

THE Lincolnshire BIRD REPORT 2013



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**
www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk

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FRONT COVER: White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Gib Point Oct 14th 2013 © Paul Neale

ISSN NUMBER: 0261-5525

Welcome to the 2013 Bird Report



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* North Cotes Sept 13th 2013 © Roy Harvey



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THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB 2013 REPORT

Welcome to the 2013 Lincolnshire Bird Report

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club ("LBC") it gives us great pleasure in presenting the annual report on the birds of Lincolnshire. The publication of the Bird Report inevitably involves a huge amount of work, with many individuals involved in its publication. Thanks are also due to the growing numbers of observers who submit records to the LBC. This year we have succeeded in verifying more reports and gathering more records than in previous years and thanks must go to the two bird recorders, the Lincolnshire Bird Records Committee ("LBRC"), Roy Harvey and to Colin and Shelia Jennings for all the work undertaken.

Report Editor

The LBC is extremely grateful to Andrew Henderson for editing the 2013 bird report. Andrew has devoted many hours preparing this report and is responsible for many of the innovations that appear in this edition.

Species Authors

The LBC would like to thank all the authors who volunteered their time to complete species write-ups for the 2013 report. Inevitably, using such a pool of authors will lead to difference in writing styles throughout the report. Personally, we feel this is a small price to pay in order to achieve a published final report.

Notes for Contributors.

The Lincolnshire Bird Report is an annual publication of records, articles and photographs relating to all aspects of Lincolnshire ornithology. If you would like to contribute please contact chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk for more information.

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 be omitted. The names of all contributors will be published.

How to submit records

You can submit records in many ways. For casual sightings please use our Online Sightings Form at http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/contact_report.htm. This is an ideal way to let us know quickly of interesting bird sightings from within the LBC recording area. Information on interesting birds, once received, can be easily distributed to our members and others using the internet as well as being added to the LBC database. This method can also be used for the submission of confidential records.

The Club is moving rapidly towards the electronic submission and processing of records so that we can produce our Annual Reports more efficiently, and we encourage you to do this if possible. Many birders are now using BirdTrack (www.bto.org/birdtrack) to maintain their personal records online. All such records (barring confidential ones) for Lincolnshire are passed to LBC by BTO and are published in this report subject to our usual checking procedures. LBC supports BirdTrack and a single submission to Birdtrack will suffice; there is no need for you to send duplicate records direct to LBC. However, as an alternative to BirdTrack, we have produced our own spreadsheet (in Excel format) for anyone to use – and there is free software you can download if you do not have Excel itself. You can download the spreadsheet and read more about how you can use it at http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/lbc_recordgathering.htm.

Non-electronic submission of records

We will continue to accept records submitted manually but this does cause our editorial team additional work in converting your records to a digital format so we would encourage all observers to submit records electronically, preferably using the Club spreadsheet where possible.

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 (see below). For further detail please contact Mr Colin Jennings – thejennings@colin97.freemove.co.uk

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National Rarities.

National rare birds are dealt with 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, and the LBC report will only publish records submitted and 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 details will be published, but where these are not known records will be attributed to *per LBC*.

County Rarities.

Species or forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the Lincolnshire Bird Record Committee and are indicated as such by the identifier **LBRC** after the species name in the systematic list in this report. The committee currently comprises John Clarkson, Graham Catley, James Siddle, Andy Sims, Phil Hyde and John Badley. The chairman of the 2013-14 LBRC is John Clarkson and Roy Harvey is secretary.

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

All records of LBRC 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 submission of description of county rarities is important. 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.

LBC Data

LBC has a data sharing agreement with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership based at LWT headquarters, Banovallum House, Horncastle. All our bird data from the late 1990s onwards can be accessed by requesting a search from the Information Officer. Searches are free for members of LBC and students undertaking scientific research. Commercial organisations and others may need to pay a fee. There are restrictions on access to confidential data for rare breeding birds. Further details can be obtained from Charlie Barnes, Information Officer, GLNP on 01507 528381 and charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk.



GLNP
GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE
NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Data Sources used in the 2013 Bird Report

LBC offers their thanks to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2013 bird report. Apologies to anyone we have missed off the list.

RSPB. For supplying data from their reserves at Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore and Tetney.

Heronry Data. LBC is 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 LBC 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 2013 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 LBC. 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 2013 bird report. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdguides.com/>.

Deeping Lakes Site bird recorder. David Griffith for supplying data from Deeping Lakes.

Gibraltar Point Dataset. Kev Wilson and Richard Doan for supplying data from Gibraltar Point NNR.

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

Far Ings NNR Dataset. Andy Sharp and the Far Ings Bird Group for supplying data from Far Ings NNR.

Forest Enterprise. For permission to use breeding bird data collected on the wet heath project in Loughton Forest by Graham Catley on behalf of Forest Enterprise.

Whisby Nature Park Dataset. Grahame Hopwood for supplying data from Whisby Nature Park.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, including Dave Bromwich, Grahame Hopwood and Barrie Wilkinson.

Ringling Report Data. 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 help compiling the 2013 ringing report.

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

Kestrel, Barn Owl and Little Owl Data. Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard for supplying data from their extensive ringing project in Lincolnshire.

North Lincolnshire Marsh Harrier Monitoring. Graham Catley for access to his marsh harrier monitoring data. For more details contact Graham Catley at graham.catley@btopenworld.com or via his website at <http://pewit.blogspot.com/>

Alkborough Flats Partnership. The Alkborough Flats Partnership for supplying data from Alkborough Flats.

Woodcock Data. BTO for making available summary data for the 2013 and 2003 BTO/Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust surveys.

BTO BBS Data. Sarah Harris the National Organiser of the Breeding Birds Survey for providing Lincolnshire specific BBS data.

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 forms the lynchpin for this report. At the end of each month they produce a spreadsheet that contains all the bird records for that month. We are grateful to Chris Grimshaw and Carl Annall for helping Colin and Sheila with data input.

Wildlife Recorder. Thanks to Jack Levene who is very generous with his time and patience while sorting out LBC database issues.

Contributing Authors for the 2013 report

The Lincolnshire LBC is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2013 Lincolnshire LBC 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.

Contributing Authors: John Badley, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Phil Espin, Chris Grimshaw, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Steve Lorand, Ian Macalpine-Leny, Dean Nicholson, Garry Steele, Bill Sterling.

Photographers

LBC is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2013 report. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2013 and many are referred to in the text. All images are labelled with the photographer's name, their contact details are listed below.

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The LBC Database and gathering records in general

We aim to have a complete and workable database for each year by the end of February the following year. This means that all description birds are verified by that date.

Andrew Chick and Phil Espin, Feb 2015

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2013

Collated and edited by: Andrew Henderson and Andrew Chick

Contributing Authors: John Badley, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Phil Espin, Chris Grimshaw, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Steve Lorand, Ian Macalpine-Leny, Dean Nicholson, Garry Steele, Bill Sterling.

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.

BB	British Birds	NNR	National Nature Reserve
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	NR	Nature Reserve
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology	SQ	Sand Quarry
CP	Country Park	STW	Sewage Treatment Works
GP	Gravel Pit	WWT	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee		

Tables:

Tables are provided to convey information in a minimum of space. The sites included vary between species, and are selected to include areas holding significant numbers (sometimes defined in the text), usually with counts in several or many months. The figures shown are the highest counts for each month.

For waterfowl (wildfowl, waders and other waterbirds), tables use data from the LBC database plus that from Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory and RSPB Reserves, to whom we are grateful for sharing this information. In addition, Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data are used, kindly made available by the WeBS partnership, which is funded by BTO, RSPB and the JNCC (on behalf of, in England, Natural England), in association with WWT, and run by the BTO. Where a site's counts comprise solely WeBS data, the site name is marked by an asterisk. The tables for some species also give the sums of Lincolnshire WeBS sector totals for the Humber (which extends to Mablethorpe) and The Wash. WeBS counts extend systematic coverage away from more intensively watched areas but are, in most cases, made on a single date near the middle of the month, and thus may miss higher counts made on other dates. Note that there may occasionally be overlap between sites in the table; we try to avoid it but occasionally it is preferable to not presenting important data. The most obvious example of this concerns the Witham Mouth WeBS sector, which includes part of Freiston Shore RSPB reserve and is used by birds from both Freiston and Frampton reserves.

Ring recovery data

A selection of the more interesting recoveries or sightings of ringed birds affecting Lincolnshire are included with the species entries. These should be fairly self-explanatory, with the ring numbers in the left hand columns, then details of the individual and the recovery method, then the dates, and in the right hand column the locations of ringing and recovery/sighting. Where no county (or overseas country) is specified, the location is in Lincolnshire. In some cases, additional comment is included in the text.

Rare and scarce species

Many reports of rare and scarce species are submitted each year without documentation, in some cases even without a named observer. This poses difficulties, because we cannot be certain that mistakes have not been made, something that is important for understanding of species' status now and, even more so, in the future when patterns of occurrence are reviewed and analysed. However, because of the numbers of records now coming without supporting details, we have taken a pragmatic approach for this report. Records have been included in the systematic list if the LBRC was confident that a mistake was unlikely, taking into account the experience of observers, the circumstances of the sighting and any verbal information received, and how the record fits into the known pattern of occurrence of the species. This approach will be kept under active review for future reports.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber totals	137	18	36	57	114	42	72	73	38	64	105	171
Wash totals	34	27	52	43	21	36	20	21	15	24	17	11
Brayford Pool, Lincoln	28	38	39	30	41	45	69	66	34	43	34	33
Thurlby/Norton GP	7	2	5	10	4	45	67	54	47	20	32	30
Bardney-Fiskerton	29	44	53	93	24	66	59	57	59	-	132	144
Metheringham Delph/Fen	44	122	88	116	63	3	-	-	2	20	18	20
Anwick Fen	55	39	51	15	24	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spalding-Crowland area	153	133	68	157	89	132	73	27	45	95	164	277

In addition to the Lincolnshire Humber and Wash WeBS count totals, the table shows the peak monthly counts for sites with two or more counts of over 50 birds. Other counts 50 or more were: 91 at Blankney Dales in Apr, 50 at Toft Newton Res and 50 at Deeping Lakes in May, 53 at Messingham SQ and 50 at Tattershall Pits in Jul, 59 at Langtoft West End GPs in Nov, and 129 at Wroot, 92 at Branston Fen and 50 at Willow Tree Fen in Dec. Note that most of the Humber birds are in the New Holland area. Breeding reports of 1-2 pairs came from 25 sites scattered throughout the county. The ringing details concern a relatively long-lived and well-travelled individual of this largely sedentary species.

Z92978	First year male	04-04-1998	Bellflask Quarry: 54°11'N 1°33'W (North Yorkshire)
	Dead	20-09-2013	River Eau, Scotter: 53°29'N 0°40'W 96km SE 15y 5m 16d

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wroot	-	7	2	1	-	1
Branston Fen	-	12	-	-	-	6
Nocton Fen	-	-	-	-	2	10
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	2	-	-	10	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	5
Frithville	-	-	-	-	7	-
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	-	5	-
Frampton Marsh	10	9	1	-	-	-

A poor year with few birds being seen away from the more regular sites. The peak counts for all locations holding five or more birds are tabulated. The only other records were one at Huttoft Bank Pit on Jan 13th, three at Deeping High Bank on Feb 8th, one at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Apr 3rd, two at Huttoft Bank on Nov 28th, one at Huttoft Bank Pit on Dec 1st, one at Mogg's Eye on Dec 7th and three there on Dec 15th. The last early year record was the bird at Kirkby on Bain Pits and the first winter arrivals were 10 in off the sea at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 29th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wroot	30	97	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	100
Alkborough Flats	-	2	7	35	-	-	-	-	-	30	26	-
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	-	15	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	33	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	20	14	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	30	34	165	2	-	-	-	-	-	48	21	20
Huttoft Bank	40	-	45	3	-	-	-	-	-	100	59	125
Mogg's Eye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	90
Gibraltar Point	11	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	285	72	6
Freiston Shore	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	27	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	37	-
Frampton Marsh	23	48	50	16	5	3	4	-	-	27	20	20
Fiskerton-Martin	28	18	100	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	34

The table shows all sites with two or more double-figure peak monthly counts; note that in some cases counts involve birds on passage, or combinations of birds present and on passage. Other site counts of 30 or over were: 38 at Fiskerton Fen on Mar 17th, 97 over Fulbeck on Mar 19th, 36 over Castle Bytham on Apr 1st, 36 at Crowland on Apr 11th, 66 at Tetney Marsh on Oct 26th, 44 at Humberston on Oct 24th, 60 at Humberston Fitties and, perhaps the same, 44 at Tetney Marsh on Oct 30th and 30 at Grimsby Docks Nov 4th. The largest spring flock was 165 north at Seaview, Saltfleetby on Mar 3rd, while the last spring flock was 35 at Alkborough Flats on Apr 13th. Later spring sightings were singles at Fiskerton Fen on Apr 18th and at Frampton Marsh throughout Apr, five at Frampton Marsh on May 1st and two at Deeping High Bank on May 5th. There were an unusual number of summer records this year; one at Burgh Marsh from Jun 5th-16th, one at Willow Tree Fen on Jun 7th, three at Frampton Marsh on Jun 12th, one at Gib Point on Jun 18th, four at Thorpe St Peter on Jun 21st, singles at New Holland-Barrow on Jun 23rd, Tetney Marsh on Jun 24th and Marshchapel on Jun 26th, four at Frampton Marsh on Jul 7th, singles at Barton-upon-Humber on Jul 26th-27th and at Tattershall Bridge on Aug 15th. The first of the autumn were seven at Gib Point on Oct 9th, with birds being seen at Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore, Toft Newton Res and Worlaby Carrs the following day. The peak count of autumn was 285 south at Gib Point on Oct 30th, this following 244 south on the 24th and 259 south on the 29th, and with a further 111 south on the 31st.

ISR A8606	Nestling male	29-07-2009	Klukkufell, Reykholasveit, Austur-Bardastrandar: 65°32'N 22°3'W Iceland
	Freshly dead		
	(poisoned)	20-03-2013	The Scalp, Frampton: 52°55'N 0°3'E 1,871km SE 3y 7m 19d



Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* Alkborough Flats, Nov 6th 2013 © Graham Catley

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**

Most records refer to Tundra Bean Goose as far as is known: three commuted between Thurlby Sand Pit, Bassingham and Whisby Quarry and Whisby NR from Jan 1st to Mar 28th (DN, DMJ, GHo *et al*), one was reported at Gedney Drove End on Jan 3rd (BGU), one at Freiston Shore on Jan 27th (JB), one, of unconfirmed race, south at Gib Point on Feb 8th (DWR) and at the end of the year two were at Humberston Fitties on Dec 7th (RL) and 10 at Moggs Eye on Dec 12th (GWA).

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber & coast</i>												
Alkborough/Whitton	2	-	105	10	-	-	-	-	3500	3500	780	60
West Halton	-	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2500
Read's Island area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2500	7800	3130	-
Wolds farmland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2000	-	900	-
Barton Pits	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	400	1	-
Goxhill	450	260	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes/Tetney	600	93	-	1	-	-	-	-	100	895	600	62
Donna Nook	250	120	15	-	-	-	-	-	283	860	420	180
Saltfleet/Mablethorpe	800	670	-	-	-	-	-	-	530	747	300	130
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	440	879	177	-	4	-	-	-	1265	800	1366	1650
Wainfleet/Wrangle	360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	1250	57
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	75	-
Frampton Marsh	650	1	39	-	1	-	-	-	150	600	1500	350
Nene Mouth/Wingland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2800	6000	2100
<i>Inland</i>												
Whisby	700	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-

The table includes the majority of locations at which counts of 500 or more were made, plus a few other sites that have experienced larger numbers in previous years. Some of the counts refer to overflying birds. The largest count in the first quarter was 1500 at West Halton on Feb 12th but, as usual, numbers were lower than in the last quarter of the previous year. Movement to the north-west was evident from early in Jan, including 500 over Whisby NR on Jan 5th, 600 at Cleethorpes on Jan 6th, 700 at Whisby on Jan 10th and 640 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 850 at Gib Point on Feb 9th. There were no counts exceeding 10 after 127 flew north over Bonby Carrs on Mar 21st. A few remained well into May but apart from an injured bird at Tattershall Lakes on June 27th, none was seen during May 30th-Sep 7th, but 27 were seen at Donna Nook on Sep 8th. Numbers built up quickly after mid Sep, with c2000 at Read's Island/Barton Wolds by the 21st. The autumn Humber population was higher than for many years, with peak counts of 7800 leaving the Read's Island roost on Oct 17th and 2750 roosting on Whitton Sands (mostly in Yorks) on the following day, the two groups believed to be different. The birds feed on farmland across a wide area surrounding the roosts in both counties. There were also some large counts on The Wash, notably c6000 at Wingland Marsh on Nov 23rd, but also 2100 south-west at Nene Mouth on Oct 21st, 1500 by Frampton Marsh on Nov 10th and c2100 at Guy's Head on Dec 12th. Autumn counts of 500 or more not in the table were 500 at Wroot on Oct 20th, 1500 at Holme on Oct 26th, 800 at Osbournby on Nov 6th, 800 at Moulton Common on Nov 12th, 500 at Broxholme on Nov 17th, 500 at Heighington on Nov 28th and 850 at Owston Ferry on Dec 9th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarse winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasionally fairly common. Two races: **European White-fronted Goose** *A a albifrons* is scarce but regular, **Greenland White-fronted Goose** *A a flavirostris* is rare. LBRC

European White-fronted Goose *A a albifrons*

One had been at Frampton Marsh on Dec 20th 2012 but then none until two were found there on Jan 3rd, where they remained for weeks; the number present increased to four on Feb 7th, all of which remained until Apr 10th. Elsewhere there were four at Alkborough Flats on Jan 18th-27th, with five there on the 28th, four adults at Kirkby GP on Mar 13th, and one at Messingham SQ on Apr 7th and 14th. In the autumn, one was at Frampton Marsh on Oct 2nd, one between Tetney Haven and Horseshoe Point on Oct 22nd and presumably the same at Humberston Fitties during Oct 26th-Nov 1st, an adult on Wainfleet Marsh on Oct 30th-31st, two at Huttoft Bank Pit on both Oct 27th and Nov 14th and two at Manby Flashes on Nov 4th. In Dec, one was at West Halton on the 3rd and one at Humberston Fitties on the 29th-30th.



European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons* adults Frampton Marsh
Mar 2nd 2013 © Paul Sullivan

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 may occur (scarce) Sep-Apr, but difficult to detect.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	280	40	131	50	186	170	450	600	1100	300	409	680
Messingham SQ	76	-	-	-	-	-	8	50	-	-	200	468
Barton Pits	160	129	98	62	46	200	142	170	400	250	100	141
Cleethorpes/Tetney	2	28	-	5	6	11	174	115	26	45	105	110
Manby Flashes	2	97	9	-	3	2	14	257	371	350	3	1
Biscathorpe Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	1	200	-	5
Gibraltar Point	162	10	9	20	26	25	5	18	19	112	175	180
Freiston Shore	80	33	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	125	250	3
Frampton Marsh	36	57	17	16	25	20	23	60	103	20	31	20
Hagnaby Lock Fen	34	25	2	-	9	-	-	210	131	225	9	-
Whisby/N Hykeham	147	46	57	66	75	301	76	9	47	6	52	124
Norton/Thurlby area	94	-	20	22	9	19	102	102	-	97	101	129
Fiskerton-Martin Fens	2	3	40	41	48	30	32	105	610	215	418	400
Anwick Fen	9	67	91	71	46	8	36	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	220	7	80	75	26	310	150	220	240	170	175	175
Tattershall Lakes CP	255	310	185	164	134	635	390	38	440	390	670	560
Marston STW	350	-	100	25	25	-	-	-	-	875	-	300
Langtoft West End GP	260	280	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spalding/Deeping	449	183	92	39	82	220	83	2	54	2	242	388

The table includes all regularly counted sites holding significant numbers and all those holding 250 or more, except for one count of 600 at Swanholme Lakes in Jan. Numbers in most areas were similar to those in 2012 but no reports came from Bagmoor/Winterton or the Read's Island areas

this year. Breeding was widely reported but with few estimates of numbers for whole sites. Four breeding pairs were recorded on Read's Island, and nine broods were noted at Barton Pits and six broods at Dunsby, while 27 goslings were seen at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common resident, introduced from North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The taxonomic status of Canada geese has recently changed with Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* and Cackling Goose *B. hutchinsii* now being recognised as two distinct species. Only Canada Goose occurs as a feral resident in Britain.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	122	130	30	16	-	40	-	27	1	100	216	238
Barton Pits	36	12	8	16	18	33	44	20	114	50	2	10
Manby Flashes	-	57	19	-	2	2	6	-	-	200	1	1
Gibraltar Point	100	80	90	30	25	34	35	13	32	103	110	92
Wrangle Brickpits	37	36	22	11	21	22	7	36	1	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	443	80	18	14	21	14	57	10	35	500	28	8
Frampton Marsh	250	442	29	16	31	40	93	200	53	48	144	338
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	-	8	11	7	6	74	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	12	15	25	29	6	7	32	29	25	2	-	10
North Hykeham Pits	18	45	6	-	4	10	58	27	73	2	12	18
Whisby NR	2	7	30	16	31	110	10	9	136	45	-	-
Holywell Lake	97	92	28	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	114	81

Additional sites that held 100 or more were Donna Nook with 150 at Thurlby Sand Pit and 136 at South Ferriby in Jan, 100 in Oct and Donington on Bain with 111 in Dec. Breeding reports included at least four nests/broods at Barton Pits, six at Whisby NR and five at Frampton Marsh plus smaller numbers at other sites but this clearly understates the widespread nature and abundance of the species. The ringing recoveries illustrate typical local movements.

5246477	Adult	30-06-2011	Ancaster: 52°58'N 0°33'W
	Freshly dead	11-03-2013	Spilsby: 53°10'N 0°6'E 49km ENE 1y 8m 9d
5260209	First year	28-06-2012	Ancaster: 52°58'N 0°33'W
	Alive (ring read	16-02-2013	Clumber Park: c. 53°15'N 1°4'W (Nottinghamshire) 47km NW 0y 7m
	in field)		19d

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

An increasing feral resident population has bred irregularly since the late 1980s. Wild birds are scarce/fairly common winter but erratic visitors, mainly to the coast, Oct-May.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough/Whitton Sand	170	203	950	6	138	167	57	570	750	1190	7	290
Cleethorpes-Tetney	-	-	-	-	2	-	67	62	-	73	52	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	23	4	4	2	-	-	-	6	-	-
Freiston/Frampton	1	3	1	4	1	-	1	1	1	13	1	2

There were no reports of breeding. Although 'merely' naturalised here, Barnacle Goose remains a scarce breeding species in Britain and information would be helpful to track the species' trend. One of the larger populations, of perhaps 250 pairs, is on Whitton Sand in the upper Humber; most of this island is in Yorkshire and it is not known how many of the Barnacles nest in Lincolnshire. Some occasionally visit Alkborough Flats but the counts in the table are mainly of birds counted from Alkborough. Numbers passed 800 for the first time in Mar, and reached a peak of 1190 on Oct 30th. There were also 48 at Goxhill Marsh on Feb 17th and 27 on Bonby Carrs on Feb 18th and, later in the year, 15 at Donna Nook on Oct 13th-17th. Possibly the Feb birds were of wild origin. Elsewhere there were small numbers around the coast and Wash, with the only far inland record one at Deeping High Bank on Feb 8th.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* and
Black Brant *B b nigricans* Humberston Fitties Feb 13th 2013 © Graham Catley

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B b bernicla*: very common coastal winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to The Wash. Scarce but regular in summer, especially on The Wash. Occasional inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	2578	2044	685	54	-	1	-	-	51	903	1456	1648
Tetney-Somercotes	2000	1624	730	125	113	1	-	-	165	809	1340	1300
Saltfleet	810	420	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	-	1200
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	14059	10244	5092	4810	2404	23	3	-	218	6584	9218	9345
Gibraltar Point	600	1000	700	175	68	2	3	1	238	400	1000	800
Wainfleet	3000	1394	411	164	-	3	-	-	-	594	1050	1166
Friskney*	3320	690	96	30	22	6	-	-	21	380	540	1885
Wrangle*	1835	1106	-	55	-	1	-	-	1	322	828	-
Leverton*	1566	320	315	262	48	-	-	-	22	230	1100	613
Freiston Shore	1000	2300	2000	1500	1000	1	1	-	1500	1500	1200	200
Witham*	1400	1500	270	700	250	-	-	-	30	1600	1200	1200
Frampton Marsh	2281	2500	2000	2000	1250	400	8	1	250	1500	4000	2200
Kirton*	-	-	1410	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	456	893
Welland*	1200	1340	210	700	220	-	-	-	13	950	210	1780

The table includes sites holding 1000 or more birds in The Wash, or 500 or more on the Humber. Note that many of the listed Wash areas are based on WeBS data only (asterisked) but that more data are available for other areas, and that – for example – birds from the Witham sector also use Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh. Numbers were broadly similar to last year's. The two estuaries continue to be of major importance; any site that regularly holds more than 910 Dark-bellied Brent Geese in nationally important, while the international importance threshold is 2400. Counts remained high on The Wash especially well into spring, with 1000 still at Frampton Marsh on May 25th and 400 there on Jun 1st. After that, however, there were no counts exceeding 12 until 67 were seen at Gib Point on Sep 21st. In Nov, a couple of counts of flocks of 670 and 300 revealed 18% and 11% young, near the middle of the historical range of productivity. At the head of the Humber, there was one at Alkborough Flats on Jan 21st, and inland records were four overflying Deeping Lake on Oct 12th and one at Kirkby on Bain GP on Dec 11th.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B b brota*: rare/scarse coastal visitor, generally Oct-Apr.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Tetney Haven-Somercotes	10	7	15	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	-
Gibraltar Point	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2
Freiston Shore	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	2	2	-
Frampton Marsh	4	14	4	1	3	-	-	-	1	5	1

In addition to those in the table, there was one at Saltfleet on Oct 7th and two at Butterwick Marsh on Oct 27th, and two at Alkborough Flats on Jan 21st was notable away from the coast. The background numbers in all areas at both ends of the year were in single figures, but there were a few higher counts in the first quarter. Ten were seen at Donna Nook on Jan 25th, 14 were at Frampton Marsh on Feb 24th, and 15 were at Donna Nook on Mar 10th. In spring, 1-3 lingered at Frampton Marsh until May 19th, and one was at Donna Nook on May 26th. The first in autumn were two at Pye's Hall on Sep 27th.

Black Brant *B b nigricans*: Former vagrant first 1982 with just three records to 1991. Now annual in small numbers, with Dark-bellied flocks. **LBRC**

On the north-east coast an adult, probably male, was in the Humberston Fitties-Tetney area from Jan 28th to Mar 19th (DJB *et al*). An adult was at Gib Point/Croftmarsh on a few dates between Feb 8th and Mar 7th (GPBO), and in the Wash an adult was at Frampton Marsh from Feb 15th to May 18th with two adults on May 5th (SK, PS *et al*), one at Freiston Shore on Apr 6th (PS), and presumably a returning bird at Frampton Marsh again on Nov 30th (CG). In addition a presumed hybrid juvenile was at Frampton Marsh on Feb 24th (SK) and Apr 27th-28th with one at Freiston Shore on Oct 5th (SK). A minimum total of five individuals occurred during the year.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	-	3	-	-
Boultham-Hykeham	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Fiskerton Fen/Bardney	-	5	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-
Kirby on Bain GP	2	5	12	9	9	9	11	11	10	16	12	4
Tattershall Lakes	4	9	6	4	6	19	16	3	11	6	2	3

There were records from 12 sites in addition to those in the table, mostly of 1-2 but with four at Frampton Marsh on Feb 19th, four at Black Bank (Messingham) on Apr 10th, and five at Gib Point on Sep 28th. Most were close to the Humber, in the Witham catchment, or around The Wash but notable exceptions were singles at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Apr 15th and at Marston STW on Dec 18th. Breeding was confirmed at Tattershall Lakes, where a nest with seven eggs was found on Feb 27th and four young seen in Jun-Jul, and at Kirkby on Bain GP, where a pair with seven young was seen in May with smaller numbers of young in Jul.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

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

In spring, two were seen at Moulton Chapel on Apr 23rd and one at Frampton Marsh on Jun 24th. All other records were from Whitton Sand and Alkborough Flats, where two were seen regularly from Jun 30th to Jul 27th, with three on Jul 3rd and 21st, and from Aug 24th, when four were present, to Sep 8th, and one final sighting on Sep 22nd. This showing was less than for the past three years.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	145	562	291	215	312	291	920	483	252	560	879	1511
Alkborough Flats	184	287	368	205	179	339	338	54	155	496	251	202
Read's Island	-	89	-	-	-	1200	34	-	-	-	-	-

Killingholme	165	-	22	29	31	-	2	5	8	-	10	32
Pyewipe-Grimsby	-	-	-	-	100	-	732	451	-	-	403	812
Humberston-Horseshoe Pt	24	-	32	45	44	36	26	16	97	186	243	162
Donna Nook area	72	225	138	20	40	121	84	7	88	303	263	300
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	23	214	59	9	10	11	2	6	46	137	48	192

The Wash

WeBS totals	876	1339	773	713	448	271	28	60	273	727	700	1094
Gibraltar Point	71	50	85	140	92	149	197	254	60	122	139	62
Wainfleet	212	139	20	37	3	26	-	-	3	135	37	594
Friskney*	235	63	40	6	18	8	-	-	-	16	110	15
Freiston Shore	100	37	57	36	20	8	-	-	-	1	20	12
Witham*	25	350	35	16	-	18	-	-	225	350	250	55
Frampton Marsh	67	120	44	100	30	86	36	7	13	34	21	5
Welland*	57	292	358	73	67	10	6	5	-	-	37	230
Dawsmere*	23	20	9	8	67	22	-	-	-	20	102	-
Gedney*	93	198	58	38	85	38	7	7	-	-	104	80
Terrington*	-	-	-	268	90	-	1	1	32	119	-	-

Inland

Manby Flashes	9	-	4	25	24	4	17	6	-	-	-	-
Bardney-Nocton	11	2	21	12	70	6	15	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain pits	-	-	22	17	12	15	10	4	3	-	-	-

Also 165 at North Killingholme Haven in Jan, 28 at Bonby Carrs in Mar and 560 on Whitton Sand close to Alkborough Flats in Jul. In addition to the Whitton Sand count, the highest site totals were 1200 at Read's Island on Jun 16th (note that this area was not counted regularly this year), 732 at Pyewipe on Jul 14th with 812 there on Dec 15th, and 594 in the Wainfleet sector of The Wash on Dec 8th. Breeding was confirmed at several sites on both the Humber and The Wash, and at six inland sites. The largest totals involved 30 juveniles seen at Alkborough Flats, 18 juveniles at Grainthorpe Haven, 44 juveniles at Gib Point and an estimate of 15 pairs at Frampton Marsh, and 17 juveniles inland at Manby Flashes.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

There were only three reports of singles this year. A drake was at Whisby Quarry during Jan 16th-28th, one was at Wharton Wood on Oct 19th and one was at Potterhanworth on Nov 14th.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	229	395	407	374	4	3	-	109	285	296	638	2806
Alkborough Flats	963	1047	760	670	7	2	3	16	90	343	856	2600
South Ferriby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	-	-	-
Tetney-Somercotes	48	23	2	10	2	1	1	35	120	400	600	120
<i>Coast</i>												
Huttoft Bank Pit	81	-	83	73	-	4	-	16	71	12	200	164
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	4106	3319	1728	50	5	-	-	537	2412	7535	7114	1071
Gibraltar Point	500	140	200	80	2	2	-	40	712	465	400	500
Freiston Shore	800	2800	892	545	5	-	1	100	500	1800	3508	2000
Witham*	825	500	115	-	-	-	-	-	150	550	1200	150
Frampton Marsh	1249	1669	1000	1020	4	8	5	239	1269	3000	5000	3000
Welland*	24	115	43	-	-	-	-	33	210	3300	1600	160
Gedney*	980	424	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	212	-

Inland

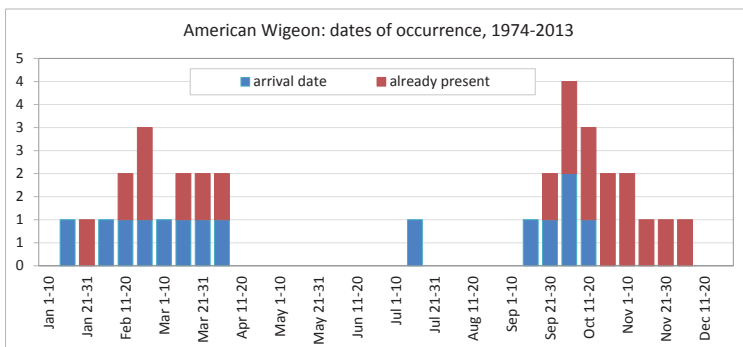
Bonby Carrs	730	1430	860	500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	188	48	90	80	-	-	-	2	4	12	18	67
Manby Flashes	93	158	136	100	-	-	-	-	15	27	84	25
Withern Washlands	-	74	135	5	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	45
Lincoln-Norton area	178	250	143	120	-	3	1	9	134	341	500	322
Fiskerton-Bardney	1	700	112	300	-	6	-	-	7	81	69	100
Kirkby on Bain pits	101	130	60	105	3	3	1	3	14	230	245	236
Tattershall Lakes	15	109	80	-	-	-	-	-	33	20	62	60
Spalding-Deeping*	-	208	95	80	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	255
Willow Tree Fen	36	475	350	530	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	85
Deeping Lakes	250	217	10	10	-	-	-	-	15	18	3	125
Denton Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	200	28

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 500 or more on The Wash, 200 on the Humber and coast, and 100 inland. Note that WeBS counts, on one day per month, sometimes miss higher numbers present at other times. In addition to those in the table, there were counts of 200 at Trent Port (Marton) in Mar and 1500 at Butterwick Marsh and 2000 at Holbeach Marsh in Oct. Other inland sites holding more than 50 birds were River Witham (Chapel Hill to Kirkstead) and Hagnaby Lock Fen. Counts generally were similar or higher than in 2012. The largest counts in The Wash were 3508 at Freiston Shore on Nov 10th and 5000 at Frampton Marsh on Nov 15th, while on the Humber there was 2600 at Alkborough Flats on Dec 14th. Any site regularly holding 4400 or more is considered nationally important. There were single figure counts at 15 other sites during May-Jul, with up to seven at Alkborough Flats in early May and eight at Frampton Marsh in Jun but none of these exhibited any breeding behaviour. Offshore movements were noted mainly in autumn, including 40 south at Gib Point on Aug 25th when there were also 35 present at Grainthorpe Marsh. The largest counts, all at Gib Point, fell during mid Sep to late Nov, including 414 on Sep 21st, 712 on Sep 25th and 431 on Sep 26th.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Vagrant. LBRC

A drake at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes and Branston Island from Feb 9th to Apr 3rd (DCK *et al*) was the 14th county record. All birds have occurred since 1974. In the chart below, birds are recorded in each ten-day period in which they occurred. All bar one in Mar 2007 have been drakes.



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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	10	6	20	29	24	39	2	10	7	21	-	63
Bonby Carrs	49	16	30	42	-	14	-	6	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	201	150	120	80	8	9	46	100	23	50	50	75
Covenham Res	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	30	-

Gibraltar Point	50	48	42	16	9	16	12	20	17	11	3	31
Freiston Shore	12	14	40	8	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	129	144	69	41	24	45	25	26	12	18	28	5
Messingham SQ	22	59	-	-	10	-	-	50	-	-	40	18
Burton GP	28	36	16	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	2
Boultham Mere/Swanholme	168	61	76	36	12	32	16	24	100	220	351	58
Whisby/North Hykeham	244	150	35	22	9	8	90	75	171	166	159	242
Thurlby/Norton pits	21	54	12	16	12	-	-	2	-	6	54	44
Fiskerton-Bardney	2	18	26	20	12	5	11	17	76	40	8	5
Metheringham Delph	40	55	16	7	8	4	-	-	-	45	47	55
Kirkby on Bain pits	208	312	115	141	21	84	94	107	152	170	103	62
Tattershall Lakes CP	42	36	11	2	5	-	4	14	81	99	90	78
Kirkstead Br-Chapel Hill*	-	31	8	-	2	-	-	2	-	7	19	4
Holywell Lake	38	50	14	-	-	-	-	-	11	10	40	48
Deeping Lakes	88	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	2	4	56

The table includes all localities at which 30 or more were recorded. The count of 351 at Boultham Mere on Nov 14th is believed to be the highest site total for Lincs. There were also other counts there over 200 during Oct-Nov including 310 on Nov 24th. Elsewhere, counts of 200 or more were 201 at Barton Pits on Jan 18th, 223 at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 21st, and 219 at Whisby NR on Dec 12th. The increase of this species evidently continues. Any site regularly holding 250 or more is considered nationally important. Breeding records included an estimate of 13 pairs at Frampton Marsh, two broods of nine and eleven young on Freshwater Mere at Gib Point, two broods at North Hykeham, four adults with 14 young at Marston STW and smaller numbers elsewhere.

FP94204	Adult male	16-10-2006	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)									
	Freshly dead	07-01-2013	Willow Tree Fen, near Spalding: 52°46'N 0°15'W 48km NW									
	(predated)		6y 2m 22d									

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

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

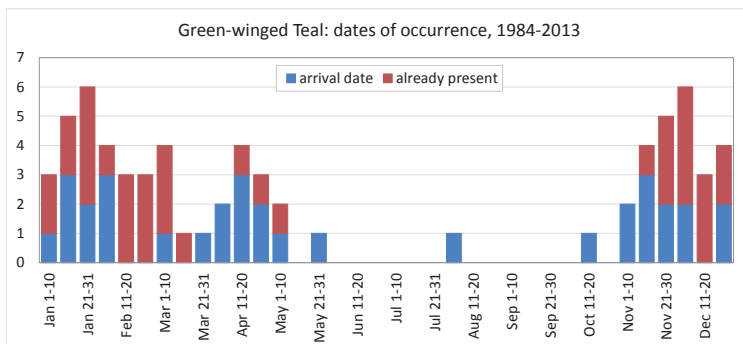
Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	516	594	170	185	15	-	82	323	653	416	1059	4408
Alkborough Flats	1260	700	376	430	40	150	182	1305	1700	3388	2456	4200
Bonby Carrs	1180	500	266	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	80	140	84	84	6	10	26	170	1000	160	254	72
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	180	159	74	160	3	2	21	203	200	500	375	260
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	339	-	26	2	-	-	18	25	178	63	4	80
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	953	1715	689	70	-	29	107	1174	1229	3016	4149	389
Gibraltar Point	505	216	128	200	7	17	83	325	398	647	880	720
Freiston Shore	275	150	40	34	-	1	125	75	35	80	700	200
Witham*	-	400	120	-	-	-	-	-	35	100	950	100
Frampton Marsh	581	1071	600	40	6	50	34	550	1400	1294	1100	24
Welland*	8	20	246	-	-	-	-	37	24	91	5	142
Gedney	215	-	-	-	-	-	-	153	96	550	2	3
Terrington*	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Manby Flashes-Withern	251	250	114	221	1	5	11	112	152	155	140	277
Bardney/Nocton	7	9	11	14	4	5	2	11	216	117	300	56
Kirkby on Bain pits	42	7	22	18	3	4	15	200	450	550	220	340
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	150	80	130	30	-	2	-	80	141	80	93	150
Anwick Fen	625	130	105	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

All areas supporting 200 or more are included in the table, apart from Butterwick Marsh where there were 1100 in Oct and Norton Disney quarry where there were 300 in Dec. Numbers generally were higher than in 2012, especially towards the end of the year. The Alkborough Flats counts of 3388 on Oct 23rd and 4200 on Dec 14th were especially noteworthy. Any site regularly holding 2100 or more is considered nationally important. Breeding was considered likely at Crowle Moors and possible at West Ashby Pits, while at Frampton Marsh 12 pairs were recorded on standardised breeding surveys, but no young were seen suggesting actual nesting may not have taken place. Moderate numbers were seen moving at Gib Point in autumn, with eight counts exceeding 100 during Aug 23rd-Sep 27th and peaks of 320 south on Sep 21st and 316 south on the 25th.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant. LBRC

A drake was at Kirkby on Bain GP from Apr 14th-21st (ABa *et al*), a typically-dated spring passage bird. This is the 37th Lincolnshire record but it seems likely that returning birds account for several records and that the total number of individuals has been as low as 20, all of which of course have been drakes.



Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	524	310	305	114	133	271	396	569	586	354	475	819
Alkborough Flats	156	190	103	-	40	140	80	250	146	162	182	378
Barrow-Goxhill	441	106	151	58	57	161	98	246	215	69	159	423
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1490	1018	302	201	254	469	226	517	691	815	844	345
Gibraltar Point	294	104	85	37	30	91	73	180	250	177	150	143
Freiston Shore	98	11	20	38	23	103	47	50	111	72	20	70
Witham*	450	145	30	-	10	12	-	10	70	85	300	-
Frampton Marsh	442	353	52	56	49	121	69	321	128	260	1000	31
Gedney*	192	123	29	12	32	13	4	-	-	-	25	72
<i>Inland</i>												
Bonby Carrs	416	230	111	120	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	280	72	27	32	28	38	-	36	187	148	185	192
Manby Flashes	128	138	25	47	57	35	58	35	3	150	159	171
Kirkby on Bain pits	141	155	33	31	47	224	254	129	77	270	142	277
Tattershall Lakes CP*	160	231	171	120	145	180	218	319	178	221	272	245
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill*	469	169	170	60	42	41	204	277	238	209	302	278
Spalding-Deeping*	400	218	68	103	72	94	171	169	149	213	106	254
Anwick Fen	41	149	56	48	66	42	36	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes	100	97	105	26	15	107	41	-	1	108	56	113



Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* drake Kirkby
Gravel Pits Apr 14th 2013 © Roy Harvey



Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* drake Grainthorpe
Marsh Feb 17th 2013 © Mark Johnson



Garganey *Anas querquedula* Gib Point Aug 23rd 2013 © Russell Hayes



Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Boultham Mere Sep 24th 2013 © Graham Catley



The table includes all localities that held 200 or more birds. Many other places held smaller numbers of this well-distributed species – reports came from well over 200 sites this year. In most areas, numbers were broadly similar to those in 2012, although locally such as at Bonby Carrs and Frampton Marsh there were high counts early in the year. The one exceptional count was 1000 at Frampton Marsh on Nov 15th; this was an estimate covering the reserve and foreshore. Breeding estimates on The Wash RSPB reserves were 37 pairs at Freiston Shore and 65 pairs at Frampton Marsh.

GR09100	Adult female	21-12-2011	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire)			
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	20-04-2013	Crowland: c. 52°40'N 0°10'W 5km 1y 3m 30d			
GR09199	First year male	11-09-2013	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire)			
	Freshly dead (shot)	09-11-2013	Donington: c. 52°54'N 0°13'W 28km N 0y 1m 29d			

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	39	7	8	18
Humberston-Somercotes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	2	1	-
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	6	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	8	6	3	2	-	1	-	2	48	8	3	2
Freiston Shore	60	125	10	6	-	-	-	-	2	30	143	34
Frampton Marsh	200	80	32	26	2	-	-	17	22	54	65	40
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	2
Whisby/North Hykeham	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bardney/Branston	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

The Freiston and Frampton reserves held substantially more than other areas. The peaks were 200 on Jan 11th at Freiston Shore, and 125 on Feb 11th and 143 on Nov 10th, from the WeBS counts of the Freiston and Witham sectors of The Wash. Significant counts not in the table were 22 at Humberston Fitties in Sep and 30 at Dawsmere Marsh in Nov; there were few inland other than those shown. Only a handful of bird were seen between the end of Apr and mid Aug. Two were at Frampton Marsh on May 20th, and a drake at Langtoft West End Pits on the 24th. A drake at Burgh Marsh on Jun 5th was presumably that at Gib Point on Jun 15th-30th, and one was at Fiskerton Fen on Jul 6th. None of the reports suggested breeding was attempted. There has not been any obvious trend in Pintail numbers in Lincs over the past few years, but nationally the species has been in steep decline since 2005, for reasons that are uncertain but possibly related to 'short-stopping', whereby waterfowl are able to winter further east in Britain or to remain on the continent, when winters are milder.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	-	5	11	4	2	6	5	4
Minimum Lincs total	-	12	17	4	2	10	6	4

Garganey was reported from 17 sites this year, up from 12 last year though the first birds were three weeks later than 2012. The first report was two pairs at Marston STW on Apr 13th followed by a drake at Willow Tree Fen on Apr 14th. There was a pair at Humberston on Apr 21st-22nd, followed by three at Frampton Marsh on Apr 28th. Breaking the pattern of previous years, Frampton had only one bird through May, and the relatively low maximum count for May was three at Gib Point on the 3rd, where a pair were seen up to June 6th and three were also reported from Middlemarsh west of Skegness in May. There was no evidence of confirmed breeding and little evidence of probable breeding in the county this year, the pair at Gib Point being the only probable breeders. Juveniles were first reported from Frampton Marsh on Aug 5th and Gib Point on Aug 15th, with up to three juveniles and an adult at Gib Point up to Aug 26th. A juvenile was

also present at Barton Pits on Aug 31st. There was a flurry of birds during autumn with the latest stayer being at Gib Point throughout Sep and up to Oct 22nd, and one was at Alkborough Flats on Oct 22nd-23rd.

Blue winged Teal *Anas discors*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

Two Blue-winged Teal were located at Boultham Mere on Sep 16th (DN) but amazingly three birds were then found to be present the following day. It later appeared that one bird had been photographed there on the 13th. All three birds remained on site until Oct 28th with one until Nov 14th. Identification of the birds was easy but ageing and sexing them was more complex and a selection of photographs were sent to Peter Pyle in the USA who identified the three birds as two adult drakes and a first winter drake (*contra* the details published in the BBRC report). Accepted by BBRC (BB 106 plate 411; 107 p585 plate 279).

There are six previous records involving seven birds but the most recent prior to this year was as long ago as 1997. The first county record was somewhat bizarre and has to be at partially suspect while the second record could conceivably have involved the same individual.

- 1941 Immature drake joined tame wildfowl at Sudbrook near Grantham, Sep 10th and stayed with regular absences to 1947
- 1947 A drake near Lincoln, Apr 22nd
- 1978 One-two immatures Wisbech SF, Sep 11th to Oct 8th
- 1982 Juvenile Huttoft Pits, Sep 26th to Sep 30th
- 1997 Female paired with drake Shoveler at Messingham SQ, Mar 11th to Apr 13th
- 1997 Juvenile North Somercotes Warren, Sep 28th

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/fairly common resident and passage migrant. **RBBP**.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	10	2	4	7	7	30	16	94	117	49	83	66
Barton Pits	50	7	13	14	3	-	3	30	46	68	38	10
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	18	16	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	7	9
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	60	40	30	22	10	3	3	19	32	50	56	49
Freiston Shore	124	94	82	10	4	-	-	3	-	-	16	2
Frampton Marsh	113	160	43	16	19	20	6	6	30	20	49	6
<i>Inland</i>												
Manby Flashes	19	8	9	22	3	1	-	13	4	8	18	24
Boultham/Swanholme	10	14	7	2	2	2	3	13	80	80	20	18
Whisby/North Hykeham	8	13	18	16	3	-	1	7	7	8	9	7
Blackmoor Bridge-Norton	4	5	2	24	4	3	-	-	-	11	24	26
Bardney Pits	73	78	53	14	3	-	-	-	27	128	123	29
Kirkby on Bain Pits	13	3	10	18	2	8	8	18	40	55	22	30

Peaks of 10 or more not in the table were 20 at Willow Tree Fen in Mar-Apr, 12 at Bonby Carrs, 12 at Fiskerton Fen in Apr, 11 at Covenham Res in Aug, 34 at Grainthorpe Marsh in Oct, and 26 at Metheringham Delph in Nov. Generally, numbers were similar or higher than in 2012, with those at Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh well up. The peaks there were respectively 124 on Jan 13th and 160 on Feb 16th. At Alkborough Flats, there were 117 on Sep 5th, while at Bardney pits, there were 128 on Oct 6th and 123 on Nov 11th. Three pairs were considered to have bred at Alkborough Flats (though no young seen), three pairs at Bonby Carrs and five pairs at Barton Pits, where a duck with a single well-grown duckling was seen on Jul 20th. Elsewhere there was one pair at Manby Flashes, and 15 pairs were believed to have bred at Frampton Marsh where a brood of seven was seen on Jun 3rd and a brood of five on Jul 4th. There was also one pair considered to have bred at Freiston Shore. Probable breeding was recorded at Rosper Road Pools, where one pair was present in the breeding season. This gives a total of 29 pairs, but birds were seen at a further fourteen localities during May-Jun, and breeding seems possible at most of these.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hartsholme/Swanholme	2	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	2
Whisby NR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2
Baston-Langtoft Pits	25	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The highest count by far was of about 25 at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jan 3rd. Additional to those in the table were a pair displaying at Norton Disney Quarry on Jan 8th, with a pair at North Hykeham on Jan 15th, a female at Frampton Marsh from the start of the year until Feb 22nd, a female at Tetney Outfall Sluice on Sep 13th, one at Messingham SQ on Sep 22nd, up to six at Crossgate, near Pinchbeck, in Oct, and separate males at Denton Res on Oct 22nd and Nov 3rd.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Scarce breeder and a common winter visitor. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	1	14	28	15	10	18	4	1	2	1	-	8
Barton Pits	177	72	32	28	15	15	34	96	6	8	30	40
<i>The Wash</i>												
Frampton Marsh	15	18	34	18	5	21	11	3	4	3	-	11
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	6	64	-	36	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Toft Newton Reservoir	12	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	60	3
Boultham Mere	15	42	22	6	-	-	-	-	1	5	20	5
North Hykeham Pits	51	55	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	4	22
Whisby NP	24	23	30	27	1	7	7	11	4	12	13	50
Norton Disney/Thurlby Pits	6	6	5	16	-	-	-	-	7	-	26	52
Bardney Pits	-	114	25	10	10	17	23	25	18	33	31	2
Kirkby Gravel Pits	70	65	55	45	6	9	14	16	1	48	38	17
Tattershall Lakes CP	57	51	35	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	15
Deeping Lakes & Pits	2	33	2	4	-	-	1	21	-	-	4	14

Data for Barton Pits (Chowder Ness-New Holland), Norton Disney/Thurlby Pits and the Deeping Lakes area are maxima for extensive water body complexes. The table includes all sites holding 25 or more, apart from Cove Farm Quarry where there were 45 on Feb 17th, Covenham Res with 27 on Mar 10th and Kettleby with 36 on Nov 17th. Numbers generally were down in most areas, and early in the year this may have been partly because birds moved away in the cold weather. Breeding was confirmed from several sites. A report of probable breeding came from Wharton Wood on May 12th. On the Humber clay pits at Barton-Barrow Haven, about 20 breeding females were present and seven broods were seen. Two more broods were observed at Alkborough Flats, with two small young seen on Jul 28th-Aug 2nd and three nearly fledged birds on Jul 29th. Away from the Humber, at Whisby NP three fledged juveniles were noted on Jul 20th but were thought to have come from outside the reserve. Finally, a female plus seven young were noted at Frampton Marsh on Jul 13th. Birds probably bred, unreported, elsewhere such as at Messingham SQ where birds were present but unfortunately mostly not counted throughout the breeding season.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Scarce. **LBRC**

What was presumably the regularly returning drake, first noted in Oct 2009, reappeared at Kirkby on Bain pits in Dec 2012 and stayed through to Jan 13th (MEH *et al*) though it was also seen at West Ashby Pits on Jan 3rd and 9th-13th (MEH) but it was not noted in the late winter period.

Although there are now 36 county records, it is considered that only 13 different individuals have occurred with returning drakes accounting for many of the annual records; only three females have been recorded, at Far Ings, Barton Pits on Nov 5th 2000, Bagmoor Floods on Jan 31st-Feb 11th 2003 and North Kelsey Moor on Jan 19th-Apr 6th 2006, demonstrating that females are apparently less likely to reoccur in subsequent years than are drakes.



Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* drake West Ashby Jan 13th 2013 © Russell Hayes

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Barton Pits	281	66	64	107	24	21	70	196	120	60	150	78
<i>The Wash</i>												
Freiston Shore	31	30	101	56	18	25	7	14	-	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	149	109	59	104	32	60	35	50	6	50	9	9
<i>Inland</i>												
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	100	134	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	1
Covenham Res	110	80	180	300	15	10	-	33	116	370	400	224
Toft Newton Res	31	21	11	7	-	-	-	13	45	115	48	29
Swanholme Lakes	100	20	-	-	-	5	14	1	10	-	43	26
North Hykeham Pits	89	104	82	47	23	6	29	115	162	108	260	119
Whisby NR	261	124	84	123	37	18	73	151	214	190	181	96
Norton Disney/Thurlby Pits	180	160	120	135	30	50	6	11	32	19	400	300
Bardney Pits	5	17	33	96	78	42	82	57	134	32	58	16
Kirkby on Bain Pits	151	147	71	84	39	53	60	70	73	115	98	204
Tattershall Lakes CP	79	95	122	47	13	10	24	40	120	171	130	145
Welland/Glen/Coronation	94	59	71	72	38	28	17	18	19	103	134	166

All instances of 100 or more birds are shown in the table. Maxima for complex areas are given for Barton Pits (Chowder Ness-New Holland), the Norton Disney/Thurlby area, and the Rivers Welland/Glen and Coronation Channel. Confirmed breeding was reported from seven sites and probable breeding from a further two. At least three broods were seen at Alkborough Flats, five at Barton pits, two at Messingham SQ, six at Whisby NR, three at Gib Point, and one at Sleaford, and a group of 13 young with four adults was at North Kelsey Moor on Jul 14th. Breeding was also confirmed at Conisholme Fen and Willow Tree Fen, and an adult was apparently on a nest at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes on May 23rd.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits/Humber	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	-
Messingham SQ	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	2	5	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1
Gibraltar Point	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-	-
Frampton Marsh	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Freiston Shore	-	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-

The table includes the majority of sightings this year but excludes 20 on Oct 13th at the Witham Mouth where there were also six on Nov 10th. These counts and those at the adjoining Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh were the highest of the year. At the former stronghold of New Holland, the only records were one on Jan 11th and two on the 26th. Other records in the first quarter were five south off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Jan 12th and a drake at Kirkby GP on Mar 30th. A female at North Hykeham Pits during May 21st-24th. On Jul 27th-28th, a female was seen at Sandilands/Anderby Creek; possibly this was one of the birds involved in a series of late summer records at Gib Point. Two males, one immature, were seen on The Wash at Gib Point during Jul 8th-16th, and a female was noted on Jackson's Marsh on three dates during Jul 8th-Aug 2nd. There was one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Sep 16th, five south at Donna Nook on Oct 26th, an immature female on the Ancholme at Bonby Carrs on Dec 10th, and a female at Kirkby GP on Dec 11th.



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* adult duck Waters Edge, Barton Sep 26th 2013 © Graham Catley

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first winter drake was found at Freiston Shore on Mar 19th and remained there through to Apr 14th (PS *et al*). Accepted by BBRC (BB 107: p586). The same individual was also recorded in Cheshire and Wirral, Derbyshire and Flintshire.

This is the fifth county record of this Nearctic species first recorded in 1995. Previous county records are as follows:

- 1995 First winter drake Barton Pits and New Holland, Feb 13th-15th
- 1998 Drake Cottam, River Trent, May 14th-17th
- 1999 Female Cleethorpes CP, Apr 5th-16th
- 2004 Drake Waters' Edge, Barton Pits, Apr 28th-30th



Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* drake Freiston Shore Mar 22nd 2013 © Roy Harvey

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	-	71	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1948	2130	815	297	91	90	51	48	240	170	203	8
Gibraltar Point	267	83	65	8	11	4	7	8	5	71	111	54
Wainfleet*	781	270	691	83	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-
Friskney*	-	60	-	14	80	62	-	-	235	-	40	-
Wrangle*	481	940	-	30	-	18	9	33	-	-	140	-
Leverton*	650	850	123	168	2	-	19	-	-	140	5	5
Freiston Shore	-	12	20	1	-	1	2	13	8	8	15	2

At their peak, numbers were lower than last year's – the Feb 2012 WeBS total on the Lincolnshire side of The Wash was 3719 – but they remain nationally important (the threshold is 550). The highest counts on The Wash this year were on Feb 2nd, including 940 in the Wrangle sector of The Wash and 850 in the Leverton sector. The highest counts away from The Wash were 71 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Feb 9th, 122 at Humberston Fitties on Aug 6th, and about 200 off Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Nov 22nd. The largest movements noted at Gib Point were 149 south on Jan 13th and 108 north on Nov 22nd.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

In contrast to 2012 when all records, except one of two, were of singles, there were many multiple sightings this year. Eight were seen at Freiston Shore on Jan 20th and three at Cleethorpes CP on Jan 26th. A first winter drake was inland at Manton on Feb 8th and also seen at Messingham SQ on that day, Feb 22nd and 26th. One was seen at Donna Nook on Feb 9th. There was a mid summer record of one on a Frampton Marsh WeBS count on Jun 24th. Autumn records began on Oct 11th with one at Donna Nook and five at Freiston Shore, where there were two on the 12th, on which date a female arrived at Covenham Res where it stayed until the end of the year, with a second bird being present from Dec 24th onwards. Two were seen at Gib Point on Nov 4th, two at Witham Mouth on the 6th and one at Humberston Fitties on the 6th-10th. At Witham Mouth

and Freiston Shore, two were again seen on Nov 14th, and later there were seven on Nov 21st, rising to nine on the 24th, with three on the 30th and two on Dec 8th. There were also two at Gedney Drove End on Dec 6th. Meanwhile, on the Humber, a first winter drake arrived at Barton Pits on Nov 14th, remaining until at least Dec 29th, and was joined by a first winter female on Dec 9th, another immature on Dec 13th and, on another pit, another first winter drake on Dec 29th, all remaining into 2014. There was also a first winter or female at New Holland on Dec 7th. Records on the coast involved two at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on both Nov 21st and 22nd with one there on the 23rd, a juvenile at Gib Point on Nov 23rd, and two at Humberston Fitties on Dec 7th. Inland, two females at Kirkby GP on Nov 24th were joined by an immature on Nov 30th, all three remaining to Dec 25th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	140	260	1	-	-	-	2492	76	129	424	75	1470
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	-	-	-	251	-
Barton upon Humber	-	-	-	-	19	1	-	68	81	70	34	-
Tetney-Somercotes	6	150	1	-	30	145	540	220	470	89	320	20
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	140	55	-	-	-	-	295	76	30	175	-	450
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	80	55	-	-	-	250	5200	550	200	160	150	1000
<i>The coast</i>												
Mablethorpe-Skegness	-	-	12	-	-	-	77	76	500	250	2000	1550
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	466	350	12	-	-	60	-	31	237	67	100	6
Gibraltar Point	920	180	107	680	50	400	760	154	545	360	217	300
Wainfleet*	437	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friskney*	-	350	12	-	-	-	-	-	237	-	-	-
Wrangle*	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	20	100	150	60	18
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	20	-

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 1000 or more on the outer Humber and coast, or 20 or more on the inner Humber or Wash. The threshold for national importance is 1000, while it is 5500 for international importance. The numbers in the table do not necessarily reflect those present offshore but out of sight but from shore-based counts alone it is clear that our coastline is important for this species. It is always present, though there were few counts exceeding 500 during Jan-Jun, exceptions including 920 south at Gib Point on Jan 7th and 680 south there on Apr 27th. The highest counts of the year were in Jul, when there were c3000 off Brickyard Lane on the 10th-13th, with 4500 on the 14th and 5200 on the 17th. Towards the end of the year, c2000 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Nov 21st, c1500 at the latter site on the 22nd, and c1550 north there on Dec 7th. There were also 1000 off Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe on Dec 26th. Significant numbers were seen in the inner Humber, including 68 at Barton on Aug 7th and 81 on Sep 6th, and 140 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 22nd and 251 there on Nov 12th; most of these were flying west with those at Alkborough continuing up the Ouse. Inland, there were singles at Covenham Res on Jan 9th-23rd, May 1st, Jul 18th and Sep 24th, with two on Nov 22nd-25th and Dec 13th-19th. Also, a female was seen at Knaith on Apr 21st, six (five males and a female) at North Hykeham Pits on Sep 12th and a male at Whisby NR on Sep 18th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

With one exception, all counts were in single figures. One south at Gib Point on May 18th was the only record in the first half of the year. The next was one south at Gib Point on Sep 10th. Singles seen at Sandilands, Huttoft Bank and Chapel Point on Oct 10th perhaps were all the same. On Oct 11th, there were eight at Freiston Shore, four at Huttoft Car Terrace and Trusthorpe, six at Mablethorpe, four at Donna Nook and two at North Killingholme Haven, and again there may have been duplication in the coastal records. There were four at Witham Mouth on Oct 12th-13th, with three south at Gib Point on the 12th and two north on the 13th. Records of 1-2 along the coast continued to Nov 12th, plus four off Tetney Haven-Horseshoe Point on Oct 22nd, and there

was a male inland on Covenham Res on Nov 14th. Next came a count of 20, all but one moving north, at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 21st when there was also one at Gib Point. There were seven at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 22nd and three at Witham Mouth on the 23rd. The year ended with singles off Brickyard Lane on Nov 24th, at Gib Point on Dec 5th, Huttoft Car Terrace on Dec 7th, New Holland also on the 7th and Witham Mouth on Dec 8th.



Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Huttoft Car Terrace Oct 11th 2013 © John Clarkson

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	691	105	120	66	2	1	-	-	1	5	8	34
New Holland-Goxhill	120	300	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	286	362
Covenham Res	132	154	142	78	-	-	-	1	-	13	40	84
Gibraltar Point	7	5	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1
Freiston Shore	35	30	31	18	-	-	-	-	-	4	30	3
Frampton Marsh	16	29	25	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16
Whisby/N Hykeham	38	36	33	33	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	20
Norton/Thurlby pits	35	44	15	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	70
Kirkby on Bain GP	18	20	9	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	10
Tattershall Lakes CP	13	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Langtoft West End GP	12	17	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	10
Deeping Lakes	20	13	23	12	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	10

The Barton Pits and New Holland birds are largely the same, moving between the river where they feed around the New Holland pier and the clay pits. The threshold for national importance is 200, which is clearly met by the New Holland population. The peak of 691 – believed to be a Lincs record – was on Jan 26th. Numbers were also high at Covenham Res, where the peak of 154 occurred on Feb 14th. Numbers dwindled to the last two at Barton Pits on May 2nd, but a female was noted at Kirkby GP on May 12th and Jun 20th, and there was a highly unusual record of 10 flying west at Goxhill Haven on Jun 10th. Three were seen at Humberston Fitties on Aug 7th and one at Covenham Res on Aug 28th but regular occurrence did not start until late Sep. The New Holland flock had reached 362 by Dec 7th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

The drake at Far Ings in Dec 2012 was still there in Jan, and a female was first seen there on Jan 17th, one or both then being reported intermittently until Feb 16th. In the south-west, one was on Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jan 2nd, with a redhead nearby on the Welland near Crowland on Jan 23rd, with two redheads there on the 24th. At Kirkby GP, a drake first seen on Jan 3rd (but possibly that at Tattershall on Dec 30th 2012) was reported a few times to Jan 13th, with probably the same bird relocating to Tattershall Lakes CP on Jan 24th before being recorded again at Kirkby GP on Jan 28th-Feb 10th. Four, a male and three females, were at Whisby Quarry on Jan 25th. An unusual record also in Jan concerned three redheads drifting south on the sea off Gib Point on the 11th. A little later, a redhead, thought by some to be an adult female, appeared at Freiston Shore on Mar 10th, staying until Apr 6th – the last of spring. Another redhead was at Langtoft Fen on Mar 16th. At the end of the year, a drake was at Far Ings on Nov 20th and 27th and on the sailing pit on Dec 2nd.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	31	-	31	33	2	-	-	-	-	4	36	30
Gibraltar Point	13	4	15	3	3	-	2	-	-	6	5	12
Wainfleet*	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-
Wrangle*	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Leverton*	-	-	1	29	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	7
Benington*	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Butterwick*	16	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	2	19	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	20	30	3

The table includes all sites at which there were 10 or more. There were a few records elsewhere in The Wash and on the coast, and three at Barton Pits in Nov. Counts were generally smaller than in 2012, with the maxima being 29 in the Leverton sector of The Wash on the late date of Apr 28th and 30 at Freiston Shore on Nov 30th. There were no records in the first half of May but three south at Gib Point on May 17th and then a single drake there during the 18th-26th. In Jul, one flew north at Gib Point on the 3rd and there was a pair on the 4th. There were then long gaps between the next records of four north at Chapel Point on Sep 15th and singles at Freiston Shore and Gib Point on Oct 10th. Three were up the Humber at Barton on Nov 5th.



Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* drake Gib Point May 20th 2013 © Russell Hayes

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Lincoln area</i>												
Skellingthorpe*	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	4	4	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Boultham Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Swanholme/Hartsholme	20	32	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	18

Other areas

Owston Ferry	7	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	-
Thoresby Bridge	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	3	10	15	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
Washingborough Fen	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Bardney Pits	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill	9	17	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10
R Witham, Stixwould	12	14	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	2
Tydd St Mary's Marsh	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spalding-Deeping	30	30	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Langtoft West End GP	5	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Belton Park	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	21	23	23	9	1	0	0	0	1	8	20	16

The table includes all sites attracting five or more, with the exception of coastal records of five at Brickyard Lane on Oct 29th and at Huttoft Bank on Nov 21st. The Spalding-Deeping area totals are the combined WeBS counts for the Rivers Welland and Glen, and the Coronation Channel, while those between Fiskerton and Chapel Hill involve two separate lengths of the R Witham, with the Stixwould section between the two. Obvious duplicates have been removed but there is likely to be some movement between areas. Despite moderate numbers being present in the first quarter, very few were seen at Whisby/North Hykeham, or in the Barton area where the species has become quite rare. The highest counts in the first quarter were 30 in the Spalding-Deeping area on Jan 12th-13th and Feb 9th-11th, and 32 at Swanholme Lakes on Feb 12th. Small numbers hung on into Apr, the last being one at Owston Ferry on the 20th, but there was also a late record of one at Donna Nook on May 26th. The first of autumn were two south at Gib Point on Sep 17th with a long gap until the next one at Humberston Fitties on Oct 7th. The peak at the end of the year was 25 at Swanholme Lakes on Nov 27th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Former scarce feral breeder and winter visitor, now very rare.

Another step towards vanishing point: the only reports this year came from Frampton Marsh where there were records of a male during Apr 16th-May 7th and again from Jul 29th-Aug 10th. Probably only one individual was involved.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident; huge numbers released for shooting annually.

Almost 330 records were submitted from 87 widespread sites in 2013 with a maximum of 34 at Donington on Bain on Nov 8th. With many thousands being released on shooting estates every year throughout the county, such records are largely academic. The breeding population is largely stable but the breeding success of released birds is generally considered poor.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

After a disastrous breeding season in 2012 because of the wet summer, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust's Partridge Count Scheme returns (41 in Lincs this year) indicated that September density of birds on the sampled farms in Lincs had increased from 20.8 per 100 ha to 27.4 per 100 ha (32.4 in 2011) and the young to old ratio had increased from 1.5:1 to 3.1:1. Over 360 records were submitted from 87 sites in 2013 but only ten confirmed breeding records so breeding is being seriously under recorded. Small numbers of birds are being released on some shooting estates that together with specific measures to encourage Grey Partridges are helping to reduce the decline in Lincolnshire.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of sites	11	16	15	42	22	7
Number of birds	13	22	18	64	27	8

There were records from only seven sites, the first being heard at Belton & Westgate (Axholme) on May 14th and a second at Wolla Bank on May 22nd. A male was singing at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir on Jun 3rd. A male was calling between Goxhill Haven and New Holland on Jun 16th-21st and another at Ancaster on Jun 18th. Another was heard at Garthorpe during Jun 19th-27th. The final record of the year was of two flushed at Langtoft on Jul 28th. All but the last record were of singing males but there were no records of confirmed breeding. A record from a garden in Cranwell village on Mar 26th was thought to be an escape. The total of eight birds at seven sites is the poorest for Quail since only two were recorded in 1991.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

Over 1500 records were received from 140 sites in 2013 with a maximum of 100 at Frampton Marsh on Jul 27th. Again, with many thousands of birds released on shooting estates annually, such records are largely academic. Few breeding records were submitted for such a common resident.

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.

During Jan-Feb counts of between 1-10 birds were recorded from numerous coastal locations with more at Gib Point including high counts of 80 on Jan 1st with 127 there on the 13th, 220 on the 24th and 273 on Feb 22nd. Other significant early year counts came from Donna Nook where there were 23 on Jan 5th and 25 on Feb 9th. During March, numbers decreased but there were 48 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 1st, 24 at Donna Nook on the 2nd and 97 at Gib Point on the 3rd and 14 there on the 4th. Thereafter in Mar single figures were noted but only at Gib Point, and after eight there on Apr 1st, only very small numbers, mainly 1-2, were noted on the coast in all months until Sep when there were maxima of 15 at Gib Point and 15 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 10th and 1-4 noted at several other sites. During Oct and the first three weeks of Nov counts came from 15 sites but all were 1-8. Numbers increased from Nov 22nd when there were c100 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and 23 at Gib Point and 25 at Freiston Shore on the same day, 20 at Freiston Shore and 17 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on the 24th, 22 at Gib Point on the 25th, 31 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 28th and 19 at Gib Point on the 30th with single figure counts more widespread. Figures in Dec were relatively low with high counts of 36 at Gib Point on the 1st, 35 there on the 15th, 70 between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on the 26th and 30 at Gib Point on the 29th, with 1-6 noted more widely on the coast.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Scarce winter visitor to coastal and inland waters. Mainly Sep-Apr, rare in summer. LBRC from 2011.

Singles were off Gib Point on Jan 4th and 18th (JCN), a first winter off Donna Nook on Feb 7th (SL) with probably the same bird on the 9th (SL), one off Huttoft Bank on Apr 19th (JS) and one at Gib Point on May 17th (JCN), completing the early year records. The first of the autumn was off Huttoft Bank on Sep 10th (HB, RL) with an adult off Anderby Creek on Sep 14th (BGU), a summer plumaged bird at Gib Point on Sep 17th and 19th (KMW), one there on the 26th (JCN), then several reports in the Wash: at the Witham Mouth on Nov 6th (SK), Freiston Shore on the 8th (SK), Witham Mouth on the 9th (BGU), 10th (PS), 11th (BGU) and 23rd (BGU) and Freiston Shore 24th (SK). There were further singles off Huttoft Bank on Nov 22nd and 23rd (EJM), and at Gib Point on Dec 15th (RDn), 22nd (JCN) and 26th (JCN).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

On the coast early in the year, birds were off Gib Point on Jan 3rd, 4th, 6th, 13th, and on Feb 2nd, and off Donna Nook on Feb 28th. Inland first winter birds were at Ashbyville Lake, Scunthorpe from Dec 27th 2012 to Feb 4th, at Far Ings, Barton on Mar 12th-14th and at Burton Stather Brick Pits on Mar 24th-30th; these three records may have involved only one or two individuals. An unusual spring record concerned an adult in breeding plumage flying south at Gib Point on May 25th. In the autumn, there were singles off Freiston Shore on Oct 11th and Gib Point on Nov 10th and 19th, three at Freiston Shore on Nov 21st, two at Huttoft Bank on Nov 22nd and one there on the 23rd, and more singles at Frampton Marsh on Nov 24th, Donna Nook on the 24th and Dec 9th, and Humberston Fitties on Dec 25th and 31st.



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* juvenile/1st summer Barton Pits Mar12th 2013 © Graham Catley

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

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

Three at Freiston Shore and five north at Gib Point on Jan 20th were the only records for the month. One-two were seen at Gib Point on eight dates from early Feb to the third week of May when there was a movement of 50 birds north on the 24th, 13 on the 28th and eight on the 30th with singles at Donna Nook and Humberston Fitties on the 25th. From Jun-Aug 1-2 were recorded on twelve dates with a high count of five at Donna Nook on Jun 22nd. Small numbers were noted widely in Sep with peak counts of eight at Gib Point on the 5th, 19 south there on the 10th on which day there were also 53 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and 17 at Trusthorpe, and nine north at Gib Point on the 11th. In Oct 1-2 were seen at Donna Nook, Trusthorpe and Gib Point from 10th-14th with one at Gib Point on the 14th apparently stranded on the outer ridge but managing to fly off later in the day. There were similar numbers in Nov with peaks of four at Freiston Shore and 14 at Gib Point on the 21st with the final two birds of the year at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 24th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

There was an exceptional early record of one north at Gib Point on Feb 7th. More typically birds were noted during Aug with one north at Gib Point on the 6th and one at Donna Nook on the 25th. During Sep there were singles at Humberston Fitties on the 7th, Gib Point north on the 10th, Chapel Point on the 11th, two north at Gib Point on the same day with three north there on the 14th and one on the 18th. More significant numbers occurred in Oct when there were six at Sandilands, seven at Huttoft Car Terrace, three at Chapel Point and 15 north at Gib Point all on the 10th. On the following day singles were noted at the Humber Bridge, Barton, Cleethorpes, Trusthorpe and Huttoft Car Terrace and four were recorded at Donna Nook. Single birds were seen at Donna Nook and Huttoft Car Terrace on the 13th and the final record came from Gib Point on Nov 6th, with an exceptional late record from there on the 24th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The first sightings of the year came from Gib Point where there was one north on May 15th, three north on the 25th and singles during Jun on the 16th, 23rd and 24th. There was a high count at Gib Point on Jul 3rd when 74 flew north with four there on the 4th and another 74 on the 5th. There were six north at Rimac Jul 10th, four north at Gib Point on the 21st and one on the 22nd.

There were only two Aug records, of seven north at Donna Nook on the 10th and nine south at Gib Point on the 13th. In Sep at least 35 birds were recorded with one at Donna Nook on the 6th, 13 there on the 10th, one south at Huttoft Car Terrace on the same day, three at Donna Nook, five at Chapel Point and 12 north at Gib Point all on the 11th, then singles at Gib Point on the 18th, 19th and 20th and one in The Wash also on the 20th. Records in Oct were concentrated over three days beginning with two at Mablethorpe, one at Sandilands, four at Huttoft Car Terrace and nine at Gib Point on the 10th, while on the following day there were six in the Humber off Barton, five off North Killingholme Haven, 11 off Pyewipe, Grimsby, two at Cleethorpes, three at Donna Nook, three at Mablethorpe and singles at Huttoft Car Terrace and Gib Point. Finally there were two south at Huttoft Car Terrace and one at Gib Point, both on Oct 13th.

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

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

There were two waves of arrivals in autumn 2013 during October 10th-14th and November 21st-22nd that produced a total of 16 records of 27 birds but clearly there could have been a considerable amount of duplication of records and individual birds on peak dates. On Oct 10th one drifted north at Donna Nook (SL) with the 11th producing two at Freiston Shore (PAH) and one off Huttoft (AO, JRC) and Mablethorpe (JRW, NPT) that may have been the same bird. The only birds on the 12th were three at the Witham Mouth (PS) but on the 13th three were off Chapel Point (BGU), four north at Gib Point (KMW, JPS) and singles at the Witham Mouth (SK, DRob, PS) and off the Nene Mouth (BGU). The movements continued into the 14th with three north off Gib Point (JPS, RDn, NAL). There was then one reported at the Witham Mouth on Oct 19th (IE) before another blow in late Nov produced one south off Huttoft on the 21st (CMo, RL) and one north at Gib Point on the 22nd (JPS).

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare offshore Jul-Dec; exceptional inland and in other months. **LBRC**

The same weather that produced the Leach's Petrel movements also pushed Storm Petrels south, with five birds seen off Gib Point: two north on Oct 11th (KMW, NAL, MKi), three north on the 13th (JPS, KMW, RKW) and one north on Nov 22nd (JPS). Three were also reported off Mablethorpe on Oct 11th (JRW, NPT), one at Chapel Point on the 13th (BGU), one at Witham Mouth on the 13th (SK, PS, D Rob) and two there on Nov 23rd (BGU).

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.

Reported in every month of the year but, typically, very few in the first quarter with only three singles in Jan and seen on three days in Feb with 20 at Gib Point on the 10th. Birds were noted on six days in Mar and Apr with a peak of five at Gib Point on Mar 27th. More significant movements began in May with nearly all records coming from Gib Point where there were mostly 1-9 but a few higher counts peaking at 72 on the 18th and 79 on the 24th; the only other records were two singles at Donna Nook. Small numbers were noted on twenty days in June at with two at Frampton Marsh on the 4th and 6th and all other records came from Gib Point where the highest count was of 11 on the 24th and Donna Nook where there was a peak of 15 on the 29th. There was a similar pattern in the first half of Jul, although small numbers were more widespread and high counts included 31 at Gib Point on the 8th, and there were more concentrated sightings around the 19th-23rd including 35 at Trusthorpe on the 21st and 44 at Gib Point on the 22nd. Numbers began to pick up in Aug when there were peak counts of 27 at Donna Nook on the 11th, 15 at Humberston Fitties on the 12th, 50 at Gib Point on the 14th, 14 at Grainthorpe Marsh on the 25th and 22 between Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe on the 25th. Also during Aug, Gib Point recorded double figure counts on fifteen other days and smaller numbers were widespread from Grainthorpe to The Wash. During Sep numbers continued to increase with high counts of 119 at Gib Point on the 6th, 121 there on the 10th, 205 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the same day, 513 at Gib Point on the 26th, 58 up the Humber at Barton, 80 at Donna Nook and 196 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace all on the 29th. But these figures were dwarfed by the Oct passage which began with a modest 140 at Mablethorpe on the 2nd, but then a major movement started with 202 at Freiston Shore and 114 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 10th. On the 11th, 908 moved up the Humber at North Killingholme Haven and c1000 were recorded from the Humber Bridge Viewing Area, with c90 seen at Alkborough Flats, some of which continued west up the Ouse and one south up the Trent while others returned to the east. Also on the 11th, there were 430 at Donna Nook, 450 at Mablethorpe, 742 at Gib Point and 350 at Freiston Shore, plus one well inland over the

fens at Great Postland. On the 12th there were still 500 in the Humber past Barton Pits and 169 at Gib Point, with 600 at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth, 540 at Gib Point and c30 at Alkborough Flats on the 13th, when one was seen inland at Great Limber. Small numbers were noted widely until the end of the month, including 20 off Barton on Oct 30th. Small numbers were recorded almost daily throughout Nov with peaks of 195 at Gib Point on the 4th, 62 there on the 10th, 117 at Humberston Fitties on the 21st and 41 at Gib Point on both the 21st and the 30th. One more inland record concerned one south-west at Brant Broughton on Nov 5th. The year ended quietly with 1-4 birds noted on six days mainly at Gib Point and in The Wash.



Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* North Killingholme Haven Oct 11th 2013 © Graham Catley

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Humberston Fitties	11	-	4	8	8	16	36	91	46	62	57	188
Donna Nook	68	59	3	3	2	21	14	39	35	25	37	12
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	29	44	54	24	1	3	7	10	7	15	4	8
Gibraltar Point	141	80	23	30	9	5	6	12	45	83	400	203
Terrington*	-	-	66	33	18	-	72	11	45	17	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	11	8	-	-	-	1	-	22	3	5	130	161
Whisby/North Hykeham	53	24	14	17	8	4	5	9	19	14	95	93
Kirkby on Bain GP	4	4	1	3	-	2	6	2	5	11	1	1

The table includes coastal sites usually holding 100 or more plus selected inland sites. Other noteworthy numbers were 65 at Friskney on Jan 12th, 47 at Gedney on Jun 23rd, 174 at Friskney on Sep 21st and 230 at Tetney Marsh on Dec 2nd. The true numbers of this mobile species would be very difficult to calculate, as small numbers are recorded at most inland waters throughout the year. There was no evidence of breeding. The colour-ringed bird below, after a typical post-fledging dispersal as far as Frampton Marsh, appears to have been returning closer to the natal colony as early as October.

G1450	Nestling	16-05-2013	Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester: 51°49'N 0°51'E (Essex)									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-08-2013	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°1'E 135km NNW 0y 2m 26d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	29-10-2013	Great Livermere Lake: 52°18'N 0°45'E (Suffolk) 55km N 0y 5m 13d									

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

There were four early year records with the first at Gib Point on Jan 7th and another there on Feb 3rd, one at Cleethorpes on Feb 7th and another at Gib Point on Mar 3rd, found recently deceased. The first autumn bird was at Gib Point on a sandbar on Sep 14th then two at Donna Nook on Oct 8th heralded a mini influx as it was followed by one at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace, three at North Killingholme Haven and two at Gib Point all on the 11th. One was at Witham Mouth on Oct 14th and presumably the same off Tabs Head/Cut End on Oct 19th. One was at Gib Point on Nov 3rd and there was an unusual inland record from Hudds Mill Weir in Stamford where a first year bird stayed throughout Nov 8th-13th. One was at Humberston Fitties on Nov 26th and the final birds of the year were two fishing offshore at Gib Point on Dec 29th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	11	11	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Maximum Lincs total	15	14	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	4

Bittern numbers were the highest for five years with the sum of site monthly peaks at 50, up from 40 in 2012. Reports came from 18 sites but of those 14 had records in only one-two months and eight had only single records. A winter influx in Jan-Feb accounted for 60% of records, and included maxima of four at Barton Pits on Jan 16th and 25th, and three at Boultham Mere on Feb 1st. One was heard booming at Messingham SQ on Feb 8th but the only site at which breeding seemed possible was Far Ings, where booming was heard quite frequently between Mar 31st and May 25th. However, a female was not known to be present and there was no confirmation of breeding. A bird seen in a ditch at Somersby in the Wolds east of Horncastle on Jan 28th was found dead on Jan 30th.



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* Gib Point Jan 26th 2013 © Paul Neale

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

What was presumably the same individual was present between Tetney Lock and Thoresby Bridge from Sep 7th to 27th (IGS, CA, AN *et al*) and then at Gib Point later on the 27th (MWi *et al*).

Previous records are as follows:

- 1986 North Hykeham, Oct 12th-26th
- 1992 Messingham, May 6th-10th
- 1992 Four Langham, Hogsthorpe, May 7th
- 2008 Saltfleetby, Jan 30th-31st; same Little Cawthorpe, Feb 8th-18th
- 2010 Donna Nook, Oct 10th to Nov 18th



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Tetney Lock Sep 13th 2013 © John Clarkson

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

The summary table below shows the monthly minimum peak counts of birds recorded in each of four districts; the coast includes Cleethorpes-Skegness. In 2013 totals doubled inland and the Aug/Sep Lincs minimum total was around 30% up on 2012. The highest site counts by district were on the Humber 16 at Alkborough Flats in Aug, on the coast 42 at Grainthorpe Marsh in Aug and 45 at Tetney Marsh in Sep, on The Wash 270 at Witham Mouth in Sep, and inland 17 at Deeping Lakes in Jan.

District minimum totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber	8	4	5	17	11	12	12	20	20	14	10	2
East coast	35	18	18	33	31	34	61	82	79	66	66	31
The Wash	83	50	70	70	45	122	255	583	741	651	358	147
Inland	63	43	38	41	16	17	43	28	33	7	6	44
Minimum Lincs total	189	115	131	161	103	185	371	713	873	738	440	224

Breeding records came from five sites this year, one down from 2012. The number of breeding pairs was down 30% on the previous year to 44. No birds bred at site B possibly owing to the local use of gas guns to scare wood pigeons off newly sown crops. No data were submitted this year on fledging success. Two birds were reported from site G but there was no evidence of breeding.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* and **Great White Egret** *Ardea alba* Gib Point May 20th 2013
© Paul Neale



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Frampton Marsh May 17th 2013 © Paul Sullivan

Numbers of nests		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
A	Wash	-	5	7	6	6	8	6	7
B	Humber	1	11	14	11	27	17	12	0
C	Inland	-	-	1	4	5	7	6	8
D	Humber	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	4
E	Humber	-	-	-	-	-	8	32	20
F	Inland	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
G	Wash	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
County total		1	16	22	21	40	45	63	44

The ringing recoveries exemplify the somewhat directionless wanderings undertaken by egrets, especially in the first year.

GR36327	Nestling	31-05-2013	Site E	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-07-2013	Shibdon Nature Reserve: 54°56'N 1°42'W (Tyne & Wear)	NNW 0y 1m 25d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	08-08-2013	near Shore Cottage, Brow Well: 54°59'N 3°27'W (Dumfries & Galloway)	NW 0y 2m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20-09-2013	Browhouses, Gretna: 54°57'N 3°7'W (Cumbria)	NW 0y 3m 20d
GR36342	Nestling	10-06-2013	Site E	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-08-2013	Ironbridge: 52°37'N 2°29'W (Shropshire)	WSW 0y 2m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-08-2013	Venus Pool, near Shrewsbury: 52°38'N 2°40'W (Shropshire)	WSW 0y 2m 21d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-10-2013	Durleigh, Bridgwater: 51°7'N 3°3'W (Somerset)	SW 0y 3m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-12-2013	Badshot Lea: 51°13'N 0°45'W (Surrey)	SSW 0y 5m 21d
GC55854	Nestling	13-05-2010	Site B	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-08-2013	Uttoxeter Quarry: 52°54'N 1°51'W (Staffordshire)	WSW 3y 3m 10d
GK09574	Nestling	27-05-2013	Site C	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-07-2013	North Cave: 53°47'N 0°40'W (East Yorkshire)	N 0y 1m 29d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-08-2013	Nebraska Farm, Kirton in Lindsey: 53°28'N 0°37'W	NNW 0y 2m 10d
GR36305	Nestling	19-06-2011	Site B	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27-04-2012	Le Hurel: 49°12'N 2°6'W (Jersey)	Channel Islands SSW 0y 10m 8d
	Caught by ringer	03-11-2012	Le Hurel Slip, Grouville: 49°10'N 2°1'W (Jersey)	Channel Islands SSW 1y 4m 15d

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Variant. LBRC

There were a good number of records but no doubt there was considerable duplication with a small number of birds wandering widely through the year. The first was at Gib Point on May 20th-21st (P Seymour, PNe, KMW) with presumably this bird at Manby Flashes on the 22nd-24th (DWo *et al.*). One at Alkborough Flats on Jun 2nd-3rd, 10th and 18th-19th (WG, ND, GPC *et al.*) was presumably the bird also noted at various sites in Yorkshire during the intervening periods and at North Killingholme Pits on Jun 16th (CSm). One arrived from the east at Gib Point on Jun 25th (RDn, KMW). Further records came from Gib Point with one flying west on Oct 4th (RDn), one on Oct 18th-19th (KMW, RHay, GWr *et al.*) and presumably the same bird on Oct 30th (RDn). One at Deeping Lakes on Oct 5th (TH, DGr) and one at Wingland Marsh on Oct 16th (RCa) may well have been the same as one of the Gib Point birds.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

The total number of occupied nests in Lincolnshire counted as part of the BTO Heronries Census during 2013 was as follows:

Abbey Wood	27	Lea Marsh	4
Appletree Ness	8	Long Wood	4
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	7	Nocton Wood	6
Belton Park	5	North Cotes Spinney	4
Bottom Barff Wood	nil	Patterson's Pit	23
Dowsby Fen	2	The Deepes	3
Hartsholme Country Park	13	The Mere, Deeping St James	9
Hospital Cottage Spinney	7	Troy Wood	14
Howsham Barff Wood	1	Tuetoos Wood	1
Kingerby Wood	13	Warren Plantation	2
Kirkby Pits (west)	5	Welland Farm	7
Legbourne Wood	nil	Willoughby Wood	18

The total number of occupied nests in 2013 was 183; this compares with 199 in 2012. The 2013 figure is the lowest post-war total since 1963 when 107 occupied nests were recorded. Of the 24 heronries listed, four have maintained the same number of occupied nests as in 2012, nine have increased, nine decreased and two have been deserted. At Howsham Barff Wood a single pair of herons attempted to nest in 2013, with fresh egg shells being found below one nest but no juveniles or adults were seen. Buzzards and Carrion Crows were again present as reported in the 2012 bird report. There were some large post-breeding counts at Manby Flashes in Jul, including 26 on the 14th. Small numbers were seen moving, mainly south, at Gib Point between Jun and Oct, including eight southwest/west on Sep 24th and five south on Oct 6th. Since the start of the ringing scheme there have been over 300 recoveries in the UK of birds ringed in the Norway, making it the country with by far the highest number of recorded exchanges. The first of the two newly reported recoveries is a rather ancient one from Norway, only just reported, and the second illustrates the smaller-scale movements of British-bred birds.

NOA 27984	Nestling	05-06-1986	Sandum, Arendal: 58°27'N 8°50'E (Aust-Agder) Norway			
	Dead (in net or cage)	29-12-1986	Alford: 53°17'N 0°11'E	787km	SW	0y 6m 24d
1504220	Nestling	14-04-2012	Besthorpe Gravel Pits, Newark: 53°10'N 0°47'W (Nottinghamshire)			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-10-2012	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W	58km	N	0y 5m 27d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	29-08-2013	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W	58km	N	1y 4m 15d

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Vagrant LBRC

One flew high north-east over Teal Lake Whisby NR in the early afternoon of Jun 19th (DN), continuing a recent run of annual records.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Vagrant. LBRC from 2013

At Gib Point two flew south down the shore on Oct 27th (RKW) and one was on the Mere briefly on Dec 2nd (JCh, ECh); one was then reported from Frampton Marsh on Dec 17th (AT) and one at Deeping Lakes on Dec 31st staying into 2014 (APC, BGu *et al*). The three Dec records are treated as being the same bird. There are 11 previous records of 13 birds the most recent in 2012, and this year's birds continue a recent resurgence in vagrancy of the species in Britain following a long period of rarity.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce visitor, mainly coastal in Apr-Sep, and exceptionally in winter. RBBP

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	7	6	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Frampton Marsh	1	-	3	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-

Early in the year all records were from Frampton Marsh: one was there during Jan 9th-12th and two on Mar 7th with one on Mar 14th, three on the 21st and one on the 30th. In May, a

colour-ringed bird (see below) was identified at Frampton Marsh on the 7th and 16th, and was presumably that reported also at Gib Point and Freiston Shore on the 16th, at Frampton Marsh on the 17th-18th and at Gib Point on the 19th. Note the yo-yoing movement of this bird, a feature of their behaviour that makes estimating numbers difficult. Another individual noted as unringed on the 28th was at Frampton Marsh on May 26th-Jun 2nd. One arrived at Alkborough Flats on Jun 8th, increasing to two on the 15th, and four on the 18th. This group, all immatures, remained in the area while roosting on Whitton Sand and occasionally visiting Read's Island, until Sep. The number increased to five on Jul 19th and peaked at seven on Aug 18th-20th. There were still six on Sep 3rd but they then dispersed and the last one was on Sep 23rd. Elsewhere during summer, there was one at Frampton Marsh on Jul 9th-10th, two south at Huttoft Bank on Aug 2nd, an adult with two immatures south plus an adult on Jackson's Marsh at Gib Point on Aug 15th, an immature there on the 17th and an adult on Aug 18th-25th, being joined by an immature on Aug 21st-22nd. One was at Dawsmere Marsh on Aug 25th. Records in Sep additional to those at Alkborough were singles at Frampton Marsh on the 2nd and Grainthorpe Haven on the 2nd and 25th. Finally, one flew south at Gib Point on Oct 4th, two were at Freiston Shore on Nov 23rd and a young bird was in the Humberston Fitties-Tetney Marsh area during Dec 1st-Jan 2014. The year's total may have been around 28 individuals, though it could have been more or less. As noted last year, the increase up to 2011 has not been maintained.

NLA 8053668	Nesting	27-06-2011	afsluitdijk, Den Oever: 52°56'N 5°2'E (Noord-Holland)	The Netherlands
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-05-2013	Frampton Marsh, Boston: 52°56'N 0°0'W	338km W 1y 10m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10-05-2013	Minsmere Nature Reserve, Westleton: 52°14'N 1°36'E (Suffolk)	245km WSW 1y 10m 13d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-05-2013	Frampton Marsh, Boston: 52°56'N 0°0'W	338km W 1y 10m 19d

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1	-	1	2	3	-	6	9	5	5	2	-
Barton Pits	8	3	2	4	2	-	2	27	27	19	1	9
Barrow-New Holland	1	-	-	-	2	-	5	7	4	7	4	2
Humberston Fitties	1	-	5	3	1	1	2	2	6	7	7	3
Donna Nook	2	11	6	5	4	4	3	4	3	2	7	5
Covenham Reservoir	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	3	5	4	6
Gibraltar Point	9	5	7	8	5	3	4	1	2	3	2	2
Freiston Shore	7	12	4	2	1	2	1	-	30	11	8	10
Frampton Marsh	12	3	2	4	4	4	8	10	14	5	4	1
Welland*	18	5	14	1	-	-	-	-	3	20	12	24
Boultham Mere	-	1	6	1	1	1	-	3	3	2	1	-
Whisby NR	2	4	3	4	2	8	6	13	7	6	4	1
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	2	10	1	-
Kirkby-on-Bain GP	3	1	12	5	2	1	2	18	24	10	15	9
Tattershall Lakes CP	4	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	15
Holywell Lake	9	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	12	8	8	9
Spalding-Crowland*	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	4	-

The slow recovery from the cold of December 2010 continues. The table includes the majority of sites that held 10 or more birds plus a selection of other consistently recorded areas. Other areas holding 10 or more were Butterwick Common/Hale with 20 on Feb 14th, Holbeach St Matthew with 12 on Mar 15th and Bagmoor/Winterton Floods with 40 on Oct 18th. The highest counts generally were in autumn, as expected, including 27 at Barton Pits during Aug 27th-Sep 21st, 30 at Freiston Shore on Sep 29th and 24 at Kirkby GP on Sep 25th. There were also 24 on the Welland sector of The Wash on Dec 6th. Breeding was reported in small numbers, with four pairs at Frampton Marsh and three pairs at Whisby NR. It would be helpful if more consolidated summaries of breeding activity were provided, rather than details of individual pairs/broods which are difficult to collate.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Humber & Wash</i>												
Barton Pits	12	4	6	26	6	6	7	33	2	5	4	3
Gibraltar Point	29	20	3	3	2	1	1	2	7	5	5	7
Freiston Shore	-	1	6	4	-	-	1	4	5	24	20	-
Frampton Marsh	1	2	2	8	8	6	5	2	-	1	-	-
<i>Inland Sites</i>												
Covenham Reservoir	-	-	1	-	3	-	11	25	16	37	62	71
Toft Newton Reservoir	9	1	2	1	1	-	2	8	16	20	17	12
North Hykeham Pits	19	16	10	4	7	6	26	69	64	41	37	26
Whisby NR	10	9	15	10	7	11	8	7	12	6	2	6
Norton-Thurlby Pits	10	14	5	25	44	8	-	9	9	1	60	62
Kirkby on Bain Pits	3	2	9	8	14	12	17	38	10	9	3	1
Tattershall Pits	10	21	28	14	11	16	14	11	7	9	9	14
Spalding-Crowland*	11	9	24	16	49	33	34	36	36	22	10	-
Deeping Lakes NR	-	4	5	33	2	3	2	-	6	2	4	1

There was no repeat of the large numbers on The Wash early in 2012, but some mostly early morning movement was noted off Gib Point in Jan-Feb. The highest counts included 21 on Jan 5th, 17 on Jan 8th and 14 on Feb 1st. Numbers were higher in the second half of the year, with peaks of 69 at North Hykeham Pits on Aug 27th, 62 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 13th and 71 at Covenham Res on Dec 15th. The table includes most sites at which 25 or more were recorded plus a selection of other consistently-recorded places; additional areas attracting 25 or more were the Leverton and Friskney sectors of The Wash which held, respectively, 26 and 47 birds on Sep 21st. Breeding counts included 13 pairs on Barton Pits in Apr, 16 adults with 21 juveniles on Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in Jul and six pairs on Whisby NR with two pairs nearby at North Hykeham.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor, Sep-Apr; rare in summer.

One moving north at Gib Point on May 17th was the one record in the first half of the year. In early autumn, a juvenile was at Covenham Res on Aug 21st and one moved north at Gib Point on Sep 5th. There was one at Freiston Shore on Oct 11th and on at Gib Point on Oct 29th. One at Witham Mouth on Nov 6th could have been the same as that at Freiston Shore on Nov 14th, but there were two in that area on Nov 19th and three on the 20th, before singles were seen again on the 23rd and 30th. Meanwhile, one was on Covenham Res during Nov 8th-19th, two at Humberston Fitties on Nov 17th and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 23rd.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

Singles, probably all the same, were at Gib Point on Jan 2nd, 8th and 9th. One was at Frampton Marsh on Feb 13th, and another or possibly the same at Freiston Shore and Witham Mouth on Mar 10th and 16th. In autumn, a juvenile was at Tetney Marsh on Sep 23rd, one was at Frampton Marsh on the 24th and one was at Kirkby GP on the 29th. In Oct, there were singles at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth on the 11th-13th and Covenham Res on the 20th, with two at the Nene Mouth on the 21st. Finally, on nine dates during Nov 8th-Dec 8th, there were singles at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth with two there on Nov 24th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

At site A the first bird arrived on Apr 14th and was joined by a second on Apr 24th. Two males and a female were present on May 2nd and a single pair were last seen on May 5th. No breeding apparently took place. At site B where a pair successfully bred in 2012, the first bird returned on Mar 15th and was joined by a pair on June 2nd which stayed until June 10th. The remaining bird was reported on June 21st and no breeding was reported. At site C a pair returned on Apr 30th and there were two pairs on May 5th. On Aug 8th, two broods of four and three chicks were observed. Two birds lingered until Oct 13th. Elsewhere in spring, singles were reported at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 7th-10th, Frampton Marsh RSPB on Apr 27th and a pair was at Boultham

Mere on Jun 1st. Two juveniles were reported at North Kelsey Moor on Jul 7th and single juveniles at Alkborough Flats on Jul 28th-29th and Bagmoor/Winterton Flood on Aug 3rd. A moulting adult was on the sea at Gib Point on Sep 1st. Two birds were at Covenham Res on Sep 8th. No winter visitors were reported.



Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* juveniles North Kelsey Moor Jul 7th 2013 © Roy Harvey

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

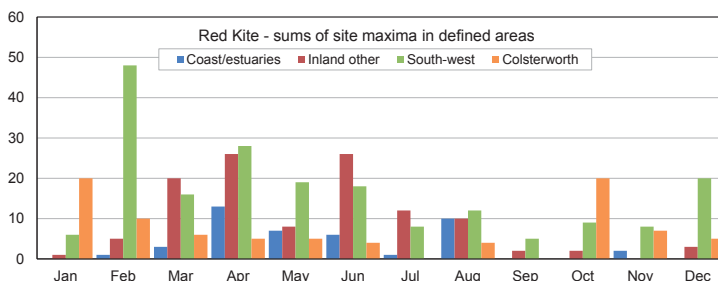
One flew south at Messingham SQ on May 21st (RNH *et al*) and in autumn a dark juvenile flew south at Gib Point on Sep 15th (KMW) and a juvenile was reported at Saltfleetby All Saints 18th (BGU).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Scarce, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; increasing due to re-introduced birds. Bred to 19th century and since 2008.

The breeding population in Lincs is now well-established, and we no longer receive details of all confirmed or probable nest sites, though we would like this, to help continued tracking of the population. In the core area of the southwest, we heard of one nest that fledged three young and understand that at least two others were confirmed; there were also two confirmed nests elsewhere in the county. However this clearly understates the true position. In one area of 100km² in the southwest, ten probable or confirmed territories were identified, and it is likely that surrounding areas have similar densities.

The growth of the population in the south-west was reflected in significant counts coming from sites other than Colsterworth landfill site, where most have been seen until now and where up to 20 were reported in 2013. Two wing-tagged birds seen at Colsterworth, one in Feb and Dec, the other in Mar, had travelled about 40 km from the ringing sites in Northants. Records of five or more kites came from five other areas in the section of the county west of Bourne and south of Belton Park, especially the Bulby-Irnham area where a feeding station operated for a while and birds roosted nearby. We received reports of up to 14 here in Feb and understand that 20 were present at times. The chart shows sums of monthly site peaks but, as the species becomes more common, detailed records may no longer be submitted and this is already affecting reports from the south-west. As in 2012, rather few were seen on the coast or the estuaries, with two at each of Donna Nook and Gib Point the only records of more than one. Inland records away from the south-west were widely spread but mostly of 1-2, though three were noted at Thornton Abbey in Aug.



GR61923	Nestling	16-06-2012	Site Confidential (Oxfordshire)
	Long dead	18-06-2013	Mablethorpe North End: 53°20'N 0°15'E 208km NNE 1y 0m 2d

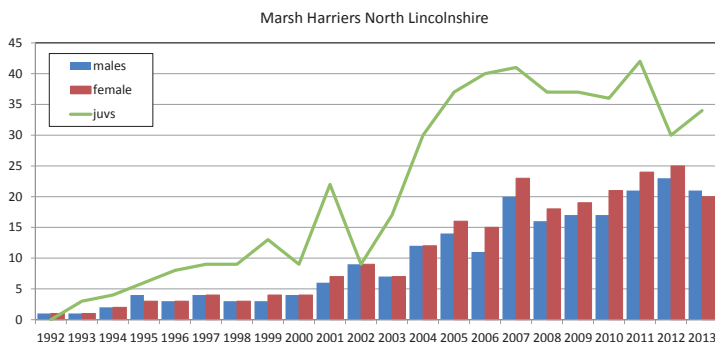
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North	18	15	11	16	13	21	18	9	8	3	27	7
Coast	-	-	3	8	11	9	11	28	15	4	4	3
Wash	6	6	8	20	23	18	27	33	15	16	18	6
Inland	1	1	7	29	18	11	11	16	18	9	2	5

The table includes sums from localities within four broad regions, though it is difficult to be sure which reports refer to the same birds within these. However, the paucity of reports away from hotspots may well mean that the totals are under-estimates. The largest roost counts were of 12 in the Wolds close to the coastal marshes on Aug 28th, up to eight at Baston Fen in Sep and nine at Whitton Sand in Nov. A total of 11 birds were mobbing a fox at Alkborough Flats on Nov 9th.

There was a slight fall in the number of breeding males (21) and females (20) in north Lincolnshire (see chart below, based on Graham Catley's data) but the total of 34 fledged young was a little higher than the 30 in 2012. Elsewhere, breeding was poorly reported with only ten confirmed nests recorded (and five fledged young from three of these) plus another one probable and one possible breeding attempts.



GR15970	Nestling female	10-07-2011	Sculthorpe Moor: 52°50'N 0°49'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	25-12-2012	Aerodromo de Lezíria, Lisbon: 38°54'N 8°56'W (Estremadura) Portugal 1,720km SSW 1y 5m 15d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	13-04-2013	Spurn Point, Kilnsea: 53°36'N 0°7'E (East Yorkshire) 97km NNW 1y 9m 3d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	16-04-2013	near Anderby Creek: 53°14'N 0°19'E 58km NW 1y 9m 6d

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**

Numbers were generally low everywhere this year, with no counts of more than three. In Jan-Feb, on the Humber there were a few reports of up to two (3rd calendar year male and ringtail) at Alkborough Flats and two (adult male and ringtail) in the Ancholme valley. In the Cleethorpes-Donna Nook area, most reports were of a single male but a female was seen a little inland at Covenham Res, while in the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe area there were up to two ringtails plus a male on one date. In The Wash, there were more records, including up to two males and one ringtail at Gib Point, also two males and one ringtail at Freiston Shore/Frampton Marsh, and a few reports of 1-2 from the Welland-Holbeach areas; it is difficult to know how many birds were involved in total. Inland, singles were seen at Baston and Dunsby Fens on three dates (a ringtail at the latter site), an adult male at Anwick Fen on Feb 23rd, a 2nd calendar year bird at Hemswell on Feb 27th and a male at Wroot on Feb 24th. The distribution and numbers in Mar were similar, though there was a female at Caythorpe on Mar 28th and one at Normanby-by-Spital on the 31st, but there was a steady decline through Apr with few noted after the 20th; there were two 3rd calendar year males at Alkborough Flats on Apr 19th, considered the same as those present in Oct 2012. Late spring records were Alkborough Flats on Apr 28th, Terrington WeBS sector on the 30th and one at Gib Point on May 16th. There were two sightings of a ringtail on the coastal marshes inland of Donna Nook on Jun 27th and Jul 13th.

The first in autumn was one at Frampton Marsh on Aug 20th-25th. During Sep-Oct, records of 1-2 came from the usual sites on the coast and Wash, with one at Nocton Fen on Sep 3rd the only one inland and a male at Alkborough Flats on Oct 21st the only report from the Humber. In Nov-Dec, there was a female at Alkborough Flats on Nov 2nd and a male there on Nov 12th and Dec 1st plus a couple of records not attributed to sex. On the coast, all reports came from the Cleethorpes-Donna Nook area, including an adult male on Nov 11th and a 2nd winter male on the 18th, plus other records mainly of a male but sometimes also a ringtail. At both Gib Point and Frampton Marsh, there were frequent reports of two and on one date at Gib Point three; those described comprised two males and a ringtail at each site, and there were a few reports of singles birds elsewhere around The Wash. Inland, a few records came from the fens along the R Witham, involving at least one adult male and one ringtail. There were also one at Snipe Dales on Nov 21st, records of a ringtail at Marston STW during Dec 11th-31st, a ringtail at Baston Fen on Dec 28th and a male in the Hawthorpe area on Dec 17th and 29th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

An adult male seen at Frithville on May 4th was the first. A series of records followed at Gib Point, beginning with a ringtail north on May 22nd, another ringtail on the 26th, two (male and ringtail) on the 31st moving off to the west, and a ringtail on Jun 18th that flew off towards Norfolk. There was also a male at Guy's Head on Jun 7th. In the north of the county, two (male and female, both second calendar year) were seen on Jun 15th, with the female also on the 16th, but there was no indication of breeding. A little later, a male was near Wyberton on Jul 24th, a ringtail was at Withern on Aug 13th, and two, an immature male and a ringtail, were at North Cotes on Aug 21st. Note that the sex of all but juvenile or first winter Montagu's Harriers is easily determined and that, apart from the orange-toned juveniles that can be seen in late summer (and readily aged), any bird with brown plumage in summer is a female. Thus all those reported as ringtails above are assumed to have been females.

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.

Widely recorded, from over 140 localities, but mostly involving in ones and twos. Counts of three or more came from ten sites including five displaying around Marston STW in Apr, five at Freiston Shore in Nov, and at Gib Point 5-6 in Apr-May and 4-7 in Aug-Nov with the maximum of eight on Oct 17th. Records of visible migration at Gib Point amounted to 19 moving south on ten dates during Apr 15th-May 14th, and in autumn 36 south (a few arriving off the sea) on 17 dates during Aug 25th-Nov 21st, with four south on Oct 24th the most in a day.

DE14524	Nestling male	06-07-2011	Kilnsea: 53°37'N 0°8'E (East Yorkshire)	
	Caught by ringer	25-05-2012	Spurn Point: 53°34'N 0°6'E (East Yorkshire)	6km SSW 0y 10m 19d
	Freshly dead	07-02-2013	North Somercotes: 53°26'N 0°8'E	21km S 1y 7m 1d



Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* immature Saltfleetby All Saints with ring bearing the legend: ZOOL MUSEUM OSLO NORWAY MA24937 Dec 3rd 2013 © Barry Clarkson

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

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

Breeding reports came from only 20 locations, confirmed at eight of them. Clearly this is a fraction of the total number now present, and the paucity of records is indicative of birders now taking them for granted. The soaring survey in TF02 in Mar-Apr 2013, mentioned briefly in the previous report, recorded 105 buzzard encounters in 21 hours (c5 buzzards an hour), giving an estimate of 45 pairs in the hectad. This was a decline in the buzzard encounter rate from 2009 (attributed to the cold spring) but an increase in number of territories. Most counts countywide were in the range 1-4 birds but with a substantial number of large totals including 10 or more in seven places. The highest were 12 at Loughton Forest and 11 at Gib Point in Apr, and 11 at Deeping Lakes NR in Sep. There were also counts of 10 at Marston STW in Mar, Kirkby GP in Apr, Castle Bytham in Aug (passing over in 15 minutes) and Horkstow Carrs in Sep. A total of 36 were noted moving south over Gib Point during Apr 7th-May 19th, including nine on the first date and five on May 2nd.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

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

An overwintering bird was at Gib Point from Dec 27th 2012 to Jan 9th when it headed off southwest (JPS, KMW *et al*). In the autumn one arrived off the Wash at Gib Point on Oct 18th and flew north (RDn).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Spring records extended from Apr 1st-Jun 30th, and autumn records from Aug 18th-Oct 30th. It is difficult to be certain how many individuals were involved but our assessment is that about 21 occurred in spring and 30 in autumn. After the first at Snipe Dales on Apr 1st, there was a gap until singles were at Fosdyke Bridge, Alvingham, Biscathorpe Lake and Messingham SQ on the 11th-14th and two at Frampton Marsh on the 15th, one remaining on the 16th. Next came singles at Messingham SQ, Sutton Bridge, Frampton Marsh and Deeping Lakes NR during Apr 23rd-26th

and then another gap until two passed through Gib Point on May 6th and one was at Deeping Lakes NR on the 7th. One flew over Market Deeping on May 16th and one came in off the sea at Gib Point on the 26th. Jun records involved singles at Marston STW on the 4th, Carlby on the 12th, Castle Bytham on the 23rd, Anwick Fen on the 25th and Stoke Rochford on the 27th-30th. In autumn, one south at Donna Nook on Aug 18th was the first. Singles followed at Tattershall Lakes on the 20th, south at Donna Nook on the 21st, south at Whisby NR on the 24th, Saltfleet on the 25th, Scunthorpe and Killingholme Haven Pits on the 27th, Black Bank (Messingham) on the 28th and Weelsby Woods on the 30th. In addition to those, one was at Gainsborough golf club on Aug 26th-Sep 4th with that at Wharton Wood on Aug 29th probably the same. On Sep 1st, one flew south at Pye's Hall while another settled in the area, the latter assumed to be that in the area until the 5th. Also on the 1st, one flew past Goxhill Haven and could have been one of the Donna Nook birds but has been counted separately, and one flew south at Gib Point. On Sep 4th, one was at North Thoresby Fisheries and one moved south through Gib Point, where a further bird was hunting over the R Steeping on the 5th. One was seen at Alkborough Flats on Sep 8th, when one moved west over Knaith and one was at Gib Point. One at Humberston Fitties on Sep 9th is assumed to have been that seen at Grainthorpe Haven on the same day. One south-east at Donna Nook mid-morning on Sep 12th is treated as different from one south over Howdales that afternoon. Later records were one over Corringham on Sep 24th, one south at Gib Point on Sep 26th, singles at Mavis Enderby on Oct 5th and Deeping Lakes NR on Oct 5th-6th, and one at Gainsborough on an unrecorded date in mid Oct. There were also more records at Deeping Lakes, on Oct 12th, and on the 28th and 30th; these are treated as two individuals but possibly were one, and could have been the same as than on the 5th-6th.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Kestrel brood sizes

Number of young	failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Unringed/missed
Number of broods	10	5	8	19	18	3	1	67	18

Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard have kindly provided the data above relating to their Kestrel ringing programme. A total of 82 nests was recorded. A total of 171 young fledged from the 54 broods that were ringed. There were also 15 successful nests where the chicks were not ringed, and three where the outcome was unknown. However, ten nests failed and overall this was not a particularly successful year. Migration on the coast with recorded in Aug with six at Donna Nook on Aug 3rd, 15 on Aug 7th and 10 on the 8th, while at Gib Point there were 14 on Aug 11th, 11 on the 13th and nine on the 19th and 30th. Inland concentrations included six at Digby Fen on Nov 15th, seven at Metheringham Delph on Sep 23rd and Dec 29th and eight at Dorrington Fen on Dec 25th. The second recovery below, of a Lincs-bred bird to France, is relatively unusual but was perhaps associated with the cold conditions early in 2013. The third is a bird from a typical source of wintering birds from abroad.

EW29379	Nestling	30-05-2008	near Winthorpe, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°18'E	104km	NNW	5y 5m
	Sick (hit by car)	26-11-2013	Gransmoor: 54°1'N 0°17'W (East Yorkshire)			
EW96236	Nestling	07-06-2012	Chaplin's Yard, Tathwell, Louth: 53°19'N 0°1'W	506km	S	0y 9m 8d
	Freshly dead (cold weather)	15-03-2013	la Bonnerie, Sevigny: 48°46'N 0°0'W (Orne) France			
SVS 7213753	Nestling	01-07-2012	Guttsta: 59°35'N 15°52'E (Vastmanland) Sweden	1,187km	SW	1y 0m 2d
	Freshly dead (electrocuted)	03-07-2013	Ingoldmells, near Skegness: 53°12'N 0°21'E			

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Vagrant. LBRC

A female was reported at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Aug 18th (BMC).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

Reports were received from 44 widely spread sites across the county and the majority of records referred to single birds. In the first winter period, there were counts of up to three at Frampton Marsh, and two at Gib Point and the adjoining Wainfleet Marsh. There were also regular reports

of singles at Alkborough Flats, Tetney Marshes and Freiston Shore, and occasionally from other coastal and estuarine locations, and these continued in dwindling numbers into Apr and May. Inland birds during Jan-Apr were at Bonby Carrs on Jan 17th, Dunsby Fen on Jan 9th, Baston Fen on Jan 19th, Wroot on Jan 27th, Saxby Wolds on Jan 29th, Ruskington Fen on Feb 1st, Fiskerton Fen on Feb 11th, Broadholme on Feb 19th, Hemswell on Feb 27th, Anwick Fen on Feb 28th and Apr 13th, Swallow on Mar 28th, Whisby NR on Mar 30th, Blackmoor Bridge on Apr 6th and Norton Disney on Apr 23rd. During Jun-Jul individuals were recorded at Gib Point on three dates and at Frampton Marsh on seven dates. In the latter half of the year, birds were recorded almost daily at Gib Point, with two birds recorded regularly between mid Sep and mid Nov, and at Frampton Marsh, where there were two from Aug 21st and three on Sep 3rd and Dec 29th. Sightings were less frequent at Freiston Shore but there were two there on Sep 1st and Nov 24th, and there were occasional sightings elsewhere around The Wash. On the inner Humber, reports were very few: just singles at Alkborough on Aug 18th and Nov 2nd, at Barton Pits on Oct 20th and at New Holland on Nov 26th. On the coast, 1-2 were at Donna Nook-Grainthorpe Marsh frequently, with four there on Nov 27th. Inland birds were at Marston STW on Aug 4th, Chambers Farm Wood on Sep 24th, Lincoln on Oct 11th, Fulbeck Heath on Oct 19th, Covenham Res on Nov 4th and Nocton Fen on Nov 5th, East Butterwick on Nov 12th

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

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

Over the past few years there has clearly been an increase in the number of birds recorded in Lincolnshire. However, this species' secretive breeding behaviour makes confirmation of breeding difficult until the young fledge at a time of year when many birders are not visiting suitable areas. Breeding was confirmed this year at just ten sites, with possible/probable breeding noted at a few others. The current best estimate for the Lincs population is in the order of 100 pairs. Despite the late arrival of many summer migrants in 2013, Hobbies were, if anything, early. The first was at East Keal on Apr 13th, followed by three feeding together on Apr 20th at Laughton Forest, one at Messingham SQ also on Apr 20th and one at Frampton Marsh on Apr 22nd, after which numerous individuals were recorded across the county. During May and Jun birds were recorded from 29 and 38 sites respectively, including two at Boultham Mere on May 6th and Covenham St Mary on May 10th, three at Whisby NP on May 16th and Barkston on May 25th, and six at Baston Fen NR/Tongue End on May 25th and Messingham SQ on May 26th. During the autumn records came from numerous locations, including three over Barton-upon-Humber on Aug 25th, Deeping Lakes on Aug 28th and Alkborough Flats on Sep 3rd, and numerous sightings of two from Alkborough Flats, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh. The last confirmed bird of the year was at Gib Point on Oct 6th.



Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* juvenile North Lincs Sep 27th 2013 © Graham Catley

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	32	21	25	20	22	26	21	19	22	20	22	23
Sum of site peaks	42	23	31	25	29	61	33	29	32	28	33	32

In 2013 there were 18 confirmed breeding sites, known to have produced at least 28 chicks, though a number of sites were not fully monitored due to restricted access. Several attempts were known to have failed, including a new one at Boston Stump where the birds suffered disturbance during incubation, and St Wulfram's, Grantham, which was abandoned because of heavy snow immediately prior to laying. The Lincoln Cathedral nest produced four young. Away from those on churches, five pairs nested successfully in quarries and the remainder on various industrial buildings, masts and similar structures. Probable breeding was recorded at a further two sites and non-breeding birds were recorded at a further 21 sites during Apr-Jul (although some of these are likely to be foraging birds travelling some distance from the nest site, such as birds recorded at Frampton Marsh which are likely to be the breeding birds from Boston Stump). In 2014 the BTO undertook a national survey which will compare findings with surveys from 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2002 to determine change and to inform the future for this iconic species, although early results are likely to show declines in the traditional range with significant gains in lowland England, with Lincolnshire showing a marked increase. Outside the breeding season, birds were seen very widely, mostly as singletons but quite often with two on the same day and on a few occasions 3-4. These higher totals were in estuarine and coastal locations (Alkborough Flats, Humberston Fitties, Donna Nook, Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh) plus Covenham Res.

GR21334	Nestling	27-05-2011	Site Confidential, near Sheerness: c. 51°26'N 0°44'E (Kent)									
	Freshly dead (poisoned)	30-09-2011	Louth, Lincolnshire: 53°18'N 0°1'E 214km NNW 0y 4m 3d									

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	2	2	3	4	2	3	2	8	1	-	14	-
Barton Pits	4	2	8	3	2	1	2	1	-	1	3	20
Donna Nook	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-
Gibraltar Point	8	6	2	4	1	-	-	2	4	3	3	2
Frampton Marsh	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Messingham SQ	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Boultham Mere	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	1
Whisby NR	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Baston Fen NR	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1
Marston STW	10	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	7
Number of sites	14	10	12	11	4	4	7	8	8	7	11	10
Minimum Lincs total	40	19	33	21	6	6	9	16	12	14	36	37

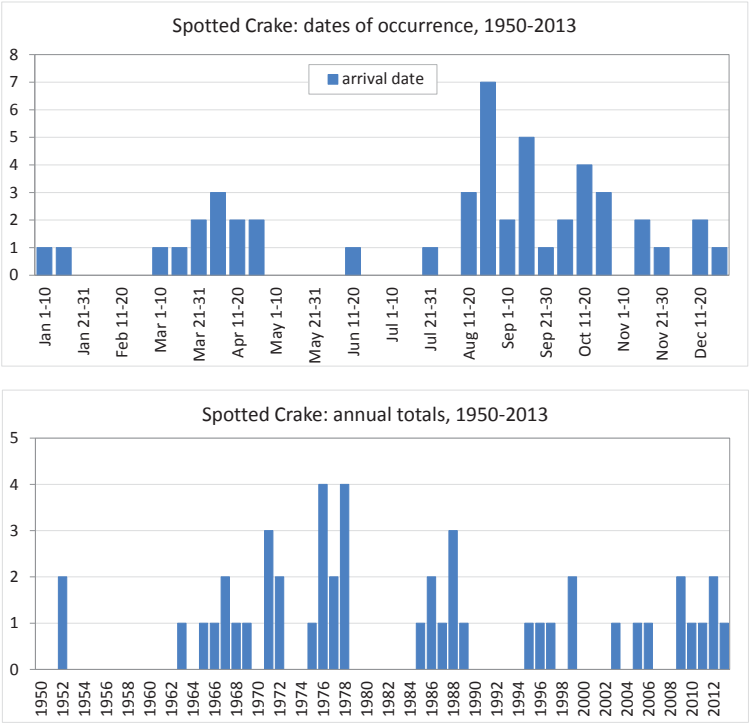
Water Rail reports continued the increase shown in 2012 following two hard winters. Birds were reported from 32 sites, and the ten sites listed reported 80% of the total peak counts. January's 40 birds from fourteen sites was approaching double the previous year's 24 birds from the same number of sites. The lift in wintering numbers was not reflected in an increase in breeding records. Only one report of confirmed breeding was received: a brood of small chicks and one larger single chick at Alkborough Flats on Jul 20th. A third pair probably also bred there and seven further east along the Humber, and single pairs probably bred at four widely separated sites elsewhere in the county. The total of 14 pairs was the same as in 2012 but is likely to under-state the true population.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

A juvenile was present all afternoon and photographed on the Mere at Gib Point on Oct 13th (Pinner RSPB *et al*) but it was not seen subsequently.

Spotted Crane was a breeding species in the county in the nineteenth century but became scarcer in the first half of the twentieth. Since then, there have been 48 records, as shown below. Increasing numbers of observers have not produced more records of Spotted Crane with an obvious peak in the early to mid 1970s. The spread of birds through late autumn and winter is surprising.



Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Humber & Wash</i>												
Barton Pits	36	5	9	5	6	6	19	11	10	6	9	8
Humberston Fitties	14	-	6	6	6	5	8	12	16	14	18	27
Gibraltar Point	50	20	16	11	13	9	16	12	14	14	14	14
Frampton Marsh	33	12	56	42	8	10	14	42	12	32	32	4
<i>Inland</i>												
Boultham Mere	6	11	26	10	4	2	8	10	13	40	36	22
Boultham Park Lake	14	22	8	7	5	3	4	4	6	11	8	11
Whisby NR	17	17	14	23	7	5	12	23	15	13	15	17
Fiskerton-Bardney*	19	31	26	8	4	7	9	16	13	-	13	19
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	9	5	2	8	4	5	5	12	16	16	14	8
Tattershall Lakes CP	20	27	24	20	18	17	22	25	30	24	30	43
Spalding-Deeping*	39	34	20	19	1	3	7	14	13	23	20	47

The table includes regularly-counted sites with totals of 20 or more. Other sites to hold at least 20 in one month or more were Donington on Bain, Freiston Shore, the R Witham upstream of Fiskerton, and Tetney Marsh. Widely dispersed and often found in small numbers, concentrations can be found in favoured spots, though their somewhat shy nature can make full counts difficult.

The highest totals this year were 56 at Frampton Marsh on Mar 14th with 42 there in Apr and Aug, 43 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Dec 17th and 40 at Boultham Mere on Oct 23rd.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits, Chowder-												
Barrow	1285	120	70	66	68	60	320	460	400	120	137	184
Barrow-New Holland	114	104	66	48	37	61	67	69	82	111	43	109
Covenham Reservoir	210	124	40	32	7	6	-	91	168	400	325	280
Toft Newton Reservoir	67	59	35	8	3	-	-	14	57	100	125	79
Boultham Mere	64	85	12	14	12	34	39	62	30	60	80	36
Swanholme Lakes	300	12	-	-	-	21	11	12	30	12	60	54
North Hykeham Pits	324	168	91	38	14	16	114	268	427	479	520	362
Whisby NR	233	142	139	92	61	102	136	222	168	303	360	412
Norton/Thurlby pits	660	250	81	139	28	56	-	91	195	129	560	300
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	93	116	39	34	23	58	83	104	75	210	78	117
Tattershall Lakes CP	270	150	91	52	47	63	90	159	271	392	343	360
Frampton Marsh	24	53	95	109	51	150	50	30	11	10	12	10
Spalding-Deeping*	33	41	19	35	25	18	28	36	32	11	10	10
Deeping Lakes NR	164	106	50	12	7	90	24	-	34	84	110	106
Denton Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141	152	200	177

The table includes most sites that held at least 50 birds. Other localities occasionally achieving this level were Messingham SQ with 66 in Jan and 80 in Nov, Ealand with 54 in Feb, Kettleby with 58 in Nov and Killingholme Marshes with 51 in Dec. Many counts (12% this year) of this highly under-rated species simply state 'present' rather than giving counts, and more co-ordinated counts might reveal higher totals. For Barton Pits, the count of 1285 on Jan 11th was of the area from Chowder Ness to Barrow Haven but those for other months apply, at least in some cases, to only parts of the area. The current threshold for national importance is 1800. Nowhere in Lincs clearly achieves this but some complexes including Barton and south of Lincoln may get close to it. Breeding was widely reported, including 13 pairs at Freiston Shore and 35 pairs at Frampton Marsh.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

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

Three birds flew east over Hartsholme CP, Lincoln on Mar 21st (BGu) and three were over Normanby on Apr 6th (WG, CG, ND). On Apr 20th a party of seven birds flew north at Gib Point (DN, NN) and were then seen passing over Grainthorpe Marsh (TWh). One on Croftmarsh, Gib Point on Apr 24th (JCK, Nott Trent Univ) flew west later, with one south at Gib Point on May 1st (KMW, JPS, MK) and two arrived from high to the southeast at Gib Point on Jun 2nd and moved off north (JPS, RKW *et al*). Other unsubstantiated reports were of one Marston STW on Jul 11th (BGu) and one Colsterworth on Aug 16th (BGu). The second party of the year, eight birds, flew south at Gib Point on Oct 5th (RHay, KMW, IW *et al*) and one flying west south of Gib Point on Dec 1st (NAL, RKW).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common coastal passage migrant/winter visitor and fairly common resident. Less common inland, but now breeds in small numbers.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1875	1459	1625	276	305	480	1060	1058	3463	1688	793	2990
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Pt	400	6	480	150	200	89	266	800	1220	1050	1100	1800
Horseshoe Pt-Donna Nook	1294	1419	815	6	6	350	557	363	1687	247	264	131
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	181	40	169	24	54	33	235	425	360	108	41	48

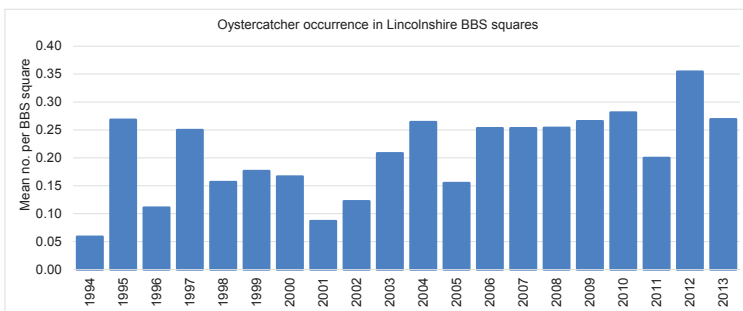
The Wash

WeBS totals	14991	14264	5571	6786	4047	2703	5445	8152	11834	7127	8092	7096
Gibraltar Point	2213	700	600	970	324	468	403	2100	1500	2600	2000	335
Wainfleet*	2540	305	373	637	170	39	-	1178	835	659	130	497
Friskney*	450	430	300	8	102	214	1985	-	1701	-	80	1230
Wrangle*	100	350	-	730	-	103	746	-	200	23	429	-
Leverton*	807	1030	280	430	129	214	87	1	-	83	1000	484
Freiston Shore	1100	950	1000	730	584	711	1110	4000	3200	1200	4500	500
Witham Mouth*	-	1710	170	264	25	12	35	20	100	250	600	-
Frampton Marsh	271	860	919	1221	163	40	23	763	1320	300	803	-
Welland*	1310	701	34	-	312	86	227	80	-	1950	420	1550
Holbeach*	-	2000	1000	300	6	230	4	40	135	12	750	1000
Dawsmere*	5000	3000	300	1000	1687	526	450	283	725	50	3200	2000
Gedney*	1200	2172	604	533	256	40	32	2	-	-	-	-
Terrington*	-	-	280	306	315	-	455	46	2413	-	-	-

Inland

Messingham SQ	-	3	-	2	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	2	4	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	-	4	6	4	5	7	7	2	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	-	-	2	1	4	3	2	-	-	-	-
Norton Gravel Pits	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	3	12	6	6	7	7	1	-	-	-	-
Anwick Fen	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	-	-	-	-	-
Haverholme Park	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes	-	1	3	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

The table includes estuarine and coastal areas supporting at least 500 birds, and inland sites attracting at least four. The Wash is, of course, of major importance for Oystercatcher. Any area regularly holding 3200 is regarded as nationally important, and an area holding 8200 is internationally important. Numbers in most sectors around The Wash are impressive, especially this year those at Gib Point, Freiston Shore and Dawsmere. There are also large numbers in the outer Humber but fewer in the inner part: maxima at Barton Pits and Alkborough Flats, for example, were 37 and six respectively. The recoveries below indicate that Oystercatchers can be long-lived; the British record is over 40 years. While many non-breeding birds remain during the summer, breeding numbers are far smaller. Estimates for The Wash RSPB reserves were 19 pairs at Freiston Shore and ten pairs at Frampton Marsh. Scattered pairs now breed inland – note that the inland records in the table are wholly over the breeding season – but this behaviour has not yet taken off to the extent it has elsewhere in eastern England but the BBS (see chart) shows some indication of increase.



FA04368	Adult Unknown (ring only)	09-09-1986 01-01-2013	Friskney: 53°3'N 0°14'E Famjin, Suduroy: 61°31'N 6°52'W Faeroes 26y 3m 23d	1,032km NNW
FA40548	Adult Freshly dead	21-08-1993 28-05-2013	Friskney New Marsh: c. 53°4'N 0°13'E Glover's Farm, Sedgeford: 52°53'N 0°32'E (Norfolk) 19y 9m 7d	30km SE

FA55847	Adult	15-08-1995	Wrangle Tofts: c. 53°2'N 0°10'E
	Freshly dead (bird of prey)	10-05-2013	Reime, Ha: 58°32'N 5°35'E (Rogaland) Norway 699km NNE 17y 8m 25d
FP61980	Adult	21-08-2005	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°8'E
	Long dead	07-07-2013	Wick of Skaw, Unst: 60°49'N 0°47'W (Shetland) 885km N 7y 10m 16d



Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Gib Point May 6th 2013 © Paul Neale

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Vagrant. LBRC

Two records came from Frampton Marsh: an adult male on May 7th (photo) (RBr *et al*) and two adults on Jun 3rd (NS *et al*). See BB 107: p596. There are 12 previous records involving 16 birds and at least three possible historical records that are not fully documented and thus not acceptable.



Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Frampton Marsh Jun 3rd 2013 © Paul Sullivan

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**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	1	-	156	105	36	101	344	457	780	400	320	1
Read's Island	1	172	nc	nc	nc	160	1624	nc	700	nc	18	8
Barton Pits	-	-	20	32	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killingholme Haven Pits	-	-	49	-	2	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	-	-	29	55	55	59	79	39	38	28	-	1
Freiston Shore	-	-	20	22	23	15	14	22	3	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	48	120	70	120	50	22	6	15	15	1
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	-	-	8	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	-	6	17	13	7	5	5	-	1	1	-

There were only two Jan records, of one at Alkborough Flats on Jan 1st-12th and one at Read's Island on Jan 21st. Numbers at Read's Island were higher sooner than other sites, with 172 on Feb 17th. Unfortunately regular counts at Read's Island were not made this year but the counts from other sites suggest Humber numbers were well down in spring from 2012 while Wash numbers were the same or higher. It was a poorer breeding season too, 217 pairs were reported from 13 sites down from 392 pairs at 14 sites in 2012. As usual Read's Island was the most important site but there were only 80 pairs, down from 220 pairs in 2012. The good news was that they fledged 100 young compared to nil in 2012. Elsewhere on the Humber there were seven pairs at Alkborough Flats (though none laid eggs), ten pairs bred at Barton Pits, nine attempted but failed at Bonby Carrs and two pairs were predated at Killingholme Haven Pits. On The Wash, 32 pairs raised 43 young at Gib Point, 19 pairs raised two young at Freiston Shore and 59 pairs raised 20 young at Frampton Marsh. Inland sites reporting breeding were Blackmoor Bridge (one pair fledged no young), Burgh Marsh (three pairs fledged two young), Kirkby Pits (one pair raised three young) and Messingham SQ (four pairs). Despite the relatively poor breeding numbers, Read's Island had its highest ever post breeding count with 1624 birds there on Jul 28th beating the previous record there of 1458 in Sep 2011; this is due to post-fledging accumulation of birds from colonies throughout north-east England and as far south as Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, a conclusion supported by regular colour ring sightings. Alkborough Flats held good numbers into Nov with 320 on Nov 1st, but only 14 on Nov 13th and the last bird there was a single on Dec 3rd. One lingered at Frampton Marsh until Dec 10th and there were eight at Read's Island on Dec 13th. The colour ring sightings below suggest that one colony in the southern fens has been supplying a lot of the Avocets visiting Lincs.

EL81884	Nestling	06-06-2009	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-07-2009	Cley: 52°58'N 1°3'E (Norfolk) 80km NE 0y 1m 1d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-02-2010	St Brevins Le Pins, Isle de Re: 46°14'N 1°30'W (Charente-Maritime) France 702km SSW 0y 8m 12d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09-05-2013	Frampton Marsh: 52°56'N 0°1'E 56km NNW 3y 11m 3d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-10-2013	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W 151km NNW 4y 3m 25d									
ER43950	Nestling	05-08-1991	Holme Dunes, Holme-next-the-Sea: 52°58'N 0°32'E (Norfolk)									
	Multiple sightings	1991-2000	in Norfolk and also in other counties from Suffolk to Cornwall									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-05-2002	Freiston Shore RSPB: c. 52°57'N 0°5'E 31km W 10y 8m 26d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-04-2003	Titchwell: c. 52°58'N 0°36'E (Norfolk) 5km 11y 8m 1d									
	Alive (colour marks seen)	12-05-2003	Freiston Shore, Boston: 52°58'N 0°5'E 32km W 11y 9m 7d									

	Alive (colour marks seen)	08-11-2003	Needs Ore Point, Beaulieu Estuary: 50°46'N 1°24'W (Hampshire) SSW	279km	12y 3m 3d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-03-2004	Titchwell: c. 52°58'N 0°36'E (Norfolk)	5km	12y 7m 19d
		*Four more sightings in Norfolk 2004-2007, all during Apr-Jul *			
EL81904	Nestling	11-06-2010	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-07-2010	Frampton Marsh: 52°56'N 0°1'E	56km NNW	0y 1m 4d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09-06-2011	Lasne, Brittany: 47°34'N 2°43'W (Morbihan) France	582km SSW	0y 11m 29d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-05-2012	Frampton Marsh: 52°56'N 0°1'E	56km NNW	1y 10m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-05-2013	Frampton Marsh: 52°56'N 0°1'E	56km NNW	2y 11m 1d
EL81914	Nestling	22-06-2010	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05-08-2010	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W	151km NNW	0y 1m 14d
EL81912	Nestling	13-06-2010	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-07-2012	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W	151km NNW	2y 1m 5d
EY66004	Nestling	23-06-2013	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-08-2013	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W	151km NNW	0y 2m 5d
EL81953	First year	25-07-2011	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02-09-2013	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W	151km NNW	2y 1m 8d

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	1	2	2	2	5	4	2	-
Bonby Carrs	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
Barton Pits	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-
Gibraltar Point	-	3	2	3	2	5	2	1
Freiston Shore	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	6	5	8	14	15	4	-
Whisby/North Hykeham	-	1	6	6	1	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	3	2	4	1	4	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	3	4	2	4	5	1	-
Marston STW	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	3	16	15	9	11	10	5	1
Minimum Lincs total	3	38	35	31	33	43	10	1

The first bird in was one at Freiston Shore on Mar 24th, and Alkborough Flats and Frampton Marsh had singles on Mar 31st. The Apr arrival of at least 38 birds was similar to the 2012 total of 36 birds, but records came from 16 sites contrasted with nine in 2012. Overall, birds were reported from 26 sites, up from 19 in 2012. Breeding numbers were slightly up with 19 pairs reported across 14 sites with confirmed breeding reported at seven (numbers of confirmed pairs in brackets): Alkborough Flats (1), Blackmoor Bridge (1), Bonby Carrs (1), Frampton Marsh (4), Kirkby Gravel Pits (1) and North Hykeham (3). In all, at least 15 young were recorded as having fledged. The peak late summer counts were made at Frampton, with 14 on Jul 23rd and 15 on Aug 15th. The county total in Aug of at least 43 birds at ten sites was well up from 35 birds at five sites in 2012. Few were noted after mid Sep and, after one at Frampton Marsh on Sep 22nd, records came only from Gib Point where the last single was on Oct 5th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	17	55	169	26	670	23	29	1001	337	54	23	64
Alkborough Flats	0	0	1	1	15	0	1	9	42	0	0	0
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	5	35	83	18	569	13	18	322	350	86	42	44
Donna Nook-Somercotes	0	0	4	15	260	42	3	175	16	2	0	2
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	12	20	86	26	101	120	20	208	221	40	11	30
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	21	3	29	108	613	27	37	795	463	138	59	250
Gibraltar Point	6	35	87	171	905	150	60	1015	720	115	1	0
Freiston Shore	0	3	20	6	130	0	3	60	45	95	120	1
Frampton Marsh	0	2	7	55	150	25	10	800	400	40	18	16

Counts exceeding 50 in addition to those in the table were 340 in the Dawsmere sector of The Wash in May, and 166 at Goxhill Haven, 295 at Pyewipe and 150 at Guy's Head in Aug. There were some outstandingly high counts during both spring and autumn passage. At Gib Point there were counts of 500 or more on May 7th and each day in May 19th-23rd, peaking at 905 on the 21st. There were also 569 between Tetney Haven and Horseshoe Point on May 15th. There were single nests as North Hykeham, near Whisby NR and at Blackmoor Bridge, though only at the last were young seen. In coastal areas, two pairs bred at Frampton Marsh and at least seven pairs at Gib Point. In autumn at Gib Point, counts of 500 plus were made on eleven dates during Aug 20th-Sep 10th, peaking at 1015 on Aug 30th. There was also an estimate of 800 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 25th. The significance of these counts is emphasised by noting that the threshold for national importance is 340 and that for international importance is 730. A count of 166 at Goxhill Haven on Aug 24th was exceptional for the inner Humber in recent years. There were reports of small numbers at ten inland sites, the highest counts being eight at Blackmoor Bridge in Aug and six at Toft Newton Res in Sep. Numbers at the end of the year were lower but there were counts of 59 in Nov and 250 in Dec in the Witham sector of The Wash.

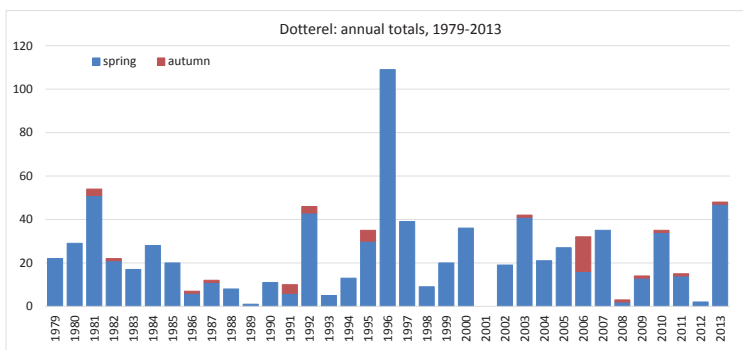
Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant, mainly spring.



Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Grainthorpe May 9th 2013 © Roy Harvey

Three (two males, one female) were near Luddington on the early date of Apr 20th in a field outside the pre-1974 county but within the current North Lincolnshire. Two were near Tetney Haven on Apr 30th, seven at Owmbly on May 3rd and 11 at Wainfleet Marsh on May 4th. The next group to be found, on fields between Marshchapel and Grainthorpe Haven, initially included seven birds on May 8th but increased to 12 (seven females, five males) later that day and then to 14 on May 12th and 16 on May 13th, before declining to four or five on their last date, May 16th. There was a separate group of eight near Tetney Lock on May 9th-11th, and it is possible there was interchange between them as on one occasion the Grainthorpe flock was said to contain nine or ten females. There was also one at Frampton Marsh in autumn, on Sep 13th. The total for the year, including the Luddington three and treating the Tetney and Grainthorpe flocks as separate, was 48. This was the highest total since 1996. The dominance of spring records is typical: they have comprised 95.3% of individuals since 1979 when there were at least 109.



American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Vagrant. LBRC

A juvenile was seen at Donna Nook on Oct 4th (SL) and a moulting adult was near Susworth on Oct 5th (JTH, ND, WG)

These are the 20th and 21st county records; two birds were not aged but, of the other 19, only four have been juveniles with the rest either adults or first-summer birds.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	2236	3289	320	-	-	-	126	313	62	1829	1295	8524
Alkborough Flats	7000	3500	8000	110	2	-	5	19	20	8000	6000	13000
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10000	14000
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	2000	280	320	106	1	-	60	625	450	2100	4000	3500
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	300	200	380	35	50	-	85	1300	430	1800	360	400
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	8520	3964	1680	-	11	6	1973	4448	3723	10084	11448	8199
Gibraltar Point	6200	1900	4000	229	1	-	9	300	808	4000	4000	3500
Wainfleet	4000	1000	30	-	2	-	407	1540	33	2178	3000	4018
Wrangle*	1174	1665	-	-	-	-	436	35	-	100	3258	-
Leverton*	2278	176	110	-	-	-	-	1262	1038	-	40	250
Freiston Shore	3003	1200	3000	-	-	-	250	100	250	-	1500	200
Frampton Marsh	5000	6000	2500	170	1	1	21	1350	250	590	1800	1500
Welland*	500	-	800	-	-	-	-	6	170	4000	4000	1540
Holbeach*	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	800	1020	-
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1200	1600	-	80	-

Inland

Nocton Fen	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	700	100
Anwick Fen	-	75	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	7250	15500	-
Dorrington Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1500	3750	-

The table includes all localities attracting 1000 or more, except for Susworth where there was one count of 1300 on Oct 5th. The WeBS counts of this species are far smaller than the true totals, even for the estuaries alone, as illustrated in the table especially for the upper Humber. The Dec maxima of 13000 at Alkborough Flats and 14000 at Read's Island were only three days apart, on 10th and 13th respectively, and are believed to be separate flocks, implying a population on the Lincs side of the Humber that month of at least 30000. The highest site counts on The Wash were 6000 at Gib Point on Jan 3rd, 6000 on the adjoining Croftmarsh on Feb 15th and 6000 at Frampton Marsh on Feb 16th. However the largest count of all was an estimate of 15500 at Anwick Fen on Nov 16th, with 3750 at nearby Dorrington Fen on the same day; these are clearly very high counts especially for an inland site but they have been confirmed by the observer. Any site regularly holding more than 4000 is considered nationally important, while a site holding more than 9300 is internationally important. Most counts during May-Jun were in single figures, and there were only three records in total in Jun, all on The Wash.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Rare inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	333	163	583	13	1	9	6	413	834	1337	235	461
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	278	-	503	8	-	-	1	182	785	1204	600	301
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	36	119	280	8	104	-	14	183	47	122	74	30
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	48	68	43	5	1	9	-	48	16	11	42	130
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	2347	2281	2996	4981	1946	528	1114	3801	3185	3406	1609	1928
Gibraltar Point	900	250	4470	3410	890	350	60	2200	2530	3200	1980	55
Wainfleet*	870	860	442	373	240	-	3	424	275	347	103	243
Wrangle*	369	341	-	1510	-	112	132	437	289	600	280	-
Leverton*	343	124	351	704	182	403	43	70	177	620	-	379
Freiston Shore	2	14	38	3	2	120	1	40	250	300	5	2
Witham*	65	-	75	25	-	-	30	15	55	200	105	65
Frampton Marsh	12	170	1	363	134	11	154	448	271	166	238	-
Welland*	6	700	500	470	383	11	370	190	390	80	123	270
Holbeach*	-	-	30	6	20	-	-	-	55	50	120	75
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	145	203	-	350	22	26	100	325	-
Gedney*	50	81	1251	910	321	-	2	490	-	-	295	827
Terrington*	-	-	-	315	23	-	12	22	17	19	-	-

The table includes all sites with counts of 100 or more, apart from 120 at Pyewipe in Jan, 300 in the Benington sector of The Wash in Mar, and 480 in the Friskney sector in Sep. The threshold for national importance is 430 while that for international importance is 2500. It can be seen that the two estuaries are of major significance for this species. The highest counts came from Gib Point, where there were 21 dates on which the recorded total exceeded 1000. These counts fell during early Mar-late Apr and late Aug-early Nov, with peaks of 4470 on Mar 29th and 3200 on Oct 9th. Further evidence of passage through Gib Point in spring was 445 flying north-east on Mar 26th. There were no counts over 30 during Jun 25th-Jul 26th. The only inland birds this year were two at Covenham Res on Apr 11th, but there were a few singles in the inner Humber plus four at Chowder Ness on Jan 23rd, two west at Barton on Oct 17th and five at Alkborough Flats on Oct 20th. The age of ringed bird below is not certain but is likely to be not far short of 20 years if not more (the record for Grey Plover is 25 years) and possibly wintering in the same area all that time.

DK32935	Adult	09-09-1994	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E
	Long dead	04-12-2013	Gedney Drove End: 52°51'N 0°11'E 6km ESE 19y 2m 25d

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	4500	2600	1400	12	4	70	220	360	400	2920	3000	7000
Cleethorpe-Grainthorpe	450	3	200	4	-	1	42	104	16	218	600	1700
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	860	650	190	8	-	-	-	15	60	255	530	850
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	4150	1000	3000	62	11	53	117	450	59	400	700	2500
Leverton*	3542	214	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	100	11
Freiston Shore	1800	700	700	30	18	125	10	19	20	50	1500	30
Frampton Marsh	4600	1900	500	50	40	50	60	230	60	205	1500	2000
<i>Inland</i>												
Bonby Carrs	111	1200	140	137	-	15	136	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	200	-	250	7	6	6	80	125	115	25	35	292
Metheringham Delph	360	550	31	7	4	2	70	90	-	440	50	1
Nocton Fen	3000	11	400	-	19	74	1	-	-	500	600	1000
Kirkby on Bain GP	22	-	200	75	1	66	200	700	650	150	75	250
Fiskerton Fen Scrapes	-	66	-	60	14	20	300	66	36	-	100	100
Anwick Fen	55	375	3	136	4	1	53	-	-	2250	500	-
Deeping Lakes NR	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	100	34	1000	-	-

There was also a very high estimate of 15000 on The Wash and Frampton Marsh reserve on Jan 10th, two-thirds of these being out on the saltings and mudflats, put up by a peregrine. The largest concentrations in the table were 4600 at Frampton Marsh on Jan 8th and 7000 at Alkborough Flats on Dec 14th, while inland there were 3000 at Nocton Fen on Jan 3rd and 2250 at Anwick Fen on Oct 26th. In addition to those in the table, there were 2600 at New Holland on Dec 26th and several widely spread counts of 500-600. One day of strong movement occurred at Gib Point on Mar 2nd, involving 1415 east and 550 south-east. Breeding was fairly widely reported, mostly in small numbers and with few fledged young being noted. The Wash RSPB reserves estimated 14 pairs breeding at Freiston Shore and 34 pairs at Frampton Marsh.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	25777	5261	10783	296	-	62	244	10312	4356	24425	4277	4370
Cleethorpes	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	10300	4170	600	1890	2320
Humberston-Grainthorpe	25000	3370	9280	300	25	-	130	2000	6000	23700	6000	4000
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	620	960	2800	-	50	-	32	15	1000	700	2287	650
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	157	916	48	296	-	62	120	12	13	18	100	200
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	33608	22857	17235	24778	930	346	41599	110150	147025	95277	55967	33541
Gibraltar Point	10000	1500	4400	13900	2400	1000	15030	85000	70000	60000	6000	4
Wainfleet*	8680	1600	4420	5860	-	-	229	24500	1300	32025	22000	5037
Friskney*	3500	5500	2000	5000	112	30	9400	-	57000	6200	3800	4000
Wrangle*	250	200	-	1310	-	316	18000	110	25000	1350	4160	-
Leverton*	1098	800	2575	3250	-	-	600	240	12000	3500	8000	5200
Freiston Shore	100	20	2	800	-	-	173	230	500	12000	8000	400
Frampton Marsh	-	2500	-	6	2	2	1000	40	500	4500	1	2
Welland*	9000	5200	1600	3000	-	-	80	40	2100	3000	5000	5300
Holbeach*	900	5000	300	150	-	-	-	-	500	1350	3500	-
Dawsmere*	5000	2000	4000	2500	800	-	-	-	-	500	7000	8000
Gedney*	-	-	750	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	6000

The table includes all areas holding 500 or more. The Wash and the outer Humber are of major importance for Knot, something easy to take for granted – but consider that the Lincs autumn total is roughly one third of the entire Greenland/Canada population: not just 1% but 33%! The highest

individual site counts this year were a series of counts of 50000 or more from late Aug to early Oct at Gib Point, peaking at 85000 on Aug 25th. Elsewhere on The Wash, the highest count was 51000 in the Friskney sector on Sep 21st, and on the Humber there were 23000 between Tetney Marsh and Horseshoe Point on Oct 22nd. Small numbers occurred up the Humber, including 85 at Barton Pits on Jan 25th and 11 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 21st, and further inland up the Trent there was one at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Feb 7th. Frequent southerly movements were noted at Gib Point especially during late Jul-early Aug, peaking at 810 on Jul 27th.

SX58629	Adult	29-11-1997	Canvey Point: 51°31'N 0°37'E (Essex)
	Caught by ringer	26-07-2013	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E 168km N 15y 7m 27d
SX78302	Adult	05-01-2000	near Lonemore, Dornoch: 57°52'N 4°4'W (Highland Region)
	Caught by ringer	12-01-2008	Munlochy Bay: 57°32'N 4°13'W (Highland Region) 39km SSW 8y 0m 7d
	Caught by ringer	26-07-2013	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E 603km SSE 13y 6m 21d
POL G20845	Adult	31-08-2012	Quinta de Marim: 37°2'N 7°50'W (Algarve) Portugal
	Caught by ringer	26-07-2013	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E 1,880km NNE 0y 10m 25d

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	298	49	141	180	212	1	119	287	345	177	466	307
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Pt	2	-	35	162	120	-	23	248	315	108	130	84
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	50	100	29	15	60	76	220	270	25	84	230	72
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	228	21	77	18	150	6	70	70	30	55	60	151
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	140	224	42	85	956	50	635	1236	2349	614	124	49
Gibraltar Point	600	150	420	570	2580	300	4600	3540	5740	3460	1000	105

The distribution of records was largely confined to the sandier beaches of the open coast from Cleethorpes down to Leverton in the north of The Wash. The excellent counts at Gib Point at high levels in all months of the year and summarized in the table ensured that The Wash continued to surpass the international importance threshold for the species. The highest first winter period counts outside The Wash were 187 at Theddlethorpe on Jan 12th and 100 at Donna Nook on Feb 16th. Spring passage at Gib Point was particularly pronounced in late May when there were 1300-1500 present with a peak of 2580 on May 18th. This movement was lighter than usual at most other sites along the coast with the most significant counts involving 162 between Tetney and Horseshoe Point on Apr 30th and 150 there on May 15th, and 150 between Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe on May 27th. Spring passage on the north-east coast was practically over after Jun 15th, but southerly autumn movements of up to 80 birds were noted at each of five sites between Humberston Fitties and Theddlethorpe Dunes during Jul 12th-14th. At Gib Point, 2800 were present by Jul 22nd and 4600 on Jul 24th-25th, followed by several four figure counts to early Oct, with a peak of 5740 on Sep 10th. Away from The Wash, the highest autumn counts were 248 at Cleethorpes on Aug 25th and 315 there on Sep 22nd, 220 at Donna Nook on Jul 28th and 270 there on Aug 6th, 230 near Pye's Hall on Nov 10th and 127 between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe North End on Dec 14th. In The Wash away from Gib Point, there were isolated high counts in the Friskney WeBS sector of 816 on Sep 21st and in the Wainfleet sector of 223 on Oct 20th. Records of birds well into the Humber were singles at Barton Pits on May 27th, Sep 13th and Oct 20th, with two west there on Nov 14th, four at Goxhill Haven on July 21st and 10 at Killingholme Haven Pits on Oct 24th. Single birds were seen at Frampton Marsh on five dates between May 10th and Jul 23rd with six on May 15th and 18 on Jun 6th. At Freiston Shore, there were single birds on May 10th, Jul 10th, Sep 25th and Oct 17th and two on Aug 11th. Inland records concerned one at Covenham Res from Jan 1st-24th (being first seen on 19th Nov 2012), one there on May 8th and another on Nov 19th and 25th and Dec 4th. One was at Toft Newton Res on Jan 24th and in May on the 6th and 15th-16th. Five were at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jun 5th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

No wintering birds were recorded in the early part of the year and spring birds were confined to single birds at Frampton Marsh from May 25th-27th, on May 30th-31st and Jun 6th, with two more at Gib Point on May 27th. The first autumn bird was at Frampton Marsh on Jul 23rd followed by singles at Gib Point on Jul 28th-30th and Frampton Marsh on the 31st. One was at Alkborough Flats on Aug 3rd, then 1-2 birds were seen almost daily at Frampton Marsh from Aug 8th through to late Oct. Four-six were seen there on several days from late Aug through to Oct 20th with peaks of 10 on Sep 13th-16th and 12 on Sep 17th. Mainly 1-2 birds were regular at Gib Point from Aug 22nd through to late Oct, but 4-6 were noted on Aug 25th-26th and Sep 10th and 15 were present on Sep 4th. A similar pattern emerged at Freiston Shore from Aug 24th-Sep 20th with peaks of six on Aug 29th and 25 on Sep 6th. Autumn passage was much lighter away from The Wash with mostly 1-2 birds seen infrequently at a few sites. On the north-east coast there were 1-2 at Donna Nook on seven dates between Aug 23rd and Oct 1st, one at Saltfleetby on Sep 8th and 2-3 near Theddlethorpe on Sep 20th-21st. Single birds in the Humber were at Goxhill Haven on Aug 24th, at Barton Pits on Aug 26th-27th and Oct 11th, at North Killingholme Haven on Oct 11th and 24th, and at Alkborough Flats on Aug 3rd, Sep 1st-2nd, 23rd and 27th, Oct 6th and 23rd-25th. Inland birds were one at Burgh Marsh on Aug 23rd, one at Covenham Res on Sep 8th-9th, two there on Oct 2nd and one on the 4th and Oct 14th-15th, and one at Toft Newton Res on Sep 11th. The last bird at Gib Point was on Nov 4th and evidence of wintering birds was shown by two at Frampton Marsh on Nov 9th with one remaining until Dec 4th and another at Alkborough Flats from Nov 12th through to at least Dec 14th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

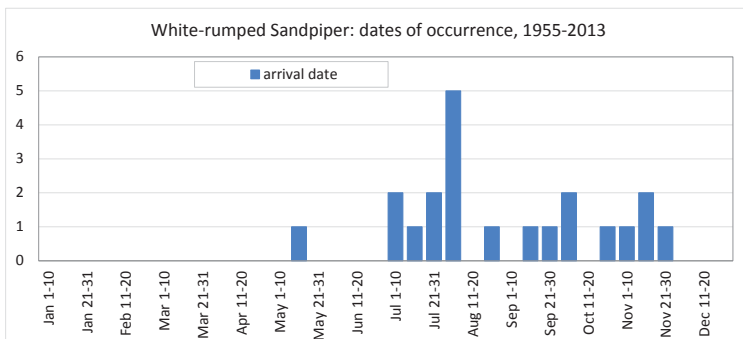
Rare passage migrant. LBRC

At Frampton Marsh, a series of records in May saw the first on the 9th-14th, two on the 15th-16th, four on the 17th and a maximum of six on the 19th, then two on the 20th-21st and one on the 24th-25th (SK, JB, IE *et al*). One at Manby Flashes on May 12th-17th (GW *et al*) was followed by one at Saltfleet Haven on May 14th (SJM, GW, AJH *et al*), one at Gib Point on May 20th-21st (DGo, GWr) and then one at Frampton Marsh on Jun 7th (IE). Later in the year, a juvenile was at Donna Nook on Aug 16th (SL) and one at Frampton Marsh on Sep 21st-22nd (IE, CG).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

A juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper was reported in flight at Donna Nook on Oct 7th (BMC) with presumably the same bird on the Mere at Gib Point on the 14th (NAL, KMW *et al*). Just over two weeks later, a juvenile was seen at Frampton Marsh on Nov 1st (TC), then at the Mere at Gib Point on Nov 2nd (GWr, PNe) and back at Frampton Marsh on Nov 4th and 9th (BGU); this sequence is all believed to be same bird as seen in October, presumably spending the intervening periods in The Wash. An alternative theory is that a second arrival of birds occurred in early Nov, as a juvenile was seen at Alkborough Flats on Nov 9th (ND) and an adult at Frampton Marsh from Nov 12th-22nd (TC *et al*). Assuming just three individuals involved (one adult and two juveniles), then these are the 19th-21st county records.





White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Gib Point Oct 14th 2013 © Paul Neale

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

An adult was at Frampton Marsh from July 24th-26th (JSa, TW *et al*) Accepted by BBRC (BB 107: p598).

This was only the fifth county record with previous records listed below. One of the five was not aged but, of the others, three out of four were adults and just one a juvenile, an odd age ratio for a vagrant wader

1963 Adult at Wisbech sewage farm, Jul 22nd-Aug 6th

1966 One at Bardney sugar beet factory pools, Sep 1st-8th

1979 Juvenile at North Killingholme Pits, Sep 19th-20th

2005 Adult at Kirkby-on-Bain GP, Sep 19th-22nd

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn migrant, vagrant in spring. **LBRC**

Adult or first summer birds were at Frampton Marsh on Jun 3rd-7th (FP *et al*) and Jul 4th (TCo *et al*), an adult at Alkborough Flats on Jul 19th-22nd (ND, GPC *et al*), an adult or first summer at Frampton Marsh on Aug 1st-7th (CJJ, SJ *et al*), a juvenile at Alkborough Flats on Aug 29th-31st (ND, GPC *et al*), a juvenile at Freiston Shore on Sep 2nd-6th (PS *et al*), a juvenile at Frampton Marsh on Sep 22nd (MM, OM), and a juvenile at Frampton Marsh on Oct 5th-26th (JB *et al*). The total of eight birds was the same as in 2012.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	13	4	1	-
Gibraltar Point	-	1	2	2	26	42	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	1	-	1	66	48	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	3	1	20	20	23	4	-

The first bird of the spring was at Anwick Fen on Apr 20th followed by one at Frampton Marsh on Apr 28th-29th. One was at Gib Point on May 19th and another at Freiston Shore on May 21st, then there were single birds at Frampton Marsh on nine dates from May 28th through to Jun 19th, plus two there on May 24th-25th and three on May 30th. One at Gib Point on Jun 5th was joined by a second bird next day. One was seen between Horseshoe Point and Tetney Haven on Jun 26th.

Autumn passage also was concentrated in The Wash and began with one at Frampton Marsh on Jul 20th rising to eight by the 21st, 20 on the 24th and 19 on Jul 26th. There were up to eight there during Aug until 12 on 22nd and 20 on 24th. Up to 23 were present in early Sep, followed by fairly regular single figures until Oct 29th. Good numbers were noted at Freiston Shore in Aug with up to five until the appearance of 14 on the 24th, 23 on the 25th, 43 by the 29th and a reserve record count of 66 on Aug 31st. Dwindling numbers followed and 20 on Sep 6th was the last notable count. Numbers were less pronounced, but still good at Gib Point. Mostly single figures were involved, but there were peaks of 25 on Aug 24th, 26 on Aug 28th-30th and 42 on Sep 2nd. Smaller numbers elsewhere on the coast included 1-2 birds at Donna Nook on seven dates between Jul 28th and Oct 15th, plus 15 there on Aug 30th, 1-3 birds on the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe reserve on four dates from Aug 25th to Sep 21st and three at Huttoft Bank on Sep 14th. In the Humber there were nine at Alkborough Flats on Aug 28th rising to 13 by Aug 31st-Sep 1st, then 1-4 on seven dates between Sep 5th and Oct 23rd. One was at Barton Pits on Sep 25th, three were at Goxhill Haven on Aug 1st with nine there on Aug 29th. One at Read's Island on Oct 30th was the final record for the year. A colour-ringed juvenile seen at Alkborough Flats on Aug 29th-30th was one of a number marked at Makkevika, near Alesund, Norway between Aug 1st and 28th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

There were regular sightings of a single bird at Gib Point from Jan 1st through to Mar 7th. The only other record during this period was one at Pyewipe, near Grimsby on Mar 26th. Four were at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Sep 16th and two were at Trusthorpe on Sep 17th-19th. One at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Oct 10th was followed by one at the Witham Mouth on Oct 12th. One was at Freiston Shore on Nov 4th, one at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Nov 14th and one at Cleethorpes on Nov 17th and 21st. One at Covenham Reservoir on Nov 16th-17th was the only inland record.



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Covenham Res Nov 17th 2013 © Paul Neale

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	2580	803	3702	170	1159	22	362	4661	4243	3332	4776	6694
Alkborough Flats	1800	600	291	46	34	-	87	41	158	810	571	1670
Barton	2200	700	53	-	-	-	2	5	-	1	30	20

Pyewipe	3200	-	100	-	-	-	42	9	-	-	608	1218
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	1690	370	1815	100	1028	1	272	3200	3086	2600	2450	2500
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	148	550	1050	650	160	9	660	1051	747	530	980	780
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	739	220	442	124	105	80	110	401	388	136	424	1149
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	12551	8683	9752	11801	778	131	13587	8355	8413	9660	11122	6292
Gibraltar Point	1200	2000	4610	3650	850	100	3517	7040	11810	11370	4660	40
Wainfleet*	1493	1170	1353	2540	50	-	26	484	855	2240	1500	1740
Friskney	1200	1400	120	100	-	-	800	-	1676	300	1800	-
Wrangle*	1170	1350	-	4000	-	5	5990	170	1220	1665	1835	-
Leverton*	3350	497	806	680	13	121	383	337	827	287	1100	1540
Freiston Shore	740	700	1032	530	130	-	800	1720	1200	650	-	2
Witham*	3200	800	1200	100	-	-	-	1000	1200	750	1250	1000
Frampton Marsh	40	600	1500	1321	130	50	982	787	517	597	1280	3
Welland*	2	1200	80	240	-	-	160	-	200	200	350	870
Holbeach*	1000	1000	900	280	125	5	50	230	60	350	1300	675
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	301	-	800	15	550	370	500	-
Gedney*	300	460	2480	665	155	-	24	100	-	-	50	427

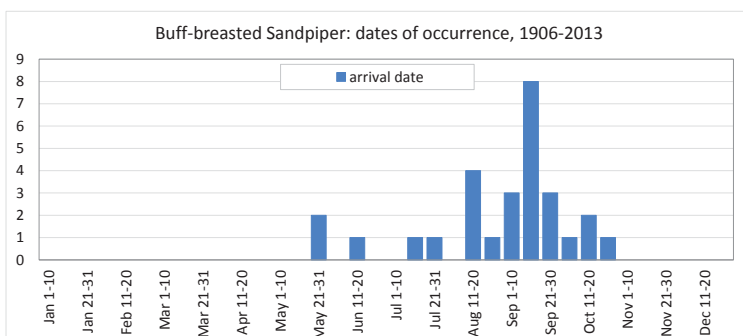
The Dunlin overwintering populations in Lincs are large, but not quite of the wider significance of some other waterfowl. A site has to hold 3500 birds regularly to be of national importance, and 13500 to be of international importance. The table includes most areas holding 300 or more birds. A few other large counts were made in parts of the Humber not counted well this year: 636 at Goxhill Haven in Sep, 1200-1400 at North Killingholme Haven in Oct-Nov and 2200 at Read's Island in Nov. Autumn movements included 187 south at Sandilands on Jul 28th, and a total of 2015 south at Gib Point during Jul 27th-Aug 4th, with a peak of on 390 on Jul 27th. Birds were seen at inland sites in most months of the year, but generally with no more than five at a time. There were 10 at Toft Newton Res on May 15th and six at Covenham Res on Nov 25th. The recoveries below include examples along the complex Dunlin migration routes, including some that are in Britain only on passage (wintering south to West Africa) and others that winter here. NT02647 is an old bird: the British record age for Dunlin is just over 19 years.

NT02647	First year Caught by ringer	02-08-1996 17-08-2012	Leverton Outgate: c. 53°0'N 0°8'E Parque Nacional Marismas Del Odiel, Huelva: 37°16'N 6°55'W (Huelva) Spain 1,832km SSW 16y 0m 15d
NOO EA02352	First year Caught by ringer	10-09-1975 04-01-1984	Molen, Larvik: 58°58'N 9°49'E (Vestfold) Norway Benington: 52°59'N 0°7'E 897km SW 8y 3m 25d
NT83400	Adult female Caught by ringer	24-07-2005 07-05-2013	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°8'E Reserve de Moeze-Oleron, Moeze: 45°53'N 1°5'W (Charente-Maritime) France 796km S 7y 9m 13d
BT39338	Adult female Caught by ringer	07-05-2013 26-07-2013	Cuinabunag, Benbecula: 57°26'N 7°24'W (Western Isles) Wrangle Tofts: 53°2'N 0°11'E 685km SE 0y 2m 19d
BT15569	First year Caught by ringer	18-08-2009 26-07-2013	River Deben, near Ramsholt Lodge: 52°2'N 1°20'E (Suffolk) Wrangle Tofts: 53°2'N 0°11'E 136km NNW 3y 11m 8d
BT15476	First year Caught by ringer	09-09-2011 26-07-2013	Iken Marsh, near Iken: 52°9'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) Wrangle Tofts: 53°2'N 0°11'E 136km NW 1y 10m 17d
POL D42201	Adult Caught by ringer	24-09-2010 26-07-2013	Salinas Do Samouco, Setubal: 38°43'N 9°2'W (Estremadura) Portugal Wrangle Tofts: 53°2'N 0°11'E 1,741km NNE 2y 10m 2d

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

A juvenile was at Frampton Marsh from Sep 29th to Oct 9th (BHS *et al*). This was the 28th county record, treating one that moved from Barton to Read's Island in 2007 as one record.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* juvenile with **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Frampton Marsh Oct 5th 2013 © Roy Harvey

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	38	9	2	9	-	1	11	66	68	69	46	50
Humberston-Donna Nook	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	5	8	5	1	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	23	21	11	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	3	1	2	2	38	4	5	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	1	-	1	5	-	-	40	26	-	3	2
Frampton Marsh	15	12	16	15	6	4	35	60	92	80	17	50

Ruff are currently highly concentrated at a few estuarine sites but this year there was a noteworthy passage through Manby Flashes, peaking at 23 on Aug 23rd and 21 on Sep 8th. At the main sites also, the peaks were in autumn, with 92 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 13th, 69 at Alkborough Flats on Oct 9th, 40 at Freiston Shore on Aug 31st and 38 including 36 flying south at Gib Point on Aug 24th. Elsewhere the highest count was 21 on the Kirton sector of The Wash on Sep 22nd, these presumably being part of the Frampton Marsh population. Peaks at sites not in the table were seven at Messingham SQ and nine at Burgh Marsh in Aug, eight at Barton pits in Sep, and six at Kirton in Lindsey in Oct. One-four were seen at a range of other sites, none very far inland and mostly in autumn. There were no reports suggestive of breeding.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	9	7	6	4	3	10	8	5
Minimum Lincs total	15	11	10	4	3	28	11	9

Records came from 18 locations in the first winter period and 17 in the second winter period, and the numbers found of this elusive species were a little higher than in 2012. Counts of three or more early in the year were five at Laughton Forest on Jan 6th, three at Humberston Fitties on Feb 27th, and four at Brigsley on Mar 19th. Two were seen at each of Whisby NR, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR and between Grainthorpe and Horseshoe Point, and single birds elsewhere including at Baston Fen, Willow Tree Fen and Marston STW – the only individuals in this part of the county in 2013. The last in spring was one at Donna Nook on Apr 15th. The first of autumn were singles at Gib Point on Sep 18th and 20th. There were at least four at Gib Point on Oct 11th, when also two at Whisby NR, and three at Gib Point on the 12th. Five were counted at Cleethorpes on Oct 13th and four at Donna Nook on the 17th. Further counts of three came from Gib Point on the 18th and Tetney Haven-Humberston Fitties on the 22nd, and numerous records of 1-2, mainly from coastal localities and especially Gib Point and Frampton Marsh, through to the end of the year.



Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus* Gib Point Oct 15th 2013 © Graham Catley

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Rare breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	9	24	80	-	-	4	25	-	9	30	34
Barton Pits	18	10	3	3	1	1	-	24	3	2	6	1
Gibraltar Point	47	9	21	32	1	1	9	17	20	17	11	4
Freiston Shore	3	14	1	6	-	-	-	14	4	4	-	-
Frampton Marsh	28	16	9	1	-	1	10	22	114	50	80	1
Laughton Forest	64	26	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Whisby NP	27	10	12	6	-	1	1	-	11	6	16	8
Baston Fen	-	1	3	7	-	-	-	-	6	14	1	7
Marston STW	25	-	2	10	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	11

The table includes most sites holding larger numbers, and with more consistent recording. The highest totals were 64 at Laughton Forest on Jan 6th, 80 on Alkborough Flats on Apr 10th, and



Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Alkborough Flats Sep 2nd 2013 © Graham Catley



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Alkborough Flats Jan 21st 2013 © Neil Drinkall



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
moulting into 1st summer plumage
Alkborough Flats Apr 17th 2013 © Graham Catley



Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Alkborough Flats Apr 17th 2013 © Graham Catley



Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* and a **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Alkborough Flats Apr 17th 2013 © Graham Catley

114 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 26th with 80 there on Nov 5th. Other places with 20 or more were Butterwick Common/Hale with 40 in Apr, Wrangle Brickpits with 20-21 in Feb Mar and Tetney Marsh with 23 in Sep. Other sites attracting 10 or more were Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, Brigsley, Grainthorpe Marsh, Bonby Carrs, Owston Ferry and Woodhall Spa during Jan-Apr, and Crossgate, Cleethorpes, Kirtton in Lindsey and Whisby Quarry in Sep-Dec. Probable breeding was only recorded once in the county when a bird was heard drumming at Baston Fen NR in late April.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Vagrant. BBRC

The over-wintering juvenile/first winter Long-billed Dowitcher stayed at Alkborough Flats from Oct 4th 2012 to Apr 27th when it departed with a flock of presumably Icelandic Redshank and Icelandic Black-tailed Godwits. Accepted by BBRC (BB 106: 597 (photo); BB 107: p602). This was the ninth Long-billed Dowitcher for the county and the second Nearctic wader to have remained in the county over the course of a winter, quickly following a Lesser Yellowlegs also at Alkborough Flats and Bagmoor floods in the previous winter.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Fairly common resident in restricted habitat, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point 2011	21	14	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	6
Gib Point 2012	4	44	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	53
Gib Point 2013	25	10	15	67	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	7

Without the very cold weather of the beginning of 2012, this year did not see the same winter influx although there was an unusually high number of 67 at Gib Point on Apr 7th. Excluding Gib Point, the maximum numbers reported were six at Arnold's Meadow NR on Apr 7th and eight at Wold Newton on Nov 13th. Records of birds flushed by the beating line on shooting estates would have given a more accurate picture of winter visitors. The recovery below shows a typical wintering area for a Lincs autumn migrant.

There was a national GWCT/BTO Woodcock survey this year with 19 sites sampled in Lincolnshire; we are grateful to the BTO for providing details of the results. There had also been 19 sites covered in 2003, but only 14 were recorded in both years (and thus 24 in total). The survey involved counting the number of contacts (passes by birds, seen or heard) at a fixed point, over 75 minutes (60 in 2003) around dusk. Detailed studies have established the relationship between the number of passes and the number of males present in an area (see BTO website for details). Overall, the picture is one of widespread decline and loss of breeding Woodcock. The average number of contacts, across all 14 sites surveyed in both years, fell from 8.0 in 2003 to 3.4 in 2013. Three of the sites were blank on both occasions, nine experienced declines (three of them complete loss), and only one showed an increase. The trend here mirrors the trend nationally.

Sites were well spread across the county but, naturally, concentrated in more wooded areas. Three have been surveyed in the Wolds between Welton le Marsh and Burgh on Bain, though none in both years, and no Woodcock has been found. Four woods in the Bardney-Wragby limewoods were covered in both years: one had none on both occasions but the others were productive especially in 2003 when two recorded the highest numbers of contacts of any Lincolnshire sites (up to 29 on one visit). However, the decline in this area had been severe, with 10.5 contacts on average in 2003 but only 3.4 in 2013. Three woods on sand between Coningsby and Market Rasen have been surveyed but only one on both occasions, and this suffered a decline from 13.8 to 3.6 contacts. Eight woods in the southwest as far north as Stableford have been covered, four of them in both years. These have suffered very marked change: one had no Woodcock in both years, and the other three recorded none at all in 2013 despite having an average of 7.2 contacts in 2003. The least affected region has been the northwest, where six woods have been surveyed (between Loughton and Broughton, plus Crowle), five in both years. These experienced only a small change from 6.9 contacts on average to 6.2, and in 2013 included the wood with the highest number of contacts (19 on one visit) and the only one showing an increase.

EX37434	Adult	28-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead (shot)	17-12-2013	Coolattin Estate: c. 52°45'N 6°32'W (Wicklow) 461km W 1y 1m 19d

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

L. l. islandica: common passage migrant and winter visitor. *L. l. limosa*: rare migrant and has bred, last in 1974. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	85	45	19	246	74	10	881	191	60	86	116	58
Killingholme-Pyewipe	220	1700	420	92	-	-	816	4200	1250	3900	3450	1000
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	-	20	1	15	17	8	65	160	150	83	85	52
Freiston	1100	459	300	20	-	-	382	1000	71	5	2000	30
Frampton	5	4	15	1300	50	150	2000	5000	5439	7400	1000	10
Welland*	80	-	1	-	-	-	17	7	270	-	120	21
Gedney	1	-	350	-	-	-	53	1150	200	-	150	650

One other count exceeding 100 was 300 in the Holbeach sector of The Wash in Jul. High counts early in the year included about 1100 at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth in Jan and 1700 at Pyewipe on Feb 2nd. Autumn numbers continue high, though were unexceptional with peaks of 7400 at Frampton Marsh on Oct 5th and 3900 at North Killingholme Haven Pits on Oct 11th. There were scattered single-figure records inland, and also two areas that attracted more. An unusual series of records at Blackmoor Bridge included 91 on Apr 26th with 38 the next day, and also 11 on Jun 26th and 12 on Jul 2nd. At Manby/Carlton Flashes, there were up to 20 in Jul and up to 45 in Aug, the peak on the 8th.

EL96076	First year	05-03-2011	Seaton Marshes: 50°42'N 3°4'W (Devon)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13-04-2011	Slimbridge WWT: 51°44'N 2°23'W (Gloucestershire)	125km NNE
	Alive (colour rings seen)		0y 1m 8d	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	29-04-2011	Cley NWT: 52°57'N 1°0'E (Norfolk)	375km NE 0y 1m 24d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-06-2011	Titchwell RSPB: 52°57'N 0°37'E (Norfolk)	356km NE 0y 3m 13d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-08-2011	Snettisham: 52°52'N 0°26'E (Norfolk)	341km NE 0y 5m 11d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-04-2012	Lytchett Bay, Poole: 50°43'N 2°3'W (Dorset)	72km E 1y 1m 19d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-09-2012	Freiston Shore RSPB: 52°57'N 0°5'E	331km NE 1y 6m 18d
FRP FS64421	First year	30-09-2006	Le Duer, Sarzeau: 47°31'N 2°46'W (Morbihan)	France
	Caught by ringer	13-08-2010	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°6'E	629km NNE 3y 10m 14d

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common coastal passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	806	219	956	179	3	5	23	456	391	1302	246	892
Alkborough Flats	-	-	3	-	4	62	2	-	9	6	3	-
Barton Pits	9	1	-	-	-	300	-	-	9	22	4	1
Cleethorpes-Humberston	15	-	300	20	50	3	18	420	310	150	850	300
Tetney-Grainthorpe	460	19	900	40	120	-	25	-	-	1150	-	100
Donna Nook	177	190	120	2	12	1	5	26	36	45	89	400
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	78	68	4	19	3	-	2	9	10	5	44	17
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	3201	6349	10735	1094	614	1017	3163	9853	10990	9470	10002	11548
Gibraltar Point	600	30	4500	5000	400	500	150	5400	3900	4800	2500	2500
Wainfleet	1800	990	2086	275	500	-	12	2100	1710	4985	700	1330
Friskney*	400	2200	5600	240	-	-	2400	-	1400	1200	4115	5500
Wrangle*	-	400	-	360	-	560	442	-	260	1300	1050	-
Leverton*	892	2050	3025	127	30	455	262	1800	3220	270	2500	3300
Freiston Shore	75	700	35	-	-	1	-	870	4	1	200	-

The table includes all areas with 1000 or more, apart from Witham Mouth, where there were 5000 on Sep 9th. Other site counts of 5000 or more were 5600 in the Friskney sector of The Wash on Mar 16th and 5500 there on Dec 8th, and 5000 at Gib Point on Apr 9th with 5400 there on Aug 25th. The Wash as usual was the stronghold for the species but not exclusively so with reasonable numbers from widespread coastal locations, including some well up the Humber. The latter were particularly noticeable in mid Jun, when there were up to 300 immatures or non-breeders in the Barton area and 62 at Alkborough Flats. Lincs and The Wash especially are of major importance for Bar-tailed Godwit. An area regularly holding 1200 or more birds is of international importance. The only inland record was of one at Covenham Res on May 6th. Note the distances of some of the ringing recoveries: Bar-tailed Godwits, breeding in Siberia and many wintering in West Africa, are very long distance migrants.

DB87977	Adult female Long dead	11-08-2006 08-07-2013	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°8'E Port of Felixstowe, Felixstowe: 51°57'N 1°18'E (Suffolk)	141km SE 6y 10m 27d
DD73003	Adult Freshly dead (shot)	25-08-2009 19-05-2013	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E Khongurey: 67°33'N 51°57'E (Nenets N.O.)	Russia 3,232km ENE 3y 8m 24d
NOO KA03258	Adult male Caught by ringer	14-05-2010 12-08-2010	Igalas, Porsanger: 70°13'N 24°56'E (Finnmark) Friskney New Marsh: 53°4'N 0°14'E	Norway 2,287km SW 0y 2m 29d
PLG GN26852	First year Caught by ringer	10-09-2012 26-07-2013	Ujście Wisły, Swibino: 54°21'N 18°57'E (Slupsk) Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E	Poland 1,247km W 0y 10m 16d

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	-	-	-	3	9	-	60	65	1	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	6	5	2	125	140	10	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	37	4	1	45	3	1	-	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	-	-	-	82	11	1	205	496	12	10	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	13	22	5	37	66	3	1	-	-
Wrangle*	-	-	-	4	-	-	80	332	-	10	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	30	8	1	2	25	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	2	-	-	11	27	2	45	12	5	-	1	1
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	-	-	-	-
Gedney*	-	-	-	5	6	1	4	23	-	-	-	-
Terrington*	-	-	-	1	-	-	16	26	-	-	-	-

As in 2012, there were two mid-winter records, of two at Frampton Marsh on Jan 13th and one at Shep Whites on Feb 27th. More typically, arrival was noted from Apr 12th with a steady influx of birds throughout the month. Most of the spring peaks came in late Apr, including 50 at the Witham Mouth on Apr 20th, 37 at Sea View, Saltfleetby on the 26th and 30 at Freiston Shore on the 28th, but passage continued into May, with a maximum of 27 at Frampton Marsh on the 13th. There were then only single-figure counts until mid Jul. Autumn passage was fully underway at the end of the month, with a large total of 329 coasting south at Sandilands in seven hours on Jul 28th, with 87 at Donna Nook the same day, and 125 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Jul 31st. Other notable counts included 140 at Donna Nook on Aug 7th and 332 on the Wrangle sector of The Wash on Aug 15th. Most passage was over by mid Oct but there were late records at Frampton Marsh of singles (perhaps all the same) on Nov 7th and 19th and Dec 19th-20th. The best counts at inland sites included eight at Grasby on Apr 27th and five at RAF Woodhall on May 6th in spring, and in autumn there was a peak of 14 at Manby Flashes on Aug 16th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1154	968	973	117	30	119	876	944	669	423	598	907

Alkborough Flats	410	398	276	87	21	68	54	120	151	93	545	490
Barton Pits	37	51	78	83	2	11	1	23	8	28	33	2
Goxhill	28	18	132	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	4
Pyewipe	-	305	22	41	-	-	197	271	66	-	89	240
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	116	44	127	20	6	37	121	146	199	191	72	132
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	95	85	163	52	13	72	382	67	128	101	146	67
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	891	436	470	40	10	13	202	331	172	152	140	400
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	2132	1744	1553	1341	591	992	6011	5656	4383	3279	2701	1984
Gibraltar Point	500	400	200	93	106	303	430	300	85	66	200	80
Wainfleet	410	189	411	150	5	71	67	883	475	887	20	411
Friskney*	390	220	194	278	160	185	3220	57	584	410	787	740
Wrangle*	350	230	80	205	-	265	299	1165	1067	435	280	55
Leverton*	423	37	84	74	2	28	47	336	137	40	260	315
Benington*	3	10	170	25	-	67	68	220	155	60	-	105
Freiston Shore	276	197	150	35	54	176	116	300	457	216	294	10
Frampton Marsh	84	85	89	25	3	42	93	263	43	101	46	120
Welland*	4	86	123	23	61	26	514	-	654	172	300	-
Holbeach*	47	300	-	-	2	51	665	700	144	540	20	9
Dawsmere*	5	-	2	-	13	8	120	670	129	130	200	25
Gedney*	186	121	20	48	22	7	329	716	-	-	181	70
Terrington*	-	-	-	390	187	-	274	479	451	55	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Hagnaby Lock Fen	-	80	79	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Marston STW	17	-	30	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	15

All sites recording 100 or over are represented in the table other than North Killingholme Pits where there were up to 170 during Jan-early Feb and Read's Island. As noted elsewhere, that part of the Humber was not counted in 2013 but there were c1000 there on Jul 12th. The high count of 3220 in the Friskney area of The Wash is derived from several sub-sector WeBS counts but all made on Jul 27th. Possible/probable breeding was noted at Hibaldstow Carrs (two pairs), Manton (two pairs), Redbourne, Navenby Low Field, Claypole, Anton's Gowt, Hawthorpe and Baston Fen. The two recoveries show long-term site fidelity, in winter and in summer, and the second one is noteworthy also for an early date to be at or near the Finnish breeding grounds in 2012.

FA89067	Adult	18-08-1997	North Sea Camp, Boston: c. 52°56'N 0°4'E
	Freshly dead	23-03-2013	Freiston Shore: 52°57'N 0°5'E 3km 15y 7m 5d
FP32856	Adult male	23-08-2005	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E
	Caught by ringer	16-05-2011	Torvela, Kajaani: 64°19'N 27°51'E (Oulu) Finland 2,036km NE 5y 8m 23d
	Alive (ring read in field)	20-04-2012	Torvela, Kajaani: 64°19'N 27°51'E (Oulu) Finland 2,036km NE 6y 7m 28d
	Alive (ring read in field)	23-06-2013	Torvelantie, Kajaani: 64°19'N 27°52'E (Oulu) Finland 2,036km NE 7y 10m 0d

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Once again an over wintering bird was at Boston on The Haven from Jan 6th until Feb 4th at least. Early birds were noted at Gedney on Mar 15th, Toft Newton Res on Mar 18th and on Nocton Fen on Mar 29th. More typically returning birds appeared throughout Apr with a marked influx from mid-month when one to four were widespread with high counts of seven between Fosdyke Bridge and Boston Deepes on Apr 19th and six at Covenham Res on Apr 27th. One to three were noted widely for the rest of the spring with peaks of nine at Covenham Res on May 6th and five there on the 8th. There was something of a lull during Jun when 1-2 were recorded at just six sites, and none between the 7th and 18th. The great majority of sightings occurred during Jul and Aug when single figure counts were noted widely with peak counts of 10 at Covenham Res on Jul 23rd and 24th, 11 at Gib Point also on the 23rd and 16 there on the 24th, 29 at Huttoft Bank Pit on Jul 25th and 30 at Alkborough Flats on the same day with 21 there on the 28th. There were 15 at Waters' Edge, Barton Pits on Aug 7th, 18 at Covenham Res on Aug 25th and 26th, and 21 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 25th. One to five were recorded mainly at coastal sites during Sep with

seven at Covenham Res on the 5th and eight there on the 9th. One was at Gib Point on Oct 1st, one at Boston on The Haven on Oct 12th and the final birds of the year were two on the R Welland between Spalding and Borough Fen on Nov 10th and one at Swanholme Lakes on Nov 14th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	11	7	7	21	2	7	19	36	20	11	8	4
Minimum Lincs total	14	9	8	27	3	20	115	199	48	11	8	6
Alkborough Flats	1	2	-	-	-	-	5	9	2	-	1	1
Donna Nook	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	9	2	1	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	2	2	-	30	42	-	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	1	7	12	19	3	-	-	-
Gib Point	1	1	1	1	-	3	4	10	4	1	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	-	2	-	3	6	3	5	1	-	-
Marston STW	1	2	2	3	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-

The table above includes all sites recording birds in at least four months *and* with max of three or more. Also with 1-2 birds in at least four months were Louth Canal, Nocton Fen, Whisby NR and Withern Washland. In addition to these records 1-2 were widespread throughout the year and in the first quarter there were three at Covenham Res on Jan 11th and two at Anwick Fen on Jan 27th. There was evidence of spring passage during April when 1-3 were noted at eighteen sites. There was a migrational hiatus when no birds were recorded after May 10th until Jun 8th from which date returning birds, mainly in ones to threes, were again seen at many sites including three at Thorpe St Peter on Jun 21st, eight at Levee Doors, the site almost contiguous with Manby Flashes, on Jul 12th, 21 there on the 14th, four at North Kelsey Moor on Jul 24th, 33 at Levee Doors on Jul 26th in addition to the 10 at Manby Flashes the same day. There were 37 at Levee Doors on Aug 1st with four still at North Kelsey Moor on the same day increasing to six by the 9th, four at Humberston Fitties on the 7th, four at Howden's Pullover on the 25th and still four at North Kelsey Moor on the 30th. Sep and Oct showed distinct downward trends in numbers although away from the sites tabulated above 1-3 were still widespread. In Nov singles were seen at seven sites and finally there were two at Withern Washland on Dec 14th, one at Kirton in Lindsey on the 15th, one on the Louth Canal on the 19th and the last birds of the year were two at Whisby Quarry on Dec 27th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	10	11	8	15	12	8	2	16	30	20	7	7
Gib Point	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	8	14	9	1	-
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	8	3	1	-
Frampton Marsh	1	2	1	2	-	4	5	5	6	8	2	1

Up to 11 were at Alkborough Flats in Jan and Feb, decreasing to eight during Mar 4th-14th and three during Mar 28th-Apr 8th. The only other birds during this period were one, or occasionally two, at Frampton Marsh from Jan 7th through to Mar 21st and one at Freiston Shore from Jan 9th-13th. Alkborough Flats remained the principal site during spring migration with up to six present on several dates and peaks of 15 from Apr 14th-17th and 12 on May 4th. Elsewhere passage was light with singles at Wroot on Apr 1st, Kirton in Lindsey on Apr 18th, Fosdyke Bridge on Apr 19th and Manby Flashes on Apr 22nd, while 1-2 birds were seen several times at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh to the end of May. There was a marked increase in early returning birds, typically females, with regular birds at Alkborough Flats peaking at five on Jun 12th-15th, seven on 20th and eight on Jun 21st-24th followed by 1-2 during July. At Frampton Marsh there were 1-3 and occasionally 4-5 from Jun 16th through to the end of Aug, while Gib Point had singles on Jun 2nd, Jun 15th-16th and Jul 10th. On Jul 24th the first autumn birds at other sites were three at Tetney Marsh, one at Horseshoe Point and one at Rimac. The peak autumn counts at the main sites are detailed in the table, with maxima of 20 at Freiston Shore on Aug 20th, 14 at Gib Point on Sep 4th and 30 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 20th. At 15 other sites, occurrence was sporadic and usually involved single birds. The only multiple counts were two at Manby Flashes on Aug 22nd-23rd, 18 at Benington on Aug 25th and five at Boatmere Scrape on Sep 23rd. One-two birds remained at Frampton Marsh until at least Dec 11th and there were seven at Alkborough Flats through November and December.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coast & estuaries</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	4	2	8	15	4	4	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	12	21	4	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	4	1	2	17	24	23	9	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	2	-	6	90	36	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	2	3	2	14	28	25	3	4	2
<i>Inland</i>												
Kirton in Lindsey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	3	4	-	4	4	-	-	-	-

The table includes all sites holding 15 or more, with a few exceptions mentioned below, and the inland sites with most records. In the first quarter there was a handful of records all from The Wash with singles on the R Welland on Jan 13th, Friskney on Feb 2nd and three at Gedney on the same day, one at Freiston Shore on Feb 15th, and singles on the Welland and at Holbeach St Matthew on Mar 15th. Migrating birds began to appear from mid-Apr and away from the tabulated areas, 1-2 were widespread on the coast, and inland birds were one at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Apr 17th and two at Blackmoor Bridge on May 9th plus singles there on the 10th and 19th. Autumn birds away from those tabled above included 60 at Holbeach Marsh on Jul 27th, eight at Tetney Marsh on Aug 17th, 10 at North Cotes Marsh on Aug 21st, six at Midville on Aug 23rd, 14 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 25th and 52 at Boatmere Scrape, near Gedney Drove End, on the same day. In Sep, 21 were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 7th, five at Humberston Fitties on the 12th, 51 at Boatmere Scrape on the 23rd, 14 at Wrangle the same day, 43 still at Boatmere Scrape on the 26th and 12 at Shep Whites on the 28th. There were four at Wrangle on Oct 19th and three at Humberston Fitties on Oct 21st and in Nov one was at Read's Island/South Ferriby on the 16th and 20th. The final birds of the year were two at both Frampton Marsh on Dec 8th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 9th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

The first birds of the year were three at Freiston Shore and one at Frampton Marsh on May 6th. On the following day there were single birds at Frampton Marsh, Gib Point and Manby Flashes. Freiston Shore had one on May 8th and there were four at Manby Flashes on May 10th with one remaining to 14th when there was also one at Gib Point. One was at Frampton Marsh from May 16th-18th and one was at Gib Point on May 25th. The only June records were single birds at Freiston Shore on the 10th, Frampton Marsh on the 20th and Alkborough Flats on the 21st. Autumn passage began with one at Frampton Marsh on Jul 10th with three there by the 12th and 2-6 regularly to the end of the month and a peak of nine on the 29th. One was at Gib Point on Jul 14th, 26th and 29th, two were at Bonby Carrs on Jul 26th with three there on 29th, one at Manby Flashes on the 28th-29th, and one was at Blackmoor Bridge on Jul 30th-31st. Most August sightings were again at Frampton Marsh with up to nine during the first few days and 1-5 present from the 5th-25th. Eight were at Bonby Carrs on Aug 2nd-3rd followed by four on the 4th-5th and two on the 7th. One was at North Kelsey Moor on Aug 2nd-5th, and two were at Manby Flashes on Aug 1st-5th with three on the 3rd. One-two were at Kirkby Gravel Pits from the 1st-6th, Burgh Marsh on the 6th, Donna Nook on the 6th-7th, Gib Point from the 22nd-29th with three there on the 25th, and Saltfleet Haven on the 26th. The only Sep records were single birds at Humberston Fitties on the 11th, Woodhall Spa on the 14th and Gib Point on the 21st. A late bird took up residence at Frampton Marsh from Oct 19th-Nov 10th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	419	608	375	206	17	81	403	563	454	546	940	1315
Alkborough Flats	115	90	117	119	3	4	26	16	50	59	40	110

Barrow-Goxhill	210	73	2	99	-	-	-	-	-	45	64	126
Killingholme-Immingham	140	-	-	4	-	-	125	107	74	-	204	113
Pyewipe	-	-	2	-	-	-	273	210	-	-	4	311
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	90	113	97	48	6	71	85	117	283	217	120	238
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	57	210	195	52	16	9	26	50	200	50	271	307
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	61	280	118	-	13	1	80	109	51	192	194	130

The Wash

WeBS totals	1490	816	936	1045	415	344	2361	3856	2425	1733	1499	1055
Gibraltar Point	280	250	270	370	123	50	300	580	1150	425	260	120
Wainfleet*	252	58	264	63	-	26	7	29	21	96	60	246
Friskney*	221	105	36	246	129	34	248	7	56	265	87	190
Wrangle*	225	125	-	90	-	46	95	24	126	113	130	-
Leverton*	24	39	21	40	24	28	35	45	54	55	120	179
Freiston Shore	260	110	200	150	9	51	253	1663	1000	600	12	7
Frampton Marsh	27	96	50	63	32	33	358	256	152	56	205	80
Welland*	168	242	111	19	6	10	550	674	302	552	312	17
Holbeach*	110	5	21	4	3	2	-	15	21	27	14	15
Dawsmere*	5	-	-	8	53	23	10	12	105	90	200	38
Gedney	100	12	20	55	49	22	469	250	50	-	79	124
Terrington*	-	-	-	235	67	-	61	336	362	92	-	-

Inland

Covenham Res	7	1	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	1	15	2
Kirkby-on-Bain GP	20	-	4	15	-	-	1	1	3	3	1	2
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	12	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Spalding-Borough Fen*	19	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1

The table shows all inland sites with more than 10 and all coastal sites with 100 or more. In addition to these in the first quarter there were 90 at Barton Pits on Jan 18th, with 60 there on Feb 1st and 40 on Mar 10th. Breeding estimates for The Wash RSPB reserves amounted to 35 pairs at Freiston Shore and 212 pairs at Frampton Marsh. In addition to these and other regular coastal breeding areas, probable breeding was noted at several inland sites including Bonby Carrs, Kirton in Lindsey, Blackmoor Bridge and Navenby Low Fields, and breeding was confirmed at Kirkby GP. After the usual mid-summer, lull passage birds began to move through from mid-Jul, including 52 south at Sandilands on Jul 28th. There were some impressive counts during peak migration in Aug and Sep, tailing off through Oct before returning to early year totals during Nov-Dec when a significant count away from the tabulated areas was 45 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Nov 23rd.

DD89004	First year	14-12-2008	Bangor Harbour: 53°13'N 4°7'W (Gwynedd)
	Freshly dead	14-02-2013	Holbeach Marsh, Holbeach St Matthews: 52°52'N 0°7'E 286km E
	(hit wires)		4y 2m 0d

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	156	16	48	1	7	3	11	40	70	38	57	166
Barton	50	100	-	16	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
New Holland/Goxhill	160	-	-	100	-	-	10	70	-	-	280	122
Cleethorpes-Humberston	69	-	112	70	4	-	4	44	69	60	40	101
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	335	214	68	168	110	15	385	454	467	328	181	199
Gibraltar Point	82	68	70	60	53	37	66	54	30	26	26	29
Wrangle*	210	90	-	120	-	2	178	17	15	-	51	-
Freiston Shore	95	105	23	35	27	14	163	366	330	300	101	50

The most notable counts were in the Humber and in The Wash with peaks in the early part of the year of 160 at New Holland on Jan 11th, 100 at Wrangle on Jan 15th, 100 at Barton Pits on Feb 22nd, 112 at Cleethorpes on Mar 29th and 100 at Goxhill Haven on Apr 7th. Spring migration

numbers during Apr and May were lower than the wintering population at most sites and the only significant counts in Jun were peaks of 37 at Gib Point on the 5th and 52 at Butterwick on the 23rd. Returning passage birds in mainly single figures were widely distributed along the coast until the arrival of 150 at Freiston Shore from Jul 24th-27th and 111 at Wrangle also on the 27th. Easily the highest counts during Aug-Oct were all at Freiston Shore peaking at 305 on Aug 25th and 300 on Sep 22nd. Later good counts included 280 at Goxhill Haven on Nov 20th, 101 at Humberston Fitties on Dec 4th, 122 at New Holland on Dec 7th and 120 at Friskney on Dec 8th. The only inland records were of one at Deeping Lakes on May 2nd, then of three at Covenham Reservoir on Aug 13th, one remaining next day, two on the 22nd and one on the 25th and one on Sep 24th. There were also 12 in the tidal Trent at Garthorpe on Aug 12th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

A juvenile flew south over the sea at Gib Point with a flock of 30 Swifts on the evening of Aug 17th (JPS).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

One flew south at Gib Point on Jan 10th (KMW). In autumn, a juvenile/first winter was on Covenham Res on Oct 10th-15th (KRo *et al*), one at Freiston Shore on Oct 10th-13th (JB *et al*) and three birds were in the Witham Mouth-Welland Mouth area on Oct 12th with one on the 13th (SK *et al*).



Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* juvenile/1st winter Covenham Res Oct 14th 2013
© John Clarkson

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

The first bird of the year was at Gib Point on May 17th followed by two early autumn birds in Jul with one at Howden's Pullover on the 14th and one at Donna Nook on the 28th. Aug passage was light with singles at Donna Nook on the 10th, Humberston Fitties on the 15th then one at Witham Mouth on the 25th and singles at Gib Point on the 28th and 30th with two there on the 31st. In Sep birds were noted in ones and twos on fifteen days throughout the month from Barton Pits to The Wash, with the majority of sightings at Gib Point, the one notable exception being 12 past Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 10th. The most significant passage occurred in mid Oct when one to four were noted at Donna Nook, Chapel Point, Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace, Skegness and

Freiston Shore all on the 10th then an adult and two juveniles at North Killingholme Haven, three at Donna Nook, three south at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace, four at Skegness, nine (two light adults, one light and six dark juveniles) at Gib Point and a juvenile at Freiston Shore all on the 11th. One was at Humberston Fitties on the 12th and on the same day there were nine (four juveniles and four light adults) at Gib Point. One was at Donna Nook on the 13th on which day there were also three at Gib Point and six at Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore. Singles at Witham Mouth on the 28th and Gib Point on the 29th were the last birds in Oct and the final birds of the year were a juvenile at Gib Point on Nov 23rd and then one at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 30th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

An early bird at Terrington on Apr 30th was followed by singles in May at Donna Nook on the 10th, Gib Point on the 14th, Frampton Marsh on the 17th, two at Gib Point on the 24th and another at Donna Nook on the 25th. Returning birds began to appear with one at Donna Nook on Jul 3rd and a steady passage throughout the month of 1-8 birds at most coastal sites. Numbers steadily increased through Aug with small numbers being seen on most days. Most of the higher counts came from Gib Point where there were 80 on the 13th, 37 on the 17th and the month's maximum of 137 on the 28th, and there were also 12 at Donna Nook and 18 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 25th. Peak passage was in Sep when a total of 1025 bird-days was returned, clearly including many duplicate sightings as birds passed along the coast. High counts for the month included 50 at Freiston Shore on the 2nd, 52 at Gib Point on the 7th and 180 there on the 10th when there were also 123 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and 26 at Trusthorpe. There were 19 at Donna Nook on the 11th, 50 at Freiston Shore, 20 at Gedney Drove End and 70 at Gib Point also on the 11th, 24 at Mablethorpe on the 12th, 22 at Gib Point on the 14th and 28 there on the 18th. There were 202 bird-days in Oct to the 22nd, but these included an inland bird at Toft Newton Res on the 1st, 11 at Donna Nook and 27 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 10th, 13 at Gib Point on the 11th, four at the Humber Bridge on the 12th with one there on the 13th, when there were 50 at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth. There were a few Nov records with three at Witham Mouth on the 3rd, singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point on the 4th with another at Gib Point on the 6th and finally five were at Freiston Shore on Nov 21st.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

There was a good series of records off Gib Point with a juvenile on Aug 25th (JPS), a pale-headed juvenile on Aug 28th (KMW, RDn), a dark juvenile on the 30th (KMW), seven juveniles with four being pale morph birds on Sep 10th (KMW, NAL), two juveniles (pale and intermediate) on Sep 11th (KMW, NAL), a pale juvenile on Oct 11th (KMW, JPS, NAL), two pale juveniles on Oct 12th (JPS, NAL, KMW) and a pale juvenile on the 13th (KMW). Elsewhere, there were two off Freiston Shore on Sep 2nd (PS), seven (two adults) south off Huttoft Bank on Sep 10th (EJM), one at Donna Nook on Sep 11th (SL), two off Freiston Shore on the 11th (PS), a juvenile at Gedney Drove End on the 11th (MM, OM), three juveniles south off Huttoft Bank on the 11th (GPC), one at Donna Nook on the 14th (Ca, SRO), one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on the 17th (CMo), one at Huttoft Bank on the 20th (BGu), a juvenile at Alkborough Flats on Sep 29th (ND, WG, CG) and 30th (WG), one at Huttoft Bank on Oct 10th (RL), one at Donna Nook on Oct 11th (BMC, GW), a juvenile up the Humber at North Killingholme Haven on Oct 11th (GPC), six at Witham Mouth on Oct 13th (SK, PS, DRO) and an immature at Donna Nook on Oct 15th (CJJ, SJ, BMC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

There was a handful of early year sightings with one at Gib Point on Jan 11th followed by another two there on the 20th seen flying south probably accounting for the bird seen at Freiston Shore that day. The next record was at Grainthorpe Marsh on Apr 21st then in May four flew north at Gib Point on the 17th with two there on the 24th. There was an unusual inland record of one on Jul 1st at North Hykeham Pits and Whisby NP. Autumn passage started on Aug 25th with two birds seen at the Nene Mouth and possibly the same two seen at Gib Point the same day; also in Aug single birds were seen at Gib Point on the 28th and 30th. Single figure counts were widespread during Sep but larger numbers included 76 south at Gib Point on the 10th and 13 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace the same day, 37 at Gib Point on the 11th, 20 south there on the 29th and 17 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 30th. Almost 65% of bird-day totals for this species occurred during Oct with one-twenty being noted widely from the Humber Bridge to The Wash. Larger



Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* dark juvenile and **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* adult
Huttoft Sep 10th 2013 © Graham Catley



Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* juvenile North Killingholme Haven Oct 11th 2013
© Graham Catley

counts included 21 at Donna Nook on the 10th, 52 at Mablethorpe on the 11th and 71 west at North Killingholme Haven on the same day, 44 at Gib Point also on the 11th and 21 there on the 12th, 100 at Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore on the 13th with 21 at Gib Point on the same day. After this mid-month concentration, numbers returned to single figures until the end of the month and through Nov when birds were seen on six days including three at Witham Mouth on the 3rd, eight at Humberston Fitties and Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 21st and four at Mablethorpe North End on the 22nd. Finally single birds were seen at Witham Mouth on Dec 7th and at Gib Point on the 15th.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare coastal migrant in autumn Jul-Nov. Exceptional inland. LBRC

An adult flew north off Donna Nook on Oct 10th (SL) and a juvenile was at the Witham Mouth on Oct 13th (APC, SK).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

Very few were seen in Jan, although there was an oiled bird at the Humber Bridge on the 19th and 30 at Freiston Shore on the 20th. Feb also was quiet apart from two days with substantial movements at Gib Point, of 710 south on the 2nd and 135 south on the 6th. There was some northerly movement at Gib Point in late Mar, peaking at 70 on the 25th, but otherwise counts were in single figures through to early Jun, apart from 14 off Gib Point on May 28th. There were inland reports of one at Kirkby on Bain on Apr 14th and at Boultham Mere, noted as an adult, on Apr 15th that may have been the same bird. The summer continued with mostly single-figure counts from Gib Point, and occasionally elsewhere on the coast north to Donna Nook, and a few larger counts including 14 south at Gib Point on Jun 16th and 15 roosting there on Aug 20th. There was also a sighting of 13 in the Humber off Far Ings on Jun 7th. Small numbers predominated through autumn and to the end of the year. The only reports of 20 or more were 25 at Freiston Shore on Sep 19th, 21 south at Gib Point on Oct 10th, 54 north at Gib Point on Nov 4th and 60 at Freiston Shore on Nov 21st. There was one near the Humber Bridge on Oct 12th, and 10 at Barton on Nov 21st. There were only three coastal reports of 1-3 in Dec.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	163	316	175	17	0	82	2159	3960	8505	482	262	6915
Alkborough Flats	150	0	200	0	0	50	200	3000	1000	0	0	800
Barton Pits	102	400	100	130	57	40	25	320	110	200	3000	80
Cleethorpes-Tetney	400	81	1500	1000	16	65	600	3000	500	500	300	1200
Donna Nook	60	100	100	40	18	22	400	3000	1500	1500	200	200
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	115	200	800	12	6	20	800	8000	3250	50	100	100
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	8299	301	1009	3462	3921	3868	6598	10517	17893	15125	2794	10242
Gibraltar Point	3000	500	7200	200	128	210	1080	10710	5000	5000	7000	6604
Leverton*	2503	0	30	0	270	73	0	646	3491	26	1500	3880
Freiston Shore	250	0	234	1706	987	2000	60	250	90	36	43	26
Frampton Marsh	38	15	266	1500	2500	1013	2500	1178	1969	1236	142	10
Welland*	0	17	78	38	212	177	1480	650	340	1840	107	99
Dawsmere*	0	0	0	0	1054	60	0	120	1900	0	25	0
Gedney*	1220	7	71	41	26	214	1110	1477	0	0	8	140
Terrington*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2500	0	4000	0	0
<i>Inland</i>												
North Hykeham Pits	7000	7350	1000	600	250	240	350	300	0	400	5000	9000
Kirkby on Bain GP	1200	1400	2000	6	70	60	50	58	200	600	503	1000
Tattershall Lakes CP	140	5200	7000	40	6	1	50	50	30	2200	5800	10500

Other counts of 1000 or more included c2000 in the Witham sector of The Wash in Jan and Dec, 2000 at Swanholme Lakes in Jan, 7000 at Bonby Carrs and 1000 at Covenham Res in Apr, 1080 in the Wrangle sector of The Wash in Aug, 5248 in the Wainfleet sector of The Wash in Oct, 5000-6000 at Thurlby Sand Pit (Bassingham) in Nov-Dec, and 2320 in the Kirton sector of The Wash and 6600 at Pyewipe in Dec. The largest breeding colonies now are at The Wash RSPB reserves, with counts of 1401 nests at Freiston Shore and 1045 nests at Frampton Marsh. A large colony possibly of a few hundred pairs on Dawsmere Marsh was found abandoned with many broken eggs in Jun. At Whisby NR, 527 nests was down by 25% on 2012, and there were 70 nests at Messingham SQ. Other substantial inland colonies, not counted but possibly around 100-150 pairs each, were at Kirton in Lindsey and at Melwood Quarry. Smaller numbers elsewhere included 21 pairs on Barton Pits, ten pairs at Kirkby on Bain GP and about 20 pairs at Gib Point. Other colonies were not reported. Below are ringing recoveries, showing the destinations of both our winter visitors and those that nest in Lincs. Note the Irish connection of those breeding at Baston while one from Gib Point prefers the bright lights of London.

EN78646	Second year	16-01-1987	Skegness: 53°9'N 0°19'E		
	Alive (ring read in field)	17-05-2005	Hirsholm: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland)	Denmark	810km NE 18y 4m 1d
	Alive (ring read in field)	21-05-2006	Hirsholm: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland)	Denmark	810km NE 19y 4m 5d
	Caught by ringer	22-05-2006	Hirsholm, Frederikshavn: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland)	Denmark	810km NE 19y 4m 6d
	Seen at the same site in Denmark in May or Jun 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012				
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-12-2012	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°18'E	2km	25y 10m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-03-2013	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°8'N 0°18'E	2km	26y 1m 18d
SVS 6402522	Adult	16-02-2002	Pildammsparken, Malmo: 55°35'N 13°0'E (Malmohus)	Sweden	
	Freshly dead	30-01-2013	Whisby Nature Park, Thorpe on The Hill: 53°11'N 0°38'W	922km WSW	10y 11m 14d
EW54825	Nestling	05-05-2011	Baston Fen: 52°44'N 0°19'W		
	Caught by ringer	18-09-2013	Lough Beg, Ringaskiddy: 51°49'N 8°20'W (Cork)	555km W	2y 4m 13d
EY25425	Nestling	27-05-2013	Baston Pits, Bourne: 52°43'N 0°20'W		
	Alive (ring read in field)	26-08-2013	Sean Walsh Park: 53°17'N 6°22'W (Dublin)	409km W	0y 2m 30d
EC71940	Nestling	01-06-2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E		
	Alive (ring read in field)	19-02-2010	Regent's Park, London: 51°31'N 0°10'W (Greater London)	179km SSW	1y 8m 18d
	Alive (ring read in field)	24-02-2011	Regent's Park: 51°31'N 0°9'W (Greater London)	179km SSW	2y 8m 23d
	Alive (ring read in field)	04-01-2012	Regent's Park: 51°31'N 0°9'W (Greater London)	179km SSW	3y 7m 3d
	Alive (ring read in field)	16-10-2012	Regent's Park: 51°31'N 0°9'W (Greater London)	179km SSW	4y 4m 15d
LIK HA13085	Adult male	30-03-2010	Dumpiu Savartynas, Klaipeda: 55°38'N 21°15'E	Lithuania	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-07-2013	Skegness: 53°8'N 0°20'E	1,382km W	3y 3m 11d
PLG FN85682	Adult	13-06-2012	Gdansk-Oliwa: 54°24'N 18°32'E (Gdansk)	Poland	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-08-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E	1,206km W	0y 1m 24d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-12-2012	Beddington Sewage Works: 51°21'N 0°11'W (Greater London)	1,300km WSW	0y 5m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-10-2013	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°8'N 0°17'E	1,207km W	1y 4m 10d
PLG FN73189	Nestling	12-06-2010	J.Rynskie, Rybical, Ryn: 53°55'N 21°30'E (Olsztyn)	Poland	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-11-2013	Cleethorpes: 53°34'N 0°2'W	1,416km W	3y 4m 26d

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Fairly common passage migrant in spring and autumn, scarce in summer, rare in winter, occurring in all months. **RBBP**

The first birds of the year were a first winter at Freiston Shore and an adult south at Gib Point on Jan 20th, and one flew north at the latter site on Feb 12th. Early spring passage in March included singles offshore at Gib Point on the 24th, 25th and 28th and eight north on the 27th, plus singles at Tattershall Lakes on the 24th, Frampton Marsh on the 25th and Immingham Docks on the 26th, and two at each of Pyewipe (Grimsby) on the 26th and Barton Pits on the 27th. During May, a first summer bird was present at Frampton Marsh from the 5th, numbers slowly increasing to reach six (four first summer and two adults) on the 19th before decreasing again, though 1-2 first summer birds remained until Jun 19th. Elsewhere, birds occurred only in the last ten days of the month, with peaks of 12 at Far Ings on the 26th, four at Gib Point on the 28th and four at Alkborough on the 31st. There was just one inland record of one at Messingham SQ on the 21st. In Jun-Jul, birds remained in the inner Humber including 1-3 at Barton Pits and a maximum of 10 at Alkborough on the 19th. Inland birds were recorded at Messingham SQ on the Jun 3rd and Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jun 10th. One-three were seen at Donna Nook and Humberston Fitties in Jul, with 10 recorded at the Humber Mouth off Cleethorpes on Jul 25th. Also, there were up to three at Gib Point in Jun and a peak of seven on Jul 28th. One was reported at Frampton Marsh on the 11th but other records came from the 20th onwards. After 1-2 at Gib Point on the 20th-21st and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on the 22nd, there was an influx on the 25th, including 28 at Grainthorpe Marsh-Donna Nook, two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, four north at Huttoft Car terrace, six north at Chapel Point, one at Gib Point and scattered birds in The Wash: eight at Benington, two at Freiston Shore and five at Witham Mouth. Birds were seen at Gib Point on five dates in Sep, peaking at four on the 27th, but the only others were two at Chapel Point on the 11th and adult at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on 14th. Oct was the busiest month, although counts were significantly lower than the peaks recorded in 2012 and none occurred after the 19th. Records came from ten locations on the coast and The Wash, with peak counts of 49 at Gib Point on the 12th and 25 at Witham Mouth on the 13th. Inland an adult was at Covenham on the Oct 2nd and a first winter was there from Oct 12th-16th. As to be expected, numbers dropped off in Nov with the only reports being two at Freiston Shore and three, perhaps the same, north at each of Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and Gib Point on the 21st, and the final bird of the year was at Huttoft Bank Pit on Dec 30th.



Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* juvenile Covenham Res Oct 13th 2013 © Mark Johnson

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	1	-	1	-	-	8	1	1	-	2	2
Saxby Wolds	2	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonby Wolds	3	-	-	5	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Elsham Wolds	1	4	-	-	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	1
Whisby NR	-	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	-	-	1	1
Gibraltar Point	1	-	1	1	2	2	3	9	1	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	3	4	2	2	-	2	2	-	1
Number of sites	9	7	5	9	5	6	12	12	10	5	5	7
Minimum total	13	12	6	21	12	12	41	24	12	7	6	8

There is interchange of birds between Barton Pits and the northern Wolds, where birds feed in fields, typically choosing those in which slurry has been spread. This may mean that the 'minimum total' exaggerates the number present but equally it is difficult to achieve synchronous counts and totals could be higher; in any case, it is clear that the increase continues. The peak of 10 on Bonby Wolds on Jul 21st comprised six adults, one 2nd calendar year and three 3rd calendar year birds, but there had been three 2nd calendar year birds at Barton on the previous day, so the total in the area was at least 12. The highest count elsewhere was nine, all adults, coming in to roost at Gib Point on Aug 15th. At Whisby NR, at least eight individuals (five adults and three 3rd calendar year birds) were seen between Apr and Jul, but no more than two on any one day. Some birds visited Black-headed Gull colonies at Whisby and elsewhere, and a few single juveniles were seen in north Lincs from early Aug, but no breeding evidence was received. While most are seen near the Humber and Wash, with smaller numbers along the coast, records from well inland are now regular including those at Whisby in the table and also singles at Kirton in Lindsey in Jan, Owston Ferry in Jun and Deeping Lakes NR in Aug. Below are three more of the growing number of colour ring sightings of birds from the Polish breeding colonies.

PLG FN27453	Adult	11-05-2004	Rz.Wisla, Zastow Karczmiski: 51°16'N 21°52'E (Radom) Poland						
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-11-2011	Melton: 52°6'N 1°20'E (Suffolk)	1,418km	W	7y	5m	27d	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-07-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E	1,482km	W	9y	2m	0d	
PLG FN16107	Adult male	17-05-2011	J.Rynskie, Rybical: 53°55'N 21°31'E (Olsztyn) Poland						
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-08-2012	Gibraltar Point: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	1,404km	W	1y	2m	20d	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-02-2013	Titchwell Reserve: 52°58'N 0°35'E (Norfolk)	1,390km	W	1y	8m	21d	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-07-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°18'E	1,404km	W	2y	1m	25d	
PLG FN41875	Nestling	27-06-2011	Bielinek Zwirownia, Cedynia: 52°57'N 14°10'E (Szczecin) Poland						
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-05-2013	Whisby, Thorpe-on-The Hill: 53°11'N 0°38'W	989km	W	1y	10m	6d	

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1251	369	335	276	2	9	168	212	371	129	160	305
Bonby-Elsham	2000	3000	2000	3000	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	60	107	170	100	12	7	33	200	500	250	300	200
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	1210	800	5500	271	-	30	120	163	1000	26	29	56
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1525	28	69	12	31	63	77	22	15	45	73	11
Gibraltar Point	2000	50	2100	64	65	150	25	520	450	926	400	932

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	1500	1000	250	200	-	-	3	8	-	30	1200	1000
Kirkby on Bain GP	80	150	300	2	20	5	-	1	1	30	11	50
Tattershall Lakes CP	4	100	600	2	-	1	1	2	1	15	100	200

Other counts of 500 or more were 1100 at the Witham Mouth in Jan and 3000 at Barton Pits in Nov. The species feeds widely on arable land in winter but as usual this year received little attention. The three ringing recoveries below come from the main sources of our wintering birds.

SFH ST245875	Adult Alive (colour rings seen)	09-07-2005	Pori: 61°38'N 21°28'E (Turku-Pori) Finland
		30-01-2013	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°18'E 1,574km SW 7y 6m 21d
SVS 7205912	Nestling Long dead	03-07-2011 08-06-2013	Trutskar, Holmsund: 63°41'N 20°27'E (Vasterbotten) Sweden Holton Le Clay, Grimsby: 53°29'N 0°4'W 1,634km SW 1y 11m 5d
SVS 7164098	Nestling Freshly dead (bird of prey)	24-06-2001 19-01-2013	Ramson, Hakefjorden: 57°59'N 11°47'E (Goteborg och Bohus) Sweden Stallingborough Haven, Grimsby: 53°37'N 0°9'W 889km WSW 11y 6m 26d

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Present all year: scarce but increasing Dec-Feb, common passage Mar-May and Aug-Nov Increasing breeder. Many immatures summer Jun-Jul.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	-	-	-	8	3	15	94	16	15	8	64	45
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	7	1	4	6	-	75	23	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	193	5	163	1336	1224	1200	563	139	288	504	22	26
Gibraltar Point	5	2	40	101	41	60	17	100	100	25	6	1
Frampton Marsh	4	-	-	4	4	93	100	37	118	473	20	-
Welland*	164	-	157	189	660	570	340	6	2	-	-	-
Holbeach*	-	-	-	100	166	150	25	15	-	-	-	20
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	52	210	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gedney *	-	3	2	14	16	21	113	39	-	-	-	2
Terrington*	-	-	-	1004	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	1	11	100	180	50	80	390	540	400	25	35	3
Kirkby on Bain	-	50	400	300	150	100	5	-	-	20	-	2

A WeBS count in the Terrington sector of The Wash topped 1000 this year, but counts generally were similar to those of recent years. Notable counts not in the table were 120 at Leadenham tip in Mar, 500 on Elsham Wolds in Jul, c1000 at Marston STW and 200 at Colsterworth landfill in Aug, and 435 at Nocton Fen in Oct. A pair held territory for a while at Whisby NR in Apr-May and were seen mating, but did not appear to lay eggs. A pair was seen on a raft at Waters' Edge, Barton in Apr but again there was no confirmation of breeding. There were however 13 occupied nests on Read's Island during the summer, at least 25 pairs breeding at Grimsby Docks, and one occupied nest with eggs was seen on Dawsmere Marsh. The first two of the colour ring sightings below relate to birds hatched on the Suffolk coast and spending their first summer inland in Lincs.

GG78542	Nestling Alive (colour rings seen)	01-07-2012	Havergate Island: 52°4'N 1°31'E (Suffolk)
		23-07-2013	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°37'W 190km NW 1y 0m 22d
GG78526	Nestling Alive (colour rings seen)	01-07-2012	Havergate Island: 52°4'N 1°31'E (Suffolk)
		24-07-2013	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°37'W 190km NW 1y 0m 23d
FB31074	Adult Alive (colour marks seen)	15-12-2007 19-02-2009	near Wingmore Farm, Stoke Orchard: 51°56'N 2°6'W (Gloucestershire) Meiras Beach, Valdovino: 43°36'N 8°11'W (Coruna) Spain 1,031km SSW 1y 2m 4d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	10-01-2011	Millennium Green, North Hykeham: 53°11'N 0°37'W 172km NE 3y 0m 26d

	Alive (colour rings seen)	08-11-2012	Albion Landfill Site, Albert Village: 52°45'N 1°32'W (Leicestershire)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-02-2013	Lamby Lake, Rumney: 51°30'N 3°8'W (Glamorgan)	86km WSW
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05-08-2013	North Hykeham Landfill Site: 53°11'N 0°37'W	172km NE 5y 7m 21d
GG77478	Nestling	10-07-2005	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-09-2007	Rutland Water: 52°39'N 0°42'W (Leicestershire)	167km WNW
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22-11-2007	Gijón, Asturias: 43°31'N 5°37'W (Oviedo) Spain	1,092km SSW
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-03-2012	Havenside Country Park, near Boston: 52°57'N 0°0'W	144km NW
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22-07-2013	Freiston Shore: 52°57'N 0°5'E	140km NW 8y 0m 12d
GR53123	Adult	19-03-2013	Milton Landfill Site: 52°15'N 0°8'E (Cambridgeshire)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20-08-2013	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°36'W	115km NNW 0y 5m 1d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-11-2013	Colmenar Viejo, Madrid: 40°39'N 3°44'W (Madrid) Spain	1,322km SSW 0y 7m 28d
CIJ D6337	Adult male	18-05-2011	Chouet: 49°30'N 2°32'W (Guernsey) Channel Islands	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-06-2011	Gloucester Landfill Site: 51°51'N 2°16'W (Gloucestershire)	262km N
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-06-2012	Albion Landfill Site, Albert Village: 52°45'N 1°32'W (Leicestershire)	368km N 1y 1m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-07-2012	Shawell Pools: 52°24'N 1°13'W (Warwickshire)	336km NNE
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20-08-2012	Langtoft Pits: 52°43'N 0°19'W	390km NNE 1y 3m 2d

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Very common passage migrant, rare breeder and common winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	410	1006	887	651	130	270	615	86	111	435	259	1100
Cleethorpes-Tetney	55	1	3000	3000	570	90	300	400	350	550	140	200
Donna Nook	200	830	1000	500	125	120	40	150	200	200	250	600
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	2000	473	1700	649	220	700	205	21	500	110	60	310
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	4327	1317	1875	2954	5239	5297	2834	4143	5845	4729	753	1459
Gibraltar Point	5000	1600	4000	1150	500	2500	1500	3200	1000	4884	3500	5928
Friskney*	723	101	245	526	370	335	1102	150	2500	620	46	80
Wrangle*	330	250	-	293	-	1403	326	1060	320	50	48	-
Leverton*	61	-	21	407	1010	310	44	83	525	-	-	805
Freiston Shore	353	10	181	430	281	566	75	144	48	7	3	1
Frampton Marsh	69	18	17	46	34	163	150	119	190	491	70	-
Welland*	121	50	256	104	630	265	230	430	145	464	-	-
Holbeach*	400	370	252	446	1670	420	250	100	700	1000	50	250
Dawsmere*	2	-	50	60	455	426	200	70	975	400	-	-
Gedney*	106	28	78	133	68	59	149	1605	-	-	93	173
<i>Inland</i>												
North Hykeham Pits	300	280	130	80	9	8	20	25	20	100	100	220
Kirkby on Bain	1800	1800	1200	200	450	250	30	-	1000	1100	-	2000

Additional to the table, there were large counts from several locations on the northern Wolds and nearby, often involving birds feeding in slurry-spread fields or associating with landfill sites. They included 1500 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods and 800 on Bonby Top in Jan, 1000 on Elsham Wolds in Mar, 2000 at Barton Pits in Nov, and 3000 on Elsham Wolds again in Dec. Other areas attracting 500 or more were the Witham sector of The Wash with 1350 and Leadenham tip with

600, both in Jan. There were no reports this year of roof-nesting but single nests were seen at Read's Island, Frampton Marsh and Dawsmere Marsh. A series of ring sightings below shows the information to be gleaned from close inspection of landfill sites.

GG97404	Adult	17-02-2001	Slippery Gowt Landfill, near Wyberton: 52°57'N 0°0'W
	Alive (ring read in field)	25-04-2013	Europoort, Rotterdam: 51°56'N 4°6'E (Zuid-Holland) The Netherlands 300km ESE 12y 2m 8d
	Caught by ringer	17-05-2013	Europoort Rotterdam: 51°57'N 4°6'E (Zuid-Holland) The Netherlands 300km ESE 12y 3m 0d
GN44959	Adult	13-03-2004	near Wingmore Farm, Stoke Orchard: 51°56'N 2°6'W (Gloucestershire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	10-04-2007	Brighton: 50°50'N 0°8'W (Sussex) 184km SE 3y 0m 28d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	12-03-2012	Richmond Bank, near Warrington: 53°21'N 2°39'W (Cheshire) 162km NNW 7y 11m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05-01-2013	Gainsborough Landfill Site: 53°23'N 0°46'W 185km NNE 8y 9m 23d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-01-2013	Treffieux Landfill Site: 47°38'N 1°33'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 480km S 8y 10m 11d
GN56878	Nestling	14-07-2011	Port of Felixstowe, Felixstowe: 51°57'N 1°19'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	25-02-2012	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex) 73km SW 0y 7m 11d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-01-2013	Edgefield: 52°52'N 1°5'E (Norfolk) 104km N 1y 6m 9d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	21-03-2013	Middlemarsh Landfill Site, near Skegness: 53°8'N 0°17'E 149km NNW 1y 8m 7d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	08-06-2013	Gibraltar Point, near Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E 145km NNW 1y 10m 25d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-10-2013	Lake Lothing, Lowestoft: 52°28'N 1°43'E (Suffolk) 64km NNE 2y 3m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-12-2013	Middlemarsh Landfill Site, near Skegness: 53°8'N 0°17'E 149km NNW 2y 5m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)		

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Rare/scarse visitor, mainly in late summer / autumn. **RBBP**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites 2013	2	1	4	3	3	5	10	8	6	1	2	1
Minimum total 2013	3	1	8	4	3	8	52	42	10	2	4	1
Minimum total 2012	7	2	3	7	6	17	70	30	21	16	5	1
Minimum total 2011	7	2	2	4	7	19	47	32	20	21	8	1
Minimum total 2010	2	1	2	7	4	7	32	19	17	8	5	6

The countywide peak in July was slightly lower than in 2012 but generally totals were similar. The areas in which largest totals were reported were the northern Wolds and at North Hykeham Pits. At Elsham Top there were 13-14 on Jul 24th-31st. At North Hykeham there were 10-12 on three dates during Jul 29th-Aug 29th. Other counts of six or more were 10 at Marston STW on Aug 13th, six at Colsterworth landfill on Jul 30th and six at Burgh Marsh on Aug 15th. A wide span of ages was reported, from adults to first years, but adults comprised about half of all those for which ages were recorded. The recovery below shows the origin of one of these birds, from a recently established roof-nesting colony in Frankfurt.

DEW N104251	Nestling	18-05-2012	Posthof, Frankfurt am Main: 50°8'N 8°39'E Germany
	Alive (ring read in field)	20-04-2013	North Cave, East Yorkshire: 53°42'N 0°39' W 744km NW 0y 11m 2d
	Alive (ring read in field)	21-07-2013	Bonby Top: 53°38'N 0°27' W 740 km NW 1y 2m 3d

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor. **LBRC**

A total of 26 individuals were identified which represents a fairly typical showing, although this species is almost certainly still overlooked due to identification difficulties. At the start of the year two second calendar year birds were at Bonby on Jan 2nd (GPC) with further records from this site on Apr 1st (TCL), two birds between Apr 2nd-4th (GPC) and Apr 8th (TCL), all involving second

calendar year birds. Coastal Caspian Gulls are something of a rarity in Lincolnshire, so four from the Skegness area are notable: a colour-ringed fourth calendar year bird at Middlemarsh Tip on Mar 18th-19th (NAL) came from a Polish scheme, another Polish-ringed bird, this time a second calendar year, was seen at Middlemarsh Tip on Apr 2nd (NAL) and the only other coastal records were two different second calendar year birds on Mar 25th and 26th at Gib Point (NAL). Five birds (three adults, a second calendar year and third calendar year) were recorded at Gainsborough landfill site between Jan and Mar (DN) before the tip closed, and eight were seen around Lincoln tip at North Hykeham between Mar and Sep (DN), comprising a first calendar year, five second calendar year and two adults. Interestingly, yet another Polish-ringed bird was seen here on Sep 3rd (DN). The only other records of the year were a fourth calendar year at Willingham by Stow on Sep 5th (DN), a second calendar year at Bagmoor on Jan 21st (ND, GPC), and two different second calendar years there on Feb 3rd (ND). ‘Stumpy’ – the one-legged individual who has been around since 2004 – was still going strong, being seen at Gainsborough and North Hykeham on several occasions throughout the year. The dearth of records at the last three months of the year is almost certainly down to the closure of landfill sites in the wake of the opening of the new incinerator in Lincoln. It remains to be seen if this species will once again become a truly rare bird in the county, but early indications are that it will.

2012 addition A second winter bird at Middlemarsh Tip (NAL) on Dec 21st-22nd was accidentally omitted from the 2012 report.

PLG DN25373	Nestling	20-05-2010	Zb.Kuznica Warezynska, Dabrowa Gornicza: 50°22'N 19°11'E (Katowice) Poland
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-01-2011	Rainham Marshes, London: 51°30'N 0°12'E (Greater London) 1,336km W 0y 7m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-02-2011	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex) 1,315km W 0y 8m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-01-2013	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex) 1,315km W 2y 7m 30d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-03-2013	Middlemarsh Landfill, Skegness: c. 53°8'N 0°17'E 1,336km WNW 2y 9m 26d
PLG DN28683	Nestling	25-05-2012	Zb Kozielno, Paczkow: 50°28'N 16°58'E (Opole) Poland
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-12-2012	Newhaven: 50°46'N 0°2'E (Sussex) 1,195km W 0y 6m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-12-2012	Rye Harbour: 50°55'N 0°45'E (Sussex) 1,143km W 0y 6m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02-04-2013	Middlemarsh Landfill, Skegness: c. 53°8'N 0°17'E 1,184km WNW 0y 10m 8d
PLG DN28751	Nestling	25-05-2012	Zb Kozielno, Paczkow: 50°28'N 16°58'E (Opole) Poland
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-09-2013	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°36'W 1,243km WNW 1y 3m 9d



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* Bonby Top Apr 4th 2013 © Graham Catley

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May. **LBRC**

A first winter seen in late Dec 2012 was in the Bonby Top area from Jan 1st to the 13th with presumably the same bird on Saxby Wolds on Feb 19th and near Elsham Wolds on the 20th (TCL,

GPC *et al*). Another first winter was at Bagmoor Floods on Jan 20th-22nd (ND), a third winter at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Feb 25th (DN) and a first winter there on Mar 12th (DN), a first winter at Bagmoor Floods on Mar 10th (ND), a first winter at Saltfleetby all Saints on Mar 10th (BGu), a first winter at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Mar 30th (JRW, CMo), a first winter at Bonby Carrs and Wolds on Apr 3rd-4th (TCL, ND, GPC) with the same at Elsham Wolds on the 17th (TCL), a first summer at Gib Point on May 2nd (NAL, PNe) and presumably the same bird flew south there on May 28th (RDn). A first summer bird at Chapel Point on Jun 6th (EJM) was an odd record. In the later winter, a first winter was on Grimsby Docks on Dec 17th-28th (DJB *et al*) and a first winter at Elsham Wolds on Dec 30th-31st (TCL, GPC, SRO *et al*).



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* 1st winter Elsham Top Dec 31st 2013 © Graham Catley

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* Vagrant. LBRC

A second winter bird was at Lea Marsh tip, Gainsborough from Jan 2nd intermittently to Mar 9th (DN *et al*).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

There were frequent sightings in the first quarter at Lea Marsh (Gainsborough) mostly involving single first winter bird or birds from Jan 2nd to Mar 9th, with an adult and a third winter on Jan 3rd (DN, BGu). On Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, there were two first winters on Jan 19th-20th and then singles on Jan 21st and 27th (ND, GPC). One first winter bird flew northwest at Horkstow/Barton Wolds on Feb 14th (TCL), and there was an immature at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Mar 14th (PRO, CMo). There was a widespread series of records in spring. At Frampton Marsh, a first winter was seen on Apr 10th-11th (JB), and there was a first or second summer at Gib Point on Apr 14th (RDn, KMW). In the north, a first winter at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Apr 10th (ND) was followed by same-aged and possibly the same bird at Bonby Carrs on Apr 17th (TCL) and Barton Pits on Apr 18th (GPC). The last of spring was again a second calendar year bird at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 5th (ND). Towards the end of the year, the first reports came from North Hykeham Pits where a first winter bird was seen throughout Nov 7th-16th (DN, GHo). A second winter bird flew west at Alkborough Flats on Nov 16th (GPC), and it or another second winter was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Dec 7th and 12th (ND, TCL). An immature flew north at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 24th (JRW, CMo). One was reported well inland near Deeping High Bank on Dec 5th (BGu). Finally, a first winter was at Chapman's Pond, Cleethorpe on Dec 30th (DJB).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	78	126	66	18	40	52	163	116	98	241	185	151
Cleethorpes-Tetney	64	-	85	150	15	7	43	35	120	157	66	81
Donna Nook	65	50	100	50	25	20	58	40	50	120	150	100
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	70	87	70	17	-	22	42	76	92	56	32	49
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	524	87	53	124	246	332	197	187	555	448	357	48
Gibraltar Point	200	100	200	120	180	400	300	1020	600	240	610	400
Witham*	450	-	-	-	-	15	47	-	-	-	250	-
Frampton Marsh	14	4	9	37	43	51	32	8	188	36	7	-
<i>Inland</i>												
North Hykeham Pits	350	330	210	300	140	80	30	30	100	350	450	590
Whisby NR	230	1	180	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	150	100	50	60	50	40	50	-	150	200	-	200
Leadenhall tip	500	-	200	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other counts exceeding 100 were 450 on Colsterworth tip and 160 on the Wainfleet sector of The Wash in Oct. Counts were broadly similar to last year's and unexceptional, but note that any site regularly holding 760 or more is regarded as nationally important for the species. This probably applies to Gib Point. Another series of colour-ringed gull sightings at landfill sites is included below, all birds in their first one to three years, and two of them at North Hykeham in mid summer.

NOS 3024092	Nestling	25-06-2013	Eidsvikskjaeret: 60°40'N 5°5'E (Hordaland) Norway									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20-08-2013	Middlemarsh Landfill Site, near Skegness: 53°8'N 0°17'E 886km SSW 0y 1m 26d									
GR08111	First year	20-02-2012	Daneshill Landfill Site: 53°22'N 1°0'W (Nottinghamshire)									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-03-2012	Rutland Water: 52°39'N 0°43'W (Leicestershire) 82km SSE 0y 1m 3d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10-06-2013	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°36'W 34km SE 1y 3m 21d									
HW93626	Second year	20-02-2012	Daneshill Landfill Site: 53°22'N 1°0'W (Nottinghamshire)									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-11-2012	Gainsborough: 53°23'N 0°47'W 15km E 0y 8m 30d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-01-2013	Gainsborough: 53°23'N 0°47'W 15km E 0y 11m 4d									
HW93613	First year	20-02-2012	Daneshill Landfill Site: 53°22'N 1°0'W (Nottinghamshire)									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-06-2012	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°36'W 34km SE 0y 3m 29d									
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-01-2013	Gainsborough: 53°23'N 0°47'W 15km E 0y 11m 4d									

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult was reported at Kirkby on Bain GP on the afternoon of Jun 18th and was photographed in the evening by JS. Accepted by BBRC (BB 107: p 605). This is a very rare bird in the county with only five previous records (see below) and this is the first to be accepted since one in 1978.

1967 One at Gib Point, Aug 30th

1969 Adult flying south at Donna Nook, Aug 4th

1972 First winter at Covenham Res, Sep 16th-Oct 14th

1975 One at Witham Mouth, Sep 7th

1978 One at Trusthorpe, Sep 3rd

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Humberston/Tetney	-	-	-	4	17	-
Grainthorpe/Donna Nook	-	6	7	2	5	-
Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe	-	16	1	6	-	-
Gibraltar Point	75	87	11	37	10	2
Freiston	-	-	-	-	15	-
Frampton	-	1	-	5	8	-

The only other location attracting five or more was Sandlilands, where five were seen on Jul 27th. There were also scattered small counts on the coast and in The Wash, plus singles inland at Whisby NR on May 27th and at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jun 10th. The spring arrival was abrupt, with none until 20 at Gib Point on Apr 19th. Numbers there rose to reach 75 on Apr 30th and 87 on May 10th, after which totals fell away sharply. From May 23rd onward, only up to 13 were at Gib Point apart from an isolated count of 37 on Jul 29th. Spring peaks elsewhere were six near Donna Nook on May 9th and 16 at Saltfleet on May 11th. Two pairs attempted to breed at Gib Point but were unsuccessful. Small concentrations were fairly widespread in Aug, including peaks of 17 at Humberston Fitties on Aug 8th, 15 at Freiston Shore on the 11th, 10 south at Gib Point on the 22nd and eight at Frampton Marsh on the 25th. There was one at Gib Point on Sep 3rd and only one later record of two there on Sep 27th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Fairly common passage migrant from spring to autumn. **RBBP**. *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* (American Black Tern)

Vagrant. **BBRC**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Barton area	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Donna Nook/Grainthorpe	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Trusthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Huttoft Car Terrace	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	26	2	-
Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth	-	-	1	-	32	2	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	3	1	2	-	-
Toft Newton	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits/Whisby	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlby SP (Bassingham)	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Deeping Lakes	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Number of sites	-	3	4	2	5	7	1
Minimum Lincs total	-	6	12	4	66	22	1

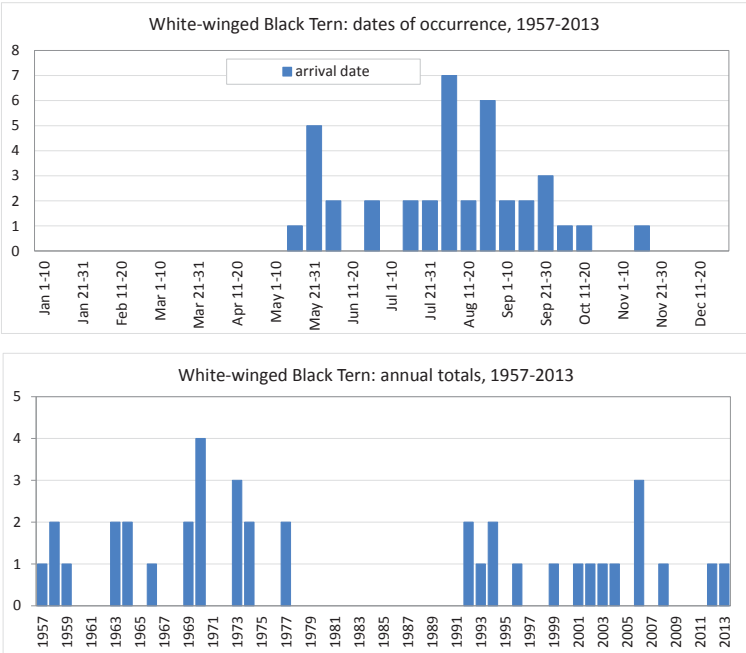
The table shows the 73 sightings allocated to fourteen recording areas. The first birds of the year were three present at North Hykeham Pits on May 7th. It was another eight days before two more were noted at Toft Newton Res on the 15th, and another two weeks before one more was seen at Far Ings on May 31st-Jun 1st. The Jun peak was five at Alkborough Flats on the 8th, and there were no records between Jun 14th and Jul 22nd. A few records of 1-2 were made before an arrival on Aug 24th, when there were 26 at Gib Point, 25 of them arriving off the sea, and 32 feeding at Freiston Shore and in the Witham Mouth. There were still 14 feeding off Freiston Shore on the 25th but subsequently a return to small numbers. The only counts of more than two were six juveniles at Thurlby Sand Pits on Sep 9th and five flying south off Huttoft on Sep 10th. The last in Sep was one at Deeping Lakes on the 20th but the final bird of the year was one at Witham Mouth on Oct 13th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Vagrant. LBRC

An adult was at Kirkby on Bain GP on May 31st (KDR).

This was the 37th record for the county (38 birds) since the first in 1957 and fits well into the peak period of spring migration. The annual pattern of records has been somewhat odd, with 18 identified between 1957 and 1977 when there were fewer observers and less knowledge of the identification of juveniles, then a long gap with none between 1977 and 1992 and 1992 and 16 birds in the latest 21 years, suggesting there has been a decrease in occurrence.



Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber & coast</i>									
WeBS totals	-	2	72	425	57	23	-	-	-
Cleethorpes-Humberston Fitties	-	-	3	7	200	6	4	-	-
Horseshoe Point-Donna Nook	1	2	66	70	200	208	3	-	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	2	6	330	20	220	5	-	4
Mablethorpe-Sandilands	-	-	-	15	24	250	3	-	-
Huttoft-Chapel Point	-	-	-	11	55	300	1	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>									
WeBS totals	-	-	2	6	69	521	116	-	-
Gibraltar Point	33	167	108	300	2580	1050	11	-	-
Wainfleet-Butterwick	-	-	1	9	122	19	-	-	-
Freiston Shore & Witham Mouth	-	2	-	100	85	26	39	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	-	7	3	5	15	-	-	-
Kirton-Welland-Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Dawsmere-Nene-Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	92	10	-	-	-

The first bird of the year was recorded on Apr 13th at Whisby NP before flying noisily on to North Hykeham Pits. This bird and another on May 2nd at the same location were the only ones of the year recorded so far inland. This first bird of the year was followed by a single at Gib Point the following day, with Donna Nook hosting a single bird on the 15th. Spring passage in April and May was unexceptional with a count of 167 at Gib Point on May 17th the only one of more than 60. Around 430 observations were recorded throughout the year with nearly half of those coming from Gib Point. This was as usual the site most favoured during autumn passage, with counts exceeding 200 extending from Jul 14th to Sep 11th and nine counts of 1000 or over. The first such count was 2000 on Aug 6th, followed by six four-figure totals during Aug 11th-18th peaking at 2850 on the 15th, then 2000 on the 28th and 1050 on Sep 2nd. Further north along the coast, high counts tended to be a little earlier or later than the Gib Point peaks, including 330 in the WeBS count at Saltfleet on Jul 24th, 200 at Cleethorpes on Aug 9th and 200 at Donna Nook on Aug 16th, and later 208 at Donna Nook and 200 near Brickyard Lane on Sep 8th, 250 at Trusthorpe and 300 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Sep 10th and 220 roosting near Crook Bank on Sep 17th. There was also a notable sighting of 80 at Anton's Gowt, on the R Witham inland of Boston, on Aug 20th. Observations declined through Sep and into Oct, but with records on most days until the last sighting of three at Gib Point on Oct 24th. Six weeks went by until one lucky observer counted four birds near Brickyard Lane on the late date of Dec 4th (CMo). This was the first Dec record since one at Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore on Dec 1st, 2011, and prior to that one in Dec 2000. Three colour ring sightings below show origins of our autumn migrants in colonies further north along the east coast, while the fourth is from a Dutch colony.

E35874	Adult	15-08-2010	Ythan Estuary, Newburgh, Aberdeen: 57°19'N 2°0'W (Grampian Region)			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-08-2013	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 491km SSE 3y 0m 2d			
DE52048	Adult	17-08-2011	Ythan Estuary, Newburgh, Aberdeen: 57°19'N 2°0'W (Grampian Region)			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-08-2013	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 491km SSE 2y 0m 14d			
DD92372	Nestling	03-08-2013	Coquet Island, Amble: 55°20'N 1°33'W (Northumberland)			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-08-2013	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°20'E 277km SSE 0y 0m 28d			
NLA N...1478	Nestling	28-06-2013	de Scheelhoek eilanden, near Stellendam, Zuid-Holland: 51°48'N 04°04'E The Netherlands			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-08-2013	de Putten, Camperduin, Noord-Holland: 52°44'N 4°38'E The Netherlands 100 km NNE 0y 1m 19d			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10-09-2013	Huttoft: 53°16'N 0°9'E 300 km NW 0y 2m 14d			

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<i>The Humber & coast</i>									
WeBS totals	-	-	-	9	54	35	3	-	-
Barton area (Chowder-New Holland)	-	-	13	18	25	6	4	7	-
Cleethorpes-North Cotes	-	-	1	-	3	250	45	-	-
Horseshoe Point-Donna Nook	-	2	-	3	35	317	88	4	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	5	15	5	40	17	-
Huttoft-Anderby	-	-	-	1	5	64	2	2	-
<i>The Wash</i>									
WeBS totals	-	1	87	30	228	127	72	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	6	116	40	55	270	191	3	-
Freiston Shore & Witham Mouth	-	1	72	238	180	20	30	3	1
Frampton Marsh	-	1	24	36	13	54	13	-	-
<i>Inland</i>									
Whisby NP-North Hykeham Pits	-	-	39	36	24	7	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	1	50	61	90	40	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes	-	1	18	19	20	2	-	-	-
Deeping St James	-	18	36	26	2	4	-	-	-

The earliest bird of the year was seen at Crowland on Apr 7th. Numbers remained low until well into May, when the peak was 116 at Gib Point on the 17th. All counts of 100 or more came from east coast sites or The Wash. Counts of 200 and over are highlighted in the text. Over 200 breeding birds were present in summer at Freiston Shore but all other high counts came in autumn. At Gib Point 205 were counted on Aug 13th, with 270 mainly to roost on Aug 17th, 255 on the 24th, and 200 moving north on the 25th. Around 250 were counted at North Cotes Marsh on Aug 21st, and the highest count of the year was 317 in the Donna Nook area on Aug 25th. Away from the coast, the largest counts were all from Kirkby on Bain GP where the maximum was c90 on Jul 17th. Numbers declined through Sep and the only reports after Oct 14th were of singles, perhaps all the same bird, at Witham Mouth on Oct 31st and Nov 6th-7th. Breeding was confirmed at eight sites in the county, though this may not be a full summary. Nine pairs nested at Barton Pits, fledging nine young, and additionally two pairs nested at Barrow Haven but no chicks fledged there. At Whisby NR, breeding was confirmed on Grebe Lake, with 28 nesting pairs and a minimum of 23 fledged chicks. One pair produced two young at Boultham Mere. At Kirkby on Bain, no estimate of the number of pairs is available but a count of 90 on Jul 17th included adults and juveniles. The only report of breeding from Gib Point was of two small chicks seen on Jun 28th-29th but gone on the 30th. On The Wash RSPB reserves, there were 119 apparently occupied nests at Freiston Shore and 18 nests at Frampton Marsh.

SX17744	Nestling	06-07-2010	Wykes Lane Reservoir, Donington: 52°54'N 0°10'W
	Alive (ring read in field)	15-07-2013	Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire)
			57km SSE 3y 0m 9d

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Barton Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Humberston Fitties-Tetney	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
Horseshoe Point-Donna Nook	-	-	6	-	3	5	3	1	-
Covenham Res	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	10	5	-	-	-
Mablethorpe-Sandilands	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-
Huttoft-Anderby	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	544	4	2	7	7	4	1
Freiston Shore & Witham Mouth	-	1	5	-	-	2	-	6	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Boultham Mere	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

The table condenses all records from sites at which the species occurred. Apart from one large spring movement, numbers seem to be down in comparison to last year. The first birds of the year were three at Covenham Res and four at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 15th. There was a steady number of sightings throughout Apr and early May, with the highest counts being five at both Kirkby on Bain GP and North Hykeham Pits on Apr 18th. A substantial movement was noted at Gib Point during May 13th-17th, totalling 904 over four of those days; this was perhaps the largest spring movement in the county since 1998. On the 13th, 79 were counted flying south and this was followed by 127 south on the 14th and the peak of 544 south on the 15th. Finally, 154 were counted on the 17th, all but one moving north. After that, apart from 12 at Gib Point on May 21st, no counts in May-Jun exceeded five, and the last spring record was one at Gib Point on Jun 12th. Autumn records began with one at Gib Point on Jul 10th, but only small numbers were noted. The one double-figure count was of 10 at Howden's Pullover on Jul 24th. Single-figure counts continued until Oct 23rd, and the final bird of the year was a juvenile seen heading south into The Wash at Gib Point on Nov 2nd.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

Smaller numbers than usual were recorded despite birds being seen in all months. Ten were at Freiston Shore on Jan 20th, otherwise there were occasionally 1-2 offshore at Donna Nook, Gib Point and Freiston Shore in the early months to Apr 17th. Three birds flew north at Gib Point on May 21st followed by seven on 24th and four on May 25th. Two were at Donna Nook on Jun 29th and six there on Jul 27th, then three at Gib Point on Aug 17th and 31st. Regular sightings during the rest of the year between Humberston Fitties and The Wash involved mainly single figures, exceptions being 13 at Gib Point on Sep 3rd, 25 at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Nov 21st, 14 at Gib Point also on the 21st and 16 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Nov 24th. Birds which penetrated the upper reaches of the Humber were singles at Barton on Sep 30th and Oct 13th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

Two were at the Witham Mouth on Feb 4th and one there on 15th with others at Freiston Shore on Feb 11th and Gib Point on 22nd. All the March records were of birds found dead, namely singles at Gib Point on the 26th and 28th and a total of 13 at Donna Nook between Mar 30th and Apr 1st. One was on the Witham at Frampton Marsh on Apr 28th and in May one flew south at Gib Point on 3rd, followed by northerly passage of 14 on 17th, one on 24th and two on 25th. After none in Jun, three flew north at Gib Point on Jul 10th. In autumn there were just nine records of single birds between Aug 7th and Nov 30th at five sites from Donna Nook to Gib Point. The recovery below is not an especially old bird: the record for Razorbill is 41 years.

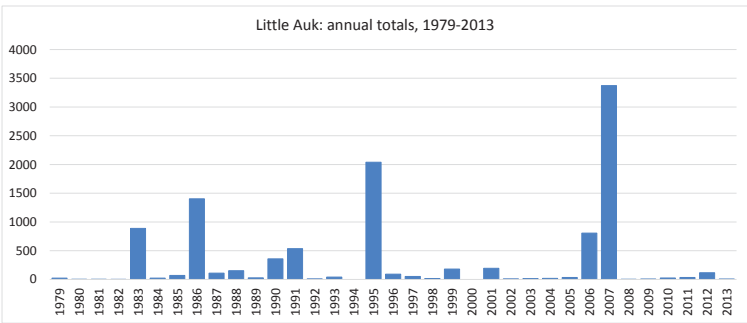
M70154	Nestling	19-07-1996	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region)
	Long dead (oiled)	26-03-2013	Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Res: 53°24'N 0°14'E 358km SSE 16y 8m 7d

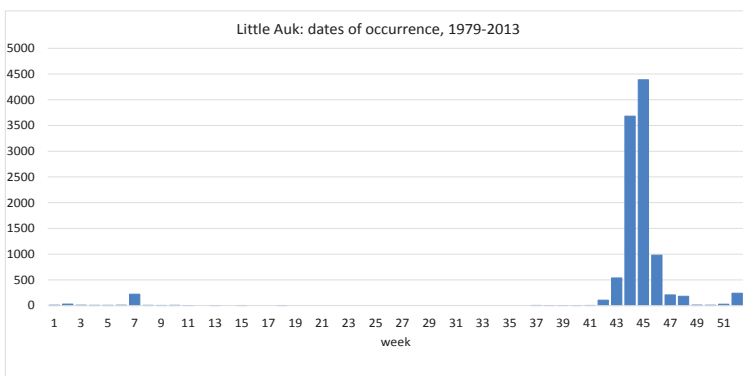
Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor.

One was found dead at Donna Nook on Mar 30th. The lack of northerly storms resulted in very few autumn sightings, hence just one at the Witham Mouth on Oct 13th and five at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Nov 22nd.

Little Auk occurrence is highly variable from year to year as the first chart below illustrates, showing annual totals each year during 1979-2013. Their seasonal occurrence is, though, predictable with 75% of birds during 1979-2013 being seen during weeks 44 and 45 (Oct 25th-Nov 7th), as shown in the second chart. The small spike in week 7 (Feb 6th-12th) relates to a large auk wreck along the east coast in 1983.





Puffin Fratercula arctica

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

Six were found dead at Donna Nook between Mar 29th and Apr 1st (SL). One flew north at Gib Point on May 10th (KMW) and two north there on the 17th (NAL). The only autumn birds were all singles, at Sandilands on Jul 28th (CMo, RL), and Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Nov 21st (CMo, RL).

Feral Pigeon Columba livia

Common and widespread resident.

Feral Pigeon is something of a Cinderella species in Lincolnshire and some birders ignore them entirely. It is fairly widespread in urban areas where there are derelict buildings and in the countryside in farm buildings and churches. It is an important prey item of our growing Peregrine population. The BBS recorded it in 16 out of 78 squares in 2013 compared to Wood Pigeon 64, Collared Dove 35 and Stock Dove 26, whereas the totals of birds counted were Feral Pigeon 208, Wood Pigeon 3,480, Collared Dove 204 and Stock Dove 110. This indicates that where it occurs Feral Pigeon breeds in denser numbers than other doves. Large counts in the year came from Freiston Shore where there were 150 in Jan, 80 in Mar and 80 in Dec, and Nocton Fen where 200 were recorded in Dec.

Stock Dove Columba oenas

Common resident and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bonby Carrs	-	140	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conisholme Fen	-	-	-	-	8	5	10	40	20	-	-	-
Donna Nook	6	17	17	20	20	17	38	30	44	40	10	7
Gibraltar Point	7	7	12	24	6	4	13	5	6	67	6	5
Nocton Fen	-	-	-	5	4	-	3	6	12	-	100	50

Reports came from about 115 sites, an increase of almost 65% on last year. All counts of 40 or over are included in the table except for 73 at Broadholme in Feb, 51 in Jun at Torksey Lock and 70 at Metheringham Delph in Sep, and a count of 36 at Swallow in Mar was close. Visible passage included 100 south at Gib Point in Apr with a peak of 24 on the 7th. In autumn, the total of 166 south at Gib Point during Oct 1st-Nov 15th was 166, well down on the 290 in 2012, with a peak of 47 on Oct 30th.

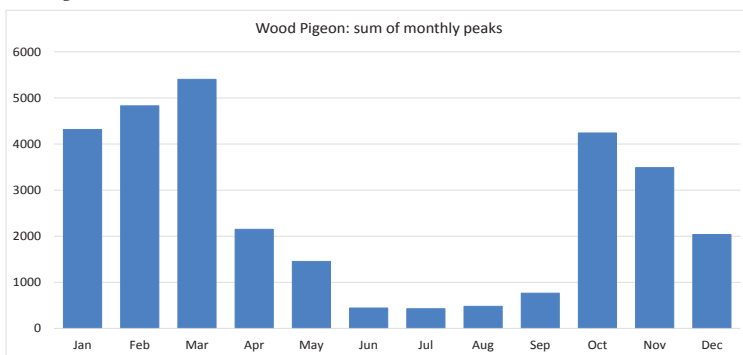
Wood Pigeon Columba palumbus

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	1000	62	120	33	23	20	14	13	12	24	40	32
Donna Nook	900	1150	1200	500	200	70	100	300	450	500	600	450
Gibraltar Point	185	500	500	657	1000	94	72	50	50	3280	2400	145

Wrangle Brickpits	100	1000	250	200	100	50	50	50	3	100	300	220
Boultham/Swanpool	-	600	-	500	50	66	-	3	100	132	-	1
Welbourn area	-	-	2000	-	-	41	-	24	22	195	107	31
Anwick area	1750	625	850	140	45	45	125	4	3	3	1	950
Spalding-Borough Fen	452	890	484	120	36	55	64	35	125	5	39	208
Sum of tabulated peaks	4314	4827	5404	2150	1454	441	425	479	765	4239	1327	2037
Sum of all peaks	8022	7997	8505	6952	2566	1131	1236	1317	1988	5668	5312	4020

All monthly peaks of 500 or more are in the table except for 600 at Tattershall Lakes in Jan, 500 at Donington on Bain in Feb, 620 and 500 at North Rauceby Heath in Mar and Apr respectively, 548 at Croftmarsh in May, and 500 at Blackmoor Bridge in Nov. As can be seen from the chart below, which shows data from tabulated localities only, Wood Pigeon numbers built up steadily after New Year but then fell away rapidly in spring, before increasing again during the autumn. Autumn movements at Gib Point totalled about 17000 south during Oct and the first half of Nov, with peaks of 2080 on Oct 24th, 3280 on Oct 29th and 2100 on Nov 8th. This visible passage is only noticeable in small numbers in other areas of the coast. The small numbers in summer can be partly explained by fewer records being submitted, as observers are less likely to report the smaller flocks that occur then, and the fact the many observers had declared the birds as present rather than estimating numbers.



Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humberston Fitties	45	-	15	20	25	20	20	35	35	45	45	45
Louth	18	21	13	28	-	13	15	14	9	18	-	18
Spalding-Borough Fen	15	22	15	8	7	3	1	26	15	7	5	24

Reports came from about 88 sites, with 10 or more at 14 of them. The highest totals not in the table were 39 at Whisby Quarry, 38 at Moulton Chapel, 31 at Metheringham Delph, 30 at Huttoft Bank and 25 at Nocton Fen, all in Nov. At Dorrington Fen, 22 were recorded in Sep and 26 in Nov. Other peaks of more than 10 were 18 at Sutton St Edmund in Apr, 15 at both Branston and Donna Nook in Aug, and 14 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes in Nov and 17 there in Dec. National and regional breeding bird surveys have traced a steady increase in numbers for decades. Yet some striking changes have occurred in local abundance. For example, there were concentrations of 450-600 at New Holland in the 1970s and 1980s but relatively tiny numbers there now, perhaps a feature of cleaner grain handling.

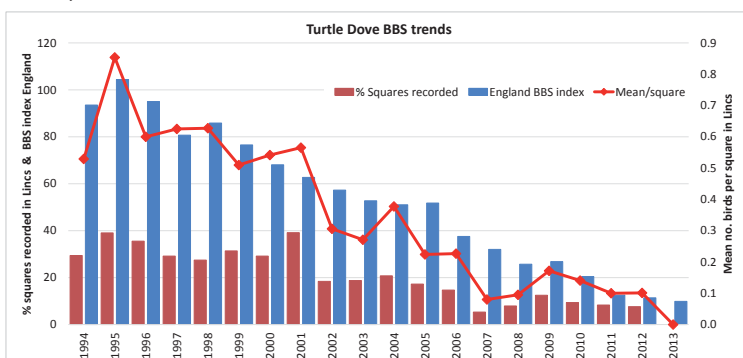
Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Restricted and declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	-	-	1	4	3	1	-	-
Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe Dunes	-	-	2	3	10	9	2	1
Gibraltar Point	-	3	14	20	13	7	2	-
Frampton Marsh	-	2	4	8	4	5	7	-

Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe	-	-	2	4	2	1	-	-
Dunsby/Dunsby Fen	-	-	2	6	2	3	-	-
Number of sites 2013	-	4	23	26	21	11	3	1
Number of sites 2012	-	12	34	29	18	14	9	1

A general request for all records of this species has probably led to a higher reporting level than in previous years. The table shows all sites where birds were recorded in four or more months. The continued decline of this species is of considerable concern and all records are still requested. The earliest birds of the year were two that arrived at Gib Point on Apr 23rd. In 2013, nearly 38% of all records came from this popular Reserve. Frampton Marsh returned 28% of the 355 sightings of the year. Other than a count of 10 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jul 14th, all instances of double figure counts occurred at Gib Point. The first count of 10 there was on May 13th, and subsequent peaks were 17 on Jun 1st, 19 on the 2nd, and 20 on the 6th. Fewer were counted after 10 on Jun 10th, by when migrants had moved through and local birds were on established territories, but 13 were noted on Jul 15th. Breeding was suspected in at least 13 sites countywide but this was the first year in which the species was not recorded on any BBS square in Lincs. The chart shows the decline in Lincs since 1994 (with red bars being the percentage of BBS squares in the county recording them each year and the red line the average number of doves per square) mirroring the decline over England as a whole (blue bars). With small numbers, it was difficult to discern any significant autumn passage this year. Seven at Frampton Marsh on Sep 3rd was the only count of more than two after late Aug, but coastal records continued to Sep 26th plus one late record at Brickyard Lane on Oct 18th.



Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

Records were well-distributed across the county, but numbers seem to vary only marginally each year. Two were at Frithville on Jan 6th and two were at Weelsby Woods, seen entering a nest hole, on Feb 15th. One was at Scunthorpe on Mar 4th and one at Barton-upon-Humber on an unrecorded date in May. There were no further reports until one at Friskney on Sep 4th, possibly escaped from a local zoo, and one at Lincoln on Sep 17th. Two were at North Hykeham Pits on Oct 25th and also at Whisby on Nov 12th, then there were records of single birds at Wainfleet Common on Nov 16th (an escape) and at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 4th.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	2	6	6	7	1	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes	1	4	5	1	-	1	-
Gibraltar Point	2	5	4	2	1	1	-
Number of sites 2013	16	51	32	8	12	6	-
Number of sites 2012	22	69	22	15	7	4	2
Number of sites 2011	33	43	30	6	7	4	1
Number of sites 2010	43	46	24	10	4	-	1



Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* all nest images by Keith Seaton near Spalding May 2013
 Images taken during BTO nest monitoring scheme on May 22nd, Jun 4th, Jun 10th and Jun 26th





Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* juvenile with **Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis* Crowle from Aug 7th to 11th 2013 © Paul Soulby



Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* juvenile Crowle from Aug 7th to 11th 2013 © Paul Soulby

The first birds of the year were at Broadholme, Huttoft Bank and Gib Point on Apr 20th, quickly followed by a wide scattering of reports over the next few days. By early May, 1-2 were present at many sites with 3-5 regularly at Donna Nook and Gib Point. Later in the month there were six at Donna Nook on the 20th and four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on the 28th and this pattern continued with peaks of five at Saltfleetby on Jun 30th, six at Donna Nook on Jun 16th and 30th, and seven at Donna Nook on Jul 3rd. Mainly single birds were noted at all sites after the first week of July and most of these were juveniles from the 10th onwards. Regular records to Aug 25th demonstrated the largely successful breeding season enjoyed by the species. A rufous phase juvenile was at Alkborough Flats on Aug 2nd. In Sep there were single birds at Barton Wolds, Gib Point and Freiston Shore all on the 1st, North Kelsey Moor on the 2nd, Conisholme on the 10th and Saltfleet Haven on the 21st.

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**

With reports from about 160 places, Barn Owl continues to be a popular species and evidently remains widespread in Lincolnshire. Most casual reports were of 1-2 birds, but threes were noted at Kirkstead Bridge and Hogsthorpe in Mar and Anwick Fen and Osbournby in Jul, and four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes in Mar. It was a poor year for breeding during 2013 due to the cold spring which affected adult birds both in Lincolnshire and across the UK. However, unlike the rest of the UK, the birds in Lincolnshire rallied and this was reflected in the number of chicks ringed in the late summer. Bob Sheppard and Alan Ball monitored 559 nest boxes during 2013 of which only 144 supported breeding birds. However, the failure rate was just 14% (compared with 39% in 2012) with 126 pairs producing 378 chicks. The delayed breeding meant that the peak fledging date coincided with harvest, resulting in an average brood size of 3.01 per pair.



Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Gib Point Jul 17th 2013 © Paul Neale

Barn Owl brood sizes

Number of young	failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	total	Unringed /missed
Number of broods	18	15	31	36	30	11	3	144	8

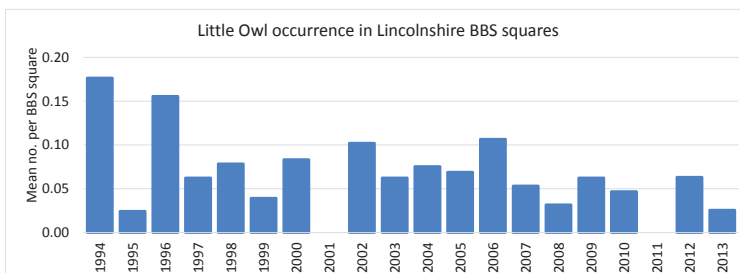
The first of the recoveries below involves a long-lived Barn Owl; only four in Britain have been recorded older than this, the oldest being just over 15 years. It had moved 2 km: limited dispersal is typical of the species, as illustrated by the other recoveries.

GF86549	Nestling	05-07-1998	Halton Fenside, near Spilsby: 53°9'N 0°7'E
	Freshly dead	17-02-2013	Great Steeping, Spilsby: 53°9'N 0°8'E 2km 14y 7m 12d
GN40976	Nestling female	06-06-2002	near Leverton, Boston: 53°1'N 0°3'E
	Caught by ringer	12-08-2003	Collingham: 53°8'N 0°46'W (Nottinghamshire) 57km WNW 1y 2m 6d
	Caught in nestbox	13-07-2009	near Long Bennington: 52°59'N 0°47'W 56km W 7y 1m 7d
	Also caught in a nestbox at Collingham, Notts, in breeding seasons of 2010, 2011 and 2013		
GN88857	Nestling female	24-06-2004	Murrow: 52°38'N 0°2'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	06-07-2013	Sutton St James: c. 52°44'N 0°4'E 12km NNE 9y 0m 12d
GN97058	Nestling	14-06-2005	Shelton: c. 52°59'N 0°50'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Freshly dead	27-03-2013	near Shirebridge Farm, nr Newark-on-Trent: 53°1'N 0°47'W 5km
	(hit by car)		7y 9m 13d
GN92078	Nestling female	01-06-2005	High Barn Farm, Hagworthingham: 53°11'N 0°2'E
	Caught in nestbox	06-06-2009	Oven's Farm, near Harrington, Spilsby: 53°14'N 0°3'E 6km NNE 4y 0m 5d
	Caught by ringer	07-07-2012	Brinkhill, Spilsby: 53°14'N 0°3'E 6km NNE 7y 1m 6d
	Freshly dead		
	(hit by car)	02-02-2013	Brinkhill, near Louth: 53°14'N 0°3'E 6km NNE 7y 8m 1d

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

Reporting of this species was poor this year, with counts coming from only 50 localities and all but one being of 1-2. They are spread throughout the county, including in more open landscapes. The exception was of three at Normanby-by-Spital on Sep 14th. At only two sites was occurrence described as involving probable breeding but they are likely to breed in all places where recorded. The poor showing may be related to the species' decline. The BBS in England as a whole showed a 50% decrease in numbers between 1995 and 2012 and, while it's important to remember that the sample size is small, there is an indication from Lincolnshire data that the trend is followed here too, as shown by the chart below. Little Owls appear to have the shortest breeding season of any owl breeding in Europe. They almost always lay their eggs during April and May, second broods are very rare and lost clutches are rarely replaced. The use of nestboxes by Little Owls seems to vary from county to county. In Wiltshire and in Lincolnshire nestboxes appear to be readily occupied but in Cheshire they have been slower to use artificial sites. It may simply be that in some areas there are sufficient natural sites for the birds and in others a shortage of sites inhibits the population so the provision of boxes creates an opportunity for expansion. A wide variety of nestbox designs have been used by Little Owls. The essential design requirements are; a very small entrance hole (70mm), a narrow tunnel or baffle arrangement, and a dark nesting chamber. The nestbox designed and installed by Bob Sheppard is rapidly being adopted nationally as the preferred design. It would seem that 2013 was another poor year with similar figure to 2012. There were 65 pairs of little owls in Bob Sheppard's nest box study scheme during the year, with 20 broods failing, and 45 pairs fledged 103 chicks with an average brood size of 2.28 per pair.



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Localised widespread resident.

There was no indication of any significant change in status. Records came from over 80 locations, slightly up from 2012, but as usual with the majority being of 1-2 birds. Reports of three or more came from 13 places, including five at Donington on Bain on Feb 2nd, family parties of four at Sloothby in May, and at Swallow and Gib Point in Jul, and four at Wold Newton in Nov.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce and declining breeding bird in county and winter visitor. **RBBP**

Birds were recorded from 12 locations during 2013, slightly down from 14 in 2012. In the first part of the year 1-2 birds were recorded from Deeping Lakes NR on eleven dates from Feb 24th to Mar 29th. There were singles at Claypole on Mar 13th and Gib Point Mar on 18th, with three at Baston Fen NR on Mar 29th. Probable spring migrants were singles at Ferriby Sluice on May 18th and Pye's Hall on May 28th. Confirmed breeding was recorded at two locations in the north of the county, though this understates breeding status. At site A on May 3rd, an adult was found dead by an egg next to a tall *leylandii* hedge where it was probably nesting, possibly a victim of a Tawny Owl or Buzzard. At site B, adults were recorded on two dates in spring and two were reported calling (we assume these were young) on Aug 18th. At site C a single adult was present through May, June and July. One was seen at Keb Wood on Jul 9th. In the autumn, at Gib Point, single birds were recorded on Sep 14th, 17th and Oct 5th, 15th, 16th, 17th (two) and 19th. At Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes there were up to seven birds between Oct 12th to Oct 20th and singles were at Humberston Fitties on Oct 26th and Donna Nook on Nov 21st. A wintering bird was back at Deeping Lakes NR on Dec 16th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor and occasional breeder. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Haven/Marsh	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Huttoft	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Gibraltar Point	2	3	3	2	3	1	-	-	1	1	2	2
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worlaby Carrs	13	4	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beckingham	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunsby Fen	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hawthorpe	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Baston Fen NR	2	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Deeping High Bank	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites 2013	12	9	19	10	12	2	0	0	1	9	8	9
Sum of site peaks 2013	27	15	29	15	16	2	0	0	1	12	10	19
Sum of site peaks 2012	66	35	72	69	77	19	11	9	14	34	31	44

This was a year of very poor numbers; the table shows all area with at least three birds or records in at least three months. The one exception was Worlaby Carrs, where at least 13 were present on Jan 18th and there were still five on Apr 2nd. However, none was seen there in the last quarter, after the end of the environmental stewardship scheme covering the area. There was a slight indication of spring passage, with three at Gib Point on May 2nd-4th and three at Tetney Marsh on May 8th. Although a few hung on well into May, and there were singles at Gib Point on Jun 3rd and Frampton Marsh on Jun 6th and 29th, there was no suggestion of breeding. The first of autumn was one at Gib point on Sep 20th, followed by one at Donna Nook on Oct 2nd and one inland at Stixwold on the 3rd. Numbers into the winter were very meagre, though there were 2-3 in the Hawthorpe-Keisby area, and a peak of five there on Dec 17th, and four at Dunsby Fen on Dec 28th.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

The first of the year was at Seacroft on May 18th, hawking along the Gib Point road and south side of the golf course at dusk. Another migrant, a female, was observed at Dunsby Fen on May 27-28th. In breeding areas two were reported from Crowle Waste/Moors on May 25th and churring was heard there and two birds seen on Jun 10th. Four birds were seen on Aug 10th and three on Aug 16th. However, systematic surveys of Thorne & Crowle Moors over the years have revealed far higher numbers than most casual visits find. The estimated numbers of territories on Crowle Moors for the past five years have been 15 in 2009, then 16, 13, 12, and 13 in 2013 (Middleton Ecological Consultancy 2013: available from www.thmcf.org/downloads). The other main breeding area in Lincolnshire is Loughton Forest where nine territories were identified in the wet heath; there were 20 in 2012 in the whole forest but it was not all surveyed in 2013. Other breeding season reports of singles came from Keb Wood on Jul 6th, Dog Kennel Wood on Jul 15th and Roe Carr, Wroot on Aug 6th. Single autumn migrants were reported from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Aug 15th and Sep 14th. A forestry worker reported a late bird at Morkery Wood in mid Oct.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first report was of six from Gib Point on Apr 18th and there were a few coastal records on succeeding days. Birds started to come in more generally on Apr 25th when there were 11 at Barton and eight at Messingham SQ. During May, counts of 1000 came from North Hykeham Pits on the 15th and Covenham Res on the 21st. At Messingham SQ there were 600 also on the 21st. During June, even larger gatherings were recorded with 2000 at Barton Pits on the 12th and 15th, 5600 south at Gib Point on the 22nd and 8000, most south, there on the 23rd when there were also 5000 at the Witham WeBS sector. July saw 2700 south at Gib Point on the 2nd and 1800 south on the 3rd, with 500 at Anderby Creek on the 28th. Breeding birds had gone from Louth by Aug 7th and numbers started to fall off with peaks of 1347 at Gib Point on Aug 4th and 300 at Barton Pits on Aug 7th. There were only nine reports of 1-2 in Sep up to the 14th. In Oct, there was one late bird at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Oct 25th, and two reports slightly earlier in the month not certainly identified as Common Swift. The recovery below concerns a fairly old swift.

SB86181	Adult	16-06-1998	Gayley Reservoir: 52°41'N 2°6'W (Staffordshire)
	Caught by ringer	13-05-2013	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W 102km ENE 14y 10m 27d



Common Swift *Apus apus* Louth Jul 18th 2013 © John Clarkson



Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes Jun 12th 2013 © Barry Clarkson

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

Extreme vagrant. **BBRC**

On Jun 12th, a Pacific Swift, only the seventh for Britain, flew south at Spurn Point, East Yorkshire; a few hours later Barry Clarkson was scanning from the dunes at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR in the hope of seeing this extreme vagrant when amazingly it flew in over the saltmarsh and past him on the dunes; he was able to take some photographs of the bird confirming the identification and the fact that it was the same individual as seen at Spurn. The bird then eluded would-be observers along the Lincs coast but settled in for a two day stay in Suffolk. Needless to say, it was the first county occurrence of this extreme vagrant from eastern Asia and the fifth species of swift to be recorded in the county; only Needle-tailed Swift remains outstanding! Accepted by BBRC (BB 107 p 612).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

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

One flew south at Gib Point on Aug 3rd (MRB). This is the 16th record for the county; Gib Point dominates the list with eight of the records.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly totals 2011	7	8	12	6	8	16	20	31	33	24	21	16
Monthly totals 2012	24	15	21	14	7	8	24	21	35	32	21	11
Monthly totals 2013	21	16	22	24	19	18	14	37	36	33	27	21

The sums of Kingfisher peak monthly counts suggest that the recovery has continued from a low in Jan 2011 caused by three difficult winters for the species (the table shows revised figures for 2012, eliminating some duplicates). There were two pairs at Barton Pits but otherwise no reports of confirmed breeding, but the numbers reported in Apr-Jun suggest an improved breeding position over the previous two years. Kingfisher was reported from two of 78 BBS squares in 2013, the best showing since 2005. The post breeding peak count seems to have been delayed by a month or so over 2012, possibly a function of the late cool spring.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

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

Unusually both of the 2013 birds were in the late autumn, at Skegness on Oct 1st-4th (MSh *et al*) and in Huttoft village on Oct 17th (JSe, GCS).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Frampton Marsh Aug 28th 2013 © Russell Hayes

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

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

In spring one was in Woodall Spa on May 8th (AK). All of the other records were in the autumn, with the first at Gib Point on Aug 24th (KMW, MRB) and North Somercotes on the 24th-27th (PL, SL). There were four at Gib Point on the 25th, three of them trapped (MRB, PNe, JS, GPC *et al*), one of these also seen on the 26th, and there was a new bird on the 31st (KMW). Elsewhere one was at Donna Nook on Aug 26th (PL), two at Frampton Marsh also on Aug 26th with one staying to Sep 2nd (SK *et al*), and finally one at Gib Point on Sep 12th (RKW).

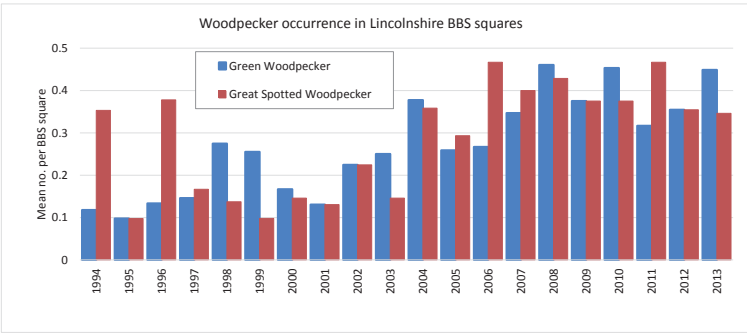
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anton's Gowt	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	2	1	2	2	2
Deeping Lakes NR	2	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
Elsea/Math Wood	-	1	5	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	4	2	1
Haverholme Park	-	-	3	3	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	1	1	3	4	3	4	2	1	1	-
Swanpool	1	1	1	2	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	1	1	-	-	-	1	4	1	1	-	-	-
Whisby NP	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1
Number of sites 2013	13	17	25	36	20	16	15	27	15	18	15	13

This year 685 birds were recorded in 438 sightings from 101 widely spread locations, an increase on 2012 perhaps reflecting both increased coverage and increasing numbers. The table includes all sites where there were counts of four or more, or records in six months or more. A best count of five came from Elsea/Math Wood on Mar 29th and Apr 3rd. Maxima of four birds were recorded in five locations: Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jun 16th and Aug 1st, Haverholme Park on Jun 30th, Anton's Gowt on Jul 11th, Tattershall Lakes CP on Jul 19th and Gib Point on Oct 20th. Maxima of three were noted at Surfleet on Mar 4th, Kirkby Moor on May 31st and Barton Pits on Jun 29th. Although confirmed breeding was recorded only at North Hykeham Pits on Jul 15th there were several probable/possible reports, from Boultham Mere on Mar 18th, Sutton St. Edmund in Mar-Apr, Branston on Apr 2nd, Quadring in Apr, North Rauceby Heath on Apr 9th, Great West Wood on Apr 21st and Twyford Wood on Aug13th. As in 2012, there was some evidence of spread into the south-east of the county.

The chart shows the generally increasing population trends, based on BBS coverage in Lincs, of the two large woodpeckers though each seem to have undergone a slight downturn over the past five-seven years.



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boultham Mere	1	-	2	2	-	3	-	1	1	2	1	1
Branston	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1
Elsea/Math Wood	-	3	1	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Far Ings NNR	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-
Gibraltar Point	4	3	3	2	2	4	4	3	3	6	3	2
Humberston Fitties	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Snipe Dales	-	1	5	2	3	3	-	-	-	-	2	1
Tattershall Lakes CP	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1
Whisby NR	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Number of sites 2013	24	25	31	40	21	22	16	15	16	28	24	30

The table includes a selection of the better-reported sites. The highest counts of the year were eight in Hartsholme CP on Mar 7th and six at Gib Point on Oct 19th and 29th. Counts of five came from Weelsby Wood on Feb 27th and Snipe Dales on Mar 3rd, and from Gib Point on four dates during Oct 16th-Nov 1st. Maxima of four were recorded at Barton Pits on Jan 4th, Haverholme Park on Apr 1st and Surfleet Seas End on Jun 3rd. The total of 947 birds recorded was 11% down on last year's total; 685 sightings were on a par with the 678 in 2012. Reports came from about 110 countywide locations, 22% up on 2012. Confirmed breeding was reported from Barton Pits, Branston, Callan's Lane Wood, Grantham, Horsington and Surfleet Seas End. Probable or possible breeding was recorded at Alkborough Flats, Bourne Wood, Burton Waters, Crowland, Elsea/Math Wood, Great West Wood, Haverholme Park, Newton on Trent, Pinchbeck, Swanpool, Swaton Fen, Wharton Wood and Whisby NP. There was no clear autumn passage on the coast, with peaks only apparent at Gib Point as in the text above. British Great Spotted Woodpeckers are very sedentary as adults but young birds may disperse some distance, and this is perhaps what LC85427 and LC 63366 below have done.

LC85427	First year female	11-11-2012	Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W									
	Freshly dead	07-05-2013	Duston, Northampton: 52°15'N 0°58'W (Northamptonshire) 129km SSW 0y 5m 26d									
LA63366	First year female	14-10-2012	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E									
	Caught by ringer	25-06-2013	Muckton Bottom: 53°19'N 0°2'E 14km WSW 0y 8m 11d									

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Rare resident. RBBP

Seventeen records came from just nine sites, and with some probably being repeat observations of the same birds, it is possible that only seven or perhaps eight birds were observed during 2013, suggesting that the decline is continuing. Visits to Elsea/Math Woods, where birds were present as recently as 2011, failed to locate any birds. Breeding probably took place near the boat house in Hartsholme Park, with reports as follows: one was seen on Feb 23rd and again the following day; a pair was observed on Mar 2nd, a female on Mar 6th and a pair again the following day; and then a female was again noted on Mar 15th and a pair heard on Mar 17th. Close by at Swanpool, a male was observed on Mar 4th and another or possibly the same bird at Boultham Mere on the same day. At Belton Park, birds were recorded on several dates during Mar-May, including a male and a female on one date, but no confirmation of breeding was obtained. Also in spring, Owlet Plantation held a bird on Apr 1st. Later in the year, one was seen at Bulby on Jul 13th, one was heard in Laughton Forest on Sep 4th and the final two birds of the year were noted at Lincoln West Common on Sep 21st and Denton on Sep 25th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

One was reported at Howden's Pullover on May 19th-20th (BGU), an immature male photographed in Huttoft village on May 24th (DPo), and a male at Gib Point on May 31st (GGr). A green bird flew south at Gib Point on Jun 15th (KMW) and an immature male was singing there on Jun 30th (JPS), with a more unusual record of a female reported in a garden in Tetney village on Jul 15th (BGU).



Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* juvenile Donna Nook Oct 20th 2013 © Mark Johnson



Isabelline Shrike *Larus isabellinus* Donna Nook Oct 20th 2013 © Graham Catley



Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* adult male Bonby Carrs Jun 4th 2013 and juvenile Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes Aug 26th 2013 © Graham Catley



Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first winter Isabelline Shrike, showing characteristics suggesting identification as Daurian Shrike *L. i. isabellinus*, was found in the dunes near Pye's Hall, Donna Nook on October 20th (CA, SL *et al*) and showed very well during the afternoon, but it had departed by the following morning. Accepted by BBRC (BB: 107 p616).

There are five previous records of this species in Lincolnshire (see below) with four being first winter birds, three of which were considered to be Daurian and one possibly Turkestan, the latter bird was found within 200m of the 2013 bird on Oct 13th 2003. Discussions continue upon the sub-specific or specific identity of the adult male seen at Anderby Creek and Gib Point in Nov 1982.

1978 First winter at Donna Nook, Oct 28th-30th

1982 Adult male at Anderby Creek, Nov 7th-8th, with the same bird at Gib Point, Nov 15th

1990 First winter at Pye's Hall, Oct 14th-15th

2003 First winter at Donna Nook (Stonebridge area), Oct 13th

2010 First winter at Gib Point, Oct 10th

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

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

Spring passage brought a female to Gib Point on May 25th (RHa, LHa), a male to Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 26th (JRow) with presumably a different male there on May 28th (AJH), and another female to Gib Point on May 30th-Jun 1st (MWi, JPS *et al*) with a male there on Jun 7th (EJM, MMk). Further males were in Bonby Carrs on Jun 4th (TCL *et al*) and at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Jun 21st-23rd (GW, MJT, BMC *et al*). A male was at Pye's Hall on Jul 21st-22nd (CHe, BMC *et al*), a male trapped at Gib Point on Jul 22nd (GGr). In the autumn proper, a juvenile was at Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Aug 24th-30th (BMC *et al*) and a juvenile at Churchill Lane, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Oct 13th (PSm).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

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

None were noted in the first winter or spring periods but a good autumn arrival occurred. The first was at Tetney-Humberston Fitties on Sep 27th-28th (RL, JRN) and there followed an excellent arrival in October along the coast as follows. In the Donna Nook area (Pye's Hall-Howden's Pullover) there were four on the 12th, four on the 13th, six on the 14th, five on the 15th, one on the 16th and three again on the 17th (SL, GPC, ND, GW, HB, DW *et al*). There was a series of records at Gib Point with one on Oct 12th, later trapped, with a second bird arriving late in day (GG, JPS, KMW) increasing to four on the 13th (JPS, JS, KMW) and 14th, (when other singles were found nearby on Seacroft Marsh (RKW) and Seacroft Golf Course RKW, NAL) with two to the 15th, when one was trapped (JPS,GG *et al*), then one on the 16th, two again on the 17th (with an additional bird still at Seacroft Marsh) and two on the 18th (JPS,RDo), with one remaining next day. Elsewhere, there was one at Saltfleet on Oct 11th (JJJa), one at Huttoft village on Oct 11th (JRC), one or two at Humberston Fitties-Tetney Lock on the 12th to 16th (RL, HB, CA *et al*), at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 12th-14th (BRG), 15th (BGU) and 16th (MBE), at North Cotes on the 13th (HB), at Grimsby North Wall on the 17th (JRN), at Horseshoe Point on the 19th (GPC), at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 22nd (BGU). Inland birds were reported at Burton-le-Coggles on Oct 20th (PO) and Kexby on Oct 27th (DN, NN). Wintering birds arrived at Blackmoor Bridge-Bassingham from Oct 20th to Dec 31st (DMJ *et al*) and Butterwick Common-M180 area on Nov 10th to Dec 31st (JTH, AHu *et al*) and Aisby-Culverthorpe Lakes on Dec 21st-31st (BGU, GWr) and all three were seen into 2014. The bird in the Bassingham area was seen to be ringed and a photograph of part of the number left no reasonable doubt that this was the bird ringed at Gib Point on Nov 4th 2012.

LE46061	Adult	04-11-2012 Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E		
	Alive (ring read			
	in field)	15-12-2013	Bassingham: 53°8'N 0°38'W	64km W 1y 1m 11d

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Vagrant. LBRC

A juvenile was found at Gib Point on Aug 17th (RDn, KMW). This is the 14th county record but the first since one, possibly belonging to the subspecies *L s badius*, was at Saltfleet in 2008; three spring birds were not sexed but of the other 11 birds (four in spring and seven in autumn) four were juveniles, six females and only one a male.



Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* juvenile Gib Point Aug 17th 2013 © Paul Neale

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

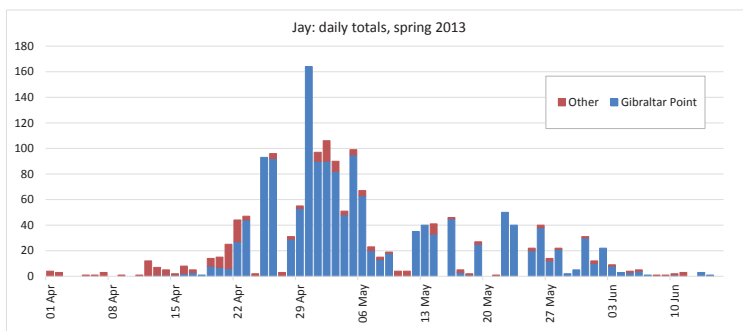
With counts of 15 or more coming from 13 sites (14 in 2012) and the highest count anywhere in the county of 46 (52 last year), there was little evidence of a change in status. This mirrored the all-England BBS results which showed almost no change between 2012 and 2013, and indeed little change since 1995. However, the Lincs BBS index showed a marked drop of 26%, despite the species occurring in a reasonable sample of 51 and 46 squares (out of 78) in the two years, respectively. The change is not statistically significant, though. The highest counts were at Gib Point, where a peak of 46 occurred on Jan 9th with 36 on Apr 13th, at Barton Pits where 42 went to roost on Feb 15th, and at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes where there were 38 at Brickyard Lane on Nov 28th and c30 at Crook Bank on Dec 23rd.

EX10812	First year	19-07-2009	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°11'N 0°38'W
	Freshly dead		
	(trapped)	08-06-2013	Lincoln, Thorpe on The Hill: 53°10'N 0°38'W 2km 3y 10m 20d

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

After the record-breaking numbers of autumn 2012, it was predictable that there would be a substantial movement this spring, and so it turned out. During Jan-Mar, it seemed quiet and the peak was 11 at Swanpool on Mar 2nd. But in mid April movement started and this continued until early June. It was most noticeable at Gib Point and scarcely evident elsewhere along the coast although there were elevated numbers at Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh for a time. Increases were apparent from early Apr and there were four at Cleethorpes CP on the 19th, but the first substantial movement was on the 22nd, with 27 south at Gib Point and 11 south at Freiston Shore, the peak there. Counts at Gib Point continued to rise, with some gaps, to reach the peak of 164 south on Apr 30th. The Frampton Marsh peak of eight was on May 2nd. On most days, most birds moved to the south but there were occasions when other behaviour was noted, such as Apr 25th when birds arrived from the north but then moved off to the north-west, or May 1st when most flocks were moving north along the dunes. Large flocks of up to 75 birds predominated. It was difficult to be sure whether new birds were occurring on successive days or the same flocks were simply circling widely. The latter seems more likely, and interestingly numbers in adjoining counties – for example at Spurn or north Norfolk – were mainly in single figures. The ringing recovery below does suggest some, perhaps rather slow, movement southwards along the east coast. Numbers declined into May, though there were still 95 at Gib Point on the 5th and 30-40 occurred frequently until the end of the month, with the last significant count of 22 including 13 north on Jun 2nd. There were seven at Huttoft village on May 14th. The rest of the year was far quieter, with maxima of five at Humberston on Sep 12th, five at Whisby NR on Oct 22nd and six at Boutham Mere on Oct 23rd.



DE56666	First year	25-04-2013	Kilnsea: 53°37'N 0°8'E (East Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	05-05-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 59km S 0y 0m 10d

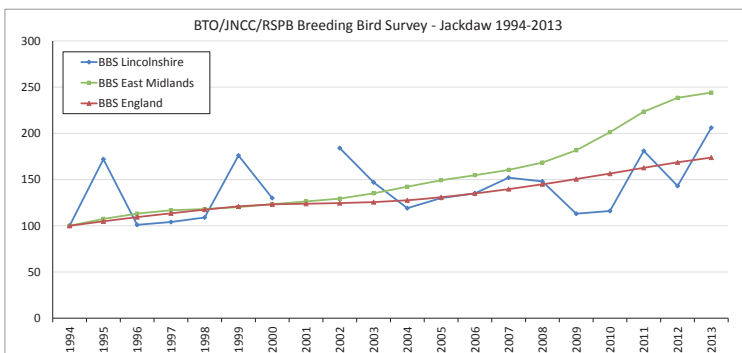
Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

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

The Lincolnshire BBS index showed a large increase between 2012 and 2013, bringing the overall trend more into line with the national and regional patterns. Reports this year came from around 140 sites and there were some counts of 100 or more in most months. The largest totals were, as expected, restricted to the year ends. There were 500 at Swanholme Lakes on Jan 14th, 4500 at Ostler's Plantation on Feb 17th, 700 at Boutham Mere on Feb 5th, 500 at North Hykeham Pits, heading for the Hartsholme roost, on Nov 17th and 1500 there on Dec 2nd, and 1200 at Marton on Dec 31st. Movement was noted at Gib Point in spring and autumn, especially the former when 880 were recorded flying south during Mar 2nd-May 22nd including peaks of 90 on Apr 15th, 61 on the 16th and 57 on the 20th.

EL80212	Nestling	24-05-2006	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead		
	(hit by car)	16-06-2013	Croft Marsh, Skegness: c. 53°7'N 0°17'E 3km 7y 0m 23d



Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

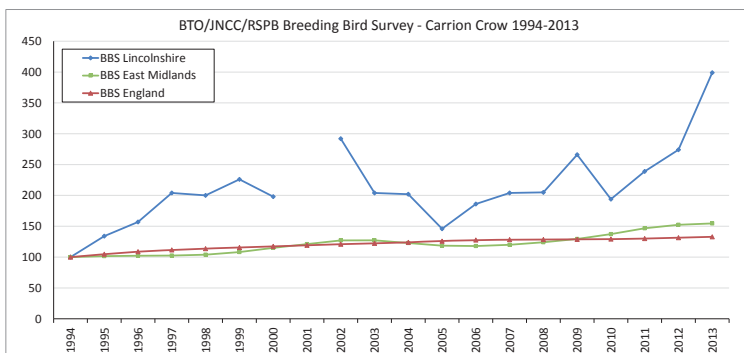
Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Rook remains an abundant and widespread species but, as with many common species, is not very well reported. Counts of 400 or more came from only five sites, as follows. There were 400 at Leadenham Tip on Jan 21st, 1500 at Ostler's Plantation on Feb 17th, 400 at Wrangle Brickpits on Aug 18th, 500 at North Hykeham Pits on Nov 17th, and 2500 at Marton on Dec 31st. Rookery nest counts were provided for the Kirkby on Bain GP and Tattershall Lakes areas, with 92 in two colonies at the former and 170 nests in two colonies in the latter. A small amount of movement was noted at Gib Point in spring and autumn, the largest count being 34 south on Apr 16th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

The national breeding population trend for this species is a consistent but gentle increase, but it will not surprise many that the increase in Lincs appears to be steeper. There were counts of 100 or more in Jan and each month in Sep-Dec. Many of these were on the coast, where up to 120 were counted at Donna Nook in Jan and Oct-Dec, and up to 150 at both Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe and Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe in Nov-Dec. Elsewhere there were 100 at Welsdale Bottom and 100 at Leadenham Tip in Jan, 100 at Swanholme Lakes in Jan and 140 there in Nov, 125 at Dorrington Fen in Sep and 180 at Swanpool in Oct.



Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Very scarce migrant and winter visitor formerly much more common in winter. LBRC

This species continues to become scarcer. There were no records early in the year, but most unusually one was at Croftmarsh and then at Gib Point, where it was seen to predate a Magpie nest, on Jun 2nd (RKW *et al*). In the autumn, one was seen at Gib Point on Oct 20th (RKW), one at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 27th (AN) and one at Frampton Marsh on Oct 29th (SWL).

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

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

Reports came from almost 40 sites this year, with 14 of them during May-Jun. Most were in the south-west but there was a scattering along the Lincoln edge and a few to north Lincs, the Wolds and coast. The furthest from established populations were two at Chowder Ness, Barton on the Humber on Sep 21st and one at Humberston Fitties on Oct 6th. The number of breeding pairs is slowly increasing. This year, six territorial pairs were reported including five in the south-west and one further north. Three pairs were known to fledge young, with two, two and three young. Two other pairs were reported as confirmed breeding but no further evidence was given: in one case four birds were present in Jun implying two fledged young, but in the other case there was merely a report of two at a potential nest site. The pair to the north were not thought to nest. There were reports of 1-3 from a further six sites during Mar-Jun, mostly on single dates.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	300	5	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	-	-
Gibraltar Point	5	4	3	14	-	-	-	-	7	460	14	5
Whisby NR	4	2	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	2	3	5

The table includes all sites at which more than 30 were noted or with records in nine or more months. Except for a short period in Oct, numbers reported were very small: all counts of 50 or more fell during Oct 12th-18th. The main arrival was on the 12th when 382 were recorded at Gib Point, including 52 trapped, and 30 at Humberston Fitties, 100 at Pye's Hall and 150 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes. On the 13th, the estimate at Gib Point was 460, including 101 trapped and 75 seen moving through the east dunes towards the south. Further north there were 25 at Humberston Fitties, 120 at Donna Nook and 170 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes. Counts on the 14th were broadly similar, with 30 at Humberston Fitties, 120 at Donna Nook, 100 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and 320 at Gib Point, but were falling by the 15th though there were still 150 at Donna Nook and 203 at Gib Point. Below are details of the movements of three autumn migrants at Gib Point, and of one British breeding bird.

ERX138	First year male Caught by ringer	06-10-2012 02-01-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Turkey Hall Farm: 51°27'N 0°36'E (Kent)	185km S 0y 2m 27d
ERY530	First year male Caught by ringer	13-10-2013 11-11-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Le Fort Vert, Marck: 50°56'N 1°57'E (Pas-de-Calais) France	266km SSE 0y 0m 29d
SVS SX5789	First year male Caught by ringer	04-10-2012 11-11-2012	Stora Fjäderagg, Holmon: 63°49'N 21°0'E (Vasterbotten) Sweden Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	1,685km SW 0y 1m 7d
CNE937	Adult female Freshly dead (cat)	09-04-2013 01-07-2013	Sussex Farm, near Burnham Market: 52°57'N 0°41'E (Norfolk) Braceborough, Stamford: 52°42'N 0°24'W	78km WSW 0y 2m 22d

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

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

The potential for breeding in Lincolnshire noted in 2011 has not been maintained, and all records this year were of coastal migrants. However, with 96 bird-days, the species was less scarce than in 2012. The first was one at Gib Point on Apr 14th, with two there and one at Huttoft Bank on the 15th. Birds were then present at Gib Point most days until the 23rd, with five on the 16th and four on the 17th and 19th. Elsewhere, there was one at Humberston Fitties on the 16th and singles at Donna Nook on the 17th and 18th. Subsequent spring records were one on May 3rd, two on May 25th and one on May 27th, all at Gib Point. In autumn, the first were singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point on Sep 30th. In Oct, birds were seen at Gib Point on most days to the 21st, including three on the 2nd and 13th. In the Donna Nook area, there were records through much of the same period, including three on Oct 1st, four on the 2nd, five on the 3rd and three on the 14th. There were also a few records from Humberston Fitties/Tetney Marsh, involving two on Oct 2nd and singles on the 3rd, 5th, 16th and 17th. On Oct 5th, there were also six at Rimac and one at Holbeach Marsh. Records at other sites were singles at Sea View on Oct 13th, and at Crook Bank

and Huttoft Bank on the 15th. After Oct 21st, there were just three singles at Gib Point, on Oct 30th, Nov 1st and – a different bird – on Nov 2nd.



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* Donna Nook Oct 1st 2013 © Barry Clarkson

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Records were received from over 150 localities but most involved fewer than 10 birds. Totals of 20 or more came from six places: Chambers Farm Wood, Gib Point, Hubbards Hills (Louth), Louth Canal, Morton (Gainsborough) and Surfleet. Data gathering for commoner at Whisby NR was less intensive and thus there were not similar high counts there to those of 2012. The most consistently high totals this year were at Gib Point but even there the maximum was below 50, with 47 on Jul 15th, 47 on Aug 24th and 42 on Sep 13th. There were some very small movements at Gib Point in Apr (a total of 53 south over eleven dates) but nothing significant in autumn. The ringing recovery suggests a distant post-fledging dispersal for a Blue Tit, for which 95% of recoveries are within 26km.

L884765	First year	03-09-2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Dead (leg only)	12-03-2013	Saltburn-by-the-Sea: 54°34'N 1°0'W (Cleveland) 204km N 1y 6m 9d

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident.

The data received from about 150 sites included eleven localities at which counts of 15 or more were made. This is a widespread and increasing species (see BBS chart) and the counts do not describe its status well. Numbers at Gib Point regularly exceeded 20 and peaked at 47 in Jul and 44 in Aug. There were 22 along Louth Canal in Jan, 20 at Hubbard's Hills (Louth) in Oct, and 20 at Wold Newton in Dec. At Gib Point, a total of 54 were seen moving south during Apr 5th-May 2nd, including 14 on Apr 15th and eight on the 16th. Some, for example four on the 20th, were travelling very high and appeared to be on long-distance passage. This is supported by the ringing recoveries below, revealing two young birds moving southwards along the east coast of England at the start of the breeding season. These are presumably birds relocating towards breeding sites but the distances are large for a fairly sedentary species and it surprising how late the movements were being made. A smaller amount of southward movement was seen at Gib Point in autumn, involving 18 birds during Oct 9th-27th with 10 of them on the 24th.

D188606	First year female Caught by ringer	10-04-2013 18-04-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Landguard Point, Felixstowe: 51°56'N 1°19'E (Suffolk)	147km SSE	0y 0m 8d
Y728562	First year male Caught by ringer Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	07-04-2013 20-04-2013 26-04-2013 28-04-2013	Flamborough Head: c. 54°7'N 0°6'W (East Yorkshire) Kilnsea Clays: 53°36'N 0°8'E (East Yorkshire) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	60km SSE	0y 0m 13d 117km SSE 0y 0m 19d 117km SSE 0y 0m 21d

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Records came from 54 sites demonstrating the species' widespread occurrence, but the counts do not reflect the large populations in areas of coniferous woodland. The only counts of eight or more were eight at Chambers Farm Wood in Apr, eight in Twigmoor Woods in Jan, 10 trapped at Walesby in Aug, seven at Osgodby in Oct, and 10 at Willingham Forest in Aug with 11 there in Dec. There was no sign of passage, and no coastal records other than those at breeding sites.

Once common and widespread, now seriously declining with nearly all records from the northern half of the county. **RBBP**

Numbers seem to have declined further compared to 2012. The table includes sites with counts of three or more, those with records in four or more months, plus Haverholme Park where there were considerably more records last year. The only count of more than three was six plus in four separate parts of Loughton Forest on Feb 16th. Records came from 28 localities in total and with such a sedentary species most or all of these are probably breeding sites; taking into account multiple locations within some areas, the records may represent 36 territories. However, the species remains widespread within much of the north of the county, and in parts of mid and south-west Lincs, and the records are merely a sample of the total. Confirmed breeding was recorded only at Barton Pits where broods were seen at two sites in Jun and Jul, and at Walesby where a female and juvenile were trapped together in Jul. Two territories were identified at Whisby NR.



Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* Alkborough
Nov 6th 2013 © Graham Catley



Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* Messingham SQ
Feb 16th 2013 © Graham Catley

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

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

There were reports this year from eight sites in the south-west from Anwick Fen and Fulbeck to Twyford Wood, and from four sites along the south-west side of the Witham valley from Potterhanworth to Blankney. Breeding was confirmed in Callan's Lane Wood, where two pairs were seen in May, a family party in Jun, and eight seen in Dec. Probable breeding was recorded at Twyford Wood. Elsewhere there were counts of four at Anwick Fen in Jan and three at Potterhanworth Wood in Jan, but all other counts were of 1-2. There are occasional reports of Marsh Tit in the woodlands east of the Witham including one this year in Dec. This area is close to the current Marsh Tit range but within Willow Tit range; it is not impossible that Marsh could occur but given the declining status of the two species we would like records to be absolutely certain before publishing them. However, there was a reliable record of one at Alkborough on Nov 6th, staying into 2014. While the species breeds within a few miles of Alkborough, in Yorkshire to the north of the Humber, they are known to be reluctant to cross even a few hundred metres of open ground, and the occurrence was both unexpected and noteworthy.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare: extremely local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	2	-	20	-	1	10	-	3	45	50	25
Winteringham Haven	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Far Ings	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	20	-	-
Huttoft Bank Pit	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gibraltar Point	4	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Breeding numbers are now at a relatively high level, aided by the new reedbeds at Alkborough. Ten pairs were estimated to have bred at Alkborough Flats where 10 juveniles were seen in Jul, and post-breeding numbers reached 50 on Nov 12th. In Jul, at least five pairs were feeding young and fledged broods at another site in the upper Humber, and two fledged juvs were at a site further down the Humber. However, records elsewhere, including at Far Ings, did not suggest breeding was likely though birds were present at both Gib Point and Frampton Marsh until Apr 20th. One unusual spring record involved a female at Kirkby Pits on Apr 7th-11th. There were 20 at Far Ings on Oct 5th, perhaps erupting from elsewhere. The only record away from the Humber in the second half of the year was of one at Wainfleet Common on Nov 10th.



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* Gib Point Aug 26th 2013 © Russell Hayes



Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris* Brickyard Lane Dec 9th 2013 © Paul Neale

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

A bird found north of Greenshank Creek at Gib Point on Aug 25th (JS *et al*) was seen daily until Sep 1st; this was only the fourth county occurrence and the first since 1991 (see below). This status contrasts markedly with the frequency of records in neighbouring counties of Yorkshire and Norfolk.

1971 One at Gib Point, Sep 18th-26th

1986 One at Inner Dowsing Tower (12 miles offshore from Mablethorpe), Jun 16th

1991 One at Gib Point, Oct 13th-20th

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Scarce semi-resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and again from 1984 with numbers peaking around the year 2000, although now steadily declining.

Two were reported from Gib Point on Jan 31st and four were at Donington on Bain on Feb 9th. A single migrant was at Donna Nook on Mar 12th-14th, and four were seen at Gib Point: one flying south on Mar 15th, one on 18th, one south on Apr 29th and one on May 1st. Singing males were reported from seven sites, down from 11 in 2012. Confirmed breeding was reported from only one site, Greetwell Warren, where seven pairs and one singing male were observed in Apr and a later visit on Jul 1st yielded four pairs with young. At Laughton Forest, where a detailed survey revealed 17 pairs in 2012, only four singing males were reported during Mar-Apr, but no full survey was undertaken. At Keb Wood, there was one pair and two singing males in Apr. At Kirkby Moor, two birds were present from Feb 27th and at least two singing birds were present through Apr. At nearby Kirkby Gravel Pits, a pair was seen on Apr 2nd and there was a singing male at Roughton Moor on Apr 20th. In autumn, single birds were at Gib Point on Sep 24th-25th, Oct 14th-15th, Oct 17th and Nov 1st-2nd, and another was at Donna Nook on Oct 17th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

There were counts of 100 or more at eleven sites in Jan and Feb and most significant of these were 1910, which included 1765 heading south, at Gib Point on Jan 15th and 560 there on the 21st, 1500 at Faldingworth on the 19th, 450 at Anwick Fen on 20th and 600 at Marston STW on Jan 21st. Numbers began to decline in Feb, but there were no signs of any sizeable visible movements during the spring. Breeding season counts were received from a variety of sites, but offered little meaningful data. Very light southerly passage, chiefly along the coast, began from Sep 12th and became more regular in Oct and early Nov. The biggest movements during this period were at Gib Point where peaks were 328 on Oct 23rd, 1300 on the 24th, 488 on Oct 29th, 332 on Nov 1st and 300 on the 3rd. Eight other sites recorded counts over 100 in Oct-Dec, the highest being 230 between Horseshoe Point and Tetney Marsh on Dec 10th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

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

One was at Gib Point from Jan 16th through to Feb 5th and one was present on Apr 1st, 5th and 11th. In autumn, two were seen at Gib Point on Oct 22nd. Two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 8th increased to 11 by the 15th and to 13 by the 17th. This flock was well-watched until the end of the year. Elsewhere there was one at Frampton Marsh on Nov 18th and four at Donna Nook which left to the north on Nov 25th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

One was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 19th but then, as for Swallow, a long gap ensued before the next on Apr 10th – these in a rush involving nine at Far Ings, four at Messingham SQ and 15 at Kirkby GP. By Apr 14th there were 250 at Barton Pits and 49 flew south at Gib Point on the 15th. The highest counts in Apr were 300 at Barton Pits, 250 at North Hykeham Pits and 250 at Deeping Lakes NR. Breeding records included confirmed breeding at Deeping Lakes NR, 104 occupied nests at Castle Bytham and at least 17 broods raised from 23 occupied artificial holes at Whisby NR. More breeding reports for this species would be valuable. The first big autumn movement was as early as Jun 30th, when 1800 flew south at Gib Point, with at least 3500 doing so on Jul 4th. But passage was not fully established until the end of Jul when the Gib Point counts

were not so large but more consistent, including 761 south of Jul 31st and 443 south on Aug 2nd. Large numbers elsewhere at this time included 800 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 5th, 800 at Witheringham Haven on Aug 8th and 2000 at Barton Pits on Aug 10th-11th. There were still 800 at Barton Pits on Aug 24th and 200 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 21st but generally numbers decreased from mid Aug. The only count above 80 in Sep was 120 south at Gib Point on the 10th. The only records after Sep 22nd were singles at Gib Point on Oct 17th and 24th.

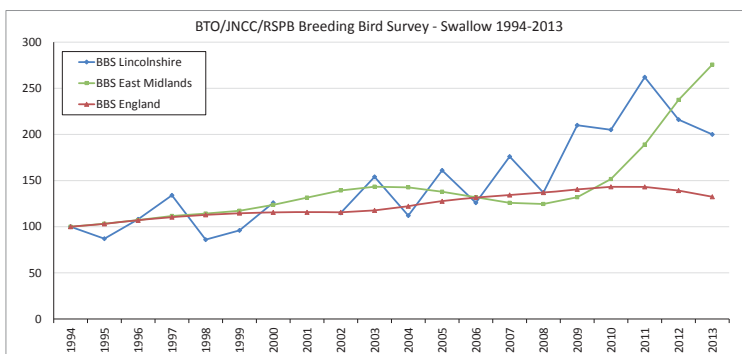
FRP 5282683	First year	23-08-2006	Plaisance, Saint-Froult: 45°54'N 1°4'W (Charente-Maritime) France
	Caught by ringer	30-04-2008	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W 786km N 1y 8m 7d
V921355	Juvenile	28-07-2008	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W
	Caught by ringer	26-07-2013	Langford RSPB Reserve: 53°8'N 0°47'W (Nottinghamshire) 25km W 4y 11m 28d

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

One was seen at Far Ings on Mar 17th, just as the four weeks of north-easterlies set in and put a stop to the actuality if not thoughts of summer. The next were not until Apr 10th when there were two at Covenham Res and singles at Kirkby GP and Messingham SQ. Numbers had reached 400 at Covenham Res on Apr 27th and 350 at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 28th. During May-Jun, counts of 100 or more came from nine sites but without any being especially high. Breeding populations in eastern England have risen quite steeply over the past five years but the BBS trend in Lincs appears to have reversed since 2011. Some movement became evident on the coast towards the end of Jul and more pronounced from early Aug, with 600 south at Gib Point the first big count. A total of 21899 was recorded moving south at Gib Point during Aug-Oct, with seven day totals of 1000 or more, all during Aug 11th-Sep 13th, and peaks of 3044 on Aug 30th and 3200 on Sep 13th. Elsewhere there were counts during this period of 200 or more at eight sites, most prominently at Donna Nook where there were 650 on Aug 20th and 1300 on the 21st, but also 1000 at Frampton Marsh on the 21st and, a little later, 500 at North Cotes Marsh on Aug 28th and inland 450 at Dorrington on Aug 30th and 300 at Laughton Forest on Sep 4th. A white individual was seen at Sutton on Sea on Aug 29th and just possibly the same bird at Timberland and South Kyme on four dates during Sep 1st-19th. Numbers decreased to mostly single-figures by late Sep but there was a late count of 121 at Gib Point on Oct 17th. Four at Gib Point on Nov 1st were followed by one there on the 2nd and there were also singles at Alkborough Flats on the 2nd, Donna Nook on the 9th and near Theddlethorpe on the 16th. One was at Gib Point on Dec 15th-17th and one at Saltfleetby on Dec 28th. Below is selection of typical movements, all but one within Britain, most involving birds caught at roosts or passage feeding areas rather than at breeding sites.

Y768963	First year	08-09-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Freshly dead (in building)	21-07-2013	Little Cumbrae: 55°43'N 4°58'W (Strathclyde) 414km NW 0y 10m 13d
Y007986	First year female	16-09-2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	24-05-2013	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W 248km NNW 1y 8m 8d
Y987583	Adult	15-05-2013	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Caught by ringer	22-09-2013	Stodmarsh: 51°18'N 1°10'E (Kent) 224km SE 0y 4m 7d
D537067	Juvenile	10-08-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	24-08-2013	Worsley: 53°30'N 2°24'W (Greater Manchester) 186km WNW 0y 0m 14d
D370397	Juvenile	14-08-2013	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Caught by ringer	03-09-2013	McLaren Technology Centre, Horsell: 51°20'N 0°33'W (Surrey) 182km S 0y 0m 20d
L427782	First year	09-09-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	25-09-2011	Laguna de Petrola: 38°49'N 1°33'W (Albacete) Spain 1,594km S 1y 0m 16d



House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

One was seen at Messingham SQ on Apr 12th and then birds were at nine sites on the 13th and they were soon widespread. High Apr counts were 40 at Covenham Res on the 17th, and 50 at Far Ings and 102 at Gib Point on the 29th. In May there were several counts of 100 or more including 200 at Whisby NR on the 10th and 150 at Thurlby Sand Pit on the 17th. It was quieter while birds were nesting in Jun-Jul though some movement at Gib Point in mid Jun peaked with 262 south on the 12th. Obvious autumn movement began with 500 south or west over Gib Point on Aug 11th, and there were four further movements of 100-300 there during the rest of August. Passage peaked during Sep 10th-20th, including 1810 south at Gib Point on the 10th, 2600 south on the 13th and 1435 south on the 15th. High counts elsewhere at this time were 104 at Fulbeck on Sep 6th, 120 at Covenham Res and 100 at Fiskerton Fen on the 11th, and 100-200 south each day during Sep 16th-19th at Crook Bank. After that, counts were far smaller but there was a brief resurgence during Oct 13th-17th including 50 south at Crook Bank on both Oct 14th and 16th. Single-figure counts continued to the end of Oct, and there was one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 6th and one south at Gib Point on Nov 9th. The BTO has a programme of research into House Martins underway, involving both their winter distribution, about which we know next to nothing, and their breeding status in Britain. Recoveries such as those shown below individually tell us very little (though presumably the one killed at Navenby was nesting there) and the results from geolocator tags will be eagerly awaited.

Y900778	First year male	12-09-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)			
	Caught by ringer	08-06-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 246km N 0y 8m 27d			
Y416642	Adult	19-05-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W			
	Freshly dead					
	(hit by car)	01-06-2013	Navenby, Lincoln: 53°6'N 0°32'W 18km NNE 1y 0m 13d			

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

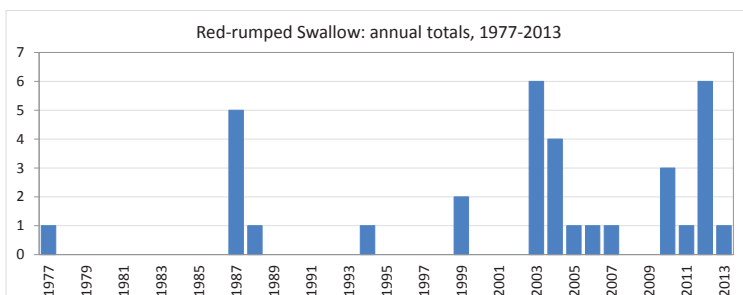
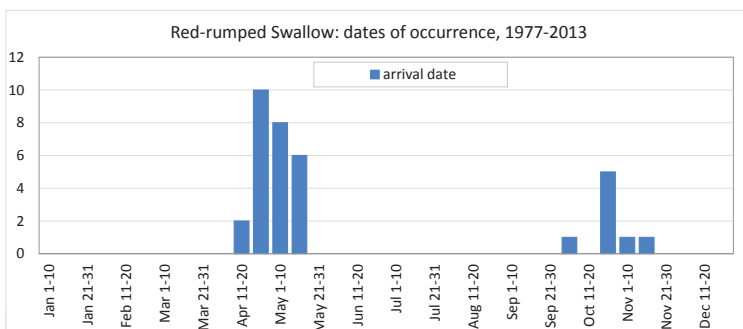
Rare passage migrant. LBRC

One flew south at Gib Point on May 9th (RDn). First recorded in Lincolnshire as recently as 1977, there have been 24 records up to and including 2013 involving about 34 individuals (though there is some uncertainty about exactly how many were involved in some of the multiple occurrences).

The following records were omitted in error from the Lincolnshire Rare & Scarce Bird Report 2003-2007:

2006 addition One south at Donna Nook, Nov 5th (SL)

2007 addition One at Gib Point, May 6th-7th (KMW, GW)



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare breeding resident and passage migrant / winter visitor; first proven breeding in 2008. **RBBP**

At the county stronghold of Barrow Haven-Barton Pits, there was a marked increase from the three pairs in 2012 to eight occupied territories in 2013; at least two broods fledged but more probably did so as the species is particularly difficult to prove breeding. At least 10 birds were present in the Oct-Dec period. At Marston STW, three males held territories and probably bred, with 1-2 present in the latter part of the year. At least one summered at Deeping Lakes but information from this site appears to be inadequate. Two males held territories along the River Freshney, Town's Holt, Grimsby in summer. One male sang all summer at Kirkby Pits and probably bred, while a bird was also heard in a different area there in spring. Two males sang at Whisby NR and probably bred. Two males held territories at Burton Stather brick pits through the spring and summer. In addition, in spring/summer single birds were at Hougham on May 25th, Huttoft Pit on Apr 28th and Brickyard Lane, Theddlethorpe on May 28th. Thus at least 20 males summered in 2013 with three additional males on single dates but note that full details are clearly lacking from the Sea Bank Clay Pits where the only reports were of 1-2 at Wolla Bank in Sep-Dec, and from Deeping Lakes. Away from these sites there were singles at Gib Point from Jan 2nd-13th, Willow Tree Fen NR on Jan 1st, Anderby Creek on Jun 11th, North Killingholme Haven Pit on Aug 14th, Goxhill Marsh on Aug 24th, Skegness North Shore GC Sep 29th, Alkborough Flats on Nov 2nd with a different bird there on Dec 1st, Gib Point on Nov 5th and Baston Fen on Nov 30th-Dec 1st.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Far Ings	14	14	10	12	6	16	2	5	6	12	16	12
Humberston Fitties	-	-	7	2	-	4	30	20	20	25	12	8
Gibraltar Point	10	21	10	12	8	16	20	18	26	30	16	25
Morton (Gainsborough)	26	27	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14
Whisby NR	7	20	6	6	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	14

The table includes a selection of the better recorded sites holding relatively high numbers. Additionally, there were 25 at Covenham Res in Nov, 20 at Boultham Mere in Apr, Nov and Dec, 22 at Swanholme Lakes in Nov, 24 at Hartsholme CP in Oct and 20 at Welbourn in Jul. The largest counts were 30 at each of Humberston Fitties on Jul 15th and at Gib Point on Oct 3rd. These were far lower than the peaks in 2012, perhaps reflecting the significant 26% decline in England between 2012 and 2013 found by the BBS. Overall, records came from about 115 localities throughout the county from Grimsby town centre to Belton Park. As expected, numbers counted were highest in winter when flocks form than in spring, in May especially.



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Chambers Farm Wood Feb 22nd 2013 © John Clarkson

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was trapped at Gib Point on May 29th (GGr) and presumably the same bird was heard singing and seen well in the plantation on the 31st (JPS *et al*). There are 12 previous county records, all of which have been in autumn between Aug 14th and Sep 22nd.



Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Gib Point Oct 12th 2013 © James Siddle

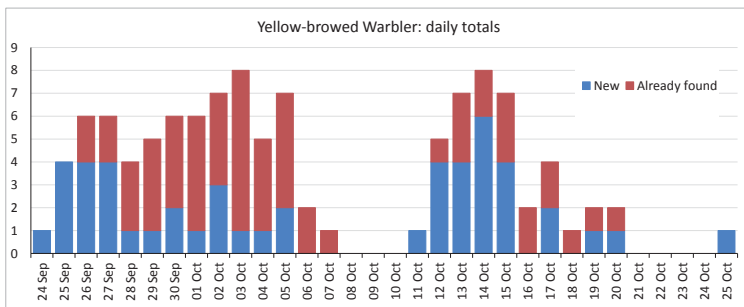
Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Rare late autumn passage migrant; one spring record. LBRC

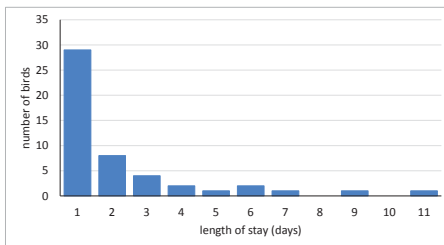
A coordinated arrival saw one trapped at Gib Point on Oct 12th, also reported on the 13th (GGr *et al*), two at Donna Nook, one of which was trapped, on the 14th-15th (SL, JMS), and one at Saltfleet on the 14th-15th (CA *et al*).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

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



With a total of 49 individuals estimated to have occurred, this year is surpassed only by 2005 when 61 occurred. Being sure of the total is difficult when there are this many, but we have tried to make reasonable judgements about which birds were likely to have stayed from day to day. After weeks of westerlies, the wind shifted to the east on Sep 24th, bringing about the start of the first wave of arrivals comprising 25 individuals by Oct 5th. After a gap dominated by west winds, a phase of north-easterlies during Oct 11th-15th brought in another 27 birds. The first was found at Sea View on Sep 24th, to be followed by four on the 25th at Humberston Fitties, Pye's Hall, North Somercotes and Gib Point, four new on the 26th at North Cotes, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and two at Gib Point, and on the 27th three more new at Pye's Hall and one new at Gib Point. Quite a few from the initial arrivals are thought to have been hanging about but singles at Donna Nook on the 28th and at Anderby Creek on the 29th are assumed to have been new, as were one at Donna Nook and one at Gib Point on the 30th. Further new birds were at Gib Point on Oct 1st, with two at Humberston Fitties and one at Sutton on Sea on the 2nd, and one at Cleethorpes on the 3rd. Finally there were three more treated as new at Gib Point: one on the 4th and two on the 5th. During this first phase, there were totals of four in the Donna Nook area on Sep 27th and 30th and Oct 1st, and three there on Sep 29th and Oct 2nd-3rd, and three at Gib Point on Sep 26th and 27th with four there on Oct 5th. The second phase began with one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 11th but the next four days saw multiple arrivals (or numbers of birds being found). New birds in this period included two at Donna Nook and singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gib Point on the 12th, two at Donna Nook and singles at Crook Bank and Gib Point on the 13th, one at Saltfleet, three trapped at Crook Bank, one at Gib Point and one inland at Whisby Quarry on the 14th-15th, and singles at Cleethorpes and Humberston village and two at Tetney Lock/Marsh on the 15th. Most dispersed after the change of weather on the 15th/16th but additional new birds were found at Donna Nook and near Marston STW on the 17th, at Gib Point on the 19th and at Humberston Fitties on the 20th. After a gap, one more was seen, in Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 25th. During the second phase, there were four at Donna Nook on Oct 13th and at Crook Bank on the 14th, and three at Humberston Fitties on the 15th. The above description of arrivals omits comment on birds believed to have remained at sites for more than one day. Our assessment is that most were seen on single dates but some remained for up to eleven days, as shown in the small chart. The large chart shows the daily totals, distinguishing those known already to be present from those found for the first time on each day.



Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Vagrant with two previous county records both in October in 2003. **BBRC**

The third county record of this Asian gem was recorded at Gib Point from Nov 27th to Dec 4th (RDn, KMW *et al*) Accepted by BBRC: sound recording, photo (BB 107; p619 plate 26); see pewit. blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/humes-leaf-warbler.html and www.xeno-canto.org/156628 to 156630.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

One was trapped and ringed at Crook Bank Theddlethorpe on Oct 12th (BRG) with the same or another bird at Brickyard Lane, Theddlethorpe 12th-14th (CMo, JRW, EJM).

There are only six previous county records as listed below:

- 1964 One trapped at Huttoft Bank, Nov 1st, at the time only the 4th British record
- 1980 One at Donna Nook, Nov 3rd-9th
- 1988 One at Pye's Hall, Oct 12th-13th
- 1990 One at North Cotes, Oct 19th
- 1990 One at Saltfleet, Oct 19th-20th
- 2001 One at Donna Nook, Sep 25th-26th

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare passage migrant. **LBRC**

A spring bird was at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 28th-29th (GHo, DN *et al*) with two autumn birds at Gib Point, on Aug 3rd (MRB) and Oct 15th (GPC, ND). This species is now rarer in the county than Yellow-browed and, in most years, Pallas's Warbler.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	1	-	1	20	9	8	2	2	3	1	1	-
Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	8	3	2	2	2	1	25	1	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	7	2	1	-	1	5	200	2	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	20	3	22	1	-
Gibraltar Point	1	-	1	11	7	7	7	11	26	59	2	2
Snipe Dales	-	-	-	20	12	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	-	-	-	14	8	-	2	-	12	2	1	1

Singles were recorded at five locations in Jan, but mostly before the onset of the coldest weather. Individuals at North Killingholme Haven on Jan 30th and Gib Point on Jan 31st were the only ones at the end of the month and none was seen in Feb. One at Marston STW on Mar 14th was the first in spring, and others soon followed. Coastal spring passage was unexceptional, with many of the higher counts at this season being in breeding areas. Indeed the highest counts for the whole of Apr-Jul were 20 at each of Barton Pits on Apr 14th, Snipe Dales on Apr 21st and Temple Wood on May 17th. In autumn, numbers of migrants on the coast were very small until mid Sep. The Gib Point peak that month was 26 on the 21st-22nd. There were 38 at Gib Point on Oct 5th but the heaviest passage, coinciding with that of Blackcap and many other species, was during Oct 12th-17th. There were 59 at Gib Point on the 12th with 25 at Humberston Fitties, 50 at Donna Nook and 22 at Crook Bank also on that day, and then 200 at Donna Nook on both Oct 13th and 14th, with 25 at Humberston Fitties on the 13th and 22 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and 56 at Gib Point on the 14th. On Oct 15th, the highest count was 56 again at Gib Point and numbers fell away further after that. The Gib Point bird-day total for Sep-Oct was 630, between the totals for the previous two years. After Oct 19th, only single-figure counts were made but these continued throughout Nov, both on the coast and scattered inland. During Dec there were records on 14 dates at Gib Point, singles except for two on the 9th, and also singles at North Hykeham Pits on the 2nd and Whisby NR on the 28th. The chart illustrates the huge increase in breeding numbers in Lincs over the past 20 years, based on the mean number per BBS square in the county.

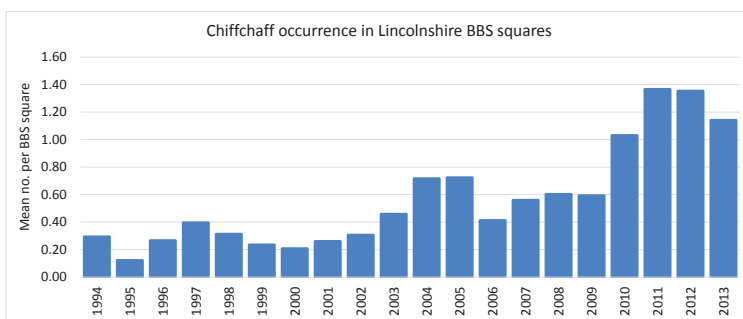


Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Gib Point Dec 4th 2013 © Graham Catley





Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Theddlethorpe Oct 12th 2013 © Andrew Lowe



ERX585	First year Caught by ringer	23-10-2012 20-10-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Holland, North Ronaldsay: 59°22'N 2°26'W (Orkney)	717km NNW 0y 11m 27d
EAE289	First year Freshly dead (cat)	14-10-2011 24-03-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E The Lizard: 49°57'N 5°12'W (Cornwall)	517km SW 1y 5m 10d
DXH931	Adult male Caught by ringer	26-04-2013 26-05-2013	Lower Green, Langley: 51°59'N 0°5'E (Essex) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	126km N 0y 1m 0d

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*. LBRC

One at Pye's Hall, Donna Nook on Oct 14th-15th was the only record (GPC *et al*).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Far Ings	-	7	12	5	2	1	1	-	-
Donna Nook	-	20	8	2	2	30	11	4	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	1	1	1	-	20	-	6	-
Gibraltar Point	-	24	50	12	10	123	42	1	1
Snipe Dales	-	20	16	10	-	-	1	-	-
Whisby NR	-	16	24	7	2	-	1	-	-

After one at Kirkby Moor NR on Apr 7th there was a pause before birds were noted at eight widespread sites on the 13th, including five at Whisby NR. The arrival continued with c20 at Freiston Shore and 30 at Frampton Marsh on the 15th. Other Apr counts exceeding 20 were 30 again at Frampton Marsh on the 19th, 22 at Gib Point on the 19th & 30th and 24 there on the 25th, and c30 at Laughton Forest on the 20th. The highest count in May was 50 at Gib Point on the 10th, and included 10 seen arriving off the sea. As with other scrub/woodland warblers, breeding activity was poorly reported with no significant population estimates. Autumn passage at Gib Point was concentrated during Aug and the first half of Sep, and with a bird-day total of 1312 for Aug 1st-Sep 18th was heavier than for the past two years. The peak counts there were 122 on Aug 17th, 123 on Aug 21st and 81 on Aug 24th, with 66 on Aug 29th the last count of over 50. Counts were much smaller elsewhere with site maxima of 30 at Donna Nook on Aug 22nd and 20 at Rimac on Aug 26th. Most had gone by Sep 20th but single-figure counts continued until Nov. The latest records were one trapped at Crook Bank on Oct 14th-16th, one at Gib Point on Oct 17th-18th and one at Anwick on Oct 20th-26th, and finally one at Gib Point on Nov 4th and 6th. The series of ringing recoveries below for this autumn include a quick one to Belgium.

BXY917	Juvenile Caught by ringer	30-07-2013 18-08-2013	Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell: 55°47'N 4°2'W (Strathclyde) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	410km SE 0y 0m 19d
ETJ303	Juvenile Caught by ringer	07-08-2013 14-09-2013	Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve: 54°49'N 1°30'W (Tyne & Wear) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	225km SSE 0y 1m 7d
ERX770	First year Caught by ringer	08-08-2013 11-08-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Veurne: 51°4'N 2°39'E (West-Vlaanderen)	Belgium 277km SE 0y 0m 3d

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	6	3	1	-	1	1	60	1	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	4	3	2	-	1	1	70	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1	1	-	18	14	10	14	16	15	50	2	-

One was at Seacroft on Jan 6th, and there were others in this general area involving a female at Gib Point on Feb 2nd, a male in Skegness on Feb 10th and one again at Seacroft on Feb 27th. One was at Cleethorpes on Jan 20th, and on the same date one was seen at Market Deeping, with presumably the same bird there again on Feb 9th, Mar 24th and Apr 7th. A male was at Rippingdale on Feb 10th and 20th. Records in Mar involved singles at North Thoresby on the 2nd, Donington on Bain on the 6th and Fulbeck on the 23rd. More obvious migrants occurred from Apr 11th. During Apr-Jun there were counts of 10 or more at only ten sites, which does not reflect the species' status. The highest counts in this period were 18 at Gib Point on Apr 18th and 17 at Snipe Dales on May 19th. In autumn, the Gib Point bird-day total for Sep 1st-Oct 16th was 480, broadly similar to the last two years' totals (517 for Sep 1st-Oct 19th). High counts – including all those of 20 or more – all occurred during Oct 12th-19th, including site maxima of 50 at Gib Point on Oct 12th, 60 at Donna Nook on Oct 14th and c70 at Crook Bank on Oct 15th. After Oct 19th, there was an abrupt change to low numbers, with only 1-4 thereafter. Regular records continued through Nov but the only reports in Dec were single males at North Ormsby and Louth on the 21st, one at East Keal on the 22nd and one at Cranwell on the 28th.

D021847	First year male Caught by ringer	16-09-2012 02-08-2013	Beachy Head: 50°44'N 0°15'E (Sussex) Hirds Farm, Fothersby: 53°24'N 0°1'W	297km	N	0y 10m 17d
Y935929	First year male Caught by ringer	09-10-2012 24-07-2013	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W	273km	N	0y 9m 15d
D538308	First year female Caught by ringer	21-09-2013 27-09-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)	141km	SE	0y 0m 6d
NLA BB65588	Adult male Caught by ringer	21-09-2013 10-11-2013	Vinkennann 3de Kp: 53°15'N 4°57'E (Vlieland) The Netherlands Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	309km	W	0y 1m 20d

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first were singles at Whisby NR on Apr 20th and Boultham Mere on Apr 25th, and elsewhere from the 26th. Even if reduced in numbers, the species remains a widespread breeding bird in Lincs but counts were mostly very small. The only reports of more than three were in Apr-May. The highest was 15 at Whisby NR on May 4th, and there were seven at Messingham SQ on May 5th and at Snipe Dales on May 19th. Other sites holding four or more were Gib Point, Kirkby GP, Twyford Wood and Temple Wood, all with four in May. In autumn, there were only nine bird-days (all as singles) at Gib Point in Aug-Sep, well down on the past two years (24 and 19 bird-days). Mostly coastal records of 1-3 extended to Oct 5th, with four later singles during Oct 12th-15th, the last being at Crook Bank on the 15th. The recovery below from Spain is noteworthy because the bird must have been six years old – quite old for a Garden Warbler (the record is 9 years 10 months).

ESI L845934	Full-grown male Caught by ringer	24-04-2004 25-06-2009	Valdebotoa: 38°58'N 6°55'W (Badajoz) Spain Stoke Pasture Wood: 52°49'N 0°41'W	1,613km	NNE	5y 2m 1d
Y074058	Adult Freshly dead	03-06-2011 07-08-2013	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°11'N 0°38'W Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°11'N 0°38'W	0km		2y 2m 4d

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

A very poor year with only two birds reported, at Humberston Fitties on Oct 2nd (RL) and Saltfleet on Oct 12th (JJa).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

There was one at Whisby NR on Apr 18th, and the widespread records from the 20th onwards. It was noted at about 60 sites but, as usual, most counts were in low single figures. There were six at Barton Pits on Apr 24th and at Far Ings alone on the 25th. The Gib Point bird-day total for Apr-May was 110, with the maximum of eight on May 25th. Ten singing males were located at Whisby NR. In autumn, the bird-day total at Gib Point for Aug-Sep was 343, with peaks of 20 on both Aug 21st and 27th and eleven other counts of 10 or more all in Aug apart from 13 on Sep 21st. There were c11 at Rimac on Aug 26th but all other autumn counts were of only 1-3. Records of 1-2 continued on the coast to mid Oct, with the last one at Pye's Hall on Oct 17th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Humberston Fitties	-	5	16	20	25	20	4	-
Donna Nook	-	30	60	45	50	25	15	3
Gibraltar Point	-	71	108	103	181	58	27	2

The table shows localities with consistent recording and counts of 20 or more. There were also 30 at Barton Pits, 39 at Snipe Dales and 20 at Frampton Marsh in May. The breeding estimate for Frampton Marsh was 11 pairs. Spring passage at Gib Point was a little weaker than in 2012, with 1150 bird-days in Apr-May (1206 last year). There were six days when counts there exceeded 70 including 78 on both May 13th and 19th, and the peak of 108 on the 16th. The highest count elsewhere in spring was 60 at Donna Nook on May 6th. The BBS showed a sharp rise from 2012 in numbers in Lincs, but the sample is quite small and there was little change regionally or nationally. Autumn counts were unsurprising, with 852 bird-days at Gib Point in Aug-Sep, including the peak of 58 on Aug 20th. There were no double-figure counts after Sep 12th and 1-3 on seven Oct dates with the last one at Gib Point on Oct 10th.

Y058223	Juvenile	28-06-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead		
	(predated)	17-05-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 0km 0y 10m 19d

Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia inornata inornata*

Vagrant. LBRC

A first summer male was present in low scrub on Tennyson's Sands at Gib Point on Apr 20th-23rd, singing occasionally (JPS *et al*).

This was the ninth Subalpine Warbler to be recorded in the county and the second sub-specifically identified Western Subalpine in three years, following the male at Humberston on Apr 3rd 2011. Of the nine records to date, eight were in spring between April 3rd and Jun 28th and just one in autumn, a first winter female trapped at Theddlethorpe on Sep 15th 1996. With the proposed split of the Subalpine Warblers into Western Subalpine *S inornata*, Eastern Subalpine *S cantillans* and Moltoni's *S subalpina*, there will no doubt need to be a review of the past Lincolnshire records. The four trapped birds should be racially identifiable while the male at Humberston Fitties on May 12th-13th 1981 showed characteristics of Eastern Subalpine Warbler.



Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* 1st summer male Gib Point Apr 22nd 2013 © Graham Catley



Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* 1st summer male Gib Point Apr 22nd 2013 © Barry Clarkson

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Decline in late 20th century but recent trend uncertain because of small population size and fluctuations.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of sites	8	12	6	4	2	2
Sum of site peaks	20	28	12	5	2	2

Two were at Gib Point on Apr 15th, with singles at Witham Mouth and Gib Point again on the 20th, after which records became more widespread. There were four at Barton Pits on Apr 24th, four at Donna Nook on Apr 27th and 30th, and at Gib Point four on Apr 28th and 29th, six on the 30th and 11 on May 1st. Subsequent counts of 4-8 were all from Gib Point but there were three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on May 5th and Jun 19th, and smaller numbers elsewhere. There were only four records in Aug, all singles, but they included one apparently still feeding young at Rimac on the 26th. The only later record was of one at Gib Point on Sep 22nd-23rd

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

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

There was a rare spring record of a male, occasionally in song, at Gib Point on Jun 2nd (JPS *et al*), and six autumn records: at Sea View, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Aug 25th (BMC), Saltfleet, Sea Lane also on Aug 25th (BMC), Pye's Hall on Aug 26th (CA), trapped at Donna Nook on Sep 3rd (JMS), at Donna Nook, Stonebridge on Oct 6th (BMC) and finally at Pye's Hall on Oct 11th (BMC).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

The first were singles at North Hykeham Pits and Freiston Shore on Apr 15th, only one day ahead of Reed Warbler. Records came from 18 sites by the end of Apr and there were c30 at Barton Pits by the 24th. At Gib Point, 54 bird-days were recorded in Apr, up from 22 in 2012 but still below 105 in 2011. At Frampton Marsh, 20 pairs were thought to have bred. There were generally more relatively high counts this year, including in addition to those already mentioned 22 at Anwick Fen on Jun 25th, 20 at Midville on May 26th-28th, and 20 at Alkborough Flats on Jun 10th. Other sites recording 10 or more were Alkborough Flats, Anderby Creek, Gib Point, Messingham SQ, Conisholme Fen, Donington on Bain, Metheringham Delph and Marston STW. Autumn passage was not well marked, but there was a count of 18 at Gib Point on Aug 21st. After Aug 25th, no



Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*
Fiskerton Fen May 6th 2013 © Russell Hayes



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Frampton Marsh Jul 4th 2013 © John Clarkson



Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* Donna Nook Oct 6th 2013 © Barry Clarkson

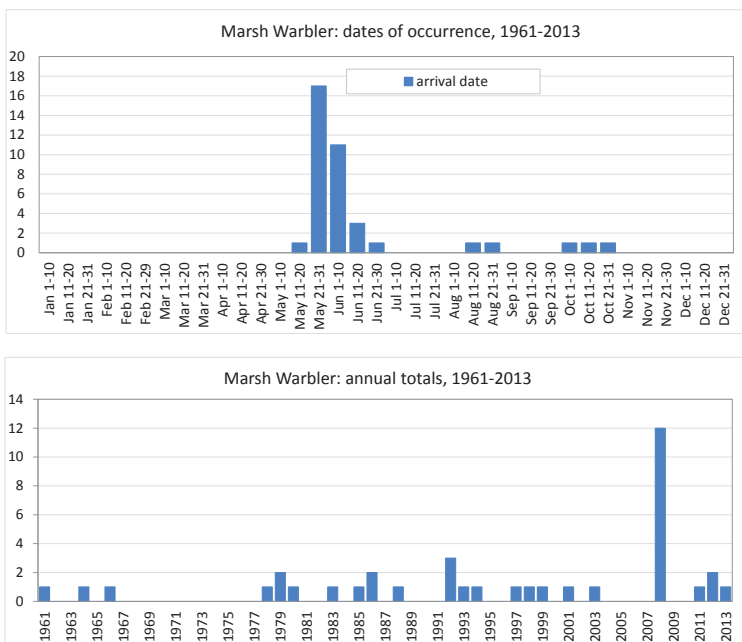
more than two were reported anywhere. There were only seven singles in Sep and the last was one at Gib Point on Oct 7th.

Y702022	Juvenile Caught by ringer	21-07-12 17-08-13	Donington-on-Bain: 53°20'N 0°9'W Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)	277km	S	1y 0m 27d
Y911607	First year Freshly dead	02-08-12 09-06-13	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) Chain Bridge, near Boston: 52°58'N 0°4'W	236km	NNW	0y 10m 7d
FRP 6555550	First year Caught by ringer	10-08-12 18-05-13	Etang de Kergalan, Plovan: 47°54'N 4°21'W (Finistere) France Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	665km	NNE	0y 9m 8d

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Very rare passage migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

A singing male was in the East Dunes at Gib Point at dusk on Jun 18th (RDn) and one was trapped there on Jun 20th (GGr), both records presumed to refer to the same individual.



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

The first this year were singles at Boultham Mere on Apr 16th and Whisby NR on the 17th, with widespread records soon after that. There were c30 at Barton Pits by the 24th and records from 15 sites by the end of the month. It was a better spring than 2012 at Gib Point, with 125 bird-days by the end of May (compared to 94). At Frampton Marsh, 17 pairs were thought to have bred. At Alkborough Flats there were 168 occupied territories up from six in 2008 as reedbeds have expanded across the managed realignment site. Reports of 10 or more came from 16 sites, most during Apr-Jul, and widely distributed through the county in low-lying districts though most commonly around the coast and estuaries. The highest totals were 30 at Messingham SQ and 40 at Far Ings in May and 40 trapped at Whisby NR on Jul 13th. The latter birds included one that had been ringed in Portugal. The three recoveries listed below demonstrate the migration route of Reed Warblers through Europe; note the late date of Y985956 in Spain. This bird was presumably still heading for Britain to breed; this is a characteristic of the species, some not arriving to breed until mid-June. Autumn passage was scarcely detectable. There were 12 at Gib Point on Sep 3rd

but no later counts exceeding five. Reports came from five sites during Oct, all singles, with the last at Gib Point on the 18th.

Y068291	First year Caught by ringer	25-09-2011 02-06-2013	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 246km N 1y 8m 8d
Y985956	Juvenile Caught by ringer	08-08-2012 06-06-2013	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W la Ezpuenda, Loza: 42°50'N 1°43'W (Navarra) Spain 1,129km S 0y 9m 29d
POL A354368	Adult female Caught by ringer	06-09-2012 13-07-2013	Paul Do Taipal, Coimbra: 40°15'N 8°41'W (Beira Litoral) Portugal Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°11'N 0°38'W 1,561km NNE 0y 10m 7d

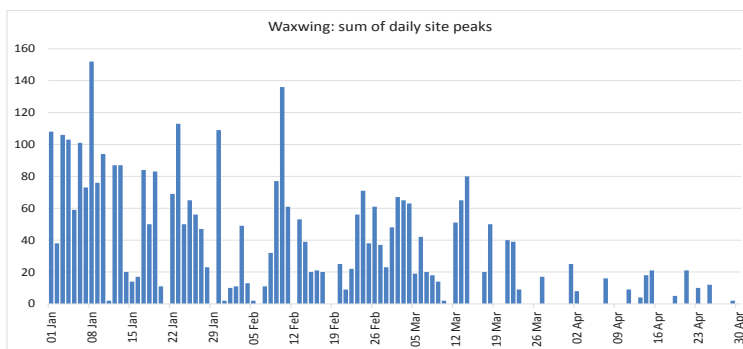


Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Barton Pits Jan 17th 2013 © Graham Catley

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, most in Oct-Apr. Rare/scarce most winters but fairly common in irruption years.

The chart below (showing sums of each day's reports) illustrates how numbers from the autumn 2012 arrival which had a top day count of almost 700) gradually diminished through the first four months of the year. The ringing recoveries show two relatively small within-winter movements. Records were very widespread but the largest counts were mainly in the north of the county and in Jan, including c70 at Far Ings on Jan 7th-12th, 84 at Great Limber and 51 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 8th, and c80 at Scunthorpe on Jan 30th. Later, counts of 50 or more included c50 at Cleethorpes on Feb 10th-11th, 65 at Healing on Mar 14th and c50 at Messingham on Mar 18th. The largest flocks in Apr were 16-17 at Barton on the 1st-7th, 18 at Gib Point on the 14th with 17 there on the 15th, and 21 in south Lincoln on the 21st. A few streets away in Lincoln the last two were seen on Apr 29th. In the second half of the year, by contrast, there were five records. The first was one at Covenham St Mary on Oct 10th, followed by two at Donna Nook on Oct 16th and one at Gib Point on Oct 24th. In Nov, one was at Alkborough on the 6th and four at Humberston Fitties on the 18th.



NV68576	First year female Freshly dead (hit glass)	22-01-2013	Warsop: 53°12'N 1°10'W (Nottinghamshire)
		15-02-2013	Bourne: 52°46'N 0°23'W 72km SE 0y 0m 24d
BV43011	First year female Caught by ringer	06-01-2013	Sutton Water Works: 52°54'N 0°7'W
		18-01-2013	Darlington: c. 53°15'N 0°51'W (Nottinghamshire) 63km NW 0y 0m 12d

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce local resident.

The encouraging gradual spread of the species has been maintained, with records from about 45 widely spread sites. At Barton-upon-Humber, one pair bred for the first time in 2011, at Baysgarth Park, with two pairs from 2012. Throughout the year most reports involved 1-2 birds, with 3-4 at traditional sites and a peak count of five at Normanby Hall CP on Mar 3rd. Records away from breeding sites were of singles Gib Point on Apr 21st and near Wrangle on Dec 8th.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Records received from about 60 well-distributed sites concerned sightings of mostly 1-2, occasionally 3-4 birds. Higher counts, most possibly of family parties, involved a fledged brood of four plus at Barton Pits on Jun 7th, six at Haverholme Park on Jun 30th and five at Wharton Wood on both Mar 3rd and Aug 3rd. Single birds were regular at Gib Point from Jan 1st through to Mar 15th and from Aug 17th through to Sep 1st. Elsewhere on the coast, a bird of the northern race *C. f. familiaris* was trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on Oct 14th and retrapped on the following day. Another northern bird was trapped and ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 15th and retrapped on 16th and 19th. A bird, possibly the same, showing characteristics of this race was seen there on Oct 20th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

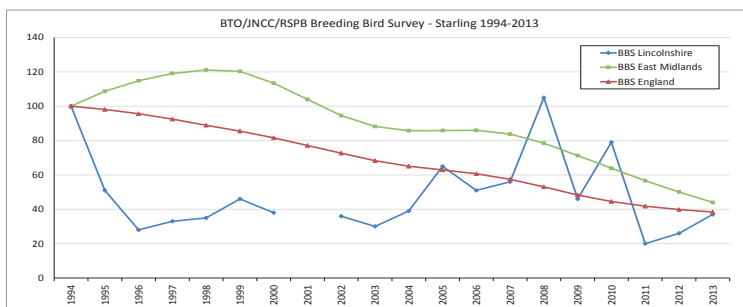
This common and widespread bird was reported from around 145 locations throughout the county. Although breeding status was not usually recorded, and the largest estimate was merely of 13 pairs at Frampton Marsh, there is no doubt that this is a very common nesting bird. Counts of 10 or more birds were recorded from 21 sites whilst peak counts included 41 at Gib Point on Jul 15th with 35 at the same location on Aug 28th and Oct 2nd, 33 at Haverholme Park on Jun 2nd and 23 at Snipe Dales on May 19th. Two roosts were counted, of 11 birds in a nest box at Sloothby on Jan 28th and 12 in a House Martin's nest at Stickford on Feb 24th.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread bird which was reported from around 145 locations throughout the county, an increase on the previous year, and one which probably reflects on increased observer reporting. Counts of 250 or more were recorded from 31 sites but by far the biggest numbers were recorded during the autumn and early winter when numbers are boosted by Fennoscandian and Russian migrants. Most impressive of all were counts of 10000 that roosted in the Barton Pits/Far

Ings area in Jan with 20000 there between Feb 15th-17th, and 20000 that roosted at Alkborough Flats during Nov 2nd-10th with 10000 there in Dec. Elsewhere, coastal peak counts included 3000 at Donna Nook on Oct 14th and 4640 at Gib Point on Nov 12th, whilst inland records included 5000 roosting at Marston STW during Nov 21st-29th and 9800 roosting at Whisby NR on Nov 22nd. Breeding numbers rose between 2012 and 2013 but against a national and regional background of continuing long-term decline.



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

The first migrants of the year were at or earlier than the usual time despite the delayed spring, with singles at Broadholme on Mar 25th and Louth on Mar 27th. The main spring passage occurred during Apr 12th-29th with birds at five coastal and three inland locations, mostly 1-2 birds and with three at Donna Nook on Apr 25th the only higher count. May was particularly poor with just one record for the entire month of one at Gib Point on the 18th. Autumn passage commenced with a single at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR and three at Gib Point on Sep 26th, followed by between one to three birds at Donna Nook and Gib Point to the month's end. Oct was the main month for autumn passage with records from 15 coastal locations which included five or more birds from four localities between Humberston Fitties and Gib Point. There was a pronounced movement around the middle of the month which peaked on the 11th-12th. There were 37 at Gib Point on the 11th, but on the 12th there were singles at Covenham Res and Freiston Shore, 14 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR, 19 at Donna Nook and 55 at Gib Point. Subsequent counts at Gib Point were 30 on the 13th, the impressive peak of 61 on the 14th – when there were 14 at Donna Nook – and 20 on the 15th. Inland there was just a single record with one at Crowle Moors on Oct 26th. During Nov there were singles at Frampton Marsh on the 1st, Gib Point from the 2nd-5th and at Donna Nook also on the 5th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An extremely common and widespread breeding bird that was reported from around 200 locations throughout the county; counts of 25 or more birds were recorded from 27 sites. There were elevated numbers on the coast briefly in mid Apr, including 55 at Donna Nook, 100 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and 128 at Gib Point on the 13th, and 158 at Gib Point on the 14th. During autumn, numbers are boosted by continental migrants. Peak counts during this period included 220 at Donna Nook on Oct 12th and a notable influx on Oct 14th which included 530 at Gib Point, 300 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 300 at Humberston Fitties, whilst another notable influx occurred on Nov 11th with 110 at Saltfleet, 500 at Donna Nook and 1090 at Gib Point.

LC69002	First year female	18-10-2013	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E	
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	27-12-2013	Rhos-on-Sea: 53°18'N 3°45'W (Clwyd)	273km W 0y 2m 9d
LC32807	First year female	20-02-2012	Hundleby: c. 53°10'N 0°4'E	
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	07-04-2012	Worsley: 53°30'N 2°25'W (Greater Manchester)	169km WNW 1y 1m 18d
LC69501	First year female	13-10-2013	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E	
	Freshly dead	15-12-2013	Moorhead, Shipley: 53°50'N 1°48'W (West Yorkshire)	163km WNW 0y 2m 2d

CW21243	First year female	09-12-2006	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E
	Dead	14-04-2013	Happisburgh: 52°49'N 1°31'E (Norfolk) 116km SE 6y 4m 5d

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

Common and widespread throughout the county during the beginning of the year including many records of flocks in the low hundreds. Larger flocks of over 250 birds for this period included 350 at Ancaster on Jan 2nd, 318 at River Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen) on Jan 12th with 275 at the same site on Feb 9th, 900 at Greetwell Hollow on Jan 23rd, 350 at Stenwith on Jan 28th and 2000 at Marston STW on Mar 21st. Numbers typically fell during Apr, with surprisingly no May records, so the last birds of the spring were 14 at Woodhall Spa on Apr 28th and one at Manby Flashes on Apr 29th. The first returning autumn birds were one at Gib Point and two at Covenham Res on Oct 10th, with a fairly widespread arrival thereafter. Flocks of over 250 for the period Oct to Dec included 450 at Gib Point on Oct 14th with 435 there on Nov 5th, 500 at Newton on Trent on Nov 1st, 330 at Morton (Gainsborough) on Nov 7th with 256 there on Dec 22nd, 500 at Trent Port (Marton) on Dec 1st, 400 at Bardney on Nov 28th and 300 at Callan's Lane Wood on Dec 22nd.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This continues to be a common but often inconspicuous resident with records from around 123 locations throughout the county, with either probable or confirmed breeding reported from many of these sites during the nesting season. In common with other thrushes there was a marked autumn passage at coastal sites, especially marked during Sep 30th-Oct 4th and Oct 11th-18th. The first period included peak day counts of 138 at Gib Point on Sep 30th and 80 at Pye's Hall on Oct 1st. The second period included 300 at Donna Nook, 60 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR and 480 at Gib Point on Oct 12th, and 50 at Humberston Fitties on Oct 14th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Common and widespread throughout the county early in the year, though counts were not large with nothing greater than 100 being reported for the period Jan-Mar inclusive. Apr saw a marked spring passage mostly at coastal locations with counts of 300 or more including 3157 at Gib Point on Apr 7th with 2722 there on the 13th and 4257 on the 14th, 300 at Bratoft and 420 at Donna Nook both on Apr 12th, 500 at Humberston Fitties on Apr 13th, and 300 at Saltfleet and 350 at Frampton Marsh both on Apr 14th. Inland, there were 400 at Owlet Plantation on Apr 1st. Most migrants had departed by the end of Apr leaving just a handful of records during May, with a single at Gib Point on the 11th the last bird of spring. Autumn passage commenced with a single at Frampton Marsh on Sep 22nd, followed by two at Donna Nook and one at Gib Point on the 25th. A moderate passage continued for the rest of the month and into Oct, with peak counts during Oct 11th-18th. In this period, peaks were 3800 at Gib Point on the 11th, 2000 at Donna Nook, 1000 at Sea View and 3800 at Gib Point on the 12th, 3500 at Gib Point on the 13th, and the highest count of 4180 at Gib Point on the 14th. There were also 1000 flying south over Crook Bank on both Oct 15th and 18th. Inland the highest day count was 335 at Whisby NR on the 11th. Redwings were once again common and widespread during Nov and Dec, although counts were not high, with the only ones to exceed 100 birds being c250 at Trent Port on Dec 1st and 129 at Morton (Gainsborough) on Dec 22nd.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Widespread throughout the year with records from around 110 different locations from around the county with breeding season records coming from around 63 of these areas, although there were only a few instances where breeding status was specified. Only nine sites recorded counts of 10 or more, including post breeding flocks of 10 at Owmbly and 15 at Haverholme Park on Jul 3rd, 11 at Linwood Warren on Jul 8th, 10 at Far Ings on Jul 20th and 20 at Gib Point on Jul 22nd. Autumn passage was disappointing with a peak of 14 moving south at Gib Point on Oct 14th the highlight, whilst inland 12 were at Market Rasen on Oct 13th. Unusually it was the years' end that provided the highest count for the year with an unseasonal count of 30 at Boultham Mere on Dec 15th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

The first returning bird was at Gib Point on May 16th, a slightly later arrival date than average, followed by singles at Gib Point, Linwood Warren and Messingham SQ all on May 18th. Spring passage during May at coastal locations was very light and could only manage peaks of three at both Donna Nook on the 19th and Gib Point on the 27th, whilst early Jun produced a count of six at Gib Point on the 2nd. During the breeding season from late May to early Aug there were reports from 28 potentially suitable locations, a notable decrease on 2012. Confirmed breeding was noted for ten of these locations, whilst there were three sites each with probable and possible breeding, although it is noted that observer coverage wasn't as comprehensive as in the previous year. Autumn passage commenced around late Aug and continued into Sep, with reports of between one to five birds from a variety of both inland and coastal locations. Peak counts greater than five were seven at Gib Point on Aug 24th and 26th, nine at Donna Nook on Aug 26th, six at Frampton Marsh on Aug 30th and eight in Laughton Forest on Sep 4th. Most birds had departed by the end of Sep and there were just a couple of Oct records, with two at Gib Point on the 1st (with one still present the following day), and one at Donna Nook on the 15th.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread species which was reported from around 170 locations throughout the county, and although breeding status was not usually recorded, there is little doubt that this is a very common nesting bird. Spring passage was not particularly noticeable with just 24 at Gib Point on Apr 12th of any note. Autumn was typically more pronounced especially around the middle of Oct, and involved peak counts of 300 at Donna Nook, 150 at Crook Bank and 560 at Gib Point on the 12th, 590 at Gib Point on the 13th, 70 at Humberston Fitties, 150 at Crook Bank and 502 at Gib Point on the 14th, and 170 at Donna Nook, 200 at Crook Bank and 400 at Gib Point on the 15th. Several of the ringing recoveries below relate to birds involved in the big October rush, two of them indicating their continental origin and Y728628 being a bird moving from Filey to Gib Point over two days.

D052795	First year	22-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E			
	Caught by ringer	14-12-2013	Methersgate, Sutton: 52°4'N 1°20'E (Suffolk)	134km	SSE	1y 1m 22d
Y728628	Adult	16-10-2013	Filey: 54°13'N 0°18'W (North Yorkshire)			
	Caught by ringer	18-10-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	131km	SSE	0y 0m 2d
Y299485	First year	17-08-2011	Westwick, near Bishop Monkton: 54°5'N 1°29'W (North Yorkshire)			
	Caught by ringer	07-04-2013	near Nettleton: 53°29'N 0°20'W	101km	SE	1y 7m 21d
DKC 9R18270	Full-grown	10-09-2009	Blavand Fuglestation, Oksbol: 55°33'N 8°5'E (Jylland) Denmark			
	Caught by ringer	12-10-2013	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E	563km	WSW	4y 1m 2d
NOS ED59118	First year	26-08-2011	Store Faerder, Tjome: 59°4'N 10°31'E (Vestfold) Norway			
	Caught by ringer	12-10-2013	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E	897km	SW	2y 1m 16d
NLA AX51421	First year	11-10-2012	Zwanenwater, Sint Maartensvlotbrug: 52°48'N 4°41'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands			
	Caught by ringer	12-04-2013	Grimsby: 53°34'N 0°3'W	327km	WNW	0y 6m 1d

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and declining local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The BTO's national Nightingale survey during 2012 located a total of 34 singing males in Lincolnshire, but without similar effort fewer were found during the current year. Typically Whisby NR recorded the first bird of the year on Apr 13th, with more arrivals over the following days including the first females from Apr 17th, with a minimum of at least nine singing males by the end of the month. For the tenth consecutive year detailed survey work mapping territorial song territories located 13 singing males with nine in the Coot Lake/Grebe Lake area and four in the Teal Lake/Butterley's Pit area. Although no juveniles were observed this year, it's not thought that there were any undue circumstances such as inclement weather which would have impacted on at least some pairs successfully rearing young. Elsewhere there were very few other reports, with single migrants at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on May 7th, Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on May 8th, Messingham SQ on May 19th and Gib Point on May 26th, whilst a potentially territory-

holding birds was recorded from Chambers Farm Wood on May 13th and Jun 10th. There was a more surprising record of a bird singing briefly, but not seen, at Saltfleetby on Jun 12th. The last bird for the year was at Apex Pit (North Hykeham Pits) adjacent to Whisby NR on Jul 29th, with no coastal autumn records.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Vagrant. LBRC RBBP

A male was found at Gib Point on May 17th (MMaw, PWA, BCol), a first-winter male at Gib Point on Oct 13th (EJM) and a first winter bird at Pye's Hall on Oct 14th (GPC, ND *et al*).

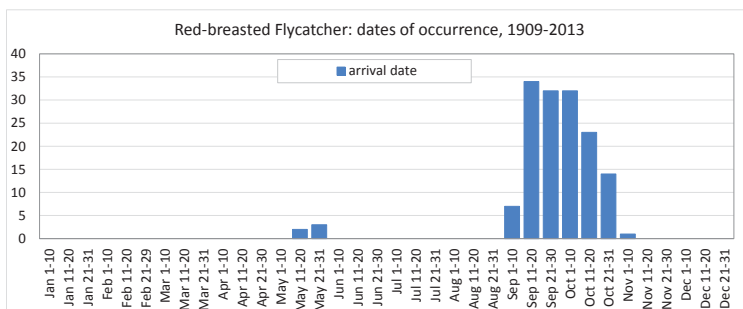


Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 1st winter Donna Nook Oct 14th 2013 © Barry Clarkson

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

An excellent year with a well above average showing of eight, possibly nine, different individuals. A rare spring record, a first summer bird, was trapped and ringed at Gib Point on May 20th (GGr), but all other records occurred typically during the autumn. Single birds were recorded from Pye's Hall during Sep 27th-Oct 3rd (ABe *et al*), Gib Point on Oct 1st-2nd (trapped and ringed, GGr *et al*) with either the same or a different bird on Oct 4th (ARh, MED), Grainthorpe Wood on Oct 13th-15th (TWe, CSm), Donna Nook between Stonebridge and Ponderosa on Oct 14th (BMC) and at Skegness at the end of Seacroft Esplanade also on Oct 14th. Two birds, one an adult male, were at Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 14th (EJM, CMo, JRW, GPC, ND) with the male still present the following day (PEs, JRW).

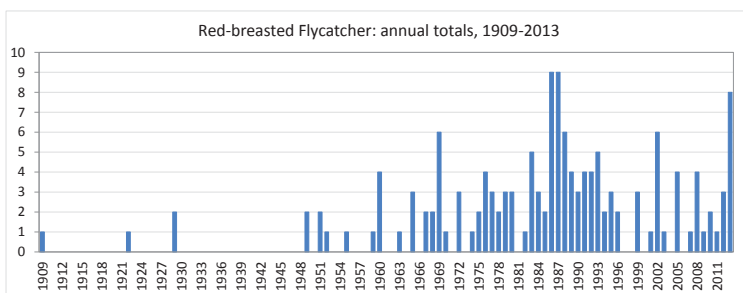




Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* 1st winter Donna Nook Oct 3rd 2013 and adult male Theddlethorpe Oct 14th 2013 © Graham Catley



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* juvenile Gib Point Aug 19th 2013 © Paul Neale



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

Yet another quiet spring passage started with a very early migrant male on Willow Walk at Whisby NR on Apr 15th followed by another male at Messingham SQ on May 12th and a female trapped at Gib Point on May 18th. The first autumn migrants were one at Donna Nook and four at Gib Point on Aug 19th, followed by a steady passage of typically between one to six birds at coastal locations for the rest of the month, with peak counts including eight at Gib Point and 18 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR both on the 26th. There was one inland at Hagworthingham on Aug 24th. There was a very poor showing during Sep with just five records of between one and three birds from Donna Nook, Gib Point and Crook Bank, whilst all Oct records came from Gib Point with singles (possibly all referring to one bird) recorded on five dates during Oct 15th-20th.



Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* immature Gib Point Apr 8th 2013 © Paul Neale

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

A single bird present from 4th Dec 2013 remained at Covenham Res from Jan 1st to Mar 5th at least, whilst an early migrant was at Frampton village on Mar 9th. Additional passage birds up to the end of Apr included singles at Covenham Res on Mar 26th and Apr 7th, one at Donna Nook on Apr 9th with two there on the 12th and 13th and one on the 15th, and singles at Rimac on Apr 13th, Freiston Shore on Apr 15th, and inland at Grantham on Apr 16th. At Gib Point there were records on seven dates in Apr with a peak of five on the 12th. During May, singles were

recorded at Donna Nook on the 1st and 18th, Barton-upon-Humber on the 4th, Frampton Marsh on the 14th, South Kyme on the 16th and Gib Point on the 6th and 31st. There were a scattering of summer records involving singles at Gib Point on Jun 7th and 29th and Donna Nook on Jul 21st-22nd, but nothing to indicate that these records represented breeding birds. Neither were there were any records of birds at recent former breeding sites. Autumn passage commenced with singles at Gib Pint on Aug 10th and 26th, with a gap before the next at Donna Nook on Sep 26th-27th. Oct records included one in the Donna Nook-Pye's Hall area on the 12th with two there on the 13th-14th and one on the 15th, and singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 12th-13th and 23rd, while at Gib Point there were two on the 12th, 13th and 15th and one on the 27th-29th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

The first records for the year were singles at Freiston Shore and Humberston Fitties on Apr 15th followed by a fairly widespread arrivals of 1-2 during the rest of the month from Alkborough Flats, Barton Pits, Cleethorpes, Tetney Marsh, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, and Gib Point. May records included one at Humberston Fitties on 1st, two at Gib Point on the 18th with one there on the 26th, and one at Donna Nook on the 29th. Breeding records included a confirmed breeding pair at Bulby Wood in the south of the county during May-Jun with the adults observed feeding at least two fledged juveniles, and a possible breeding at Linwood Warren with a singing male on the late date of Jul 8th. Autumn passage commenced with a juvenile at Gib Point on Jul 28th followed by a gap until one was at Gib Point on Aug 13th. The remainder of the autumn was unassuming, most records being of 1-5 birds at predominantly coastal locations. Only a handful of higher counts were received, during Aug 26th-31st and Oct 1st-10th. The earlier phase included nine at Donna Nook on Aug 26th and 12 at Gib Point on Aug 28th while later there were nine at Gib Point on Oct 1st-2nd and six at Freiston Shore on Oct 10th. Inland there was just one record of a single at Horkstow Carrs on Sep 8th. The last migrants of the year were at Donna Nook and Tetney Lock, both on the 15th.



Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* female Donna Nook May 4th 2013 © Mark Johnson

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant. Formerly bred.

The first records for the year were singles at Donna Nook on Apr 18th and at Barton Pits and Grainthorpe Marsh on Apr 24th. There then followed a spring passage involving just 10 more birds from five coastal and one inland location, including the last birds of spring, singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point on May 19th. An early juvenile was at Donna Nook on Jul 25th although a more typical autumn migrant was at Gib Point on Aug 12th. Between one and nine birds were

recorded from 11 coastal and five inland locations during the rest of Aug and Sep, whilst Gib Point was the only place to record double figures including 14 on Aug 21st, 11 on Aug 25th, 18 on Aug 26th and 13 on Aug 31st. Oct was quiet, with the only records being singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 13th and the last migrants of the year at Tetney Marsh and Gib Point on the 15th.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first winter male found at Gib Point on Oct 5th (KMW *et al*) was only the ninth recorded in the county. Accepted by BBRC (BB 107: p636) but note that the bird was not present on the 6th *contra* the published data in the BBRC report.

First recorded in 1978, there were seven records up to 1994 but the only ones since then were a first winter in Oct 2000 and this year's bird. The first record concerned a spring male but all the other birds were first winter birds; one at Donna Nook on Nov 9th 1980 was considered to be a Stejneger's Stonechat, now suggested as a potential split from nominate Siberian Stonechat.

1978 Male Donna Nook, May 23rd

1978 First winter Donna Nook, Oct 7th-8th

1980 First winter Donna Nook, Nov 9th (possible *stegnegeri*)

1987 First winter Donna Nook, Oct 2nd

1990 First winter Skegness, Oct 21st-25th with a second first winter bird, 23rd-25th

1994 First winter Pye's Hall, Donna Nook, first winter Sep 22nd

2000 One Saltfleet Haven, Oct 1st-3rd



Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* Gib Point Oct 5th 2013 © Russell Hayes

European Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	4	-	5	5	-	-	1	1	4	7	3	2
Min number of birds	5	-	7	5	-	-	1	2	5	17	4	2

The status of this chat remained unchanged in the county and it continued to be scarce at both coastal and inland locations during the majority of the year, with just a modest spring and autumn passage. It is therefore not surprising that there were no reported nesting attempts, with the last confirmed breeding in the county now from 2010. The majority of sites recorded between one or two birds, with all higher counts coming from Gib Point, which included three on Mar 5th, Oct 12th and 15th with seven on Oct 24th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

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

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa* Scarce migrant in spring/autumn.

The first returning migrant was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 15th followed by one at Gib Point on Mar 16th but then a gap until singles at Gib Point on Mar 28th and Pye's Hall on Mar 31st. Passage was typically widespread during Apr-May at many locations with peak day counts including 21 at Gib Point on Apr 15th, 37 at RAF Waddington on Apr 18th, 42 at Risby Warren on Apr 25th and an impressive 68 there on Apr 27th and 20 at Grainthorpe Marsh on May 1st. June was quiet with just two singles at Gib Point on the 9th and 15th. Autumn commenced in early Aug with singles at Donna Nook on the 6th-7th and Frampton Marsh on the 10th-11th. Passage continued throughout Aug and Sep and although widespread, most day counts could only manage single figures, with the exception of 11 at Gib Point on Aug 27th. Sightings of one or two continued past mid Oct until the last bird of the year was seen at Donna Nook on the 20th.

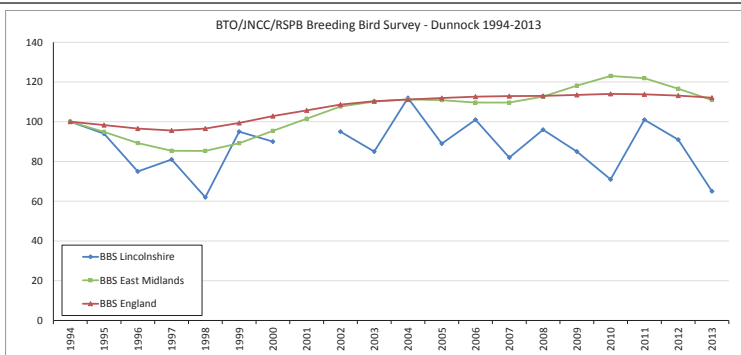
Individuals reported as showing characters of the Greenland race *leucorrhoa* were: one at Gib Point on Apr 16th, eight at Alkborough Flats on Apr 19th, five at New Holland on Apr 21st, one on Barton Wolds on Apr 23rd, two at Barton Pits on Apr 24th, one at Covenham Res on May 1st and one at Gib Point on Jun 9th, and in autumn one at Gib Point on Oct 16th. It is likely that others among the later spring migrants also will have belonged to *leucorrhoa*.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

A very common and widespread species with reports from around 140 sites throughout the county. Usually recorded in single figures, although 13 locations had counts of 10 or more. A modest spring and autumn passage was detectable from coastal sites which included a spring peak of 43 at Gib Point on Apr 25th and, in autumn, 51 at Gib Point on Aug 28th with 52 there on Oct 1st and 53 on Oct 4th, c30 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 12th and 15th, and 20 at Donna Nook on Oct 6th and 15th. Inland the highest count submitted came from Osgodby with 24 trapped and ringed on Nov 23rd. There was also a count of 20 at Donna Nook on Dec 1st. The BBS suggests that Dunnock has been in decline in Lincs since at least 2000, in contrast to national and, until recently, regional trends. British-bred Dunnocks are highly sedentary (with 94% of those ringed in the breeding season as adults moving less than 20 km) so it is hard to know what Y756596 was doing taking a new year trip to Frampton.

Y756596	Adult male	24-06-2012	Sandpool, Somerford Keynes: 51°39'N 1°59'W (Gloucestershire)
	Caught by ringer	06-01-2013	Frampton Village: 52°56'N 0°2'W 195km NE 0y 6m 13d



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Despite the exceptionally cold spring, there appeared to be slight up-turn in overall numbers, with 143 records of flocks of 30 or more birds spread throughout the year, including ten records of over 50 or more, compared with only three in 2012. The maximum count for 2013 was 100 at Goxhill Haven on Sep 1st – a figure well below the peak of 250 recorded in late summer 2010 for instance. It's tempting to think the cold winter of 2010/11 may have caused a decline but the BBS does not

support this; the indices for the East Midlands and for England as a whole have scarcely altered since 2010. A general paucity of records coming from the Fens, making up the southern third of the county, was a continuing trend. Just five submissions of confirmed breeding were received, which is very low and disproportionate to the true situation.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Submissions during the year suggests the slow recovery in the numbers of this species is being sustained, although there was a notable lack of reporting of flocks of significant size in the first winter period, with 28 at Frampton Marsh on Feb 25th being the largest. Records received from the inland Fen areas in the south of county also continued to remain few and far between, with the general absence trees offering suitable nesting sites opportunities presumably a principal factor, with traditional farm buildings and targeted nest box schemes providing limited alternatives. Following a similar pattern to many previous years, Gib Point once again proved to be the location to see good numbers in the autumn period, with some significant counts made of birds moving south on a number of dates. It was the only place in the county with over 100 birds reported during the year, with peaks, all in Oct, of 126 on the 5th, 136 on the 15th and 164 on 24th. A total of 877 was logged moving south in the area during Oct. A count of 82 at Osgodby on Nov 23rd also was noteworthy. Breeding was confirmed at only seven widely scattered locations, clearly understating the true position.

TS48823	Nestling	01-06-2012	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°23'W			
	Alive (ring read in field)	28-03-2013	Southill: 52°4'N 0°19'W (Bedfordshire)	134km	S	0y 9m 27d
D071203	Full-grown	05-10-2012	Kilnsea: 53°37'N 0°8'E (East Yorkshire)			
	Long dead	20-04-2013	Langtoft: 52°42'N 0°21'W	107km	SSW	0y 6m 15d

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant mostly Apr-Sep.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	21	60	2	2	20	40	-
Covenham Res	-	30	62	1	-	60	25	1
Frampton Marsh	-	40	5	8	8	25	20	1

The first bird of the year was one reported from Frampton Marsh on Apr 11th, a week later than 2012. Peak April counts, all of 40 birds each came from Toft Newton Res on the 15th, Frampton Marsh RSPB on the 19th, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on the 21st and Bonby Carrs on the 30th. Peak May counts were 62 at Covenham Res and 60 at Alkborough Flats, both on May 1st. At Gib Point, there were 46 on May 10th. Birds were recorded in 29 out of 78 BBS squares surveyed with a total of 87 birds counted. Yellow Wagtails were found in only 145 BBS squares in UK as a whole, and Lincs thus contributed 20%, an impressive figure even allowing for possible variations in coverage. Autumn migration showed numbers up on 2012, especially at Gib Point where there were 54 on Jul 26th, 281 on Aug 30th including 181 flying over south, and 137 on Sep 2nd of which 40 flew south and 90 roosted on the old saltmarsh. Also in Aug there were 60 at Covenham Res on the 21st. There were 40 at each of Alkborough Flats on Sep 2nd, Nocton Fen on Sep 3rd and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Sep 15th. The last record of the year was one at Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 13th.

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

Single birds resembling *M.f.flava* were at Barton Pits on April 17th-22nd (GPC *et al*), Tattershall Lakes CP on Apr 23rd (KR) and Gib Point on Apr 26th (RDn).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant (mainly coastal) and winter visitor (mostly inland). Rare breeder, formerly sporadic, but has become regular in recent years.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	6	9	8	5	2	8	7	6	27	13	11
Min number of birds	9	7	15	14	8	5	15	7	16	49	13	11



Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* Barton Pits Apr 18th.2013 © Graham Catley



White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* Barton Pits Apr 18th 2013 © Graham Catley

Records were received from 56 sites of which 48 were inland and eight coastal. The table indicates there is pronounced dispersal or autumn passage in Sep-Oct. The peak coastal count was 12 moving south at Gib Point on Oct 5th and there had been six south there on Sep 17th. Inland the maximum counts were five in Apr and Jul at Haverholme Park, where confirmed breeding was reported. Breeding was also confirmed at nearby Sleaford, though breeding is widely under reported. It was not recorded in any of the 78 BBS squares surveyed in Lincs in 2013. It is relatively widely but thinly spread with all the winter records this year being of single birds apart from two at Anwick Fen in Jan-Feb.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarelli*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gibraltar Point	2	1	4	8	3	5	9	60	34	20	4	6
Marston STW	1	-	60	6	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	5

Peak winter counts included 80 at Scrivelsby Park on Jan 7th and 60 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Feb 18th, and there was an early spring count of 60 at Marston STW on Mar 15th. Spring migration was unremarkable with maximum counts of 20 at Saltfleet Haven on Apr 16th and 30 at Covenham Reservoir on Apr 18th, with 15 at Cumberworth on May 5th. A total of 63 birds were reported in 33 out of 78 BBS squares surveyed. Autumn passage was more brisk. At Blackmoor Bridge there were 14 on Jul 30th, 32 on Aug 13th and 28 on Sep 2nd, and Kirkby Pits had 80 on Sep 12th. In coastal areas, Pyewipe, Grimsby had 35 on Jul 29th, 90 on Aug 15th and 50 on Sep 18th, and the peak at Gib Point was c60 on Aug 31st. The only large flock reported in early winter was 50 at Horncastle STW on Dec 31st.

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	-	-	3	19	3	2	1	2	2	1	-	-
Min number of birds	-	-	4	112	4	2	1	21	4	1	-	-

Spring passage started a week later than 2012 with single birds at Whisby NP on Mar 22nd and Gib Point on Mar 24th. The Apr passage was exceptional, with peak counts of 15 at RAF Waddington on the 18th, 10 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on the 19th, 19 at Covenham Res on the 19th and 30 at Frampton Marsh on the 23rd. Unusually there was a heavier than usual passage in Aug too, with 20, including six adults, at Gib Point on Aug 31st. The last adult of the year was trapped at Crook Bank, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 19th.

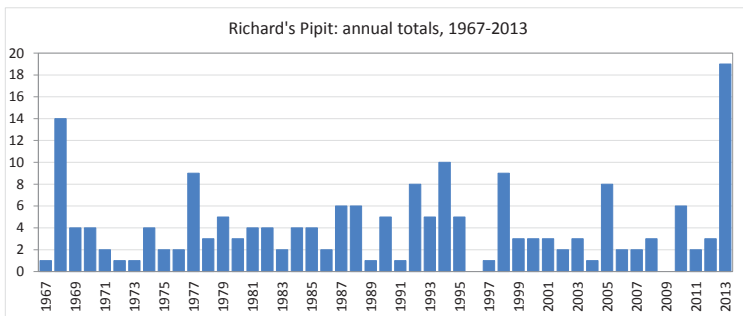
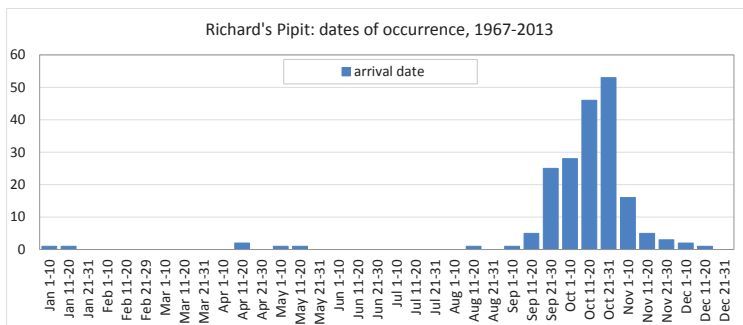


Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Gib Point Oct 20th 2013 © Russell Hayes

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

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

An excellent autumn at Gib Point saw a total of seven or eight birds recorded there between Oct 6th and Nov 5th as follows. One flew south on Oct 6th (ARh, MEd), and then one from Oct 11th-17th (JS *et al*) was joined by a second bird from 14th-17th (JPS *et al*), one of them staying to the 18th. Another bird arrived on the 16th (JPS) and was present to the 20th, being joined that day by yet another one (NAL, KMW *et al*), and one moving south on the 20th made a total of three present that day. The next was one south on the 23rd (NAL), and there were three again on the 29th (KMW) with two of them staying to Nov 3rd and 5th respectively. Elsewhere, there were singles at Saltfleet Haven on Sep 28th (JJa), near Stonebridge car park, Donna Nook on the 29th (BGU), at Donna Nook on Oct 12th (SL) with two there on the 17th (SL), at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 20th (CMo, JRW), at Chowder Ness, Barton on Oct 23rd (GPC), at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes also on the 23rd (JRW), at Humberston Fitties on Oct 27th (RL) and at Donna Nook on the 27th with two there on the 28th-30th (SL). An excellent autumn with a total of at least 19 birds recorded, making it the best year ever in the county.



Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was seen north of Stonebridge at Donna Nook on Oct 12th (HB, DKW) and another at Frampton Marsh on Oct 13th (JWh). There are eight previous county records between 1980 and 2003, falling in the period Sep 26th to Nov 8th.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Rare summer visitor and scarce passage migrant. Breeds locally, mainly in the western half of the county.

The first spring record was one at Donna Nook on Apr 15th, followed by two south at Gib Point on Apr 19th, but 12 singing males were already on territory at Laughton Forest by the 20th. Coastal spring migrants comprised 1-2 on five dates during Apr 15th-May 20th at Donna Nook and on 19 dates during Apr 19th-Jun 3rd at Gib Point, plus one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on May 7th. Survey coverage of the wet heath at Laughton Forest located 18 territories,

up from 15 in 2012 but remaining below the total of 20 or more in several years up to 2011. Two were singing from May 2nd to early Jul at Greetwell Warren. One was on Scotton Common on May 19th, and one singing on Crowle Moors on May 25th, but no complete surveys were made. One at Scotton Common on Sep 9th was the only inland record in autumn, but coastal passage was first apparent with one south at Gib Point on Aug 17th. Records there continued until Oct 14th, with singles on 14 dates, 2-3 on four dates and six on Sep 12th. At Donna Nook, there were 1-2 on four dates during Aug 26th-Sep 27th, with one at Tetney Marsh on Sep 27th, one at Frampton Marsh on Oct 13th and one trapped at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 14th, an equal last date with that at Gib Point.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humberston-Tetney	1	26	2	5	6	10	15	10	15	30	12	3
Donna Nook	4	1	7	30	11	24	14	13	109	150	120	5
Gibraltar Point	412	7	17	50	38	109	63	34	2234	725	26	4
Freiston Shore	9	29	4	15	4	8	11	4	14	6	6	1
Frampton Marsh	16	12	9	6	4	2	3	1	11	23	36	5

As usual, counts were highest in autumn but there was a notable count of 412 at Gib Point on Jan 21st, numbers having built up during a week or so of cold weather. There were also 56 at Anderby Creek on Jan 16th. In spring, 50 were counted at Bonby Carrs on Apr 12th. Breeding estimates for The Wash RSPB reserves were 21 pairs at Freiston Shore and 85 pairs at Frampton Marsh. Recording of visible passage at Gib Point gave a total of 14543 moving south during Sep-Oct; counts exceeded 1000 on four dates, with 2090 on Sep 15th when the peak including those not moving of 2234 occurred, 1089 on the 17th, 1905 on the 19th and 2020 on the 21st. The ringing recovery below shows onward movement of one of these migrants. There was also a count of 250 moving south at Crook Bank on the 15th and 80 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 25th.

D538207	Full-grown	24-09-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	06-10-2013	Perry Court Farm: 51°11'N 0°54'E (Kent) 217km S 0y 0m 12d

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Vagrant. LBRC

A pipit that flew south at Gib Point on Oct 12th was identified on call as Red-throated Pipit (JS, KMW). The third county record of what is an inexplicably rare bird in Lincolnshire, with the previous two records at Grainthorpe Marsh on Sep 21st-22nd 1977 and Gib Point on May 26th-28th 1992.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

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

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A.p.littoralis* Common but overlooked passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	15	13	5	2	-	-	-	-	1	20	40	20
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	28	18	5	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	15	20
Gibraltar Point	155	50	32	9	-	-	-	-	7	96	89	37
Freiston Shore	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	15	7
Frampton Marsh	39	71	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	165	252	172

The Frampton Marsh counts derive from systematic coverage of the reserve, not always on one day, though the peak of 252 was all for Oct 29th. The species' distribution in the county is strongly dominated by the tabulated areas. Rather few occur up the Humber, where the maximum was seven at Barton Pits on Oct 20th. Inland reports were of one at Toft Newton Res on Oct 3rd, one at Appleby Carrs on Oct 30th, and frequent records of 1-2 at Covenham Res between Sep 23rd and Dec 17th. There were no reports between three at Gib Point on Apr 17th and three also at Gib Point on Sep 11th. Autumn passage was heaviest from early Oct to early Nov, and the peak was 96 on Oct 24th. The total logged moving south at Gib Point during Sep 21st-Nov 25th was 1118, very similar to the equivalent figure of 1128 in 2012.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

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

Up to three were at Gib Point from Jan 1st to Mar 18th, with one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Jan 4th and two at Frampton Marsh on Jan 7th. Spring passage produced singles at Frampton Marsh on Mar 24th and Baston Fen on Mar 31st, two at Donna Nook on Apr 5th, two at Gib Point on Apr 12th, and singles at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Apr 10th-12th, Freiston Shore on Apr 11th and Kirkby Pits on Apr 15th-16th. The first of the later winter was at Alkborough Flats on Oct 16th-20th with 1-2 at Gib Point during Nov 4th-Dec 26th, four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Dec 7th and one at Frampton Marsh during Nov 30th-Dec 13th.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Chaffinch has always been common and widespread, and was recorded as a breeding bird in 94% of all 10km squares in Britain and Ireland during the BTO Atlas 2007-2011. Count data for all reported sites is summarised as the sum of site peak counts each month to facilitate comparison between months. They are not absolute totals but do illustrate trends, though one should remember that flocks are more likely to form and be counted outside the breeding season. Counts were received from 176 sites, compared with 130 sites in 2012.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	393	334	481	1755	400	440	205	198	319	718	628	758

Spring migration peaked in the first half of April, slightly later than in 2012. Visible migration counts at Gib Point during Apr 7th-20th amounted to a total of 2865; of those, 1946 went through during the 15th-17th with a peak of 1013 on the 17th. The only other count of more than 100 was of 134 south at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 15th. As usual, autumn immigration began in mid-Sept and peaked during Oct with the sum of all-sites peak counts of 764. However, it must be noted that at coastal sites such as Gib Point, the recording of the monthly peak is a gross underestimate of the true total where the majority of birds recorded daily are moving through. The total counted moving south at Gib Point in October was 1892, with more than 100 counted on seven days during the month and the peak of 360 on the 24th. Most of the larger coastal counts involved morning movement of flocks, typically southwards in both spring and autumn, and probably chiefly of Scandinavian origin. Inland, 50 or more were recorded at Hubbard's Hills and Welbourn Heath, numbers at the latter site increasing to 156 during November.

Y551516	Adult female Caught by ringer	21-12-2012 19-04-2013	Crossmichael: 54°58'N 3°59'W (Dumfries & Galloway) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	349km SE	0y 3m 29d
X230886	First year male Freshly dead	15-03-2009 23-11-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Boeslunde: 55°18'N 11°15'E (Sjaelland)	Denmark	752km ENE 4y 8m 8d

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer. RBBP

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	80	4	-
Gibraltar Point	17	4	2	41	1	-	-	-	9	231	39	6
Metheringham Delph	30	35	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	5	-
Willingham-by-Stow	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sum of all site peaks	76	128	49	64	2	-	-	-	15	425	62	22

Bramblings are a widely distributed winter visitor, but show large fluctuations in numbers according to local food supplies, especially beech mast. Wintering numbers were low during Jan-Mar and most birds departed during Apr, including 41 which went south at Gib Point on the 17th. Two late records were of a ringed bird that remained at Gib Point until May 3rd and one at Scunthorpe on May 7th, the last of the spring. The first autumn bird was one trapped at Gib Point on Sep 14th and the peak there during the rest of the month was nine south on the 28th. Good numbers were recorded on the coast during Oct, with peak counts of 80 at Donna Nook on the 12th and of 231 at Gib Point on the 29th. However, as with Chaffinch, the table does not show the true extent of passage through Gib Point. The Oct visible migration total was 1236 Bramblings, with birds going

through all month. Numbers dwindled during Nov, with the highest count of 39 at Gib Point on the 9th and few stayed to winter into Dec. A total of 208 were ringed in the county in 2013; the Swedish recovery below is clearly of a bird returning to breeding quarters.

Y768447	First year female Freshly dead (hit glass)	16-12-2012 05-05-2013	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°20'W Funas, Oviken: 62°56'N 14°25'E (Jamtland) Sweden	1,425km NE
L756870	First year male Caught by ringer	04-03-2011 21-04-2013	College Farm, Frampton: 52°54'N 0°0'W Thetford: c. 52°24'N 0°45'E (Norfolk)	76km SE 2y 1m 17d



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Gib Point Mar 10th 2013 © Paul Neale

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

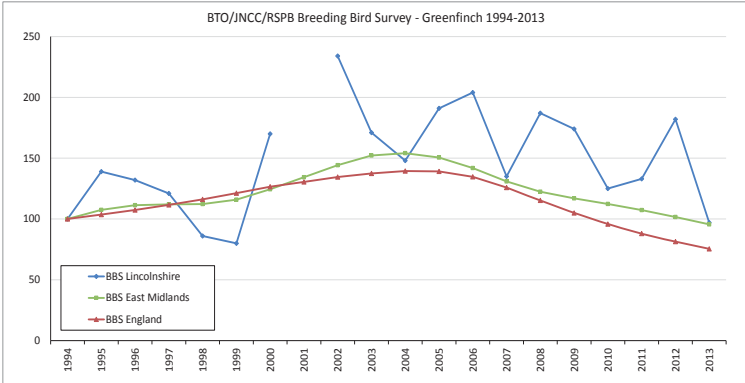
Count data for all reported sites is summarised as the sum of the peak counts each month for each site to facilitate comparison between months; they are not absolute totals but do illustrate trends. Counts were received from around 120 sites across the county, considerably down on previous years. Greenfinch numbers nationally and in Lincolnshire (see BBS chart) have continued to fall as a result of the respiratory disease trichomonosis caused by a protozoan parasite *Trichomonas gallinae*, a phenomenon first obvious in 2006.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	404	240	329	184	105	184	147	171	390	653	475	581

The peak counts totals for each month for all sites are similar to those for 2012, with peaks in the autumn and winter. Wintering flocks of 100 or more during the first quarter were noted at Gib Point (110 in Jan), Whisby NR (100 in Jan) and Anwick Fen (175 on Mar 10th). After March, numbers quickly fell as wintering flocks dispersed to breeding territories. In autumn, numbers at Gib Point increased during Sep and peaked in Oct when a peak count of 395 was noted on the 9th, most moving south. Further high counts during Oct were of 315 on the 16th and 344 on the 18th. There were much smaller numbers elsewhere on the coast. The largest counts in Dec were 100 at Gib Point on the 10th and 200 in Horncastle on the 31st. The first three of the ringing recoveries below, which include those moving more than 100 km, show the hazards faced by Greenfinches. TT89127 may well have been a victim of trichomonosis.

TX30223	Juvenile female Freshly dead (cat)	10-07-2013 11-11-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Rhossili: 51°34'N 4°18'W (Glamorgan)	357km WSW 0y 4m 1d
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TS17974	First year male	16-01-2012	Cross Lane Head, Bridgnorth: 52°33'N 2°27'W (Shropshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	08-07-2013	Low Fulney, Spalding: 52°47'N 0°7'W 160km E 1y 5m 22d
TT89127	Adult female	13-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead (disease)	15-08-2013	Chesterfield: 53°16'N 1°20'W (Derbyshire) 112km W 0y 10m 2d
TT33090	Full-grown male	01-11-2013	Bessacarr, near Doncaster: 53°29'N 1°4'W (South Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	08-12-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 102km ESE 0y 1m 7d



Serinus Serinus serinus

Rare migrant Apr-Jun and Sep-Nov. **LBRC**

On Apr 26th, one was seen at Anderby Creek (JS) and another flew north at Gib Point (RDn) but probably stopped and was the male trapped there on the 28th (DVi). An immature or female then flew south at Gib Point on Jun 3rd (KMW, JPS, NAL).

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis

Common resident and passage migrant.

Count data for all reported sites is summarised as the sum of the peak counts each month for each site to facilitate comparison between months; they are not absolute totals but do illustrate trends.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	851	260	461	520	334	209	444	448	1566	2469	1168	1156

Most British Goldfinches move to Iberia in winter but some remain, a trend no doubt helped by the sharp increase in breeding numbers, which have doubled in England since 1995. Counts of 20-60 were common across the county in the first quarter, with most at Donna Nook (68 on Jan 9th) and Pinchbeck (75 on Jan 15th). These are illustrative but incomplete, as many sites did not report counts during Jan-Mar. Numbers increased as spring passage began in early Apr and at Gib Point peaked on the 17th when 124 were counted, most going south. Autumn passage counts were very much larger with numbers building up during Sep and peaking in Oct. At Gib Point, a total of 7072 were logged moving south during mid Sep-mid Nov; peaks were 810 on Oct 16th and 1514 on the 23rd. The largest counts in Nov-Dec were up to 190 at Gib Point in the first half of Nov, 160 between Bardney and Woodhall Spa on Nov 28th, 125 at Welbourn Heath on Dec 11th and 147 at Frampton Marsh on Dec 12th. Increasing numbers of Goldfinches are being ringed both at feeding stations and on autumn passage along the east coast. The numerous ringing recoveries, which include foreign recoveries and those moving more than 100 km, mostly or perhaps all relate to migrants through Lincs; several probably are from breeding sites in Scotland while others show the onward movements of bird that may winter in Iberia. L520983 is a little odd, being in Aberdeenshire and Butterwick in successive Januaries.

D052757	First year female	21-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	24-04-2013	Buckie: 57°40'N 2°57'W (Grampian Region) 548km NNW 0y 6m 3d

L520983	First year female Caught by ringer	01-01-2012 02-01-2013	South Bandon: 57°8'N 2°34'W (Grampian Region) Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E 492km SSE 1y 0m 1d
L839486	Adult male Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	29-01-2011 18-06-2012 06-05-2013	Eau Farm, Swaton: 52°55'N 0°20'W Hilton of Fern, Fern: 56°44'N 2°49'W (Tayside) 453km NNW 1y 4m 20d Hilton of Fern, Fern: 56°44'N 2°49'W (Tayside) 453km NNW 2y 3m 7d
D104114	First year female Caught by ringer	20-10-2013 22-10-2013	Wellington Park, Montrose: 56°43'N 2°27'W (Tayside) Pickworth: c. 52°53'N 0°27'W 445km SSE 0y 0m 2d
Y260584	First year female Caught by ringer	03-02-2012 01-05-2013	Lade Bank Pumping Station: 53°4'N 0°3'E Drumla: 55°26'N 5°7'W (Strathclyde) 427km NW 1y 2m 28d
D188089	First year female Caught by ringer	28-10-2012 02-04-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Maugre, Santes: 50°35'N 2°57'E (Nord) France 333km SSE 0y 5m 5d
D188190	Full-grown male Caught by ringer	10-11-2012 13-04-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Jonkershove: 50°58'N 2°55'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 297km SE 0y 5m 3d
L188954	First year male Freshly dead	17-04-2010 21-02-2013	College Farm, Frampton: 52°54'N 0°0'W Saint-Agnan-Sur-Sarthe: 48°36'N 0°25'E (Orne) France 479km S 2y 10m 4d
L676856	Juvenile Freshly dead	31-08-2011 24-02-2013	Pickworth: c. 52°53'N 0°27'W Briot: 49°38'N 1°55'E (Oise) France 397km SSE 1y 5m 24d



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* North Somercotes Dec 29th 2013 © Mark Johnson

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gibraltar Point	66	114	13	69	3	6	-	-	52	223	10	76
Number of sites	17	21	34	30	5	2	1	-	7	11	6	9
Sum of all site peaks	535	479	333	229	10	8	2	-	64	373	70	142

There was a large autumn influx in 2012 and Jan-Feb totals reflected this. Numbers declined rapidly thereafter but breeding was suspected at Laughton Forest. Two juveniles were noted at Anwick on Jun 30th. Modest flocks began appearing on the coast in Sep, with 52 at Gib Point on

the 20th the highest day count, most passing south. Gib Point continued to record far more than elsewhere, with totals surpassing 100 on five dates in Oct and almost 1400 counted south during the month and the peak of 223 on the 24th. Elsewhere, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR recorded an Oct peak of 60 on the 14th. Compared with 2012, numbers during Nov were very modest with only two counts of 30 or more in the whole county, but there were 36 at Chambers Farm Wood in Dec. Ringing activity revealed most caught in the county were from Scotland but two continental-ringed birds were trapped in Bourne Wood. The movements of Siskins are complex, with those wintering or migrating through Lincs coming either from British breeding populations or from Scandinavia. Some winter in the same area in successive years (e.g. T629019) while others may be here one year and further south or south-east in Europe in the next.

T629019	First year male	02-02-2008	Gleadthorpe Grange, Meden Vale, Warsop: 53°13'N 1°7'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Caught by ringer	18-02-2013	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen: 53°25'N 0°21'W 56km ENE 5y 0m 16d
D372948	First year female	06-04-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	10-05-2013	Inverarnie: c. 57°23'N 4°11'W (Highland Region) 567km NNW 0y 1m 4d
Y984806	First year male	05-03-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	30-05-2013	Keith: 57°32'N 2°58'W (Grampian Region) 555km NNW 0y 2m 25d
Y998563	First year male	18-03-2013	Hundelby: c. 53°10'N 0°4'E
	Caught by ringer	14-05-2013	Drummond, Inverness: 57°27'N 4°14'W (Highland Region) 548km NNW 0y 1m 26d
D372739	First year male	27-03-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	15-07-2013	Mytice, Garty: 57°22'N 2°53'W (Grampian Region) 535km NNW 0y 3m 18d
D375057	First year male	14-03-2013	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen: 53°25'N 0°21'W
	Dead	10-05-2013	Comrie: 56°22'N 3°59'W (Tayside) 402km NW 0y 1m 26d
NLA AT77906	First year male	04-10-2012	Labadiskebosk: 53°16'N 5°59'E (Friesland) The Netherlands
	Caught by ringer	29-03-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 431km W 0y 5m 25d
HES B452844	First year female	09-09-2012	Col de Bretolet: 46°8'N 6°47'E (Valois) Switzerland
	Caught by ringer	21-04-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 901km NW 0y 7m 12d

Linnet Carduelis cannabina

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	20	20	2	120	70	60	120	200	150	250	40	3
Gibraltar Point	135	65	50	204	117	22	50	196	207	416	80	150
Sum of all site peaks	527	570	297	811	545	290	427	1120	1866	1483	1216	1864

Recorded widely throughout the county all year. Flocks of 30-65 birds were recorded at several sites during Jan-Mar, and there were up to 135 at Gib Point in Jan. Spring movements saw counts increase during April with 185 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 204 at Gib Point, both on the 15th, and 120 at Donna Nook on the 24th. Gib Point recorded counts of more than 100, mainly going south, on 10 days during April. Autumn number built up from Aug onwards post-breeding and continued to increase into Sep as coastal passage got underway. Movement at Gib Point extended from late Jul until early Nov, but the peak was during Sep 15th-Oct 9th, with a total of 2010 recorded flying south and peaks of 245 on Oct 5th and 366 on Oct 8th. The highest count away from Gib Point was 250 at Grainthorpe Haven on Oct 20th, but there were also counts of 200 or more in six other coastal areas. There were larger numbers during Nov-Dec than last year, with totals of 100 or more at eight widely spread sites, the largest being 170 at Morton (Gainsborough) on Nov 7th, 570 at Welbourn Heath on Dec 11th and 300 at Wold Newton on Dec 15th.

Twite Carduelis flavirostris

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Haven-Horseshoe Point	30	-	185	2	-	-	-	120	220
Grainthorpe Marsh-Donna Nook	3	52	20	30	-	-	30	75	50

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR	138	210	80	-	-	-	45	120	70
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End	80	120	55	-	-	-	-	110	64
Wainfleet	36	49	-	-	-	-	-	40	8
Frampton Marsh	47	55	30	45	-	-	-	40	1
Sum of all site peaks	404	700	376	77	1	-	107	612	531

The wintering numbers recorded here reflect an average showing and at most of the usual coastal sites. The highest individual site counts early in the year were 210 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Feb 9th and 185 between Tetney Haven and Horseshoe Point on Mar 26th. Most of these had departed by mid-Apr, and the last were two at Tetney Haven-Horseshoe Point on Apr 30th. The first autumn birds were 45 at Gib Point on Sep 20th, 20 of them flying south, the only record for that month. The next were not until Oct 20th when 32 were found during a WeBS count at Friskney. More arrived later that month with small flocks along the coast and were followed by a larger influx in Nov, with most in the Saltfleetby-Mablethorpe coastal area. Numbers were a little lower during Dec except for a large flock of 220 between Tetney Haven and Horseshoe Point on Dec 10th. The only inland reports this year concerned six at Marston STW on Mar 5th, with five there on the 19th and 2-3 until the 29th. No significant ringing data were received from the BTO and no colour-ringed sightings reported either.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare breeding bird, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	451	300	209	258	23	2	-	-	17	238	156	150

An unremarkable showing in the first part of the year with flocks of 25-80 at fourteen sites across the county and then, as ever, Lesser Redpolls were virtually absent from the county during the breeding season with no reports received of attempted breeding. There were no records at all between one at Gib Point on Jun 24th and three at Frampton Marsh on Sep 7th. During the rest of Sep, 1-9 were at Gib Point on five dates and one at Pye's Hall on Sep 27th. Oct saw the main influx but the month's sum of peaks of 238 was modest indeed. However, this did mask larger daily numbers moving south at Gib Point, although in some cases these had to be logged as "Redpoll species". The Oct total of Lesser Redpoll and Redpoll sp moving south was 906, with peaks of 148 on the 17th and 130 on the 24th. Totals in Nov-Dec were unremarkable, with no counts over 45 away from Gib Point, but the ringing summary, including UK movements of more than 100 km and a foreign recovery, provides interesting reading and illustrates the origins of our passage birds. The first is a rapid movement of a spring migrant back to its breeding area, and note that another bird (BLB 12329376) present in Bourne Wood in mid winter had been passing through Belgium the previous winter.

Y984746	Adult	01-05-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	11-05-2013	Shebster: 58°33'N 3°42'W (Highland Region) 675km NNW 0y 0m 10d
Y983735	First year	30-12-2012	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	25-05-2013	Shebster: 58°33'N 3°42'W (Highland Region) 675km NNW 0y 4m 25d
D052733	Adult male	21-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	14-05-2013	Stranraer: 54°54'N 5°2'W (Dumfries & Galloway) 403km WNW 0y 6m 23d
Y515081	First year female	08-10-2012	Copeland Bird Observatory: 54°41'N 5°32'W (Down)
	Caught by ringer	15-02-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 399km ESE 0y 4m 7d
P469657	First year male	19-10-2012	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E
	Caught by ringer	27-04-2013	Humshaugh: 55°2'N 2°8'W (Northumberland) 269km NW 0y 6m 8d
BLB 12329376	First year female	03-04-2012	Cokaifagne: 50°30'N 5°58'E (Liege) Belgium
	Caught by ringer	12-12-2012	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 507km WNW 0y 8m 9d
	Caught by ringer	15-01-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 507km WNW 0y 9m 12d

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce/rare winter visitor, but probably overlooked. LBRC

This species was again scarce in 2013 with just a few records in the first half of the year. There were singles in April at Anton's Gowt on the 16th (BHa), at Anwick on the 21st (GH), and at Messingham SQ on the 28th (MRe). In May one was at Gib Point on the 1st (GPBO) and two were at Humberston Fitties on the 4th (RL). In October there was a small influx, beginning with one

at Donna Nook on the 11th (SL), then a flock of 20 there on the 12th (GW, SL), six on the 13th, 14 on the 14th and one on the 16th-17th (SL). At Gib Point, there were two on the 12th (JS) and six were trapped on the 13th (GPBO), and later in the month one was trapped on the 31st (GGr) and one flew south on Nov 1st (KMW). On Oct 13th, there was one at Humberston Fitties (RL) with another at nearby Humberston village on the 15th (CA), and later a series of records of 1-3 at Humberston Fitties: singles on Oct 21st and 30th, and Nov 1st-2nd and 16th-17th, plus two on Oct 27th and three on Nov 15th (RL). Also on the coast, one was at Wolla Bank on Oct 13th (JWc) and a male was trapped at Crook Bank on Oct 16th (BRG). Up the Humber, one was at Waters' Edge, Barton on Oct 20th (GPC). About a month later than these coastal records, a few were found inland, the first at Twigmoor Woods on Dec 11th (GPC), then one at Messingham SQ on Dec 24th (SRo) and one at Pinchbeck on Dec 26th and 30th (GMO).

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.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	18	10	3	78	6	14	45	14	7	14	1	23

In contrast to 2012, 2013 was a very unremarkable year for Common Crossbill with only low numbers being seen across the county all year. Birds were recorded at 17 sites in all and there was little coastal movement. Fifteen were at Potterhanworth Wood on Jan 18th and 10 at Keb Wood on Feb 16th. These were the only records of note until April when c25 were reported at Woodhall Spa on the 10th and four pairs were seen in Laughton Forest on the 6th followed by a flock of 52 there on the 27th, which included a high proportion of adult males. There were no reports of proven breeding. Numbers were low in May-Jun until 12 flew south at Gib Point on Jun 27th. There were 19 at Market Rasen on Jul 1st, and 86 bird-days at Gib Point during Jul including 13 on the 8th, 12 on the 12th and 15 on the 13th. The only subsequent double-figure counts anywhere in the county were 10 at Gib Point on both Oct 19th and 31st, and 20 in the vicinity of Kirkby GP on Dec 30th.



Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* Chambers Farm Wood Dec 17th 2013 © Russell Hayes

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

Vagrant. LBRC

On Dec 15th, Gary Tapp posted two photographs on the LBC website of a crossbill seen (as part of a flock) at Chambers Farm Wood. The photograph appeared to show a Parrot Crossbill and with a major influx of this species occurring throughout eastern and central Britain at the time, the bird was followed up and further photographs and sound recording obtained on the 17th (RHay, GPC *et al*). These confirmed this individual as an immature male Parrot Crossbill, the first to be recorded in the county since two females were seen in Laughton Forest on Mar 8th 1995. No additional birds were seen or heard in the area where this bird was feeding and the last report came on Dec 20th. At least 11 birds occurred in an influx in 1962/63 with four in 1982/83 and 90 in 1990/91, the only other county record being the two in 1995 noted above.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May-Jun and Aug-Oct. LBRC RBBP

Singing birds were heard or seen at Gib Point, with one on May 19th (JCN), two males on the 25th (DWt, KMW), one on the 26th (KMW), a first summer male and a second bird flying south calling on Jun 3rd, two singing males on the 6th (DRob, CRob, RKW), a first summer male singing on the 7th (MKi) presumed to be one of those on the 6th, and one singing male on the 9th (BGU). All of the Gib Point males were brown birds. Elsewhere, a singing first summer male was in a Cleethorpes garden on May 30th-31st (IGS *et al*), a first summer male Saltfleet on May 27th (BMC) and a first summer male singing at Donna Nook on the rather odd date of Jul 8th (SL). An autumn bird was at Gib Point on Aug 29th (JCN).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident, but largely absent from the fens.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	97	53	59	101	41	29	35	33	38	63	70	131

This somewhat secretive species is almost certainly being under-recorded, and the counts above merely give an indication of the relative frequency of birds seen each month, based on records from 99 sites in 2013. Whisby NR was the best recorded site in the county with double-figure counts in Jan (14), Feb (12), Oct (20), Nov (10) and Dec (10). Elsewhere, there were 20 at Barton on Jan 4th, 14 including 11 moving south at Gib Point on Oct 30th and 10 at Willingham Woods on Dec 25th. For comparison, bird-ringing in the county managed 144 birds in total in 2013. There were no significant recoveries reported.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

Hawfinch confirmed its status as a rare passage migrant in the county with just a sprinkling of spring and autumn records, although with about 18 individuals there were more than in 2012. There were two in spring, both at Gib Point. The first was on Apr 13th, arriving from the north with Redwings and dropping into the Plantation (KMW *et al*). A second, presumed to be a different bird, was first heard near the Yacht Club on May 6th before flying around the wider area (RDn). In the autumn, the first record was of one in the Plantation and nearby on Oct 2nd-3rd (presumed to be the same bird). A small influx occurred along the coast from Oct 11th, when a single was seen at Pye's Hall (BMC). Then on Oct 13th, there were two in the Donna Nook area, one at Stonebridge (JRC) and one further south (SL), one at Seaview (PPro), one at Skegness North Shore (DMJ) and presumably the same bird at Gib Point (JS). On the 14th, one was seen flying south at Donna Nook (SL) and a first year female was trapped at Crook Bank (BRG), assumed to be that at Seaview the previous day. Singles were at Tetney Lock (HB) and Gib Point (JCN) on the 15th and two went south at Gib Point on the 16th (NAL, KMW, RDn). Another individual was at Gib Point on Oct 17th-18th (RDn) and one flew south at Donna Nook on the 19th (SL). Later on, one flew south at Gib Point (RDn) and another was seen at Riseholme Park (IB) on Nov 1st, the latter the only inland record, and the last bird of the year flew south at Gib Point on Nov 6th (GGr). There were no records of potential breeding birds.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cleethorpes-Humberston	29	21	-	2	-	-	170	200
Humberston-Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	1	1	14	120
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	10	4	3	-	-	3	92	60
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	107
Huttoft-Moggs Eye	-	-	11	-	2	2	1	100
Gibraltar Point	39	24	1	-	1	3	48	6
Number of sites	4	5	5	1	4	5	17	14
Sum of all site peaks	87	53	20	2	5	11	434	852

The table includes all the key wintering areas, but note that there may be some overlap between them. Most Snow Buntings arrive from Nov onwards and flocks wintering on the coast disperse in Feb and early Mar. There were few Snow Buntings in the county early in the year, with the flock at Gib Point peaking at 39 on Jan 11th and that at Cleethorpes 29 on Jan 16th. The only other count in double figures in Jan was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR where 10 were present on the 30th. Numbers fell as birds moved northwards as Feb and Mar progressed, with 11 appearing at Huttoft Car Terrace on Mar 1st. Elsewhere the last birds in Mar were three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 2nd, one at Gib Point on the 2nd-3rd and four at Frampton Marsh on the 4th. Strangely there was a gap of nearly a month before the last birds of the spring – two at Cleethorpes on Apr 1st, exactly the date of the last record in 2012. The first in autumn was one at Gib Point on Sep 26th, one day earlier than the first autumn bird of 2012. By this time though, Shetland and the northern isles were already experiencing a record influx of Snow Buntings with a flock of up to 1000 on Unst and a staggering 2000-plus on Fetlar (*per* Shetland Nature). In Lincolnshire, there was as yet no evidence of this with just a trickle of records of 1-3 on the coast between Humberston Fitties and Gib Point during Oct. The main arrivals were in Nov and Dec, with the bulk of the arrivals being on the northeast coast. Numbers on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR reached 92 on Nov 13th, and by the 30th there were 150 at Cleethorpes. Inland, singles were at Garthorpe on Nov 8th-10th and at Toft Newton Res on the 25th-26th. Over 400 were logged by the end of the month. Dec saw the influx continue with over 800 birds reported. Most of these birds were concentrated in the northeast coastal area with few further south at, for example, Gib Point. Peak counts of 100 or more were 200 at Cleethorpes on Dec 2nd-4th, 120 between Tetney Haven and Horseshoe Point on Dec 10th, 107 between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on Dec 14th and 100 at Moggs Eye on Dec 12th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	2	8	3	15
Tetney Haven-Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Gibraltar Point	9	1	-	-	2	3	2	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Number of sites	5	-	-	-	2	5	7	5
Sum of all site peaks	22	1	-	-	4	15	14	22

It was another thin year for this scarce species, with reports coming from about eight broad coastal/estuarine areas and one inland site. There were nine at Gib Point on Jan 14th and two were at Donna Nook on Jan 26th but all other records in Jan were singles. The only Feb record and the last of the first quarter was of one at Gib Point on Feb 20th. The first record of the autumn was one at Gib Point on Sep 17th, and there were just 6 birds recorded during the month. A few more birds arrived during Oct and Nov, with eight near Donna Nook on Oct 15th the maximum, and the all-sites peak count in Dec was just 22, a poor year. The only counts in Dec of more than four were 15 at Donna Nook on the 6th and 10 on the 15th-16th.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Extreme vagrant. BBRC

One was photographed in a garden in Spalding on May 28th (SBu, SLy *et al*). Accepted by BBRC (BB 107: p645).

The first Lincolnshire record of the Nearctic White-throated Sparrow concerned a first winter bird that wintered in Willingham Forest from Dec 5th 1992 to Mar 28th 1993. The second record was probably even less predictable as it concerned a fine adult in bright plumage that was photographed in a Fulbeck garden on Apr 18th-19th 2010; this is an early date for a Nearctic vagrant in spring and probably concerned a bird that had wintered on this side of the Atlantic, possibly even somewhere in Lincolnshire! Amazingly Lincolnshire's third White-throated Sparrow – this year's bird – was also photographed in a garden, this time in Spalding on May 28th. For an east coast county to have recorded three White-throated Sparrows is particularly notable. May is a more expected time of occurrence for this species in Britain but most occur in the northern isles and one the west coast rather than in eastern England. There are only 46 accepted British records to the end of 2013.



White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* adult Spalding May 28th 2013 © Steve Lyon

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident. Numbers decreased through the 1980s.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	325	192	200	222	94	132	121	44	79	109	293	345

Flocks of Yellowhammers are a familiar scene in winter in Lincolnshire, though even here the national decline has locally become evident. Counts in Jan saw maxima of 77 at Whisby NR, 60 at Hall's Hill (Grantham), 40 at Elsham Wolds and 38 at Welsdale Bottom. Counts during Feb-Mar were markedly lower than in previous years with no flocks of more than the 50 counted at Brandy Wharf on Feb 16th. Low counts thereafter reflected birds returning to breeding territories. In autumn and into winter, as in 2012, no notable flocks were reported and even in Dec no total was more than the 54 at Manby Flashes on the 14th.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Vagrant. LBRC

On Oct 3rd, a bird of uncertain age/sex was photographed as it landed all too briefly in the hedge at Pye's Hall, Donna Nook (MJT) but it disappeared never to be seen again, despite several observers searching the area at the time; it just shows how transient are the visits of some of our rarer coastal migrants.

Rustic Bunting is an oddly rare vagrant in Lincolnshire with only six previous records, one in March, three in May and singles in Sep and Oct.

- 1906 One seen Chapel St Leonards, Sep 26th
- 1975 Male at Gib Point, May 11th
- 1978 Immature trapped Gib Point, Oct 1st
- 1992 Un-aged bird at Saltfleetby, Mar 22nd
- 1993 Male at Gib Point, May 9th-11th
- 1994 Male at North Cotes Point, May 23rd-24th

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant. LBRC

On April 21st 2013 Chas Adland photographed a small bunting, that he did not immediately recognise, in long grass near New Holland pier; almost a year passed before CAd encountered ND, DN and GPC at the Two-barred Crossbill and produced the photo of the bird that proved to be a fine spring Little Bunting only the 12th to be recorded in the county and the first in spring.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	15	-	20	-	-	1	28	2	-	100	-	-
Grainthorpe Marsh	5	13	5	11	16	12	10	5	11	25	50	50
Gibraltar Point	110	23	15	14	28	12	9	5	42	200	63	40
Sum of all site peaks	445	167	194	251	342	327	287	75	131	508	400	291

Reed Buntings were widely recorded across the county in all months. The only counts exceeding 50 in the first half were at Gib Point where counts peaked at 110 on Jan 22nd, and 80 at both Welsdale Bottom on Jan 9th and Whisby NR on Jan 11th, after which numbers decreased as birds dispersed to breeding areas. Some observers recorded evidence of breeding, but systematic counts were generally lacking. The highest count in the middle of the season was an estimate of 35 breeding pairs at Frampton Marsh in Jun. In the autumn, counts built up, especially at coastal sites, towards the end of Sep and into Oct. There were peaks of 200 at Gib Point on Oct 5th and of 100 at Alkborough Flats on Oct 16th, but although Oct provided the highest site-peak total, there were no other counts of more than 50. As with other species, the Gib Point peak under-states the number passing through the area; a total of 1072 was logged moving south with totals exceeding 100 on four dates, including 179 on Oct 24th. Smaller numbers remained later in the year, with a maximum of 63 at Gib Point on Nov 1st. Elsewhere counts were unremarkable.

Y417334	First year female Caught by ringer	05-11-2011 27-05-2013	Holme Bird Observatory: 52°58'N 0°33'E (Norfolk) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 22km NW 1y 6m 22d
Y145593	First year male Alive (ring read in field)	08-01-2012 05-03-2013	Stortons Gravel Pits, Northampton: c. 52°14'N 0°56'W (Northamptonshire) South Witham, near Grantham: 52°46'N 0°38'W 63km NNE 1y 1m 25d
D152969	Adult male Caught by ringer	13-07-2013 15-10-2013	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°11'N 0°38'W Ramsley Reservoir: 53°16'N 1°35'W (Derbyshire) 64km W 0y 3m 2d

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Scarce and local resident and partial migrant.

British Corn Buntings are resident and sedentary, with few wandering more than 15 km. Records were received from just 50 sites across the county, but the majority were of single counts from one month. In the first half of the year, recorded maxima included 80 at Gib Point and 40 at Welsdale Bottom, both in Jan. There were 40 at Worlaby Carrs in Apr but few double figure counts were received for the rest of the year, with Gib Point again providing most data and a peak count of 55 in Dec. Overall, the picture from total counts received was clearly incomplete with only one report from the south Lincolnshire fens and inconsistent site data elsewhere preventing an overview of the overall status. More systematic data would be welcome.

Appendix 1

Records in 2013 of species not currently accepted on the BOU British list

This list includes those species that may have non self-sustaining wild populations and any individuals from species that are on the British list, but which are known or strongly believed to have been of captive origin. The Lincolnshire Bird Club request all records of these 'category E' species recorded in Lincolnshire. We are aware that the species on this list are under recorded.

Also included here are a number of hybrid wildfowl for which the parentage was suggested. In a few other cases hybrids of unknown parentage were recorded but these are not listed here.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

One Holywell Lake Jan 13th Feb 15th, one Frithville on Jan 19th, one Fillingham Lake on Feb 2nd, up to three at Bourne on Feb 21st where young from the 2012 brood were present and where breeding was again confirmed on Apr 10th, 29th, Dec 7th, one north Gib Point on May 20th, 1-2 Woodhall Spa on May 21st, July 28th, three Deeping Lakes NR on Sep 8th, one Hagnaby Lock Fen Nov 11th, two Branston on Nov 11th and one Goxhill-New Holland Dec 7th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Four Gib Point on Apr 27th, one blue morph dead on shore Seacroft on Oct 11th and one blue morph (but possibly a hybrid) Freiston Shore on Nov 17th

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Birds resembling Ross's Goose but probably all hybrids were one-two Guy's Head on Feb 4th, Apr 15th and one Gib Point NNR on May 11th.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

One resembling Richardson's Goose *B h hutchinsii* was at Frampton Marsh on Feb 2nd-4th, 7th, 9th and 16th, and a darker individual probably belonging to *B h minima* or *taverneri* was at Gib Point on May 13th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

One Fillingham Lake on Feb 2nd.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One North Hykeham Pits on Jan 13th, Feb 9th, May 11th, Jun 22nd, Nov 10th, Dec 14th, 1-3 Brayford pool, Lincoln on eight dates Jan-Mar, Jul, Sep-Dec, eight Hackthorn Hall Lake Jan 13th with seven on Feb 9th and four on Mar 12th, six Cleethorpes boating pool Jul 21st and two Far Ings NNR on Aug 28th-30th.

Common Pochard x Tufted Duck *Aythya farina* x *Aythya fuligula*

One Barton Pits on Apr 24th, May 25th and one North Hykeham Pits on May 28th.

Aythya hybrid

The drake resembling a Ferruginous Duck was in the diving duck flock at New Holland from Jan 11th-26th (GPC).

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numidea meleagris*

Three Temple Wood on May 12th.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Two Appleby Carrs on Feb 1st and one Fleet Hargate on Dec 6th.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

One Huttoft (village) on Mar 2nd, one Saltfleet on Sep 22nd and one Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 27th.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

One Scottlethorpe on Apr 6th.

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

One Melton Ross on May 8th, 15th and one Gunthorpe on Dec 11th.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

One-two Frampton Marsh on Jan 5th, Mar 9th and two Boston (The Haven) on Jan 6th. (Note in the 2012 LBC report these birds were recorded as Rose-ringed Parakeet).

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

One Healing on Aug 8th.

Ringling Report 2013

These summaries provide information on the numbers of birds ringed. As with the 2012 report the recoveries are included within the main systematic list.

Pulli are birds ringed in the nest, juveniles are those identified as being in their first calendar year, adults are all birds in their second or later calendar year. Some birds cannot be aged by plumage characteristics, these unaged birds are not tabulated but are included in the totals for the year. A few birds (mostly scarcer raptors) ringed at confidential locations have been excluded from the county totals.

Notes: The BTO currently treats counties based on the old (1970s) boundaries for technical reasons. The data shown in the 2008, 09, 10, 11 and 12 reports are for Lincolnshire without Humberside. However, recoveries from those parts of historical Lincolnshire in Humberside (i.e. North and North East Lincolnshire) are included in the systematic list but not included in the totals. It is understood that BTO will be updating its county boundary policy in 2015 (*pers comm* BTO) and the ringing reports in the Lincolnshire Bird Club report will reflect those changes.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	26,659	29,698	33,830	30,596	43,582	36,772	36,430	33,850

These totals are of ringing data that have been submitted electronically to BTO HQ.

Species	Pullus	Juvenile	Adult	2013 Total
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	0	0	1	1
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	1	15	16
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	0	14	14
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	0	0	2	2
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	24	0	0	24
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	18	0	0	18
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	5	0	0	5
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	8	0	0	8
Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	0	18	15	33
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	0	0	2
Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	177	7	12	196
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	0	0	5	5
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	4	1	72	77
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	2	0	2
European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	0	1	1
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	20	20
Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	25	0	0	25
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	0	0	619	619
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	0	1	0	1
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	0	111	681	792
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	0	1	0	1
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	0	1	3	4
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	0	0	5	5
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	0	0	204	204
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	5	5
Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	0	0	71	71
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	0	1	0	1
Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	14	4	18
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	0	2	2	4
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	216	0	8	224
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	0	0	5	5
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	0	0	0	0
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	35	0	0	35
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	87	2	50	141
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	11	70	82
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	0	8	21	33
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	1	0	1
Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	0	0	1	1
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	438	3	82	523
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	106	1	29	136
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	42	1	10	53
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	0	1	0	1

Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	0	0	663	663
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	0	7	3	10
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	0	2	1	3
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	0	1	1	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	0	23	24	47
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	1	1
Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	0	2	0	2
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	0	5	1	6
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	0	2	47	50
Western Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	367	5	13	385
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	0	1	2	3
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	6	0	0	6
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	0	620	103	750
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	0	4	3	7
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,287	1,075	810	3,173
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	439	686	650	1,789
Coal Tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	40	110	162	346
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	2	1	3
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	0	0	2	4
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	0	0	1
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	12	76	18	106
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	68	1,516	366	1,950
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	0	182	626	808
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	0	1	0	1
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	0	30	222	426
Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	0	0	1	1
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	2
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	0	0	0	5
Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	0	1	0	1
Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	3	352	88	473
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	4	546	73	624
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	0	454	118	595
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	0	22	17	39
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	4	92	18	114
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	14	400	100	515
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	0	1	7	8
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	1	1
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1	223	41	265
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	0	0	1	1
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	3	395	103	502
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	0	1	1
Eurasian Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	0	0	1	3
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	0	12	15	36
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	10	245	96	365
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0	473	300	841
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	9	3	14
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	14	843	894	1,777
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	0	1	7	11
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	8	242	36	295
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	0	205	61	277
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	5	0	5	10
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	0	7	5	12
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	10	767	438	1,288
Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	0	1	1	2
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	0	10	1	11
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	0	1	1
Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	0	12	3	17
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	0	5	1	6
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	0	4	0	4
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	25	530	241	831
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	12	219	149	495
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	271	61	191	716
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	0	80	3	83
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	0	1	0	1

Pied/White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	9	4	2	15
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	0	2	2	4
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1	272	16	373
Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2	466	1,139	1,630
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	0	58	150	208
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	1,404	1,209	2,643
Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>	0	0	1	1
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	4	694	1,139	1,884
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	0	9	1,141	1,150
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	5	43	36	85
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	0	47	402	450
Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	0	9	0	9
Common Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	2	0	2
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	0	64	79	144
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	0	40	325	366
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	4	226	423	680
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	0	0	10	11
Grand Total	3,819	14,091	14,841	33,850

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

Barry Clarkson

Saltfleetby, 12 June 2013

On Wednesday 12 June 2013 I had intended to walk from Donna Nook to Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby. Hearing of the significant occurrence at Spurn earlier in the day of a Pacific Swift observed feeding over the Triangle while slowly moving south, passing the Warren at 08:50 before being lost to view, this plan was abandoned and I decided to concentrate on a smaller area. At 12:30pm I took a steady walk south from Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby towards Rimac. It was pleasantly warm, and despite the earlier major event at Spurn, I decided not to go-overboard about it and enjoy the day. At Rimac two Hobbies were in the area, and then along the east-track, north to Paradise Pools Swift and House Martin numbers had, by now, built up and were everywhere in moderate numbers.

A third Hobby flew south from Paradise, then, as if to direct ones attentions another Hobby flew threw south from Saltfleet; pointing the way to concentrations of aerial-plankton! With the hub centred south, I reverted to the Sea View Farm area, enroute people out for the day commented on the Swift numbers. At 2pm, as cloud was darkening inland over Saltfleetby St Clements with a strengthening westerly wind, it was notable that there was an increase in Swifts flying in from the sea.

At 15:20 I walked from the coastal track at Sea View up the path to stand west side by the pillbox in the dunes at TF 46436 92453 and after checking my camera settings I settled down to watch the House Martin & Swift movements. After watching a Common Swift tacking its way into the offshore winds from the tideline up to the dune system, (with all the others feeding over or just before the dune system above the marsh vegetation), I turned my attention south and immediately found myself looking at a larger more rakish Swift with an un-missable gleaming white-rump, why?, because the upperparts were very- dark, if not deep-black ! The flight was more gliding, lacking that quick flicky action of the Common Swifts. As I checked the tail it was noticeably long & deeply forked but also more substantial than common swift, with the white of the rump gripping the rear-flanks, a feature very easy to see. As it banked into Sea View pullover revealing the barred underbody I took a few images, the camera focused, then immediately lost focus as I pressed the shutter (one of those irritating refocus adjustments). Realizing this bird was most likely a Pacific Swift, as it flew west up over the carpark, I had to change position 15ft to higher ground to try and relocate-it. This was surprisingly easy with the naked-eye (no binoculars needed). Here, it had turned north to fly almost directly over me, the focusing system on the camera allowing me two shots before it turned, heading west. More shots were obtained as it move away toward Sea View Farm before it then reached the west side of the dune-drop, gradually altering course c.NW until the camera could no longer find focus; I continued to watch it fly high over the English Nature compound with Common Swifts along a strip-plantation of trees which runs c.NNW-NW seemingly feeding low over trees with c. 40+ Common Swift and several House Martins. As the cloud-base dropped some birds flew inland across the road to feed over a cattle field, eventually becoming too far to identify, and, out of sight. A quick perusal of the snaps revealed two classic barred/ mottled underpart shots of a typical slightly worn bird clearly a Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*.

With the intention to relocate the Pacific Swift I walked north, but on approaching the kissing-gate (as a Nightingale burst into song on the east side of dune bank by the gate) at that point I realized that would be a step too far and a few more eyes were needed. Retracing my steps (and 6 minutes after the last images taken) a 2nd calendar year Red Kite flew south within 30 yds. of me. I continued onto the Great Eau bridge at Sea View and from there I had a clear view over the area 1.5 miles to the North West and North-North-West. Swift and House Martin could be seen flying low over the trees from Gowts Farm south to a small creamy bungalow by the river. Some Swift flew across the road to a pasture field with cattle in, although throughout this time the sky darkened with the threat of impending rain. A few of the swift filtered south whilst maybe the fourth Hobby of the day flew north. I could not relocate the Pacific Swift and not long after leaving heavy rain set-in. There were no further reported sightings later in the day and it was not seen again.

Description and circumstances of sighting

Plumage

Upperparts: *Crown/nape;* blackish. *Hind neck:* blackish brown. *Back/Mantle:* Black. *Rump/Rear-flanks:* Pure white of rump and rear-flanks extending a little narrowly onto the rear area of the

flanks just below the back-end of the wing. The area of white approximates to a rectangle; if you were to place a rectangle over a tapering body you would find the area overlaying the broadest area with the corners pushed forward and the rear-edge corner falling lower than front-edge-corner; also the shape of the rectangle would take-on a gentle-curve hence the wraparound appearance of this area of white. *Upper tail coverts*: Upper tail coverts and tail equally black in appearance with under tail paler.

Tail: deeply-forked with each fork broadly based giving the tail a heavy appearance particularly when the forks are spread apart beyond the parallel side-look, this making the tail look very long. It was noticed when reviewing images taken that when the tail forks are closed almost together the tail appears to be flexed slightly up or down.

Head: *Neck-sides*: very-dark brown, feathers finely-fringed off- white. *Ear-coverts*: slightly paler brown, *Eye-patch*: blackish, Tract of feathers from chin sides directly below eye-patch and ear-coverts: off-white in flat-light, in stronger-light from side appears whiter but not standing out like the chin. *Throat/Chin*: Throat sides & lower throat paler mottled version of the neck-sides, chin and upper-throat off-white with sparse mottling in flat light but further away in stronger light appeared clean-white.

Underparts: Area of plumage falling centrally beneath the width of the wings-arm i.e *Flanks and Belly*: Thick buff-bar washed coffee-cream across the central breast leading to flank-belly area (acting like a cut-off point in combination with the dark neck-sides from the paler head underside and side). This was followed by 5 alternating dark-brown and brown-tinted buff contour-barring to a central point mid-way along flanks. Where the pattern in reverse comes from the leading edge of the vent and meets like 'two-ripples in a pond' across the broadest centre of the belly, on the flanks these two sets of bars are separated by a small triangle of off-white. *Vent and Under-tail coverts*: Consisting of straight dark-brown bars and broader brown-tinted buff barring. *Tail*: Plain dull dun-brown making the feather shafts stand out as darker in flat-light. *Underwing*: Remiges - dark shafts with a narrow line of dull-brown being broadest mid-way and narrowing basally and distally along its length. Inner web a translucent wash of light-brown in flat- light. *Auxiliaries*: dark-brown. *Median, greater and primary coverts*: darker brown than remiges yet paler than *Auxiliaries*. *Primaries*: very dark subterminally with small off-white tips in good-light which blend and are barely-if visible at all in flat-light.

The sex and age of the bird was undetermined.

Distance from Subject and time of sighting

Initially seen at c.325yds over the salt-marsh flying toward the dunes, gradually tacking, as with common swift feeding into the wind over the marsh. At the dune break where the car park is located, it flew inland up over the higher north side dunes and, as other swift, came within c10-15 yards.

Time and length of sighting: c. 3+minutes, from c.3:32pm to 3:35pm. This may have been longer as time seemed to slow down as I concentrated on the progress of the Swift. With no distractions and no one else around, full attention was given to the Pacific Swift. Photo time less than 1min from 15:33:11 to 15:34:03.

Weather

Light conditions/ Visibility: Very good over the salt-marsh. Sunlit, showing underbody/wing differently from the light conditions when the bird was west of, and over, the west part of dunes the light being flat and duller due to the increase in cloud from the west. These conditions seemed to be attracting the House Martin & Swift west however (probably 'storm chasing' associated with increase in insects from the down draft).

Optical aids

Swarovski EL 8X32 binoculars and Canon 7D with 300mm 2.8 lens set on auto full bracket focus. Number of images taken of species 17.

My thanks to Matthew Harrison for kindly assisting with the drafting of this account.

Postscript

Pacific Swift in Suffolk

Following its brief appearance at Saltfleetby, what was presumably the same Pacific Swift was found over the marshes at Levington and Trimley (Suffolk) on Saturday 15th June. Here, however, it lingered, being seen for the rest of the day and then to the surprise and delight of many, continued to perform for much of the following day too (until just after 4pm) and therefore became only the second ever twitchable example of the species in the 32 years that it has been on the British List.

Previous British records:

- 1981** At Sea/other, 19-20 June. (Sea area Humber, North Sea Shell BT gas platform, Leman Bank, 53°06'N 02°12'E, about 45 km ENE of Happisburgh, Norfolk, first year caught exhausted, 19th June, released Beccles, Suffolk, same day; seen Shadingfield area, Suffolk, 20th June)
- 1993** Norfolk, Cley, 30 May
- 1995** Northamptonshire, Daventry Reservoir, 16 July
- 2005** East Yorkshire, Spurn, 1 July
- 2008** East Yorkshire, Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea 22 June; presumed same Spurn and Kilnsea, 26 June
- 2011** East Yorkshire, Spurn, 9 July

Contributors to the county records for 2013, with initials for reference

AAAt	Andy Atkinson	CSm	Colin Smale
ABa	Alison Baldwin	DAk	Dave Adkin
ABar	A Bartholomew	DCk	David Coker
ABe	Anthony Bentley	DCo	David Cohen
ACa	Alastair Carr	DE	Dean Eades
ACBH	Andrew Henderson	DEv	Derick Evans
ACH	A C Houghton	DGo	D Goddard
ACL	Alexander Lees	DGr	David Griffith
ACS	Andrew Sims	DH	Dave Hitchin
AFP	Alkborough Flats Partnership	DJ	D Johnson
AGB	Alan Ball	DJB	Dave Bradbeer
AHd	Tony Houlden	DJn	Denis Jones
AHu	Alan Hudson	DJW	David J Wright
AJH	Tony Housman	DKW	Dave Wright
AK	Alistair Kerr	DLi	David Lillywhite
AN	Tony Nuttall	DMi	David Miller
AO	Alan Oliver	DMJ	David Jenkins
APC	Andy Chick	DMn	David Morison
ARC	Andy Chapman	DMy	Derek Morley
ARh	A Rhodes	DN	Dean Nicholson
ASh	A Shearsmith	DNw	Daniel Newton
ASha	Andy Sharp	DP	David Parkin
AT	Alan Temple	DPo	David Pocklington
ATD	Alan Daws	DRa	David Ralph
ATu	Aidan Turner	DRB	Dave Bromwich
AV	Andrew Vaughan	DRo	Donald Ross
BCol	B Coleman	DRob	David Roberts
BGu	Birdguides	DRr	Desmond Roberts
BH	Barrie Hunt	DS	D Satterthwaite
BHe	Brian Hedley	DSP	Dave Purnell
BHS	Brian Stone	DSt	Donna Staples
BMC	Barry Clarkson	DVi	David Vincent
BRE	Brian Eke	DWo	Dave Worrell
BRG	Birklands Ringing Group	DWr	David Wright (Anglesey)
BTr	BirdTrack	DWs	Danny Walsh
CA	Chris Atkin	DWt	Daniel Watson
CAn	Carl Annall	ECh	Eunice Cohen
CBe	Colin Beck	EJM	Edmund Mackrill
CCG	Clare Gillatt	EJR	John Redshaw
CCo	Carl Cornish	FIBG	Far Ings Bird Group
CG	Chris Grimshaw	FJ	Freddy Johnson
CHe	Chris Heaton	FP	Fraser Purvis
CJJ	Colin Jennings	GAM	Grimsby Area Members
CLu	Chris Lunn	GBi	George Bishop
CMo	Cliff Morrison	GCS	Garry Steele
CMr	Christopher Moore	GF	Graham Fordham
CNe	Colin Neve	GGr	George Gregory
CPO	Peter Overton	GGu	Georgia Gough
CPr	Clive Pearson	GH	Graham Hardy
CRo	Christopher Robinson	GHo	Grahame Hopwood

GJF	Gary Fenwick	JWa	John Watt
GLe	Geoff Lee	JWc	Jennifer Wallace
GMO	Gervase Orton	JWh	J Wheldon
GMu	Geoff Mullett	KAM	Kevin Marshall
GPBO	Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory	KAr	K Armstrong
GPC	Graham Catley	KBi	Katherine Birkett
GPL	Guy Langan	KDR	Keith Robertson
GRu	George Rutter	KH	Kay Heath
GTP	Gary Tapp	KKH	Kerry Harrison
GW	Geoff Williams	KMW	Kevin Wilson
GWa	G Watola	KRo	Keith Robinson
GWr	Garry Wright	KSp	Karen Spavin
HB	Howard Bunn	LBCF	Lincolnshire Bird Club Forum
HCa	Helen Cadogan	LCa	Les Carter
HJM	Heber Martin	LDa	Les Davidson
HK	Henry Kennedy	LE	Les Enderby
HM	Hugh Middleton	LHa	Linda Harvey
HMBSG	Hatfield Moors Bird Study Group	LNU	Lincolnshire Naturalists Union
IAA	I A Ashworth	LWN	Lincolnshire Wildlife News
IB	Ian Birch	LWT	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
IE	Ian Ellis	MaB	M Bibby
IG	Ian Gordon	MBe	Michael Betts
IGS	Ian Shepherd	MEd	M Edgeller
IMP	I M Phillips	MEH	Mike Harrison
IPM	Ian Misselbrook	MFr	Martin Francis
ISm	Ian Smith	MH	Malcolm Holley
IW	I Webb	MHa	Matt Harrison
JAH	John Hayes	MJG	Martin Gray
JAS	J A Smith	MJn	Mark Johnson
JB	John Badley	MJo	Malcolm Johnson
JBy	Jonathan Bye	MJT	Mike Tarrant
JCh	John Cohen	MKi	Mal Kitchen
JCK	John Clarkson (Nottingham)	MM	Monica Marks
JCN	John Nicholson	MMaw	Martin Mawby
JDS	John Spring	MMk	Monica Mackrill
JFa	John Farmer	MRB	M R Briggs
JHar	Julie Harrison	MRe	Martin Redfern
JHw	James Howarth	MSh	Marion Shaw
JJa	John Jaines	MWe	Mike Weedon
JMS	J M Sizer	MWi	Mick Widdowson
JPS	J P Shaughnessey	MWs	Mandy West
JRC	John Clarkson	NAL	Nigel Lound
JRH	J R Hurst	NCl	Nick Clayton
JRN	J R Nelson	ND	Neil Drinkall
JRow	Janet Roworth	NHD	N H Dorrington
JRs	Jan Rousseau	NKz	Neil Kurz
JRW	John Walker	NN	Nicola Nicholson
JS	James Siddle	NPT	Nick Tribe
JSa	Jonathan Savory	NRo	Neil Roberts
JSe	J Steele	NS	Neil Smith
JSI	Jon Salmon	OB	Oliver Beacock
JSt	John Stephenson	OM	Owen Marks
JTG	John Goy	OW	Oliver Woodman
JTH	John T Harriman	PAH	Phil Hyde

PBe	Patrick Bell	RPk	R Pask
PBH	Peter Haywood	RPr	Roy Pearson
PC	Paul Collis	RRi	Reg Rice
PCo	Peter Cox	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
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PEs	Phil Espin	RWk	Robert Walker
PHa	Peter Harvey	RWr	Roger Wardle
PHi	Phil Hickerton	SAB	S A Britton
PL	P Locking	SBu	S Bulbeck
PLa	Peter Lackey	SGC	Steve Cross
PLe	Phil Lee	SGr	Steve Green
PMa	Paul Marshall	SJ	Sheila Jennings
PNe	Paul Neale	SJM	Steve Meek
PO	Paul Otter	SK	Steve Keightley
PP	Phil Porter	SL	Steve Lorand
PRo	Peter Roworth	SLo	Steve Lovell
PS	Paul Sullivan	SLy	Steve Lyon
PSc	Pete Scott	SMi	Sue Misselbrook
PSH	Pete Short	SML	Steven Lister
PSm	Paul Smith	SMo	Steve Moore
PSn	Paul Snow	SN	Steve Nesbitt
PWa	P Ward	SR	Stephen Ryland
RBar	Roger Bark	SRo	Stephen Routledge
RBe	Rick Bennett	SSp	Simon Spavin
RBr	R Borwick	SWa	Steve Watson
RBW	Barrie Wilkinson	SWl	Simon Wilson
RC	Robert Carr	SWm	Sidney Williams
RCa	Richard Caney	TBa	Terry Barnatt
RCl	Ron Clarke	TC	Toby Collett
RCm	Richard Camm	TCL	Tom Lowe
RDn	Richard Doan	TCo	Terry Corlett
RDv	Richard Davidson	TGu	Trevor Gunby
RF	R Favell	TH	Terry Hollowell
RGu	Richard Gunn	TK	Trevor Kerry
RHa	Roy Harvey	TT	Trisha Thompson
RHay	Russell Hayes	TW	Trevor Williams
RHe	Richard Heath	TWe	Terry West
RHr	Robert Hardy	TWh	Terry Whalin
RJa	Richard Jackson	TWo	Tomas Wood
RJH	Ray Hume	VC	Vinny Chambers
RKW	Rob K Watson	VF	Vin Fleming
RL	R Lorand	WBR	Whisby Nature Park Bird Report
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RNH	Roger Hebb	WG	Wayne Gillatt
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Lincolnshire Red Data Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern: BBS Trends 1995-2012 Distribution and Population change in Lincolnshire and other parts of UK

Ranked in order of frequency of occurrence in Lincolnshire

Species	%Squares Lincs	%Squares UK	% UK birds in Lincs	Lincolnshire	% Change East Midlands	England	Trend
Skylark	92.2	58.2	5.0	-44	-32	-25	worse
Linnet	85.7	37.5	5.7	32	-21	-23	better
Yellowhammer	77.9	37.3	6.2	17	0	-24	better
Starling	57.1	52.5	2.1	-63	-54	-59	same
House Sparrow	57.1	56.4	2.6	44	9	-11	better
Song Thrush	49.4	71.8	1.1	-46	27	10	worse
Lapwing	40.3	20.8	3.0	*	-6	-25	
Yellow Wagtail	37.7	4.8	19.6	*	-67	-43	
Tree Sparrow	37.7	7.6	10.2	*	53	81	
Grey Partridge	29.9	5.5	11.1	*	-43	-52	
Corn Bunting	13.0	4.0	4.4	*	*	-35	
Cuckoo	7.8	16.5	0.7	*	-84	-68	
Spotted Flycatcher	5.2	4.4	2.2	*	*	-63	
Grasshopper Warbler	2.6	2.2	2.6	*	*	-37	
Marsh Tit	2.6	4.4	0.8	*	*	-31	
Turtle Dove	0.0	1.3	0.0	*	*	-88	
Willow Tit	0.0	0.8	0.0	*	*	-83	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.4	0.0	*	*	*	
Tree Pipit	0.0	4.7	0.0	*	*	-48	

Notes

1. %Squares UK is extracted from the BTO website and refers to the proportion of BBS squares in which each species was recorded in 2013 (Lincolnshire; 78 and UK; 3,667).
2. Figures in bold indicate statistically significant change at the 95% level.
3. * indicates insufficient BBS squares covered to provide data to compute changes.
4. Trend is % change in Lincolnshire compared to % change in England.
5. Lincolnshire Skylarks had a bad year but the position of our Starlings has improved.
6. The data suggests Yellow Wagtail, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting and Grey Partridge continue to be significantly more widespread in Lincolnshire than the rest of UK.
7. % UK birds in Lincs indicates the % of number of birds recorded in Lincolnshire in BBS compared to total birds recorded in UK, provided for information interest.
8. Lincolnshire comprises 3.3% of the land area of UK.

● Main Lincolnshire bird sites



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