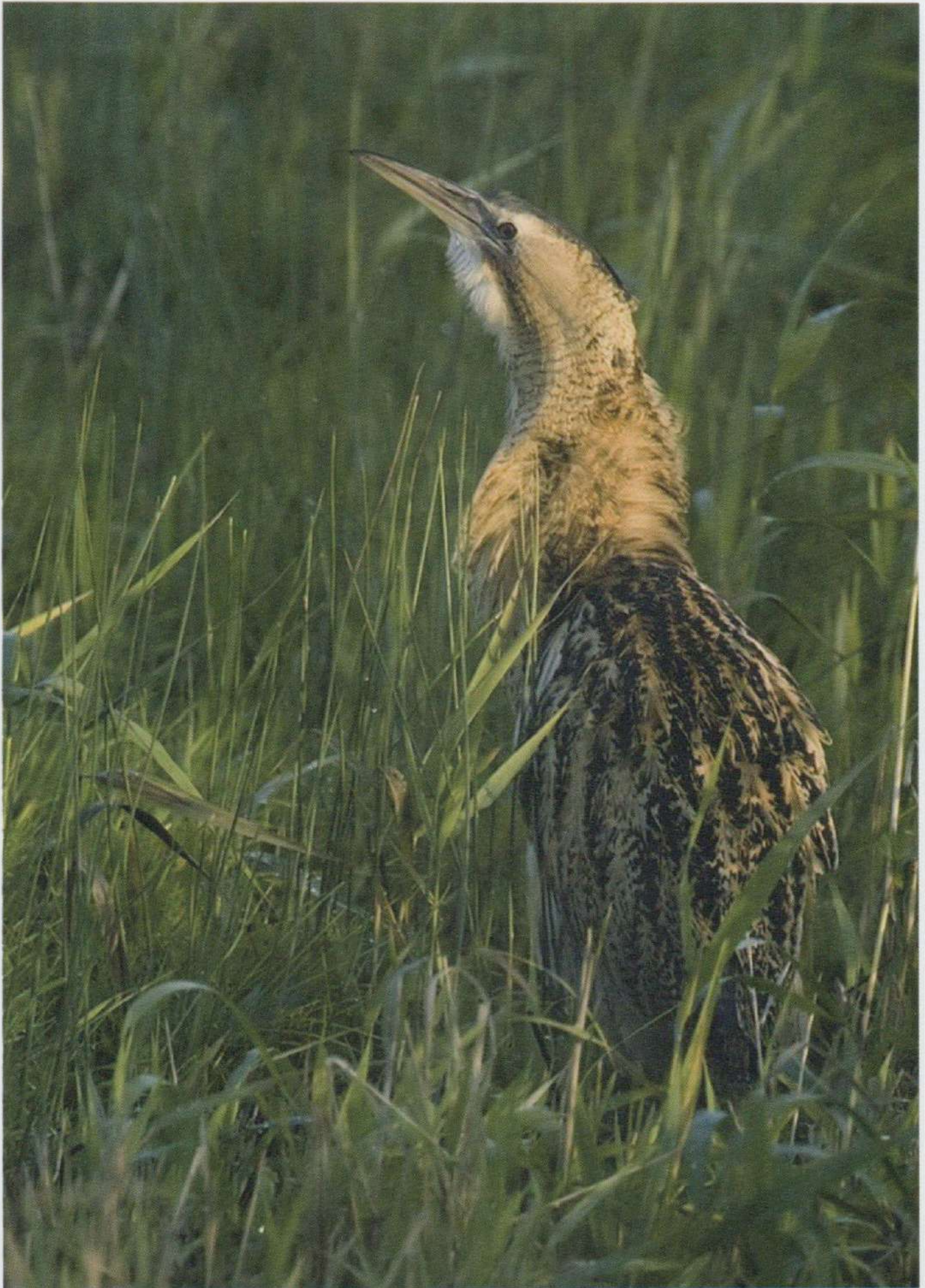


Welcome to the 2009 Bird Report



Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Far Ings
Image: Don Davies

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THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB 2009 REPORT

Welcome to the 2009 Lincolnshire Bird Report

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club it gives me great pleasure in presenting the annual report on the birds of Lincolnshire. I am especially grateful to everyone who offered constructive feedback on the last report, and I am pleased to note that the production of last year's report was universally well received both within Lincolnshire and further afield. Testimony to this is the single fact that at the time of writing, we have just a few copies of the 2008 report left, showing there is still a keen appetite for a publication of this type. A number of suggestions have led to changes, and are incorporated in this year's report. The two most notable are in the use of English names and the taxonomy used, both are outlined in more detail below.

In terms of birds, the 2009 report makes interesting reading; the increases in Bitterns, Barn Owls, Little Egrets, Bearded Tits and breeding Red Kites highlights the continued ornithological importance of Lincolnshire. Other interesting birds included a long staying King Eider at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth, a short staying Terek Sandpiper at Gibraltar Point and a dramatic increase in Cetti's Warbler records throughout Lincolnshire. It is also interesting to note the increase of records from Frampton Marsh and Alkborough Flats, two recently developed sites, which surely have a very important future ahead of them.

It is my personal opinion that the most important role of the Lincolnshire Bird Club is to produce a county bird report. The 2009 bird report follows the success of the 2008 bird report, which was the first annual bird report to be produced by the Lincolnshire Bird Club since 1996. This report would not be possible without submitted bird records, and although we can't promise to print every single record received we will acknowledge all contributors. I appeal to everyone to continue submitting records to ensure the future production of the county report.

English Names used in the 2009 Lincolnshire Bird Club Report

As the Lincolnshire Bird Club is affiliated to the monthly journal *British Birds*, all vernacular or common names used in the Lincolnshire Bird Report 2009 follow 'The *British Birds* list of Western Palearctic Birds' which may be downloaded from www.britishbirds.co.uk.

Taxonomy used in the 2009 Lincolnshire Bird Club Report

For the last 20 years numerous molecular studies have been published that have greatly expanded our knowledge of the relationships between birds. Among these changes have been the re-positioning of both wildfowl and gamebirds to the start of the taxonomic sequence, which is now widely followed, and clarification that grebes and flamingos form a clade, with the apparent close morphological relationship between grebes and divers most likely due to convergence. Perhaps the biggest changes however have been reserved for the passerines, and a review of published literature has shown that the position of almost all major groups within this order have been in need of updating. The Lincolnshire Bird Report 2009 uses the revised taxonomic treatment and sequence for grebes and passerines, whilst the changes to wildfowl and gamebirds were already incorporated into the 2008 Report. Further information regarding changes to the British List may be obtained from the British Ornithologist's Union, whose Taxonomic Sub-Committee has published a series of papers in the organisations journal *Ibis*. These

are available for free download from the BOU website (see <http://bou-online.blogspot.com/>)

Use of Tables in the 2009 Lincolnshire Bird Club Report

Where possible, tables have been used to represent data for certain species. Data shown in the tables has have been gathered from different data sources, and therefore the way some tables have been constructed will change. For waders and wildfowl, where possible, Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data has been used. The WeBS scheme produces accurate, comparable and long-term data across wetland sites in Lincolnshire, the UK and through partner schemes in Europe. WeBS is the main data source used to report on waterbird population trends on a site, country and international level. Where only WeBS data is used, the tables are labelled "WeBS counts". When, for reasons of interest, WeBS and LBC data have been amalgamated, the tables are labelled "Peak counts". If for some reason WeBS data has been excluded (e.g. presented earlier in the table), then "Non-WeBS peak counts" may be used. All data in the table are the highest count for that species in the month specified.

Species Authors

The bird club would like to thank all the authors who volunteered their time to complete species write-ups for the 2009 report. There simply wouldn't be a report without this group of people, and I must apologise to them for the number of 'nagging' emails and requests for 'just one more species, please' that I have made over the last year. Inevitably, using such a pool of authors will lead to difference in writing styles throughout the report. Personally, I feel this is a small price to pay in order to achieve a published final report.

Bird Recording in Lincolnshire: Steve Keightley

At the end of 2010 Steve Keightley stood down as Lincolnshire County Bird Recorder. Steve is a well known birder in Lincolnshire and has given a great deal of time to the Lincolnshire Bird Club over a very long period. He was a founder member of the Club, which formed in Sep 1979. He was Area Rep for the Bird Club in West Lincs, in 1983-84 and member of the Committee from 1983-2010. Steve sat on the records committee between 1985-1991 and was County Recorder for South Lincs during 1996-2002, taking on the roll of County Recorder for the whole of Lincolnshire between 2003-2010. The Club is especially grateful to Steve for all the effort he put into his role, and hope that he will continue to play an active part in the future development of the Lincolnshire Bird Club.

New Bird Recorders in Lincolnshire

In recognition of the amount of work required, the role of County Bird Recorder has again been split, with John Badley covering South Lincs and John Clarkson covering North Lincs. The remit of the County Bird Recorders is to collate reports of bird sightings, be they rarities, breeding birds or regular counts from one location. They also act as a conduit for passing such records to other bird recording bodies, such as the British Birds Rarities Committee and Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Contact details can be found on the inside cover of the bird report.

Notes for Contributors

The Lincolnshire Bird Report is an annual publication of records, articles, artwork and photographs relating to all aspects of Lincolnshire Ornithology.

Submissions of Records

All observers are encouraged to submit records on a monthly basis as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the annual report. If it isn't possible to submit records until the end of the year, the deadline is **by the end of February of the following year**. Late records cause serious problems in drafting the systematic list and may unfortunately have to be omitted. The names of all contributors will be published.

Records can also be submitted via the LBC Forum, by using the casual record form on the LBC website and via the recorders email address recorder@lincsbirdclub.co.uk. For further details please contact Colin Jennings – thejennings@colin97.freemove.co.uk.

National Rarities

Nationally rare birds are ratified by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). A full and up-to-date list of species considered by BBRC can be downloaded from the BBRC website www.bbrc.org.uk. All BBRC rarities should be submitted to the BBRC directly or via the LBC County Recorders. LBC will only publish records accepted by BBRC.

The submission of descriptions of national rarities is important. Bird news providers do not assess records passed to them and without full submission to BBRC such records cannot be published and will be lost. Finder's details will be published, but where there are not known records will be attributed to the observer who submits the sighting.

County Rarities

Species considered rare at county level are dealt with by the Lincolnshire Bird Records Committee. The committee currently comprises John Badley, Graham Catley, John Clarkson, Paul French, Wayne Gillatt, Phil Hyde, and Andy Sims. The chairman of the 2010-11 LBRC is John Clarkson and Roy Harvey is secretary.

Please send all details and descriptions of any LRBC species to Roy Harvey; roy.harvey100@btinternet.com.

The current LBRC list of County Rarities is available to download from <http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/lbrc.htm>.

All records of LRBC species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting and not left until the end of each year. County rarities accepted by the LBRC will be published in the report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

The verification of the data that appears in the annual report is essential to the production of an accurate and meaningful report. A systematic approach to the verification of ALL rare bird records, no matter who has reported them, prior to the production of the annual report is required before they are published.

From time to time the LBRC will reserve the right to seek additional details of other records deemed exceptional by virtue of, for example, date, location, or number. The list of birds considered by this committee and the level of proof needed is subject to regular review as, indeed, is the membership of the LBRC.

What is 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 bird watching 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 bird watching 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 you should join us?

Yearly subscription runs from January to December, and includes entitlement to one 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 2009 Bird Report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2009 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 were 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 2009 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 2009 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.

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory. Thanks to the ringer in charge - Mick Briggs for submitting data from GPBO.

Far Ings NNR Dataset The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Andy Sharp and the Far Ings Bird Group for supplying data from Far Ings NNR.

Scunthorpe Ornithological Society The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to Wayne Gillatt and the Ornithological section of the Scunthorpe Museum Society for submitting their dataset. The society covers the Scunthorpe area from the Humber Estuary in the north to Gainsborough in the South and follows the Lincolnshire county boundary in the west to the edge of the old Ordnance Survey Map number 112 in the east.

RSPB The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to Pete Short at RSPB Tetney Marsh and John Badley from RSPB Frampton Marsh and Frieston Shore for submitting data from their reserves.

Alkborough Flats Partnership Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the Alkborough Flats Partnership for supplying data from Alkborough Flats.

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

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to comments and suggestion from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, including Dave Bromwich, Matthew Blissett and Barrie Wilkinson.

Ringling Report Data We would like to thank the Boston Ringing Association, the Mid-Lincs Ringing Group, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Wash Wader Group and the Birkland Ringing Group for submitting their annual ringing reports and especially Mark Grantham from the British Trust for Ornithology for compiling the 2009 ringing report.

Grimsby Areas Members Group Thanks to Bill Sterling for submitting data from the Grimsby Areas Members Group.

Meteorological Data The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to RAF Waddington for supplying weather data for the 2009 bird report, with particular thanks to 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 198.

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 for the 2009 report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2009 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.

Alan Ball (alan.ball@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Owls

John Badley (recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

Geese and Waders

Graham Catley (graham.catley@btopenworld.com)

Raptors, Cetti's Warbler, Bearded Tit, Warblers, Arctic Redpolls, Serin, Rosefinch, Hawfinch, Crossbill and Shrikes

Andrew Chick (andrew.chick@gmail.com)

Waders, Finches, Larks, Nuthatch

John Clarkson (johnrclarkson@btinternet.com)

Grebes, Gulls, Terns and Warblers

Paul French (paul.french435@btinternet.com)

Ducks and Warblers

Roy Harvey (roy.harvey100@btinternet.com)

Gannet, Fulmar, Shearwaters, Leach's Petrel, Cormorant, Shag, Cuckoo, Kingfisher, Hoopoe, Waxwings and Buntings

Andrew Henderson (acbh@btinternet.com)

Swans, Divers, Sawbills, Skuas, Pigeons, Crows, Swallows, Martins, Wren, Tits and Finches

Grahame Hopwood (cadwood@btinternet.com)

Ring-necked Duck, European Nightjar, Golden Oriole, Eurasian Treecreeper, Common Starling, Thrushes, Chats, Flycatchers and Common Redpoll

Phil Hyde (phil@hydep.plus.com)

Ducks and Sparrows

Steve Keightley (steve.keightley@btinternet.com)

Swifts

Jonathan Savory (jon.sav@virgin.net)

Parakeet, Pipits and Warblers

James Siddle (jpsiddle@hotmail.com)

Auks and Warblers

Ian Shepherd (IShphrd@aol.com)

Waders

Donna Staples (donnamstaples@hotmail.com)
Tits
Bill Sterling (wbsterling@hotmail.com)
Woodpeckers and Wagtails

Ringing Report Compiler

Mark Grantham (mark.grantham@birdguides.com)

Photo Editor and Compiler

Neil Smith (n.smith22@btinternet.com). Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful and would like to thank Neil for acting as photo editor for the Lincolnshire Bird Club 2009 report.

Photographers

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2009 Lincolnshire Bird Club report free of charge. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2009 and many are referred to in the text. The images are labeled with the photographer's name. Contact details are listed below. The copyright is retained by the photographers.

Graham Catley (graham.catley@btopenworld.com)
John Clarkson (johnrclarkson@btinternet.com)
Nick Clayton (nsclayton@tiscali.co.uk)
Don Davies (sueanddondavis@ntlworld.com)
Dean Eades (dean@birdmad.com)
Roy Harvey (roy.harvey100@btinternet.com)
Russell Hayes (birdmanhayes@tiscali.co.uk)
Steve Keightley (steve.keightley@btinternet.com)
Matt Latham (mattlatham9@yahoo.co.uk)
David Morison (d.morison@hotmail.co.uk)
Joe Pell (pellyutd1@yahoo.co.uk)
Richard Pipe (rick_pipe@hotmail.com)
Neil Smith (n.smith22@btinternet.com)

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 species 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 2009 report

The bird club is very grateful to John Badley, Graham Catley, Paul French and Steve Keightley for proof reading the 2009 bird report. I would particularly like to thank John Badley, Graham Catley, Paul French and Grahame Hopwood for their valued input and comments at the final stage of its production.

*Andrew Chick
December 2010*

WEATHER REPORT 2009

All temperature, rainfall and sunshine hour measurements are taken from the meteorological station at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire. National Grid Reference SK 985 649. Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to RAF Waddington for supplying this weather data for the 2009 bird report, with particular thanks to Garreth Boardman and Brian Eke.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean Daily Max (°C)	5.1	6.3	10.8	14.4	16.6	19.4	21.0	21.6	18.4	14.5	10.9	5.1
Mean Night Min (°C)	1.4	1.9	3.7	5.5	6.6	10.2	12.5	12.9	11.0	8.4	5.7	1.2
Total Rainfall (mm)	44.6	49.0	21.2	19.6	47.0	29.5	96.9	64.0	16.0	45.2	75.6	43.0
Total Sunshine (hours)	58.0	62.1	150.0	153.9	200.4	168.8*	184.5	177.1	141.9	88.4	84.6	91.4

January

Statistically speaking, January this year was average! Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were very close to the norm, with both Sunshine and Rainfall totals fairing much the same. Additionally, the number of days of; Air Frosts, Ground Frosts, Snow, Rainy Days, Hail and Foggy Mornings were all also about what we would expect in this mid winter month.

February

February this year was also fairly average, although rather wet and a little on the mild side, with Daily Average Max. Temperature close to normal, while the Daily Average Min. Temperature was over a full degree above the norm. The Sunshine total was below average while the Rainfall total was about one quarter as much again over the average. The number of days of: Air Frosts, Ground Frosts, Snow, Rainy Days, Hail and Foggy Mornings were all also about what we would expect in this late winter month.

March

Following on from the generally long, cold winter, March this year was pleasantly mild, dry and sunny. Daily Average Max and Min. Temperatures were +1.5 Deg. C and associated with this, we had half the expected amount of Ground and Air Frosts. The Rainfall total was down over 50% and we enjoyed an extra 40 hours Sunshine above the norm. March can often be full of showers and windy, and indeed during the month we experienced 10 days with wind gusts in excess of 30 knots, with a particularly windy period from the 22nd to the 28th.

April

April this year was warm and dry but quite breezy at times. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were +2.5 and +1.5 Deg C. respectively. The monthly Rainfall total was very low, indeed less than 50 percent of our usual amount. In association with the warmer than expected temperatures, we experienced only one Ground Frost and no Air Frosts. The Sunshine total however, was on a par with normal, but with the winds often feeding up from the south, when the sun did shine, it made for some very pleasant feeling days after the long cold winter months.

May

May this year was a fairly average month, but nonetheless a pleasant move towards more summery weather. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were a degree or so above normal. The month started off warm, then we experienced a cool period from the 11th to the 17th, finally turning sunny and warm for the last week of the month. The Sunshine total was just about average, with the Rainfall total a little higher than average, in contrast to the very dry April.

June

A slightly warmer than average June this year. The month started out very much on the cool side, but became warmer as the month progressed, turning hot during the last few days. The Rainfall total was well down on what was expected, infact we had most of the month's total on just one day, with 20 days being dry and another five only giving us a trace of rain.

* Three days data lost due to power cuts. Estimated total would be as per average

July

Unusually wet and thundery sums up July 2009. A series of Atlantic low pressure centres and their associated slow moving fronts influenced much of the UK. Unstable, convective and showery precipitation became a feature of the daytime hours. RAF Waddington received nearly double the average amount of rainfall and nearly triple the number of expected thunderstorms. With all the rain and cloud one would have expected to have received far less sunshine than average. In fact the Sunshine total was only slightly depressed when compared with the 50 year average. Notable weather events included a hail shower between 1200 and 1300 BST on the 30th when individual hailstones of 10 mm were recorded. There was also a very wet day on the 29th when 30.2 mm of rain fell in a 24 hour period – more than half the average monthly rainfall in one day. Interestingly, 82.5 % of this rain fell during daylight hours.

August

Statistically speaking, August was fairly average for this last month, of the rather disappointing summer. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were up a degree or so on the norm, with a slightly higher than average Rainfall total and a slightly lower than average Sunshine total. Two days, the 1st and 6th, were very wet, giving us a total of 36.8 mm for these two days. Indeed, only 10 days remained totally dry. A month of sunshine and showers, more akin to a warmish April, sums up August 2009.

September

September was a very pleasant month - a veritable Indian Summer. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were up on the average with lots of sunshine and very little rain! Indeed, the Rainfall total was less than a third of the average, with 25 days out of the 30 being either completely dry or with just a trace of rain. The vast majority of the month's rainfall fell on the 2nd with just two other days having over 1.0mm. Generally speaking September was sunny, warm and dry.

October

Statistically speaking, we had a fairly average October. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were up a degree or so on the norm, with average Rainfall, but lower

than average Sunshine. A very wet day on the 6th, with winds and weather tracking up from the far south, but curiously it was also the warmest day! The last week of the month was very pleasant, with warm, calm, sunny days, but also some cooler nights under clear skies.

November

November was mild, wet and windy, but also quite sunny. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were significantly higher than expected, both +2 Deg C, although the last five days of the month were a lot colder. Rainfall was up some 20mm on the norm, but we did enjoy 20 hours of Sunshine above average. The month was very windy with eight days experiencing gust speeds in excess of 40 knots and four days having gust speeds of 45 knots or more.

December

December was a cold month with quite a lot of snow, but was also very sunny. Daily Average Max. and Min. Temperatures were down a degree or so on the norm resulting in a higher number of Air and Ground Frosts. In association with the cold weather, we had a week of snow flurries (17th – 23rd), with the peak occurring on the 17th. Although many days were cold, they frequently featured a clear, blue sky, resulting in a new December Sunshine record at RAF Waddington.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2009

by James Siddle

January

New Year's Day brought an unexpected winter find with a **Little Stint** at Covenham Reservoir. Two rare ducks also got the year off to a good start with a drake **Ferruginous Duck** at Whisby Quarry (Silt Lagoons) from 5th followed by a drake **Ring-necked Duck**, found nearby at Boultham Mere on 7th. Other interesting ducks included single **Smew** at five sites and a **Long-tailed Duck** inland at Bardney Pits. Also notable were 47 **Whooper Swans** at Wroot and 26 at Huttoft Bank. An adult **Kumlien's Gull** was at Thurlby Sand Pit on 11th, with an **Iceland Gull** at the same site the following day. A single **White-fronted Goose** was at Messingham SQ on 29th and six were at Frampton Marsh until Apr.

On the 18th, a seawatch from Witham Mouth produced two **Great Northern Divers**, whilst a **Pomarine Skua** was reported at Cleethorpes on 13th, 21st and 25th. Raptors included a wintering, but often elusive, **Rough-legged Buzzard** on the Wolds at Rowgate Hill from 1st until at least Mar 20th with another at Worlaby Carrs on 2nd. Four **Short-eared Owls** were at North Carlton and up to five were at Freiston Shore.

Waxwings were reported from eight sites with peak counts of 15 at Witham St Hughes and eight at Morton, near Swinderby. January thrush and finch counts included c500 **Fieldfare** at Worlaby Carrs and 1000 at Nocton Fen on 23rd, 30 **Brambling** at Conisholme and 100 **Twite** at Donna Nook. At Grainthorpe Marsh seven **Lapland Buntings** were noted on the 24th with singles also at Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh. At Saltfleet c100 **Snow Buntings** were present all month.

February

In the north of the county a **Tundra Bean Goose** was at Donna Nook from 8th and 15th. A **Black Brant** was at Freiston Shore on 9th where 25 **Greater Scaup** were noted offshore on 28th.

White-winged gulls were scarce with single **Glaucous Gulls** reported from Donna Nook on 7th and Winterton Floods Feb 8th-21st, and **Iceland Gulls** at Thurlby Sand Pit on 5th, Bagmoor on 10th and Gibraltar Point on 13th.

Up to 11 **Hawfinches** were at Scawby on 14th and a **Black Redstart** was at Lincoln Cathedral on 24th. **Waxwing** numbers increased and were reported from several sites, with high counts of 21 at Scunthorpe and c50 at Humberston.

March

The month started with a **Common Crane** at Grainthorpe Marsh on 1st. A **Wood Lark** was at Gibraltar Point on 2nd. At Freiston Shore there was a peak of 68 **Whooper Swans** during the month with 50 at Broughton, 66 at Humberston Fitties, 85 at Baumber and 54 at Frampton Marsh.

Both **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** were reported from Crosby Warren on 24th and the same day a **Little Stint** was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. On the 29th a **Firecrest** was at Gibraltar Point. Further signs of the spring came with the first **Osprey** at Toft Newton Reservoir on 31st.

Black Redstarts were at Belchford and Donna Nook on 18th, Butterwick village on 19th, Saltfleet on 27th and Freiston Shore on 29th.

April

After a slow first few days the pace of spring quickened from the 4th with a **Great White Egret** at Gibraltar Point and an **Alpine Swift** showed well at the same site on 12th.

Five **Common Cranes** were at Gibraltar Point on 19th. Up to four **Garganey** were at Frampton Marsh on 17th with one at Goxhill Marsh on 22nd.

A **Wryneck** was at Horkstow Top, Barton on 10th with another at Donna Nook on 23rd. Finally, in the south of the county **Green Sandpipers** were present at several sites in good numbers during the month.

May

The month got off to an excellent start with the year's second **Alpine Swift** which showed very well at Barton-upon-Humber on 1st. Five **Dotterel** were at Grainthorpe Marsh the same day, with two at Tetney Marsh on 8th and three at Donna Nook on 25th. Two **Spoonbills** were at Frampton Marsh briefly on 1st with two south at Donna Nook on 5th. A **Common Crane** was noted at Tetney Marsh on 6th, with two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 8th and one at Gibraltar Point on 22nd. A single **Temminck's Stint** was at Frampton Marsh from 9th-19th, and an **Iceland Gull** was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 11th.

Easterly winds with showers brought an influx of **Black Terns** to the county from 13th, including 11 at Frampton Marsh and 21 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. A **Caspian Tern** flew through the gull colony at Freiston Shore on 22nd. One of the highlights of the month was the county's seventh **Thrush Nightingale** trapped at Donna Nook on 16th with a **Golden Oriole** singing at the same locality the same day. Another **Golden Oriole** was singing at Fillingham Lake on 21st with singles at Gibraltar Point on 25th and 31st. Also at Gibraltar Point a **Serin** was seen flying south on 23rd.

The wader highlight of the month was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Alkborough Flats on 24th. A female **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Freiston Shore briefly on 28th before moving to Frampton Marsh on 28th-29th. Interesting raptors included **Montagu's Harriers** at three sites in the north of the county and **Ospreys** at four sites.

June

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Tetney Marsh on the 5th. Typical late spring scarcities were a **Red-backed Shrike** at Gibraltar Point from 9th-11th and two **Golden Orioles**; a singing male at Donna Nook on 13th, and a flyover at Kirton Marsh on 23rd.

One of the highlights of the year, a **Terek Sandpiper**, only the second county record was found at Gibraltar Point on 17th, where it was well watched and photographed. A **Wood Warbler** ringed there on 21st was an unusual June record. The first of a very good year for **Roseate Terns** was at Freiston Shore on 27th.

July

Wader passage began early with 14,000 **Knot** and 4426 **Dunlin** at Freiston Shore on 25th. First of the rarer autumn waders were **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Alkborough Flats from 9th and Little Carlton Washes from 27th.

At Willingham Forest there were 61 **Crossbills** on 15th with 20 at Messingham SQ on 20th. A sign of the autumn came at Gibraltar Point where there were 400 **Swifts** per hour heading south on 23rd. Up to two **Spoonbills** were at Alkborough Flats throughout the month, with a **Wood Warbler** at Gibraltar Point on 31st.

August

One of the highlights of the month was a **Whiskered Tern** that showed well at Fiskerton Fen on 2nd. Returning waders were very much in evidence at Frampton Marsh including a single **Pectoral Sandpiper** from 3rd-16th, a superb **Collared Pratincole**, only the fourth Lincolnshire record, there on 8th-9th and an excellent count of 14 **Wood Sandpipers** on 9th.

Up to three **Spoonbills** were at Alkborough Flats from 22nd-30th. A daily roost of **Common Terns** at Horseshoe Point produced counts of up to 10,000 birds on 24th with a maximum of eight **Roseate Terns** there on 23rd. Two **Common Cranes** were at Gibraltar Point on 24th and two **Roseate Terns** flew south past Donna Nook on the 21st.

September

A **King Eider** found at Freiston Shore on 5th was an overdue county first; the bird remained offshore until the Oct 9th. There were six **Sooty Shearwaters** and 623 **Northern Gannets** off Mablethorpe on 10th in strong north-easterlies and 162 **Manx Shearwaters** and a **Long-tailed Skua** off Sandilands on 14th with two **Leach's Petrels** off the latter site and Chapel Point on 14th-15th. Also at Chapel Point were 23 **Pomarine Skuas** on 14th.

An impressive array of wind-blown seabirds were noted off Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore from 13th-15th with **Cory's Shearwater**, two **Leach's Petrels**, two **Roseate Terns**, 256 **Manx Shearwaters** and 44 **Pomarine Skuas** on 13th, with three more **Leach's Petrels**, 16 **Pomarine Skuas** and five **Roseate Terns** the next day. Even more **Leach's Petrels** were noted on the 15th, with 11 along with two **Sooty Shearwaters**. In addition to this were two **Great White Egrets** at Witham Mouth on 12th. Away from the seabirds a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Freiston Shore on 5th. A **Dotterel** flew over Freiston Shore on 7th. At Gibraltar Point 67,000 **Knot** and 2370 **Bar-tailed Godwits** were noted on 20th.

With north-easterly winds predominating several scarce warblers were noted including **Barred Warblers** at Horseshoe Point on 12th and Gibraltar Point on 20th and an **Icterine Warbler** at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 17th-18th. Two **Yellow-browed Warblers** at Gibraltar Point on 12th were the first be found in the autumn in the UK.

Other scarce migrants included a **Common Rosefinch** at Gibraltar Point on 11th with a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** there from 12th. In addition to this, a **Glossy Ibis** was at Wragholme/Marshchapel Ings from 23rd. The first returning **Snow Buntings** were at Gibraltar Point from 17th, with single **Lapland Buntings** at four sites.

October

The first returning **Shore Larks** were reported from Donna Nook on 10th. Two **Grey Phalaropes** at Gibraltar Point on 13th were followed by a single at Witham Mouth on 18th.

The first large thrush fall of the month occurred on the 15th when c5000 **Redwings** were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. At Gibraltar Point there were c5000 **Redwings**, 480 **Fieldfares** and an impressive 18 **Ring Ouzels**. Seawatching regained favour mid-month, when 24 **Pomarine Skuas** were off Witham Mouth on 16th and a **Sabine's Gull** was at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on 17th. An inland **Barred Warbler** at Wroot on the 17th-21st was an exceptional find. More expected was a **Black Brant** among the Brent Goose flock at Donna Nook on 22nd and with light winds from the south-east **Pallas's Warblers** appeared at Humberston Fitties and Donna Nook the same day. A drake

Ring-necked Duck at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits was a popular bird from 26th.

Drizzle, low cloud and a fresh south-easterly wind brought another large arrival of thrushes on 27th. A superb count of 8000 **Redwings** occurred at Gibraltar Point that day and there were c2000 **Fieldfares**, c1400 **Redwings** and c800 **Blackbirds** at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. At Donna Nook there were c4000 **Redwings** and 2400 **Fieldfares**. Inland c420 **Fieldfares** flew over Market Rasen in twenty minutes. However, just as notable by their much reduced absence were the very small numbers of **Goldcrests** during this arrival and the autumn in general.

November

Wader numbers dropped for many species during the month but interesting counts included 2000 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Freiston Shore early in the month. At the latter site there were also 10,000 **Knot** and 2500 **Dunlin**. At Croft Marsh there were 7000 **Golden Plovers** on 23rd. A late **Barred Warbler** was at Donna Nook on 10th. On the 12th, the last **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point while just to the north a **Dartford Warbler** was reported from Seacroft on 28th and stayed until the end of the year.

A juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** was a late, but much enjoyed find at Chowder Ness, Barton from 17th-25th. A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was discovered at Apex Pit/Whisby NP from the 21st, which appeared to be last month's Kirkby on Bain bird relocated. Many birders visited the coast between Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe St Helens during the month where up to six **Shore Larks**, 137 **Twite** and c150 **Snow Buntings** were seen.

December

A late **Barn Swallow** was at RAF Waddington on 2nd. Three **Smew** and a **Long-tailed Duck** were noted during the month. The saltmarsh at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR produced an impressive c220 **Rock Pipits** on 19th and there were 127 at Frampton Marsh on 11th. Also at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR were 11 **Lapland Buntings** on 13th with up to 20, often showing very well at Frampton Marsh until the end of year.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2009

Collated by: Andrew Chick, Paul French, Grahame Hopwood, Graham Catley and John Badley.

Contributing Authors: Alan Ball, John Badley, Graham Catley, John Clarkson, Paul French, Roy Harvey, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Steve Keightley, Jonathan Savory, James Siddle, Donna Staples, and Bill Sterling.
See introduction for full details.

Key to acronyms;

LBRC - Rare or scarce in Lincs: Description and/or photograph required for consideration by the Lincolnshire Bird Club Records Committee.

BBRC - National rarity: Description and/or photograph required for submission to British Birds Rarities Committee. Records in this category are not published in the annual report or input to the database if they have not been accepted by BBRC.

RBBP - Nationally scarce breeding species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel: Any breeding season sighting in suitable habitat should be reported to the Rare Breeding Bird Panel representative as soon as possible.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	3	49	70	7	2	6	11	179	4	5	6	-
Barrow Haven-Goxhill Haven	88	82	64	151	-	94	123	221	311	110	314	-
Messingham SQ	18	23	21	20	22	26	28	33	27	27	31	45
Anwick Fen	33	35	66	34	8	22	-	-	-	-	-	43
Apex Pit-North Hykeham	2	1	4	5	4	7	21	43	42	35	25	6
Brayford Pool (Lincoln)	35	48	42	44	-	60	55	-	55	-	-	-
Baston Fen	74	11	31	-	-	-	2	2	7	7	10	6
Deeping Lakes NR	20	-	-	50	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall	25	24	24	29	11	25	36	49	53		45	36
Metheringham Delph	68	48	74	21	16	7	-	-	10	-	23	66
Nocton/Dunston/Bardney	104	79	78	8	5	2	-	-	-	66	91	71
Pinchbeck	52	10	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
R Welland (nr Spalding)	94	156	163	-	120	125	-	12	98	176	164	-
Whisby NP	7	6	3	3	5	14	10	10	10	4	5	14

Totals were similar to those reported in 2008, but the species is inconsistently recorded, as illustrated by gaps in the table. Tabulated areas differ from last years. Sites attracting 20 or more birds but not shown in the table were as follows: 47 at Gate Burton in Jan with 27 at nearby Trent Port in Dec, 37 at Wroot in Mar, 40 at Horseshoe Point on Mar 15th with 46 at Humberston Fitties two days later, 51 at Martin Dales, perhaps different from those at Metheringham Delph and Nocton Fen, in Jan, 73 at Surfleet Seas End in May (the Welland counts in the table refer to the section upstream from Spalding), 53 at Bourne and 20 at Thurlby Fen in Mar, both close to Baston Fen. Very little breeding information was received, involving 1-3 pairs at each of Whisby NP, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh. A paper on the Lincoln Area Swan Study can be found on page 160.

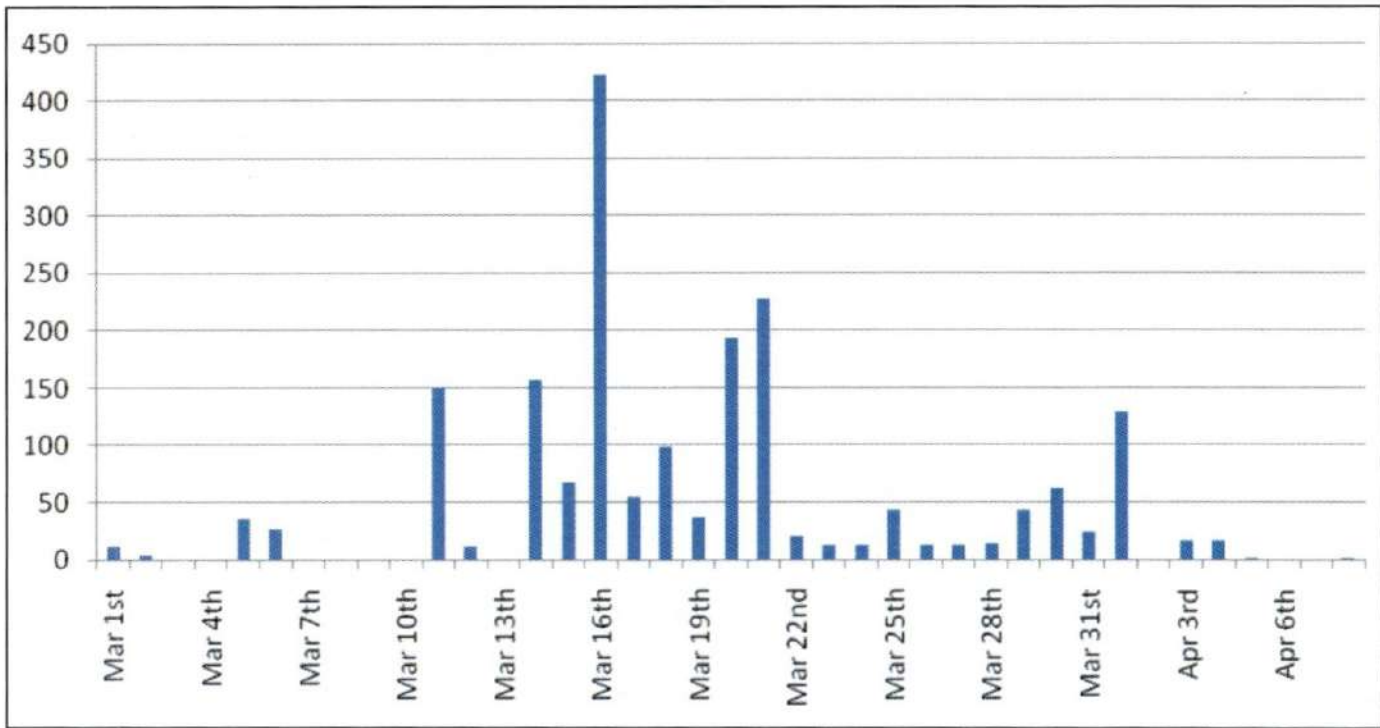
Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

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

After none in Dec 2008, there were widespread records in Jan, beginning with five at Nocton Fen on the 1st, increasing to six (five adults and one juvenile) during Jan 3rd-11th. An adult was at Thurlby Fen on Jan 6th with 10 at Frampton Marsh on Jan 11th. The remaining records early in the year were widely spread: four at Pinchbeck on Jan 15th, 16 at Wroot on Jan 16th and two at Metherringham Delph on Feb 16th. The first in autumn were 10 at Nocton Fen on Oct 18th and five at Donna Nook on Oct 25th. In Nov, there were several records of birds on the coast, no doubt moving towards their regular wintering site at the Ouse Washes. These included 24 at Tetney Marsh on Nov 4th, 11 (10 adults) at Donna Nook on the 6th, two at Saltfleetby on the 6th-7th, seven at Gib Point on the 9th and 25 there on the 25th. At Gib Point in Dec, there were two on both the 5th and 11th, while at Donna Nook there were two on the 10th, 10 on the 20th and four on the 24th. Inland at Wroot there was one on Dec 7th and four on the 14th-17th. Other Dec records further south were two at Sutton Bridge on the 2nd, three at Frampton Marsh on the 19th and one at Baston-Langtoft Pits on the 21st.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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



Whooper Swan daily county totals, spring passage 2009

Groups present during Jan-Feb were eight at Barrow Haven on Jan 1st increasing to 11 on the 11th and 15 on Feb 15th, 46-47 at Wroot from Jan 22nd-30th with 14 at Haxey Turbary on Feb 25th, up to 26 at Huttoft Bank Pit from Jan 27th-31st and up to 13 at Manby Flashes from Feb 16th-28th. There were also two at Worlabby Carrs on Jan 4th, and singles at Donna Nook from 2008 until Apr 1st, Deeping High Bank on Jan 14th, Thorpe Pits on Jan 26th and Howden's Pullover on Feb 15th. The chart shows daily spring passage totals for Mar 1st-Apr 8th, possibly with some duplicates, including both birds flying north and off-passage feeding flocks; during this period a county total in excess of 100 birds occurred on six dates. Site maxima on Mar 11th included 65 at

Freiston Shore and 60 north at Baumber. On Mar 14th the largest single flock was 74 at Toynton St Peter. The biggest day total of all on Mar 16th, included 50 at Broughton, 66 at Humberston Fitties, 68 at Freiston Shore, 85 at Baumber and 54 at Frampton Marsh. On Mar 20th a single flock of 121 arrived at Boultham Mere with 13 remaining until the 29th. On Mar 21st 64 flew north at Billingham. The final big count was 96 west over Spalding on Apr 1st and the last was one at Gedney Drove End on Apr 8th.

Autumn passage began with nine in from the north at Gib Point on the evening of Sep 30th, three at Alkborough Flats and 16 at Witham Mouth on Oct 1st, and 19 south-east at Gib Point on the 2nd. Autumn passage was more protracted than spring. Noticeable influxes occurred during Nov 6th-8th and Nov 28th-29th but there were almost daily records until the end of the year. Individual site counts of 20 or more were as follows: 20 at Alkborough Flats on Oct 13th, 22 at Gib Point on Oct 24th, 21 at Toft Newton on Nov 6th, 21 at Friskney on Nov 7th, 20 at Gib Point on Nov 23rd, 37 there on Nov 28th, 26 at Toft Newton and 21 at Barton Pits on Nov 29th, 24 south-east at Alkborough Flats on Dec 13th and 22 at Gib Point on Dec 20th. A few small groups of up to seven appeared to be wintering in the county in December, at localities such as Wroot, Worlaby Carrs, Nocton Fen and Frampton Marsh, though birds continued to be mobile.

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. LBRC

The first was at Donna Nook on Feb 8th and 15th (AN, CA), five *rossicus* were at Tattershall Bridge on Feb 23rd (JDM). In the spring two were at Tetney Marsh on May 9th (RL). The first returning birds of the second winter period were also at Tetney Marsh with five on Nov 3rd (RL). At Covenham Res. two were seen on Nov 26th and again on Dec 4th (GPL). The final record of the year was three at Tetney Marsh on Dec 15th (RL).

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.

The highest count of the first winter period was 5000 over Horncastle on Feb 19th. All other four-figure first-winter period counts are tabulated below. The last birds of the spring were 50 at Gib Point on May 10th. Summer records of 1-2 birds were reported from Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore, Gib Point, Kirkby on Bain area, Manby Flashes, Messingham SQ and Whisby NP. The first flocks of the autumn were 34 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 40 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 10th. The highest second winter period count was 3615 at Read's Island on Oct 11th. In addition to the records tabulated below four-figure counts in the second winter period were; 1800 at Spalding on Oct 8th, 1000 at Haxey on Dec 4th and 3000 at West Halton on Dec 12th.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	2700	800	146
Reads Island area	2200	78	14	154	-	-	-	-	800	3615	3570	2950
Barton area	1230	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	200	6	-
Cleethorpes	1000	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	570	220	110

The Wash												
Gib Point	600	4250	120	5	40	1	-	-	148	895	465	230
Wainfleet	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	300	400
Friskney	-	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Wrangle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	-
Freiston Shore	3	100	2	3	-	-	2	1	6	120	14	4
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	350	-
Frampton Marsh	110	-	6	-	2	-	-	1	2	370	250	357
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	70
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	500
Gedney	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	10
<hr/>												
Other sites												
Worlabby Carrs	-	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	320	90	1500
Donna Nook	75	110	250	2	-	-	-	-	48	900	644	7
Saltfleetby	132	-	84	-	-	-	-	-	200	800	400	150
Whisby area	150	100	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	200	61	120

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

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

Ten records, none of which were thought to refer to *flavirostris*. At Frampton Marsh the family party of six *albifrons* from 2008 remained until Mar 30th. At Deeping Lakes there were 16 (10 adults and 6 juveniles) from Jan 17th-18th. Elsewhere one was at Messingham SQ from Jan 29th to Feb 7th, two at Freiston Shore on Feb 12th and singles at Gib Point on Apr 7th and at Black Bank on Apr 20th. In the second winter period singles at Cleethorpes on Nov 9th and at Saltfleetby on Nov 10th. At Frampton Marsh, two *albifrons* on Dec 10th with one from 14th-16th.

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	300	15	7	-	4	250	400	500	20	30	-	-
Bagmoor/Winterton	430	300	-	-	-	304	-	150	-	-	-	-
Whitton area	10	3	91	-	140	-	-	1500	1200	-	-	-
Barton Pits	200	189	-	32	20	250	-	20	-	68	50	50
Gib Point	2	12	12	10	100	25	25	157	170	25	52	20
Freiston Shore	100	50	18	5	6	20	5	110	100	87	5	92
Kirkby on Bain GP	340	150	180	110	155	455	400	330	550	254	300	350
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500	500	300
Marston STW	151	180	4	35	-	-	12	-	250	150	130	-
Messingham SQ	600	557	70	86	105	-	200	-	150	250	262	520
North Hykeham Pits	82	111	47	18	8	119	102	1	-	1	7	41
Tattershall Lakes CP	320	240	270	129	165	480	298	320	600	-	635	380
Whisby NP	46	184	54	47	18	90	68	-	6	-	4	28

Other counts in excess of 100 birds were; 148 Anwick Fen Aug 27th, 200 Bardney Pits Jan 31st, 117 Black Bank Mar 3rd, 100 Deeping Lakes Jan 14th, 103 Fiskerton Fen Nov 30th and 253 on Dec 14th, 500 Langtoft West End Pits Dec 12th, 180 Nocton

Fen Jan 2nd and 238 on Sep 20th, 332 Read's Island Aug 23rd and 200 on Sep 20th, 420 Thurlby Sand Pit Oct 20th, 103 Stanton's Pit Sep 20th and 150 Westwoodside Feb 8th.

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 as two distinct species. Only Greater Canada Goose occurs as a feral resident in Britain.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island	6	105	78	43	-	-	-	87	80	75	-	24
Gib Point	72	32	25	31	26	25	22	225	110	6	65	70
Freiston Shore	400	300	40	22	15	51	120	30	300	300	700	680
Kirkby on Bain GP	30	24	40	21	26	50	35	-	16	-	2	2
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	100	41	300	200
Stanton's Pit	96	82	55	21	28	14	17	76	270	51	70	-

A continued increase at Freiston Shore makes it the county's main site for this species. Counts of over 30 at non-tabulated sites were; Alkborough Flats 200 in Jun and Aug, Anderby Creek 95 in Sep, Bagmoor/Winterton 30 in Jan and 40 in Jun, Belton Park 31 in May, Boultham Park Lake 50 in Jul, Frampton Marsh 50 in May, Hartsholme Lake 46 in Apr, Holywell Lake 145 in Oct and 102 in Nov, Howden's Pullover, 37 in Sep, Marston STW, 60 in Feb; Messingham SQ, 40 in Feb, North Hykeham Pits, 38 in Dec, Saltfleetby, 100 in Oct, Swanholme Lakes, 44 in Dec; Tetney Marsh, 72 in Jul, Toynton All Saints, 31 in Jan, Whitton Sands, 200 in Jan and 170 in Dec and Wrangle, 35 in Jan, 30 in Feb and 70 in Oct.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whitton Sands area	425	400	300	-	19	150	-	300	634	556	596	474

The feral flock on the Humber, centred around Whitton Sands continues to increase (see table). Elsewhere the only double figure counts came from Tetney Marsh with 28 on Feb 6th & 7th and at Londonthorpe, near Belton Park, with 13 on Sep 17th. The former record may be the only contender for wild birds in the county during the year. Records of 1-6 birds came from; Barton Pits, one in Feb; Deeping Lakes, four on Jan 14th, one in Feb/Mar and three in Apr; Frampton Marsh, one in Apr; Freiston Shore, single(s) in Jan, Mar, Apr, Aug and Sep; Gib Point, one in Oct; Langtoft Pits, one in Dec; Read's Island, one in Nov; Saltfleetby, six north on Sep 23rd; Whisby NP, one in Jun and Wrangle 1-3 during Mar-Apr.

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 now scarce but regular in summer, especially on the Wash. Occasionally feeds some distance inland.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Barton area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	90	-
Humberstone Fitties	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-
Tetney Marsh	-	300	-	110	140	-	1		30	300	473	650
The Wash												
Gib Point	1350	1300	880	160	144	4	-	-	60	546	580	1000
Wainfleet	932	372	6	249	252			16	231	99	1046	1286
Friskney	650	900	3	80	103	-	-	-	-	28	400	200
Wrangle	1094	2105	378	2754	-	-	-	-	-	120	1172	757
Leverton	516	746	829	331	282	2	-	1	33	169	1010	1146
Bennington	-	145	165	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	459
Butterwick	386	1093	1190	897	29	-	-	-	21	294	1157	1192
Freiston Shore	3000	7000	3000	2000	400	3	3	3	43	2000	1453	960
Witham Mouth	2500	1653	1653	550	-	2	-	1	4	3000	2400	-
Frampton Marsh	500	2000	86	1000	1100	1	-	-	2	500	950	2224
Kirton	44	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welland	470	596	735	147	175	-	-	-	-	170	670	570
Holbeach	320	212	150	350	220	-	-	-	-	32	250	150
Gedney	374	176	492	202	355	-	-	-	-	63	1063	273
Dawsmere	387	93	482	119	4	-	-	-	-	3	229	251
Terrington	95	555	783	457	122	4	1	-	6	104	321	-
Wash total	12618	18946	10832	9322	3186	16	4	21	400	7128	12701	10468
Other sites												
Donna Nook area	700	1000	600	51	150	1	-	-	3	420	540	1269
Saltfleetby	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-

As usual the main concentration of birds came from The Wash. A handful of summering non-breeding birds were present, but there were no inland records this year.

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cleethorpes	-	3	-	-	-	2	5	3
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
Donna Nook area	3	3	1	-	-	1	9	6
Gib Point	2	1	1	-	-	1	8	-
Freiston Shore	2	1	2	2	-	4	6	1
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-

Recorded at six sites from the beginning of the year until May 17th at Frampton Marsh and from Oct 9th at Freiston Shore until the end of the year, with a peak of nine at Donna Nook in Nov (see table).

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

Three records this year. Adults at Freiston Shore on Feb 9th (PRF), Donna Nook on Oct 22nd (GPC) and Frampton Marsh on Dec 5th (JB).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare/scarce feral visitor. Some local releases also involved and breeds occasionally. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hartsholme Lake	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kirkby on Bain	13	13	12	14	6	1	11	10	26	7	11	11
Messingham SQ	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	2	7	3	4	2	9	9	5	7	-	2	5
Whisby NP	3	2	4	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-

The above table shows that this species is now well established in Lincolnshire, with a healthy inland population around the Kirkby-on-Bain pit complex. Nationally the population trend is positive, with Norfolk being the stronghold for this species, and clearly there is movement away from that county. Coastal movements include a single bird being observed at Gib Point flying in off the sea on Jun 20th, five at Donna Nook on Oct 18th, three at Gib Point on Oct 25th and two at Witham Mouth on Oct 25th. Inland, at least two pairs produced eight young at Kirkby-on-Bain, where a maximum of 26 birds were observed on Sep 9th. A pair of birds were present at Messingham SQ in Jan and Aug but disappeared in the final quarter of the year. At Whisby NP a peak in Mar of four birds were recorded on Thorpe Lake with birds appearing to hold territory but no breeding was recorded. Other records of note included three at East Butterwick on Jan 1st, one at Baston Pits on Apr 4th, eight at RAF Woodhall on Jul 1st and singles at Marston STW on Sep 28th and Nov 11th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare. Vagrant/feral birds are recorded in most years. Small flocks are a regular occurrence pattern and are unique to this species amongst escaped or vagrant wildfowl. RBBP

A pair were at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Feb 28th. Later in the spring one was at Messingham SQ on Mar 30th. A pair arrived at Read’s Island on Jul 12th and remained in the upper Humber until at least Sep 20th, also visiting Alkborough Flats and Whitton Sands. Elsewhere, two were at Biscathorpe Lake from Sep 19th-Oct 3rd. The last record of the year was of three at Whitton Sands on Nov 12th. Observers should be careful of eliminating the possibility of Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana* when confronted with a possible Ruddy Shelduck; at least one individual of this species has been at large in the county in recent years.



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Alkborough Flats Sept 1st 2009 © Graham Catley

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	210	294	521	256	435	250	280	400	220	729	571	390
Read's Island	210	209	302	689	-	-	1000	1551	1496	2384	1238	1298
Pyewipe (Grimsby)	742	698	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	620	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	80	30	42	25	16	85	150	200	300
Donna Nook	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	400	13	15
The Wash												
Gib Point	142	183	66	105	55	128	30	40	159	309	145	405
Wainfleet	60	20	3	4	8	24	-	-	48	58	90	657
Leverton	114	6	6	6	2	-	-	-	46	12	9	30
Butterwick	47	30	50	22	19	7	-	-	2	30	107	160
Freiston Shore	652	181	381	55	36	44	8	17	205	533	1062	600
Witham Mouth	800	-	401	19	-	20	-	-	150	550	475	-
Frampton Marsh	208	41	67	50	96	51	2	4	11	6	36	13
Kirton Marsh	6	20	14	6	7	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
Welland	220	122	62	35	18	23	6	6	1	8	100	850
Holbeach	115	9	9	50	20	-	-	-	48	18	55	120
Gedney	107	66	35	12	5	4	2	6	184	47	326	390
Terrington	188	627	387	40	18	31	16	5	51	7	330	-
Inland												
Kirkby on Bain	3	12	20	28	18	12	6	4	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	16	24	26	23	10	14	10	3	-	-	4	16
Toft Newton Res	-	-	-	-	12	21	-	-	-	-	-	-

Significant counts from the first winter period not included in the above table include 600 at Gedney Drove End on Jan 5th, 114 at Leverton on Jan 30th and 200 at Saltfleet on Jan 24th. Breeding was confirmed at just seven sites: Alkborough Flats, Gib Point, Kirkby-on-Bain, Messingham SQ, North Kelsey Moor, Tetney Marsh and Toft Newton Res. so is clearly under recorded. A large proportion of the Lincolnshire adult population leaves for their annual moult in Jun-Jul leaving juvenile birds behind. This was clearly illustrated by a count of 376 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 8th which comprised of 90% juveniles. WeBS counts in the Wash have shown a negative trend for the past five years and along with declines of Oystercatcher and Knot have been linked to possible over-exploitation of the cockle and mussel fisheries in the Wash. However, this decline has been mirrored by an increase in the Dutch population but it isn't clear if these two trends are linked.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarce feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

Twelve records involving a minimum of 14 birds which is a significant increase on 2008. The long staying female first recorded in Nov 2008 remained at Covenham Res until at least Jan 10th, a drake was recorded at Grainthorpe Marsh on May 17th, singles were seen at Toynton All Saints on Apr 13th, Huttoft Bank Pits on Oct 31st, Donna Nook from May 17th-29th and a female at North Somercotes on Jun 30th. A pair were recorded at Burgh le Marsh on Mar 10th, whilst at Belton Park, Grantham an adult female was observed with three juveniles on May 24th. Birds also remained at Stanton's

Pit and Witham on the Hill up to Apr 25th. There were only two autumn records, with a drake at Bagmoor on Sep 13th and a female at Messingham SQ on Aug 13th.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	586	350	280	-	-	-	-	-	350	295	220	750
Tetney Haven- Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	725	400
Gib Point	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	4	21	66
Wainfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	87	83	311
Butterwick	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	103	45	120
Freiston	350	35	2	-	-	-	-	-	1200	1200	950	750
Frampton	100	2	-	6	-	-	-	1	66	91	-	29
Welland	40	62	4	-	-	-	-	2	140	140	2500	3500
Holbeach	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	17	-	120
Gedney	30	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	17	2	114	-
Terrington	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	9	380	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	1430	1033	308	5	5	6	5	6	200	385	266	235
Winteringham	300	170	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	10	80
Read's Island	586	350	280	-	-	-	-	-	350	295	220	750
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	150	620	600
Gib Point	370	280	45	5	1	1	2	7	59	740	320	250
Freiston Shore	980	100	100	20	-	-	-	34	1388	1423	1045	800
Witham Mouth	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	300	175	-
Frampton Marsh	113	20	10	20	-	-	4	35	71	200	240	320
Covenham Res	0	200	32	-	-	-	-	-	36	24	-	62

Highest numbers during Jan were on the Humber and the Wash, but notable counts inland included 300 at Guthram Gowt on 21st and 250 at Metheringham Delph on 26th. By mid-Mar spring migration had begun and virtually all birds had left by the end of the month. Very small numbers summered but there was no evidence of breeding. In the autumn adult Wigeon have a complete post-breeding moult during Jul-Aug and then typically depart en masse from their breeding grounds in Fenno-Scandia and Russia during Sep. Sea-watching typically records flocks of migrating Wigeon during Sep and notable counts were reported from the Huttoft-Chapel area of up to 500 birds. These autumn arrivals then moved to the usual wintering sites on the Wash and Humber with further arrivals during Oct-Nov leading to peak counts in Dec. Totals were very similar to those of 2008 and there were no notable ringing recoveries.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Vagrant. LBRC

An adult drake was found at Manby Flashes/ Little Carlton on Mar 31st (CJ, SJ). It was seen by a number of other observers (ST, AS et al) but flew off late in the day and could not be relocated the next morning.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor. Increased numbers since 1970s with breeding now regular mainly on Fenland rivers and drains and gravel and clay pit complexes. RBBP

Non-WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	2	6	33	59	64	73	24	30	22	10	22	12
Barton Pits	40	98	-	4	6	-	10	117	10	-	132	-
Gib Point	35	33	32	6	7	19	5	8	6	2	15	12
Frampton Marsh	24	18	38	16	18	12	25	14	24	5	8	66
Anwick Fen	-	4	2	8	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	26
Boultham Mere	33	49	-	2	-	3	19	-	-	24	29	-
Kirkby on Bain	200	70	65	55	25	40	20	85	250	112	170	205
Marston STW	12	17	22	12	12	-	2	-	12	23	-	-
Messingham SQ	18	28	22	20	10	4	2	10	40	26	52	82
Metheringham Delph	20	15	17	8	5	-	-	-	7	-	26	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	120	90	15	2	-	-	4	14	54	-	71	12
Whisby NP	35	58	7	8	5	20	30	45	110	125	256	120

Counts were received from 34 sites with the most important 12 sites numerically being shown above. Six pairs were reported breeding at Frampton Marsh. British birds are largely sedentary but some do move south into France and there is an influx of Icelandic birds during the autumn immigration peaking during Oct-Nov. This is reflected to a large extent in the county with peak numbers in Nov, some onward movement reflected in a smaller wintering population and then departure during Mar-Apr. Overall, the count data was rather similar to that for 2008.



Gadwall *Anas strepera* Marston STW May 27th 2009© David Morison

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Winteringham Haven	200	250	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Read's Island Flats	210	131	60	21	-	-	-	-	600	480	100	1400
Freiston Shore	-	100	45	-	-	6	3	5	1400	6	400	1100
Frampton Marsh	440	27	12	5	-	6	10	100	88	94	163	731
Welland	65	5	4	1	2	-	-	6	35	10	220	30
Gedney	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	10	6

Non WeBS peak counts

Alkborough Flats	500	565	166	170	3	78	104	1052	1100	1538	1611	1070
Winteringham	200	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1100	125	100
Worlaby Carrs	500	500	270	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	550
Read's Island	210	131	70	21	-	-	-	66	600	480	100	1400
South Ferriby	150	46	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	800	65
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	24	-	-	50	120	16	168	20	180
Donna Nook	460	550	2	30	-	-	15	70	-	-	-	118
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116	44	11	15
Gib Point	380	90	27	28	2	12	20	315	305	440	600	565
Freiston Shore	280	105	50	20	2	6	6	60	1520	280	414	1115
Witham Mouth	400	-	25	-	-	-	-	15	250	100	55	-
Frampton Marsh	560	280	12	20	-	6	15	251	200	150	591	1700
Kirkby on Bain	150	65	32	17	2	2	6	60	290	330	245	155
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	51	108	51	200	200
Marston STW	80	3	60	30	-	-	6	-	180	130	37	60
Messingham SQ	72	109	20	20	10	-	2	12	-	30	-	81
Whisby NP	68	20	5	4	-	3	5	10	25	148	120	80

Teal wintering in the UK come from Iceland, Scandinavia and other parts of northern Europe and Russia. They are prone to hard weather movements to France, Iberia and a few reach North Africa. Fifty-one sites reported Teal and both Alkborough and Freiston Shore recorded more than 1500 birds during the autumn. Other notable winter counts away from those tabulated included 500 at Bonby Carrs on Jan 31st, 362 at Bagmoor/Winterton floods on Dec 29th and 200 during Nov-Dec at Manby Flashes. There were no instances of confirmed breeding although Frampton Marsh had two pairs on territory during Jun.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant. LBRC

One of two drakes seen at Alkborough Flats in Nov-Dec 2008 was relocated on Feb 6th and remained through to Mar 4th (ND, GPC et al). An elusive drake was found at Alkborough Flats on Nov 10th-Dec 5th (GPC). This bird may well have been the one seen there in previous years. It left the site when severe freezing weather forced the Eurasian Teal to depart site.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	62	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	117	63	8	65
Goxhill-New Holland	192	79	162	42	-	75	86	326	280	220	200	-
New Holland-Barrow	131	82	56	37	-	84	73	96	95	192	120	-
Wainfleet	-	14	6	7	15	6	-	-	80	36	5	69
Leverton	6	7	6	3	4	2	7	14	32	12	37	14
Wrangle	28	33	25	13	25	2	23	76	147	10	69	28
Freiston Shore	2	35	18	4	11	46	58	75	120	165	320	600
Frampton Marsh	102	100	90	52	73	53	56	101	66	114	29	118
Kirton Marsh	45	10	20	19	15	15	2	38	12	38	64	46
Welland	20	2	10	2	5	30	16	13	18	25	8	5
Holbeach Marsh	12	58	6	7	6	8	2	60	82	40	30	90

Terrington	11	4	11	7	20	-	-	-	120	21	27	-
Nocton/Dunston Fens	18	56	47	61	61	35	-	90	22	62	53	61
Coronation Channel and Welland	149	123	110	65	56	85	111	125	180	190	184	290
R Welland-Spalding to Four Mile Bar	98	60	36	23	16	18	-	107	45	57	49	-
Swanholme Lakes	16	15	13	6	-	12	-	-	-	-	18	18
Apex Pit	41	28	31	18	17	11	25	37	4	13	35	63
Whisby NP	29	45	31	24	33	61	73	61	92	46	101	64

This most familiar and widespread of the county's wildfowl was recorded at a minimum of 85 sites and at 20 of these there was a count of 100 or more in at least one month. The BTO's Wetland Bird Survey for 2008/9 notes that Mallard numbers have been in decline since the 1980's, a trend linked with a northern/eastern shift in core wintering range, also noted for some waders. Most of the continental birds wintering in the UK are from Iceland, Fenno-Scandia and Russia. Immigration occurs during Sep-Oct with peak counts at most sites in Dec-Jan, although UK birds are largely sedentary, except during severe winters.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

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

Non-WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	2	11	8	1	4
Winteringham	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	25	6
Goxhill	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-
Gib Point	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	10	8	-	3
Freiston Shore	18	30	4	-	-	1	1	26	22	11	51	55
Frampton Marsh	31	3	20	4	2	1	1	6	4	3	2	1
Bardney Pits	-	16	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

WeBS data show the UK Pintail population has changed little over the past 35 years, although in the last three there has been a downturn compared with the previous decade. The counts on the Wash have halved between 2006/7 and 2008/9, although it remains a site of international importance for the species. Overall counts for both ends of the year were modest with more than 50 recorded only at Freiston Shore. The UK wintering population is usually of the order of 25-30,000 with fewer than 35 pairs breeding annually.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

At least 20 birds were recorded from 14 sites with breeding confirmed at one. The first was at Croft Marsh on Mar 21st followed by one at Tetney Marsh on Apr 3rd. The main influx occurred from the second week of Apr with one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 12th, 1-4 (including three adult males) at Frampton Marsh from 17th until the end of the month and one at Goxhill Marsh on 22nd. During May singles were at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Pits and Sandilands Pit on 3rd, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods from 14th-25th, Alkborough Flats on 16th, Humberston Fitties on 18th and Messingham SQ on 23rd, whilst at Frampton Marsh at least four birds were present all

month. One was at Gib Point on Jun 12th. Breeding was confirmed at Frampton Marsh with at least two juveniles being seen. Autumn passage was restricted to singles at Manby Flashes on Aug 28th, Alkborough Flats on Sep 7th and finally two at Frampton Marsh on Sep 27th.

2008 report correction: The record from Whisby NP on Mar 27th was a data input error.

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	6	-	-	1	6	27	55	128	27	14	28	26
Barton Pits	78	73	109	65	3	-	-	32	50	57	64	-
Gib Point	26	28	17	20	9	3	7	9	10	12	37	26
Frampton Marsh	25	20	51	38	12	12	16	10	10	5	32	37
Boultham Mere	17	12	9	11	1	2	8	4	59	49	47	-
Kirkby on Bain	50	55	3	7	3	3	4	26	15	-	80	50
Marston STW	11	-	12	8	3	-	-	-	2	11	7	-
Messingham SQ	7	12	18	17	6	-	3	41	-	8	4	8
Whisby NP	14	22	6	8	2	3	-	11	8	26	20	7

In the first winter period, away from tabulated sites, notable counts included 42 at Bardney Pits on Jan 4th and 32 at Nocton Fen on Jan 2nd. During the breeding season birds were reported from 18 locations, but breeding was only confirmed at Alkborough Flats and Frampton Marsh with 12 pairs. In the second winter period additional notable counts included a peak of 25 at Manby Flashes on Nov 29th and 22 at North Killingholme Haven Pits on Nov 22nd.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

Reported from 15 widespread locations representing a slight increase in distribution on last year. Once again Baston-Langtoft GP held the largest concentration with three in Feb rising to 42 on Mar 1st. Only 19 remained on Mar 31st, with six on Apr 18th and just two noted in Jun. Just where these birds are going to breed is unclear, but perhaps some targeted marking would reveal the answers. Elsewhere in the first half of the year there was a drake at Far Ings, Barton Pits from Jan 6th-25th, two at Hartsholme CP during Jan-Feb with one there in Mar, one at Whisby NP on Jan 13th, four at Thurlby Sand Pit from Jan 26th-28th, three at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Feb 15th and two at Torksey on Apr 10th. Breeding was suspected at Baston Fen where five (including four probable juveniles) were seen on Jul 14th, with probably the same five at Tongue End on Jul 23rd. A female was at Gib Point on Jul 30th. In the autumn, an eclipse drake arrived at Covenham Res on Sep 20th and stayed until the year's end; 43 arrived back at Baston-Langtoft GP on Oct 16th, one was at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Oct 31st, one was at Apex Pit North Hykeham from Nov 15th-22nd, three were at Whisby NP from Nov 12th-15th with at least one remaining until Nov 29th, two were at Barton Pits on Nov 27th and two were back at Hartsholme CP from Nov 30th-Dec 23rd at least.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Scarce breeder and a common winter visitor. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	4	9	-	-	-	-	10	153	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	7	200	-	14	6	-	30	76	3	150	10	220
Goxhill Haven-New Holland	75	120	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	26	4	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits	140	90	13	11	11	23	37	25	46	-	200	125
Messingham SQ	19	19	34	40	10	2	-	2	6	2	2	16
North Hykeham Pits	182	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	14	-	6	18
Tattershall Lakes CP	130	59	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	98
Thurlby Sand Pit	208	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130	-	-
Boultham Mere	56	42	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2
Toft Newton Res	134	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
Whisby NP	165	16	2	-	1	2	2	3	5	19	92	32

The drop in numbers at inland sites in Feb was no doubt due to the severe weather conditions. Away from the sites above there were widespread reports from over 30 further sites although mostly in single figures. Breeding was suspected from Bagmoor/Winterton Floods and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. At Barton Pits 13 broods were seen between May 18th and Jul 11th. A hybrid Pochard x Tufted Duck was at Baston-Langtoft GP on Feb 27th.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Vagrant. LBRC

During January a drake found at Boultham Mere on the 7th was present for just one day (ACS et al). In the second half of the year another drake, nearing the end of eclipse plumage, turned up at Kirkby Gravel Pits on Oct 26th staying until Nov 6th, and proved to be a popular individual with Lincs birders (GTp et al). By comparing photos of the bill pattern, what would appear to be the same bird then turned up at Apex Pit (North Hykeham Pits) on Nov 21st but by now had acquired full breeding plumage. It relocated to Whisby NP the following day where it toured various water bodies until last seen on Nov 25th (MHa et al).



Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* Kirkby on Bain Oct 27th and Oct 31st, (left) © Roy Harvey and (right) © Graham Catley



Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* Both images at Whisby NP Nov 22nd 2009 © Russell Hayes

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Vagrant. LBRC

Two records this year. An adult drake was found at Whisby Quarry Silt Lagoons on Jan 5th (DN). This was thought to be the same bird that had been present at Girton, Notts on Jan 3rd. The bird then commuted between the silt lagoons and a private quarry pit just to the north for 27 days before being last seen on Jan 31st and was well watched during its stay. An eclipse drake Ferruginous Duck was present on a private reservoir at Glentworth, near Fillingham between Oct 6th-11th (BRE, DN) and was photograph on Oct 7th, when it was watched for over an hour as it fed in the loose company of a small group of Tufted Ducks.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton												
Floods	66	84	64	-	-	-	-	127	-	-	-	170
Barton Pits	17	175	-	20	-	-	26	137	32	140	63	-
Goxhill-New Holland	320	86	10	13	-	2	6	-	7	44	-	-
Gib Point	30	51	66	54	38	56	41	16	28	32	39	33
Boultham Mere	45	9	29	12	12	4	-	-	2	6	29	-
Coronation Channel	18	-	9	3	4	3	-	1	8	22	107	153
Covenham Res	-	-	-	17	4	4	-	-	30	2	-	108
Kirkby on Bain	230	200	220	175	75	115	195	235	290	20	250	285
Messingham SQ	10	45	65	68	20	26	7	40	-	-	8	18
North Hykeham Pits	172	50	73	55	14	29	26	203	201	135	57	63
R Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen)	208	90	93	-	43	23	-	-	114	105	144	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	120	90	110	66	19	27	10	37	55	-	103	51
Thurlby Sand Pit	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-
Whisby NP	97	137	142	79	26	29	77	136	95	96	120	102

Breeding was reported from Barton Pits, Frampton Marsh (18 pairs), Freiston Shore (four pairs), Messingham SQ, North Kelsey Moor (one pair) and Whisby NP (six pairs). Elsewhere, small numbers were reported from a further 48 sites throughout the year.



Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Cleethorpes
Nov 2nd 2009 © Matthew Latham



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* Cleethorpes
Nov 2nd 2009 © Nick Clayton

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	14	3	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11
Covenham Res	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	2	2
Freiston Shore/ Witham Mouth	-	25	22	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	5	6
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	-	6	-	-

Away from these areas, in the first half of the year three were at Goxhill Haven on Jan 8th, one at Bardney Pits from Jan 1st-Mar 21st, three at Toft Newton Res on Jan 8th with one there from Jan 16th-25th, two at Deeping High Bank on Jan 10th-11th and two at Messingham SQ on May 2nd. In addition to the Gib Point birds, there were two further unusual summer records with singles at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jul 18th and female type at Boultham Mere on Jul 24th. In the autumn, singles were at Frampton Marsh from Sep 3rd-Oct 17th and at Crowland on Sep 19th. In the second winter period there was one at Read's Island on Oct 10th, one at Cleethorpes on Oct 27th-Nov 10th, two off the Humber Bridge Viewing Area on Nov 29th, two at Humberston Fitties from Nov 29th-Dec 1st with three there on Dec 10th and one at Toft Newton Res from Dec 23rd-29th.

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 found in the Wash. Very rare inland.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Wash												
Gib Point	15	23	-	36	20	46	106	106	66	2	2	36
Wainfleet	188	512	-	-	-	-	-	51	9	-	26	25
Friskney	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	100	60
Wrangle	-	101	70	1	-	34	16	5	1	8	13	-
Leverton	68	201	33	119	87	39	27	11	30	-	30	64
Butterwick	-	11	-	1	-	63	-	2	18	-	2	13
Freiston Shore	3	75	150	-	120	21	3	120	-	6	7	11

Witham Mouth	205	28	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	11	1	-	2	8	19	-	9	-	-	1
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Dawsmere	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Terrington	13	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wash total	512	1463	261	161	230	211	177	323	133	16	189	210

Non-WeBS peak counts

Gib Point	122	130	590	45	55	110	127	120	108	40	11	129
Freiston Shore	103	77	150	120	148	78	6	180	80	10	34	13
Witham Mouth	205	-	1300	4	-	30	-	138	350	250	10	1000

Away from The Wash records were thinly spread along the coast with peaks of 45 off Saltfleetby-Thedlethorpe NNR on Oct 22nd, 53 off Mablethorpe on Dec 3rd, 27 at Chapel Point on Dec 5th and 10 at Donna Nook on Dec 12th.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Vagrant. LBRC

An eclipse drake was in The Wash off the Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore from Sep 5th-Oct 9th before moving slightly north and being last seen off Leverton on Oct 18th (PRF et al). Ageing proved difficult, but it most resembled a 2nd calendar year bird. See page 159 for a full account of this first county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

During the first winter period single females were at Bardney Pits from Jan 1st-31st and Barton Pits from Feb 15th-Apr 14th. Autumn passage off Gib Point involved singles offshore on Oct 5th, 12th, 13th, 17th and 20th, with another record on Nov 7th. Elsewhere singles were at Tetney Marsh on Oct 22nd, Barton Pits on Oct 29th and Kirkby on Bain /Tattershall Thorpe Pits from Oct 31st-Nov 25th. During the second winter period, singles were at Tetney Marsh on Nov 29th and Dec 10th, Freiston Shore on Dec 6th and at Gib Point on Dec 18th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

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

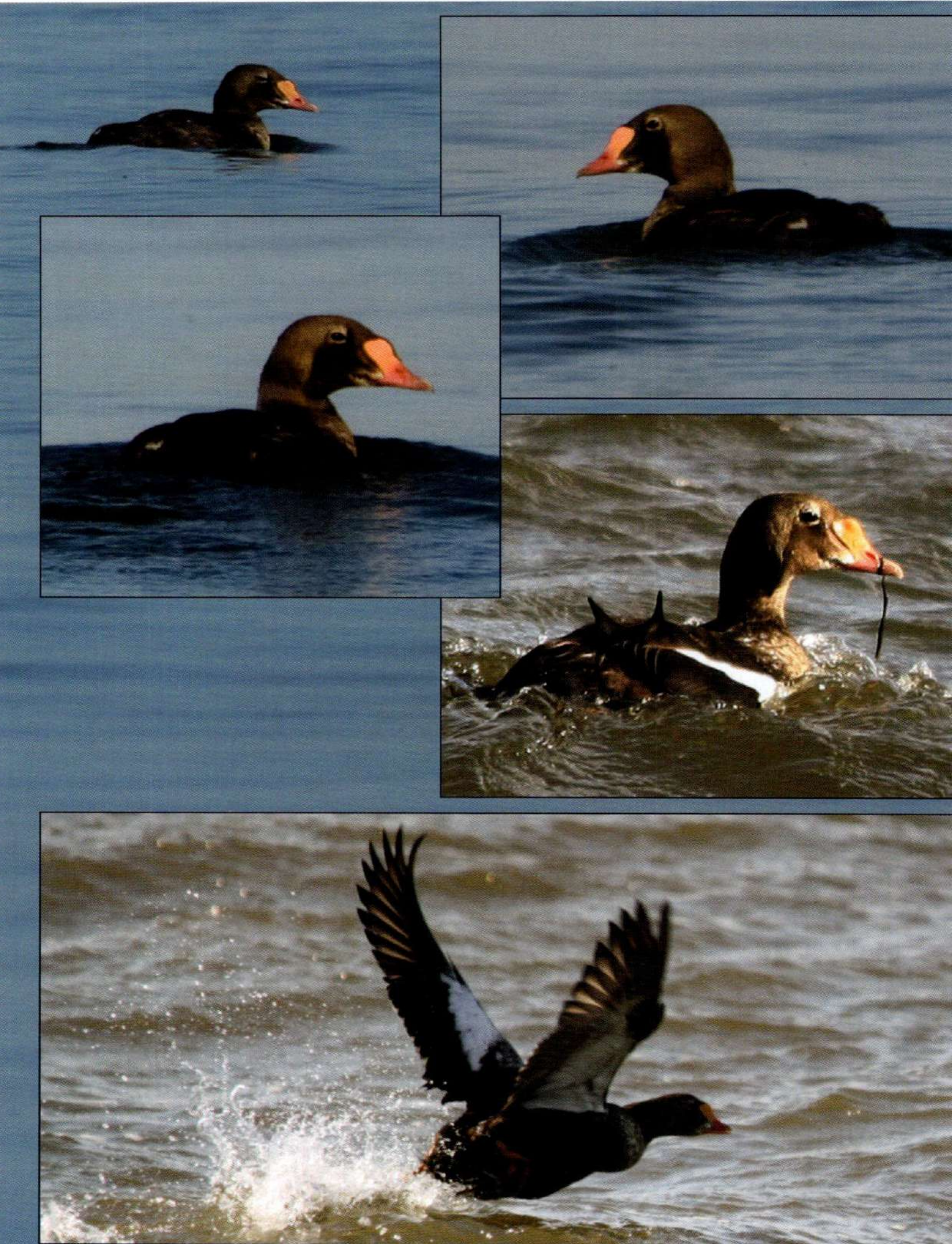


Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* The Wash Oct 18th 2009 © Steve Keightley

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) The Wash.

Images taken on two dates, Sep 12th 2009 and Oct 4th 2009 (lower two images)

Background image: Neil Smith. Top two images: Graham Catley. Other images: Phil Hyde



Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber and the coast												
Barton Pits	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Humber Bridge												
Viewing Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	19	-
Cleethorpes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Humberston Fitties	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	2	70	1	50	240	-	45	50	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	20	80	-	71	73	-	-	-
Howden's Pullover	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	-	5	130	240	30	120	-	180	340
Chapel Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	77	155	35	3
Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	870	-	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126	77	21	59
Mablethorpe North End	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Anderby Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	300	-
Sandilands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460	32	-	-
Seacroft	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Skegness	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	5	-	-
Trusthorpe	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	2	23
The Wash												
Gib Point	300	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	210	14	48	-
Wainfleet	-	-	-	508	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	7
Wrangle	-	-	30	2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-
Freiston Shore	-	25	-	200	-	-	-	25	5	-	88	1
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	25	300	1	10
Holbeach	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gedney Drove End	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the numbers in the table, single figure counts were reported from several coastal locations. The only freshwater record involved one at Toft Newton Res from Mar 29th-31st.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

In the first half of the year four flew south past Gib Point on Jan 7th. The first of the autumn was one on Jackson's Marsh, Gib Point on Aug 12th. This was followed by three off Witham Mouth on Sep 15th and two off Gib Point on Sep 17th. At Gib Point, one on Oct 1st and two on 4th were then seen intermittently until Oct 26th. Elsewhere, a pair was tracked flying south past Mablethorpe and Chapel Point Oct 16th. Further north two were off Tetney Marsh / Humberston Fitties on Nov 11th with six on 20th and 1-3 seen there until Dec 9th. At Gib Point, three were seen Nov 24th and Dec 5th, one was at Covenham Res from Dec 18th-31st and two were off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 22nd.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Freiston Shore	40	60	35	6	-	1	15	33	12
Witham Mouth	100	-	2	1	-	-	5	12	10
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	8	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	24	160	97	13	4	-	-	4	1
Covenham Res	20	70	26	1	-	-	6	39	104
Goxhill-New Holland	420	220	-	-	-	4	6	120	190
Kirkby on Bain GP	10	18	30	5	-	-	2	15	2
North Hykeham Pits	5	9	11	5	-	-	-	3	8
Tattershall Lakes CP	13	8	2	-	-	-	-	1	16
Thurlby Sand Pit	8	41	-	-	-	-	4	11	-
Toft Newton Res	15	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	12
Whisby NP	21	27	12	8	1	-	3	12	13

One bird was seen at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jun 10th. The first arrivals of the autumn were one at Freiston Shore and four west at Goxhill Haven on Sep 30th and one off Mablethorpe on Oct 2nd. Away from the core areas there were peak counts of 12 at Deeping Lakes NR on Apr 1st and 10 at Mablethorpe on Dec 3rd, while occasional single figure counts were reported from a further 12 sites.



Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Humberston Fitties Mar 9th 2009 © Matthew Latham

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

Recorded from seven sites. In the first winter period the drake that arrived at Far Ings, Barton in late Nov 2008 stayed until Feb 9th. Elsewhere, single redheads were at

Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jan 7th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods from Jan 11th-Feb 27th and Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 16th. A drake was at Toft Newton Res on Jan 7th, with it or another at Covenham Res from Jan 7th-Feb 28th. In the second winter period presumably the same drake arrived back at Far Ings, Barton Pits on Dec 4th staying into 2010. Other possible returning birds were a drake at Toft Newton Res from Dec 4th-9th and a redhead at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods from Dec 20th-23rd. An additional redhead was at Tattershall Lakes CP from Dec 26th-28th.



Smew *Mergellus albellus* with a pair of Goldeneye Far Ings, Barton Pits Feb 9th 2009 © Graham Catley

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Wash									
Gib Point	7	3	2	-	1	1	1	1	5
Wainfleet	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	9	18
Friskney	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Leverton	-	52	12	-	-	-	-	11	28
Benington	-	19	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	-	15	3	-	-	-	-	14	-
Freiston Shore	8	7	30	12	-	-	42	12	5
Witham Mouth	1	-	-	-	-	2	112	4	2
Frampton	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gedney	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Terrington	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Peak numbers early in the year came mostly from the WeBS counts at the end of Feb, which included 52 at Leverton on 27th. Away from The Wash, there was one on the Humber, in the Goxhill-New Holland sector, on Feb 22nd, and inland records of a pair on the R Welland at Four Mile Bank on Jan 5th, and (perhaps the same) 1-2 at Deeping High Bank during Jan 5th-17th. The last of spring were on Apr 13th, when six were seen at Freiston Shore and one was reported at Deeping High Bank. In summer, there were two at Huttoft Bank Pit on Jun 27th and one at Donna Nook on Jul 6th. In autumn there was one at Gib Point on Aug 23rd then more from mid Sep. In the last quarter the highest totals in The Wash were 42 at Freiston Shore on Oct 14th and 112 at Witham Mouth on Oct 18th. Elsewhere, there were two at Mablethorpe on Oct 5th with one there on the 8th, singles at Chapel Point on Oct 10th and west at Killingholme Haven on Oct 26th, two at Tetney Marsh on Nov 20th, and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 19th. The only inland bird during this season was one on the R Welland near Spalding on Dec 2nd.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baston Fen NR	18	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	10	12	10	-	-	-	-	8
Fillingham Lake	3	2	2	-	-	-	8	11
Lincoln area	14	20	12	-	-	-	15	34
Messingham SQ	3	12	1	-	-	6	-	-
R Welland (Spalding)	42	24	16	1	1	-	-	15

The table includes all areas attracting more than 10 at any time during the year. Smaller numbers were reported from around 30 other localities around the county. The highest counts anywhere were 20 on Feb 25th and 34 on Dec 3rd both at Swansholme Lakes. The majority of those in the Lincoln area were at Swansholme Lakes, but up to 12 were reported at the adjacent Hartsholme CP and up to 14 at Boutham Park. It is assumed that birds move freely between these sites, although strangely very few occur at Whisby NP or North Hykeham Pits with only two records totaling five birds in 2009. The Welland totals are sums from several lengths of river which are counted successively and where there are thought to be relatively few short-distance movements. Spring records involved three records of singles at widely separated locations in Apr, followed by one at Spalding on May 11th and a female at Alkborough Flats on May 30th. The first of autumn were six at Messingham SQ on Oct 30th.

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
Barton Pits	10	50	-	5	4	5	-	-	-	2	13	24
Gib Point	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	1	1	6	3	7	2	1	-	1	1
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Thurlby Sand Pit	26	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NP	3	2	1	5	2	-	1	4	4	3	6	2
Winterton Floods	27	14	-	5	2	-	-	-	6	16	27	32

The above table shows the sites where significant numbers of birds were recorded in 2009 and clearly illustrates the decline of this species in Lincolnshire. There is still a small viable population found on the clay pits south of the Humber. Elsewhere smaller numbers still hold on at former strongholds such as Kirkby-on-Bain, Messingham SQ and the Lincoln pits complex. Breeding was only reported from Barton Pits, and Kirkby-on-Bain. The decline in this species is due to the controversial five-year cull of the UK's population of ruddy duck being undertaken by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), and according to figures revealed by DEFRA at the end of 2009, it has cost taxpayers £4.6million and accounted for more than 6,200 birds in the UK. Consequently, some observers have been reluctant to report this species, which may lead to an inaccurate analysis of its true status in Lincolnshire and prolong the cull. Either way, it is possible that Lincolnshire birdwatchers may soon struggle to find this species in the county.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident

This common game bird is found throughout Lincolnshire and is clearly under recorded. Large numbers of birds are released annually. Records show an increase of released birds on shooting estates in the autumn including 83 Welbourn Heath, c50 near RAF Waddington and 80 Nocton Fen.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

The Grey Partridge in Lincolnshire benefits from a considerable amount of local conservation good practice by land owners concerned about the survival of this species on their estates. The introduction of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme has encouraged the implementation of six metre margins on field boundaries and this combined with advice from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust to stop shooting wild Grey Partridges as soon as the threshold of less than 20 birds per 250 acres (100 hectares) is reached, will hopefully help preserve this species. Unfortunately, this bird is under recorded and the true picture of its distribution within Lincolnshire is hard to quantify. The only breeding reports were two pairs at Freiston Shore and one pair at Frampton Marsh.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

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

Recording this species typically relies on hearing the distinctive advertising song of males. It is therefore no surprise that the majority of records are from late spring and early summer when the males most vocal. Recorded at 11 locations in May-Jun with five at Owersby Moor on Jun 4th and three at Scotterthorpe on Jun 12th being particularly noteworthy. Recorded at just five localities in the late summer, with singles at Spilsby on Aug 8th, Goxhill on Aug 18th, Toft Newton Res from Aug 14th-19th, Wrangle Village on Sep 5th and Frampton Marsh on Sep 6th.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

This species is one of the most familiar birds, encountered just about anywhere in Lincolnshire, but was only reported from 74 locations in 2009, indicating how little interest this species engenders in birdwatchers. Notable high counts included 210 at Sixhills, Market Rasen. On Sep 8th, 110 at Anwick Fen on Dec 19th, 65 at South Kyme on Dec 28th and 51 at Welbourn Heath on Oct 17th. These high counts undoubtedly come from or near to release sites.

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.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook-Theddlethorpe	105	52	31	-	-	-	7	2	6
Mablethorpe-Chapel Point	-	150	-	1	-	27	10	3	7
Gib Point	170	244	60	-	1	8	21	8	58
Witham Mouth	3	2	-	-	-	1	8	7	1

The Mar peak at Donna Nook-Theddlethorpe includes 22 at Rimac recorded as diver sp. In most areas totals, especially early in the year, were higher than in 2008. Several counts of more than 100 were made in Jan-Feb, beginning with 105 at Donna Nook on Jan 3rd, on which date there were also 75 at Gib Point. Early morning movements of 104 south on the 6th and 170 south on the 7th were also made at Gib Point. Similar movements of 90, 244 and 100 were noted at Gib Point during Feb 12th-14th. A similar count of 150 was made at Trusthorpe on Feb 20th. While some of these birds may have been migrants it is thought that mostly local feeding movements were involved, with birds returning north later in the day. One later significant count was 60 at Gib Point on Mar 10th. The last of the spring was one at Gib Point on Mar 26th. A very early autumn record was of one at Chapel Point on Jul 21st. The next was one at Gib Point on Aug 26th and there were more frequent records from Sep 4th. The first two-figure count came on Sep 14th, with 21 at Chapel Point and 27 at Sandilands. Although many small counts were made during Oct-Dec the only other counts exceeding 20 were 21 at Gib Point on Oct 15th and 58 there on Dec 28th. In contrast to the generally high level of counts, totals in the Wash were small, with a peak at Witham Mouth of eight on Oct 16th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

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

One flew south at Rimac on Feb 19th with singles off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and at Trusthorpe on 20th, followed by another sighting at Rimac on Mar 7th. These could all refer to the same bird. In summer, one was seen at sea, near the wind farm, off Skegness on Jul 8th. Reports of singles at both Huttoft Bank and Chapel Point on Sep 19th are assumed to refer to the same bird. Another sequence of records perhaps involving just one individual was made from Gib Point, with one south on Oct 1st, one east on Oct 5th, one south, then north on Oct 9th, one on Oct 15th and one on the 19th. In addition, one was near Witham Mouth on Oct 18th. A little later, there was one at Gib Point on Nov 17th and 19th and finally two were seen at Chapel Point on Nov 28th.



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* juvenile Covenham Res Dec 9th 2009 © Roy Harvey

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

Considerably more were recorded than in 2008 with a total of around 21 individuals. Early in the year one flew south at Donna Nook on Jan 10th, two were at Witham

Mouth on Jan 18th and a 2nd calendar year bird was on Barton Pits on Feb 11th-12th, with possibly the same bird reappeared briefly on Apr 14th. The first of the autumn was one at Chapel Point on Sep 14th. In Oct, two at Witham Mouth on the 1st and 16th and one at Freiston Shore on the 14th probably involved the same birds. One was at Tetney Marsh on Nov 11th with possibly the same bird there on Nov 26th-27th. On Nov 28th three flew south at Chapel Point and the next day there was one at Butterwick and one was on Barrow Haven water-ski pit. A juvenile bird arrived on Covenham Res on Dec 1st to be joined by a second juvenile from Dec 8th into 2010. Also in Dec one north at Freiston Shore on the 5th and one at Gib Point from 5th-7th, and again on the 27th.

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

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

Reported along the coast throughout the year with the first being 30 off Gib Point on Jan 5th. Small numbers were seen monthly thereafter with the next double figure count being 10 past Gib Point on Jul 18th. September saw a good movement including 22 past Huttoft, (probably the same) 22 past Sandilands and 14 off Gib Point on the 14th, with 10 past the Witham Mouth the following day. The final record of the year was a single bird at Gib Point on Nov 27th.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Vagrant. LBRC

One drifted slowly north close inshore past Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore on Sep 13th (N Crowhurst, T Webb, PRF, JB et al), at one point even landing on the sea.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

A slightly better year for this long distance migrant with the first of the autumn reported from Donna Nook on Aug 21st. In Sep single birds were reported from Gib Point on the 4th and Chapel Point on the 10th with five past Chapel Point and four past Sandilands on the 14th. Singles passed the Witham Mouth and Mablethorpe on 15th and 16th respectively. Passage continued into Oct with two past Skegness on the 9th, two north at Chapel Point on 16th and a single at Gib Point the same day.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

A good year for this species starting with an unprecedented mid-winter record from the Witham Mouth on Jan 1st (SK). The next were recorded five months later with three at Donna Nook on Jun 25th, followed by 14 past Chapel Point on Aug 7th. Sep saw a considerable increase in records with the main counts being 125 past Gib Point on the 4th, 256 off Freiston Shore on the 13th, the bulk of which was one flock estimated to contain 250 birds (JB, PRF) and 162 past Sandilands on the 14th. A total of 48 were noted from various locations in Oct with the final sighting on Oct 4th.

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

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

A total of 21 were reported during Sep but it is likely that birds were multi-recorded on some dates. Two off Witham Mouth on Sep 13th (JB, PRF), one of which was seen 'pattering' across the mudflats at Freiston Shore, were followed by three there (JB, PRF, PS) and two off Sandilands (GPC) the following day. On the 15th a remarkable 11 went past Witham Mouth (JB, GK, PS), while two were off Trusthorpe (CA, TH, SL) and (perhaps the same) two went past Chapel Point (EJM).

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.

Reported in every month of the year with the first significant count being 20 past Gib Point on May 10th then 67 off Theddlethorpe on May 26th. Gib Point produced three totals of 30+ during Jun and a Jul peak of 49 on the 19th with 74 past Theddlethorpe a day earlier. Aug produced reports of movements on an almost daily basis, mostly from Gib Point where there was a monthly max of 58 on the 23rd with 27 also seen off Theddlethorpe on the 19th. Sep saw numbers increase still further with the following peak counts: 623 past Mablethorpe on the 10th, 300 past Freiston Shore and 457 past Gib Point on the 13th. The biggest count of the year was 961 off Gib Point on Oct 9th, with numbers tailing off quickly from mid Oct onwards, when reports reduced to single figures. The last sighting was of a single bird past Gib Point on Dec 19th. In the Humber an adult flew east at Alkborough Flats on Apr 15th and one was off Goxhill Haven Oct 19th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Once again an extremely disappointing year for breeding with just one pair nesting at Deeping St. James - the only Cormorant breeding location in Lincolnshire. At least 25 nests there were abandoned but the reason for this has not been established. In addition to the peak inland counts - shown in the table, good numbers were reported from the coast with 120 noted at Donna Nook in Jan, 151 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR in Feb and 266 at the same location in Dec when Tetney Marsh held a peak of 85 birds. In the Wash area Gib Point recorded its highest yearly total of 190 in Dec with Terrington having counts of 96 in Jan and 91 in Sep.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inland												
Baston Fen NR	2	8	-	-	-	-	3	5	1	5	1	2
Boultham Mere	7	7	8	7	-	-	-	-	8	13	12	-
Covenham Res	100	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	16	87	125	240
Kirkby on Bain	11	4	6	18	20	20	19	22	35	-	3	2
Messingham SQ	17	12	21	14	3	3	10	8	2	5	11	6
North Hykeham Pits	39	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	15	-	29	49
Whisby NP	10	20	7	8	1	4	8	21	7	10	12	4

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

A single bird at Grimsby Docks on Jan 28th could possibly have been the same individual that was seen there in Nov 2008 with another at the same location on Apr 29th. Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore produced the majority of sightings during the year with one on Feb 28th, two on September 6th, singles on 9th, 12th, 13th, 15th and 22nd, one on Oct 2nd and two on Nov 17th. Further north a single bird was reported from Howden's Pullover on Sep 9th and four were at Tetney Marsh on Nov 23rd.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare breeder, rare winter visitor. Bred to early 19th century, from 1940s-1979 and in recent years. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	5	7	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	4
Max. Lincs total	9	9	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	4	5	4

In the first winter period away from the Barton Pits area, birds were recorded at Whisby NP from Jan 24th-Feb 26th, Messingham SQ on Jan 1st and Feb 24th, Boultham Mere on Feb 5th, Dawson City Pits from Jan 22nd-Feb 27th, and Alkborough Flats on Feb 10th-11th. The only site to record this species in every month was Barton Pits, with a maximum of five during Jan 9th-27th and three on Feb 17th. Breeding was unconfirmed, but the presence of three 'booming' males from the inner Humber clay pits was suggestive. At Barton Pits there was an increase in sightings through the autumn, with a peak of four birds during Nov-Dec. In the second winter period birds were also recorded from Messingham SQ on Oct 19th and Dec 25th, Huttoft Bank Pits on Oct 22nd, Boultham Mere from Nov 2nd-12th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 26th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	-	2	4	3	2	4	12	20	18	20	2	1
Donna Nook	16	4	2	2	22	1	-	-	1	38	1	-
Grainthorpe Marsh	15	3	6	8	8	-	-	29	16	6	21	-
Horseshoe Point	6	-	4	6	12	-	-	11	8	12	14	14
Tetney Marsh	-	-	3	5	7	8	25	36	11	45	15	7
The Wash												
Gib Point	6	2	14	10	13	25	32	32	30	16	8	5
Butterwick	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	9	1	26	11	4
Freiston Shore	10	4	3	8	5	4	25	40	83	116	9	1
Frampton Marsh	20	12	5	12	8	19	66	101	59	22	60	27
Kirton Marsh	3	5	-	1	-	5	35	13	11	18	11	8
Welland	5	4	1	4	5	5	27	34	36	-	-	-
Dawsmere	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	2
Terrington	2	1	1	2	5	14	16	42	12	33	6	-

Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) Far Ings.

Top two images: Don Davies. Other images: Graham Catley.



Other coastal												
Saltfleetby NNR	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	9	11	2	2	8
Inland												
Baston-Langtoft Pits	15	7	3	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	5	1	3	2	7	1	2	-	1	1
Manby Flashes	-	-	1	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Whisby NP	1	1	2	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	2
Lincs peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites 2008	22	18	19	26	22	15	19	25	20	16	17	25
No. of sites 2009	35	40	30	22	21	20	16	19	22	22	22	32
High count 2008	52	53	45	69	81	87	184	339	567	246	324	74
High count 2009	149	126	116	101	97	81	172	492	592	602	229	328

The above tables clearly highlight the expansion of this species in Lincolnshire, both along the coast and inland, with birds being recorded at more sites and in greater numbers than in 2008. WeBS counts during this period produced all-time site record high counts at both the Wash and the Humber. There is clearly dispersal of juvenile birds from established breeding colonies in Norfolk, illustrated by a colour ringed bird recorded at Frampton Marsh on Jan 14th that had been ringed at a breeding colony in the Wash (Norfolk) in Jun 2008. At Alkborough Flats a count of 20 on Sep 21st included two with colour-rings, both had been ringed at a breeding colony on the Wash (Norfolk), one fledged in Jun 2008 being seen subsequently at Fairburn Ings (West Yorks) and the second had fledged in Jun 2009 and arrived at Alkborough Flats Sep 9th staying until Sep 26th.

Breeding was recorded at three sites, shown in the table below:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Site A	-	1	-	5	7	6
Site B	-	-	1	11	14	11
Site C	-	-	-	-	1	4
County total	0	1	1	16	22	21



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Cleethorpes May 2009 © Richard Pipe

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Vagrant. LBRC

An excellent year for this species, with multiple records from both inland and coastal sites. It is likely that some of the records involve wandering individuals. In the first winter period, single(s) were inland at Silk Willoughby on Jan 20th, Dunsby Fen on Jan 24th-25th and Thurlby Fen area from Jan 31st-Feb 25th (DL et al). Coastal birds were recorded at Gib Point on Apr 4th (EJM) and Gedney Drove End on Apr 8th (ACS). There was an absence of records between May-Aug, but a sequence of sightings in the Witham Mouth area from mid-Sep, commencing with two roosting with Little Egrets there on Sep 12th (SK). These birds could well be responsible for the following run of sightings around the Wash, with singles nearby at Frampton/Wyberton Marsh on Sep 25th-26th (PAH et al), Shep Whites on Oct 19th (SW et al), Freiston Shore on Oct 31st (PS), Frampton Marsh on Nov 5th-6th (Steve Bulbeck, JB et al) and at Gib Point on Nov 5th (NAL), 15th and 22nd (KMW et al). It is likely that at least two birds were present in the Lincolnshire Wash for the whole of this period, and it shows how easy it is to lose birds of this size in the Wash environment! Inland birds were at Kirkby on Bain on Oct 29th (TGu) and Nov 3rd, at Heckington on Nov 22nd (DMJ) and at Sutterton on Nov 23rd (ACS).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	10	8	-	3	4	-	6	16	5	6	-
Anwick Fen	2	4	7	8	11	12	-	-	-	-	-	4
Anwick STW	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	2	-	-	3	-	-	2	1	2	3	2	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	3	2	1	5	4	3	5	1	-
Gib Point	-	1	5	6	5	11	16	13	9	4	4	2
Kirkby on Bain	6	5		4	4	5	7	7	10		9	3
Kirton Marsh	-	1	2	1	-	-	2	1	2	-	2	2
Whisby NP	2	1	3	2	3	4	1	2	3	2	5	3

The BTO Heronries Census began in 1928 and is the longest-running breeding-season monitoring scheme in the world. The aim of this census is to collect annual nest counts of Grey Herons from as many heronries as possible in the UK. Changes in the numbers of nests are a clear measure of the population trend. The total number of occupied nests in Lincolnshire counted as part of the BTO Heronries Census during 2009 is as follows:

Abbey Wood (Thornton Curtis)	43
Air Ministry Plantation (Twigmoor Hall)	0
Appletree ness (Haverholme Park)	17
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	7
Belton Park	2
Frampton Hall	0
Hartsholme Country Park	13
Hospital Cottage Spinney	13
Howsham Wood	7
Kingerby Wood	20
Kirkby Pits (West)	4
Legbourne Wood	10

Long Wood (Fiskerton)	5
Lower Barff Wood	3
Nocton Wood	6
Patterson's Pit	20
Stainfield Wood	0
The Mere, Deeping St James	24
Troy Wood	15
Tuetoos Wood	8
Warren Plantation (North Somercotes)	13
Warren Wood (Gainsborough)	0
Welland Farm	5
Willoughby Wood	17

The total number of occupied nests in 2009 was 252 compared with 232 in 2008, found in 20 heronries. Figures for Troy and Willoughby colonies continue to show a slow decline in numbers and one or two other sites have shown an unexpected decrease. At Air Ministry Plantation (Twigmoor Hall) the site was checked in 2008 & 2009; the nests were dilapidated and the site deserted. At Stainfield Wood the area was searched where birds had previously nested in 2008 but there was no sign of herons or last year's nests. At Warren Wood (Gainsborough) it was reported that the site is now deserted. The Lincolnshire figures reflect the recent decline, but in contrast to the national picture the county population was buoyant in the early 1990s with an average of 347 occupied nests found in 16 heronries for the years 1991/93.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first-winter bird was well watched in the Covenham-Marshchapel Ings area between Sep 23rd-26th (JRC et al).



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Covenham Res Sep 25th (left) Graham Catley and (right) Sep 26th 2009 © Russell Hayes

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

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

A good year for this species, with numerous coastal movements and an inland record. Movements of coastal birds are difficult to follow and it is probable that some birds

were commuting between sites within Lincolnshire and further afield. At Gib Point the first record was found feeding on Tennyson Sands before departing towards Norfolk on Apr 4th. A colour-ringed bird was then seen on Apr 28th and again on Jun 16th, three birds flew over the reserve on Jul 4th and finally a single bird was present from Oct 30th-Nov 1st. At Alkborough Flats 1-2 birds were recorded on several dates between Jun 4th-Jul 2nd reducing to just one bird throughout the rest of Jul and into the beginning of Aug. On Aug 5th two were seen, then just a single again from Aug 6th-20th, with two on Aug 21st, three from Aug 22nd-30th, with two remaining until Sep 7th and one until 8th. Elsewhere, in spring birds were recorded at Gipsy Bridge on Apr 4th, two at Frampton Marsh on May 1st-2nd with two south at Donna Nook on May 5th. Autumn sightings were singles at Donna Nook on Oct 25th and the only inland record of the year at Kirby on Bain Oct 30th-31st.

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
Barton Pits	2	81	-	3	1	-	2	2	12	57	4	66
Gib Point	5	2	9	5	-	-	7	7	3	1	-	-
Freiston Shore	12	18	13	3	1	-	1	5	7	24	30	21
Frampton Marsh	2	-	4	2	2	4	10	4	9	1	5	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	36	25	22	19	11	15	42	59	84	-	42	44
Tetney Marsh	-	1	12	3	-	4	4	6	6	16	10	10
Whisby NP	8	12	5	7	5	7	10	12	15	13	14	9

Other significant counts included 12 at Benniworth in Feb, 10 at Bagmoor in Mar, 22 there in Oct and 23 in Dec. Although a widespread species, proof of breeding is often difficult to obtain owing to the species secretive habits but juveniles were reported from the following sites: Frampton Marsh (two pairs), Alkborough Flats, Boultham Mere, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Barton Pits, East Halton Beck, Goxhill pits, Huttoft Pit and Kirkby-on-Bain GP. At Whisby NP four pairs nested (three double brooded) and produced a total of 16 young.



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Huttoft March 2009 © Nick Clayton

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
Barton Pits	3	7	-	2	2	-	17	20	3	2	3	12
Freiston Shore	6	2	25	6	7	3	8	14	75	8	52	51
Witham Mouth	1	-	2	6	-	-	5	14	36	80	58	30
Covenham Reservoir	70	75	-	27	4	11	-	-	36	40	5	148
Kirkby on Bain GP	3	22	26	29	23	20	26	31	27	-	6	5
North Hykeham Pits	22	16	10	9	7	4	7	15	31	17	26	48
R Welland	6	19	35	-	22	20	-	23	27	26	12	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	15	15	17	16	14	15	26	12	14	-	14	15
Toft Newton Reservoir	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	24	-	34	54
Whisby NP	3	4	8	9	10	13	17	14	11	12	6	3

Other sizeable counts included 25 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in Mar and 40 at Butterwick on Nov 29th. Proof of breeding came from Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Barton Pits, Belton Park, Burton upon Stather, Messingham SQ and Whisby NP where nine pairs nested (two double brooded) producing a maximum of 18 young, of which 15 fledged.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

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

An average year with perhaps just three records involving 5-6 birds. The first of the year wasn't until Sep 19th at Freiston Shore, three were at Tetney Marsh on Nov 10th with one until 13th and one again on 29th, on which date one was also at Humberston Fitties.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

Eight records, probably involving eight birds. The only first-winter period record was one at Cleethorpes Country Park on Feb 3rd-4th. In autumn there were two at Freiston Shore on Sep 13th. In Oct there were several sightings from Witham Mouth which probably refer to the same birds, with one on 16th, two on 18th and one on 28th. At Gib Point one was seen on Oct 30th. One was at Kirkby-on-Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Dec 1st and the last bird of the year was at Freiston Shore on Dec 5th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

The first bird of the year was at Covenham Res on Mar 19th-20th, followed by one at Barton Pits from Mar 21st-Apr 3rd. One was at North Hykeham on Apr 4th. A single bird arrived at breeding Site A on Mar 22nd, with three there on 24th. Numbers built up at Site A to five by May 9th. On May 22nd a single was seen at Site B, which proved to be the forerunner of a new Lincs breeding location. Numbers here increased to five by Jun 12th. There was no proof of breeding from Site A, but at Site B two pairs nested and hatched broods of two and three, although one chick, much smaller than its siblings, didn't survive long. During late Aug three fledged young were noted and although the fate of the fourth chick was unknown it may also have fledged but escaped

detection. Both adult and juvenile birds continued to be seen at Site B until Sep with the last juvenile recorded on 20th and the last adult record on the 30th. During the summer one was also at Fiskerton Fen on Jun 1st-2nd. Away from the breeding areas singles were at Tetney Marsh on Jul 23rd, Barton Pits on Aug 28th, Mablethorpe on Oct 2nd, Trusthorpe on Oct 9th and the last bird of the year, at Thurlby Sand Pit from Oct 18th-Nov 19th.

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

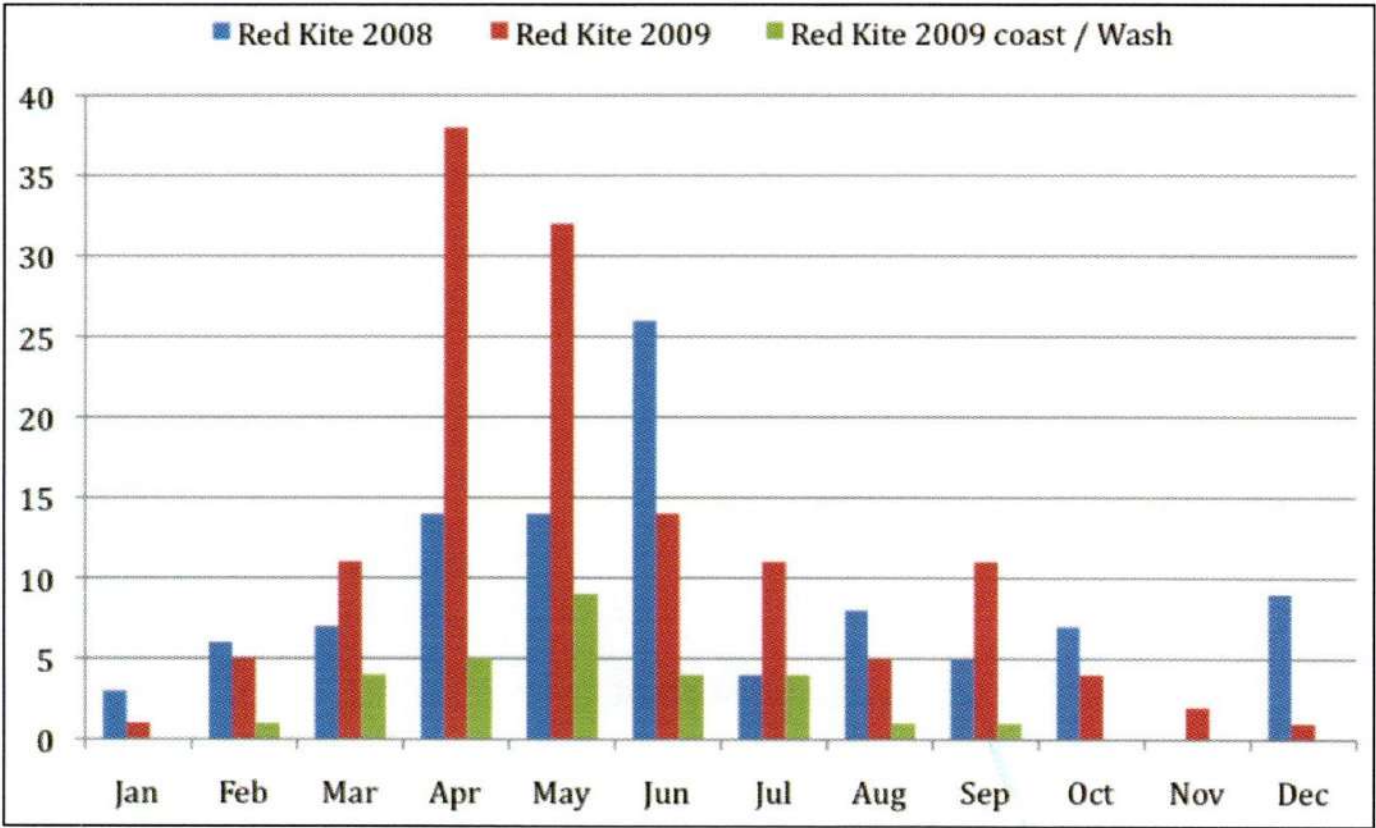
After the major influx in 2008 numbers of this species returned to more typical level. In spring one at Donna Nook on May 18th (BMC, PE, SL) was followed by one north over the Gib Point freshwater marsh mobbed by gulls at 0945hrs on May 19th (KMW). The only autumn record concerned one at Baston Fen NR on Sep 28th (EJR).

2008 report correction: Two birds recorded at Messingham SQ on Oct 2nd are now thought to have been Common Buzzard.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

Four pairs were proven to breed in 2009, all in the southern half of the county. Three broods of two and one of three young were fledged. All juveniles were wing-tagged with White/Pink tags 31-36. One was subsequently seen at Welton-le-Marsh on Aug 6th. Three of the breeding adults had been wing-tagged at nests either in Lincolnshire or close to the border, two in 2007 and one in 2004. Two additional ringing recoveries were reported; a bird ringed as a juvenile near Southorpe, Cambs on Jun 29th 2007 was seen at Witham on the Hill on Jun 13th and then at Boothby Pagnell on 22nd and a juvenile ringed at Pipewell Wood, Northants on Jun 15th 2009 was found dead at



Corby Glen on Nov 10th. As the re-introduced English population extends into the County an increase in numbers and expansion of range should be expected over the coming years.

Analysis of records away from the breeding sites showed a further increase in sightings with allowances for duplication of wandering birds. Apr-May produced the greatest number of records at a time when immature birds are expelled from breeding territories, with smaller peaks in Mar and Sep. Most records referred to single birds but a few were of two together. An exceptional count of 15 at one southern locale on Oct 30th presumably referred to a pre-roost gathering.

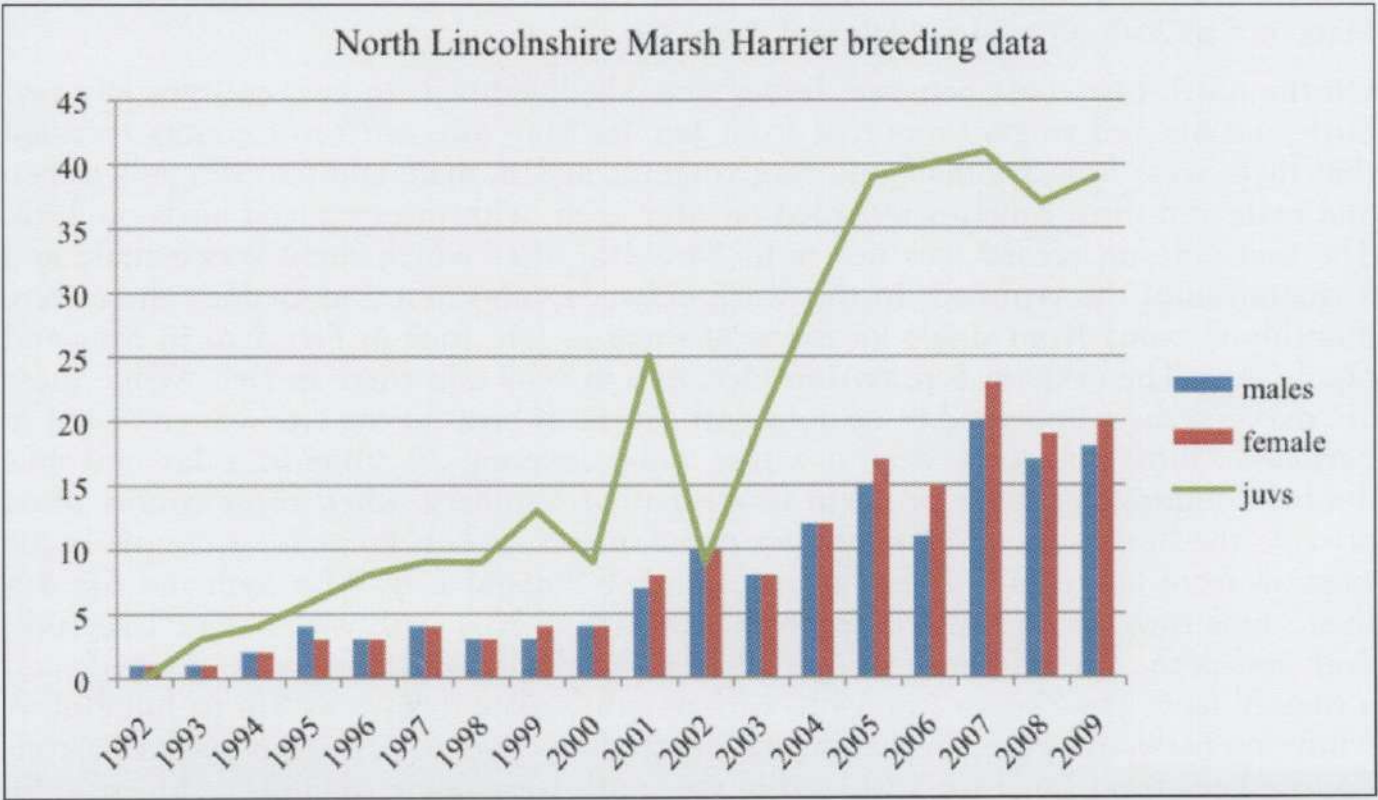
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

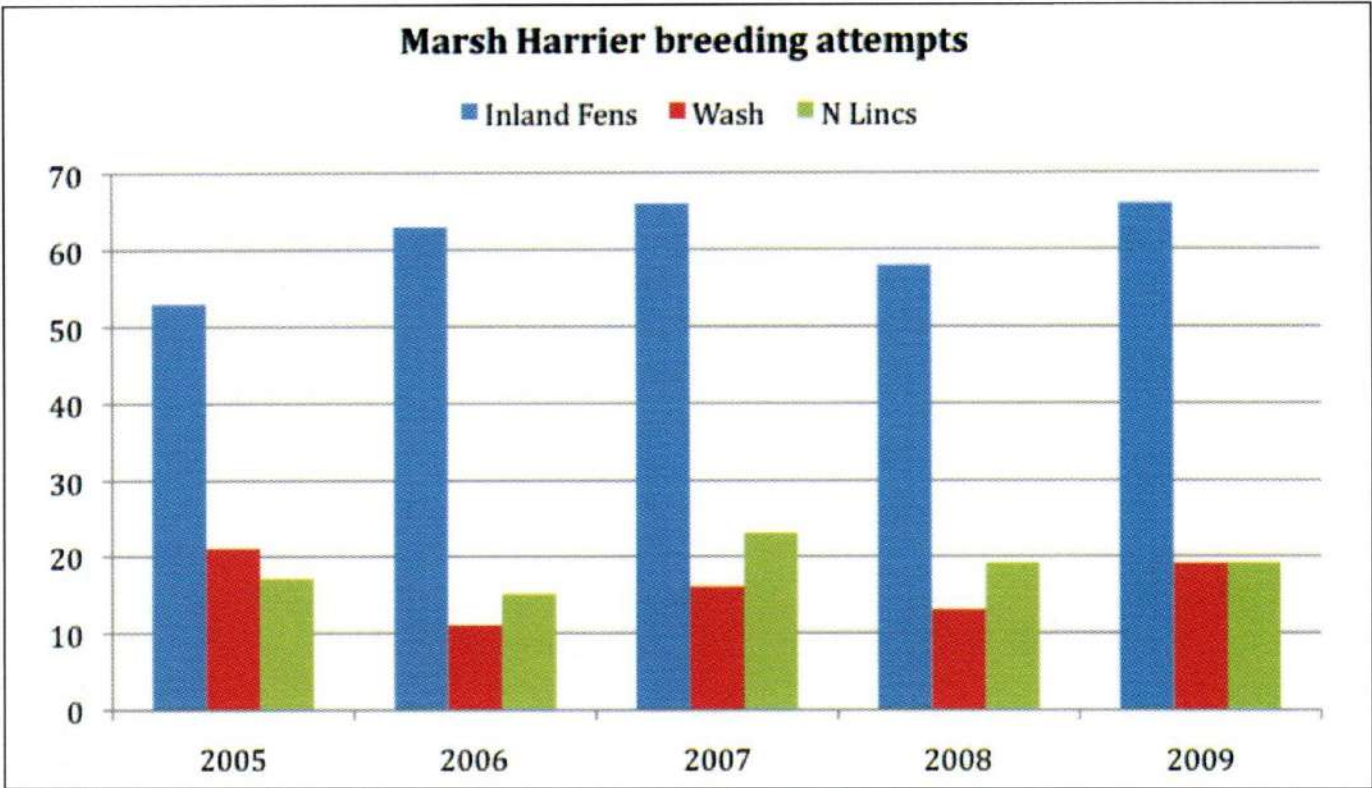
Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, increasingly common in winter. RBBP

In Jan-Feb there were at least 18 birds on the Humber, with four different roost sites being used. In the south Wash at least three birds were seen in Jan-Feb, one was at Gib Point and two were on the coast between Saltfleetby and Tetney. Inland early winter records in Jan-Feb came from Baston Fen, Fotherby, Ludborough, Marston STW, Messingham SQ, Nocton Fen (two) and Wroot. post Oct birds were seen on seven dates in Nov to the 28th the last of the year there.

In Nov-Dec the Humber wintering population peaked at 18 birds in Nov and 17 in Dec with five roosts being used during the period. In the Wash up to three birds again wintered. Elsewhere there were birds in Nov-Dec at Coleby, Donna Nook, Dunsby Fen, Dunston Fen, Grainthorpe Marsh, Heckington, Manby Flashes, Metheringham Delph, North Cotes and North Kyme.

One ringed as a nestling in the south-east of the county on Jun 19th 2008 was found long dead near Great Bircham, Norfolk on Jun 16th. In North Lincolnshire the number of breeding birds increased slightly compared to 2008 but was still below the 2007 record total. In the Fens and the Wash there was a marked increase in nesting attempts but no data on productivity.





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. RBBP

In the north of the county single ringtails were seen at Worlabby Carrs between Jan 1st-Mar 16th with two on Feb 8th, a ringtail was at Alkborough Flats on Jan 18th, Feb 10th and Mar 6th, ringtails were also at Wroot on Jan 30th and at East Halton Skitter on Feb 1st, a female was at Goxhill March on Feb 5th and Apr 13th. In the latter year a juvenile was in Goxhill Marsh-East Halton Marsh on Sep 26th and one was seen moving south over Immingham Docks on Oct 26th, with single females at Alkborough Flats on Sep 26th, Oct 14th-15th and Dec 13th.

On the north-east coast between Tetney and Theddlethorpe there were typically two birds, a male and ringtail reported from Jan 1st-May 6th, but roost counts revealed that there were in fact a male and four ringtails in Jan, male and two ringtails in Feb and male and three ringtails recorded on Mar 15th, with three unaged birds on 29th. The first autumn record was not until Nov 4th, after which there was a male and a ringtail until the year-end. In the Wash between Gib Point and Gedney there were monthly maxima from single locations of three in Jan, four in Feb, two in Mar and one in Apr. Then one in Sep, two in Oct, two in Nov and three in Dec. While these are maxima there appeared to be a general dearth of birds in the late winter period in particular. Birds wander widely in winter, often covering 20-30km in a day and thus double counting can be a problem in estimating numbers, when roost counts often provide the best estimate of wintering populations. At Gib Point for example single ringtails from Jan to May 21st plus males on Feb 9th and 12th, Mar 14th and Apr 5th then single ringtails on just 6 dates from Oct 11th to Nov 24th with a male Dec 10th, 26th and 29th. The Witham fens and adjacent heights produced records of a male and a ringtail from Jan 21st to Apr 13th, with an adult male from May 8th to Jun 2nd. A wintering male arrived on Sep 25th, staying to the year-end. A ringtail was at Baston-Bourne Fens from Jan 14th-18th and in the south-west single ringtails at Marston SF

on Jan 20th, Mar 24th and Apr 8th. Elsewhere single ringtails were on the Wolds at Farforth on Mar 5th and 12th and Cadwell Park on Sep 16th with one at Haugham on Mar 24th and Sep 2nd.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Scarce passage migrant and regular summer visitor, though breeding irregularly. RBBP At Gib Point there were single females from May 23rd-26th, Jun 4th and 7th, Jul 7th and 16th and Aug 18th. At Saltfleetby-Donna Nook-Grainthorpe-North Cotes a female from Apr 30th-May 24th, with this or another female in the same area intermittently from Jul 18th-Aug 19th, A first-summer male was also at North Cotes on Jul 28th and at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from Aug 4th-8th. A female was recorded at Frampton Marsh on 16 dates between Jun 6th-Aug 25th and at Freiston Shore on nine dates between Apr 25th-Aug 12th. Singles at Friskney on Apr 26th and Jun 17th and at Kirton Marsh on Aug 8th were probably also related to these occurrences. Elsewhere, a female was reported at Kirkby Moor on May 6th.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Recorded from just one site in the north of the county where both a male and female birds were recorded displaying in late March (JRC).

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.

A very common breeding bird with day counts of up to six birds at many localities but no totals in excess of ten birds and no obvious large-scale coastal passage in 2009.

The recovery of a second-year male ringed on May 4th 2008 at North Greetwell, Lincoln, found long dead on Mar 9th 2009 at Nettleham just 2km away shows the limited movements of most resident birds.



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
juvenile Jul 20th 2009
© Graham Catley



Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Fulbeck Jul 6th 2009 © David Morison

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

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

Now a common and widespread breeding resident, it is almost impossible to distinguish passage birds from wandering immature non-breeders as even the coastal strip holds such birds throughout the year. No attempt has been made to estimate the county breeding population, but it is likely to be in excess of 200 pairs. High counts included up to 22 birds in the Messingham SQ-Twigmoor-Black Walk Nook area and in the Worlaby Carrs-Elsham-Bonby-Saxby-Appleby Carrs area mainly in the late Mar-early Apr and Sep periods when birds gather to display and post breeding concentrations occur respectively. Peak counts of nine at Gib Point on Sep 19th and six on the 20th must have involved migrants.

A bird ringed in the nest near Bulwick, Northamptonshire on Jun 13th 2005 was found long dead at Lound, near Bourne, on Apr 28th, a movement of 28km.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. LBRC

Four records during the year. A second-winter female was in the Farforth-Scamblesby area from Jan 1st-Mar 20th. A juvenile was found at Worlaby-Elsham Carrs on Jan 2nd (SRO et al). In spring there were two reports from Gib Point, with one south from the Wash viewpoint on Apr 4th (D Warren, TB) and one north with a Short-eared Owl on May 7th (John Nicholson).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant, rare in summer. RBBP

An early spring migrant was at Toft Newton Res on Mar 31st, with a further five or six spring birds at Skillington on Apr 13th, Tetney Marsh on May 9th, Grimsby on 10th, Messingham SQ on 18th and Gib Point on 25th and 31st. There was no doubt considerable duplication in autumn reports that began with one at the Witham Mouth on Aug 8th. At least one was in the Wash between Frampton Marsh, Witham Mouth, Freiston Shore and Gib Point throughout Aug and Sep. Also at Gib Point two south on Aug 18th were followed by singles south on Aug 21st and Sep 2nd and west on 10th. Elsewhere, singles were at East Butterwick-Black Bank from Aug 20th-25th, Grantham on Aug 12th*, Messingham Ings on 18th, Burwell Wood on 28th, at least one was at Boultham Mere from Aug 28th-Sep 13th, singles at Tetney-Donna Nook-Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Aug 21st-Sep 6th, Deeping Lakes Sep 3rd, Appleby Carrs on 7th, Belleau Bridge on 13th, North Thoresby on 25th, Saxilby on Oct 1st, Kirkby-on-Bain/ Tattershall Pits on Sep 2nd and 19th, and Oct 11th and 13th, which was the last record of the year.

*As part of an ongoing study on Ospreys by the Highland Foundation for Wildlife a female, nicknamed Beatrice, was caught in Scotland on Jul 9th 2008 and fitted with a GPS satellite transmitter. During Aug 2009 she was tracked through Lincolnshire during her autumn migration. The following extract describes part of her journey south and ties in nicely with the independent visual observation made on Aug 12th 2009.

"She stayed at roost site until at least 10am, it was grey and raining. An hour later she was over Besthorpe flying south-east at 42km/h. At midday she was just east of Newark and at 1pm was just south-east of Grantham, and then turned south towards Rutland Water. At 2pm she was flying at 49km/h south over Greetham Golf Course towards

Rutland Water, and then clearly spent time flying around the reservoir because an hour later she was just south over Uppingham and at 4pm was flying across Eyebrook reservoir.”

For further details see <http://www.roydennis.org/osprey/beatrice.htm>

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard have kindly supplied the following data for Kestrel nests in the county in 2009.

Brood Size ringed/fledged	No of broods	Total fledging and/or ringed
Fail	3	-
1	5	5
2	6	12
3	19	57
4	22	88
5	10	50
Total	65	212

Autumn concentrations in Aug produced counts of up to 12 at Gib Point, 10 at Worlaby Carrs and eight at Grainthorpe Marsh. A bird ringed as a nestling on May 28th 2004 near Boston was recovered freshly dead at Owmbly-by-Spital, Market Rasen, on Oct 1st.



Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Pyes Hall, Donna Nook Jul 27th 2009 © Dean Eades

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

Splitting the county into the inner Humber, coast (Cleethorpes-Skegness), The Wash (Gib Point-Nene Mouth) and inland, the table below gives the minimum number of birds recorded from each area during the year. The only bird in Jun was at Gib Point on 24th, Jul records came from Frampton Marsh, Winteringham on 24th, Tetney Marsh on 27th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 31st. The paucity of inland records is noteworthy.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inner Humber	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	4	1	2
Coast	6	6	3	4	1	-	1	-	2	4	7	7
Wash	6	7	7	5	1	1	1	3	7	7	7	5
Inland	6	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	4
Total	19	16	18	11	2	1	3	4	14	19	19	18

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.

The first birds of the year arrived from Apr 21st with six records by the 30th. Incredibly there were only two reports of proven breeding with two and three chicks fledging from the two nests, the latter brood fledged on Aug 10th, a typical date for the latitude. It is estimated that there are in excess of 50 pairs in the county, so the reporting rate for breeding pairs is very low and reflects the species' choice of breeding sites and the lack of observer search effort in breeding areas. Summing all sightings for the months of Apr-Sep produces peaks of sightings in May and Aug with reduced numbers in Jun and Jul. This accords with pre-breeding birds and passage Hobbies in May, reduced sightings during the nesting period and increased numbers in the post fledging period. Birds were recorded from 77 localities during this period with multiple occurrences at favoured sites like Kirkby-on-Bain, Whisby NP, Gib Point, Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh where observers gather in numbers. The last of the year was at Whisby NP on Sep 30th.

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
No. of sightings	7	81	49	52	104	59

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records. Has summered since 1998 and now several pairs breeding annually. RBBP



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* Grimsby Feb 7th 2009 © Graham Catley

At the well known breeding sites two chicks fledged from three eggs on Lincoln Cathedral and two chicks fledged from four eggs on Grantham church. The female here had been ringed near Halifax in 2006 and bred on the church in 2007, at a nearby site in 2008 and on the church again in 2009. Pairs attempted to nest at a minimum of five other localities but the outcome of only two nests is known where one pair fledged three chicks and a second pair two chicks. One nest failed and details are not available from the other sites. One bird was intermittently present on Louth church throughout the year with a pair regular during Oct-Dec.

A nestling female ringed at Newark on Jun 6th 2007 was found injured at Tetney Lock on May 4th. Records of birds during the winter periods no doubt refer to resident breeding birds, some of which disperse into local environs while others appear to take up winter territories, maintaining the pair bond throughout the winter months. Wandering immatures also occur as proven by ringing recoveries, but it is impossible to separate these from locally bred juveniles and non-breeding immatures. Away from obvious breeding areas up to two and sometimes three birds were recorded from most of the well known sites on the coast, in the Wash, up the Humber and on the inland Fens and Wolds in most months of the year with obvious concentrations in Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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



Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* 26th Sep 2009 © Graham Catley

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Baston Fen NR	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-
Boultham Mere	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	3	1

Frampton Marsh	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gib Point	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	4
Marston STW	20	9	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	5
Messingham SQ	3	1	2	1	-	1	-	4	1	1	-	1

The secretive nature of this species makes surveying very difficult and it therefore isn't surprising that almost 25% of records on the LBC database for 2009 refer to birds heard rather than seen. Mainly single birds were recorded from 25 sites. Notable counts included c20 at Marston STW on Jan 3rd and 16th, which indicates the importance of the large reedbed complex on site for wintering Water Rails and is linked with the practise of pumping large quantities of treated (and warm) water through a frozen reedbed post treatment which provides ideal feeding conditions. The only other count in double figures was 12 at Far Ings, Barton on Feb 18th. The only confirmed breeding records were from Barton Pits, Goxhill Marsh and North Killingholme pits. Autumn coastal movements included singles at Donna Nook on Oct 27th and Nov 11th and two at Witham Mouth on Nov 8th.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

A probable first-year bird was recorded at Frampton Marsh from Aug 26th-31st (GFi, PRF). Originally flushed by tractor mowing the grass on the freshwater scrapes, the bird remained on site for six days showing intermittently to anyone who had the patience to sit long enough in the East Hide. A second bird was recorded at Gib Point from Nov 20th -28th where it was only seen briefly during most of its stay, but being seen well on the 28th (JPS, TBg).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anwick Fen	-	11	4	5	15	26	-	-	-	-	-	15
Apex Pit	1	4	5	1	4	1	1	1	1	4	1	1
Barton Pits	49	56	25	15	11	10	8	10	16	26	30	24
Baston Fen NR	-	14	4	-	-	-	6	19	33	20	20	3
Coronation Channel and Welland (Spalding)	17	18	7	8	10	6	2	13	20	9	12	17
Frampton Marsh	5	9	14	13	5	7	8	4	10	22	16	18
Freiston Shore	4	10	4	4	2	3	1	1	5	4	3	9
Gib Point	33	32	38	30	26	20	32	45	26	28	29	31
Kirkby on Bain	30	47	35	37	21	19	40	46	64	-	61	60
R Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen)	34	26	21	-	2	7	-	11	29	23	3	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	50	30	29	27	10	17	33	30	40	-	33	43
Whisby NP	7	8	8	10	7	9	25	8	9	20	10	4

This species is widespread throughout Lincolnshire and the above table covers just a small percentage of the sites where they occur. Notable peak counts include 64 at Kirkby-on-Bain on Sep 9th, 50 at Tattershall Pits on Jan 14th, 34 on the R Welland (Spalding) on Jan 18th and 33 at Baston Fen on Sep 20th. The combined LBC and WeBS databases hold over 1500 records of this species for 2009 from 106 well distributed sites and yet this species is still under recorded.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	66	30	28	16	18	16	26	9	9	9	10	12
Frampton Marsh	-	2	55	104	155	74	17	10	12	3	-	1
Apex Pit	443	242	153	40	18	52	99	316	412	597	632	674
Boultham Park Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	18	24	-	22	25
Burton Gravel Pits	38	25	28	13	6	12	8	15	31	13	35	56
Coronation Channel	33	61	56	36	45	39	58	69	126	182	182	181
Goxhill-New Holland	26	28	30	22	-	22	36	52	34	48	42	-
New Holland-Barrow	86	108	76	42	-	44	32	45	91	76	96	-
R Welland-Spalding	14	15	11	11	14	8	-	25	27	53	8	-
Stantons Pit	30	15	14	9	8	9	17	16	16	15	16	-
Swanholme Lakes	24	21	17	9	-	7	-	-	-	-	64	125
Welland	17	28	6	8	4	17	27	52	42	5	-	4
Whisby NP	294	232	139	92	71	80	134	321	390	462	258	422
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Barton Pits	193	182	103	55	53	60	100	603	159	673	154	247
Gib Point	54	61	47	24	20	15	27	24	15	4	11	16
Frampton Marsh	32	2	104	110	163	74	30	15	16	7	1	1
Kirkby on Bain	450	370	200	125	125	240	475	485	640	120	1000	1005
Tattershall Lakes CP	330	180	100	65	50	68	134	210	247	-	287	309

This is a common and familiar bird on inland waters in Lincolnshire. The above table shows both the WeBS counts and the non-WeBS peak counts. Clearly there is an increase in the winter period when birds move to large freshwater bodies away from smaller ponds and rivers. Nationally the WeBS counts indicate that there is a rise in the population and counts of 674 at North Hykeham on Nov 21st and 1005 at Kirkby-on-Bain on Dec 1st are close to levels of national importance.



Common Coot *Fulica atra* Cleethorpes Nov 2009 © Matt Latham

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Rare migrant, recorded most months. Former breeding species and a common migrant to 16/17th centuries. **LBRC**

Eight records makes this a very good year for the species. The first of the year was a single at Grainthorpe Haven on Mar 1st (RHr). A flock of five passed through Gib Point on Apr 19th (KMW), preceding a flurry of records in late spring and summer. These comprised one at Walesby Moor on Apr 21st (SAB), one at Tetney Marsh on May 6th (SL), two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 8th (JRW), a single at Gib Point on May 22nd (per KMW), one at Grainthorpe Ings on Jun 23rd and finally two at Cleethorpes LNR on Aug 24th (IGS) with presumably the same two birds at Gib Point later the same day (DMa et al).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<hr/>												
The Humber												
Horseshoe Point to												
Tetney Haven	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	2200	1100	1600
Read's Island Flats	1	13	32	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tetney Haven to												
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-		-	-	260	-	-	-	800	700
<hr/>												
The Wash												
Gib Point	105	43	-	270	400	15	195	950	6000	2200	55	74
Wainfleet	453	853	797	405	516	-	929	1347	690	2000	1270	1146
Friskney	500	2000	500	500	800	115	500	5	1200	300	-	-
Wrangle	850	450	940	502	-	597	820	1768	810	315	900	35
Leverton	1300	550	530	244	490	236	47	-	27	467	900	500
Butterwick	-	2	28	8	6	6	-	-	25	-	-	210
Freiston Shore	-	1600	250	750	650	1200	1300	630	1200	900	1100	1300
Witham	-	35	10	950	-	13	500	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	800	32	28	6	14	53	4	10	158	1	40	60
Kirton Marsh	-	6	8	4	4	17	4	4	180	200	-	-
Welland	-	1100	275	340	300	4	350	650	550	2500	300	-
Holbeach	300	600	90	2	55	3	20	-	208	300	80	-
Gedney	90	7	17	21	14	23	18	4	25	260	-	-
Dawsmere	1000	700	600	8	500	3	210	500	-	2000	2000	2800
Terrington	950	1600	650	285	70	111	820	1000	1800	1500	800	-

The highest counts were predictably from the Wash in the winter period with totals in excess of 1000 birds recorded during both Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec winter periods from Dawsmere and Freiston Shore, during Jan/Feb from Friskney, Leverton, Terrington and Welland Mouth and during Nov/Dec from Wainfleet. Early autumn arrivals began in late Jul with numbers increasing through Aug. Passage at Gib Point started in late Jul and included 83 south on 26th. The autumn peak counts at that site were 6002 on Sep 20th, 3712 on Oct 4th and 2500 on Oct 19th. On the Humber, the tabulated series of high counts from Horseshoe Point to Tetney Haven area of 2200 in Oct to 1600 in Dec provides some indication of the continuing importance of the Humber mouth mudflats for this species, but no data were available for Tetney in the first half of the year. Unfortunately no 2009 data were submitted for either the Cleethorpes or Horseshoe

Point to Grainthorpe Haven areas which were likely, in view of past data, to have held a significant proportion of Humber south shore Oystercatchers through the year. Nineteen pairs bred at Freiston Shore and seven at Frampton Marsh.

Inland birds were recorded from late Feb when up to three were at Whisby NP, then eight at Baston-Langtoft GP on Mar 1st, nine at Kirkby on Bain on Mar 24th and eight at Messingham SQ on Jul 16th. Inland breeding was probably under recorded and only proven at Kirkby on Bain and at Whisby NP where three pairs nested, fledging four young.

Inland peak counts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Baston-Langtoft Pits	-	8	1	-	-	-	-
Baston Fen	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Baston Fen NR	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blankney	-	-	3	2	3	4	-
Bonby Carrs	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	-	2	2	2	2	-	-
Deeping High Bank	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes NR	-	4	8	-	-	-	-
Fillingham Lake	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	9	8	7	6	6	2
Linwood Warren	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Messingham SQ	-	7	6	2	4	8	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
RAF Coningsby	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Swanpool	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Toft Newton Reservoir	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Torksey	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Torksey Lock	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Toynnton All Saints	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Trent Port (Marton)	-	2	3	-	-	3	-
Tydd St Mary	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Whisby NP	3	4	2	7	6	8	-
Worlaby Carrs	-	-	-	4	-	-	-

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Increasing coastal breeder, has colonised inland localities in the past few years. Fairly common passage migrant, rare in winter and scarce inland. **RBBP**

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	-	52	453	56	17	-	-	1089	900	823	191	-
Gib Point	-	3	43	51	43	60	56	7	6	7	2	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	53	51	33	27	5	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	28	32	25	8	5	-	1	-	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	11	107	70	182	198	93	40	9	2	-
Killingholme	-	-	10	8	-	-	3	26	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	2	2	7	10	5	4	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	4	12	6	10	8	-	-	-	-	-

The first birds of the year were recorded on Feb 21st with two at Gib Point and 52 at Read's Island. Birds began returning to coastal sites in double figures throughout Mar, with notable counts of 453 at Read's Island on Mar 15th, 37 at Freiston Shore on Mar 19th and 53 at the same site on Mar 29th. The first birds at Alkborough Flats were seven on Mar 21st, with up to 40 for most of Apr, increasing to 107 by 30th. Numbers fluctuated at this site during the spring and early summer with peak counts of 70 on May 10th and 182 on Jun 29th. At least 28 pairs attempted to breed at Alkborough Flats but the nests were heavily predated by Carrion Crows, resulting in just four pairs producing nine young. At Whitton Sands nesting birds appeared to have fared a little better with at least 10 newly hatched young seen on Jun 22nd although the actual number of nesting pairs is unknown. The breeding population at Read's Island dropped in 2009 as erosion of the northern side of the island's sea wall during 2007 caused the lagoons to dry out. At Far Ings NNR, Barton there were four breeding pairs on the Pursuit Pit, although at least one brood was predated by Magpies, a second more adventurous brood ended up on the Far Ings Road before being rescued. A high count of 66 adult birds was recorded at this site on Jun 6th. Coastal breeding was also confirmed at Frampton Marsh (18 pairs), Freiston Shore (33 pairs), Garthorpe (6 pairs), Gib Point (11 pairs) and North Killingholme (6 pairs).

Inland breeding was confirmed at Messingham SQ and Kirkby on Bain. At Messingham SQ, the first four birds arrived on Mar 23rd, increasing to six by Apr 6th and 10 from Apr 9th. Nesting activity was subsequently observed with two pairs sitting by May 8th and a third pair shortly after. On Jun 1st one pair had three young, a second pair had one young and the 3rd pair was still sitting (later seen with one young). In total three pairs reared five young although nine adults were present for most of Jun. Once the young had fledged, birds quickly departed the site with the last two were recorded on Jul 10th. Additional notable inland birds were two at Covenham Res on Mar 20th and one at Whisby NP on May 16th.

Post breeding flocks began to gather on the upper Humber from mid Jul with c500 at Winteringham on Jul 18th and c400 around Whitton Sands Jul 23rd. The upper Humber birds gathered to feed on mudflats around Read's Island during Aug when 1089 were recorded on the WeBS count on Aug 23rd, representing a new peak count for Lincolnshire. There were still c900 present on Read's Island flats on Sep 20th and 823 there on Oct 11th, dropping to 191 by Nov 19th. At Alkborough Flats, a number of birds remained during the autumn with counts of 93 on Aug 8th and 40 on Sep 4th, but just nine from Oct 5th-12th. A single injured bird remained at the site to Nov 29th and was joined by a second bird from Nov 13th-17th. At Gib Point numbers peaked at 60 on Jun 20th, then 56 on Jul 19th, dropping to 20 by Jul 31st, then no more than single figure numbers present Aug-Nov.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos*

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

One was at Alkborough Flats on May 18th (ND, WG), when it was seen flying from a bean field towards the Humber during a break in heavy showers.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

A single bird at Frampton Marsh on Aug 8th-9th (SR, SW et al.) was only the fourth record of this species in Lincolnshire. The bird was found on the newly created wetland habitat on the afternoon of Aug 8th before flying off south-east. It returned to Frampton

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) Frampton Marsh RSPB.

Taken on Aug 9th 2009.

All images: Ian Wilson.



Marsh the following afternoon (Aug 9th), and spent approximately three hours hawking insects over the scrapes and reedbed before flying off North. The Frampton bird was missing some inner primaries on its left wing and this feature was not noted on an individual at Swaffham Prior Fen, Cambridgeshire on Aug 11th, although it seems likely to have been the same bird. Accepted by BBRC. Previous accepted Lincolnshire records are an historic record from Branston Hall, nr Lincoln, shot, August 15th 1827. (Yarrell, 1845; Cordeaux, 1872; F. L. Blathwayt, *Zoologist* 1912: 62; Smith & Cornwallis, 1955; Lorand & Atkin, 1989). An adult Gib Point, May 21st 1973. (F. R. Smith and the Rarities Committee, BB 67: 325), and an adult Donna Nook, July 11th 1981. (M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, BB 75: 49). There is an additional record of a pratincole species from Barrow Haven, August 11th 1980. (M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, BB 74: 466)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Alkborough Flats	2	3	4	4	25	10	1
Barton Pits	-	1	3	4	2	-	-
Cleethorpes LNR	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Covenham Res	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Gib Point	1	1	1	2	7	8	2
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	-	3	1	-
Frampton Marsh	1	4	6	3	14	10	3
Baston - Langtoft Pits	1	3	2	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	5	4	6	5	6	2
Marston STW	-	3	2	-	3	-	-
Normanby	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Owston Ferry	-	4	2	3	-	-	-
Saltfleetby NNR	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Scunthorpe Steelworks	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Toft Newton Reservoir	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Whisby NP	3	2	5	5	10	-	1

The first migrant bird was a single at Whisby Quarry (Jobs Lane) on Mar 15th followed by two at Alkborough Flats on Mar 17th. Records were received from a further 29 sites with the main spring influx dates between Apr 5th - 20th. Breeding was confirmed at Alkborough Flats (two pairs), Owston Ferry (two pairs), Frampton Marsh (three pairs), Whisby NP (two pairs, producing three chicks, but all were predated), Gib Point, Barton Pits (two pairs), Marston STW (one pair) and Kirkby on Bain (one pair). The most noteworthy total was a post breeding flock of 25 birds at Alkborough Flats Jul 6th. The latest record received was of two birds at Kirkby on Bain Sep 30th.

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
Read's Island Flats	7	-	-	12	-	-	-	202	25	4	-	-
Gib Point	4	53	-	38	14	36	6	85	38	23	-	-
Wainfleet	-	-	-	18	26	-	-	30	-	9	-	-
Friskney	-	-	-	-	-	33	5	3	-	-	-	-

Wrangle	-	-	-	61	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	-
Freiston Shore	11	12	40	11	50	4	18	280	72	60	125	23
Witham	25	10	-	-	-	6	10	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	6	400	11	-	33	-	-	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	304	15	1	-	-
Non-WeBS coastal peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	1	6	40	23	-	89	33	2	-	-
Read's Island	7	-	-	20	-	-	-	202	25	4	-	-
Barton	2	-	-	1	30	-	-	92	20	16	6	-
Tetney Marsh	-	8	-	-	60	-	100	60	120	60	60	10
Donna Nook	5	-	-	-	56	-	-	-	60	-	-	-
Saltfleetby NNR	-	-	-	-	14	1	33	120	80	-	-	6
Grainthorpe Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-
Chapel Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	14	46	100	112	103	76	85	295	180	23	1	24
Freiston Shore	31	120	100	66	66	5	22	300	150	70	250	23
Witham Mouth	-	-	16	-	-	6	-	60	1000	20	250	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	6	6	160	11	4	60	6	3	8	-
Non-WeBS inland peak counts												
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	3	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toft Newton Res	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Whisby NP	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby Quarry (Jobs Lane)	-	-	3	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Inland birds were recorded at five locations between Mar-Aug. In May 30 birds of the subspecies *tundra* were at Barton on 9th, increasing to 10 on May 25th, 19 on May 27th and then 10 on May 29th. Breeding birds were under recorded, with reports only coming from Freiston Shore (five pairs) and Kirkby on Bain (one pair). On the coast post breeding flocks begin to form from the end of Jul onwards, with counts of 100 Tetney Marsh on Jul 7th, 110 at Goxhill on May 17th reducing to 70 on May 24th and 85 at Gib Point on Jul 28th. Peak passage was between Aug-Sep with some impressive counts including c120 at Horseshoe Point on Aug 19th, 280 at Freiston Shore on Aug 22nd, 202 at Read's Island on Aug 23rd, 644 at Cleethorpes on Aug 25th and c200 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Aug 30th. At Pywipe there were 31 on Nov 15th, 17 on Aug 16th, 92 the following day and then 13 on Sep 28th. The largest concentration of the year occurred at Witham Mouth with a count of c1000 on Sep 8th. Numbers rapidly dropped off in Oct with very few present in the counting during Dec.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant, mainly spring.

A slightly better year than 2008 for this species involving six spring records and a single autumn bird. The first was a single male in a bean field at Humberston Fitties on Apr 24th (HB et al), two birds were at Tetney Marsh on Apr 29th (CA, HB et al), five in a sugar beet field at Grainthorpe Haven on May 1st (SL) with possibly a single bird remaining at the site and being relocated on May 3rd (CTy). Two birds were at Tetney Marsh in a bare rolled field on May 8th (RL, HB) and three were at Donna Nook on May 25th (SL). The only autumn record was a juvenile observed flying south-west over Freiston Shore on Sep 7th (PRF et al).

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	250	1100	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	446	5000	800
Wainfleet	448	1726	270	-	-	-	440	475	358	104	4170	4800
Friskney	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	250	0	60	75
Wrangle	60	75	-	-	-	-	360	2450	2000	130	300	150
Leverton	438	2100	98	-	-	-	51	-	51	17	5892	4000
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	155	-	-	3300
Butterwick	85	450	1	-	-	-	-	-	80	150	191	-
Freiston Shore	1400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600
Frampton Marsh	3	241	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	310
Kirton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1200	200	350	20
Welland	200	-	-	-	-	-	70	60	70	650	4000	3500
Holbeach	300	-	600	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	1200
Gedney	20	4	-	-	-	-	150	1600	0	65	1700	350
Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	150	100
Terrington	4	-	-	-	-	-	33	105	96	10	720	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	4000	1200	2360	-	-	-	1	27	500	3000	8000	8200
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	100	11	7	800	550	40	1200	5000	3000
Gib Point	3350	3000	150	195	-	34	45	804	1000	1501	5000	9000
Freiston Shore	4000	1000	20	2	-	-	350	1800	1000	275	2000	2000

The first returning flocks arrived in Jul and peaked in Oct-Dec. The impressive counts in North Lincolnshire between Nov-Dec, underline how important Lincolnshire is for this species in winter. Golden Plover were record from 72 locations in 2009, with 23 sites recording flocks of over 1000+ birds. High counts in the Humber region were; Alkborough Flats and Whitton c4000 on Jan 17th, 4000+ on Nov 10th, 8000+ on Nov 13th and 8000+ on Dec 9th, Pywipe 2000+ on Nov 15th, 3300 on Dec 12th, Winteringham Haven, 1500+ on Oct 8th, North Cotes 18,000+ on Nov 19th and 12,000+ on 24th. High counts in east Lincolnshire included: Croft Marsh 7000+ on Nov 21st, Gib Point 3350+ on Jan 14th, 3000+ on Feb 19th, 5000+ on Nov 7th, 3000+ on Nov 22nd and 9000+ in Dec. In the south Frampton Marsh held 6000+ on Dec 15th, Freiston Shore 4000+ on Jan 17th, 2000+ on Nov 26th and 2000+ on Dec 28th. A notable inland count was at Anwick Fen with 3000+ on Dec 29th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Wash												
Gib Point	110	4	-	200	-	-	6	575	1100	200	35	160
Wainfleet	350	206	455	333	1181	-	-	360	234	278	545	113
Friskney	10	600	1000	500	1000	7	-	150	100	3	5000	20
Wrangle	20	180	1098	2240	-	10	14	320	306	178	521	350
Leverton	123	111	550	617	700	2	-	820	399	316	116	216
Butterwick	-	-	27	12	11	-	-	225	-	-	-	-
Witham	150	20	150	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	9	60	50	380	750	-	28	26	8	60	200	19
Kirton	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	162	4	-	-	-
Welland	100	-	40	400	550	5	45	1120	2000	400	240	5

Holbeach	60	120	75	85	70	-	10	300	-	50	100	30
Gedney	125	3100	505	104	1020	-	5	1700	250	1200	620	1000
Dawsmere	-	1700	-	500	-	-	-	50	40	-	35	1000
Terrington	65	3	145	126	106	22	20	306	585	404	25	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Tetney Marsh	-	1	-	1	155	2	300	600	-	15	50	5
Gib Point	600	2050	4125	2000	2800	100	72	2500	2600	1000	3290	550
Freiston Shore	250	12	150	150	110	-	15	225	23	108	10	25
Witham Mouth	250	-	150	500	-	-	-	-	650	200	-	-

Grey Plovers were present in large numbers in The Wash for ten months of the year with only Jun and Jul providing a lull in records. The only three-figure counts north of Gib Point other than those tabulated at Tetney Marsh were 177 at Pyewipe on Feb 23rd, c100 at Horseshoe Point on May 6th, 100 at Donna Nook on Aug 24th and 400 at Cleethorpes on Aug 24th. The only records from the inner Humber were singles at Chowder Ness, Barton on May 20th, with two on Jul 30th, three at Alkborough Flats on Aug 11th, three at Winteringham Haven on Aug 12th, two at Goxhill on Sep 30th and one at Read's Island on Oct 8th. The only inland record of 2009 was a single spring bird at Covenham Res on May 29th.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	460	111	6	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Read's Island Flats	960	1700	1	43	-	-	-	55	40	407	2500	1100
Goxhill Marsh	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	1200	5500
Goxhill to New Holland	330	120	6	-	-	8	28	-	-	90	220	-
Gib Point	78	16	10	8	10	4	6	6	20	-	12	15
Wainfleet	150	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	802	1014
Wrangle	30	-	-	-	-	1	5	13	4	3	200	480
Leverton	154	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	202	342
Butterwick	6	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	480	-
Freiston Shore	1600	38	23	8	14	44	8	2	11	11	1300	1200
Witham	400	15	-	-	-	-	800	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	315	69	19	35	36	28	158	55	37	56	1380	2900
Kirton	2	21	12	6	2	2	-	4	250	50	800	2000
Welland	550	-	2	2	3	1	1	40	30	2	3000	3000
Holbeach	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	800
Gedney	350	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1550	800
Dawsmere	10	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	500
Terrington	827	5	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	540	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	3500	800	340	60	42	55	140	300	126	800	3000	8200
Read's Island	960	1700	1	43	-	-	-	55	40	407	3000	1100
Freiston Shore	2200	1500	50	32	32	107	800	18	11	518	1822	1327
Witham Mouth	2400	-	25	-	-	-	800	10	-	500	1700	2000
Frampton Marsh	381	350	18	37	38	34	114	45	8	11	600	3000
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	4	14	15	3	33	420	234	-	127	8
Messingham SQ	500	350	100	65	30	130	500	1000	113	-	1	1
Whisby NP	-	-	10	2	2	7	33	90	95	12	77	60

The WeBS counts for this species relates to the population that use wetland sites and it should be remembered that a large percentage of the Lincolnshire Lapwing population is likely to be located in inland agricultural fields. In the first winter period notable counts not included in the table included 1000 at Wroot and 1500 at Goxhill Marsh on Jan 22nd, 1000 at Worlaby Carrs on Jan 31st, 300 at Covenham Res on Jan 21st, 500 at Nocton Fen on Feb 9th and 450 at Metherringham Delph on Feb 16th. Under recorded as a breeding species, it was only recorded from 53 locations between Mar-Jun. Large counts away from wetland areas in the second winter period included 4000 at Healing on Dec 5th, 2400 at South Kyme on Nov 7th, 800 at Nocton Fen on Nov 7th, 650 at Branston Fen on Nov 5th, 500 at Dunsby Fen on Oct 25th and 500 at Anwick Fen on Oct 31st. Breeding records came from Frampton Marsh with 28 pairs and Freiston Shore with 15 pairs, both considerably up on the previous year.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Wash												
Gib Point	400	780	-	6000	4000	2700	1300	67000	67000	70000	500	1000
Wainfleet	760	3800	8360	10050	5300	1052	8620	8000	206	6000	2000	-
Friskney	-	2000	4000	6000	1000	15	-	5000	8000	-	5000	400
Wrangle	60	355	738	517	-	60	1240	5000	7000	100	100	-
Leverton	2800	2600	2425	7000	8300	28	6000	1000	1660	2775	9870	4500
Butterwick	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-
Freiston Shore	1000	300	320	150	200	500	14000	150	800	840	10000	700
Witham	75	1050	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	800	6000	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12000	12000
Welland	8050	2170	800	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	15000	-
Holbeach	1400	3000	300	550	-	-	-	-	23	750	350	3000
Gedney	3000	5000	10500	-	-	-	-	-	125	40	15200	2000
Dawsmere	4500	6500	4300	500	2000	-	3000	-	3800	1000	8000	5000
Terrington	9000	-	150	-	18	7	-	3	-	-	4785	-
Wash total	31975	33555	33393	30917	20819	4362	34160	86153	88614	81535	82805	28600
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	-	-	3465
Goxhill Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2600
Cleethorpes	-	-	5000	-	-	-	-	6000	5000	-	24000	-
Tetney Marsh	-	40	-	-	-	-	2000	4000	300	4000	4000	4000
Saltfleetby NNR	-	450	700	-	-	-	13	40	17	-	-	100
Gib Point	3350	4400	17150	28000	4000	6200	18980	80000	67000	70000	7250	9000

The highest counts in the table all correspond to spring high tides. WeBS counts for the Wash give an accurate indication of the Wash population of this species. However, these birds can be incredibly mobile, moving between the Lincolnshire and Norfolk side of the Wash. Typically the highest counts in the Wash were recorded between Aug-Nov, with the Sep Lincolnshire Wash total of 88614 close to the previous winter's WeBS peak total for the whole of the Wash. Away from the Wash the flock sizes are generally smaller, and with the highest counts on the Humber coming from the Yorkshire side. Inland birds were eight at Kirkby on Bain GP Mar 24th-25th and two there on Apr 1st, a single at Covenham Res on May 13th and a moulting adult spent a short time at the eastern end of Grebe Lake, Whisby NP on Jul 31st.

Waders in Lincolnshire

Top left, Sanderling: Matt Latham. Top right, Dunlin: Nick Clayton.

Centre right, Little Ringed Plover: Nick Clayton.

Bottom right, Curlew Sandpiper: Neil Smith. Bottom left, Lapwing: Neil Smith



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
Tetney Marsh	-	1	-	10	11	-	20	12	4	10	15	10
Saltfleetby NNR	-	230	-	-	170	49	560	370	50	-	45	68
Donna Nook	-	69	-	-	300	3	72	198	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	100	150	160	460	900	600	2440	1810	1500	1200	860	100

Additional records not shown above in the tabulated sites for the first half of the year included c120 at Howden's Pullover on Feb 8th, c30 at Chapel Point on Feb 14th, c30 at Mablethorpe North End on Apr 20th and 30 at Horseshoe Point on Apr 22nd. Inland birds were only recorded during the spring passage, with two at Toft Newton Res on Apr 16th and on May 11th-12th, four at Covenham Res on May 14th and three there on May 21st, one at Kirkby on Bain on May 14th, and at Toft Newton Res one on May 18th, two on May 22nd and a single on Jun 6th. In the second half of the year notable counts included 57 at Wainfleet on Aug 22nd, c50 at Howden's Pullover on Aug 22nd, c65 at Sandilands on Sep 19th, c20 at Chapel Point from Oct 4th-18th, c90 at Mablethorpe North End on Oct 4th, c20 at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 31st, 43 at Horseshoe Point on Nov 11th with 50 on Dec 9th and c80 at Trusthorpe on Nov 29th.



Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Frampton Marsh Sep 23rd 2009 © Neil Smith

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

A series of unusual mid-winter records began with one at Covenham Res from Dec 29th 2008 to Jan 8th. This was followed by two at Alkborough Flats from Jan 18th-Mar 7th, with three there on Feb 28th and one remaining until Mar 22nd. Elsewhere in the

early spring period there was one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Mar 24th. Spring passage began in earnest with singles at Frampton Marsh from Apr 20th-26th and Alkborough Flats on Apr 26th. There were then two at Alkborough Flats from May 8th-10th and 1-2 there from May 11th-Jun 6th. At Frampton Marsh there were 1-2 from May 13th-25th, while one was at Gib Point on Jun 7th. Autumn passage began with one at Tetney Marsh on Jul 13th. There were no further reports until an arrival of six at Frampton Marsh on Aug 2nd, with 1-3 (likely including a considerable turnover of birds) remaining until the last bird of the autumn on Oct 21st. In addition, there were five there on Sep 25th. Elsewhere, 1-2 were at Freiston Shore between Aug 4th-Sep 19th, 1-3 were at Alkborough Flats from Aug 27th-Sep 26th, one was at Donna Nook on Aug 31st, with 11 there on Sep 6th, one at Gib Point on Sep 5th and on Sep 19th-20th, one at Covenham Res on Sep 6th, one at Goxhill Haven on Sep 9th, one at Sandilands on Sep 14th, one at Covenham Res from Sep 19th-26th with two there on Sep 23rd, one at Read's Island on Sep 20th, with three there on Oct 9th-10th, one at Barton Pits on Sep 28th, one at Donna Nook on Oct 4th and two there on Oct 5th and one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Oct 14th. Finally, one was at Alkborough Flats on Dec 9th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC

Just two birds recorded in 2009, both in spring. The first was at Alkborough Flats on May 8th-9th (ND) and a well watched bird at Frampton Marsh from May 9th-19th (JB, PRF et al).



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Alkborough Flats Sep 28th 2009 © Graham Catley (left) and Manby Flashes Jul 27th 2009 © Roy Harvey (right)

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn migrant, vagrant in spring. LBRC

A very good year with five records. The first was an adult/1st summer at Alkborough Flats from Jul 9th-15th (ND et al). This was followed by one at Little Carlton Washes from Jul 27th-30th (GW, RHa et al), an adult male at Frampton Marsh from Aug 3rd-16th (PRF et al), a juvenile at Freiston Shore on Sep 5th (JB) and a juvenile at Alkborough Flats from Sep 25th-Oct 7th (ND et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Peak counts	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	1	-	2	15	4
Gib Point	1	3	3	3	2	1
Freiston Shore	1	-	2	3	4	-
Frampton Marsh	2	-	1	5	1	1

A very light spring passage, with singles at Alkborough Flats on Jun 6th, Frampton Marsh from May 4th increasing to two birds from May 18th, at Freiston Shore from May 24th-28th and at Gib Point from May 3rd, increasing to three birds on Jun 28th. Autumn passage began on Jul 16th with an adult at Gib Point. Singles were recorded at Frampton Marsh on Jul 26th-27th, at Freiston Shore on Jul 23rd-24th, inland at Kirkby on Bain on Jul 25th, at Barton Pits on Jul 30th and at Tetney Marsh on Jul 31st. The first juvenile of the autumn was at Alkborough Flats on Aug 31st, where birds were present until Oct 4th with a peak count of 12 on Sep 4th. Peak counts at other sites included five at Frampton Marsh on Aug 4th, three at Freiston Shore from Aug 5th-9th and three at Gib Point on Jul 19th and Aug 21st. Additional records not shown in the table included two at Horseshoe Point on Aug 5th, singles at Kirton Marsh on Aug 8th, Saltfleetby NNR on Aug 11th, Leverton on Aug 21st, Manby Flashes on Aug 30th, Tetney Marsh on Sep 2nd and two juveniles at Goxhill Haven on Sep 9th. At Witham Mouth a count of three on Aug 5th increased to 13 on Aug 8th. The last bird of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Oct 10th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

In the first winter period a single bird was present at Cleethorpes from Jan 1st-Feb 21st and probably the same bird was at Grimsby-Cleethorpes North Wall on Mar 10th. Away from here the only other record was a single bird at Rimac on Mar 7th. In the second winter period a juvenile was found at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 9th with another at Donna Nook on Aug 30th. At Gib Point singles were seen on Oct 17th and Nov 24th. For the second year in succession a single bird was found inland at Covenham Res on Aug 30th. In the south of the county there was one at Witham Mouth on Oct 1st, Nov 16th and Dec 12th. In the north of the county singles were present at Chowder Ness, Barton on Oct 4th and Read's Island on Oct 9th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Wash												
Gib Point	120	70	-	80	645	120	3085	6400	3257	800	400	550
Wainfleet	541	1950	650	2959	2494	1306	2252	3500	420	3025	602	1602
Friskney	-	1000	1000	400	500	106	100	200	1000	-	1000	1000
Wrangle	15	265	790	1555	-	89	1310	300	56	527	272	700
Leverton	900	1435	1600	1900	4717	451	3085	1160	994	2405	589	1610
Butterwick	40	-	-	98	-	20	-	-	120	70	-	-

Freiston Shore	100	1000	300	450	877	15	4426	1446	1304	1223	355	1812
Witham	2300	2200	1200	800	-	-	1950	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	250	155	136	30	3028	-	71	361	20	65	158	-
Welland	-	140	-	150	1610	-	175	450	30	106	31	45
Holbeach	500	800	200	100	30	8	75	-	-	350	1000	500
Gedney	30	2270	1180	2675	3120	-	120	1108	154	450	900	1230
Dawsmere	200	80	-	2000	-	-	500	20	800	500	-	700
Terrington	1010	4	38	830	375	28	95	42	11	155	320	-

Non-WeBS peak counts

Alkborough Flats	210	150	132	80	208	1	30	70	157	458	340	452
Read's Island	1450	1200	40	22	-	-	700	185	800	500	3200	1000
Barton Foreshore	42	-	-	-	35	-	330	192	100	260	250	-
Pyewipe (Grimsby)	3200	3000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2300	2800
Saltfleetby NNR	-	240	18	-	5	1	300	300	30	-	-	110
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	240	-	600	800	100	500	500	50
Gib Point	800	2580	3970	3900	800	400	3375	8160	4440	6260	4800	690
Freiston Shore	2400	1095	2200	1000	877	25	5000	3100	2104	1263	2200	1812
Witham Mouth	3000	-	2300	800	-	-	950	1500	5000	1800	2200	-

WeBS counts for the season 2008/09 recorded the lowest winter population of Dunlin in the UK. As this was mirrored by an increased wintering population in the Netherlands it is thought that a larger proportion of birds migrating from northern breeding populations are now wintering on the Wadden Sea, probably as a result of milder conditions. The peak arrival on the Lincolnshire coast was from Jul onwards, with birds then moving on to wintering grounds elsewhere. Inland birds were noted from 11 sites, with notable records including singles at Marston STW on Jan 3rd, seven at Worlaby Carrs on Mar 7th, three at Whisby NP on May 14th-15th, a peak of eight at Kirkby on Bain on Mar 24th and May 14th, 18 at Toft Newton Res on May 14th and 10 on Sep 4th.



Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Toft Newton
May 2009 © Nick Clayton



Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
Humberston Fitties Mar 2009 © Nick Clayton

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

Two records make for a good year. In the spring, an adult was at Alkborough Flats on May 24th (WG et al). In the autumn a bird was found feeding with a large roost of Golden Plovers at Winteringham on Oct 18th, before flying off north (ND).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* Alkborough Flats May 24th 2009 © Graham Catley

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	1	5	30	20	-	2	20	41	75	74	28	42
Humberston Fitties	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	6	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	1	3	1	-	-	-	9	1	2	3	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	4	12	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	11	8	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	4	5	4	-	10	15	3	2	-	2

In the first winter period birds were recorded at just 10 locations. Additional records not shown in tabulated sites included 14 at Goxhill Haven on Feb 8th, nine at Winterton Floods on Feb 27th and one at Kirkby on Bain from Mar 19th-24th. There was a weak spring passage, with birds at only six sites including singles at Kirkby on Bain during Apr 4th-Jun 27th, two at Messingham SQ from Apr 27th-May 2nd and at Manby Flashes from Jun 24th-30th. A stronger autumn passage was noted with a clear arrival from Jul onward, with 284 records being received from 20 sites. Most counts were in single figures, with highest counts coming from the inner Humber area. The largest concentration was to be found at Alkborough Flats, with a peak count of 74 on Oct 11th. Inland records were one at Manby Flashes from Jul 1st-4th, one at Messingham SQ on Jul 18th and on Oct 10th, 20 at Bagmoor on Aug 1st, one at Marston STW on Aug 3rd, six at Manby Flashes on Aug 29th-30th, one at Toft Newton Res from Aug 31st-Sep 23rd and one at Marton on Oct 11th. In the second winter period birds were recorded at just nine locations. Additional records not shown in tabulated sites included singles at Goxhill Haven from Nov 3rd-11th, at Barton on Nov 26th, at Cleethorpes on Dec 20th and seven at Terrington on Nov 7th.



Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus* Waters' Edge Barton
Oct 8th 2009 © Graham Catley



Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Marston STW Oct 15th 2009
© David Morison

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

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

Recorded from 23 sites. In the first winter period singles were present intermittently at Frampton Marsh from Jan 1st-27th, Kirkby on Bain on Jan 6th, Pyewipe on Jan 9th, Gib Point from Jan 27th-Mar 23rd, Marton from Jan 29th-Mar 5th, Tetney Marsh from Feb 7th-Mar 25th, Worlabby from Feb 27th-Apr 23rd, Donna Nook from Mar 15th-24th, Wrangle on Mar 16th and Gedney Drove End on Apr 19th. Also in this period there were two at Laughton Forest on Mar 18th, Normanby on Mar 21st and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Mar 7th. At Whisby Quarry (Jobs Lane) birds were present from Jan 1st, with eight at this site on Jan 15th, three on Jan 24th and two on Feb 3rd. The bird recorded at Worlabby on Apr 23rd was the last of the spring. The first of the autumn period was a single at Alkborough Flats from Sep 25th-29th closely followed by one at Gib Point on Sep 26th. Singles were then present intermittently at Gib Point from Sep 26th-Nov 28th, Frampton Marsh from Oct 5th -Dec 11th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from Oct 8th-Dec 29th, Barton from Oct 8th-Dec 21st, Winteringham on Oct 11th, Tetney Marsh from Oct 16th-Nov 11th, Huttoft Bank Pit from Oct 20th-22nd, Manton on Nov 6th, Messingham SQ on Nov 7th, Laughton Forest on Nov 28th and Freiston Shore on Oct 5th with three birds present at this site on Dec 7th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Rare breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	15	8	6	16	1	-	8	11	38	34	30	30
Tetney Marsh	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	5	3	3	7	6
Gib Point	20	22	11	54	-	2	2	15	13	19	14	55
Freiston Shore	32	60	60	25	1	-	-	33	4	11	-	5
Frampton Marsh	3	17	5	10	2	2	9	200	20	20	90	50
Marston STW	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	18	16	7	13

Messingham SQ	25	60	19	7	-	2	2	2	8	35	3	4
Trent Port (Marton)	51	-	36	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	4
Whisby NP	4	2	4	4	-	2	-	2	3	13	11	6

The secretive nature of this species makes it difficult to accurately assess its population. In 2009 there was a good spread of records submitted from a range of habitats including the coast, inland wetlands and arable farmland. In the first winter period birds were recorded at 52 sites with peak counts not shown in the above table of 51 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 15th, c70 at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 13th, 21 at Anwick Fen on Mar 8th and 25 at Butterwick Common on Apr 1st. Birds were recorded at just 11 sites between May-Jul, although no confirmed breeding was recorded. Outside of the scheduled breeding bird surveys two birds were recorded ‘drumming’ at Frampton Marsh for the first time, raising hopes that the species may yet be retained as a breeding bird in the county. Autumn movements began at the end of Jul with peak counts in Aug-Dec; all peak counts are shown in the table.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites recorded	24	14	11	6	5	3	2	-	-	7	15	21

Recorded in most months, but as in 2008 there were no records from Aug and Sep. Recorded from 36 site between Jan-Mar with peak counts of 26 at Gib Point on Jan 6th and 10 at Donna Nook on Jan 7th. During Apr-Jul there were reports from 11 sites and roding was reported from Ostler’s Plantation, Laughton Forest, Twigmoor Woods, Broughton Woods and Temple Wood. The first autumn arrival was three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 13th with birds the following day at Donna Nook and Gib Point. At the latter site three birds were observed flying in off the sea together on Oct 30th and a peak count of 11 was recorded on Oct 31st. Recorded at 29 sites between Nov and Dec with peak counts again at Gib Point with 32 on Dec 23rd.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. **RBBP**

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Killingholme Haven Pits	-	-	222	-	42	-	-	2304	3875	5000	2900	-
Immingham Docks	73	-	-	291	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Leverton	-	-	-	-	-	-	335	-	12	-	-	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	360	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	44	27	38	-	-	-	220	330	3600	3200	1900	1000
Frampton Marsh	12	-	-	2	400	47	1400	380	343	6	5000	150
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	353	1800	-	300	1600
Holbeach	-	14	-	-	-	-	70	400	-	-	-	-
Gedney	-	200	-	-	-	-	820	150	300	450	-	-
Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	420	-	-	-
Terrington	1	-	-	-	-	4	637	2700	2	21	1	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	81	92	33	67	256	202	31	180	244	91
Pyewipe (Grimsby)	1845	1430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5000	3500	1980
Goxhill Haven	35	30	-	-	-	-	74	86	-	46	-	-

Gib Point	-	-	2	4	-	6	60	39	50	0	3	-
Freiston Shore	180	255	68	76	-	4	230	344	7649	5375	2700	1615
Witham Mouth	600	-	-	-	-	6	50	87	1100	2000	2700	500
Frampton Marsh	5	-	2	10	76	78	2100	55	458	6	6	100
Inland peak counts												
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	11	-	1	32	-	1	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
Manby Flashes	8	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-

The arrival of Icelandic birds in Jul-Aug is reflected in the table, with coastal sites in Lincolnshire forming strategic areas for the formation of large flocks of moulting birds. In addition to several sites in the Wash, North Killingholme Pits was an important high water roost until Nov, when the birds reduced their use of this site. At Alkborough Flats, a count of 103 on Aug 2nd increased to 194 on Aug 14th, with a total of 168 juveniles in the flock, making this one of the highest early autumn counts of juvenile birds in the UK. Within the flock was a juvenile colour-ringed bird that had been ringed at Dalvik, North Iceland on Jul 10th 2009, having made the 1045 mile journey in 35 days. In the first half of the year, inland birds were eight at Manby Flashes from Jan 18th-24th, singles at Covenham Res on Jan 23rd, a peak count of 11 Messingham SQ on Apr 3rd and two at Kirkby on Bain on Apr 23rd. In the second half of the year inland birds were seen at seven sites with a count of 32 at Messingham SQ on Jul 30th being the most noteworthy.



Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Marston STW Jul 31st 2009© Dave Morison

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	282	5	-	250	210	174	80	180	2370	28	6	16
Wainfleet	513	1750	482	405	-	6	1270	4445	4992	2200	2620	1525
Friskney	2600	2500	1000	300	200	-	800	-	200	-	650	1000
Wrangle	100	1030	135	2150	-	105	2892	1880	930	771	300	752
Leverton	3800	2215	1830	320	222	14	1200	4115	3523	3087	3300	2800

The table of WeBS counts shows that the sites in the north of the Wash, with their large and sandier intertidal areas, continue to prove most attractive to this species. Other significant counts in the first winter period included a monthly max of c450 at Freiston Shore in Jan, 340 at Donna Nook on Jan 3rd, 65 at Pyewipe on Jan 9th, c650 at Witham Mouth on Jan 18th, 198 at Pyewipe on Jan 22nd, and 3220 Gib Point on Mar 11th. There were two inland spring records, a single at Messingham SQ on Apr 25th and two at Kirkby on Bain on Apr 26th. Returning birds from Jul produced additional monthly max counts of c350 at Frieiston Shore in Jul and c340 at Gib Point on Jul 25th. Generally scarce on the Humber where the only counts in double figures included up to 216 at Goxhill on Nov 23rd, 50 at Pyewipe on Nov 15th, with 55 on Dec 12th and 11 at North Killingholme on Oct 18th. The only inland autumn record was 14 birds at Messingham SQ on Oct 25th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Total sites	-	19	17	8	15	18	11	6	-

The first of the year were five at North Kelsey Moor on Apr 5th followed by a single at Toft Newton on Apr 7th. Spring passage was well recorded on the coast with most traditional migration sites recording birds between Apr-May, including 24 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 21st, 71 at Gib Point on Apr 19th and 35 at Saltfleetby NNR on Apr 28th. Additional inland birds between Apr-May were three at Deeping High Bank on Apr 19th, singles at Messingham SQ from Apr 20th-23rd, Whisby NP on Apr 25th, Kirkby on Bain on May 1st and 10th, Well Vale on May 3rd, Covenham Res on May 13th and Marston STW on May 19th. Inland birds between Jun-Aug included singles at Covenham Res on Jun 22nd, at Killingholme Haven Pits on Jul 9th, three at Langtoft on Jul 10th, four at North Kelsey Moor on Aug 8th, seven at Whisby NP on Aug 5th, one at Normanby on Aug 8th, and one at Whisby NP on Aug 29th. Peak autumn passage started in Jul with best counts in the second half of the month to the first half of

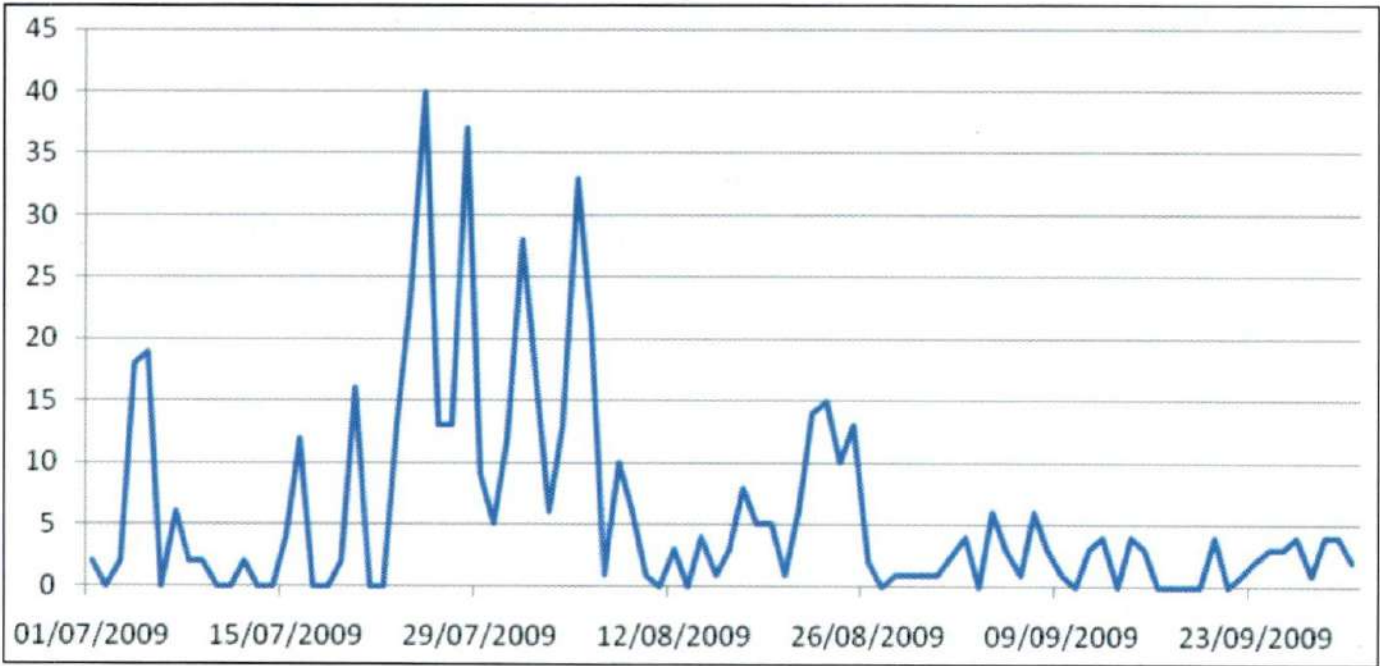


Figure showing the autumn passage of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* at Gib Point between Jul 1st and Sep 30th 2009 (2009 n=546).

Aug. Notable highs included one of the largest ever counts ever in the county of 647 at Freiston Shore on Jul 25th, with 218 at Witham Mouth the following day probably involved many of the same birds. Other good counts were 85 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 1st and 140 at Wrangle Marsh on Aug 24th. A steady autumn passage was recorded at Gib Point, which is shown in the figure below. The last of the year was at Donna Nook on Oct 10th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	244	337	254	664	-	-	-	250	250	140	110	110
Immingham Docks	5	-	10	17	10	-	-	7	9	10	8	2
Killingholme Marshes	18	-	14	17	28	-	-	34	1	21	21	-
Gib Point	43	43	-	5	43	2	41	58	46	74	81	36
Wainfleet	36	165	224	12	1	48	841	959	474	843	2692	569
Friskney	20	125	59	60	12	5	209	255	340	190	500	400
Wrangle	76	128	575	2	-	-	169	1214	293	753	430	892
Leverton	79	147	65	67	16	-	835	1096	847	205	330	494
Butterwick	9	156	266	5	26	2	-	200	240	60	371	62
Freiston Shore	66	203	101	8	2	47	3	300	152	93	226	116
Frampton Marsh	107	106	153	19	0	0	61	304	349	269	26	51
Welland	60	22	18	2	4	52	150	1330	650	150	250	15
Holbeach	320	50	186	28	15	-	360	950	350	650	302	323
Gedney	44	69	71	22	17	-	23	271	156	112	37	72
Dawsmere	68	5	85	1	-	-	47	95	-	-	79	99
Terrington Lincs	190	243	189	30	68	312	757	702	698	616	41	-
Inland peak counts												
Messingham SQ	16	19	13	3	-	-	-	-	3	28	21	-
Marston STW	50	50	38	18	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	36

Peak non WeBS counts elsewhere in the first winter period included 300 at Alkborough Flats through Jan, 512 at Goxhill on Feb 8th, 337 at Read's Island on Feb 21st, 200 at Gib Point on Feb 28th and 296 at Freiston Shore on Mar 1st. Returning migrants were recorded from mid-Jun with a notable count of 255 at Gib Point on Jun 18th, followed by further peaks here of 950 on Aug 5th, 1150 on Aug 17th and 600 on Aug 22nd. The Wash is still an important wintering area for this species, but WeBS trends have shown a decline in numbers at this site in the last two years. Notable winter peak counts from the Wash not included in the table include 1200 at Wrangle on Aug 8th, c300 at Witham Mouth on Sep 4th and c500 at Friskney Marsh on Nov 7th.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Vagrant BBRC

One was found on Tennyson's Sands, Gib Point, on Jun 17th (GW et al) where it remained until dusk in loose association with a small party of redshanks, but it could not be relocated the following day. The bird had previously been seen in Cleveland on Jun 16th (Accepted by BBRC). The only previous record of this species in Lincolnshire was also of one at Gib Point, on Jul 11th 2005 (P. A. Fraser, M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, BB 100: 44). Also see finder's report page 157.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) Gibraltar Point NNR.

Taken on Jun 17th 2009.

Top and right images: Neil Smith. Left image: Russell Hayes.



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	-	2	1	20	10	2	-
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	10	3	3	-
Barton Pits	-	3	5	-	2	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	3	-	11	9	1	-
Saltfleetby	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Gib Point	-	2	6	-	5	6	2	-
Boston (The Haven)	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	1	7	-	5	5	2	-
Witham Mouth	-	1	-	-	1	5	4	5
Frampton Marsh	-	1	2	-	5	3	1	1
Boultham Mere	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-
Covenham Res	-	3	5	3	5	14	4	-
Kirkby on Bain	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-
Toft Newton Res	-	-	6	-	2	4	-	-
Whisby NP	-	3	3	-	1	4	1	-

Although there were no winter records in either period, the first bird of the year, at Kirby on Bain on Mar 15th was over three weeks earlier than the next record and could indicate a relatively local wintering origin. The main spring passage occurred between Apr 9th and May 27th with a peak of seven at Freiston Shore on May 14th. It is difficult to say which direction two mid-Jun records at Hagnaby Lock on Jun 13th and at Kirkby on Bain on Jun 14th were travelling as they were two weeks after the preceding record and nearly a week prior to the next sequence of records, which commenced at Alkborough Flats on Jun 21st. Autumn passage continued until Oct 30th at Frampton Marsh. Double figure autumn counts came from Alkborough Flats with 10 on Jul 25th and Aug 7th and the highest count of the year, 20 on Jul 22nd, Covenham Res 14 on Aug 7th and 11 on Aug 13th, Read's Island 10 on Aug 6th and Tetney Marsh 11 on Jul 3rd.



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Freiston Shore Jul 2009 © Neil Smith

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	13	3	-	-	-
Worlaby Carrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	5	1	2
Gib Point	-	-	1	1	-	4	10	7	4	1	1	2
Wrangle (village)	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	6	2	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	1	-	1	-	2	6	15	5	4	1	-
Gedney Drove End	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baston-Langtoft Pits	5	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	2	2	4	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	2
Kirkby on Bain	1	-	2	3	-	4	14	8	2	1	1	-
Little Carlton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	1	-	27	9	12	1	1	1	-
Marston STW	-	4	1	3	-	-	5	2	5	1	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	1	1	1	2	-
Trent Port	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	3	3	-
Whisby NP	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	2	1	2

Wintering birds in the first period were reported from 18 sites mostly involving singles but a maximum of five were at Baston-Langtoft on Jan 15th. Spring passage was typically light and rather early with the last migrants seen at Gib Point and Marston STW on Apr 25th. There were no records in May. Autumn passage started early with singles at Frampton Marsh and Kirkby on Bain on Jun 6th. Double figure counts were made at Alkborough with 10 on Aug 15th and 13 on Aug 16th, Frampton Marsh 14 on Aug 3rd and 7th, 13 on Aug 8th, 11 on Aug 20th and 15 on Aug 3rd, Gib Point 10 on Jul 26th, Kirkby on Bain 14 on Jul 20th and Little Carlton 17 on Aug 2nd. There was also an excellent sequence of counts from Manby Flashes with 15-18 during Jun 24th-29th, increasing to the highest count of the year, of 27 on Jun 30th. There was an additional count of 12 on Aug 2nd. Numbers tailed off quickly from early Aug, with presumed wintering birds in Nov/Dec from 20 sites. These mostly involved single birds but there was a peak of three at Gosberton Cheal on Nov 25th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring but fairly common in autumn. Scarce but regular in winter.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	3	1	4	5	2	1	2	7	20	8	7	5
Gib Point	1	-	-	2	3	1	3	6	4	-	1	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	-	1
No. of sites	4	4	5	5	4	3	6	9	9	3	2	4

Reported from 22 sites, the bulk of which were coastal. Winter records in the first period were up to three at Alkborough Flats from Jan-Mar, two at Donna Nook in Feb and one in Mar, one at Freiston Shore in Feb, one at Gedney Drove End in Jan, one at Gib Point in Jan and one inland at Worlaby Carrs in Feb. Records in Mar, which could have been from wintering birds or early spring migrants were reported from Somercoates Haven and Tetney Marsh in addition to the some of the sites already mentioned. Autumn passage was from Jul to Oct, but other than the sites in the table

nowhere held more than two birds. The peak of up to 20 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 16th and 26th, were easily the highest of the year. In addition to the Worlaby Carrs record inland records were reported at Baston-Langtoft Pits, with two in May, Baston Fen, with two in Sep and Marston STW with one in Aug and Sep. Only the three main sites plus Freiston Shore held birds in the second winter period.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Passage migrant, fairly scarce in spring, fairly common in autumn. Scarce in winter.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	4	2	4	14	16	16	2	1	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	3	20	5	31	30	34	9	3	1
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	2	1	4	24	50	96	15	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	3	4	8	6	13	12	14	2	1	1
Number of sites	6	3	7	18	17	13	24	37	29	14	6	5

Good numbers of birds were present in both winter periods at several coastal sites. In Jan-Feb singles were at Donna Nook, Grainthorpe Marsh, Read's Island, Somercotes Haven, South Ferriby and Welland Marsh. In the second winter period singles were at Alkborough Flats, Frampton Marsh, Read's Island, Tetney Marsh and Witham Mouth. At Gib Point there were three in Nov and one in Dec. Peak counts from the main sites are shown in the table, other double figure counts were 28 at Holbeach Marsh on Jul 26th and 11 on Aug 23rd, 15 at Kirton Marsh on Aug 8th, 33 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethope on Aug 11th, 27 at Terrington on Jul 25th and 13 at Wrangle on Aug 24th. Inland, there were sightings from 12 sites. There was a light spring passage from Apr 4th to May 10th with singles at six sites and two at Kirkby on Bain on Apr 4th. A heavier autumn passage occurred during the period Jun 27th to Sep 12th, mostly of singles, but two or more were reported from; Manby Flashes, two on Jun 27th and Jul 1st with three on Aug 2nd; Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Pits, two on Aug 5th, three on Aug 11th and two on 19th and 28th; and Marston SWT with five on Aug 16th.



Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Frieston Shore Aug 11th 2009 © Neil Smith

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Alkborough Flats	1	1	-	2	2	-
Tetney Marsh	-	2	-	1	1	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	1	2	-
Frampton Marsh	1	3	1	2	14	3
Kirkby on Bain	-	1	1	-	3	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	11	1	1	-

A typically light spring passage started at Alkborough Flats on Apr 26th and finished at Middlemarsh (Skegness) on Jun 8th. The peak count was three at Frampton Marsh on May 10th. A much heavier autumn passage commenced at Manby Flashes on Jun 19th and finished on Sep 19th at Frampton Marsh. Double figure counts came from Manby Flashes, with 11 on Jun 29th and at Frampton Marsh, with 11 on Aug 8th, 14 on Aug 9th, 10 on Aug 13th and 11 on Aug 24th. Recorded from just eight sites other than those tabulated, all of which had two or fewer records during the year. The only sightings of more than one bird at these other sites were four at Deeping Lakes NR on Aug 8th, four at Freiston Shore on Aug 7th and two at Friskney Flats on Aug 3rd.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island	49	36	45	36	-	-	-	160	374	356	456	80
Alkborough Flats	-	15	122	10	-	4	2	4	137	60	65	-
Tetney Marsh	-	8	-	20	15	10	400	50	20	30	40	30
Gib Point	200	230	251	323	61	41	360	480	220	215	260	130
Wainfleet	101	249	68	61	55	62	77	316	542	260	445	254
Wrangle	25	349	615	183	-	46	106	95	189	151	374	-
Leverton	54	24	52	68	37	39	38	61	118	33	73	117
Butterwick	22	29	160	26	12	3	-	43	86	90	216	13
Freiston Shore	253	466	308	50	35	21	1211	1000	959	577	281	336
Witham Mouth	150	-	100	20	-	24	470	50	1000	250	-	-
Frampton Marsh	246	99	228	117	89	246	313	851	833	300	348	162
Kirton Marsh	19	4	43	18	12	21	4	14	52	5	16	14
Welland	48	5	129	80	10	11	700	1893	475	590	80	75
Gedney	31	34	109	48	40	12	23	1071	878	118	366	138
Dawsmere	5	12	19	14	9	26	33	36	276	7	9	31
Terrington	56	133	101	41	36	72	1056	339	800	590	65	-

There were eight counts of over 1000 birds this year, compared with none in 2008. Five of these were from Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth. The others were 1056 at Terrington on Jul 25th, 1071 at Gedney on Aug 27th and 1893, the highest count of the year, at Welland on Aug 23rd. Widely reported from inland sites in smaller numbers. The peak counts were 61 at Messingham SQ on Feb 22nd, 45 at Butterwick Hale/Common on Apr 1st and 43 at Worlaby Carrs on Dec 13th. Breeding totals included 20 pairs and Freiston Shore and 246 pairs at Frampton Marsh, of which 218 were on saltmarsh and 28 on wet grassland.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goxhill-New Holland	-	3	22	-	-	-	1	40	40	180	180	-
New Holland- Barrow	-	110	-	136	-	-	6	70	1	40	84	-
Gib Point	-	3	-	5	8	20	14	2	-	3	-	3
Wainfleet	24	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friskney	-	58	-	9	9	4	5	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	-	60	80	225	-	3	15	17	30	36	-	-
Freiston Shore	6	10	90	27	50	-	50	53	220	40	25	4
Witham	125	20	20	30	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	8	-	5	-	17	-	-	21	3	6	3	12
Welland	4	-	-	-	15	1	8	3	1	1	2	3
Terrington	16	5	-	5	14	2	3	1	-	-	1	-
Non-WeBS peak counts												
Cleethorpes	31	34	68	38	31	-	-	45	88	88	40	52
Tetney Marsh	-	12	-	22	5	-	10	10	1	5	35	18
Freiston Shore	106	55	90	56	55	40	50	175	221	40	25	4
Witham Mouth	225	-	150	30	-	-	50	12	400	30	-	-

High tide counts at Witham Mouth included 225 on Jan 31st dropping to 150 by Mar 29th with numbers increasing again in the autumn to 400+ on Sep 4th. Unfortunately no WeBS data or other simultaneous full-site counts are available for Cleethorpes so tabled numbers are probably best regarded as minima. Numbers there apparently remained steady at 30+ birds during Jan-Feb, increasing to 68 on Mar 11th with the last spring birds being seen in May. Autumn passage birds returned to Cleethorpes in Aug, with seven on Aug 7th, increasing to 45 by Aug 21st and 88 on Sep 8th. On Nov 12th a colour-ringed bird was at Cleethorpes beach (left tibia white flag; tarsus light blue or grey, right tarsus yellow over yellow). It was ringed at Alert, Ellesmere Island, Canada in summer 2001 or 2002. Unfortunately it had lost a ring on its left tibia so it wasn't possible to confirm the exact date of ringing. This individual had returned for at least its third winter to Cleethorpes, having previously been seen on Dec 4th 2007, Jan 1st 2008 and Nov 23rd 2008, showing how site faithful this species can be. Alert is the northernmost permanently inhabited place in the world, being only 508 miles from the North Pole. There are fewer than 30 records of Canadian ringed Turnstone in Britain, and all have come from Ellesmere Island. Interestingly, other Turnstones from Alert have also been recorded as far south as the Canary Islands and even Namibia. The only inland record in 2009 was of a well watched and very approachable spring passage bird at Toft Newton Res from May 11th–14th, which spent four days feeding in foam at the water edge.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

Two spring birds, a female briefly at Freiston Shore on the morning of May 28th (PRF, TG, et al) before relocating to Frampton Marsh on May 28th-29th (SML et al), and a male at Tetney Marsh on Jun 5th (DE et al). The only autumn record was a well watched and long staying juvenile on the Humber at Chowder Ness, Barton from Nov 17th-27th (IGS et al). This exceptionally late bird provided only the second Nov record in Lincolnshire, 43 years after one graced Donna Nook on Nov 19th 1966.



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Humberston Fitties Jun 5th 2009 © Roy Harvey

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

Three records. The first of the year was of two birds at Gib Point on Oct 13th (JPS), a single was at Witham Mouth on Oct 18th (SK) and the last of the year was at Gib Point on Nov 14th (per KMW).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

An excellent year for this species started with a rare winter record involving one seen off Cleethorpes on Jan 13th, 21st and 25th, following a probable Pomarine Skua, perhaps the same bird, at Pyewipe on the 10th. More typical and numerous autumn records extended from Aug 15th to Dec 3rd, though Aug records were restricted to an immature off Chowder Ness, Barton on Aug 15th-16th, and two south at Gib Point on 29th. In Sep, a juvenile flew north at Gib Point on the 9th, presaging a large movement during the 12th-15th with the largest numbers in The Wash. On the 12th, 23 were seen at Witham Mouth. On the 13th, there were 44 (mostly adults with 'spoons') off Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore, six at Gib Point and 23 at Chapel Point, followed on the 14th by 19 at Witham Mouth, seven at Gib Point and one at Chapel Point. The last of this movement were six at Chapel Point and two at Gib Point on Sep 15th, although an additional bird was reported at Gib Point on 20th. Another marked passage occurred on Oct 1st, with 18 at Witham Mouth, two at Gib Point, three at Trusthorpe and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, with a further three at Witham Mouth and two at Mablethorpe on Oct 2nd. There were then records of singles at Chapel Point on Oct 4th, and Trusthorpe and Gib Point on Oct 9th, before more widespread reports on Oct 16th of two at Mablethorpe, three at Chapel Point, one at Gib Point and about 24 at Witham Mouth, with two at Huttoft Car Terrace, two at Gib Point and one at Witham Mouth on the 17th and 18th. Subsequent records were one at Mablethorpe on Nov 3rd, three at Freiston Shore on Nov 30th and finally one at Mablethorpe on Dec 3rd. The cumulative total of day-counts for the autumn amounts to 211, including 135

in Sep and 68 in Oct; this is a relatively high total but note that it includes significant duplication between sites or between successive days especially in The Wash, where the mid Sep gathering may have been of birds waiting for suitable conditions for overland passage to the Severn.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

There were three in spring, a dark morph bird north at Gib Point on Apr 25th, an inland record, also a dark morph, flying south-east over Kirby on Bain GP on May 15th and one north at Gib Point on May 31st. Even more unusual was a midsummer record of one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 21st, but autumn began early with three at Gib Point on Jul 9th, followed by one there on the 12th and two on 13th. There were a further 13 bird-days at Gib Point, with up to three on any one day, during the second half of Jul, plus six at Tetney Marsh on Jul 19th. Frequent records of small numbers on the coast and in The Wash continued for the first three weeks of Aug, with peaks of eight at Gib Point on Aug 5th and nine at Leverton on the 21st. On Aug 23rd, 20 flew north and two south at Gib Point, and between then and Sep 16th, counts of 10 or more occurred on 16 dates. Most of the highest counts were made at Gib Point, including 26 on Aug 29th, 61 on Aug 30th, 35 on Sep 9th and 40 on Sep 13th, but elsewhere totals included 23 at Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 4th, 21 at Witham Mouth on Sep 14th and 30 there on the 15th. The most sustained passage was during Sep 8th-16th but direction of movement was variable, with many birds seen flying north. After Sep 16th, records of up to four occurred on just two dates in Sep but there were almost daily reports during Oct 1st-12th, including maxima of six at Gib Point on Oct 1st, in The Wash on Oct 4th and at Skegness/Gib Point on Oct 6th. Later, there were four at Witham Mouth and two at Gib Point on Oct 16th, three at Gib Point and one at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 17th, one at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 20th, then a big gap to the last, an adult, at Gib Point on Nov 30th. The sum of day-counts for the year – as for Pomarine Skua probably including duplicates – was 697, of which 225 were in Aug and 388 in Sep.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

With eight individuals, all in autumn, this was another poor year. A juvenile flew north at Gib Point on Sep 11th (EJM, KMW), followed by two adults north there (JPS) and a juvenile north at Sandilands on Sep 14th (GPC). The remaining birds were all juveniles seen at Gib Point, comprising one flying over on Oct 11th (R & B Overton), two north on Oct 16th (NAL, KMW *et al.*) and one north then landing on the sea on Oct 17th (KMW).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

The only bird in the first half of the year was a juvenile at Donna Nook from Jan 2nd-6th and reported also at Cleethorpes on Jan 10th. Autumn passage began with one at Tetney Marsh on Jul 23rd but the next was not until one at Gib Point on Aug 20th. There were two more singles off the coast in Aug before more frequent records from early Sep, including 17 at Huttoft Car Terrace and six at Gib Point on Sep 4th, 12 off Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth on Sep 13th, with 14 there on the 14th and 15

on the 15th, when there were also 15 at Chapel Point. The final double-figure count of this spell of passage was 10 at Mablethorpe on Sep 16th. Frequent counts of smaller numbers continued until early Nov, but there were 12 at Mablethorpe on Oct 6th, and five on Oct 9th, eight on Oct 16th and 17 on Oct 17th, all at Gib Point. One was at the head of the Humber at Alkborough Flats, on Oct 5th-6th and the same at Read's Island on the 9th. After Nov 3rd, there was one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 15th, one west at the Humber Bridge on Nov 29th and four at Freiston Shore on the 30th. There were five records in Dec, one at Gib Point on 5th and Wainfleet on the 6th, two south at Trusthorpe on the 12th, and singles at Freiston Shore on the 19th, Gib Point on the 20th and Freiston Shore on the 28th. The cumulative count total, including duplicates as for other skuas, was 262, of which 150 were in Sep and 92 in Oct.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

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

Just one record this year, a juvenile that flew north and then south past Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 17th (PRF).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

Only c1200 birds were recorded in 2009, the peak months being Sep-Nov with 95% of records. The only site to record birds in every month was Gib Point, where peak monthly counts included nine on Mar 26th, 11 on Jul 18th, 17 on Aug 29th, 128 on Sep 13th, 87 on Oct 16th and 346 on Nov 30th. Elsewhere notable counts included c350 at Freiston Shore on Sep 13th, 29 at Mablethorpe on Sep 16th, 30 at Chapel Point on Oct 16th, 92 at Witham Mouth on Oct 16th and 55 at Freiston Shore on Nov 30th.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal sites												
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	15	120	4000	5000	2000	1000	1000	3500
Saltfleetby NNR	-	-	2	-	3	37	200	3000	6000	-	20	200
Gib Point	550	400	506	895	370	235	500	6000	6500	3500	4500	2000
Wainfleet	-	400	2	46	26	114	1067	10350	6000	4186	300	78
Wrangle	20	30	1	3	-	9	70	76	200	877	204	150
Leverton	3	7	25	7	57	14	240	2500	1300	860	370	34
Freiston Shore	458	2291	1500	1075	450	857	689	1350	306	386	532	55
Witham Mouth	-	-	1520	-	-	-	-	-	30	250	-	-
Frampton Marsh	25	200	52	400	150	80	493	184	3564	3930	72	60
Kirton	4	180	27	18	22	32	35	220	1500	1300	470	15
Welland	30	120	600	750	1000	2000	300	750	600	400	400	24
Gedney	5	230	65	26	25	50	257	1450	315	800	4	850
Inland sites												
Kirkby on Bain	2000	4000	1000	120	18	200	92	550	-	-	900	1000
Messingham SQ	150	206	300	275	120	-	240	13	-	147	1	-
North Hykeham Pits	10000	1200	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3500	10500
Tattershall Lakes	7800	5200	4400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7700	2200

Other significant counts, of over 1000 birds came from Bagmoor/Winterton Floods where there were 1200 on Jan 7th and 3000 on Mar 4th, 1000 at Leadenham Tip on Mar 5th, 3000 at Bonby Carrs on Jul 14th and 1500 there on 15th, 3000 at Donna Nook on Aug 10th, 3000 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 11th and 1500 there on 13th, 1200 at Covenham Res on Aug 19th, 2500 at Howden's Pullover on Aug 22nd and 1000 there on Sep 19th and 3000 at Thurlby Sand Pitson Nov 15th. Breeding records came from Gib Point where there were 20 occupied nests, Whisby NP where 316 nests fledged around 632 young and Freiston Shore where 351 pairs nested.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

Approx no. of birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lincs total	2	1	-	31	37	17	9	223	16	251	-	6

Birds were typically scarce early in the year, with singles at Freiston Shore Jan 13th, Surfleet Sea's End Jan 22nd and Barton Pits Feb 1st. Peak spring migration occurred through Apr and May with peak site counts of 22 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Apr 16th and 26 at Tetney Marsh on May 19th. Smaller counts were widespread with peaks in Jun of five at Freiston Shore on 3rd and five at Tetney Marsh on 24th. Autumn passage birds were seen at several coastal sites in Aug with highs of 17 at Donna Nook on 19th and a remarkable count of 200 at Freiston Shore on 24th (SK). A more typical passage took place in Sep, with four north at Gib Point on 13th, seven at Chapel Point on 14th and five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 19th. In Oct there were counts of 20 at Witham Mouth on 16th and 30 there on 18th but another remarkable total came from Gib Point on 17th when 183, mainly adults, passed with all but two heading north. The final birds of the year were six at Gib Point on Dec 7th.



Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutes* Alkborough Flats Jul 15th 2009 © Graham Catley

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce, but increasing visitor throughout the year, most in late summer/early autumn. **RBBP**

Peak monthly count	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min no. of birds	9	10	2	7	13	7	20	18	7	7	10	4

An increasingly common sight with at least 83 records from 35 sites spread widely around the county and fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. One to three were typical, but higher numbers were four at Gib Point on May 25th, a remarkable 10 at Bonby Carrs on Jul 14th represents the first ever double figure count in the county, five at Chapel Point on Aug 7th and four at Covenham Res on Nov 15th. There were no breeding records but birds lingered during the breeding season at several sites including Alkborough Flats, Frampton Marsh, Gib Point, Holbeach Marsh and Whisby NP where a lone male held territory until Jul 9th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	2	1000	350	30	20	15	300
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	-	1200	17	-	7	35	75	2000	1000	-	15	900
Gib Point	2000	600	60	35	11	7	79	1000	2	800	900	2000
Freiston Shore	120	100	25	40	40	9	-	15	-	50	35	8
Frampton Marsh	2	10	1	1	2	-	1	2	365	20	1	3
Kirkby on Bain	100	300	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	125	200
North Hykeham Pits	800	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	6500

The table shows a fairly typical annual pattern with peak counts in the winter months and immigrants arriving from Jul onwards. Atkin and Lorand (1989) states that return passage is from early Mar to mid May, but counts during this period were very low with most birds having departed by Mar. Other significant counts included 400 at Tattershall Lakes on Jan 29th, 800 at Howden's Pullover on Feb 8th, 230 at Anwick Fen on Feb 28th, 1500 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Nov 15th and 1500 at Donna Nook on Dec 20th.

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.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	6	9	150	22	2	-	-	-
Gib Point	1	3	23	31	66	40	50	105	20	13	6	1
Freiston Shore	30	4	12	30	15	4	26	35	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	6	30	25	14	10	2	10	14	2	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	30	80	80	150	300	22	350	-	-	9	2
Boultham Mere	-	2	-	2	-	-	9	-	25	300	302	-
Welbourn Heath	47	6	-	4	7	1	2	61	171	15	-	-
Whisby NP	-	-	1	1	15	8	59	9	-	201	24	-

Typically most common in summer and autumn with low counts in the winter months. Other than those tabulated significant counts came from Leadenham Tip where there were 100 on Mar 5th, 150 at Alkborough Flats on Jun 10th and 90 at Whitton Sands on Jun 22nd. In the latter half of the year 2000 at Bonby Carrs on Jul 14th was easily the highest count of the year. Elsewhere 800 were at Barton Pits, Read's Island and Redcliffe Middle on Jul 28th, 150 at Tetney Marsh on 29th, 300 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 11th 258 at Swanpool on Oct 1st and at Pyewipe there were 32 on Nov 15th and 22 on 26th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Very common passage migrant, breeder and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	150	60	40	1500	300	200	100	1500
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	-	270	65	-	260	270	150	40	50	-	12	480
Gib Point	2400	1200	330	380	250	350	380	900	50	500	450	3000
Freiston Shore	701	65	850	75	46	67	280	124	316	65	155	17
Frampton Marsh	14	5	76	50	7	6	10	1	323	-	32	412
Kirkby on Bain	1200	1500	1200	400	350	400	6	450	600	-	800	2000

Large counts from other sites included 2000 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 7th, 500 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Jan 14th, 850 at Witham Mouth throughout Mar, 500 at Alkborough Flats on Jun 10th, 155 at Donna Nook on Jul 5th, 500 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 11th, 350 at Howden's Pullover on Aug 22nd and the same number there on Sep 19th, 500 at Donna Nook on Dec 20th, 250 at Whisby NP on Dec 28th and 200 at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 31st. One pair bred at Freiston Shore.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Rare/scarce visitor, mainly in autumn. **RBBP**

Local movements make the total number difficult to ascertain but there were probably 40-50 records, making it a good year. Birds were most frequently noted from Jan-Mar in the Lincoln area with single adults at Whisby NP, Thurlby Sand Pit, and Hartsholme CP with two at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 11th and one at Barton Pits on Feb 22nd. In the second quarter of the year six birds were noted, with a 3rd summer at Frampton Marsh on Apr 9th and 12th, a 2nd summer at Howden's Pullover on May 11th, a 1st summer at Whisby NP on May 22nd and three at Gainsborough on Jun 10th. The main arrival began in Jul with an adult at Kirkby-on-Bain on 1st, two there on 20th and three on 31st, when there were also three at Whisby NP. A 3rd summer was at Alkborough Flats on Jul 10th and an adult at Baston Fen on 14th, two were at Bonby Carrs on 15th and one Read's Island on 26th. Singles were at Gainsborough on Aug 15th, Boston on 29th and at Worlaby Carrs on 30th. Four were at Kirkby-on-Bain GP on Sep 2nd and one was at Covenham Res on the same day. In the final quarter of the year the main interest again centred around Lincoln where there was one at Swanpool on Oct 1st, seven, the highest count of the year, at North Hykeham Pits on Oct 18th, three at Boultham Mere on Oct 27th, increasing to four on Nov 2nd. One was at Whisby NP from early Nov until the end of the year, two were at Kirkby-on-Bain GP on Oct 30th and up to three were at Gainsborough at the end of Dec.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor. **LBRC**

Eight individuals were reported in 2009. The first records being an adult at Appleby Carrs Jul 14th and a 3rd calendar year bird there Jul 15th (GPC). An adult and a 3rd winter were at Kirkby-on-Bain GP on Oct 30th (GPC) with the 3rd winter on 31st (GPC). Adults were also at Whisby NP/North Hykeham Pits on Dec 9th (DN,GHo), Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Dec 23rd (ND) and finally an adult, locally known as 'Stumpy' was at Gainsborough landfill site Dec 29th (DN). This bird is particularly distinctive owing to the fact that it is missing approximately half of the tarsus and the foot from its right leg. It was recorded at the same site in Jan 2006 and at Kirkby-on-Bain in Oct 2005. Given that the bird was an adult in 2005, it must now be at least nine years old.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May. LBRC

Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni* Vagrant. LBRC

There were 10 reports involving at least four individuals. The first record of the year, was a 1st winter bird at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 12th (ACS) with possibly the same bird at this site on Feb 5th (DMJ), a 1st winter bird was at Bagmoor on Feb 10th (ND) and another at Gib Point on Feb 13th (JPS). Two 1st winter birds were at Bagmoor on Mar 11th (JTH) with a single on 14th (JTH), two were at Crosby Warren on Mar 24th (PLe) and a single 2nd summer bird at Bagmoor on Apr 12th (ND), given the dates and locations of the northern records it is assumed that these possibly relate to the same wandering individuals. An adult was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 11th (BMC). The only record of the second winter period was an adult bird at Barton Pits on Dec 12th (ND, RHa).

An adult Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni* was located in the gull roost at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 11th (PRF). This North American race of Iceland Gull is a true county rarity, and was only dropped by BBRC in 1999 on account of difficulties in identification of immatures and the number of individuals recorded in the north and west during influx years.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

Approximately eight records during the year. All but one came from the first winter period with the majority coming from the inner Humber and the north-east Lincolnshire coast. In Jan/Feb a series of records came from the inner Humber including a 1st winter bird Bagmoor on Jan 1st and 4th (ND et al) probably the same bird at Whitton Sands on Jan 17th (GPC), a 2nd winter bird was at Bagmoor from Jan 17th-31st and again from Feb 8th-21st (ND et al). A 2nd winter bird was also at Alkborough Flats on Mar 12th and 28th (WG et al). On the north-east coast 1st winter birds were at Cleethorpes County Park on Feb 5th-6th (KDR et al) and at Donna Nook on Feb 7th (SRo,SL), a 2nd winter was present at Cleethorpes from Mar 8th-15th and on 24th (IGS et al). A 1st winter bird was inland at Crosby landfill site on Mar 24th (SOS). In the south of the county a 2nd winter bird was recorded at Freiston Shore on Feb 25th (PS). The only record in the second winter period was an adult on the coast at Trusthorpe on Oct 1st (CA,IGS,AJH,ARo).

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
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	9	10	50	30	15	50	120	350
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	90	40	-	1	18	3	16	150	-	22	220
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	900
Gib Point	100	30	96	45	60	190	85	550	300	220	150	260
Freiston Shore	30	10	80	15	12	-	14	14	550	550	75	6
Frampton Marsh	-	2	12	1	2	1	3	1	80	-	52	120
Kirkby on Bain	200	40	100	50	75	20	1	25	110	-	150	300
Whisby NP	86	13	1	-	2	4	1	-	3	28	40	120

Other large counts included 400 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 7th, 100 at Tattershall lakes CP on Jan 14th, 40 at Trent Port (Marton) on Jul 19th, 63 at Howden's Pullover on Aug 22nd, 100 at Witham Mouth on Oct 2nd and 11th, 294 at Saltfleet Haven on Dec 13th, 134 at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 23rd and 270 there on 31st Dec.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

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

The first report was from Gib Point on the early date of Apr 4th, with a peak Apr count of 24 there the following day. A single bird was also seen from Tetney Marsh in Apr. An unusual inland record was from Whisby NP where one bird was at Thorpe Lake on May 14th. Gib Point had maximum year counts of 55 in Jun and 46 in Jul with numbers then falling considerably with a maximum of eight reported in Aug and three in Sep. The Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore both produced peak counts of 50 in Jul with the former producing a county year maximum of 75 in Aug. Further north the records were sparse with Donna Nook having a maximum of six in May, Horseshoe Point seven in Aug and Tetney Marsh eight in Aug. Breeding records from Gib Point were extremely disappointing, with a minimum of 15 pairs failing to produce a single chick between them. An early egg was seen to be taken by a Lesser Black-backed Gull but strong winds and the presence of a Montagu's Harrier for a while may have been unsettling. Some pairs also attempted to breed outside the enclosed areas and may well have been affected by a combination of predators, human disturbance and high tides.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Tetney Marsh	-	1	2	-	2	8	2	-
Horseshoe Point	-	-	1	-	7	3	-	-
Grainthorpe Marsh	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	6	2	4	4	0	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	-
Gib Point	-	24	50	55	46	8	3	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	50	6	25	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	50	75	10	-
Holbeach Marsh	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Whisby NP	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

One record. At Freiston Shore an adult came in off the Wash and visited the Black-headed Gull/Common Tern colony on the lagoon at 0930 on May 22nd, but headed off inland within a couple of minutes (JB). Accepted by BBRC.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

An adult at Fiskerton Fen on Aug 2nd was the 5th county record (KWa et al), see finder's report page 158. Accepted by BBRC. Another adult was reported flying over Alkborough Flats on Jun 27th (ND). Under consideration by BBRC.



Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Fiskerton Fen Aug 2nd 2009 © Dean Eades

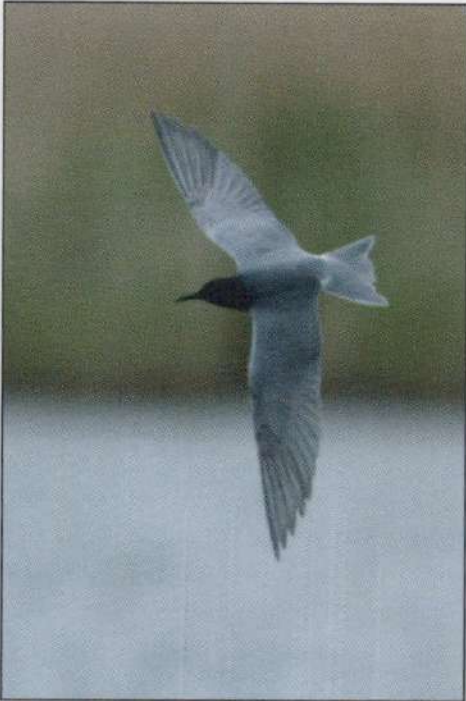
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

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

The first of the year was one at Kirkby on Bain on the early date of Apr 14th. The next records weren't until an influx between May 10th–15th, with 13 at Frampton Marsh on May 10th, seven at Barton pits on 13th, then 21 at Tattershall Thorpe Pits, 17 at Covenham Res and 11 at Frampton Marsh all on May 14th, there were also eight at Toft Newton Res on May 15th. Records continued in lesser numbers throughout the summer and into early autumn with the first juveniles seen at Horseshoe Point on Aug 23rd. Several birds lingered at Covenham Res in early Sep where there was a monthly peak of eight on 2nd. Freiston Shore produced the final sightings of the year with five on Sep 13th.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Coastal sites						
Alkborough Flats	-	6	-	-	-	-
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	-	3	4	-	-	-
Barton Pits	-	7	-	-	-	-
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	-	2	1
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	3	3	1
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	5	-
Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	6	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	-	4	-
Donna Nook	-	-	1	1	7	-
Chapel Point	-	-	-	-	5	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	4	5
Witham Mouth	-	-	1	-	4	3
Frampton Marsh	-	13	-	-	1	-
Inland sites						
Covenham Res	-	17	7	-	7	8
Deeping Lakes NR	-	5	1	-	6	-
Kirkby on Bain	1	21	-	-	1	-

Messingham SQ	-	6	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	3	-	-	-	-
Thurlby Sand Pit (Bassingham)	-	5	-	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	-	3	-	-	-	-
Baston-Langtoft Pits	-	3	-	-	-	-
Toft Newton Res	-	8	-	-	1	1
Whisby NP	-	2	1	-	-	-



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
 Barton pits May 13th
 2009 © Graham Catley



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Toft Newton Aug 31st 2009
 © Matt Latham

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

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

The first record of the year was a single bird at Freiston Shore Apr 9th followed by singles at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh on Apr 10th. Further early spring records included singles at Donna Nook Apr 25th, Frieston Shore May 9th and two at Welland Mouth on May 20th. Inland at Barton five flew east on Jun 26th. Thereafter, there were just a handful of records until Jun 28th when 55 were seen off Donna Nook. Gib Point produced the highest total for the year with 620 on Jul 19th. There were 178 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR a day earlier, then 227 at the same location on Jul 31st. Reports from Aug were widespread and numerous, and included 240 at Chapel Point on 1st, 300 at Horseshoe Point on 5th, 400 at Gib Point on 8th and 300 at Grimsby-Cleethorpes North Wall on 10th. A few birds lingered until mid-Oct with singles at Freiston Shore and Gib Point on the 17th.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Grimsby-Cleethorpes								
North Wall	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	10	22	3	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	7	227	200	95	15	-
Donna Nook	1	-	55	-	220	5	-	-

Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-
Chapel Point	-	-	2	-	240	15	2	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	41	6	-
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	90	8	-	-
Gib Point	1	-	-	620	400	140	1	-
Freiston Shore	1	1	-	24	25	10	5	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	400	100	30	-

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

The first sighting of the spring was one at Freiston Shore on Apr 10th with the last at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 23rd. At Barton, two on Apr 11th increased to 10+ in May and 20+ by late Jul with seven pairs nesting. There were just two breeding attempts at Gib Point, both on Tennyson's Sands, where one nest failed in May and another in early Jul produced one fledged chick. At Freiston Shore 43 pairs nested, with moderate breeding success. At Whisby NP a total of 29 breeding pairs were recorded and 42 chicks hatched, of which 39 were known to have successfully fledged. One adult remained at Whisby until Aug 29th. Kirkby on Bain produced some of the highest inland counts with peaks of 60 in May, 58 in Jun and 54 in Jul. On the coast, 2500 were seen at Horseshoe Point on Aug 19th with 5000+ there on Aug 23rd and 10,000+ the following day. A count of 4000+ moving north past Donna Nook in a three hour period was made on the evening of Aug 30th. These birds were no doubt part of a huge autumnal roost on the Yorkshire coast, with tens of thousands of birds logged moving south past Spurn Point daily. In the south of the county the maximum count from Gib Point was 646 moving south on Aug 29th.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton Pits	8	10	4	20	12	2	-
Tetney Marsh	-	8	-	800	2250	550	1
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	800	-	-
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	-	-	550	-
Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	10000	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	6500	1100	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	26	400	550	1
Chapel Point	-	-	-	-	20	2	2
Skegness	-	-	-	-	200	-	-
Gib Point	5	14	3	47	646	425	20
Freiston Shore	17	100	52	119	75	5	5
Witham Mouth	-	-	10	52	120	20	20
Frampton Marsh	-	3	6	8	-	-	-
Covenham Res	-	2	7	4	10	7	-
Kirkby on Bain	5	60	58	54	30	5	-
Messingham SQ	6	8	8	8	1	-	-
Boultham Mere	1	2	2	1	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	6	5	2	9	6	-	-
Whisby NP	8	25	15	19	33	-	-
Deeping Lakes NR	12	1	-	-	10	-	-

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

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

Apr 15th produced the first sightings of the year, with eight at Covenham Res, seven at Frampton Marsh and one at Sibsey.

Thereafter, small numbers were reported from various locations with nine at Alkborough Flats on May 13th being the highest count of the spring. Autumn counts included 23 at Freiston Shore on Aug 5th, 33 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 7th, 20 at Donna Nook on Aug 21st, and 20 at Horseshoe Point on Aug 24th. Sightings continued well into the autumn with two juveniles inland at Barton on 6th Oct and the final reports from Oct 17th at Huttoft and Gib Point with four and two respectively.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	3	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dawson City Pits	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	20	-	-
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	-	33	-	-
Donna Nook	-	3	1	-	20	-	-
Chapel Point	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
Seacroft	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Gib Point	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	23	5	-
Hobhole, Fishtoft	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Witham Mouth	1	-	-	1	3	5	6
Covenham Res	8	2	-	-	-	-	-

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare passage migrant May-Sep. LBRC RBBP

Another excellent year with up to 22 birds reported, the first of which was at Freiston Shore on Jun 27th (PS), with another there on Jul 4th (PS). Gib Point recorded three past on Aug 20th (DMA) with two by Donna Nook the next day (JS, SL). The highest count of the year was of eight (five adults and three juveniles) at Horseshoe Point on Aug 23rd (GPC), with two adults past Freiston on Sep 13th (JB). Observers at Witham Mouth recorded five (three adults, one 1st-winter and one juvenile) on Sep 14th (JB, PRF, SK et al).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

Following two birds at Freiston Shore on Jan 2nd, this species was not noted again in the county until two were seen at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and one at Gib Point on Jul 18th. After three singles at Gib Point in Aug, records became more frequent in Sep with three at Mablethorpe on 10th and singles at Donna Nook and Witham Mouth on 12th with one or more at the latter site from 14th-16th. Two were also at Freiston Shore on 13th, with two at Chapel Point on 14th and two noted at Gib Point on 14th-15th with four there on 16th and 20+ at Sandilands on 14th. In Oct this species was widely reported along the coast with peak counts of eight at Mablethorpe on 6th, five at

Gib Point and eight at Seacroft on 16th. In Nov there were reports from Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore on 11th with another at the latter site next day and two there on 22nd. At Gib Point singles were noted on Nov 24th and 30th.



Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* The Wash Oct 18th 2009 © Steve Keightley

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

This species was first recorded at Cleethorpes with a single bird on Jan 30th. After another single at Gib Point, on Feb 21st there were no records until a single was again noted at Gib Point on Jun 21st. In Jul three were at Gib Point, on 18th. In Sep, as well as singles at Gib Point on five dates, one was at Mablethorpe on 6th. In Oct, after a single at Gib Point on 1st, two were at Chapel Point on 10th with three at Gib Point on 16th and a single the next day. The final records of the year all came from Gib Point with one on Nov 19th and two on the 30th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor. .

A poor year, with no significant influxes. In Oct a single was at Chapel Point on 10th with two at Witham Mouth on 17th. Strong northerly winds on Nov 30th produced singles at Huttoft Bank, Freiston Shore, Mablethorpe and 2-3 at Gib Point.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

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

A very good year with nine records. The first was a single at Donna Nook on Jul 25th (ACS, SL). A series of Sep records began with one flying south past Gib Point on 3rd, then a single at Chapel Point on 9th (GH) and two at Freiston Shore on 14th (JB, PRF). In Oct a singles were off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 1st (JRW), Chapel Point on 10th (GH) and two passed Witham Mouth on 16th (PRF,AP,JSa) when two were also seen at Gib Point (GPBO). The final record of the year was also of two at Gib Point on Oct 17th (JLu,KMW).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident.

Only three people submitted records for this species, and most of the large urban populations are simply ignored. The largest reported count was of 100 or more at the old foundry adjacent to Butterley’s Pit, North Hykeham, on Nov 9th. The next highest was 44 at Anwick Fen on Feb 22nd, and there were monthly maxima there exceeding 20 also in Mar, May and Dec. Other counts of 20 or more were 40 at Freiston Shore on Jan 1st, 20 at Fulbeck on Jan 10th, 34 at Baston Fen on Feb 8th and 22 at Horncastle on Nov 2nd.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	18	11	15	15	14	19	11	15	10	11	17	15

Reports came from 66 sites through the year, a similar total to 2008, and up to 19 in any one month. In most cases the counts were small, there were fewer than 10 at 45 of the sites, but there were some larger counts this year. The highest were 550 on Nov 19th at Pye’s Hall and 400 on Dec 4th at Donna Nook. All other counts exceeding 100 were also in Nov-Dec, including 286 at Gib Point on Nov 4th, 180 at Goxhill Marsh on Dec 2nd and 225 at Anwick Fen on Dec 19th. Other localities attracting 50 or more were Kirkby on Bain GP in Jan, Manby Flashes in Nov and Grainthorpe Marsh and Worlaby Carrs in Dec.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	100	60	400	200	100	300	400	500
Gib Point	130	170	810	650	380	90	74	250	105	4800	7250	1900
Freiston Shore	20	43	6	6	13	5	3	5	5	30	400	-
Anwick Fen	-	450	485	480	58	65	-	-	-	-	-	950
Baston Fen	600	30	-	-	-	10	32	13	60	20	100	600
R Welland (Spalding)	556	650	276	-	8	7	-	33	255	170	378	-
Welbourn Heath	37	225	68	66	38	45	20	54	60	142	-	-
Whisby NP	7	2	15	53	31	35	29	41	24	85	111	76
No. of sites	30	36	23	25	27	27	15	24	17	18	17	20

The table shows monthly maxima at selected localities with counts in six or more months. The peak of 7250 at Gib Point on Nov 2nd was the highest anywhere in the county this year, and there were also counts there of 4400 on Oct 25th, 4800 on Oct 26th, 5600 on Nov 4th and 6000 on Nov 7th. This is the typical period of peak Wood Pigeon movement in eastern and southern England but it was not reported elsewhere in Lincolnshire this year. Counts of 1000 or more not shown in the table were 1000 at Dunsby Fen, 2000 at Dorrington Fen and 3000 at East Halton Skitter in Jan, 1000 at Donington and at Welbourn Low Fields and 2500 at Worlaby Carrs in Feb, 1500 at Risby Warren in Mar. At Donna Nook a series of high monthly maxima were 1200 in Oct, 3500 in Nov and 4000 in Dec, and finally there were 1700 at Metheringham Delph in Dec.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	15	15	20	10	20	20	-	30
Gib Point	5	2	5	3	4	3	4	3	5	3	5	2
Freiston Shore	6	6	6	6	7	5	5	8	5	60	6	5
Holme (Scunthorpe)	-	-	4	6	2	4	6	250	40	7	4	5
R Welland (Spalding)	36	30	16	-	5	8	-	52	45	77	4	-
Whisby NP	3	2	2	3	2	5	6	5	2	5	2	1
No. of sites	16	23	13	16	17	20	15	16	15	11	13	15

The table above shows monthly maxima at a few selected sites. The count of 250 at Holme, near Scunthorpe, on Aug 21st was the highest of the year, closely followed by 221 in Boston on Nov 15th. Other relatively high totals were 50 at Donington on Feb 15th, 52 along the R Welland near Spalding on Aug 22nd and 77 there on Oct 11th, and 60 at Freiston Shore on Oct 1st. Three other places with counts of 20 or more were Anwick Fen, Billingham and Tetney Marsh.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Widespread but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was one at Water's Edge, Barton Pits, on Apr 20th, followed by individuals at Gib Point on the 22nd, Whisby NP on the 23rd and then more widespread records. There were intermittent counts of 10 or more at Gib Point from mid May to the end of Jul, including 22 on May 23rd, 17 on May 25th, 16 on Jun 20th and 21 on Jun 21st, and up to six through to mid Aug. Around five breeding territories were identified there. Elsewhere, the only day counts exceeding five were six at Kirkby on Bain Pits on May 6th and seven on Goxhill at Aug 18th, although there were six breeding territories at Whisby NP. A pair was seen nest-building at Dawson City and there was one breeding pair at Frampton Marsh. There were regular records until Sep 6th, then singles at Chowder Ness, Barton Pits and Gib Point on the 11th, and later individuals at Gib Point on Sep 19th and flying south on Sep 25th. Generally, reports were highly localised, due perhaps both to the continuing decline and to levels of coverage. It was noticeable that few reports came from the south-west of the county, only 23 out of 321 records this year came from the large sector south and west from Coningsby.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

Singles were present at Humberston Fitties on Mar 21st and at Wheelsby Woods on Mar 29th. At Tetney Marsh singles were seen from Jul 3rd-6th and Dec 20th with two were present on Dec 21st. Although now common in the Home Counties, there is still no feral population in Lincolnshire, and some birds are presumed to relate to local escapes.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	-	4	6	4	3	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	3	4	3	1	1	-

Messingham SQ	-	2	3	2	1	-	-	-
Temple Wood	-	2	4	3	1	1	-	-
Whisby NP	-	1	5	2	-	-	-	-
No. of sites	-	25	50	32	11	4	2	-

The first sighting was at Kirkby Moor on Apr 10th, nine days earlier than the first report from 2008. Risby Warren and Temple Wood both had single birds on Apr 12th. Records then continued on a regular basis from across the county throughout Apr with the first multiple sighting coming from Donna Nook on 25th with three birds. The same location was to have the highest count of the year when six were there on May 1st. A hepatic female was one of three birds at Messingham SQ on May 3rd. There were further reports of 2-3 birds at several locations during May, including Chambers Wood, Temple Wood, Saltfleetby, Kirkby Moor, Skellingthorpe, Whisby NP, Kirkby on Bain and Marston STW. Later in the month four were at Tetney Marsh on May 22nd with Laughton Forest and Crowle Waste each hosting three birds on May 25th. Good numbers were still being seen in Jun including three at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR on 14th, four at Gib Point on 15th and four at Donna Nook on 25th. As expected, sightings fell away in Jul with reports from just 10 locations, but one of these was a multiple record of three at Donna Nook on 9th. Aug reports were all of singles at North Somercotes on 3rd, Tetney Marsh on 17th, Freiston Shore on 25th and Gib Point on 28th. The final sighting of the year was from Gib Point on Sep 5th.



Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Fulbeck Feb 25th 2009
© David Morison



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*
North Killingholme Mar 3rd 2009
© Graham Catley

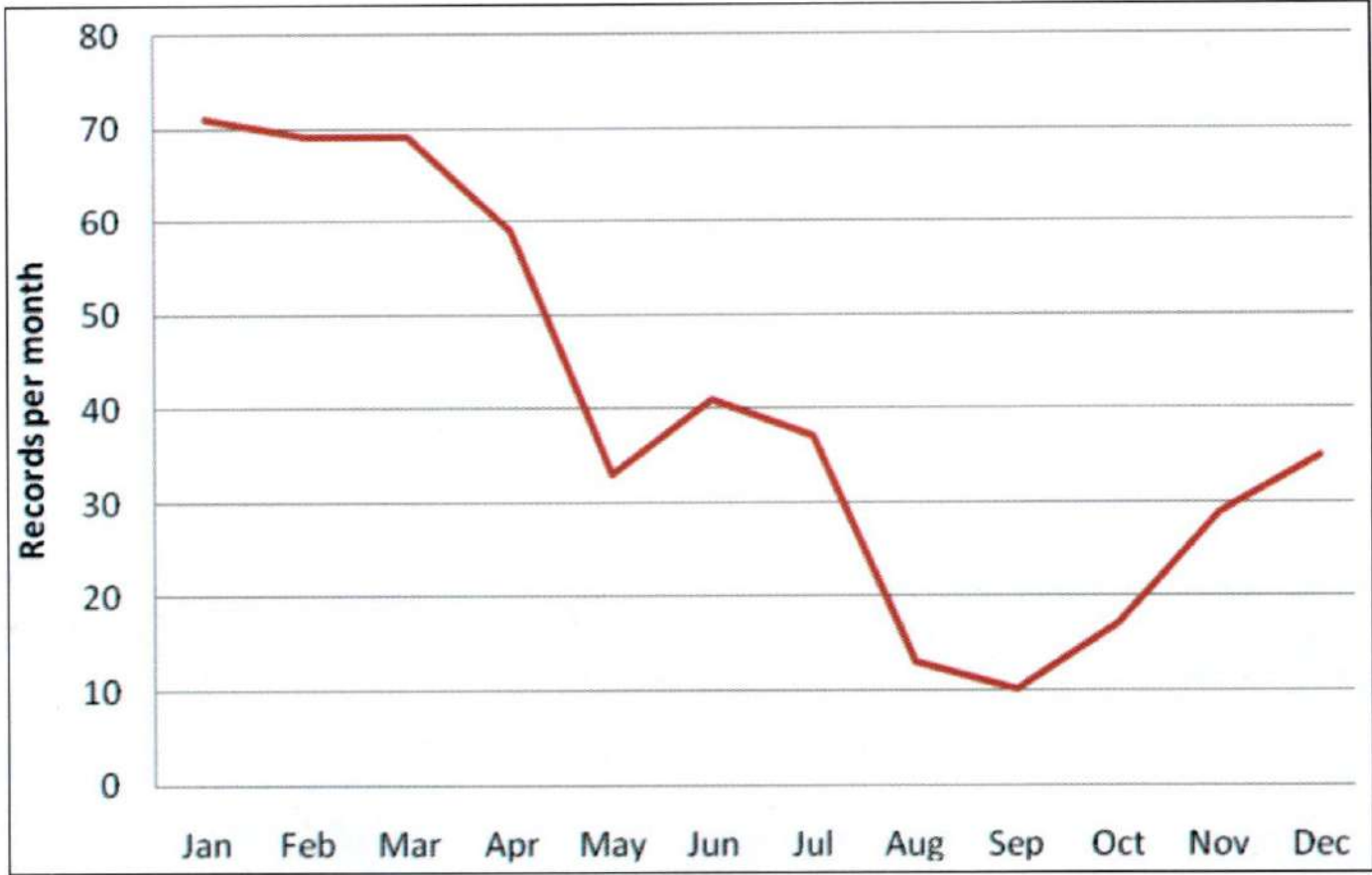
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

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

Dark-breasted Barn Owl *T. a. guttata* is a rare vagrant. BBRC

As usual most sightings were during the first three months of the year due to birds either struggling for food, or concentrating at good hunting areas during Jan and Feb, but probably doing extra hunting in Mar in order to build up weight for breeding. Barn Owls were reported from nearly 200 sites during the year. Maximum numbers were up

to six at Gib Point, Alkborough, Cadney, Worlaby Carrs, Metherringham and Nocton early in the year, but an impressive 16 individuals were at Welbourn in Oct. 2009 was another poor vole year, and the breeding success generally was quite low, most pairs raising just one or two chicks. In one study, 179 nests were monitored of which 34 failed and a total of 309 chicks were raised (averaging 2.27 chicks per brood), with only two pairs double-brooding. In a smaller study in the Binbrook area the average brood size of 2.1 was very similar.



A bird showing characteristics of the continental form Dark-breasted Barn Owl *T. a. guttata*, was found dead at Goxhill on Nov 20th, had been ringed as a nestling on Jul 10th 2009 at Wommersom Vlaams Brabant Belgium (GPC). This record is under consideration by BBRC.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

Reported from 55 sites during the year. Of 47 nests monitored in Bob Sheppard's Little Owl project, mainly in the fenland areas around Lincoln and south Lincolnshire, 14 failed at egg and/or young chick stage. Failures were thought to be due to the dry conditions, resulting in a reduction of earthworm availability, which appears to be crucial for breeding Little Owls. Of the remaining 33 nests some 75 chicks are thought to have fledged. At one site near Freiston Ings, a box was found to contain two females attempting to sit a single clutch of eggs, which subsequently failed to hatch. This may be the first recorded case of polygyny in Little Owls.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Localised widespread resident.

The status and fluctuations in numbers of Tawny Owl is difficult to assess as most records refer to calling birds and/or fledged juveniles. A total of 356 records were

received during the year of generally one or two birds from 58 sites. The majority of reports were either in Apr due to breeding birds or in Oct when birds are calling whilst setting up territories. Nest-boxes regularly monitored suggested that it was a reasonable breeding year, following last year's very poor season.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce and declining breeding bird in county and winter visitor.

Very few records were received during the year. No breeding records were reported and it remains unclear as to whether this owl still breeds in the county. The only records received were of three at Messingham SQ on Jan 1st, with 1-2 there until mid-Feb. Elsewhere, there were singles at Gib Point on Jan 4th, North Killingholme on Mar 3rd, Frampton Marsh on Apr 15th and 27th, Donna Nook from May 25th-Jun 1st and Goxhill Haven on Jul 20th. Later in the year there were two at Frampton Marsh on Sep 13th, one at Donna Nook on Oct 30th and 1-2 at Gib Point in early Nov.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor and occasional breeder.

Most reports were of 1-2 birds at mainly coastal locations from Jan-May and again from Aug onwards. Inland records included four at North Carlton in mid-Jan, two at Goxhill-East Halton on Jan 22nd and singles at New Bolingbroke, Nocton Fen, Wrangle village, Deeping High Bank and Dunsby Fen in Jan. In Feb there were two at Worlaby Carrs and singles at Alkborough, Barton and Hawthorpe. In Mar there were singles at Worlaby Carrs, Far Ings, Covenham Res, Dorrington Fen and Nocton Fen and two at Callan's Lane Wood, Kirkby Underwood. Singles in Apr were at Anwick



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Lincs Coast May 29th 2009 © Dean Eades

Fen, Blankney, Dunsby Fen and Carrington and Goxhill on May 17th. The only Jun records were single birds at Gib Point, whilst in Jul 1-2 were recorded at Holbeach and Frampton Marsh but no instances of breeding were confirmed in 2009. Returning birds were present in coastal areas from Aug onwards, with inland records at Worlabby Carrs, Messingham, Boultham Mere, Nocton Fen, Thoresby Bridge, North Kyme Fen, Hawthorpe. The only sites with two or more were Goxhill with two on Nov 23rd and Cadney with up to three on Nov 16th.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

No migrants were reported this year and all records received are likely to refer to birds on known or potential breeding grounds. Laughton Forest was the primary site in the county with counts of eight on May 28th, nine on Jun 25th and five on Jul 5th. Records from Ostler's Plantation, Kirkby Moor included two on May 28th, with singles on Jun 23rd and Jul 1st. Elsewhere records came from Holme, Scunthorpe with one on Jun 8th, Willingham Woods, with one on Jun 24th and Crowle Moors with two on Jul 4th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first bird noted on Apr 24th was a single at Alkborough Flats, followed by others at Gib Point on 25th, 2 at Marton, 5 at Boultham Mere and 4 at Barton Pits the same day. There were 30 at Barton Pits on Apr 26th. During May concentrations of birds were reported from a number of wetland sites with birds feeding over the water; 300 Covenham Reservoir on 6th, 300 Messingham SQ on 9th, 400 Barton Pits on 12th with 500 there on 18th, 500 Thurlby Sand Pits and 500 Whisby NP/North Hykeham Pits both on 14th, 400 Tattershall Lakes CP 14th and 1000 at Gib Point on 27th. In June, 750 were at Covenham Reservoir on 4th. During July further visits were made to the Helpringham longstanding nesting survey in New Street, where at least 200 pairs remained constant and 34 pulli were ringed as follows: 2 broods of one, 10 broods of 2 and 4 broods of 3, making an average brood size of 2.13. This is higher than the average of 1.94 from the colony over the previous 22 years. Nationally Swifts are in decline, down 29% between 1974 and 2009, so please submit all records for breeding Swifts. The majority of birds had left the Helpringham colony by the first few days of August. Unusually, there were no large movements of Swifts reported during June and July, normally associated with assumed non breeding birds moving through the county ahead of weather fronts. There were 200 birds at Tetney on Aug 5th and 165 in Lincoln on 30th, but again no significant movements or numbers of birds were reported in either late July or August. The last few records for the year were 2 at Baumber on Sept 18th and 2 at Gib Point on Sept 24th.

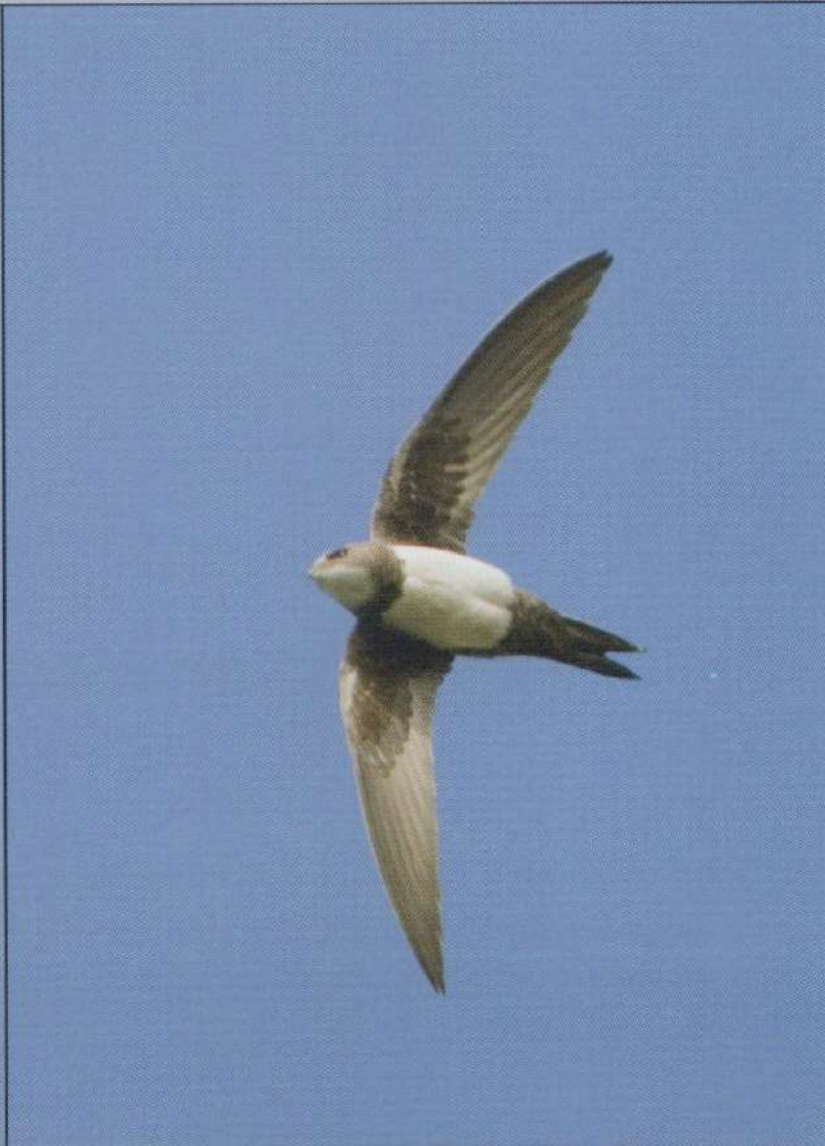
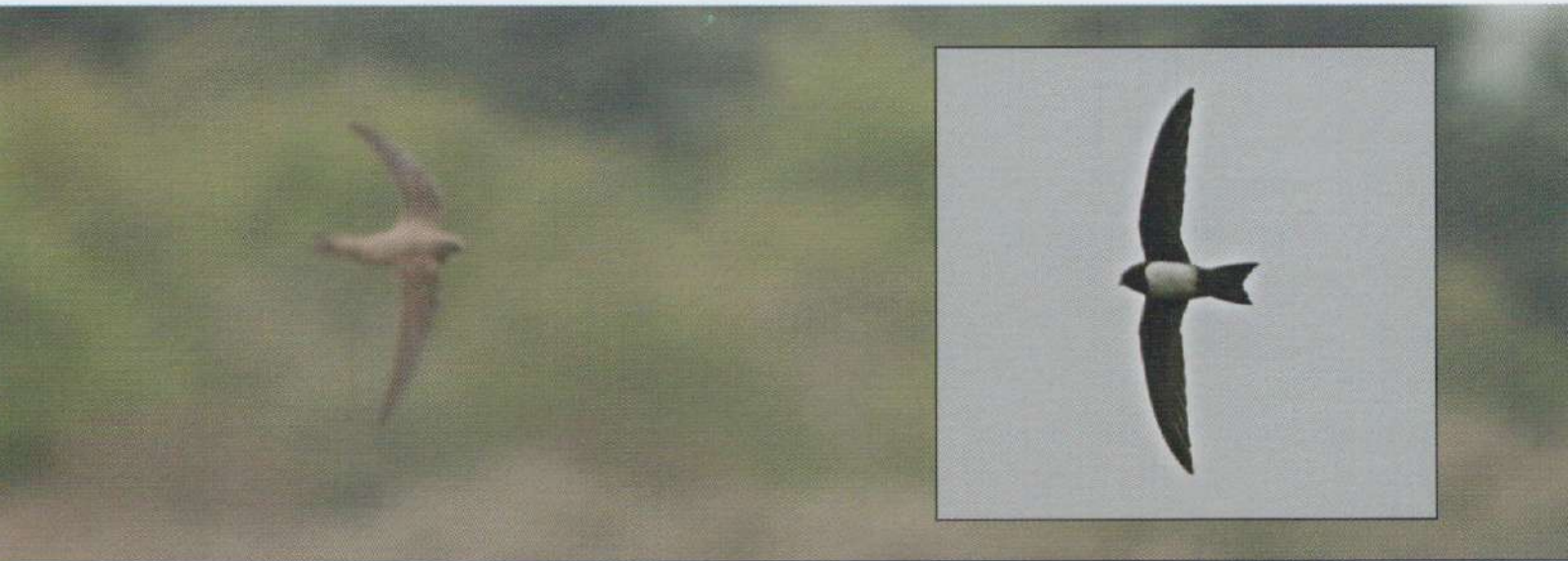
Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Vagrant. Recorded from Mar-Aug with a single record from Oct. LBRC

One at Gib Point on Apr 12th (KMW, APC), and another at Barton Pits on May 1st (GPC, et al). These represent the 13th and 14th county records respectively, with the most recent record at Gib Point on Apr 27th 2003.

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*).

Top two images taken at Gibraltar Point NNR by Andrew Chick on Apr 12th 2009.
Other images taken by Graham Catley at Barton-upon-Humber on May 1st 2009.



Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	2	1	2	1	1
Kirkby on Bain	-	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Messingham SQ	-	1	2	2	2	3	2	-	1	1	1	-
Whisby NP	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	5	5	3	4	4
No. of sites	19	18	25	12	10	13	12	19	29	30	31	24

It is gratifying to see that this species has once again been reported from more than 60 locations as the severe winter would undoubtedly have restricted the areas from which fish could be caught. Jan produced sightings of single birds from various sites, as did Feb, but three were at Hobhole, Fishtoft on 4th. During Mar and Apr there were reports of two birds from several sites including Baston-Langtoft Pits, Messingham SQ and Bagmoor-Winterton Floods. Barton Pits held four birds in early May and two were at Kirkby on Bain Pits on May 4th. The highest counts of the year were during the autumn months with five at Alkborough Flats in early Aug, four at Nocton Fen on Aug 23rd, and up to five at Whisby NP during Aug and Sep.



Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Far Ings Sep 26th 2009 © Don Davis



European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Gib Point May 31st 2009 © Russell Hayes

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Vagrant. LBRC, RBBP

One at Gib Point on May 31st delighted observers from 1215-1400 before unfortunately disappearing (RHay, DMy).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

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

A poor year, with just a single record of a bird photographed in a garden at Wykeham, just north of Spalding, on May 13th (DCw).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

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

Records of singles in spring came from Horkstow Top, Barton on Apr 10th (DBn), Donna Nook on Apr 23rd (SL) and Tetney Marsh on May 13th (RL). The only autumn record was from West Keal on Sep 5th (SA).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1	2	3	3	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-
Messingham SQ	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	2	-	-	1	1
Whisby NP	4	3	4	4	2	3	6	5	5	3	3	3
No. of sites	21	22	30	34	19	10	15	12	12	17	15	8

This species was widespread especially in the wooded parts of the County. Counts of five or more were made; five at Kirkby Moor on Apr 5th, six at Whisby NP on Jul 8th with five on Aug 2nd, five at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall on Aug 19th, five at Whisby NP on Sep 6th, and six at Moor Farm, Woodhall Spa on Nov 11.



Great Spotted Woodpecker
Dendrocopos major Chambers
Farm Wood Sep 4th 2009
© Nick Clayton



Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* Metherringham
Feb 21st 2009 © Russell Hayes

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

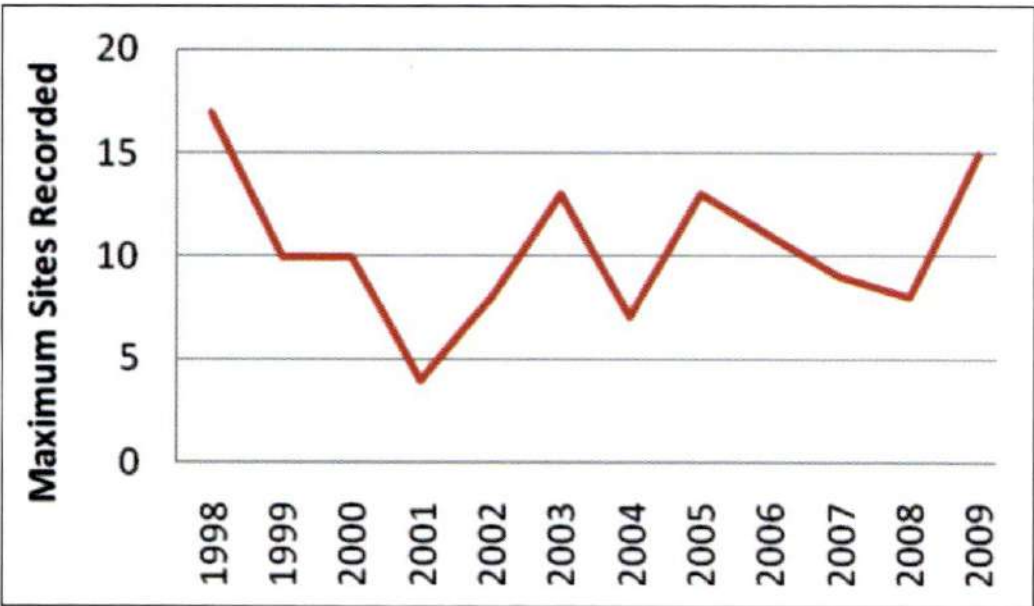
Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	2	3	3	2	-	3	5	2	5	6	4	2
Anwick	4	4	2	2	4	4	5	3	2	-	1	-
Messingham SQ	3	4	4	7	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1
Whisby NP	2	3	3	3	1	4	7	2	3	2	-	2

This species was again widespread. There were several counts of up to seven birds. Other than those highlighted in the table five were at Hopland's Wood, Willoughby on Mar 6th, five at Chambers Wood on Mar 7th and 21st, seven at Elsea/Math Woods,

Bourne on Apr 4th, five at Crowle Moors on May 23rd and five at Anwick Fen on Jun 27th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident.



Recorded from 15 sites in 2009, which was a significant increase from eight sites in 2008, and was the second highest count over a 10 year period. This increase is possibly related to more effort being put into locating birds for the BTO Atlas project. In the first half of the year a maximum of two birds were seen at North Willingham on Jan 27th, Belton Park on Mar 15th and at Owlet Plantation, Blyton on Mar 22nd, with singles being recorded at Owlet Plantation, Blyton on Mar 6th and 25th, Hopland's Wood, Willoughby, on Mar 6th, Neville Wood, Nocton on Mar 7th, Moor Farm, Woodhall Spa on Apr 11th and Nocton Wood on Apr 25th. In the second quarter birds were recorded at Marston STW on Aug 3rd, Whisby NP on Aug 13th, Haddington on Oct 26th, Messingham SQ on Nov 28th, Stainfield, Bardney on Dec 11th and 25th and at Belton Park on Dec 27th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

A very good year with seven records, all typically during the spring or early summer. All records were of single birds as follows; Donna Nook heard on May 16th (JS), Fillingham Lakes heard singing in the early morning of May 21st (DN), Gib Point heard singing on May 25th (GPBO) with probably a different bird heard singing on May 31st (GPBO), Donna Nook on Jun 13th (JS SL), Gib Point on Jun 18th (GPBO) and finally one flew past a lucky observer whilst undertaking BTO atlas work at Kirton Marsh on Jun 23rd (PRF).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

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

A very poor year with just two records of three birds. A female was at Gib Point from Jun 9th–11th, being caught and ringed on the latter date (MRB), and two birds, a male and female, were at Donna Nook on Jun 14th (SL).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

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

A very poor year with just one record. A single bird at Welbourn Heath on Dec 22nd was presumably wintering in the area, as one was found in the same location in Feb 2010 (CPO).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

Reports came from over 70 widespread localities but over 80% of counts involved fewer than 10. At Gib Point, there were 20 or more in most months, peaking at 50 on Sep 5th and the same total was achieved at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 15th. Other peaks of 20 or more were 38 on Nov 7th at Far Ings, Barton Pits, 28 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Feb 19th, 26 at Donna Nook on Nov 30th, 24 at Tetney Marsh on Dec 8th, and 24 at Whisby NP in Jul. Not unexpectedly, most of these high counts were in autumn or early winter, when numbers are boosted by the presence of young birds and flocking behaviour makes it more likely that counts are made.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

Of just over 200 reports from about 50 localities, only 13 from six sites involved five or more birds. The highest count of was 10 at Boultham Mere on Mar 14th. At Whisby NP there were five or more in five months and a maximum day count of eight on Sep 13th. There was also a count of eight at Waddingham on Jun 9th. The other locations from which five were reported were Morkery Wood, South Witham, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Ostler's Plantation.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Nordic Jackdaw *C.m.monedula*. Rare or overlooked winter visitor.

Although widely reported, even fewer roosts were counted than in 2008. The one report of more than 500 birds was 4500 at Dalderby on Feb 11th. There were also 500 at nearby Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Pits on Jun 30th. At Gib Point, counts of 100 or more were made in most months, and the highest numbers during Mar included maxima of 189 south plus a roost of 260 on Mar 2nd, other notable occurrences here included 96 south/south-east on Mar 11th and 83 south/south-east on the 15th, and a roost of 240 on the 20th. Southerly movement was in fact noted at Gib Point throughout the period Feb 21st-May 22nd, and again in autumn during Sep 20th-Oct 30th when the maximum was 32 south on Oct 15th. Other locations supporting 100-200 were Baston Fen NR, Manby Flashes, Marston STW and Stoke Rochford and Park. Few breeding reports were received.

Birds showing characters of the nominate race *C.m.monedula* were at Willingham by Stow from Jan 1st-Mar 4th with three at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Feb 27th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

About 40 of the 250 reports were of 100 or more birds, with the largest being 2000 at Dalderby on Feb 11th, 1000 at Messingham SQ on Feb 6th and at Risby Warren

on Mar 2nd. There were 700 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Pits on Jun 30th, 600 at Manby Flashes on Nov 22nd and 550 at Anwick on Dec 4th. Reports of 100-400 came from 20 other widely spread sites. Some small movements were noted at Gib Point in Feb-May and Sep-Oct, with the largest being 17 south and four in from the east on Mar 15th. A full survey of Rook nests in the Axholme area (i.e. Lincolnshire west of the Trent), part in 2008 and the rest in 2009, located 2118 nests in 39 rookeries, with 45% in sycamore, 19% in ash, 17% in oak and others in 17 further tree species, plus 17 in pylons. The largest single colony was 329 nests beside the M180 near Sandtoft. The sample survey of rookeries in 1996 covered 44% of Axholme where 374 nests were found in 11 colonies, suggesting a total of 844 nests; it seems unlikely that the population has increased by 150% and more probable that the 1996 survey under-recorded the true picture. Few other breeding reports were received for 2009.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

The majority of the largest counts came from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, where 190 were counted on several dates in Nov-Dec. There were also 152 between Whitton and Alkborough on Jan 6th. Maxima at other localities supporting 50 or more were 90 at Donna Nook, 80 at Gib Point, 60 at Tetney Marsh, 60 at Whisby NP, 51 at Normanby Hall and 50 at each of Messingham SQ, Grainthorpe Marsh and Ostler's Plantation. Smaller numbers are much more typical of Carrion Crow, over two-thirds of reports involved fewer than 10 birds. A small, mainly southerly movement was seen at Gib Point in Feb-May and Sep-Oct; the largest by some margin in spring was 37 west and 41 south on May 2nd, while in autumn the maximum was 24 south on Oct 28th.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Resident to 18th century but now a rare breeder and rare/scarce, but increasing visitor. LBRC

There were no reports in May-Jun or Dec but there were intermittent reports throughout most of the year of 1-2 at Belton Park, with three there on Mar 11th and four on Jul 18th (PSm et al), but breeding details were not reported. Four at Marston STW on Feb 17th (RHay) and one at Honington on Mar 27th (NHD) presumably belonged to the same family group, and singles at Fulbeck on Sep 28th (APC) and at Colsterworth on Oct 18th (GRo) were not far away. Other records were well scattered with two at Bardney Pits on Jan 6th-7th (JDM), and singles at Nocton Fen on Jan 19th (ACS), and heard at nearby Neville Wood, Nocton on Jan 20th (ACS). Two at Rowgate Hill on Mar 16th (DS) were followed by two south at Gib Point on Apr 10th (KMW, TB), one at Kirkby Moor on Apr 12th (SRo, DKW) and two at Nocton Wood on Apr 25th (DCo). Another sighting of two at Nocton Wood came on Sep 12th (HM), one flew south-west over Lincoln (ABl) with presumably the same bird near RAF Waddington (BRE) on Oct 9th, one was at Gib Point on Oct 18th (ILI), two flew over the fens south-east of Lincoln on Oct 21st (BHe) and finally one was at Woodhall Spa on Nov 24th (JWa).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A poor year for this species, with a low number of passage and few wintering birds recorded. In the first quarter five at Whisby NP on Jan 10th and a similar number at Messingham SQ on Jan 20th were the highest reported. Although there were many scattered reports in the second quarter, spring migration was largely limited to records

of ones and twos. The exception was at Gib Point where there were 16 on Mar 16th and 14 there on Mar 21st. There were then only eight reports from May to the end of Jul, with two at Messingham SQ on Jul 10th being the only report of more than one bird. A few coastal records occurred from Aug 21st when two at Donna Nook, hinted at the onset of autumn migration. However, the passage never really got underway and the only two figure counts came from Gib Point and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. At the latter site the following were noted during Oct; 25 on 13th-14th, 10 on 17th and 12 on 22nd. At Gib Point there were 13 on Oct 19th and again on 22nd. At Belton Park five on Nov 14th was the highest count in the final two months of the year.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

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

With a minimum of just 24 birds, Firecrest was not an easy species to catch up with in 2009. Spring passage began with a single at Gib Point on Mar 29th, followed by just three records, all of single birds, during in Apr; at Freiston Shore on 4th, trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on 16th and at Gib Point on 23rd. There were no more reports until a single was at Grimsby on Sep 21st. The main autumn arrival occurred during Oct with singles at Gib Point and Saltfleet and up to three at Donna Nook, the highest count of the year, all on 10th. Then followed two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 14th, with single records at the same locality on 17th and 18th, Skegness on 16th, Gib Point on 19th-20th, two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 22nd, two at Toby's Hill, Saltfleet the same day and two at Gib Point on 22nd-23rd. Singles were then at Gib Point on 24th, 26th and 29th (the last two dates probably involving the same bird). In the final two months of the year there was a single bird at Normanby on Nov 10th and two were reported at Belton Park on Dec 20th.



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* Donna Nook Oct 10th 2009 © Graham Catley

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Peaks counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	34	30	32	45	19	16	26	18	39	39	26	37
Whisby NP	84	71	54	69	26	34	66	68	84	88	75	76

A very common resident with records throughout the year from 88 different sites around the county. Whisby NP & Gib Point counts are tabulated and shown above. All other reports were below 15 individuals with the exception of Barton Pits which had a maximum of 21 on Sep 10th and Temple Wood which had a maximum of 20 on Apr 21st. Numbers of fully grown birds ringed by Mid-Lincs RG totalled 490 in comparison to 460 in 2008, whilst numbers of birds ringed in the nest were significantly higher with 656 compared to 445 in 2008. This would suggest an improved breeding season in this part of the county. This trend wasn't reflected at Newball Wood where totals were well below average at 163 individuals compared to an eight year average of 196.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common Resident.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	29	34	45	48	17	21	21	33	29	35	26	26
Whisby NP	74	70	43	49	29	45	23	44	64	44	56	51

Records were reported from 81 sites around the county reflecting the abundance of this very common resident. The vast majority of sites recorded birds in single figures with the exception of Whisby NP and Gib Point which both had consistently higher totals throughout the year. Other sites with significant numbers included Donington with 25 and Anwick and Billingborough Fens with 20 each. Great Tits are reported in consistently lower numbers than the Blue Tit and this is also reflected in ringing data for the county. Mid-Lincs RG ringed 845 compared to 1146 Blue Tits during the year.



Great Tit *Parus major* Chambers Farm Wood Sep 10th 2009 © Nick Clayton

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	15	17	12	18	5	13	10	9	7	5	13	11
Minimum count	25	23	18	35	6	23	15	12	9	10	20	15

Records were received from 37 sites around the county with all records being in single figures. To give a better indication of abundance minimum counts have been included in the table above. Messingham SQ and Ostler's Plantation both reported the highest site totals with six each in Apr and Oct respectively, closely followed by Chambers Wood with five in Nov. All other sightings were of 1-2 individuals. Mid-Lincs RG totals for the year were 123 fully grown birds and 14 pulli giving confirmation of breeding at Newball Wood and Riseholme Campus. During most ringing sessions where Coal Tits were trapped, numbers reflected those of sightings throughout the year with 1, 2 or 3 individuals being caught. On three occasions during the year six individuals were trapped at Usselby and Willingham Woods and on Sep 16th, nine birds were trapped at Usselby all of them juveniles. Juvenile birds made up nearly two-thirds of the ringing totals for the year.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

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

Across most of Lincolnshire, Willow and Marsh Tits do not occur together, but a zone of overlap does exist along the western edge of the fens, and this year records of Willow Tit here included singles near Nocton in Jan and Mar and other sightings near Anwick and South Kyme. The latter area held the largest count of the year, with 14 at Anwick Fen on Feb 1st. There was one report in the south-west, at Holywell Lake on Apr 24th. Widespread records in mostly small numbers came from across the north of the county particularly near Lincoln and Market Rasen, with maximum counts of five at Barton Pits and four at Messingham SQ. At Whisby NP systematic recording during the breeding season identified males singing in 10 distinct areas, with most holding territory. However, it should be noted that there can be a lack of distinction between a permanent home range and the area actually used for breeding making assessment of any data difficult. In addition there were monthly maximum counts here of 12 in Mar, 10 in Apr and 11 in Aug, the latter figure presumably including juvenile birds hinting at a productive season at this site for this nationally declining species.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

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

In the core area, records came from ten woods near Bourne, Colsterworth and Grantham, from a few sites near Sleaford as far into the fens as South Kyme, and in the woods at Potterhanworth and Nocton. The majority of reports were from Jan-Apr and there were none at all during Jun-Sep, but this probably reflects observers' interests and the difficulty of finding birds when trees are in full leaf more than anything else. The highest counts were six at Ingoldsby Wood on Feb 7th and eight at Callan's Lane Wood, Kirky Underwood on Oct 20th, and there were reports of four at Temple Wood and Neville Wood, Nocton and three at Anwick Fen, Birkholme and Holywell Lake. There is a continuing need, especially as both species are declining, to take great care over identification of Marsh and Willow Tits.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

Birds were recorded from just six sites in the county with records concentrated at three main breeding areas; on the Humber bank pits at least two pairs bred at Barton with a peak of 24 birds recorded on Nov 5th then up to 10 until Dec 1st but no more than six after the severe weather set in. Elsewhere on the Humber at least two pairs bred at Winteringham Haven where an autumn peak of 15 was recorded on Oct 9th. A maximum of six birds was recorded from Alkborough Flats between Sep 26th and Oct 14th. At Huttoft Pits at least one pair bred and there was an autumn peak of nine in late Oct; the only other records were a single at Gib Point on Aug 23rd and four at Wroot on Oct 12th.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

Scarce semi-resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and from 1984, steadily increasing to 2000 now declining steady. RBBP

The first bird of the year was recorded on breeding grounds in the north of the county on Feb 21st, with other birds arriving back on territories from early Mar onwards. Passage birds on the coast included singles at Gib Point on Mar 2nd, 7th and 15th. During the nesting season, birds were recorded from seven sites, with territories confirmed at five of these locations. At Kirkby Moor a maximum of two territories were recorded, whilst at Laughton Forest a minimum of four territories were recorded. The passage of birds at Gib Point continued with single birds on Apr 4th, May 7th, Jun 9th, Oct 15th and finally two birds on Nov 7th.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	12	16	10	20	15	30	25	30
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	80	-	2	6	2	2	-	150	8	370
Gib Point	90	54	65	65	45	43	21	25	34	495	523	1323
Freiston Shore	91	25	16	37	31	60	60	-	-	42	15	500
Frampton Marsh	79	28	11	18	17	79	12	2	-	8	47	40
Anwick Fen	-	8	36	35	36	28	-	-	-	-	-	88
Welbourn Heath	2	83	45	56	60	73	57	31	27	81	-	-
No. of sites	12	25	21	25	24	25	14	9	10	23	24	16

In the first winter period, concentrations of 50 or more were reported in several coastal areas, including peaks of c60 at Gedney Drove End on Jan 5th, 90 at Gib Point on Jan 29th, 420 at Saltfleet on Jan 15th, 440 at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 14th and c60 at Howden's Pullover on Feb 2nd. Inland peak counts included c150 at Deeping Lakes on Feb 8th, c160 nr Scunthorpe on Feb 13th and 83 at Welbourn Heath on Feb 18th. Between Apr-Jul birds were recorded from 52 sites, with peak counts of 65 at Gib Point on Apr 4th, 56 at Welbourn Heath on Apr 18th and c60 at Kirkby Underwood on Jun 1st. The only significant breeding counts were 79 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 36 pairs at Freiston Shore. Autumn passage at Gib Point peaked between Oct 26th-Nov 11th with impressive numbers of birds travelling south, including 495 on Oct 28th, 505 on Nov 5th and 523 on Nov 7th. Numbers at this site dropped from the middle of Nov,

Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*) Far Ings.

Bottom right image: Dean Eades. Other images: Graham Catley.



before increasing again in Dec, with counts of 1323 on Dec 20th, 495 on Dec 22nd and 379 on Dec 24th. Elsewhere, there were winter flocks of c170 at Howden's Pullover on Dec 12th, c370 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 19th, 250 at Pyes Hall on 20th and c250 at Dunston Fen Dec on 22nd.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Currently low numbers compared to the 1960's and 1970's. Exceptional inland. LBRC away from Donna Nook and Gib Point.

There were no records from the first winter period. The first record of the second winter period was a single bird at Donna Nook on Oct 10th (PRF), followed by three at Gib Point on Oct 18th (GPBO) and then a single bird at Saltfleet on Oct 22nd (SRo) and four south at Gib Point on Oct 31st (GPBO). There followed a series of records involving initially a flock of up to five highly mobile birds, recorded between Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe St Helens from Oct 8th, increasing to eight birds by Nov 27th and up to six still present until at least Dec 27th (JRW et al).



Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* Theddlethorpe
Dec 1st 2009 © Graham Catley



Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* Brickyard Lane
Nov 29th 2009 © Russell Hayes

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year was one at Boultham Mere on Mar 13th, with two at Kirkby on Bain GP and one at Donna Nook on 15th with more on subsequent days. The first count of 10 was at Barton Pits on Mar 22nd, with 50 there and also at Messingham SQ on Apr 1st. The table shows monthly peaks at sites with counts of over 300 or in at least five months. In addition, there were 300 at North Hykeham Pits in May. As usual, high counts came predominantly from the Humber, coast and Wash, or from the larger inland wetlands. There were relatively few reports from the south-west of the county where the highest total was 30 at Marston STW on May 30th. The only nest count reported was 67 pairs in a new man-made colony at Frampton Marsh and for the first time none bred at Whisby NP.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	2	-	-	-	2000	300	100	-	-	-
Barton Pits	-	-	40	400	50	-	250	6	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	2	4	5	1	10	8	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	1	6	-	-	13	350	1	-	-	-
Saltfleetby/ Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	560	45	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	1	16	10	12	900	1488	750	1	-	-

Freiston Shore	-	-	1	20	-	-	25	75	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	30	72	600	250	30	-	-	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	3	500	-	-	-
Kirkby/Tattershall	-	-	30	30	150	-	60	24	-	-	-	-
Whisby NP	-	-	12	100	100	6	5	150	30	-	-	-

In early autumn, there were 1000 at Goxhill Haven on Jul 20th and 2000 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 23rd and 25th. Bird-day counts at Gib Point, mostly of birds flying south, totalled 2157 in Jul, 2132 in Aug and 1364 in Sep, with movements exceeding 100 on nine dates, most during Jul 24th-30th and Aug 24th-Sep 8th. The highest were 900 south on Jul 24th, 1370 south on Aug 24th and 750 south on Sep 8th. The end of season departure was rapid. There were several three figure counts in the first eight days of Sep, but no counts above 10 after that, apart from 13 at Gib Point and 30 at Whisby NP on Sep 10th. Subsequent records in Sep were mainly from Gib Point, ending with two south there on Sep 26th and one south on Sep 29th. Finally there was a late Oct report, of one at Gib Point on Oct 26th.



Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Frieston Shore
Aug 11th 2009 © Neil Smith



Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Fulbeck
Jun 9th 2009 © David Morison

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

The first was at Ewerby on Mar 15th followed by one at Messingham SQ from Mar 18th-21st and one at Rippingdale on Mar 20th. There were three at Barton Pits on Mar 22nd and the first two figure counts came from four locations on Apr 2nd, with widespread reports thereafter. Movement through Gib Point continued throughout Apr-May, with counts of 100 or more, as usual all paradoxically south, on 12 dates during Apr 25th-May 26th. The largest were 323 south on May 19th and 324 south on May 21st. The table shows monthly peaks at all sites with counts of 300 or more.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	80	40	100	-	500	1000	10	-	-
Goxhill Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	9	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	13	80	20	300	200	60	7	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	2	27	75	-	200	2850	200	2	1	-
Gib Point	-	-	1	176	330	37	1020	1700	8000	19	4	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	101	30	-	1000	500	200	6	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	14	300	35	5	100	10	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	-	-	1	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	-	-	-	-	300	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

In autumn, bird-day counts at Gib Point, mostly of birds flying south, totalled 3112 in Jul, 6581 in Aug and 10352 in Sep, with movements of 100 or more on 22 dates during Jul 25th-Sep 19th. The largest movements were 1200 south on Aug 24th and 8000 south on Sep 8th, the date also of peak House Martin passage. There were also 2850 over Donna Nook on Aug 19th. High counts elsewhere were 1000 at Freiston Shore on Jul 25th and 1000 south west at Alkborough Flats on Sep 8th, both dates coinciding with large Gib Point counts. Numbers declined through Sep, though there were 147 at Gib Point on Sep 26th, and the last two figure counts were 19 at Gib Point and 20 at Witham Mouth on Oct 11th. There were ten coastal reports of up to four in Nov, though only singles after 6th. The last bird of the year was at RAF Waddington on Dec 2nd.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

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

One was seen at Barton Pits on Mar 22nd, the next records were more than a week later at Spalding and three at Bardney on Mar 30th, and more at four sites across the county on Apr 2nd. Spring peaks were 300 at Tattershall Lakes CP on May 14th, 200 at Marston STW on May 17th, 331 south at Gib Point on May 21st and 200 at Covenham Res on Jun 6th. Other notable movements at Gib Point were 135 south on May 20th and 110 south on May 26th. Passage continued into Jun including 70 south at Gib Point on Jun 17th. The table shows all sites with counts of 200 or more.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	100	1	300	50	1	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	1	45	-	-	700	350	3	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	28	331	70	94	505	500	15	2	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	80	-	200	-	0	150	-	-	-
Marston STW	-	-	-	20	200	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Fulbeck May 31st 2009 © David Morison

Bird-day totals at Gib Point, including many flying south, amounted to 233 in Jul, 1924 in Aug and 1303 in Sep, including six movements of 50-110 during Jul 27th-Sep 5th plus 460 south on Aug 17th, 500 south on Sep 8th and 133 south on Sep 19th. There were also 505 present there on Aug 24th. Elsewhere, there were 300 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 11th, 700 south at Donna Nook on Aug 19th, and counts in the first week of Sep of 120 at Tetney Marsh, 150 at Covenham Res and 350 at Donna Nook. Numbers generally tailed off through Sep, though there were notable inland counts

of 60 at Toynton All Saints on Sep 19th and 120 at Market Rasen and 80 at Torksey on Sep 21st. Frequent reports continued through the first half of Oct, including 12 at Marston STW on Oct 4th and up to 17 at Gib Point on the 10th-11th, and there were 4 records of 2-5 at Gib Point during Oct 25th-Nov 6th. The last birds were singles at Wrangle on Nov 7th and Appleby on Nov 16th.

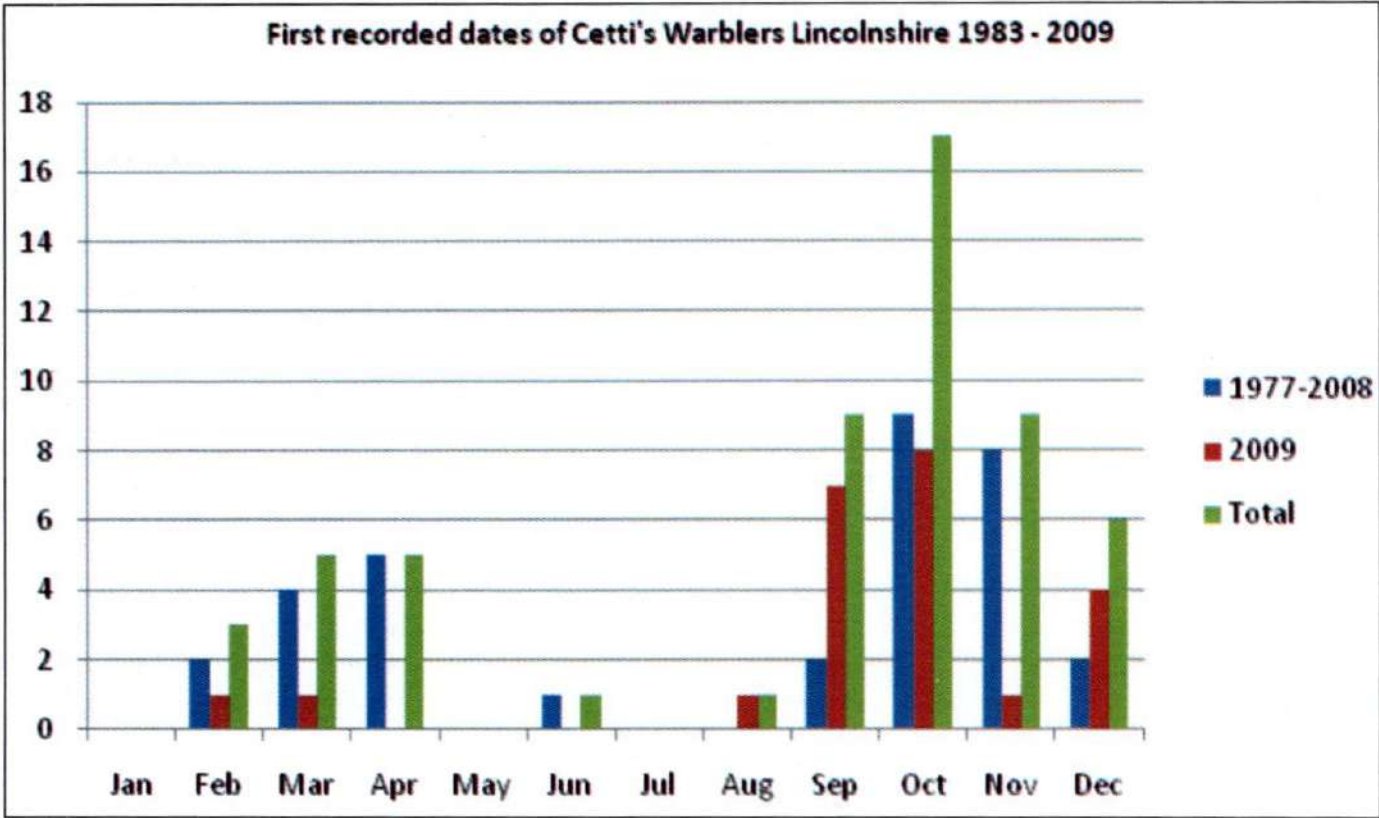
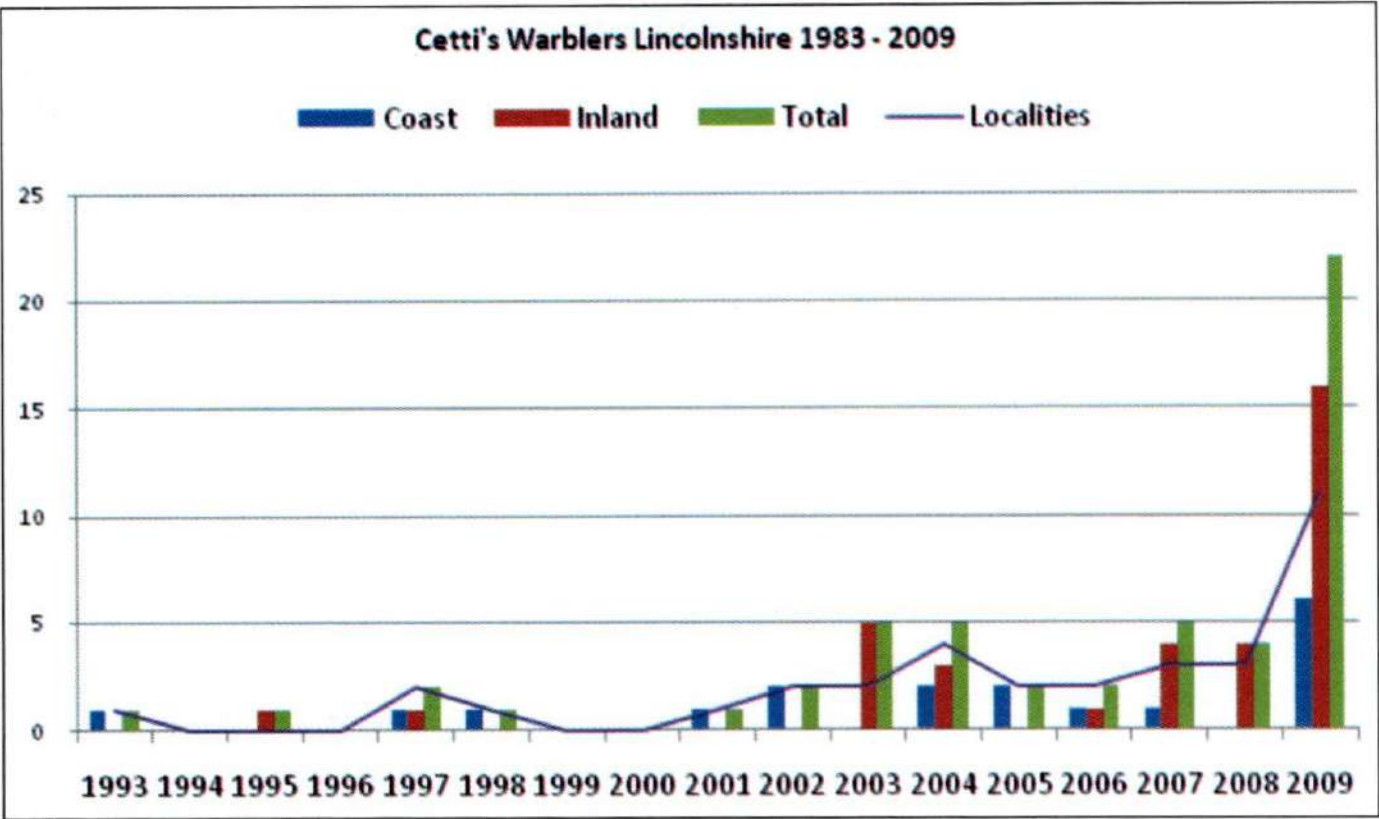
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Increasing, but still very scarce passage migrant, winter visitor. Bred in 2008 and possibly in 2009 LBRC, RBBP

An exceptional year after the first proven breeding in 2008 with two territories being held at different sites through the summer following which there was a marked autumn influx to the coast and inland producing at least than 22 birds between Sep and Dec. At Keadby one was heard calling on Feb 13th with a singing male there on at least Apr 25th and Jun 15th raising the possibility of breeding. At Barton Pits a series of records may well have involved breeding; a male held territory from Mar 16th-Jul 3rd with calling and singing birds noted at the same locality from Aug 29th when at least two males were present. From Sep 25th at least three males were present, with five males and at least one presumed female from Oct 1st-Dec 31st. At Marston STW a first-winter female from Nov 16th 2008 was trapped on Jan 3rd and presumably this bird was the one recorded until Feb 13th; at the same site two females hatched in 2009 were trapped on Sep 25th, one having been ringed at Rye Meads, Hertfordshire (where 20 juveniles were ringed in 2009) on Jul 11th 2009. This bird moved 141km north-north-west in 76 days. It was re-trapped on Dec 1st along with another female. Two males were present at the same time meaning that six birds, two males and four females were recorded at Marston STW in 2009. In the south-east of the county a male was trapped at Fishtoft Sewage Works on Nov 5th. On the coast an obvious influx produced two singing males at Gib Point on Sep 19th with a first year female trapped on 26th, the same day as the two females were trapped at Marston and a day after one was trapped at Donna Nook. The bird trapped at Gib Point was the 5th to be trapped there (all since 1997). At least one bird was at Huttoft pits from Oct 17th-Nov 10th and one at Tetney Blow Wells from Oct 24th was another new locality. A presumed female at Messingham SQ from Oct 10th-Nov 7th at least was the second site record. Singles at Boultham Mere from Oct 27th-Dec 8th and Goxhill Marsh from Dec 2nd-8th were further site first records.

Prior to 2009 the maximum number of Cetti's Warblers recorded from the county in any year was five in 2003, 2004 and 2007 (see chart below). In fact the species has been a very rare bird in the county up to 2001 as shown. The only records prior to 1993 were one at Barrow Haven on Mar 6th 1977 and one trapped at Theddlethorpe on Oct 1st 1983. The first proven breeding was in 2008 when four fledged young were seen close to a nest site in the north of the county.

As shown the county records include a mix of mainly trapped coastal passage birds and birds at inland habitats where birds have often remained for long periods with males holding breeding territories in several recent years. It is perhaps strange that most records are from a very limited number of localities but this maybe reflects the lack of knowledge of the distinctive calls of females/non-singing males rather than the lack of birds at some of the many suitable areas of habitat through the south and centre of the county. The chart below shows the first arrival date, or discovery date, of all records from 1983-2009; clearly most birds arrive in the autumn with a protracted range of dates from Sep through to Dec and further discovery dates in Feb-Apr. Most of the trapped coastal birds have been in Sep and Oct.



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	13	15	13	10	4	33	17	50	44	51	25	15
Whisby NP	81	60	34	17	11	64	34	74	58	102	72	41

A widespread species in suitable areas of deciduous woodland and scrub, with records received from around 62 locations throughout the county. Only regularly counted at

two sites (see table above), with evidence of birds moving through during the autumn months at Gib Point and other coastal sites including Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with 20 birds on both Oct 4th and 22nd and 15 on Nov 7th. Other sites, not tabulated, with counts of 30 or greater, included Donington with 30 on Feb 15th, Kirkby-on Bain with 30 on Jun 22nd, Stoke Rochford & Park with 39 on Jul 3rd and Barton Pits with 30 on Nov 11th.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant. LBRC

The only records this year both came on the typical date of Oct 22nd and occurred during a period of south-easterly winds. One was trapped and ringed at Donna Nook (MS) and the other was found in a garden in the Humberstone Fitties/Tetney area (RL et al).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

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

It was another good year for this species in the county with a minimum of 29 birds recorded. The first records for the year were two birds at Gib Point during the afternoon of Sep 12th (with one still present next day), and were notable for being the first to make landfall in the UK during the autumn. Early records continued in Sep with singles at Seacroft on 16th and 19th, three at Gib Point on 17th-18th, 1-2 (possibly different birds) there on 18th-20th with another at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 19th. There were then no records until Oct 10th when two arrived at Donna Nook (both remaining until 11th) and singles were at Gib Point and inland at Wragby. On 11th singles were inland at Deeping Lakes, with further coastal records from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Skegness. On 13th there were new arrivals at Donna Nook and Gib Point. There were then three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 15th, with one there next day, two on 17th, with at least one also reported there from 19th-22nd. A single bird was at Theddlethorpe St Helen on 15th with presumably this individual still present on 18th. On 17th a bird was at Gib Point with this or another bird present on 18th-19th. Singles were then at Pye's Hall on 18th, Gib Point on 22nd and at Stonebridge, Donna Nook on 28th. During Nov there was a single bird at Gib Point on 11th with another there from 12-14th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC

Five records for the year represents an average showing. One was at Messingham SQ on May 13th (CA), and at Gib Point, singles were recorded on Jun 21st, Jul 31st, and Aug 3rd and 8th (GPBO).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*. LBRC

During the first part of the year, there was just one wintering record of a single bird at Dawson City Pits on Feb 22nd. In Mar there were reports from 41 widespread sites with 10 at both Kirby Moor on 19th and Barton Pits on 20th. During Apr double figure counts came from Willingham Woods with 10 on 4th, Morkery Wood, South Witham

with 13 on 10th and 19th, Temple Wood with 12 on 13th, Messingham SQ with 12 on 13th, Gib Point with 10+ on eight days between 4th and 18th, Chambers Wood with 12 on 23rd and Barton Pits with 12 on 25th. At Whisby NP monthly max counts were 34 in Apr, 12 in May, 12 in Jun, 13 in Jul and 45 in Aug. In Sep there were 12 at Barton Pits on 9th, 10 at Dunsby on 10th, 10 at Seacroft on 19th. At Gib Point birds were recorded on 20 days between Sep 5th and 27th, including a peak of 41 on Sept 12th when 16 birds were ringed. After Sep counts dwindled until Dec when singles were seen at seven sites the last being Tattershall Lakes CP on 28th.

A bird showing features of Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* was at Skegness, Sea Front Road on Oct 23rd where it was observed feeding and calling from a Sycamore tree (NAL).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first bird for the year was a single at Arnold's Meadow, Spalding on Mar 29th. In Apr there were 30 at Barton Pits and 20 at Woodhall Spa on 13th, 24 at Morkery Wood, South Witham on 19th, 45 at Gib Point on 21st, 20 at Chambers Wood on 23rd and a maximum of 32 at Whisby NP. In May there were 31 at Gib Point on 2nd, 19 at Anwick Fen on 10th and 25 at Crowle Waste/Moors on 23rd and a maximum of 46 at Whisby NP. In Jun there were 29 at Gib Point on 13th and 21st and a maximum of 32 at Whisby NP. In Jul there were 68 at Gib Point on 31st and a maximum of 26 at Whisby NP. In Aug there were 126 at Gib Point on 25th, with 166 there on Sep 5th. The last record of the year was also at Gib Point on Oct 19th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

In the first winter period, birds were reported from eight locations, with two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (Crook Bank) on Jan 1st and singles at Gib Point from Jan 14th (which stayed into late Mar), Grimsby on Jan 24th, Healing on Feb 3rd, Woodhall Spa on Mar 3rd, Louth on Mar 16th and Rippingale on Mar 21st. Due to wintering birds the first returning migrants are always hard to tell, but one singing at Messingham SQ on Mar 31st could well have been the first. Subsequently Blackcaps were widely reported. Interesting counts received (presumably of singing males) were 10 at Morkery Wood, South Witham on Apr 19th, 11 at Temple Wood on Apr 21st, nine at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on May 9th and a peak of 40 at Whisby NP in May. Autumn passage was prolonged on the coast, with regular counts received from several locations. Influxes did occur, and at Gib Point there were 12 on Aug 23rd, 18 on Aug 18th, 12 on Sep 4th, 32 on Sep 5th, 21 on Sep 9th, 13 on Sep 18th, 10 on Sep 25th and single figures throughout Oct. Late migrants were three at Gib Point on Nov 6th and one at Donna Nook on Nov 10th. Inland, two were at Sleaford on Nov 15th and one was at Louth on Nov 17th. Winter records from the second winter period were fewer than the first, with one at Gib Point throughout Nov-Dec and one in Boston on Dec 12th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

The first of the year was at Wispington on Apr 17th. Only recorded from 32 sites, this species is likely to be under-recorded. Site peak counts in spring, presumably of

singing males were: Whisby NP, 23 in May; Messingham SQ, seven on May 14th; Crowle Moors, four on May 23rd; Twyford Wood, c15 on May 24th and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, seven on May 28th. Migrants along the coast were recorded from several locations, but were very thin on the ground. Records were: one at Alkborough Flats on Aug 22nd, up to seven at Gib Point on Aug 23rd (1-4 were at this site Aug-Sep 20th), one at Alkborough Flats on Sep 2nd, one at Barton Pits on Sep 5th and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 18th and 20th. The final bird of the year was almost a month after this, with one at Gib Point on Oct 18th.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

The autumn produced four records, all of singles; at Horseshoe Point on Sep 12th (DJB et al), Gib Point on 20th (RKW, EJM), an exceptional inland record at Wroot from Oct 17th-21st (C McNewson et al) and finally at Donna Nook on Nov 10th (SL, GW).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year was at Dawson City Pits on Apr 13th. The best site by far was Whisby NP, with a peak of 10 recorded in May. Elsewhere reported from approximately 33 sites in the breeding season. Autumn passage produced widespread singles, with larger counts of seven at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 28th and seven at Donna Nook and eight at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 31st. At Gib Point, several distinct arrivals were noted. Up to 25 were seen in late Jul-early Aug, and may have related to locally bred birds. Then, 15 on Aug 14th increased to 18 on Aug 17th and 24 on Aug 22nd and 24th. Numbers tailed off to single figure counts, before 24 arrived on Sep 4th, increasing to 41 the following day. This arrival moved through very quickly, with only one reported on Sep 8th, but another arrival was noted on Sep 9th with 15. A max of three were seen from Sep 14th-17th, before the final significant arrival of the year of 10 on Sep 18th increasing to 17 the next day. Single figure counts were then noted from Sep 21st. The final bird of the year was also at Gib Point from Oct 17th-26th.



Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Cleethorpes May 2009 © Richard Pipe

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

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

The first of the year was at Bourne on Apr 10th and was followed by singles in the north of the county at Bagmoor/Winterton floods on Apr 11th and Barton Pits on Apr

12th. The first at Gib Point were not recorded until Apr 16th, but numbers quickly increased to reach a total of 49 singing males here on Apr 30th. Peak spring/summer counts (mainly of singing males) for selected sites are as follows: Anwick Fen, 32 on May 10th; Donna Nook, 40 on May 7th; Frampton Marsh, 15 on Jun 15th; Gib Point, 94 May on 23rd; Nocton Fen, 12 on Jun 12th; Tetney Marsh, 15 on May 9th; Whisby NP recorded a monthly maximum of 42 in Jun. Autumn passage on the coast is masked by breeding birds, but a tailing off of records in late Aug to single figure counts in early Sep was noted at Gib Point. There was then an influx of 51 on Sep 5th that had mostly moved through by the 8th. Small numbers were recorded along the coast throughout Sep, and the final record of the year was one at Gib Point on Oct 4th.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Vagrant. LBRC, RBBP

A presumed female/immature was discovered at the very northern end of Gib Point on Nov 28th and was present until the end of the year. This is the third Gib Point record with birds also being at found at this site in the winters of 2004/05 and 2007/08.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

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

Only 42 records were received from 28 localities. This is a slight increase in numbers compared to last year and birds were more widespread. The first were on Apr 10th, with one at Gib Point eventually increasing to four, and two at Barton Pits. The main spring passage continued until early May with single singing birds widespread; peaks were three at Mablethorpe North End on Apr 20th, four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 27th and three at Barton Pits on 28th. Singles were also noted at Donna Nook, Twyford Wood, Toynton All Saints, Marston STW, Alkborough Flats, Killingholme Haven, Anwick Fen, Dunsby Fen, Trent Port (Marton), Burton Stather Pit, Holywell Wood, Somersby, Sleaford, Frampton Marsh, Morkery Wood, South Witham, Cleethorpes, Ingoldby Wood, Swanpool, Scotterthorpe, Skellingthorpe, Walesby Moor and Kirkby Moor. One was trapped and ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 3rd, but there was no proof of breeding from any site. The last bird of the year was at Alkborough Flats on Aug 8th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare passage migrant May-early Jun and late Jul-Oct, exceptional inland. LBRC, RBBP

One was reported at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe from Sep 17th-19th (SJM)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

The first of the year arrived on Apr 10th with singles at Freiston Shore and Gib Point, two at Whisby NP and six at Barton Pits. Thereafter there was a steady influx throughout the month with peaks of five at North Hykeham Pits, six at Whisby NP, four at Messingham SQ, eight at Anwick Fen, seven at Donna Nook and 40 at Barton Pits on 25th. High counts during the breeding season included 80 at Barton Pits, 10 at Donna Nook, 10 at Marston STW, 20 at East Halton Skitter and 13 at Gib Point whilst lower counts of 1-9 were reported from 27 other sites. Birds were scarce in Sep with six

at Gib Point, four at Frampton Marsh and one at Alkborough Flats. The last bird of the year was a juvenile at Barton Pits on Sep 26th.



Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* Barton pits May 28th 2009 © Graham Catley



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Branston Fen Jun 26th 2009 © Russell Hayes

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

The first of the year were two at Barton Pits on Apr 11th followed by singles at Kirkby on Bain GP and Gib Point on 14th. Birds continued to arrive at their breeding quarters until the end of May at least. A common breeding bird but with little meaningful data submitted, the following locations at least held double figure territory holding males during the year; Messingham SQ, Marston STW, Anwick Fen, Tetney Marsh, Kirkby on Bain GP, Whisby NP, Scotterthorpe, Pinchbeck and Gib Point. In addition single figure counts were reported from at least 45 other sites. Small numbers were still fairly widespread in Sep with high counts of 10 at Gib Point, six at Alkborough Flats and five at Donna Nook. The final birds of the year were at Alkborough Flats with two on Oct 4th and the last recorded there on 12th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

Whisby NP produced the first record of the year with four present at the end of Dec 2008 staying over until Jan 1st. A single bird was reported at Padley Road in Lincoln on the same date. Sightings then increased during the month with the first double figure count coming from Witham St. Hughes where there were 13 on Jan 12th. Numbers at this location peaked at 15 with one still present on Feb 14th. There were very few records from the south of the county but two visited Wyberton on Jan 17th. In

Scunthorpe, 16 were at Doncaster Road on Jan 27th with the total increasing to 21 by early Feb, after they had moved to the Cliff Closes Road area. What was assumed to be the same group had grown in size to 30 individuals by Apr 10th when they were sighted at Bottesford. Humberston attracted a peak of 50 birds on Feb 28th with smaller numbers lingering in the general area until late Mar. New Waltham held 20 on Mar 21st and 30 were in Grimsby on Mar 26th. Messingham had a peak of 51 that ranged between the village and the Nature Reserve from Apr 2nd-7th but Laughton was to host the biggest gathering of the year, a maximum of 79 on Apr 13th with 40 still lingering there on Apr 15th. A dozen arrived at Barton on Apr 12th, with 14 on Apr 17th and eight still present on Apr 19th. One of the Barton birds had been colour-ringed at Allenvale Cemetery in Aberdeenshire on Nov 11th 2008, subsequently being reported from Alvaston in Derbyshire on Feb 4th 2009. Disappointingly, there were no sightings in the county during the latter half of the year.



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Witham St. Hughes Jan 2009 © Nick Clayton (left) and © Dean Eades (right)

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Barton Pits	-	-	-	14	-
Blyton	-	-	37	-	-
Cherry Willingham	3	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	-	44	-	-	-
Donna Nook	4	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	-	-	-	-
Gainsborough	-	12	20	-	-
Gib Point	3	-	-	-	-
Grimsby	-	-	30	-	-
Humberston (village)	-	50	41	12	-
Laughton (Gainsborough)	-	-	-	79	-
Lincoln	1	-	-	-	-
Louth	1	1	-	-	-
Ludborough	5	-	-	-	-
Messingham (village)	-	-	-	51	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	50	-
Morton (Swinderby)	8	-	-	-	-
New Waltham	-	-	20	-	-

North Hykeham	-	2	-	-	-							
Quarrington	-	1	-	-	-							
Scawby	-	-	6	-	-							
Scunthorpe	16	21	22	30	-							
Stallingborough	2	-	-	-	-							
Thorpe on the Hill	-	14	-	-	-							
Thurlby Sand Pit	12	-	-	-	-							
Upton	2	-	-	-	-							
Wasps Nest	-	2	-	-	-							
Whisby NP	4	-	-	-	-							
Witham St Hughs	15	15	-	-	-							
Wyberton	2	-	-	-	-							

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce local resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	11	6	13	12	3	1	-	2	2	4	3	2
Minimum count	20	9	18	32	4	4	-	2	6	6	5	7

Nuthatches still remain locally common in woodlands primarily in the south-west of the county although there were also records in the Lincoln and Gainsborough areas and extending north and then east to include areas around Normanby, Alkborough and Grimsby. The sedentary nature of this species is likely to mean that most records from suitable habitat represent a potential breeding territory. It is clear that the species is under recorded, but concentrated recording efforts can produce high counts, such as 12 at Grasby Bottom, north of Caistor, on Apr 23rd. Records of more than two birds included three at Nocton Fen on Jan 3rd, three at Scawby Park on Jan 24th, three at Normanby Hall CP on Mar 31st, five at Belton Park on Apr 13th and five at Anwick Fen on Dec 20th.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Well distributed with birds being seen and heard from many suitable areas of woodland, but in general terms likely to be under recorded, and just 32 locations were represented for this species within the county during the year. Typically between 1-3 birds were reported from most sites, with only three higher counts of seven at Whisby NP during Jan, four at Hopland’s Wood, Willoughby on Mar 6th and six at Belton Park on Sep 26th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Counts were received from over 80 localities but most were in single figures, not reflecting the abundance of this small but, in song at least, hardly unobtrusive species. Overall, the highest numbers were reported in the breeding season, but there was another peak indicative of passage in Oct. BBS data for England showed a significant population decline of 10% between 2008 and 2009 but, with few areas recorded systematically in both years, this was not evident from the Lincolnshire counts. The two places counted most regularly are included in the table.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	27	18	24	52	32	43	47	43	49	66	40	22
Whisby NP	11	5	20	31	46	42	40	23	17	25	22	16

Maxima at other sites with 20 or more in at least one month were 46 at Crowle Moors in May, 32 at Anwick Fen in May-Jun, 20 at Marston STW in Jan, and 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Oct.



Wren *Trogodytes troglodytes* Whaplode Jun 2009 © Neil Smith

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Despite being a UK red listed species due to a long term decline in breeding numbers, this still remains a common and widespread species in the county particularly during the winter months, when resident birds are supplemented by migrants chiefly from Scandinavia and the Baltic. Passage was very evident during Mar, with peak counts including 10,000 roosting on Tesco's at Wyberton Fen on 4th, 5000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 16th and 9400 at Gib Point on 20th with numbers tailing off significantly towards the month's end. The first large flock of the autumn occurred during Jul when 2000 flew over the visitor centre at Gib Point on 16th, but Oct and Nov remain the months for the main winter influx. Peak counts during this time included 2500 at Alkborough Flats on Oct 15th and 4000 on Nov 25th, 2100 at Donna Nook on Oct 23rd and 1570 at Gib Point on Nov 7th. Only two locations produced some spectacular numbers coming into winter roost sites and peaked with counts of 50,000 at Far Ings (Ness Pit) on Nov 1st down to 30,000 by 5th and 20,000 at Boultham Mere on Nov 2nd.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

The first bird for the year was a male at Barton Pits on Mar 31st followed by a male at Bracebridge Heath on Apr 1st and a male at Cranwell village from Apr 3rd-5th. The

main arrival during spring occurred from Apr 5th-22nd and involved around 17 birds at seven coastal and two inland locations. Coastal peak counts during this time included three at Gib Point, three at Donna Nook and up to six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, whilst inland, singles were at Risby Warren on 12th and Moor Farm, Woodhall Spa on 18th. May was much quieter with only four birds all from Gib Point from 2nd-18th. Autumn records started with a single bird at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 4th and excluding Gib Point records, treated separately below, a concentrated influx then occurred from the 9th-28th and involved some 18 birds from nine coastal sites. Single birds were recorded at the majority of these locations, although there were peak counts of six at Donna Nook and five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. There was a solitary inland record of one bird at Worlaby Carrs on the 11th. Autumn records from Gib Point came from the period Oct 5th-22nd and involved between 1-3 birds on most days, but with an exceptional count of 22 on the 15th. There were no Nov records this year in Lincs.



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* RAF Cranwell
Apr 4th 2009 © Russell Hayes



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Far Ings Barton
Mar 31st 2009 © Graham Catley

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	47	52	45	39	24	27	16	18	21	462	460	161
Freiston Shore	14	6	5	10	8	3	6	3	6	25	20	75
Whisby NP	89	67	66	49	47	51	49	28	19	49	90	142

One of our most widespread species, there were reports from all corners of the county. Although some are sedentary, small numbers move south and west in winter to be replaced by large numbers from Scandinavia where they can be seen arriving along the east coast of Lincolnshire, before moving inland. This can clearly be seen in the table above at sites where monthly counts are maintained, with a distinct peak in numbers at all three locations during Oct and continuing into Nov and Dec. Elsewhere, other notable counts included Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with 150 on Oct 18th, 200 on Oct 22nd, and 800 on Oct 27th, and Donna Nook with 1000 on Oct 27th and 520 on Oct 31st.

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 from around the county mostly involving between 1-200 birds. Excluding Gib Point which is treated separately below,

counts over 200 were made at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with 300 on Jan 1st including five birds that were trapped and ringed, Worlaby Carrs with 500 on Jan 23rd and 340 on Feb 8th, Nocton Fen with 1000 on Jan 23rd, Metherringham Delph with 240 on Jan 26th and 350 on Feb 16th, Dalderby with 230 on Feb 11th, and Anwick Fen with 675 on Feb 17th. Numbers at Gib Point were much higher than elsewhere with an average day count of around 364 during Jan and month peak of 900 on Jan 18th and around 275 during Feb, with peaks of 500 on both Feb 7th and 13th. Numbers declined everywhere, including Gib Point, during Mar and Apr with typically between 1-120 birds during Mar and 1-100 birds during Apr, although there was a notable count of 160 at Metherringham Airfield on Apr 6th. There was one May record of a single bird at Gib Point on 9th. The first birds of autumn were a single at Gib Point on Sep 23rd and nine at Donna Nook on Sep 28th. Once again widespread from Oct with a notable influx on the 27th, which included 2700 west at Donna Nook, 2000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, 1650 in one flock fighting over at Dorrington and 1400 which arrived from the north/north-east at Gib Point. Everywhere, including Gib Point, saw much lower numbers during Nov and Dec, typically involving 1-200 birds, with higher counts of 450 at Frampton Marsh during Nov, Goulceby with 400 on Nov 7th and Worlaby Carrs with 400 on Nov 14th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Widely scattered records came from 37 sites during Jan-Mar with between 1-6 birds recorded, although Gib Point recorded slightly higher numbers with peaks of 25 on Jan 6th, and 18 on Feb 14th. Breeding season records came from 45 sites throughout the county all involving single figure counts but for Stoke Rochford and Park where 13 were reported on Jul 3rd. The only location with a double-figure breeding season count was Whisby NP where around 10 territories were recorded. There were single figure counts from nine sites during Aug, and from mid-Sep onwards, passage became evident with a peak count of 28 at Gib Point on the 19th. Migrants continued into Oct and peak counts included 30 at Seacroft on 11th, 60 at Donna Nook on 27th, and 150 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 13th with daily records from Gib Point, including peaks of 178 on 10th and 260 on the 16th. Numbers reduced back to single figures during Nov and Dec for all locations except Gib Point which recorded monthly peak counts of 23 on Nov 7th and 35 on Dec 28th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

A very common winter visitor during the first three months of the year, flocks of between 1-90 were widespread. The only three figure counts during this period were 140 at Market Rasen on Jan 21st and 104 at Scawby Park on Jan 24th. Numbers typically tailed off during Apr and the last birds to leave were singles at Gib Point on May 1st and Donna Nook on May 14th. Autumn started off with one at Gib Point on Sep 5th followed by 17 on 10th with frequent records for the rest of the month, and elsewhere, five were at Donna Nook on Sep 28th. A widespread arrival during Oct then followed, including some big numbers of passage birds during the middle and again at the end of the month. Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR recorded 5000 on Oct 15th and 1400 on Oct 27th, Gib Point 7675 on Oct 15th, 8350 on Oct 27th and 1330 on Oct 30th and Donna Nook 4500 on Oct 27th. Numbers inland at this time were much lower, in the

low hundreds at best and didn't eclipse the 280 at Fulbeck on Oct 13th. Nov and Dec were quieter at both coastal and inland locations and flocks of between 1-86 became to norm again. During these last two months the only three figure counts received were 120 at Trent Port on Nov 6th, and 120 at Arnold's Meadow, Spalding on Dec 16th.



Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Witham St. Hughes Feb 7th 2009 © Matt Latham

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Small numbers of between 1-5 were widely noted in the first three months, with higher counts of six at Gib Point on Jan 6th, seven at Messingham SQ on Feb 6th, 10 at Donington on Feb 15th, and 10 at Holme on Mar 4th. During the breeding season recorded from around 39 locations although most records lacked details, and the only information received included four territories at Whisby NP with at least one juvenile bird on Jun 6th, around four pairs at Gib Point, eight juvenile birds at Barton Pits on Jun 13th, and one juvenile at Anwick on Jul 11th. Post breeding flocks were few with just two counts of 30 at Holme on Jul 18th and 15 at Risby Warren on Jul 23rd. There were passage birds at Gib Point on many days throughout Sep and Oct with peaks nine on Sep 12th and 25th and seven on Oct 27th. Elsewhere passage was less visible although 24 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 14th and 19 at Freiston Shore on Oct 25th presumably involved migrant birds. Notable inland counts during the autumn included 18 at Holme on Oct 5th and seven at Swanpool on Oct 18th. Nov and Dec reverted to small flocks of between 1-6, but with higher counts of nine at Gib Point on Nov 7th and eight at Anwick Fen on Dec 20th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Formerly common, now very local summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first at Anderby Creek on May 15th was followed by one at Donna Nook and two at Messingham SQ the following day. The remainder of the month produced few other records and notable was an almost complete lack of coastal migrants, with only high counts of two at Grainthorpe Marsh on May 23rd and three at Gib Point the same day.



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Freiston Shore Aug 23rd 2009© Neil Smith



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Alkborough Flats Sep 3rd 2009© Graham Catley

Summer records came from nine sites during Jun and an additional four sites during Jul, with most of these referring to likely breeding locations. However, confirmed breeding appears to be unrecorded with only one report of a single juvenile bird at Roughton on Jul 22nd. This is a worrying trend and observers are asked to submit all records of this species during the breeding season, so that an accurate picture of the status of this declining species can be monitored. During Aug returning autumn migrants were recorded from 17 sites with high counts of four at Linwood Warren on 4th, five at Messingham SQ on 24th, four in the Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits area on 26th, five in the Boultham Mere/Swanpool area on 28th and 16 at Gib Point on 29th with up to seven still there on the 31st. During Sep birds were recorded from 13 sites, mostly 1-2, with high counts including seven at Alkborough Flats on 2nd with five on 7th, four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 6th, and three at Whisby NP on 7th. However, it was Gib Point that produced the best counts with a notable influx of 14 on 4th peaking the following day with 39, with 23 still present on the 6th and seven on the 7th, before numbers decreased to 1-2 for the remainder of the month. Oct saw the final birds for the year with single birds at Normanby le Wold and Donna Nook both on the 1st.

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	27	26	30	41	18	13	14	22	72	178	105	40
Whisby NP	39	51	48	57	41	30	11	25	49	57	34	36

A common bird with a widespread distribution throughout the county, the table above lists a comparison of monthly maximum counts from two sites where regular counts are undertaken. An increase in numbers in Sep and continuing into Oct and Nov is caused by an annual influx of birds from Scandinavia which supplements the British population, which tends to be fairly sedentary. This autumn influx can also be seen elsewhere particularly at coastal sites, although the only other counts of note received were at Seacroft with 50 on Oct 10th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with peaks of 35 on Oct 10th and 40 on Oct 22nd and Donna Nook with peaks of 40 on Oct 27th and 50 on Nov 6th.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first-summer bird was caught at Stonebridge, Donna Nook early on the morning of May 16th (JS et al) and is the seventh county record. See finders report on page 156 for full details on this bird. (Accepted by BBRC)

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

Encouragingly Nightingales appeared to fare better in the county this year, perhaps as a result of more reports being received. The first bird of the year was not surprisingly singing at Whisby NP on Apr 12th followed by a passage migrant at Anwick Fen on Apr 13th. Breeding season records from the south of the county included single birds at Temple Wood and Callan’s Lane Wood, Kirkby Underwood on Apr 23rd, Holywell Wood, Somersby on Apr 24th and Morkery Wood, South Witham on Apr 29th. In mid-Lincs detailed census work at Whisby NP recorded nine singing males, a slight reduction

on the 2008 figure, although it was thought to be a productive breeding season at this site with at least two broods known to have successfully fledged. Elsewhere in mid-Lincs single birds were at Chamber's Farm Wood from Apr 30th-May 28th, Hardy Gang Wood, Apley on May 27th and Willingham Woods between May 16th-18th. In the north of the county one at Barton-upon-Humber on May 1st and one at Crowle Moor on May 23rd was presumably from the small adjacent South Yorkshire population. Birds at Whisby NP are believed to leave during the latter half of Jul, so a bird still present from Aug 6th-11th was noteworthy. There were two coastal records during the year, both at Gib Point, with a singing male on May 26th-27th and an un-identified Nightingale species (most likely Common but Thrush Nightingale was not eliminated) on Sep 17th.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

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

The only record of the year was a single bird caught and ringed just north of Sutton Bridge on Oct 24th (per BTO). Unfortunately there are no further details regarding the age or sex of this bird.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

A single bird may have been wintering at Lincoln Cathedral in the first-winter period but was only seen on Feb 24th. The first spring birds were singles at Belchford and Donna Nook both on Mar 18th, followed by singles at Butterwick on 19th, Covenham Res from 26th-27th, Saltfleet from 27th-29th, Mumby on 27th, Freiston Shore from 29th-30th, Tetney Lock and Humberston Fitties both on 31st and three at Gib Point between the 25th-30th. During Apr another 18 birds were recorded between the 1st and 19th with Gib Point recording eight, Donna Nook four, Grainthorpe and Winthorpe two each and singles at Freiston Shore and Risby Warren. There was just a single bird during May, a female at Grimsby Docks on 6th. There were no nesting attempts in the county this year. Late summer/early autumn records included singles at Risby Warren on Aug 12th, Saxby all Saints on Sep 5th, Donna Nook on Sep 17th and Holme on Sep 19th. Oct brought a light passage of birds between the 11th and the 31st with four at Donna Nook, three at Gib Point, two at Boston and singles at Anderby Creek and Covenham Res.



Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Freiston Shore
Apr 4th 2009 © Neil Smith

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

Spring passage was light starting off with a single at Gib Point on Apr 10th followed by one at Donna Nook on 13th, and up to eight birds at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR between the 12th-17th. May records were even fewer with only two records; one at Donna Nook on 4th and one at Laughton Forest on 8th, the latter record being the only one received from potential nesting habitat. Autumn faired somewhat better with single records during Aug from Alkborough Flats on the 1st and 8th, Frampton Marsh on 6th and 9th, Gib Point on 22nd and 29th and Far Ings on 30th. Sep typically produced larger numbers, although there were no large falls this year. Gib Point recorded birds passing through almost daily from 1st-22nd with a peak of 26 on 5th. Elsewhere, other Sep records included one at Horseshoe Point on 14th, one at Witham Mouth on 15th, five at Donna Nook from 15th-26th, four at Seacroft from 16th-19th, 16 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from 17th-24th, one at Dunsby from 17th-20th, two at Mogg's Eye on 19th and two at Frampton Marsh on 19th. Oct was quiet with only two records, a single bird at Grainthorpe Marsh on 22nd and three at Donna Nook from 22nd-23rd which were also the last birds for the year.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

A light spring passage began on Apr 29th with one at Far Ings, followed by individuals at Chowder Ness on May 1st, Alkborough Flats on May 10th and Donna Nook on May 14th-15th. Autumn passage was predictably more pronounced and began in Jul with singles at Searby on 13th-14th, Gib Point on 18th, and Freiston Shore on 24th. During Aug birds were recorded from 12 locations with typically between 1-3 individuals involved. Counts of four or more during the month only came from three sites with eight at Freiston Shore on 23rd, five on 25th and 12 on 31st; four at Frampton Marsh on 28th increasing to five the following day and Gib Point with five on 24th, seven on 27th, with five on 28th and 31st. Sep showed a similar trend to Aug with birds recorded from 11 sites with 1-3 birds involved. Counts of four or more this month were at Gib Point with seven on 1st, 22 on 5th, six on 7th and four on 15th, Frampton Marsh with four on 4th-5th, Freiston Shore with up to 17 on 9th, and Donna Nook with five on 15th. There were three Oct records with singles at Walesby on 4th, Goxhill Haven on 10th, and finally Donna Nook from 17th-22nd.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

Siberian Stonechat *S. t. maurus/stejnegeri*. Vagrant. BBRC

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	23	21	12	3	3	-	3	2	8	21	17	12
Minimum count	52	37	24	4	11	-	6	3	12	63	42	26

Fairly widespread during the first three months of the year, although passage was noticeably reduced during Mar compared to 2008. Once again records were from both coastal and inland sites and mostly involved between 1-4 birds. Locations with over four birds only came from Gib Point with 13 on Jan 9th and 6 on Feb 3rd and Alkborough Flats with six on Mar 4th. Breeding records during Apr and May came from Risby Warren with three pairs and a singing male on May 2nd and Crowle Moor with two

males and a female from May 23rd-25th. In addition a pair nested at Skegness and successfully fledged four young during Jul, representing the first nesting attempt in this area probably since the early 1950's. Jul and Aug produced just a handful of sightings, with a juvenile bird at Worlabby Carrs on Jul 18th perhaps of greatest interest. The last four months saw a gradual return of wintering birds with a notable spike during Oct. Like the beginning of the year both coastal and inland sites were well represented and once again the majority of locations held between 1-4 birds. Sites with numbers greater than four were Alkborough Flats with seven on Oct 11th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with six on Oct 22nd, Worlabby Carrs with 10 on Oct 31st and finally Gib Point with peaks of 12 on Oct 13th, 10 on Nov 6th-7th and eight on Dec 19th and again on 27th.



Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Frampton Marsh
Sep 2009 © Steve Keightley



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Covenham Res Apr 2009 © Nick Clayton

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

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

Greenland Wheatear *O. o. leucorrhoa* Scarce migrant in spring / autumn

The first birds of the spring were singles at Frampton Marsh on Mar 13th, Skegness on Mar 17th, and Donna Nook on Mar 21st-24th. By Mar 26th 1-2 birds were being recorded daily and a widespread passage occurred throughout the county during Apr and May, mainly involving between 1-10 birds. Counts over 10 were 11 at Donna Nook on Apr 10th, 12 on 26th, and 21 on May 9th, 12 at Risby Warren on Apr 12th and 14 on May 2nd, 14 at Gib Point on Apr 26th and 12 at Alkborough Flats on May 10th. Jun was very quiet with just one record of a single bird at Gib Point on 6th. A juvenile at Alkborough Flats on Jul 23rd was the first autumn passage bird, with records becoming frequent from this date. During Aug and Sep a widespread passage involving between 1-10 birds occurred throughout Lincolnshire. There were fewer peak day counts than in the spring, with the most notable being 30 at Witham Mouth on Aug 15th, 12 at Freiston Shore on Sep 7th, and 14 at Gib Point on Sep 5th. As expected passage decreased during Oct with a minimum of nine birds from five locations. The last bird of the year was a single at Frampton Marsh on Nov 8th.

There was only one bird reported as showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorrhoa* during the year, at Gib Point on May 15th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

There was just a single record this year, with a bird at Gib Point on Sep 13th (EJM et al).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

Spring passage was light with single birds at Huttoft Bank on May 15th, Donna Nook on May 16th and Gib Point on May 18th. Sightings were more widespread during the autumn from around the third week in Aug onwards with records from five coastal sites although low in numbers, typically 1-2. Three at Gib Point on 24th was the highest day count. Recorded from slightly more locations during Sep with seven sites, again all coastal, but only until the 19th of the month when records abruptly ceased. As with Aug numbers were typically 1-2 with only Gib Point producing higher counts, with three on 5th and 10th, five on 11th, a high count of 16 on 12th and six on 17th. There were a couple of Oct records with single birds at Grainthorpe Marsh on 13th and at Donna Nook on the 13th and 15th (possibly the same bird).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	15	45	64	59	33	58	29	71	127	86	55	42
Whisby NP	10	20	40	17	13	9	11	8	22	27	19	16

An inconspicuous but very common resident which was reported from around 66 sites throughout the county, with peak monthly totals tabulated above from the two locations where it is regularly counted. The resident form is supplemented during passage periods by the continental race, and these birds are particularly noticeable at coastal sites with the peaks evident from Gib Point during Mar-Apr and Aug-Nov helping to illustrate this. The only other count of note was of 100 birds at Donna Nook on Oct 14th.



Dunnock *Prunella modularis* Cherry Willingham May 12th 2009 © Matt Latham

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Western populations are largely sedentary although there is local movement in late summer when some populations move into ripening grain crops. BTO breeding bird survey data over the period 1995-2008 show an increase of 11% over this period in the East Midlands, although there has been no county summary of comparative breeding success. Counts were received from more than 70 sites reflecting this species wide distribution throughout the county. Totals received by month were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	194	276	129	210	193	375	153	480	514	214	394	253

These counts do not represent systematic site-constant data but give a rough picture of numbers peaking in the late summer to early autumn and then declining through the winter months. The two highest counts received were 112 at Sixhills in Sep and 100 at Donington in Feb.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Movements of Tree Sparrows are variable dependent upon food supply and often appear irruptive, involving the more northerly European populations. Eighty one sites in the county reported count data summarised by month as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	466	382	351	283	177	161	138	231	350	1401	445	555

The seasonal pattern is similar to House Sparrow but with the significant difference of large scale immigration during Oct. The large Oct total reflects significant coastal peak counts of 88 at Donna Nook, 265 at Gib Point and 200 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. Away from the coast other maximum site counts were 111 at Welbourn Heath in Oct, 73 at Sixhills in Sep, 60 at Horseshoe Point in Dec, 55 at Alkborough Flats in Oct, and flocks of 50 at Holbeach Marsh in Nov, RAF Waddington in Jul and Stenigot in Apr. Breeding occurred at an unknown number of sites, enhanced at some by nest-box provision e.g. at Frampton Marsh, where one pair bred and Freiston Shore where 13 pairs nested. BTO breeding season data for 1995-2008 showed a 32% increase across the East Midlands.



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Ruskington Oct 24th 2009 © Joe Pell



Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Chambers Farm Wood
Oct 2009 © Nick Clayton

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant mostly Apr-Sep; exceptional in winter.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f.flava* Scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. Has bred sporadically. LBRC, RBBP

Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f.thunbergi* Rare and irregular spring migrant. LBRC

Ashy-headed Wagtail *M.f.cinerocephala* Two spring records. BBRC

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

The first bird of spring was early with a single bird at Walesby Moor on Mar 24th. Spring migration started in earnest during Apr with high counts of c45 at Toft Newton Res on 16th and 45 at Freiston Shore on 26th, and continued at a steady rate until Jul, when 23 were at Stoke Rochford Park on 3rd, 30 at Horseshoe Point on 15th and 20 at Alkborough Flats on 23rd. Gib Point recorded the highest day total of 228 birds on Aug 23rd with six other counts of 117-196 between Aug 25th-30th. Other large totals in Aug were 120 at Alkborough Flats on 16th and 100 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 28th. Peak totals for Sep were 183 at Gib Point on 1st and 208 at Witham Mouth on 14th. The only breeding report was of two pairs at Frampton Marsh. Early juvenile birds which presumably involved locally nesting pairs included a single at RAF Waddington and three at Whisby NP both on Jul 11th. The last bird of the year was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 18th.

Birds resembling Blue-headed Wagtails *M. f. flava*, the west and central European form were recorded most reliably during the spring. In Apr single females were at Freiston Shore on Apr 12th and 23rd, and a male on 26th-27th, an unsexed bird at Covenham Res on 13th and a male on 18th, a male at Torksey on 21st, and unsexed birds at Cadney Res and Frampton Marsh both on 26th. The only May record involved a male at Weston Marsh on 21st.



Yellow (Channel) Wagtail *Motacilla flava x flavissima* Covenham Res Apr 13th 2009
© Nick Clayton



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*
Covenham Res Apr 2009 © Nick Clayton

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.

This year saw an increase in the number of birds, with a minimum of 117 seen from 68 sites, an increase from 2008 figures. Birds were seen in every month of the year with most records coming from sites with a coastal bias, although this may be observer related as opposed to unsuitable habitat elsewhere. A maximum of seven birds were at Gib Point

on Oct 26th and Boston on Nov 15th. Spring sightings came from only a single figure of sites. Summer records were largely of adults and juveniles at, or adjacent to four breeding sites. There was a definite autumn peak from 15-21 sites during Sep-Nov and winter reports came from 13-16 sites during Dec-Feb. UK birds are partial migrants and wintering populations may be supplemented by birds from northern Europe and the Low Countries. However there is little evidence of any immigration from these sources and the autumn total remained more or less the same until the year end.



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Haverholme Park Aug 3rd 2009 © Joe Pell

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common resident and passage migrant.

White Wagtail *M.a.alba* Scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun. RBBP

Recorded throughout the county, with large counts of 200 birds at Fishtoft on Jan 3rd and Marston STW on Mar 2nd, and additional counts from the latter site of 75 on Jan 24th and 80 on Nov 30th. Counts of 40-60 birds were reported from 17 sites between Jan-Apr and Aug-Dec with only small numbers during the breeding season May-Jul. Unlike 2008, Dec saw good numbers of birds reported with 50 at Pinchbeck on 6th and 40 at Trent Port (Marton) on 11th. Gib Point reported good numbers at different times, with between 40-49 birds in Jan, 100 in Feb, 78-136 in Mar, 30-63 in Aug and 41-104 in Sep. In addition there were eight sites that reported bird numbers varying from 20-39 throughout the year.

The arrival of nominate White Wagtail *M. a. alba* into central Europe and southern Scandinavia occurs from Feb onwards with the bulk of the arrivals coming in Mar and Apr. This was again reflected in the county with four sites recording 1-2 birds between Mar 15th-30th and eight sites reporting 1-5 birds on multiple dates between Apr 1st-29th. Covenham Res had a maximum of 5 birds on Apr 15th. During May 1-4 birds were reported from 6th-17th from Gib Point, Covenham Res, Tetney Marsh, Frampton Marsh and Horseshoe Point. There were autumn records from three sites in Sep involving 1-2 birds and from four sites in Oct involving 1-10 birds.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

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

The first spring migrant was at Frieston Shore Apr 10th. The only notable breeding season counts were at Laughton Woods, the County breeding stronghold, with nine on Apr 18th and 16 on Apr 24th; and at Crowle Waste/Moors with 11 on May 23rd, up from three last year, and two on Jul 4th. As with 2008 only one was seen at Linwood/Walesby, a previous breeding location, on May 17th. Otherwise up to three were seen at Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Gib Point, Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh on migration during Apr/May and at Alkborough Flats, Tetney Marsh, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Gib Point during Jul-Sep. The last bird of the year was a Tetney Marsh Oct 23rd.



Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Market Rasen
Jun 11th 2009 © Russell Hayes

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	20	45	66	80	55	40	47	29	1070	145	33	187
Wrangle Marsh	30	22	39	32	-	39	54	3	461	82	69	32
Frampton Marsh	169	40	36	25	31	169	10	3	49	250	27	20
Freiston Shore	20	20	24	34	34	65	77	50	32	12	34	16

The highest combined monthly sightings were 837 in Mar, 944 in Apr, 8883 in Sep and 1627 in Oct. In the first winter period the highest count was 130 at Donna Nook on 14th. Spring passage was unremarkable. During the summer 169 pairs nested at Frampton Marsh and 20 at Freiston Shore. The highest numbers of the year were recorded along the coast on autumn migration, with 485 at Donna Nook and 1070 at Gib Point on Sep 6th and 461 at Wrangle Marsh on Sep 21st. Inland sites recorded peaks of 100 at Covenham Res on Sep 23rd and 225 at RAF Waddington on Sep 28th. Numbers dropped towards the winter months, with a peak count of 187 at Gib Point on Dec 20th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	11	-	2	1	-	20	22	25
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	90
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	18	-	4	3	3	220
Gib Point	35	35	16	1	6	179	130	122
Frampton Marsh	99	107	-	-	1	-	256	127

A six fold increase over 2008 was recorded with highest counts of 179 at Gib Point in Oct, 256 at Frampton Marsh in Nov, and 220 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Dec, although this is probably due to an increased interest in counting this species this year. Recorded at 19 locations, 17 coastal sites and inland at Covenham Res with probably seven individuals from Aug 28th-Dec 19th, and a single at Denton Res on Oct 9th. Locations with at least one count of over 20 are shown in the table.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

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

The remarkable flocks of up to 40 birds seen in 2008 on the Humber at Alkborough Flats were sadly not repeated in 2009. However it was still a good year with scattered counts of up to five between Jan 1st-Apr 13th and between Oct 20th-Dec 31st, from 11 sites (seven coastal and four inland). Records were: Baston Langtoft GP one on Jan 14th; Covenham Res one on Nov 10th and up to two between Dec 1st-19th; Donna Nook one from Jan 28th-31st, two on Feb 19th, one on Oct 30th and one on Nov 4th; Frampton Marsh singles on Apr 13th, Nov 2nd and 21st with four on Nov 22nd and in Dec one on 1st, two on 15th and one on 30th; Gainsborough Landfill Site one on Dec 1st; Gib Point one on Jan 21st, four on Mar 2nd and one on 31st, singles on Oct 20th and 28th-30th, up to three from Nov 6th-8th, two on Nov 22nd, five on Dec 1st and singles on Dec 19th and 21st; Goxhill Haven one on Jan 8th, three on Mar 2nd, two on Nov 11th, two on Dec 2nd and one on Dec 22nd and 29th; Humberston Fitties two on Mar 6th; Marston STW one on Jan 31st; Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR three on Jan 2nd, five on Feb 20th, one on Mar 7th, and two on Dec 27th; Tetney Marsh and Outfall Sluice two on Feb 1st, singles on Apr 4th and 5th and one on Nov 27th.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flocks in the first two months of the year included 62 at Ludborough, 50 at Gib Point, 67 at Benniworth and 63 at Welbourn Heath. There were more in Mar and early Apr, especially at Gib Point where maxima were 132 on Mar 2nd, 108 on 12th, 126 on 14th, 114 on 16th, 122 on 21st, 130 on Apr 10th and 225 on Apr 12th. These were mostly moving south. The peak count for the year at Whisby NP was the Mar peak of 83, and there were 70 at Holme on Mar 4th and 50 in Laughton Forest on Mar 23rd. Smaller numbers were reported through the summer, and autumn passage started in late Sep with 53 south at Gib Point on Sep 23rd, lasting until about Nov 26th. The peaks were 346 on Oct 11th, 437 on Oct 26th, an outstanding 1022 on Nov 4th, 200 on Nov 6th and 209 on Nov 7th. As in spring, most of these birds were moving south. Despite these big totals, few were reported elsewhere at this time, the maximum being 150 at Crook Bank on Oct 14th. No large concentrations were seen late in the year, when the highest counts were 70 at Holme on Nov 15th, 51 at Whisby NP in Dec, and 67 at Gib Point on Dec 24th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer. RBBP

A poor year. Very small numbers were found away from the coast and even there totals were not high. In Jan-Feb, records were widespread but, apart from 28 at Conisholme Fen on Jan 16th and 18 at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 22nd-23rd, there was no report of more than three birds. Through Mar-Apr, birds were increasingly restricted to coastal sites.

There were up to six at Worlaby Carrs in mid-Mar and 15 at Laughton on Apr 13th, but no more than two anywhere else inland. The highest counts on the coast were 11 at Gib Point on Mar 15th and up to 29 at Saltfleetby All Saints on Mar 28th-30th. There were a few stragglers in late Apr, the last being one south at Gib Point on Apr 30th. The first of autumn were singles at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 19th. Most passage occurred during Oct 10th-Nov 20th, with the following counts of 20 or more: 28 at Gib Point on Oct 11th, 35 at Crook Bank on Oct 14th, 48 at Gib Point on Oct 15th, and 20-28 at Gib Point on four dates during Oct 23rd-31st. Many of those at Gib Point were moving south. The only reports away from the coast in the second half of the year were two singles at Barton Pits in Oct, 1-2 at Alkborough Flats on three dates in Oct-Nov and two at Frampton Marsh on Oct 26th.



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Freiston Shore Oct 17th 2009 © Paul Sullivan



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Chambers Farm Wood Mar 2009 © Nick Clayton

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Rare/scarce visitor. LBRC

One flew south at Gib Point on May 23rd (NS). This remains an incredibly rare bird in Lincolnshire with almost all records involving briefly seen birds flying along the coast.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Present throughout the county but most counts, especially inland, were of small numbers. During Jan-Mar, there were up to 95 at Gib Point and 60 at Whisby NP, with little evidence of passage build-up though there was some southerly movement at Gib Point from late Feb to early Apr. No counts exceeding 50 were made between early Apr and late Sep, when southerly passage again started at Gib Point. Counts there of 200 or more were; 320 on Oct 11th, 412 on Oct 26th, 282 on Oct 28th and 225 on Nov 4th, the majority actively moving through. Elsewhere on the coast during the passage period, maxima were 60 at Donna Nook on Oct 13th and 250 at Crook Bank on Oct 14th, and there were also 70 at Whisby NP on Nov 17th. Occasional high counts were made at Gib Point through to the end of the year, peaking at 145 on Dec 24th, while the largest concentrations elsewhere were 90 at Whisby NP on Dec 19th and 80 at Sleaford on Dec 26th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Only moderate numbers were present early in the year and, apart from one report of 300 at Stallingborough on Jan 26th, the maxima were 150 at Worlaby Carrs on

Jan 31st and 50 at Killingholme Haven in Jan-Feb. Some indications of passage were evident between late Mar and mid May, with the peaks at Gib Point being; 54 on Apr 10th, 56 on Apr 19th and 50 on Apr 21st, many moving south. Birds were widely dispersed throughout the summer until post-breeding flocks began to gather from mid-Jul. On Jul 31st there were 50 at Frampton Marsh, where a high count of about 500 was made on Aug 7th. During late Aug-early Sep, there were up to 80 at Alkborough Flats, 175 at Worlaby Carrs, 100 at Appleby Carrs, 80 at Nocton Fen and 99 at Gib Point, with 100 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 14th and 180 at Worlaby Carrs on the 20th. At Gib Point, heaviest passage was during Oct 2nd-Nov 4th with counts of 100 or more on nine dates, including 918 on Oct 11th, most flying south, 305 on Oct 25th, 592 on the 26th, and 208 on Nov 4th. High counts elsewhere during this period were 160 at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 11th and 120 at Tetney Marsh on Nov 4th. Numbers remained high at Worlaby Carrs through Nov and there were still 250 there on Dec 5th. Other places supporting more than 50 after mid-Nov were 55 at Baston Fen on Nov 19th, up to 145 at Gib Point in late-Nov, up to 100 at Barton Pits, in Dec, 55 at Holme on Dec 12th, 60 at Anwick Fen on Dec 19th and 100 at Tetney Marsh on Dec 20th.



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Chambers Farm Wood Oct 2009 © Nick Clayton

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	10	50	60	1	-	-	-	-	-	30	6	6
Gib Point	1	4	54	25	4	3	2	2	10	300	167	24
Messingham SQ	40	30	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	40	30	12
Whisby NP	30	20	40	5	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	2
No. of sites	10	18	37	18	2	2	2	4	4	21	16	7

A slow start to the year with the only notable counts being c50 at Barton Pits from Feb 3rd-13th and at Horncastle on Feb 6th. Birds were then recorded at numerous sites during spring passage, with peak counts of c60 at Barton Pits on Mar 2nd, 54 at Gib Point on Mar 15th, c40 at Whisby NP on Mar 28th, c70 at Market Rasen Golf Course on Mar 28th and c400 at Laughton on Apr 12th. Between May-Jul individual

birds were recorded from Gib Point, whilst juvenile birds were noted at Gainsborough, Anwick and Chambers Woods, suggesting a local but probably under recorded breeding population. A steady autumn passage of birds was recorded at Gib Point in Oct with birds being recorded on 21 days, including peaks of 65 on 11th, 71 on 22nd, 223 on 23rd, 170 on 25th and c300 on the 26th. The passage continued into Nov with birds being recorded on 24 dates, notably 123 on 4th and 167 on Nov 6th. In the second winter period, there were c40 at Messingham SQ on Oct 7th, c50 at Seacroft on Oct 11th, 62 at Saltfleetby on Oct 22nd and c50 at Kirkby on Bain on Dec 2nd.



Siskin *Carduelis spinus* both at Chambers Farm Wood Oct 2009 (left) © Nick Clayton and (right) © Matt Latham

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	120	20	20	60	150	150	200	40	2
Gib Point	41	36	43	159	55	16	40	53	200	160	92	158
Freiston Shore	10	50	20	13	12	2	7	6	12	30	70	18
Frampton Marsh	150	150	20	50	25	45	50	300	100	120	200	32
Worlaby Carrs	270	240	50	120	-	-	-	80	160	140	70	265
Whisby NP	50	21	8	2	2	7	9	3	7	5	70	-
No. of sites	15	13	12	24	22	19	20	17	18	16	15	15

In the first winter period, notable flocks included 230 Worlaby Carrs Jan 4th-13th, c270 on Jan 31st, c120 Barton Pits Jan 27th and c200 Marston STW Jan 31st. Still a relatively familiar farmland bird in Lincolnshire, this species is clearly under recorded. During the second winter period flocks began to build up in Sept with c300 Trent Port (Marton) Sept 25th, c500 Donna Nook Sept 27th, c100 Chowder Ness Oct 2nd, c200 Tetney Marsh Oct 20th, c400 Grainthorpe Marsh Nov and 158 Gib Point Dec 23rd. Large wintering flocks, often associated with Snow Bunting and Twite were observed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR including c 60 Oct 30th and c50 Nov 7th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	45	70	-
Grainthorpe Marsh	-	50	-	-	-	-	102
Donna Nook	100	75	70	-	2	235	50
Howden's Pullover	50	-	-	-	-	-	75
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	50	-	-	-	5	193	170

Theddlethorpe St Helen	-	-	-	-	-	160	190
Gib Point	-	15	-	-	13	25	-
Freiston Shore	30	42	10	-	7	-	-
Frampton Marsh	50	150	100	35	20	47	68
No. of sites	6	6	4	1	8	11	9

In the first winter period counts not tabulated included 55 at Gedney Drove End on Jan 5th, 30 at North Cotes on Feb 13th and 10 at Witham Mouth on Mar 1st and 29th. In the second winter period a single inland bird was at Covenham Res on Oct 19th (ACS). Other birds not shown included two at Killingholme Haven Pits on Oct 26th, 80 at Holbeach Marsh on Nov 3rd, 35 at Horseshoe Point on Nov 8th, six at East Halton Skitter on Nov 11th, seven at Goxhill Haven on Nov 16th and 40 at Leverton Marsh on Dec 12th. The table includes a number of large counts at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Nov-Dec with birds often associating with flocks of Linnets and Snow Buntings. Within these flocks were a number of colour-ringed birds, including one bird ringed at Deerhill Res, near Huddersfield originally caught post breeding season 2009 and another bird ringed in 2008 by the Grampian and Tay ringing group in the Montrose Basin, on the north-east coast of Scotland.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare breeding bird, more numerous passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	2	-	3	4	5	240	42	3
Messingham SQ	1	3	-	2	-	50	70	8
Whisby NP	5	5	8	1	-	5	21	8
No. of sites	13	13	8	12	2	11	10	5

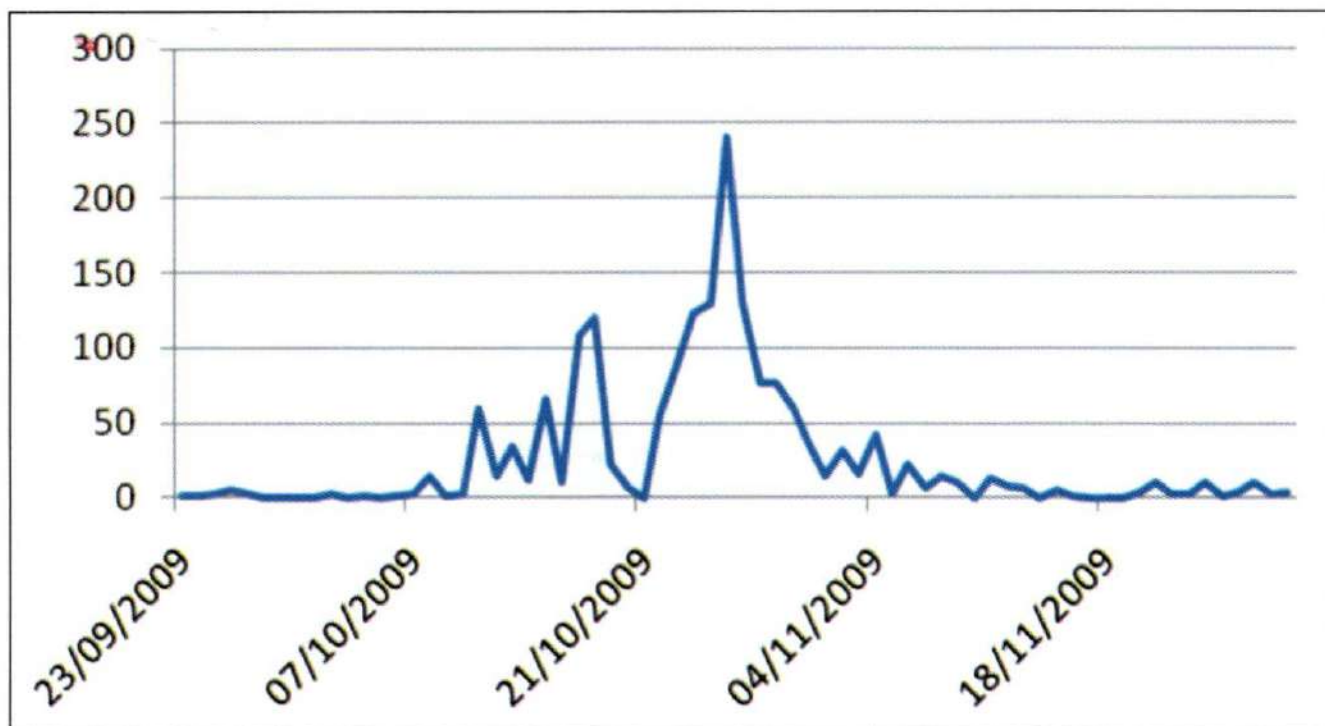


Table showing Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* passage at Gib Point between Sep 23rd and Nov 29th ($n=1753$)

Birds were widespread in the first winter period between Jan-Apr, but only in small numbers and with no notable high counts being recorded. Spring passage at Gib Point

started in early Apr, with small numbers of birds recorded during Apr 1st-29th. There were no records in the county from May-Aug. Autumn passage was recorded at Gib Point, with a notable peak from Oct 17th-28th, many of these birds being attracted to a feeding site, set up specifically to catch Redpoll and Siskin at the ringing station, resulting in ringing totals of 44 on Oct 17th, 43 on Oct 18th and 21 on Oct 24th. Other notable counts included c60 at Seacroft on Oct 11th, c20 at Linwood Warren on Oct 19th, c30 at Market Rasen Golf Club on Oct 19th, c20 at Saltfleetby on Oct 23rd, 33 at Frampton Marsh on Oct 26th, c50 at Messingham SQ on Oct 30-31st increasing to c70 Nov 13th, 21 at Whisby NP on Nov 20th and c50 at Holme on Nov 22nd.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

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

All Redpolls can be variable and confident identification in the field can be difficult. For this reason observers are reminded that all field records of Common Redpolls in Lincs should be supplemented by supporting details such as a written description, ringing report and/or photographic evidence. For these reasons, only the following records are deemed acceptable. One Donna Nook on Jan 27th (SL); two along Skitter Beck at Goxhill on Feb 22nd (GPC); one ringed at Bourne on Mar 19th and present until the 22nd (ABl), four at Kirkby Moor on Apr 14th (KMW), one at Donna Nook on Apr 16th (JS), one ringed at Crook Bank, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 23rd (BRG), and at Gib Point, two ringed on Oct 17th, a single ringed on Oct 18th and two ringed on Oct 24th (GPBO).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Rare/scarce irruptive winter visitor. LBRC

One was found with a flock of Lesser and Common Redpolls along the Skitter Beck at Goxhill on Feb 12th and 22nd (GPC).



Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* *exilipes* Skitter Beck at Goxhill Feb 22nd 2009 © Graham Catley



Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Gib Point Mar 2009 © Neil Smith

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.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	-	-	2	1	2	20	4	4	5	28	15	1
Chambers Wood	-	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton Forest	2	-	30	15	2			-	-	1	-	-
Messingham SQ	6	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Nomanby Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	4	-	-
Ostlers / Kirkby	11	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-
Willingham/ Walesby	36	16	32	13	10	2	61	3	-	14	-	-

In addition to the above monthly maxima one flew west at Alkborough Flats on Jul 5th with two west on Aug 5th and one on Oct 12th. At Bonby Carrs 13 were recorded on Jul 15th, one was at Goxhill Marsh on Jul 20th, and singles were at Donna Nook on Jun 30th, Jul 15th and Sep 11th. Eight flew west at East Halton Skitter on Oct 27th, singles were at Frampton village on Oct 26th and Freiston Shore on Oct 9th, two were at Kirkby-on-Bain on Feb 22nd, 10 at Morkery Wood, South Witham on Feb 28th, six at Risby Warren on Feb 21st with 17 there on Mar 8th and one on Jul 11th. At Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 15 were recorded on Jun 28th with one on Oct 9th, two at Stapleford Woods Jan 30th–Feb 1st and finally one was at Tetney Marsh on Aug 18th.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May – Jun and Aug – Oct. LBRC, RBBP

One at Gib Point on Sep 11th (TB et al) was the only occurrence of the year.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	7	5	4	4	1	-	4	2	-	2	4	4
Gib Point	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	10	12
Messingham SQ	15	8	2	3	4	2	2	4	-	2	4	6
Whisby NP	33	19	31	18	6	6	11	16	18	34	39	34
No. of sites	23	18	18	19	13	12	8	14	11	17	20	19

Reports of counts of fewer than 10 birds were widespread across the county throughout the year. Reports of over ten individuals came consistently from Whisby NP, but other sites also recording counts over this threshold and not tabulated included 11 at Manton, Trent Port on Jan 29th, c30 at Greetwell Hollow on Oct 29th, 21 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 15th and 12 at Rothwell on Dec 8th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. RBBP

At the last regularly frequented site in the north-west of the county up to 11 were seen at Scawby during mid-Feb but there were no sightings later in the year. A single bird was at Fillingham Lake on Mar 17th. The fortunes of this fine finch in the county continue to decline on this evidence.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	12	60	11	-	1	25	120
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	110	9	-	-	-	150	130
Gib Point	18	28	1	1	6	8	13
No. of sites	8	6	3	7	4	14	9
Min. no. of birds	166	149	13	7	17	299	187

At the start of the year the largest group of around 110 was still in the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR /Saltfleet Haven area with the last report of them on Jan 28th. Freiston Shore had a maximum of eight on Jan 3rd and there was a good count of 27 at Covenham Res on Jan 16th. The highest count in Feb was from Donna Nook with 60 on 7th and 42 still present on 22nd, these are likely to have been part of the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR flock with none being reported from here after the Donna Nook birds appeared. Inland, a single bird at Worlaby Carrs Mar 6th-7th was notable, and the last significant sighting of early spring was 11 at Donna Nook on Mar 14th. The first autumn record came from Gib Point with one there on Sep 17th, and single birds were recorded at half a dozen other locations during the month. Oct totals were poor but eight were present at Mablethorpe on 10th. Nov saw a gathering at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with 38 there on 5th increasing to 150 on 17th. Small numbers also arrived at Freiston Shore, Witham Mouth and Cleethorpes. Goxhill Haven recorded 10 on Nov 16th, with 17 at Tetney Marsh on Nov 20th. The Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR flock peaked at 130 on Dec 1st and remained between there and Saltfleet Haven until the second week of the month, when they appeared to relocate to Donna Nook, with 120 on Dec 16th and again on the 31st. To summarise, not a particularly good year for this species in the county with the minimum bird count being about 29% lower than in 2008.



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Theddlethorpe Dec 1st 2009 © Graham Catley

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	2	2	-	-	2	-	-
Donna Nook	19	48	-	2	3	2	3
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	1	-	1	8	11
Frampton Marsh	3	1	1	-	2	3	20
No. of sites	6	5	3	8	7	7	6
Min. no. of birds	33	58	8	9	15	23	40

As expected, nearly all sightings were confined to coastal locations with the first significant count of 19 coming from Donna Nook on Jan 3rd. Smaller numbers were seen at various locations during Jan from Alkborough Flats in the north to Frampton Marsh in the south. Donna Nook had the highest Feb count with 48 there on both the 3rd and 27th. Freiston Shore had two on Feb 9th and two were at Alkborough Flats on Feb 13th. A few birds lingered into Mar with singles at three locations during the first week of the month. The first autumn sightings were on Sep 19th with single birds at Rimac and Howden's Pullover. Gib Point reported three on Sep 21st. All of the Oct records were in low single figures with a peak count of four from Horseshoe Point on the 30th. Numbers increased slightly during Nov with four at Grainthorpe Marshes on 11th, four at Horseshoe Point on 12th and eight at Rimac on 15th. The highest Dec totals came from Frampton Marsh where there were 14 on 5th and a monthly maximum of 20 on the 30th. Elsewhere, seven were at Saltfleetby on Dec 16th and seven at Rimac on Dec 19th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident. Numbers decreased through the 1980s.

By contrast with 2008, when three separate flocks of 100+ were reported early in the year, the Jan maximum count was a group of 80 at Broughton on 31st. At Dunsby Fen, 30 were seen on Jan 25th with 40 at Metherringham Delph the next day. Feb totals were also low, but 50 were at Barton Pits on 9th, 40 at Goxhill Marsh on 12th and 60 at Northorpe Fen on 24th. In Mar, when flocks had started to disperse, 90 at Metherringham Delph on 6th was particularly notable. Other double figure counts during Mar included 24 at Rowgate Hill on 11th, 19 at Flixborough on 15th, 17 at Welbourn Heath on 28th, and 10 at Humberston Fitties on 31st. As expected, there were few big counts during the breeding season with the best being 22 at Welbourn Heath on May 22nd, 26 at Waddington on Jun 9th, 24 Old Somerby on Jun 29th and 34 at Stoke Rochford on Jul 7th. The first significant autumn total was 60 at Welbourn Heath on Oct 17th. Worlaby Carrs attracted 31 on Oct 31st with numbers increasing to a maximum of 108 by Dec 5th. Still in the north of the county, 50 were reported at Swallow on Nov 11th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	80	15	-	-	-	8	-	4	-	8	-	200
Gib Point	32	23	35	16	17	11	3	2	36	72	38	45
Freiston Shore	13	8	13	8	6	13	9	2	9	18	15	5
Frampton Marsh	100	50	-	6	17	42	2	-	8	-	23	14
Whisby NP	-	10	9	14	4	8	3	-	-	14	1	2

Over 600 records were received from across the county with those from the main reporting areas shown in the table. Elsewhere, other significant counts were as follows; 40 at Northorpe Fen on Feb 22nd, 20 at Metherringham Delph on Mar 6th, 22 at Anwick Fen on Mar 8th, 20 at Barton Pits on Apr 2nd, 22 at Bonby Carrs on Apr 23rd, 20 at Tetney Marsh on Oct 22nd, 30 at Horseshoe Point on Oct 30th, and 51 at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 31st. But by far the largest concentration of the year was an impressive 200 at Alkborough Flats on Dec 19th. Breeding reports included 42 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 13 at Freiston Shore.



Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Frampton Marsh Apr 2009 © Neil Smith



Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* Frampton Marsh Dec 19th 2009 © Steve Keightley

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	32	44	42	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	35	40

Monthly counts from Gib Point are summarised in the table above. Elsewhere, small gatherings were reported early in the year with the best of these being 13 at Searby Top on Jan 13th, 30 at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 14th increasing to 38 by Mar 16th and 10 at Northorpe Fen on Feb 24th. The only double figure count from Apr was 17 at Barnetby-le-Wold on the 16th, while the only breeding count was of five pairs at Frampton Marsh. The onset of winter produced the usual increase in numbers with the best counts being 51 at Holbeach Bank on Nov 21st and 28 at Worlaby Carrs on Dec 20th.

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

Category E – Escapes and Non-established Introductions

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 are strongly believed to have been of captive origin. The Lincolnshire Bird Club request all records of category E species recorded in Lincolnshire. However, we are aware that the species on this list are seriously under recorded.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Metheringham Delph Jan 26th
Nocton Fen Jan 29th-31st
Benniworth throughout 2009
River Welland Feb 22nd
Anwick Fen Mar 2nd-3rd
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Apr 4th-5th
Messingham SQ May 28th
Middlemarsh (Skegness) Jun 6th-13th
Whisby NP and North Hykeham Pits Dec 21st-23rd

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Alkborough Flats Oct 8th

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Bagmoor/Winterton Floods Jan 31st –Feb 16th
Deeping Lakes Mar 1st-11th, Oct 8th
Barton Pits Mar 11th,
Alkborough Flats Aug 31st
Whitton Nov 9th
Grainthorpe Marsh May 10th
Freiston Shore May 24th–Jun 1st

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Messingham SQ Sep 19th-Oct 4th
Alkborough Flats, Whitton Sands and Read's Island July 25th-Sep 11th

Emperor Goose *Anser indicus*

Tattershall Bridge Jan 26th

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Beckingham Dec 23rd
Langtoft Aug 8th-Dec 16th

Cape Sheduck *Tadorna cana*

Kirkby on Bain Aug 13th-Oct 14th

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

North Hykeham Pits throughout 2009

New Zealand Scaup *Aythya novaeseelandiae*
Gibraltar Point Mar 21st

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*
Tetney Outfall Sluice Jan 13th
Barton Pits Mar 19th -Apr 10th
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods Feb 8th-10th

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*
Gibraltar Point May 31st-Jul 7th

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*
Saltfleet Nov 1st-17th
Gunby Nov 18th
Barton Pits Dec 30th

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
Callan's Lane Wood, Kirkby Underwood Mar 15th

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 are accepted by the relevant committee, they will be admitted to the records and published in the next report.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*
Freiston Shore Apr 19th

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
Cleethorpes Nov 5th
Frampton Apr 23rd

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*
Manby Flashes Aug 28th

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Covenham Res Apr 10th
Baston Feb 28th

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Gibraltar Point two on Sep 11th

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Grimsthorpe Sep 13th

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*
South Cockerington Apr 27th

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Deeping Lakes NR Apr 25th

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Aug 9th
Donna Nook Sep 19th
Howden's Pullover Sep 19th
Frampton Marsh Sep 25th-26th

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Kirkby on Bain Oct 19th

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR Aug 8th

Common Crane *Grus grus*
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits Apr 16th
Donna Nook May 24th

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Bourne Mar 29th

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*
Witham Mouth Sep 13th

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Covenham Res May 14th
Freiston Shore Aug 4th
Humberston Fitties Aug 7th

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Churchill Lane End Sep 18th
Gibraltar Point Sep 13th-19th

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*
Dunsby Aug 30th-31st

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Gibraltar Point Sep 5th

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
Crook Bank Sep 21st

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*
Leadenham Tip Mar 1st
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits Oct 30th

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Donna Nook Apr 23rd

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
Skegness Oct 28th

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*
Gib Point Sep 19th

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Wolla Bank Sep 14th

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*
Kirkby Moor Apr 14th
Donna Nook Apr 16th
Baston Feb 16th
Kirkby-on-Bain Feb 28th
Kirkby Moor Mar 15th
Chambers Wood Mar 29th
Gibraltar Point Oct 17th
Tetney Marsh Oct 27th-28th

FINDERS REPORTS 2009

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Donna Nook,
May 16th 2009
James Siddle

A fresh easterly wind overnight on 15th/16th May 2009 raised hopes that some migrants may have drifted in at Donna Nook, Lincolnshire. I thus arrived at my ringing site at 04.50hrs on the 16th, flushing a small, dark (although most birds appeared 'dark' at that hour!) passerine from an area of elders, which flew into some nearby scrub. I felt it looked 'interesting' and put up the 40' net which is sited in that area. Having then put up all the other nets I returned to the area to find a single bird in the net. The bird certainly looked like an excellent candidate for a Thrush Nightingale. I quickly checked the length of P1 and was immediately encouraged when I couldn't at first find it!



Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, May 16th 2009 © James Siddle

I took the bird back for processing, with the biometrics and plumage features confirming the original identification.

The following criteria identified the bird as a Thrush Nightingale:

- Wing length of 90mm is at the top end of Thrush Nightingale (suggesting a male?) and 4mm longer than the maximum length of Nightingale.
- First primary 8mm shorter than primary coverts.
- Emarginated on P3 only, with wing point P3 and P2=4.
- Overall duller plumage tone than Nightingale with the rufous tail not as bright as Nightingale and the reddish colouration not extending onto the rump which was dull brown. Upperparts also having a more greyish cast than Nightingale
- Distinct dun-coloured malar stripes
- Sullied brown-grey breast which with a greyish belly.
- Eight primaries visible beyond the tertials.

The bird was aged as a first-summer due to pale tips to the greater (and median) coverts and indistinct pale tips to the tertials (the two innermost tertials of the left wing were missing). This individual had some anomalous, white feathering on the crown and nape. The Thrush Nightingale was not heard to sing but in the hand was heard calling with a guttural creaking 'Krrrrt'. With a fat score of five and muscle score of two it had plenty or reserves to continue its migration.

The bird was quickly released into a nearby area of elder and buckthorn where it was successfully twitched by a small number of local birders over the next couple of hours; the last confirmed sighting being at about 10.30am.



Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, May 16th 2009 © James Siddle



Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Gibraltar Point

Jun 17th 2009

Geoff Williams

This was only my second visit to Gibraltar Point in 2009, having visited the previous day and seen a Spoonbill I decided to return. There wasn't much change except the Spoonbill had gone.

I'd visited most of the hides and it was lunchtime I called in at Harvey's hide, Tennyson's Sands as my final port of call. As usual I had the hide all to myself. One wader on first glance I took to be a Greenshank as one had been in the same area yesterday, however it's short legs and the dark stripe on the upper scapulars made me have a second look. In the back of my mind I thought I've seen this bird before somewhere, then it came back to me, Terek Sandpiper!! I'd never seen one in Britain but had seen the species twice in Spain in Sep 1998 and again in May 1999.

Just then another birder came into the hide and we discussed the bird and I called up Rare Bird Alert who put out the news as a possible Terek Sandpiper. I then had to leave but called in at Syke's Farm to let others know, the only person there was John Shaughnessy who when I told him, immediately dashed off to see the bird.

When I got to the main car park a number of volunteers were heading off to see the bird, so I gave them a lift and had a brief look in the hide to find it full, Kev Wilson and John Shaughnessy confirmed the bird as an adult Terek Sandpiper.



Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* Gib Point Jun 17th 2009
© Neil Smith

From the RBA reports it appears to have been the RSPB Saltholme, Cleveland bird which was seen that morning up to 0745, it must have then made a quick dash to Gibraltar Point. The bird was seen up to 2220 that night but unfortunately was not seen again. It had been a most productive two days!

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Fiskerton Fen

Aug 2nd 2009

Keith Warner

On the morning of Aug 2nd I had been up to Boultham Mere in the morning, and thought I would nip over to my other patch, Fiskerton Fen,

On arriving in the hide I had a quick scan with my binoculars to see if anything was about. While scanning across I had a 'funny tern' in amongst the two or three Common Terns. I scribbled a few plumage details, rump colour, wing markings etc, and then went back to the car to get my field guide out of the boot. Ah, no field guide in the boot, so I went back to the hide, wrote a few more details.

I then 'legged' it back to the car and drive quite quickly back home, to get a field guide, had a look through Collins, and my Terns of Europe identification guide. All this time I had been thinking it was a juvenile or funny looking Black Tern, but on going through the identification the one species I kept coming back to was Whiskered Tern.

Back into the car and a quick drive back to Fiskerton (with Collins) hoping the tern was still there. On arrival it was, YES! I checked out the plumage details and the text Andy Sims, a birder I know from Boultham Mere, and let him know that I was 80% certain I had a Whiskered Tern, he then phoned me. I described the bird to him and he sounded fairly confident.

Ten minutes later Andy turned up, when I texted, he was on route back from the coast and had been on the Lincoln by-pass, so thought he would nip in. I had also texted Dean Nicholson, he phoned me back and said 'check it's not a funny Black Tern', as he was saying this Andy confirmed it was a Whiskered Tern, I told Dean and he was on his way immediately.

While I was keeping an eye on it Andy was calling his vast range of contacts and eventually about 30-40 people came to see it. So that's the story on how I found the Whiskered Tern and wasn't quite sure what it was.



Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Fiskerton Fen
Aug 2nd 2009 © Russell Hayes

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth

Sep 5th-Oct 18th 2009

Paul French

I have been scanning the Eider flock at Freiston Shore on a regular basis since autumn 2005, mainly looking for King Eider. As it was a long overdue first for the county and Freiston holds the only regular flock of eiders in the county, it seemed like a good bet that one would turn up one day. Four years later and I was scanning the eider flock off the Cut

End hide at Witham Mouth when I saw that one of the distant eiders seemed to show an orange bill. It was facing directly towards me, preening its breast, and I held my breath for what seemed like several minutes. It then turned its head, parading its glowing orange bill in the process, and I went into a state of shock for a little while. OK, so it's not the rarest of birds, but I had wanted one for a long time and now here it was, on my patch and with no one else around. I quickly phoned John Badley who happened to be further up the coast and after a tense half hour he managed to locate it from a different location. Meanwhile, the other local birders were arriving at Witham Mouth and I happily pointed the bird out. As it was late evening by this point, no other Lincs birders could get there in time. The next morning dawned and there they all were! The Cut End hide was packed (another first!), and the eider was soon located. However, it proved to be distant and difficult to see. This would be the pattern for most of its stay. Some people got lucky and saw it close inshore at Witham Mouth, but most had to be content with very distant views where the only feature visible was an occasional glimpse of an orange bill. A couple of boat trips were hastily arranged, and excellent views were had from the Boston Belle on Sep 12th when the best photos were taken. The bird stayed until Oct 18th at least, but continued to prove elusive, and with less people looking and high tides coinciding with darkness, it became very hard to catch up with.

Description:

The fact that it was a drake is obvious, but ageing has proved difficult. I suspect that it was a second calendar year drake in eclipse. The white breast suggests that, but any opportunity to test that was scuppered with its untimely departure on Oct 18th. Should it reappear in subsequent winters, we'll be in a better position to accurately age it.

Size and structure – similar to Northern Eider, but distinctly shorter, squatter and squarer. Bill structure very different, with large, swollen frontal process giving a steep forehead at distance. Tail often held straight up in the manner of Stiff-tail.

Bare parts – Frontal process very swollen, square ended and orange in colour. Bill itself was pink. The orange “knob” glowed at a distance, while the pink bill was very hard to see and was overpowered by the orange. Eye dark. Legs orange.

Plumage – Loral area dark brown. Ear coverts and nape paler and greyer brown. This contrast visible at some distance. Border between these two areas was an even paler line that was surprisingly obvious in the field, and drooped down from the eye, lending the bird a somewhat sad impression. Neck grey brown. Breast basically off white, but with some darker peppering mixed in. Belly, flanks, mantle, scapulars, rump and undertail blackish. Median and greater coverts bright white, isolated within the black wing. Primaries and secondaries completely moulted, giving a very auk-like impression to the wing when flapped. By the end of its stay, it had regrown its remiges and was capable of flight.



King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* Freiston Shore/
Witham Mouth Sep 5th to Oct 18th 2009 © Phil
Hyde

THE LINCOLN AREA SWAN STUDY: REPORT ON THE FIRST YEAR

Anne Goodall

Aims and Objectives

The study initially set out five major areas of investigation concerning respectively:

- the breeding population;
- the non-breeding population;
- feeding preferences;
- individual marking studies; and
- collation of historical data.

For the first three areas the aims are, broadly, to record the distribution, numbers and preferences, monitor long- and short-term changes and identify if possible the causes of such changes. The marking studies aim to maintain a marked population in order to monitor health and life histories, including the extent of emigration and causes of death, and the last aims to compare present findings in at least the first two areas with the past situation. Some progress has been made in each area, and this report summarises the progress and describes the ongoing studies.

Methods

The study area is centred on Lincoln's Brayford Pool, which holds the major part of the non-breeding population for at least part of the year. Upstream it follows the two watercourses which feed the Brayford: the River Witham as far as the River Brant infall and the Foss Dyke to the River Till infall and downstream, the River Witham as far as Southrey. It also includes the tributaries to each of these watercourses and the lakes, pools, pits, ponds, fenland and washlands which lie between them.

In December 2008 and in March, September and December 2009 as full a census as possible was carried out over this area, coinciding with the regular WeBS counts. WeBS counts and casual observations from all sites within this area were also collected in all other months, and between April and August an attempt was made to locate all breeding pairs and follow their breeding attempts. Volunteers were asked to record what the swans were feeding on wherever possible, and particularly for those away from waterbodies.

Between July and September 2008 and 2009 as many of the Brayford birds as possible were rounded up and ringed, or existing ring numbers are recorded. At the same time they were weighed and examined for injuries or indications of ill-health, moult stage was recorded and if necessary food boluses trapped under the tongue were removed. Throughout the year swans taken into care either locally by Lincoln Swan Care (formerly the Lincoln Swan Preservation Society) or the Weirfield Hospital, or removed by the RSPCA to East Winch Wildlife Centre, Kings Lynn, have been ringed once they are ready for release.

Meantime, the LBC database has provided records of mute swans in this area, including WeBS data, back to 1995, and further information is being collected from personal records and published papers.



Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Brayford Pools (left) Andrew Chick (right) David Morison

The Breeding Population

Within the city and on the rivers, drains, pits etc to the south and west (including Whisby NP, North Hykeham Pits, Swanholme, Hartsholme, Boultham Park, Boultham Mere, Burton Pits and Burton Waters) 25 breeding pairs were identified. Of these, half either lost their eggs before hatching, or had lost all of their young by the September count. At this time the remaining 13 pairs has a total of 50 cygnets with them. By the December count, this total had reduced to 24. It is likely however that further pairs nested in this area, both on the stretch of Witham which was not counted or on some of the private fishing ponds or small drains in the Lincoln area, since there were 31 adults and 11 young on the North Hykeham Pits, where none nested, on the September count. Where observers indicated a likely predator of eggs and young, mink were most commonly mentioned. Mink are regularly seen on the Fosdyke west of Lincoln, in the Swanpool area and at Burton Pits, for example.

Getting a full count of the breeding pairs along the Witham and delphs to the east of the city proved harder but the 12 successful pairs had reared 34 cygnets to September. By December counts of young were confounded by the many more arriving in this area to winter.

Summering non-breeders

During the 2009 moulting period, approximately 70 birds in their 2nd calendar year or older remained on the Brayford Pool, moving between this area and the River Witham at Waterside. At this time they are held in this area by the territorial pairs above and below the Brayford on the tributary rivers, which will attack, and on occasion kill, any swans which move into their territory. No other summer non-breeding herds were identified in 2009, but it is possible they exist.

Wintering Population

Over the first winter of the study, wintering herds were found in Nocton Fen, Branston Fen and Heighington Fen in December 2008-March 2009 and in the Barlings floodplain at Barlings and Stainfield Fen in March 2009, with increased numbers scattered in smaller groups on the River Witham and North and South Delphs. The Brayford herd decreased at this time, but this would not account for all of the wintering birds feeding out on the fields. Almost all territorial pairs remained on their territories throughout.

In late 2009 the wintering herd built up as usual on Nocton Fen in November but part of the group had moved west to Potterhanworth Fen in December, apparently as a result of deliberate disturbance (but see below). A second herd was present in

Washingborough Fen, with a smaller group in the Barlings floodplain. The autumn saw a build up in numbers on the Apex Pit at North Hykeham, which apparently didn't occur in 2008/09, but was declining by December; however, in that month a feeding herd was located in the upper Witham flood plain, near Aubourn. This herd has not previously been recorded, but may simply have been overlooked. Later in the winter it apparently moved to Waddington Low Fields, although since the Aubourn site was not revisited, this has not been confirmed.

Population Summary

The totals for the four counts to the end of 2009 are shown in the table below. As expected, the population peaks in later summer, when the maximum number of juveniles have entered the population, but the mid-winter totals are similar

Census	Adults	cyg/imms	Total
Dec 2008	195	72	267
Mar 2009	222	81	303
Sep 2009	230	91	324
Dec 2009	189	65	254

Feeding Preferences

To date, all herds of swans feeding away from the river have been recorded on autumn-sown oil-seed rape, and this finding has been corroborated by recorders elsewhere in the county. Rotation of this crop almost certainly accounts for the different locations used by the major wintering herds from year to year. Pairs in spring may also feed in oilseed rape until it becomes too tall, but only if it is present within their territory. Otherwise alternative young crops will be used.

On the rivers and waterbodies swans are most commonly recorded dabbling in the margins, taking a range of aquatic plants. On a number of occasions the River Witham is subject to a bloom of duckweed or other floating waterplants (including the invasive alien water fern *Azolla filiculoides*) and the non-breeding Brayford Pool herd will concentrate on this.

Ringling Studies

In the two moult seasons 2008 and 2009, 99 swans have been ringed and a dozen or so others were found to be carrying rings known or assumed to have been put on at East Winch. Of these, one has moved to Grantham and around eight are known to have died, either as a result of oiling or collision with bridges or overhead wires in Lincoln, or killed within the study area by territorial swans, or taken into care by the RSPCA and put down by them.

Smaller numbers have been ringed at this site in the past, mainly by Mid-Lincs RG, but no swans more than two years old have been retrapped here as yet. This is consistent with the observation that this is the main pre-breeding herd, with young birds leaving as they pair up and move off to find breeding territories. It is believed that post-breeders may also 'retire' here, in which case continued ringling may eventually retrap some of these older birds, assuming that they have remained within the study area.

Collation of Past Data

Counts for the whole of the Lincoln waterways, ie Brayford Pool, the River Witham and Sincil Drain within the city limits and the drains joining them, are available for

eight of the 12 years 1995-2006. Over this period the average monthly total has been 126, peaking in July and August at more than 150 birds and only 3 of the 96 counts are below 100. The highest count over this period was of 210 in August 2002 and the average count for this year was 155 birds, but average numbers have steadily declined in every year since that time, to 102 in 2006. This will have been exacerbated by the large-scale swan kill in 2004, when more than 100 birds died from an unexplained cause (believed to have been poisoning as a result of a pollution incident).

For some years, separate monthly counts are also available for Brayford Pool between April and September, and for these years on average half of the birds on the Lincoln waters, 63 of 130, were on the Brayford, with the rest scattered throughout the system. In 2009, for comparison, numbers on the Brayford Pool averaged <50 birds, with the total for the system <80 in all months, a significant and continuing reduction.

Of the Lincoln waters counts are available for Boutham Mere in six years, Burton Pits in 10, Hartsholme Park in six, Swanholme Lakes in eight, and Whisby NP in nine years. All of these counts confirm that over this time, as now, each separate water body has held a single pair, with breeding success variable but surviving cygnet numbers generally similar to those found in this study so far. The pattern for North Hykeham Apex Pits is particularly interesting though. Numbers there have been consistently lowest in mid-summer, consistent with no breeding in most years (if not all) but then building up, in some years only, to a September-October peak. Peak autumn counts for 1999 and 2000 were 84 and 44 respectively, but the highest in any other year for which counts are available was 11.

Counts for the River Witham and the fens downstream of Lincoln are more patchy, but tend to indicate that the currently used areas have held similar-sized wintering herds during the last 10 years at least, peaking in March. One stretch of the River Witham and South Delph has also been counted in one full year and three further summers over this period, with counts similar to those made over this stretch in 2009.

Taken together these results appear to indicate that Lincoln has lost between a third and a half of its pre-breeding population since 2002, but that this reduction is not yet obvious in the breeding areas. This is clearly consistent with the fact that these are long-lived birds, and that there is a fixed number of suitable breeding territories.

One unwelcome finding of this first year was the number of swans, up to six annually, dying under wires in the study area. Most recently, a whooper swan has also died under the main culprit wires in Nocton Fen. This area was particularly dangerous in winter 2009/10 since the fields under the wires were all planted with oilseed rape, and were thus particularly attractive to the herd. It is possible that the flags put in the field under the wires prevented more deaths by moving the birds away from this risk. Deaths are always logged, and since a clear pattern has emerged, an approach was made to the transmission company to put warning deflectors on the culprit stretches. This was carried out in spring 2010, and the results will be monitored in future winters.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks for help with the counts and ringing are due to: Catherine Collop, Debbie and Lee Conlon and family, Chris Dobson, Janet Eastmead, Russell Hayes, Grahame Hopwood, Roger Ingoldmels, Katie Milburn, Chris Parker, Andy Sims, Nick Tribe and John Watt, with apologies to anyone accidentally missed off the list. Thanks also to landowners, farmers and keepers who have been helpful over access and provided extra information on the swans using their land.

Anne Goodall

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*: A SCARCE MIGRANT NO MORE?

Alexander C. Lees

Introduction

The mystery of why some Siberian migrants occur so regularly in Western Europe has perplexed ornithologists for nearly fifty years (e.g. Williamson 1959; Rabøl 1969; Baker 1977; Elkins 1983; Howey & Bell 1985). Yellow-browed Warbler is the most frequently recorded such Asian passerine in Europe; records have increased exponentially from the mid twentieth century onwards (Van Impe & Derasse 1994) an increase documented across many different European countries (e.g. Baker & Catley 1987; Folvik 1992; Ullman 2003). Yellow-browed Warbler is an essentially Eastern Palearctic species, with a huge breeding range that occupies almost the whole of Russia east of the Urals – with the exception of the far north and east and the West Siberian Plain – an estimated total area of $9.36 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$ (BWP). The species migrates on an initially easterly heading in autumn, via NE China to winter from Central Nepal and Bangladesh east to Taiwan and Hainan and south to Malay (BWP).

Two hypotheses initially emerged to explain the occurrence of Yellow-browed Warblers (and other Siberian vagrants) in Europe: 1) the establishment of high-pressure areas over central Siberia inducing a westwards drift of migrants (Baker 1977) and 2) and a reverse great circle route aka reverse migration with birds orientating at 180 degrees to their normal migratory orientation (Rabøl 1969). Later, Alerstam (1991) suggested that very small numbers of migrants might disperse in any direction with most individuals close to the mean population heading and with the further possibility of environmentally induced misorientation caused by magnetic anomalies in some regions which might lead to higher rates of vagrancy. Van Impe & Derasse (1994) investigated the potential interaction between high temperatures in the summer and early autumn across the breeding range and subsequent influxes and could find no evidence for changes in the strength of anticyclones in the Lake Baikal region historically, thus favoring the Rabøl hypothesis. Thorup (1998) was able to test the orientation of Yellow-browed Warblers (and Pallas's Warblers) at Christianso in Denmark in the autumn of 1994 and found an east-west axis of orientation. This added weight to the misorientation hypothesis and specifically an arrival in Europe following a reverse great circle route. We (Gilroy & Lees 2003; Lees & Gilroy 2009) suggested that the scatter vagrancy and differential survival model (Alerstam 1982) was a better fit to explain vagrancy by eastern Palearctic landbirds, as the reverse migration model does a poor job at explaining the regular occurrence in Europe of eastern Palearctic breeders that winter in Africa e.g. Pied Wheatear and Isabelline Shrike in central Asia e.g. Black-throated Thrush and Blyth's Pipit and of species that breed east of Lake Baikal e.g. Eastern-crowned Warbler and Chestnut-eared Bunting. Moreover, non-uniform observer distribution may lead to huge regional biases in detection rates. Furthermore, evidence that birds are able to follow great circle routes is at best circumstantial (Newton 2010).

Status in Lincolnshire

Given the number of records in peak influx years it is quite difficult to ascertain the exact numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers passing through the county, as if one is present at Gibraltar Point on three consecutive days then one assumes that just one (and not three) individuals is involved. Likewise if there is a gap of two or more days

and then a resighting one assumes that this involves a different bird. In reality both of these assumptions are flawed to a point, but they remain the most useful way of treating records. The first Lincs Yellow-browed Warbler was shot by Caton Haigh at North Cotes on the 7th October 1892 and there followed another 12 records over the following 40 years – considering the dearth of coverage, this suggests that the species was fairly regular at that time (Catley 1986). Between 1960 and 2009 there were 438 records of Yellow-browed Warblers in Lincolnshire of which 257 occurred between 1998 and 2009. However there was high inter-annual variation, ranging from 80 in 2005 to just one in 1998 (Fig 1.).

Occurrence patterns between 1998-2009

Almost all of the records in this period fell between mid September and mid November, with the exception of single individuals that were found wintering at Gibraltar Point and Louth in early 2004 and one at Wragby on the 19th March 2006. First arrival dates were quite variable with the earliest dates 12th September in 2005 and 2009, on both occasions at Gibraltar Point. The highest single day counts all came in the 2005 influx when there were six at Donna Nook on the 5th October, nine at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on 7th October and five at Rimac on the same day. Only ten of the records occurred away from the immediate coastal strip between Gibraltar Point and Tetney, of these three came from Barton-upon Humber, one at Broughton, two at Wragby, one at Grimolby one at Legbourne and one at Deeping Lakes NR in addition to the wintering bird at Louth. Records tend to be clustered within the peak period with fresh arrivals of birds throughout the period punctuated by absences of the species from well-watched coastal spots. This suggests a gradual passage with fresh influxes of birds whenever conditions are favourable for the arrival of drift migrants from the near-Continent.

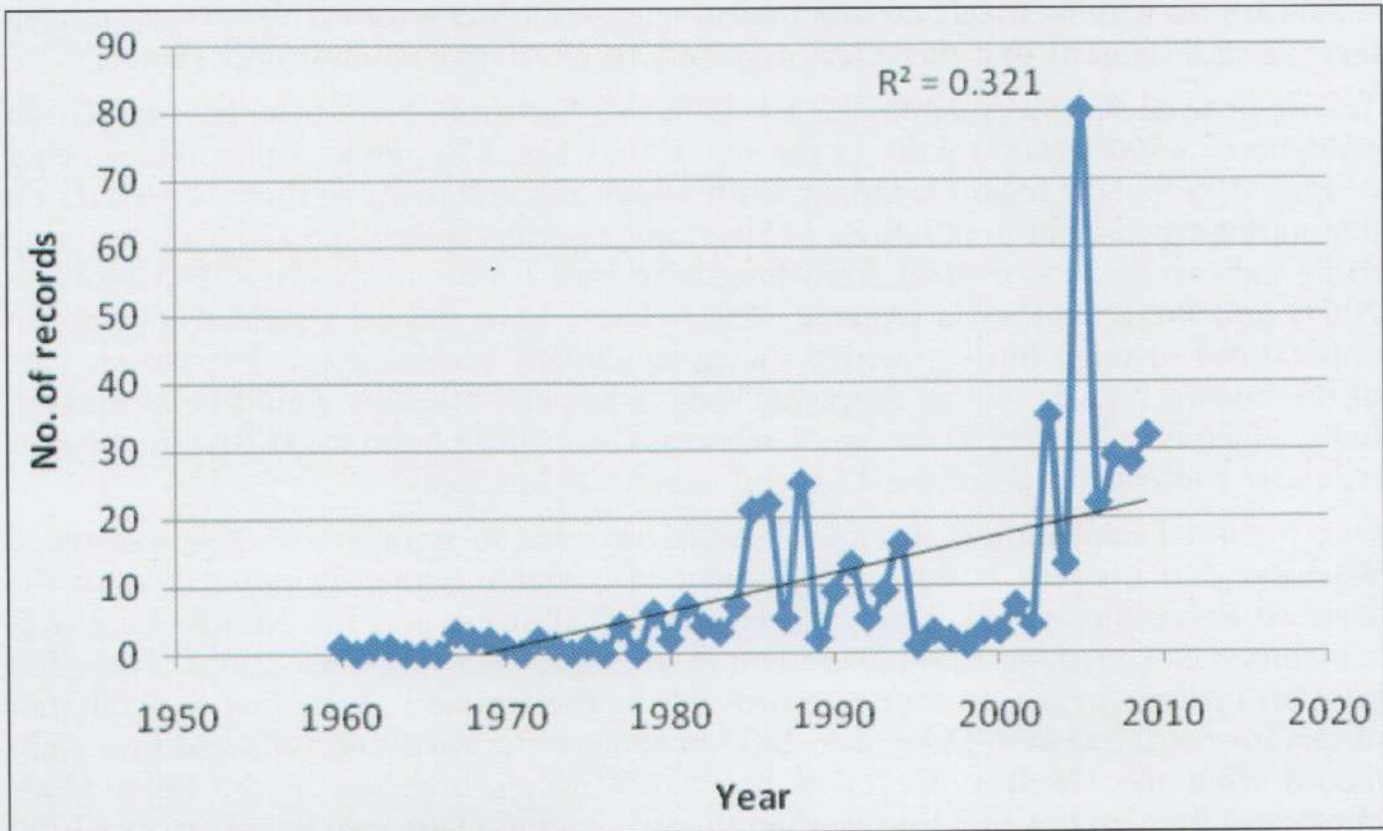


Figure 1. Annual Lincolnshire totals of Yellow-browed Warblers 1960-2009.

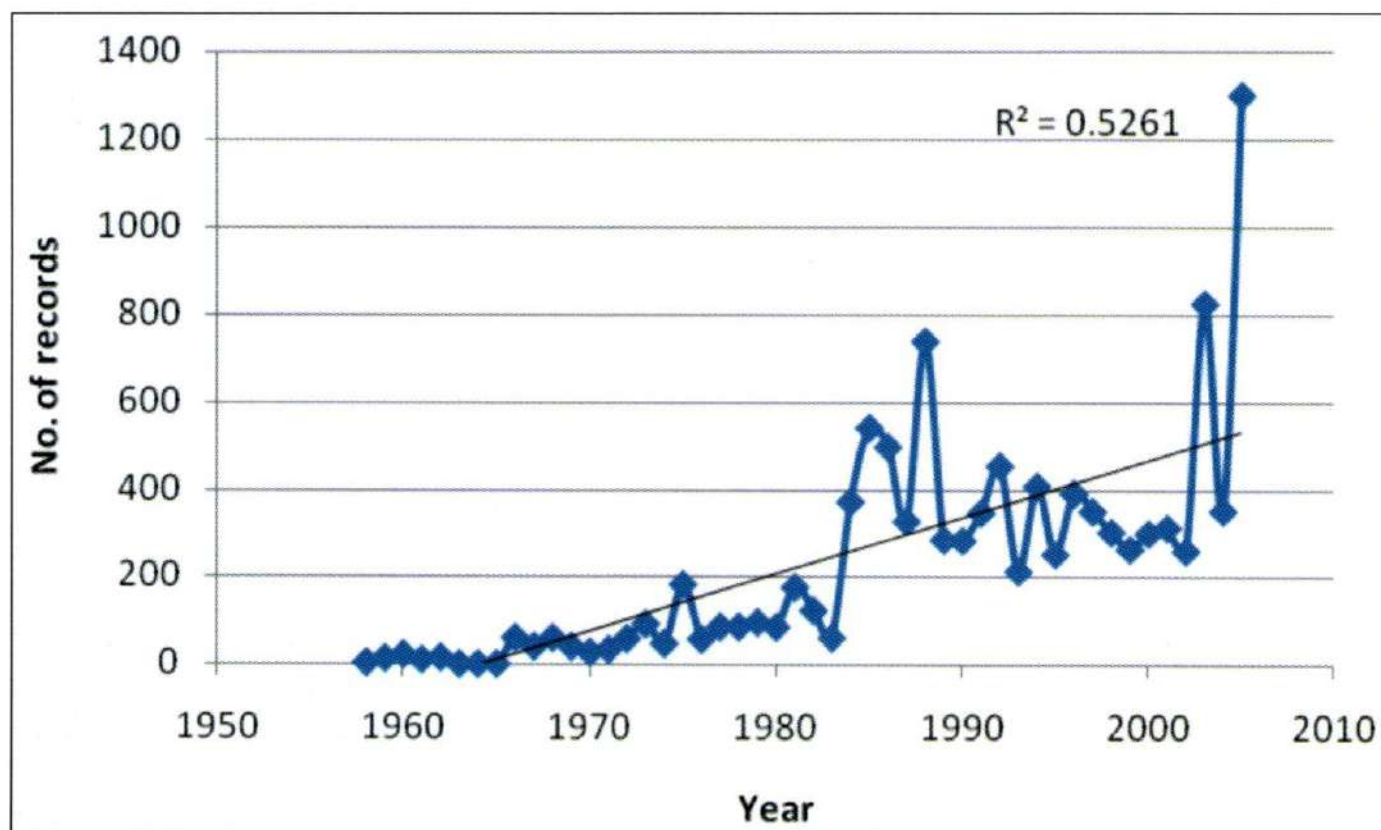


Figure 2. Annual UK totals of Yellow-browed Warblers 1958-2005

Why do we get so many Yellow-browed Warblers?

The increase in the UK in the period 1960-1999 is spectacular; 1960-1969 (247); 1970-1979 (759); 1980-1989 (3206); 1990-1999 (3266) (Figure 2). Furthermore in the five years following, there were two massive influxes: 825 birds in 2003 and a minimum of 1300 birds in 2005. So why the increase in records? It could be an observer artefact and be rising due to increasing observer coverage and competence, but examination of trends at sites with relatively constant effort (e.g. bird observatories) also reveals a steep increase and suggests that this effect may only be of relatively minor importance.

Yellow-browed Warbler maintains a toe-hold as a European breeder with a population estimate of 45000-46000 pairs in the Polar Ural Komi Republic region (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997). This region is largely ornithologically unknown so there is no data on population trends, but populations of Siberian passerines across the Taiga are reported to be increasing; as is evident from long-term bird counts in the Pre-Ob (Golovatin 2001) and Pre-Baikal areas (Ananin 2001). These have shown a general increase in populations of taiga birds, possibly owing to climatic amelioration. The closest part of the known regular winter range for these European breeders would be in Sikkim, India which is at least 4900 km away, whereas the furthest point away that this species regularly winters is in Southern Thailand over 8000 km away.

One potential explanation for the observed increase in numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers year on year is the establishment of a viable wintering population in the Western Palearctic spread thinly across Southern Europe and the Middle East (e.g. Vinicombe & Cottridge 1994; Wernham et al 2002; Gilroy & Lees 2003). There has been an upsurge in recent winter records across the region and the first Sub-Saharan observation was made in December 2003 in Senegal (Cruse 2004) followed by a sight record from the Gambia. If Yellow-browed Warblers breeding in the Polar Urals migrate south west through Europe then suitable wintering areas in Iberia are just 3700 km away and coastal Senegal 7100 km. Evidence for their westward movement in

Russia is largely anecdotal, but the species is described as a regular migrant through Pinega Zapovednik (in the Arkhangel'sk Region, east of the White Sea) (Rykova, 2001). Although this hypothesis is attractive, it is not without problems, for instance where is the spring return passage of Yellow-browed Warblers through Europe and might the Sahara be too extensive a barrier to cross for a migrant without an evolutionary history of barrier crossing? Given the low numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers recorded on spring passage in the UK it is possible that they might take a more direct route back to the Urals, passing through central Europe with its much lower observer density, such loop migrations occur quite commonly in many migratory bird species (Newton 2010). That Richard's Pipits have evidently established a viable wintering population in the Mediterranean basin but are also rarely recorded on spring passage is further evidence that such a largely unseen return migration might be possible (Grussu & Biondi 2005; A. Corso in litt.). An alternative explanation argued by de Juana (2008) to account for the paucity of spring records is to label these movements of Siberian *Phylloscopus* as exploratory movements (after Baker 1978). This assumes that such individuals appearing in Western Europe return back east in the same autumn and proceed to their normal winter quarters. Although this might account for the relative scarcity in Iberia there is no evidence for a second peak of records through central or south-east Europe of birds moving back east, which rather undermines the strength of the hypothesis. Conclusive answers as to the provenance and intended wintering grounds of 'Lincolnshire' Yellow-browed Warblers will probably have to await the development of ultra-light satellite tags, although that is likely to be many years hence....



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* both images © Graham Catley

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READS ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT 2009

Pete Short, RSPB Humber Reserves Sites Manager

Reads Island, lies in the middle of the Humber close to the village of South Ferriby in the north of the Lincs county recording area. Although only well known or visited by a few, it has long being famous for its impressive and internationally important assemblage of wintering, breeding and passage birds such as marsh harrier, pink footed goose, wigeon and curlew and notably between 1998 and 2006 a thriving colony of breeding avocets.

The first pairs of this once less than annual visitor to Lincolnshire started breeding on the island as a result of saline lagoon creation work undertaken by the RSPB, LWT and Environment Agency back in 1997. The success of the original project was outstanding and the colony grew quickly with the result that within just four years the island held one of the UK's largest and most productive assemblages of this vulnerable and rare wader.

Unfortunately by 2007 disaster had struck and the island was being severely eroded by the river. This led to the loss of the northern bunds which catastrophically meant the lagoons were no longer capable of holding water during the breeding season. It also resulted in a complete failure of the then two hundred breeding pairs of avocet, many of which sought other less suitable breeding habitat in the upper Humber around Blacktoft Sands and Alkborough Flats where they subsequently produced only a handful of young.

For the RSPB and LWT who are joint managers of the island the short term priority was to ensure that Avocets were not lost as a breeding species, particularly as they are a key interest feature of the Humber SSSI but it was also felt that the Island was far too important for so many thousands of the Humber's birds to be left to its fate.

Of course this was not quite as straight forward as many seemed to think! The position of the island in the middle of a large tidal river meant that remedial work would be both complicated and expensive and required quite a bit of careful planning and liaison with Natural England, Associated British Ports and the owners of the island the Nickerson Trust. Funding of the project was also a major issue but totally out of the blue in early 2009 SITA Environmental very kindly agreed to fund the whole £47,000 cost of the proposed project to restore the lagoons, but on one condition. The money had to be spent within one year!

In principle the planned work was actually quite straightforward, put a long reach excavator on the island and create a series of lagoons that would help control the water levels. In reality this involved using a 47 tonne floating barge crane to lift the 24 tonne excavator and 1000 gallons of fuel from the tidal Humber and onto the eastern end of the island at the end of June 2009. Fortunately, my friend, and experienced local river man Dave Mouncey had undertaken the last lagoon creation project on the island and was on hand to ensure that everything went ahead without too much of a problem, although on the day it was such an impressive landing that someone remarked it was a bit like D-day!

Once the machine was in place it became apparent that it was a race against time to build a series of temporary bunds so as to ensure that the next series of high tides did not swamp the area where we wanted to work. A manic day of frenzied work followed but fortunately it was particularly pleasing to have the help of such an experienced excavator driver as Paul Bichan of Bic Plant who was able to complete the required work in 12 hours! The team then settled into the work in near perfect weather, working



Machinery delivery to Read's Island © Pete Short 2009



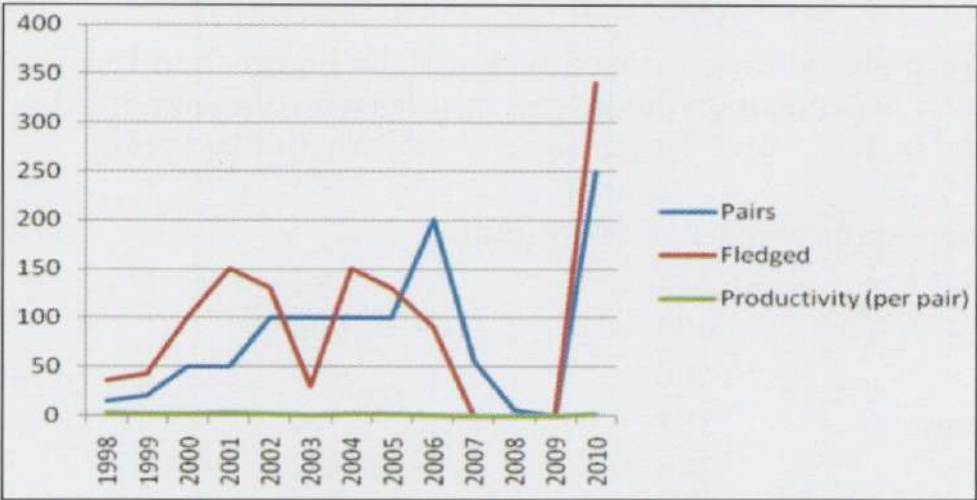
Read's Island aerial image taken Spring 2010 © APS (UK) 2010

15 hour days in order to finish the job before the next series of high tides in just two weeks! In this time bunds were created, avocet nesting islands built, deep channels and pools excavated, banks seeded with grass and drain pipes fitted in order to control the water levels. Time working on the island seemed to pass at an incredible speed although it was always nice to get back to terra firma at the end of the day and have a cool pint of lager waiting at the Crown and Anchor! There was also a bit of time to look at the birds and wildlife with good numbers of waders and shelduck using the middle of the estuary and nearby nesting marsh harriers which were just fledging their young. By the end of the second week in July the project was completed and the machinery duly taken

off the island. The 7ha of lagoons looked superb but it was not until September that we could check that the water control pipes were working as intended.

It was with much trepidation that we visited the island on the September high tides to see just what was going to happen, but we were not disappointed. The system was in excellent working order and the water levels building as planned. There were also over 500 teal, wood sandpiper, the year's first pink footed geese and rather pleasingly a massive 900 avocets. This was a very positive sign and at the very least the birds had seen the work but as they say the proof is in the pudding!

The winter saw a fantastic number of over 16,000 wildfowl and waders feeding and roosting around the island and the water settled out at near perfect levels. Just as noteworthy was a flock of 50 twite and also the fact that the lagoon bunds had not been damaged by the high tides. March and April 2010 saw the return of the first large flocks of avocets to the island and the initial indications were good and that they were going to use the lagoons for nesting. By May it was obvious that the majority of the Humber's avocets were using the island although being in such a sensitive place it was initially difficult to be sure just how many breeding pairs there were.



Reads Island avocet breeding, fledging and productivity 1998-2010

Subsequent fieldwork gave a guesstimate of 250 to 300 pairs, about 15% of the current UK population! The first breeding season visit to the island to check the sluice and water levels saw me beat a very hasty retreat as it was obvious that I was causing disturbance to birds with a lot of newly hatched chicks. So good so far, but avocets have a lot of predators and things can quickly go wrong. The next few weeks saw regular checks from a distance and unfortunately some disturbance to the colony due to other rather hapless estuary users having to be rescued by helicopter from near to the island. This gave some major cause for concern but as the chicks got older we were able to see them moving out onto the estuarine mudflats and congregating on the north side of the island. Things looked very positive with lots of young and many large broods of anything between 2 and 6. In the end we had to estimate fledged numbers but it seemed probable that there were something in the order of 300 – 400+ flying young!

Overall an incredible number which will hopefully help sustain the Humber population until we can fully understand how to conserve this species better at other sites along the estuary or maybe create new ones. It of course also shows how everyone working together can make a difference for conservation along the Humber.

I love it when a plan comes together!

Pete Short
RSPB Humber Reserves Sites Manager

RINGING REPORT

Prepared by Mark Grantham

The 2009 total of 30,228 birds ringed is 10% lower than the previous year, partly due to the lack of common migrants during the autumn. In particular compare the 112 Goldcrest ringed in 2010 to last year's total of 2,777. There were also fewer finches caught on spring migration and in particular Siskin, with the total over 75% lower than last year. This was partly negated by an increase in the number of Lesser Redpoll ringed though.

Table 1: Top five species ringed in 2009 (fully-grown)

Greenfinch	2,520
Blackbird	2,246
Goldfinch	1,945
Common Chaffinch	1,657
Blue Tit	1,342

The number of pulli (nestlings) ringed was actually higher than last year (3,051), but this figure is very dependent on the success or otherwise of the tit breeding season, with this years' total of 1,215 Blue Tit pulli over double that of last year.

Table 2: Top five species ringed in 2009 (pulli)

Blue Tit	1,215
Great Tit	694
Barn Owl	560
Tree Sparrow	301
Jackdaw	248

Table 3: Annual ringing totals 2009. These are presumed complete, but only include data submitted electronically to the BTO. These totals are calculated annually and are available online at www.bto.org/ringing/ringinfo/recovery_summaries.htm. 1979-2008 data provided by Anne Goodall.

	2009 Pulli	2009 Totals	2008 Totals	1979-2008 Totals
Mute Swan	1	40	62	324
Greylag Goose	-	71	37	351
Canada Goose	-	10	27	525
Common Shelduck	1	3	3	31
Eurasian Teal	-	1	-	105
Mallard	-	7	20	2156
Grey Heron	29	30	23	705
Red Kite	8	8	-	0
Marsh Harrier	3	3	11	307
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	8	38	40	850
Common Buzzard	11	11	2	36
Common Kestrel	246	258	199	2401
Hobby	2	2	1	20
Peregrine Falcon	2	2	-	1

Water Rail	-	1	1	44
Moorhen	-	16	11	273
Common Coot	-	2	6	504
Oystercatcher	5	7	178	11479
Avocet	2	2	5	11
Little Ringed Plover	16	17	6	215
Ringed Plover	29	31	12	1131
Grey Plover	-	4	36	1818
Northern Lapwing	25	25	34	847
Red Knot	-	5	333	9086
Dunlin	-	1104	185	30001
Jack Snipe	-	2	1	81
Common Snipe	-	16	15	754
Woodcock	-	5	8	211
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	16	-	1009
Eurasian Curlew	-	5	8	1791
Green Sandpiper	-	4	7	66
Greenshank	-	2	-	45
Common Redshank	-	23	50	2324
Turnstone	-	1	1	1243
Black-headed Gull	75	103	103	8375
Common Gull	-	12	1	479
Common Tern	28	30	-	2027
Stock Dove	73	107	91	970
Wood Pigeon	8	76	64	925
Collared Dove	4	52	79	928
Turtle Dove	-	2	5	494
Common Cuckoo	-	3	-	194
Barn Owl	560	667	699	6669
Little Owl	87	116	88	620
Tawny Owl	88	99	43	1098
Long-eared Owl	-	1	-	76
Common Swift	38	208	161	4247
Common Kingfisher	-	8	16	275
Green Woodpecker	-	7	7	69
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	46	79	657
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	-	1	-	17
Sand Martin	-	413	551	15399
Barn Swallow	192	718	1328	24764
House Martin	-	811	879	9825
Tree Pipit	-	2	10	120
Meadow Pipit	-	161	47	3292
Yellow Wagtail	3	8	18	798
Grey Wagtail	-	12	9	205
Pied/White Wagtail	26	95	219	1868
Wren	18	650	605	16458
Dunnock	9	1242	1048	32897
Robin	41	903	917	23350

Thrush Nightingale	-	2	-	3
Nightingale	-	2	2	180
Bluethroat	-	1	1	4
Black Redstart	-	3	-	24
Redstart	-	17	53	1507
Whinchat	-	1	4	315
Stonechat	-	1	3	46
Wheatear	-	1	5	252
Ring Ouzel	-	1	1	66
Blackbird	47	2293	2490	60590
Fieldfare	-	43	28	1338
Song Thrush	23	348	385	14480
Redwing	-	245	280	6754
Mistle Thrush	3	17	10	590
Cetti's Warbler	-	6	-	9
Grasshopper Warbler	-	4	1	206
Sedge Warbler	-	255	184	4143
Reed Warbler	20	433	219	7958
Blackcap	-	490	463	13443
Garden Warbler	-	46	64	3524
Lesser Whitethroat	-	121	142	6559
Whitethroat	-	491	342	16169
Pallas's Warbler	-	1	2	6
Yellow-browed Warbler	-	4	3	50
Wood Warbler	-	1	2	51
Chiffchaff	-	418	306	4874
Willow Warbler	7	584	717	28584
Goldcrest	-	112	2777	27682
Firecrest	-	4	7	200
Spotted Flycatcher	17	35	28	1248
Pied Flycatcher	-	9	35	953
Long-tailed Tit	-	484	937	9965
Blue Tit	1215	2557	2060	65573
Great Tit	694	2035	1876	36645
Coal Tit	14	209	278	4548
Willow Tit	-	16	9	1375
Marsh Tit	13	24	7	477
Nuthatch	-	5	8	273
Treecreeper	-	43	41	1328
Red-backed Shrike	-	1	-	8
Eurasian Jay	-	17	8	295
Magpie	-	13	15	373
Western Jackdaw	248	265	190	1944
Rook	3	9	6	1300
Carrion Crow	-	3	10	94
Starling	9	569	521	40636
House Sparrow	4	643	479	11573
Tree Sparrow	301	795	869	9147

Common Chaffinch	1	1658	1583	20673
Brambling	-	29	148	1674
Greenfinch	-	2520	3194	53038
Goldfinch	12	1957	1949	9713
Siskin	-	413	1860	5658
Linnet	7	110	107	7532
Common Redpoll	-	7	1	4
Lesser Redpoll	-	201	41	329
Redpoll (Common/Lesser)	-	2	10	6271
Bullfinch	-	255	147	6995
Snow Bunting	-	2	-	104
Yellowhammer	2	592	221	5697
Reed Bunting	-	473	204	6759
Corn Bunting	-	7	3	431
TOTAL	4,278	30,228	33,792	

Ringing Recovery Report by Mark Grantham

Canada Goose

5246028	Adult	26/06/2008	Ancaster Gravel Pits, Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire)
	Shot	16/01/2009	Eakring: 53°9'N 1°0'W (Nottinghamshire) 37km NW

There were just three recoveries in 2009, all of birds ringed at Ancaster. Two were shot locally and the one shown is also a typical local movement.

Brent Goose

RUM	Adult female	30/07/1995	Ptichi Ostrova, River Pyasina: 74°6'N 86°25'E (Taymyr) Russia
DS004442	Dead	07/12/2008	Gedney Drove End: 52°51'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 4,685km WSW

This is the third Russian-ringed Brent Goose to be found in the county.

Eurasian Teal

EL45712	Adult male	22/03/2004	River Derwent, Wheldrake, York: 53°54'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Shot	24/10/2009	Somerby: 53°32'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 55km SE
EW37920	Adult male	20/12/2007	Mahee Island, Strangford Lough: 54°30'N 5°38'W (Down)
	Shot	30/01/2009	Gainsborough: 53°23'N 0°47'W (Lincolnshire) 341km ESE



Map 1. Origin of the county's third Russian-ringed Brent Goose, shot at Gedney Drove End.



Map 2. All notable movements of Eurasian Teal in 2009. See text for further details.

NLA	Fully-grown	22/09/2001	Eendenkooi Schipluiden: 51°58'N 4°20'E (Zuid-Holland) The Netherlands
3567376	Shot	12/02/2009	Saltfleet Haven: 53°25'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 323km WNW

This is the 19th Dutch-ringed Teal to be found in the county. Also shown are two medium-distance movements within the UK.

Tufted Duck

FA87331	First-year male	04/03/1996	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Shot	25/01/2009	Kirton Holme, Boston: 52°56'N 0°6'W (Lincolnshire) 33km NNE
FH02114	First-year male	23/01/2007	Blunham: 52°9'N 0°19'W (Bedfordshire)
	Shot	c 01-11-2008	Exact Location Unknown: 53°20'N 0°17'W (Lincolnshire) 132km N

With few wildfowl actually ringed in the county, most recoveries will be birds found dead or, more likely, shot. Both of these birds originated from sites run by, or supported by, WWT. Note the age of FA87331 when found – the national longevity record is 22 years.

Common Quail

BLB	Adult female	10/05/2009	Tielt: 51°0'N 3°20'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium
22Z18605	Fresh dead (bird of prey)	01/07/2009	St Wulfram's Church, Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W (Lincolnshire) 346km NW

This is only the third ever Quail recovery in the UK and had been taken by the Peregrines at St Wulfram's Church. The previous two were a local movement and a BTO-ringed bird moved to Spain.

Great Cormorant

LIK	Age unknown	06/06/2008	Juodkrante, Curonian Spit: 55°31'N 21°6'E Lithuania
MA0__	Field sighting	31/10/2008	Boultham Mere, Lincoln: 53°14'N 0°35'W (Lincolnshire) 1,426km W

This is the first movement of a Cormorant to the UK from any of the Baltic states, though an incomplete ring reading didn't allow identification to an individual.

Shag

1379463	Nestling	21/06/2008	Castle Craig, North Sutor: 57°42'N 3°59'W (Highland Region)
	Fresh dead (hit car)	07/03/2009	Sutton on Sea: 53°18'N 0°17'E (Lincolnshire) 558km SSE

There have been 75 previous recoveries of Shag in the county, but this must be the most bizarre finding circumstance.

Grey Heron

1503757	Nestling	03/05/2009	Besthorpe Gravel Pits, Newark: 53°10'N 0°47'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Fresh dead	21/06/2009	Swarby: 52°57'N 0°27'W (Lincolnshire) 33km SE

This quite rapid movement is interesting so soon after fledging. The colony at Besthorpe has suffered problems with apparent chronic poisoning over the years so this bird may not necessarily have been healthy when fledged.

Red Kite

GC80166	Nestling	15/06/2009	Pipewell Wood: 52°28'N 0°47'W (Northamptonshire)
	Fresh dead (hit train)	10/11/2009	Glen Corby: 52°48'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire) 41km NNE
GC53808	Nestling	29/06/2007	near Southorpe: 52°36'N 0°23'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Field sighting	13/06/2009	Witham on The Hill: 52°44'N 0°28'W (Lincolnshire) 16km NNW
GC53809	Nestling	29/06/2007	near Southorpe: 52°36'N 0°23'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Field sighting	22/06/2009	near Boothby Pagnell: 52°51'N 0°35'W (Lincolnshire) 31km NNW

With the rapid spread of Red Kites from reintroduction schemes, it is fascinating to see how birds might be colonising the county. There have been only three previous recoveries in the county, so this additional three in a year is a good showing. Note the two siblings seen in the county in subsequent summers.

Marsh Harrier

FB12868	Nestling	19/06/2008	Site Confidential: 53°3'N 0°3'W (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	16/06/2009	near Great Bircham: 52°52'N 0°36'E (Norfolk) 49km ESE

This was the only recovery of the year. Although there are generally few recoveries, birds ringed in the county have previously been found in Germany, France and Spain, with two birds ringed in The Netherlands found here.

Common Buzzard

GN94652	Nestling	13/06/2005	near Stone Hill, near Bulwick: 52°31'N 0°34'W (Northamptonshire)
	Long dead	28/04/2009	Lound, near Bourne: 52°45'N 0°26'W (Lincolnshire) 28km NNE

As with Red Kite, as the population expands recoveries will become more frequent and revealing. This is only the fourth county recovery of Buzzard.



Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* photographed during ringing at Bourne Wood 13th June 2009
© Alan Ball 2009



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* chick photographed during licensed ringing at St Wulfram's Church, Grantham 29th May 2009 © Alan Ball 2009



Red Kite *Milvus milvus* photographed during licensed ringing in SW Lincolnshire, June 2009 © Alan Ball 2009



Red Kite *Milvus milvus* photographed during licensed ringing in SW Lincolnshire June 2009 © Alan Ball 2009

Osprey

1366505	Nestling	12/07/2009	Craik, Hawick: 55°22'N 3°2'W (Borders Region)
	Fresh dead (injured)	03/09/2009	Long Sutton, Boston: 52°51'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 350km SE

This is the first British-ringed Osprey to be found in the county. Previously there have been two from Sweden.

Common Kestrel

EL29148	Nestling	28/05/2004	near Boston: 52°58'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	01/10/2009	Owmby-by-Spital, Market Rasen: 53°22'N 0°30'W (Lincolnshire) 57km NW

There were 15 recoveries reported during the period, but note the age of this bird.

Hobby

EW26255	Nestling	28/07/2008	Site Confidential, near Lincoln: 53°8'N 0°35'W (Lincolnshire)
	Field sighting	31/07/2009	near Dersingham: 52°50'N 0°29'E (Norfolk) 79km ESE

This bird was colour-ringed as part of a national project looking at dispersal of Hobbies. The project has so far only yielded four resightings, so this one is notable. There have only been three previous recoveries involving the county, one of which was found in Germany.

Peregrine Falcon

GC10594	Nestling female	06/06/2007	Newark: 53°5'N 0°48'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Sick (injured)	04/05/2009	Tetney Lock: 53°30'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 72km NE

This relatively local movement may give an indication of where birds breeding in the county originate from.

Water Rail

DN55274	Adult female	29/11/2008	Williamthorpe, near Holmewood: 53°11'N 1°22'W (Derbyshire)
	Fresh dead	15/04/2009	Hameringham, Horncastle: 53°11'N 0°2'W (Lincolnshire) 89km E

This is only the fourth recovery of Water Rail, and may be a local bird moving inland in the winter. Two of the three previous recoveries were of birds ringed in Germany.

Oystercatcher

FA15185	Adult	18/08/1989	Friskney: 53°2'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (injured)	23/01/2009 25km SE	Heacham: 52°54'N 0°28'E (Norfolk)
FA62463	Adult male	21/07/1997	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire)
	Field sighting	03/05/2008	Orfordness: 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE
	Field sighting	12/04/2009	Orfordness: 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE
FP61952	First-year	21/08/2005	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	08/07/2009	Alnmouth Golf Course: 55°23'N 1°36'W (Northumberland) 302km NNW
NOS	Adult	06/05/1984	Hagavagen, Sola: 58°56'N 5°37'E (Rogaland) Norway
569521	Caught by ringer	01/08/2000	Friskney New Marsh: 53°3'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire) 735km SSW

There were just nine recoveries during the year. Over 300 British-ringed Oystercatchers have previously been found in Norway, but with fewer than 65 from there found here. Note age of FA15185 and the interesting variety of directions moved by some of our autumn birds.

Red Knot

SVS	First-year	01/09/2003	Ottenby: 56°12'N 16°24'E (Oland) Sweden
4391463	Caught by ringer	30/08/2008	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 1,091km WSW

This is only the second Swedish-ringed Knot to be found in the county. More regular are birds from Norway (15) and Germany (10), though there have also been two from Canada.

Dunlin

BT05032	Adult	10/08/2006	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Field sighting	03/08/2009	Rossall Point, Fleetwood: 53°55'N 3°3'W (Lancashire) 234km WNW
NR18021	Adult	26/07/2008	Orfordness: 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	24/07/2009	Butterwick: 52°58'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire) 140km NW
NR93633	Adult	08/05/2001	Coast Guards, Walney Island: 54°7'N 3°16'W (Cumbria)
	Caught by ringer	24/07/2009	Butterwick: 52°58'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire) 257km ESE

NV29495	Adult	30/07/2006	near Backsand Pit, Sandwich Bay: 51°17'N 1°20'E (Kent)
	Caught by ringer	24/07/2009	Butterwick: 52°58'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire) 206km NNW

Interestingly, there were no foreign recoveries of Dunlin this year, with these being the most notable national movements. Previously, 236 Dunlin ringed in the county have been found abroad (with most found in Sweden (68), though also in the Canary Islands, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania) and 506 foreign-ringed birds have been found here (mostly from Norway (150), but also Greenland and six from Mautitania).



Map 3. Notable movements of waders in 2009. Shown are a Norwegian-ringed Oystercatcher (red), the second Swedish-ringed Red Knot to be found in the county (blue), the second Russian-ringed Woodcock (green) and the second Curlew movement to Curlew (white).

Woodcock

RUM	Adult	21/09/2008	Gumbaritsy: 60°41'N 32°57'E (Leningrad) Russia
MB256105	Shot	21/11/2009	Wragby: 53°17'N 0°18'W (Lincolnshire) 2,167km WSW

The second Russian-ringed Woodcock found in the county: a surprisingly common origin of wintering birds in the UK.

Black-tailed Godwit

EP70255	Adult	22/08/2005	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (bird of prey)	09/03/2009	Marshside RSPB, Southport: 53°40'N 2°58'W (Merseyside) 224km WNW
EP85253	Adult female	09/09/2002	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	20/09/2009	Harty: 51°21'N 0°54'E (Kent) 177km SSE
ES28123	Adult	18/08/1993	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	14/09/2009	Egypt Bay, High Halstow: 51°29'N 0°33'E (Kent) 157km S

Shown are the only long-distance movements reported during the year.

Eurasian Curlew

FP08953	Adult	12/08/2002	Kamarad Farm, Terrington Marsh: 52°49'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead (hit car)	14/06/2009	Ostra Spoland, Vannas: 63°56'N 19°52'E (Vasterbotten) Sweden 1,676km NE

This is only the second movement of a Curlew to Sweden from the county and will presumably have been on the breeding grounds when killed.

Green Sandpiper

H288159	Adult	01/07/06	Castricum The Netherlands 53°33'N 4°40'E Road Cas
	Dead (hit car)	20/11/08	Stainfield Lincs 53°14'N 0°20'W 342km NW

Correction: 2008 record omitted from 2008 report. This bird is the first foreign-ringed Green Sandpiper to be found in the county, with two ringed in the county previously found in France.

Greenshank

DD15102	First-year	04/08/2007	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	03/05/2009	Castricum Duinen: 52°33'N 4°37'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands 305km E

With so few Greenshank ringed in the county, it is good to see this, the first foreign movement from these birds. It won't have been breeding when recaptured in The Netherlands, so may have just been a late migrant.

Common Redshank

DB88666	Fully-grown	04/04/2007	Nature Reserve, North Duffield, Selby: 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Fresh dead (hit car)	15/12/2009	Sutton St James: 52°45'N 0°4'E (Lincolnshire) 137km SSE

This is the only recovery of note reported during the year.

Black-headed Gull

EN42793	Adult	14/01/1987	Boston: 52°59'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire)
	Field sighting	29/05/1987	Utterslev Mose III, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°32'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 867km ENE
	Field sighting	30/03/1988	Utterslev Mose III, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°30'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 865km ENE
	Field sighting	17/03/1989	Utterslev Mose I, Bronshøj: 55°43'N 12°29'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 864km ENE
	Field sighting	04/03/1992	Utterslev Mose III, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°31'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 866km ENE
	Field sighting	18/07/1993	Frihavnen Unicef, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°36'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 871km ENE
	Caught by ringer	22/03/1994	Gentofte Sø, Gentofte: 55°45'N 12°32'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 868km ENE
	Field sighting	03/03/1996	Binnensee, Heiligenhafen, Ostholstein: 54°22'N 10°58'E (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany 739km ENE
	Field sighting	23/03/1996	Sortedamsø I, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°35'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 870km ENE
	Field sighting	10/05/1997	Tingbjerg Idraetsanlæg: 55°42'N 12°29'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 864km ENE
	Field sighting	15/04/2000	Utterslev Mose I, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°29'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 864km ENE
	Field sighting	04/04/2002	Utterslev Mose II: 55°42'N 12°30'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 865km ENE
	Field sighting	23/04/2004	Utterslev Mose III, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°30'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 866km ENE
	Field sighting	14/03/2006	Brøndby Strand: 55°37'N 12°25'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 858km ENE

	Field sighting	16/03/2009	Sortedams Soe, Copenhagen: 55°41'N 12°34'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 869km ENE
EP39491	First-year male	11/04/2008	Baston Fen, Market Deeping: 52°43'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire)
	Field sighting	25/07/2009	Nidaro, Trondheim: 63°25'N 10°24'E (Sor-Trondelag) Norway 1,343km NNE
EW23089	Nestling	05/06/2006	Baston Pits, Bourne: 52°43'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	19/09/2009	Dunbar: 55°59'N 2°30'W (Lothian Region) 390km NNW
SVS	First-year	01/09/2003	Pildamsparken, Malmo: 55°35'N 13°0'E (Malmohus) Sweden
6400603	Long dead	02/02/2008	near Branston: 53°10'N 0°29'W (Lincolnshire) 913km WSW

The continued run of resightings of EN42793 is interesting and are mostly the efforts of just one man, who has now monitored these colonies for years. Perhaps more unusual is the autumn movement north of a bird bred in the county.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GA38124	Nestling	17/07/2004	Orfordness: 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Dead	20/06/2009	Frampton: 52°56'N 0°2'W (Lincolnshire) 144km NW
GG61354	Adult	10/11/2007	Rainham Tip: 51°29'N 0°11'E (Greater London)
	Unknown	c 19-01-2009	Exact location unknown: 52°50'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 151km N

With the near collapse of the breeding colony at Orfordness due to increased predation, mid-summer recoveries of relocating adults is unsurprising. Unfortunately the details for GC61354 are sketchy as this is perhaps an interesting change of wintering area.

Herring Gull

GC65708	Adult	30/01/2009	Seamer Carr Landfill, Scarborough: 54°13'N 0°25'W (North Yorkshire)
	Field sighting	05/02/2009	Kikby-on-Bain Pit: 53°8'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 122km S
GG76832	First-year	13/03/1993	Slippery Gowt Landfill, near Wyberton: 52°57'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	04/04/2009	River Ore, Orford: 52°5'N 1°32'E (Suffolk) 142km SE
GG77718	Nestling	14/07/2007	Havergate Island: 52°4'N 1°31'E (Suffolk)
	Field sighting	05/02/2009	Kirkby-on-Bain: 53°8'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 165km NW

Note the rapid mid-winter movement of GC65708

Sandwich Tern

DN47154	Adult	22/08/2005	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	08/08/2009	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland) 196km NNW

This bird was ringed on the annual training course at the Bird Observatory on the same night that a Dutch-ringed bird and a Swedish-ringed Common Tern were caught (details still awaited).

Common Tern

SV94439	Nestling	09/06/2003	Baston Fen: 52°44'N 0°18'W (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (pollution)	13/06/2009	Preston's Lake, Pebmarsh: 51°57'N 0°41'E (Essex) 110km SE

Shown here is the only recovery of the year.

Barn Owl

GC31444	Nestling	10/06/2007	High Barn Farm, Hagworthingham: 53°11'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	11/02/2009	Egglesburn, Barnard Castle: 54°37'N 2°2'W (Durham) 209km NW
GC68150	Nestling	07/07/2009	Terrington Marsh: 52°48'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	27/10/2009	Long Sandall, Doncaster: 53°33'N 1°6'W (South Yorkshire) 122km NW
GC90976	Nestling female	27/06/2009	Ashington End, Skegness: 53°10'N 0°17'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (hit car)	24/09/2009	Chicheley: 52°6'N 0°41'W (Buckinghamshire) 136km SSW
GH99934	Nestling	19/06/1996	Chapel Hill Farm, near Market Rasen: 53°23'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	01/02/2009	Moortown: 53°29'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 13km NNW

Three long-distance movements are shown, two very soon after fledging, both of which are unexpected. Also shown is the oldest bird reported during the year.

Common Swift

SB85169	Nestling	07/07/2006	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	27/05/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 23km W

Shown is the only recovery of the year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

CT19267	First-year male	18/09/2005	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	08/06/2009	Muckton Bottom: 53°19'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire) 31km NW
CW22309	First-year female	26/08/2007	Grimston, Aldbrough: 53°48'N 0°3'W (Humberside)
	Fresh dead (in building)	20/04/2009	Glentworth: 53°23'N 0°35'W (Lincolnshire) 59km SW

Most movements relate to late autumn arrivals, but these two are simply more local movements.

Sand Martin

V508169	First-year	06/09/2007	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	17/06/2008	near Nettleton: 53°30'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 298km NNW
	Caught by ringer	29/06/2009	near Nettleton: 53°30'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 298km NNW
V839705	Juvenile	12/09/2007	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	04/08/2009	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 246km S
X127515	First-year male	23/08/2008	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	10/06/2009	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire) 258km NNW
X561218	Juvenile	31/07/2009	Brough Hall, Catterick: 54°22'N 1°40'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	24/08/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 192km SE
X687084	Juvenile	07/07/2009	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	23/08/2009	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 258km SSE

The ringing site at Icklesham is the major migration monitoring station on the south coast and produces large numbers of hirundine recoveries annually. The movements there are thus expected, though the fact most were in subsequent years is unusual.

Barn Swallow

V231962	Juvenile	06/08/2007	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	19/09/2009	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 246km S

V924147	Juvenile female	26/07/2008	Slapton Ley: 50°17'N 3°39'W (Devon)
	Caught by ringer	14/05/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 363km NE
X228790	First-year female	19/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	26/06/2009	Street Gate Farm, near Hawnby: 54°20'N 1°13'W (North Yorkshire) 171km NW
X686360	Adult female	07/06/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	19/09/2009	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 248km SSE
X885599	Juvenile	02/09/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	15/09/2009	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 248km SSE

As for Sand Martin, movements to Icklesham are expected, although one much further southwest in Devon is interesting.

House Martin

X335890	Adult	27/05/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/08/2009	Norton, near Doncaster: 53°38'N 1°11'W (South Yorkshire) 82km NNW

Due to their primarily aerial habits, recaptures of House Martins are rather rare, so this movement is unusual. It was presumably ringed on migration through the county, then recaptured when breeding.

Pied Wagtail

T548646	First-year male	20/10/2007	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/01/2009	Ryde Pier: 50°44'N 1°10'W (Isle of Wight) 308km SSW
V316724	First-year	24/02/2008	Gonerby Moor: 52°56'N 0°41'W (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	21/05/2009	Epworth, Doncaster: 53°31'N 0°50'W (Humberside) 66km N

With so few Pied Wagtails ringed in the county, recoveries are few and far between. The winter recovery so far south is interesting.

Robin

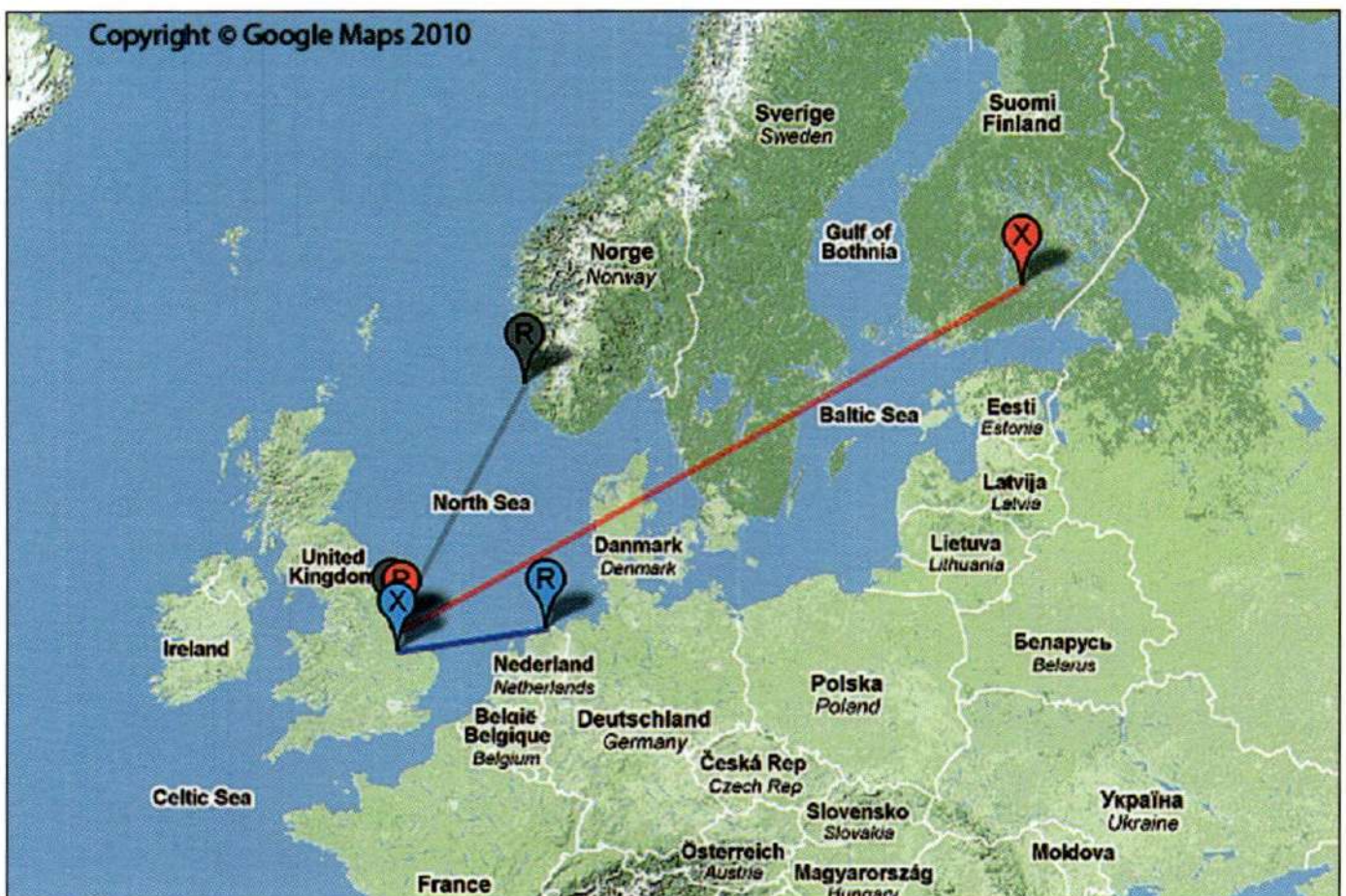
V750853	First-year	13/11/2008	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead (in net or cage)	31/07/2009	Heinola: 61°15'N 26°15'E (Mikkeli) Finland 1,783km ENE

The first recovery to (or from) Finland from the county. There are surprisingly few previous movements to Scandinavia, with six exchanges with Norway and three with Sweden.

Blackbird

RP63344	Adult female	16/10/2003	St Abbs Head: 55°55'N 2°9'W (Borders Region)
	Fresh dead (hit car)	15/07/2009	Butterwick, Boston: 52°59'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire) 356km SSE
NOS	First-year male	13/11/2008	Blikshavn, Karmoy: 59°12'N 5°19'E (Rogaland) Norway
7521111	Caught by ringer	14/02/2009	near Nettleton: 53°29'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire) 724km SSW

As expected, there were several foreign movements, including birds to and from Norway (shown), two to Sweden, one to Denmark, and two to and one from The Netherlands. Also shown is the furthest national movement.



Map 4. Notable movements of thrushes in 2009. Shown are the first Robin (red) to be found in Finland, a Norwegian-ringed Blackbird (grey) and the second Dutch-ringed Redwing (blue).

Redwing

NLA	First-year	22/10/2009	Berkeplas Schiermonnikoog: 53°29'N 6°11'E (Schiermonnikoog) The Netherlands
H310525	Fresh dead (hit car)	31/10/2009	Sutterton: 52°54'N 0°5'W (Lincolnshire) 423km W

There was only one recovery reported during the year, but this was the second from The Netherlands.

Cetti's Warbler

V888617	Juvenile female	16/07/2009	Rye Meads: 51°46'N 0°0'W (Hertfordshire)
	Caught by ringer	25/09/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 141km NNW

This is probably the most unusual and interesting recovery reported this year and is further evidence of the slow colonisation of the county by this species, and where they may originate from.

Reed Warbler

V597450	First-year female	12/08/2007	Marston Sewage Farm: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	10/08/2008	Holme Pierrepont: 52°57'N 1°5'W (Nottinghamshire) 28km W
	Caught by ringer	05/07/2009	Holme Pierrepont: 52°57'N 1°5'W (Nottinghamshire) 28km W

This bird was presumably ringed on early autumn migration and was subsequently recaptured in the breeding season in its natal area.

Blackcap

P102777	Adult	28/05/2002	Temple Wood, Bourne: 52°50'N 0°27'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	14/10/2009	Jews Gate: 36°7'N 5°20'W Gibraltar 1,897km SSW
X231195	Fully-grown female	13/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (cat)	06/01/2009	Cleadon: 54°56'N 1°24'W (Tyne & Wear) 233km NNW
X230543	First-year female	03/11/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	20/04/2009	Uebersyren: 49°38'N 6°17'E Luxembourg 566km SE

These three recoveries are all rather unusual, including the first from the county to be found in Gibraltar and Luxembourg. X231195 was presumably arriving for the winter when ringed, but unless it has changed wintering area, the northerly location in a subsequent winter is interesting.

Willow Warbler

2G6715	First-year	20/08/1998	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	11/09/1999	Wolsingham: 54°44'N 1°54'W (Durham) 213km NNW
CXB890	First-year	15/08/2009	Birtley Sewage Works: 54°54'N 1°37'W (Tyne & Wear)
	Caught by ringer	05/09/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 237km SSE

Goldcrest

CCJ084	First-year female	25/10/2007	Digby Stone Quarry, near Heath Farm, Lincoln: 53°6'N 0°26'W (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	07/01/2009	Raf Cranwell: 53°2'N 0°31'W (Lincolnshire) 10km SW
CPX063	First-year female	03/11/2008	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (cat)	05/04/2009	Wisbech: 52°41'N 0°9'E (Cambridgeshire) 48km SSW
SVS	First-year male	15/10/2008	Bredmar/Byn, Landsort: 58°45'N 17°52'E (Stockholm) Sweden
SB7532	Caught by ringer	02/11/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 1,258km WSW
SVS	First-year male	05/10/2008	Vanhahamina, Haparanda Sandskar: 65°34'N 23°46'E (Norrbotten) Sweden
Y19498	Caught by ringer	05/11/2008	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E (Lincolnshire) 1,907km SW

For such a short-lived bird, recaptures in subsequent winters are always good. Also shown are the third and fourth records from Sweden.

Long-tailed Tit

ADX475	Fully-grown male	14/01/2009	Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/04/2009	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 11km NNE
BER091	Fully-grown	17/10/2006	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	23/10/2006	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 31km SSE
	Caught by ringer	03/11/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 31km SSE
	Caught by ringer	05/03/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 31km SSE

BHX962	First-year	06/08/2007	Bainton Gravel Pits: 52°38'N 0°22'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Alive	10/03/2009	New York: 53°3'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 49km NNE

Movements along the coast in late autumn aren't exceptional, but the fact that BER091 was caught two years after the initial recapture is surprising.

Great Tit *Parus major*

TE39651	Nestling female	01/06/2007	Walesby Grange, Market Rasen: 53°24'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/02/2009	Northycote Farm, Wolverhampton: 52°37'N 2°6'W (West Midlands) 147km SW

This was the only movement over 100km during the year and unusual in that this bird had been originally ringed as a nestling.

Coal Tit

X099496	Nestling	30/05/2008	Walesby Grange, Market Rasen: 53°24'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead (in nestbox)	19/04/2009	Riseholme Park, Riseholme: 53°16'N 0°32'W (Lincolnshire) 20km SW

Common Chaffinch

V230014	Adult female	14/05/2006	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (hit glass)	21/04/2009	Leiston: 52°12'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 131km SE
X229710	Fully-grown female	04/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	19/12/2009	New Farm, Besford: 52°7'N 2°9'W (Hereford & Worcester) 200km WSW

Shown are the only recoveries over 100km reported during the year.

Brambling

X372415	Fully-grown female	18/12/2008	Chelmarsh Reservoir, near Bridgnorth: 52°29'N 2°24'W (Shropshire)
	Caught by ringer	06/04/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 195km ENE

This bird was presumably on return migration when recaught, actually a surprisingly infrequent occurrence.

Greenfinch

TA58519	First-year	29/08/2008	Buckton: 54°9'N 0°12'W (Humberside)
	Caught by ringer	14/01/2009	Pickworth: 52°53'N 0°27'W (Lincolnshire) 142km S
TB99401	First-year male	21/11/2003	Rampton, Retford: 53°17'N 0°49'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Dead (hit car)	30/05/2009	Eagle, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire) 14km SE
TJ83912	Second-year male	04/05/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	31/10/2009	Sundale, Gillingham: 52°18'N 1°2'E (Suffolk) 102km SSE
TK59459	Adult male	20/10/2007	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	10/07/2009	Sotterley, Beccles: 52°24'N 1°36'E (Suffolk) 142km SE
TL23734	First-year male	19/10/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	17/08/2009	Kirkby Overblow: 53°56'N 1°31'W (North Yorkshire) 153km NW
TL98032	First-year female	06/12/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	19/08/2009	Bardsey, Leeds: 53°53'N 1°27'W (West Yorkshire) 146km NW
TL98283	First-year male	07/03/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (injured)	07/09/2009	Tingvoll: 62°54'N 8°12'E (More og Romsdal) Norway 1,183km NNE

The running of a feeding station at Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory has seen a big increase in the ringing of Greenfinches. The movement of these birds to North and West Yorkshire, Suffolk and Norway are interesting. The latter is only the 10th foreign movement to/from the county and the fourth to Norway. The others include five from Norway and one from the Channel Islands.

Goldfinch

T553379	First-year female	01/03/2005	Walcott's Hall: 51°53'N 0°44'E (Essex)
	Field sighting	10/06/2009	Grasby: 53°31'N 0°22'W (Lincolnshire) 196km NNW
V376896	Adult male	05/11/2008	Kingsnorth Power Station, Hoo St Werburgh: 51°25'N 0°35'E (Kent)
	Caught by ringer	17/10/2009	Stonebridge, Donna Nook: 53°28'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 230km N
X476456	First-year	21/01/2009	Duddenhoe End: 52°0'N 0°8'E (Essex)
	Caught by ringer	04/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 123km N

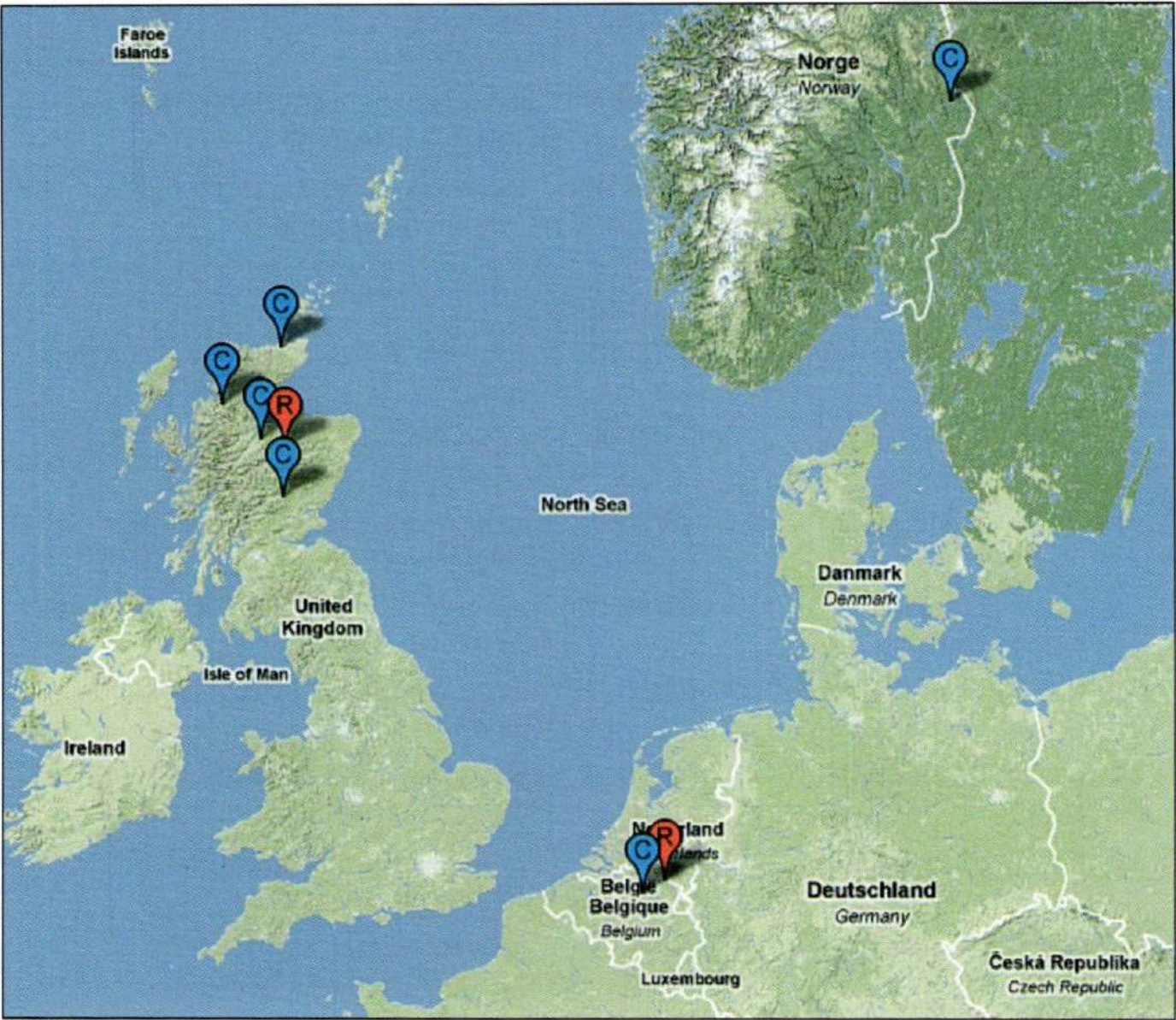
X482326	First-year female	19/04/2009	near Stenigot: 53°19'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	09/12/2009	Garboldisham: 52°23'N 0°56'E (Norfolk) 126km SE

It is interesting that all of the 'non-Lincolnshire' locations are to the south of the county, and they presumably relate to birds en route to, or in, wintering areas.

Siskin

T365181	First-year male	17/07/2005	Blairgorm: 57°15'N 3°36'W (Highland Region)
	Caught by ringer	04/03/2006	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 539km SSE
V598886	Adult male	15/03/2008	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	23/02/2009	Blauberg: 51°3'N 4°56'E (Antwerpen) Belgium 413km ESE
X028316	First-year male	22/03/2009	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	27/05/2009	Easter Dalguise, Dunkeld: 56°36'N 3°39'W (Tayside) 475km NNW
X229028	Fully-grown male	22/04/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	27/05/2009	Flensjoen Vestre, Trysil: 61°27'N 12°17'E (Hedmark) Norway 1,172km NE
X278782	Adult female	16/04/2009	Cherry Willingham: 53°14'N 0°28'W (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead	05/05/2009	Letters, Loch Broom: 57°50'N 5°6'W (Highland Region) 589km NNW
X499267	First-year female	19/03/2009	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	24/04/2009	Shebster: 58°33'N 3°42'W (Highland Region) 675km NNW
X499292	First-year female	19/03/2009	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/04/2009	Inverarnie: 57°23'N 4°11'W (Highland Region) 567km NNW
BLB	Fully-grown female	01/01/2008	Neerpelt: 51°14'N 5°25'E (Limburg) Belgium
10624003	Caught by ringer	21/03/2009	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 433km WNW

Siskin always generate plenty of recoveries and these movements illustrate this. They include the fifth to Norway, fifth to Belgium and fourth from Belgium.



Map 5. Selected Siskin movements to and from the county in 2009. Shown are the ringing locations of birds retrapped in Lincolnshire (red R), and finding locations of birds ringed in the county (blue C).

Twite

T627876	Nestling	06/06/2008	Warley Moor Reservoir: 53°46'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Field sighting	29/03/2009	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 162km SE

The colour-ringing of birds as part of this project has resulted in good numbers of resightings, including this one in its first winter.

Lesser Redpoll

X230179	Fully-grown male	16/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	03/06/2009	Calf of Man: 54°3'N 4°49'W (Isle of Man) 355km WNW

X792981	First-year	17/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	30/10/2009	Sandwich Bay Estate: 51°16'N 1°23'E (Kent) 217km SSE
X793568	First-year	24/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	30/10/2009	Icklesham: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 246km S
X920453	First-year	22/10/2009	Kilnsea: 53°37'N 0°8'E (Humberside)
	Caught by ringer	24/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 59km S

Since recent taxonomic splits, there has only seven previous recoveries of Lesser Redpoll, it is amazing to see four in one year. These all originated from tape-luring of birds at the Bird Observatory. Note the quick movement of the last two birds.

Hawfinch

NV46999	Fully-grown female	02/10/2008	Virkie: 59°53'N 1°18'W (Shetland)
	Long dead	14/02/2009	Holbeach: 52°48'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 792km S

This is the first recovery of Hawfinch in the county and a fascinating winter find.

Reed Bunting

V038171	First-year male	29/01/2006	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Fresh dead (cat)	20/09/2009	Springfield Barn: 52°41'N 0°39'W (Leicestershire) 23km WSW

Contributors to the county records for 2009, with initials for reference

ACH	A C Houghton	Csm	Colin Smale
AHo	A Horsley	DJ	D Johnson
ADe	Adam Denard	DS	D Satterthwaite
AJa	Adrian Jakes	DMa	Darren Matthews
ARo	Adrian Royle	DAk	Dave Adkin
AGB	Alan Ball	DJB	Dave Bradbeer
ABw	Alan Brewster	DL	Dick Lambert
ATD	Alan Daws	DSP	Dave Purnell
AHu	Alan Hudson	DWo	Dave Worrell
AKy	Alan Kydd	DKW	Dave Wright
ATo	Alan Tomlinson	DCo	David Cohen
AWa	Alan Walker	DGo	David Goddard
ACa	Alastair Carr	DJW	David J Wright
AP	Alex Parker	DMJ	David Jenkins
ACL	Alexander Lees	DMn	David Morison
ABa	Alison Baldwin	DNy	David Naylor
ACm	Andrew Carmichael	DRob	David Roberts
ACBH	Andrew Henderson	DE	Dean Eades
ACS	Andrew Sims	DN	Dean Nicholson
APC	Andrew Chick	DMy	Derek Morley
ALG	Anne Goodall	EJM	Edmund Mackrill
BKa	B Kazai	FJ	Freddy Johnson
RBW	Barrie Wilkinson	GBe	G Beasley
BMC	Barry Clarkson	GPr	G Priestley
BHa	Barry Hancock	GCS	Garry Steele
BJ	Barry Johnson	GJF	Gary Fenwick
WM	Bill Meek	GBr	Geoff Brown
WBS	Bill Sterling	GK	Geoff Knight
BGu	Birdguides	GMu	Geoff Mullett
BTr	Birdtrack	GW	Geoff Williams
BRG	Birklands Ringing Group	GBi	George Bishop
RTe	Bob Telford	GMO	Gervase Orton
BRE	Brian Eke	GPBO	Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory
BHe	Brian Hedley	GPC	Graham Catley
BPa	Bryn Parry	GFi	Graham Figg
CA	Chris Atkin	GF	Graham Fordham
CG	Chris Grimshaw	GH	Graham Hardy
CJ	Chris Jarvis	GU	Graham Uney
CTy	Chris Tyler	GHo	Grahame Hopwood
CCG	Clare Gillatt	GRO	Greg Roberts
CMo	Cliff Morrison	GAM	Grimsby Area Members
CPr	Clive Pearson	GBa	Guy Bartle
CJJ	Colin Jennings	GPL	Guy Langan
CPu	Colin Pumfrett	HB	Howard Bunn

HRO	Howard Robinson	MJo	Malcolm Johnson
HM	Hugh Middleton	MJ	Malcolm Johnson
IE	Ian Ellis	MS	Martin Sizer
ILe	Ian Lee	MWs	Mandy West
IPM	Ian Misselbrook	MG	Mark Grantham
IGS	Ian Shepherd	MPv	Mark Paver
IWf	Ian Winfield	MHa	Matt Harrison
JBa	J Bassindale	MMal	Michael Maltby
JMH	J M Hague	MWa	Michael Warren
JPS	J P Shaughnessey	MWes	Mick West
JRN	J R Nelson	MLRG	Mid-Lincs Ringing Group
JWh	J Wheldon	MEH	Mike Harrison
JS	James Siddle	MSu	Mike Surr
JMcM	Jenny McMahon	MJTa	Mike Tarrant
JCl	Jim Clarke	NHD	N H Dorrington
JB	John Badley	NP	N Pike
JRC	John Clarkson	ND	Neil Drinkall
JCb	John Corby	NKz	Neil Kurz
JTG	John Goy	NS	Neil Smith
JHr	John Harry	NCl	Nick Clayton
JLu	John Lusby	NPT	Nick Tribe
JDM	John Mortemore	NGe	Nigel Genn
EJR	John Redshaw	NAL	Nigel Lound
JDS	John Spring	NWa	Nigel Watson
JTH	John T Harriman	NJV	Niven Vessey
JRW	John Walker	PBu	P Burnett
JWW	John Walton	PBe	Patrick Bell
JWa	John Watt	PRF	Paul French
JSa	Jonathan Savory	PMa	Paul Marshall
JJ	Josh Jones	PPz	Paul Pultz
KRo	K Robinson	PSm	Paul Smith
KSp	Karen Spavin	PSn	Paul Snow
KBi	Katherine Birkett	PS	Paul Sullivan
KH	Kay Heath	PDr	Peter Dryburgh
KBo	Keith Bowden	PBH	Peter Haywood
KDR	Keith Robertson	CPO	Peter Overton
KJS	Keith Seaton	PEs	Phil Espin
KWa	Keith Warner	PHi	Phil Hickerton
KE	Ken Eades	PAH	Phil Hyde
KKH	Kerry Harrison	PLe	Phil Lee
KAM	Kevin Marshall	PP	Phil Porter
KMW	Kevin Wilson	RHar	R Harrison
LSh	L Sharp	RL	R Lorand
LCa	Les Carter	RP	R Parsons
LBCF	Lincolnshire Bird Club Forum	REd	Ray Eades
MaB	M Bibby	RJH	Ray Hume
MRB	M R Briggs	RGu	Richard Gunn

RHe	Richard Heath	SK	Steve Keightley
RHew	Richard Hewson	SL	Steve Lorand
RJa	Richard Jackson	SLo	Steve Lovell
RPi	Richard Pipe	SLy	Steve Lyon
RBe	Rick Bennett	SJM	Steve Meek
RKW	Rob K Watson	SWa	Steve Watson
RL-S	Rob Lidstone-Scott	SML	Steven Lister
RC	Robert Carr	SC	Stewart Chester
RHr	Robert Hardy	SHg	Stewart Hogg
RHM	Robert Marchant	SRr	Stewart Ringrose
RTo	Robert Townhill	SAB	Stuart Britton
RDo	Robin Dobson	ST	Sue Tilford
RNH	Roger Hebb	TCo	Terry Corlett
RAh	Ross Ahmed	TSr	Terry Slater
RHa	Roy Harvey	TWe	Terry West
RPr	Roy Pearson	TWh	Terry Whalin
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	AJB	Tony Blaydon
RHay	Russell Hayes	AJH	Tony Housman
SHo	S Horsfall	AN	Tony Nuttall
SMcE	S J McElwee	APo	Tony Porter
SJg	S Jagger	TGu	Trevor Gunby
SOS	Scunthorpe Ornithological Society	VF	Vin Fleming
SJ	Sheila Jennings	WCN	W C Nimick
SSp	Simon Spavin	WG	Wayne Gillatt
SWl	Simon Wilson	WBR	Whisby Nature Park Bird Report
SRo	Stephen Routledge	WPB	William Brooking
SA	Steven Adams	YP	Yvonne Potter