return passage in Belgium, where there are fewer than 30 recoveries of BTO-ringed birds.

Guillemot

R81259	Nestling Fresh dead	21/06/2008 11/08/2008	Castle Craig, North Sutor, Highland Ingoldmells, Lincs	572 km
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This is quite a typical movement of a first-winter bird into the southern North Sea, though is rather early.

Barn Owl

GN37167	1 year+ Long dead	05/06/2002 29/11/2008	near Knaith, Lincs Zouch, Leics	71 km
GF90144	Nestling Recaught	18/06/1999 27/04/2008	The Clumps, Sacombe, Herts Dunsby Fen, Bourne, Lincs	109 km
GC55403	Nestling Long dead: RTA	16/07/2008 24/11/2008	New Leake Fen, Lincs Great Blakenham, Suffolk	129 km
GC45226	Nestling Fresh dead: RTA	03/07/2007 02/05/2008	near Denford, Northants between Aslackby and Rippingale, Sleaford, Lincs	56 km
GC35878	Nestling Fresh dead: RTA	10/07/2007 13/01/2008	near Hindringham, Norfolk Grantham, Lincs	103 km
GC31541	Nestling Found dead	30/06/2007 14/01/2008	North Somercotes, Lincs Brant Broughton, Lincs	67 km
GC25857	Nestling Recaught	07/07/2007 25/08/2008	near Guyhirn, Cambs East Kirkby, Lincs	60 km
GC25530	Nestling Found dead	07/06/2007 07/04/2008	Southery Fens, Cambs near Freiston Shore, Lincs	55 km
AJ63849	Nestling Fresh dead	02/08/2008 12/11/2008	Costock, Notts Gainsborough, Lincs	67 km
AJ56057	Nestling Found dying: broken wing	12/09/2006 31/01/2008	Cotgrave, Notts Heckington, Sleaford, Lincs	52 km

Most movements of Barn Owls are relatively local, though the longest shown here was actually found behind the headlight panel of an HGV at a service.

Swift

SB85384	1year+	22/05/2003	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham, Lincs	573 km
	Long dead: in building	15/03/2008	Mossfield, Invergordon, Highland	

It is interesting to speculate why a bird 'flick-netted' in the county in mid-summer should have been found so far north when found, presumably as a breeding bird.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

CW79324	First-year	16/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	50 km
	Recaught	20/12/2008	Sleaford, Lincs	
CT80516	First-year	08/10/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs	31 km
	Recaught	30/11/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	

These two movements are the only ones of any distance, both moving south in late autumn.

Sand Martin

X278515	Juvenile	11/08/2008	near Nettleton, Lincs	298 km
	Recaught	29/08/2008	Icklesham, Sussex	
X278508	Juvenile	11/08/2008	near Nettleton, Lincs	298 km
	Recaught	20/08/2008	Icklesham, Sussex	
V989284	Nestling	31/07/2008	Applegarthtown, Lockerbie, Dumfries	332 km
	Recaught	10/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
V800580	1year+	14/06/2008	Pinchbeck Marsh, Lincs	311 km
	Recaught	15/08/2008	Marais d'Arry, Arry, Somme, France	
V508426	First-year	08/09/2007	Icklesham, Sussex	220 km
	Recaught	14/06/2008	Pinchbeck Marsh, Lincs	
	Recaught	29/06/2008	Pinchbeck Marsh, Lincs	
	Recaught	15/07/2008	Pinchbeck Marsh, Lincs	
V508169	First-year	06/09/2007	Icklesham, Sussex	298 km
	Recaught	17/06/2008	near Nettleton, Lincs	
	Recaught	14/07/2008	near Nettleton, Lincs	
T516041	Juvenile	24/07/2007	Kettleby, near Barnetby le Wold, Lincs	123km
	Recaught	05/06/2008	Huncote Gravel Pit, Leics	

Icklesham is one of the main passage ringing sites on the south coast, and this run of records of birds on autumn passage is typical. In particular, note the quick movement (nine days) of X278508.

Swallow

X059249	Nestling	24/07/2008	Cattal, North Yorks	147 km
	Recaught	09/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	

V921111	Juvenile Recaught	30/06/2008 17/09/2008	South Rauceby, Lincs Azuqueca de Henares, Guadalajara, Spain	1398 km
V920976	1 year+ Recaught	03/06/2008 29/09/2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Lincs Laguna de Ontalafia, Albacete, Spain	1562 km
V775154	1 year+ Recaught	20/08/2007 19/04/2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Lincs Canton Magistris, Verbanis, Cuneo, Italy	1024 km
V231972	Juvenile Recaught	06/08/2007 30/08/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Icklesham, Sussex	246 km

These are mostly typical passage movements, though the bird found in Italy on return migration is only the 20th BTO-ringed Swallow to be found there.

House Martin

V745433	First-year Recaught	26/07/2007 30/05/2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Lincs Stokesley, North Yorks	171 km
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Grey Wagtail

V775908	2 years+ Recaught	22/01/2008 17/05/2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Lincs Konsmo, Audnedal, Vest-Agder, Norway	776 km
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BTO-ringed Grey Wagtails have previously been found in France (six) and Netherlands, so this exceptional movement is the first to Scandinavia. The only similar movement is a Danish-ringed bird found in Britain.

Waxwing

NV50378	First-year Ring read Ring read Ring read Ring read	15/11/2008 21/11/2008 02/12/2008 03/12/2008 04/12/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Lincoln, Lincs Lincoln Lincoln Lincoln	60 km
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Thanks to the efforts of various photographers, this ring could eventually be read in the field.

Dunnock

V934744	First-year Recaught	03/10/2007 30/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Bosjes bij de Sluizen, Kornwerderzand, Friesland, Netherlands	335 km
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Though most Dunnocks will be relatively sedentary, late autumn movements are common along the east coast. This movement to Netherlands in a subsequent autumn is only the seventh BTO-ringed bird found there.

Robin

X231507	First-year Recaught	16/10/2008 18/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Saltfleet Haven, Lincs	37 km
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V797584	First-year Recaught	27/09/2008 28/10/2008	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk Gibraltar Point, Lincs	28 km
V467018	First-year Recaught	14/10/2006 31/10/2008	near Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk Gibraltar Point, Lincs	22 km

Whilst X231507 is perhaps a more expected southerly autumn movement (and a quick one at that), there is also a movement of birds from the low countries through East Anglia, perhaps as shown by these other birds.

Blackbird

LA92450	First-year Fresh dead: cat kill	15/01/2008 06/11/2008	Ewerby, Sleaford, Lincs Plymouth, Devon	390 km
LA37734	First-year Fresh dead: predated	02/11/2007 26/12/2008	near North Somercotes, Lincs Maynooth, Co Meath, Eire	447 km
CW79710	First-year Found dead	28/10/2007 17/01/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Leominster, Herefordshire	229 km
CW79553	1 year+ Fresh dead: cat kill	13/10/2007 18/06/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Uddevalla, Bohus, Sweden	931 km
CW66893	First-year Fresh dead	23/10/2007 30/11/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs Ballum, Ameland, Netherlands	363 km
CW66869	First-year Fresh dead	22/10/2007 19/04/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs Spijkenisse, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands	326 km
CW66423	First-year Fresh dead: hit window	14/10/2007 30/03/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs Winterswijk, Gelderland, Netherlands	466 km
CT19968	First-year Fresh dead	10/11/2006 15/03/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Lyngtoften, Ikast, Denmark	662 km

These movements show both the October arrival of birds from Scandinavia, but also winter birds presumably moving west to switch wintering areas. LA37734 was taken by a Kestrel.

Song Thrush

SVS 4513683	First-year In care: injured by cat	29/07/2005 18/02/2008	Handol, Are, Jamtland, Sweden Bourne, Lincs	1387 km
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Arrivals of Song Thrushes in early autumn are in smaller numbers than other thrushes. This is only the sixth Swedish-ringed Song Thrush to be found in Britain.

Sedge Warbler

V921278	Juvenile Recaught	01/09/2008 13/09/2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Lincs Icklesham, Sussex	248 km
V745374	1 year+ Recaught	23/07/2007 05/08/2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Lincs Icklesham, Sussex	248 km

Two typical movements through this Sussex ringing station. Note the relatively quick movement of V921278.

Lesser Whitethroat

X228537	Juvenile	29/08/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	147 km
	Recaptured	27/09/2008	Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk	
V893731	Juvenile	29/06/2008	Spurn Point, Humbs	54 km
	Recaptured	22/08/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
V893183	Juvenile	24/06/2008	Kilnsea Clays, Humbs	27 km
	Recaptured	31/08/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs	

All these movements show locally bred juvenile birds moving south along the east coast.

Blackcap

T866209	First-year	21/08/2005	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	246 km
	Recaptured	28/09/2008	Icklesham, Sussex	

Blackcaps are rather late migrants, so this late date in Sussex is not unusual.

Chiffchaff

1Y1950	1 year+	22/04/2008	Seacroft, Lincs	369 km
	Recaptured	25/09/2008	Rohel Tjeukemeer, Friesland, Netherlands	

This bird could have been on northward passage when first ringed, then on return passage when caught in The Netherlands. It is only the 11th BTO-ringed Chiffchaff to be found in The Netherlands.

Willow Warbler

CAE094	First-year	01/09/2008	Hornby Castle, Lincs	225 km
	Recaptured	06/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
BTV182	First-year	23/08/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	246 km
	Recaptured	27/08/2008	Icklesham, Sussex	
BAT291	First-year	23/08/2005	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	402 km
	Recaptured	05/05/2008	Lundy Island, Devon	

The first two movements involving Gibraltar Point illustrate the speed of migration in autumn through the country.

Goldcrest

CTL264	First-year	04/10/2008	near Hollesley Heath, Suffolk	168 km
	Recaptured	07/10/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs	
CTK272	First-year	09/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	195 km
	Recaptured	15/11/2008	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey	
CPX038	First-year	13/10/2008	Seacroft, Lincs	288 km
	Fresh dead	02/11/2008	Stubble Green, Drigg, Cumbria	
CNL913	Full grown	21/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	59 km
	Recaptured	22/09/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs	

CEJ906	First-year	08/09/2008	Quarry House, Low Newton, Northumbs	
	Recaptured	26/09/2008	near North Somercotes, Lincs	256 km
BYH233	Full grown	18/09/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs	
	Recaptured	27/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	59 km
BER985	First-year	25/10/2007	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Lincs	
	Found alive: released	06/04/2008	Jomfruland, Kragero, Telemark, Norway	843 km

These are very variable movements, with several quick movements north in the autumn and also movements south during the same periods. Though there have been 43 Norwegian-ringed Goldcrest found in Britain, BER985 is only the seventh BTO-ringed bird found in Norway.

Long-tailed Tit

BER091	Full grown	17/10/2006	Theddlethorpe St Helen	
	Recaptured	03/11/2008	Gibraltar Point	31 km
	Recaptured	05/11/2008	Seacroft	31 km
BRV866	Full grown	18/10/2007	Rutland Water	
	Fresh dead: hit window	31/10/2008	Scothern, Lincs	71 km

CAY485, 488, 490, 491, 492, 493 and 496 were all ringed at Theddlethorpe St Helen on 18 November 2008 and recaptured 31km to the south at Gibraltar Point over 23-28 October 2008. In a similar pattern, CAY913, 914, 915, 916, 918, 920, 921 and 922 were ringed near North Somercotes on 12 November 2008 and recaptured 41km to the south at Gibraltar Point on 15 November 2008. These rapid southward movements of parties of birds were part of a much larger passage of Long-tailed Tits in late autumn 2008. Interestingly, during this period, BER091, ringed two years previously at Theddlethorpe, was also caught.

Blue Tit

V312639	Nestling	22/05/2007	Newball, near Langworth, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: cat kill	27/05/2008	Scunthorpe, Humbs	40 km
P888484	Nestling	15/05/2002	near Hawton, Notts	
	Fresh dead: hit window	20/02/2008	Long Bennington, Lincs	3 km

Long distance movements of Blue Tits are rare, so V312639 is notable. Also note the age of P888484.

Great Tit

P881969	1 year+	17/11/2004	near Nettleton, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: cat kill	21/03/2008	Desford, Leics	116 km

Another interesting long-distance movement of a generally rather sedentary species.

Magpie

EG85351	Juvenile	07/08/2001	Lincoln, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: shot	01/05/2008	Tuxford, Notts	25 km

Tree Sparrow

V895849	First-year	28/09/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs	
	Recaught	30/11/2008	Fothersby, Lincs	27 km
V454848	Juvenile	19/08/2007	Kilnsea, Humbs	
	Recaught	19/01/2008	Kirmond-le-Mire, Lincs	33 km

Tree Sparrow populations can be rather mobile, and these southward movements into the county for the winter are interesting.

Chaffinch

V713110	First-year	04/04/2008	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd	
	Recaught	29/06/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	345 km
	Recaught	13/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
NOS 4E64266	2 years+	20/04/2004	Hogasen, Tonstad, Sirdal, Vest-Agder, Norway	
	Found dead	25/03/2008	Thimbleby, Horncastle, Lincs	730 km

V713110 was presumably a local breeding bird wintering in west Wales, in contrast to the record of a Scandinavian bird wintering in the county.

Brambling

X028231	2 years+	03/04/2008	Bourne Wood, Lincs	
	Recaught	06/04/2008	Gorsethorpe, Clipstone, Notts	67 km
V934627	1 year+	05/10/2007	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: cat kill	06/04/2008	Wroxham, Norfolk	87 km
V934454	First-year	27/09/2007	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
	Ring read	21/04/2008	Belmont, Bolton, Lancs	196 km

The rapid movement of X028231 is interesting, as is the movement south during the winter of V934627, though this last bird moved in the opposite direction.

Greenfinch

TL23715	First-year	18/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
	Fresh dead	12/11/2008	East Harling, Norfolk	85 km
TK99896	First-year	14/12/2007	Butterwick, Boston, Lincs	
	Fresh dead: cat kill	25/11/2008	Longford, Derbys	116 km
TK41415	1 year+	18/10/2007	Ramsley Reservoir, Derbys	
	Recaught	04/01/2008	Willingham by Stow, Lincs	60 km
TK23946	Juvenile	20/09/2008	Spurn Point, Humbs	
	Recaught	03/12/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	54 km
TJ83680	Full grown	20/12/2007	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
	Recaught	05/03/2008	Kilnsea Clays, Humbs	57 km

TJ83580	1 year+ Recaught	04/11/2007 09/12/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Kilnsea, Humbs	59 km
TJ61790	1 year+ Recaught	20/10/2007 25/05/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Olslia, Elverum, Hedmark, Norway	1099 km
	Recaught	16/08/2008	Simlevegen 16, Elverum, Hedmark, Norway	1097 km
TJ51256	1 year+ Recaught	26/10/2008 03/11/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs Gibraltar Point, Lincs	59 km
TJ51042	First-year Recaught	22/10/2008 14/12/2008	Spurn Point, Humbs Gibraltar Point, Lincs	54 km
	Recaught	18/12/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	
TJ50812	First-year Recaught	06/10/2008 17/12/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs Gibraltar Point, Lincs	59 km
TJ50505	First-year Recaught	17/04/2008 20/04/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs Gibraltar Point, Lincs	59 km
TH94548	First-year Recaught	05/10/2007 30/03/2008	Ramsley Reservoir, Derbys Gibraltar Point, Lincs	128 km
TE54764	First-year Fresh dead: cat kill	24/12/2006 03/05/2008	Chelmarsh Reservoir, Bridgnorth, Salop Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincs	163 km

Greenfinches can be remarkably mobile and the large number of movements shown here over 50 km is interesting, particularly the number of birds ringed in mid autumn in Humberside recaptured at Gibraltar Point in December.

Goldfinch

X228993	Juvenile Recaught	13/09/2008 24/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs near Stowmarket, Suffolk	111 km
V895832	Juvenile Recaught	27/09/2008 04/11/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs Butterwick, Boston, Lincs	73 km
V895863	First-year Recaught	28/09/2008 05/10/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs Butterwick, Boston, Lincs	73 km
V856522	First-year Recaught	14/12/2007 09/04/2008	Gainsborough, Lincs Lemington Hall, Alnwick, Northumbs	231 km
V684813	First-year Recaught	13/10/2007 10/11/2008	Black Notley, Braintree, Essex Butterwick, Boston, Lincs	129 km
V457883	First-year Recaught	03/04/2008 23/04/2008	Kilnsea, Humbs Willingham by Stow, Lincs	63 km
T719377	1 year+ Recaught	24/08/2007 16/02/2008	Bamburgh, Northumbs Bourne Wood, Lincs	327 km

Goldfinch is a partial migrant, with a variable proportion of the population moving southeast onto the Continent. Autumn movements into the county from Humberside and out of the county to Suffolk are typical.

Siskin

V950401	First-year Recaught	23/03/2008 28/03/2008	Gibraltar Point, Lincs Vosselaar, Antwerpen, Belgium	368 km
V932876	First-year Recaught	22/01/2008 06/04/2008	South Marston, Wilts Gibraltar Point, Lincs	218 km
V598788	First-year Recaught	28/02/2008 20/03/2008	Bourne Wood, Lincs Zand, Antwerpen, Belgium	378 km
V598423	First-year Recaught	08/02/2008 01/05/2008	Bourne Wood, Lincs Drummond, Inverness, Highland	575 km
V596958	First-year Recaught	10/02/2008 22/04/2008	Bennachie, Grampian Gibraltar Point, Lincs	497 km
T679803	First-year Recaught	30/03/2008 14/04/2008	Barnland, Gorey, Co Wexford Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen, Lincs	407 km
T215766	First-year Recaught	26/01/2008 22/04/2008	Llangynidr, Crickhowell, Powys Bourne Wood, Lincs	217 km
R979404	Juvenile Recaught	01/07/2007 08/03/2008	Lagganbeg, Kilniver, Oban, Strathclyde Gainsborough, Lincs	442 km
R828180	Full grown Recaught	07/04/2006 24/03/2008	Bourne Wood, Lincs Pell Wall, Market Drayton, Salop	141 km
NOS 4H87471	2 years+ Recaught	03/09/2004 14/03/2008	Giljastolen, Giesdal, Rogaland, Norway Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen, Lincs	729 km
	Recaught	27/03/2008	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen, Lincs	

There were many local movements around the county, and shown here are all movements over 100 km. Note all but one of these birds were ringed or recaptured in the county in March/April. The natal origin of these birds is demonstrated by the movements from Norway and Scotland, and the possible wintering areas by the movements from Powys and Wiltshire. Note the quick movement onto the Continent of V950401.

Lesser Redpoll

X009686	First-year Recaught	08/02/2008 16/10/2008	near Market Rasen, Lincs Kilnsea, Humbs	40 km
T997820	First-year Found sick: released	17/04/2006 03/02/2008	Willingham Forest, Lincs Carlton, West Yorks	87 km

Contributors to the County Records for 2008 with initials used in the text.

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AWa	Alan Walker	FJ	Freddy Johnson
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ACL	Alexander Lees	GBr	Geoff Brown
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ACo	Andrew Cockroft	GW	Geoff Williams
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BHa	Barry Hancock	GH	Graham Hardy
BJ	Barry Johnson	GHo	Grahame Hopwood
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RTe	Bob Telford	IGS	Ian Shepherd
RWa	Bob Wacey	ISm	Ian Smith
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BRE	Brian Eke	JPS	J P Shaughnessey
BHe	Brian Hedley	JRN	J R Nelson
BPa	Bryn Parry	JWh	J Wheldon
BW	Byron Webb	JS	James Siddle
CCo	Carl Cornish	JMcM	Jenny McMahon
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CG	Chris Grimshaw	JRC	John Clarkson
CJ	Chris Jarvis	JCb	John Corby
CRe	Chris Reeds	JCW	John Cowell
CTy	Chris Tyler	JGo	John Goy
CWl	Chris Walton	JHi	John Hinkley
CCG	Clare Gillatt	JLu	John Lusby
CMo	Cliff Morrison	JSM	John Mighell
CJJ	Colin Jennings	JDM	John Mortemore
CPu	Colin Pumfrett	EJR	John Redshaw
CSm	Colin Smale	JRo	John Roper
CSp	Colin Spence	JDS	John Spring
DHur	D Hursthouse	JTH	John T Harriman
DJ	D Johnson	JRW	John Walker
DS	D Satterthwaite	JWl	John Walton
DSP	Dave Purnell	JWa	John Watt
DWo	Dave Worrell	JPT	Jonathan Taylor
DKW	Dave Wright	JJ	Josh Jones
DCo	David Cohen	KRo	K Robinson
DGo	David Goddard	KSp	Karen Spavin
DJW	David J Wright	KBi	Katherine Birkett
DMJ	David Jenkins	KA	Keith Atkin
DLi	David Lillywhite	Kbo	Keith Bowden

KM	Keith Mitchell	RL	R Lorand
KDR	Keith Robertson	RP	R Parsons
KSc	Keith Scott	REd	Ray Eades
KJS	Keith Seaton	RJH	Ray Hume
KWa	Keith Warner	RGu	Richard Gunn
KKH	Kerry Harrison	RHe	Richard Heath
KDD	Kevin DuRose	RJa	Richard Jackson
KAM	Kevin Marshall	RPi	Richard Pipe
KMW	Kevin Wilson	RBe	Rick Bennett
LBCF	LBC Forum	RKW	Rob K Watson
LCa	Les Carter	RL-S	Rob Lidstone-Scott
LH-P	Libby Hood-Phipps	RSw	Rob Stewart
MaB	M Bibby	RC	Robert Carr
MRB	M R Briggs	RT0	Robert Townhill
MW	M Welbourne	RDO	Robin Dobson
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MWs	Mandy West	RHa	Roy Harvey
MG	Mark Grantham	RPr	Roy Pearson
MLH	Mark Hawkes	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
MMA	Mark Martin	RT	Roy Twigg
MJG	Martin Gray	RHay	Russell Hayes
MHa	Matt Harrison	SAB	S A Britton
MLa	Matt Latham	SDT	S D Tarrant
MMal	Michael Maltby	SJg	S Jagger
MWes	Mick West	SNT	S N Thomson
MLRG	Mid-Lincs Ringing Group	SJ	Sheila Jennings
MCot	Mike Cottingham	SWy	Sheila Wyllie
MEH	Mike Harrison	SSp	Simon Spavin
MSu	Mike Surr	SRo	Stephen Routledge
MWe	Mike Weedon	SBl	Steve Blades
NHD	N H Dorrington	SK	Steve Keightley
NP	N Pike	SL	Steve Lorand
ND	Neil Drinkall	Sly	Steve Lyon
NS	Neil Smith	SJMe	Steve Meek
PNW	Nicholas Watts	SWa	Steve Watson
NCI	Nick Clayton	SML	Steven Lister
NT	Nick Tribe	SC	Stewart Chester
NAL	Nigel Lound	SHg	Stewart Hogg
PBu	P Burnett	SGn	Stuart Green
PGn	Pat Greenwood	SPd	Stuart Pedley
PBe	Patrick Bell	ST	Sue Tilford
PBur	Paul Burton	TBa	Terry Barnatt
PRF	Paul French	TCo	Terry Corlett
PMa	Paul Marshall	TWh	Terry Whalin
PSm	Paul Smith	TBg	Tim Bagworth
PSn	Paul Snow	AJH	Tony Housman
PS	Paul Sullivan	AN	Tony Nuttall
PDr	Peter Dryburgh	TGu	Trevor Gunby
PBH	Peter Haywood	TML	Trevor Lee
CPO	Peter Overton	Unk	Unknown
PEs	Phil Espin	VF	Vin Fleming
PHi	Phil Hickerton	WCN	W C Nimick
PAH	Phil Hyde	WG	Wayne Gillatt
PLe	Phil Lee	WBR	Whisby Nature Park Bird Report
PP	Phil Porter	WPB	William Brooking
RB	R Broughton		

Heronry data 2008 contributors per Barrie Wilkinson

Abbey Wood (Thornton Curtis)	C J Potts
Air Ministry Plantation (Twigmoor Hall)	J Brown
Appletree ness (Haverholme Park)	A Ashmore
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	N Williams
Frampton Hall	J Badley
Hartsholme Country Park	M Craythorne
Hospital Cottage Spinney	R&K Heath
Howsham Wood	C Smith
Kingerby Wood	C Smith
Kirkby Pits (west)	K D Robertson
Legbourne Wood	A Hutton
Long Wood (Fiskerton)	A C B Henderson
Lower Barff Wood	J Mighell
Nocton Wood	J Mighell
Patterson's Pit	K J Seaton
Stainfield Wood	A Goodall
The Mere, Deeping St James	R C E Titman
Troy Wood	T W Bailey
Tuetoes Wood	G P Catley
Warren Plantation (N Somercotes)	R Lidstone-Scot & S Lorand
Warren Wood (Gainsborough)	N Taylor
Welland Farm	R & K Heath
Willoughby Wood	R B Wilkinson

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