



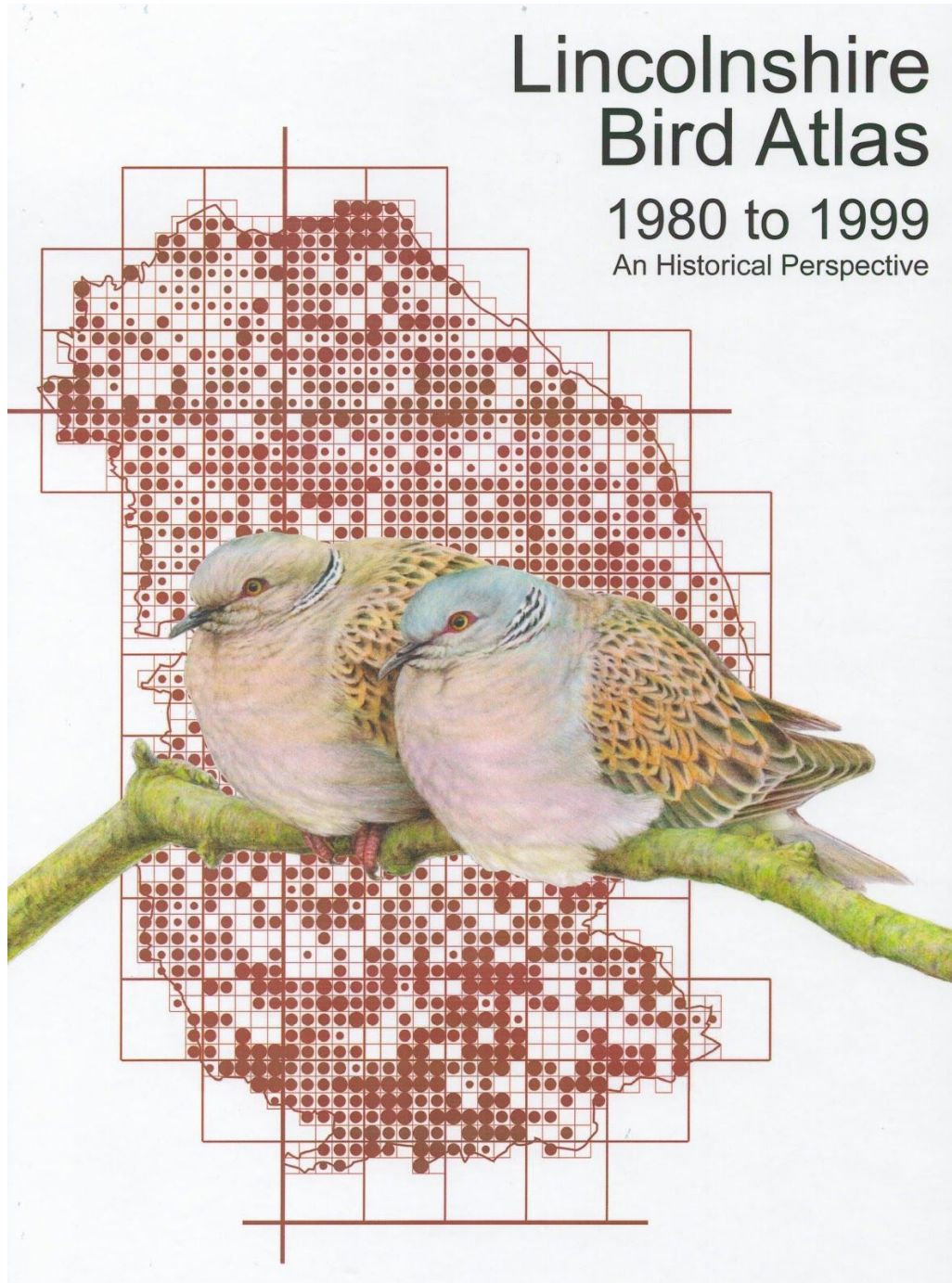
Lincolnshire Bird Club eNewsletter



The Heron - Lincs Bird Club eNewsletter 2020 - August 2020

Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - August 2020 special Edition

Lincolnshire Bird Atlas 1980 to 1999 An Historical Perspective

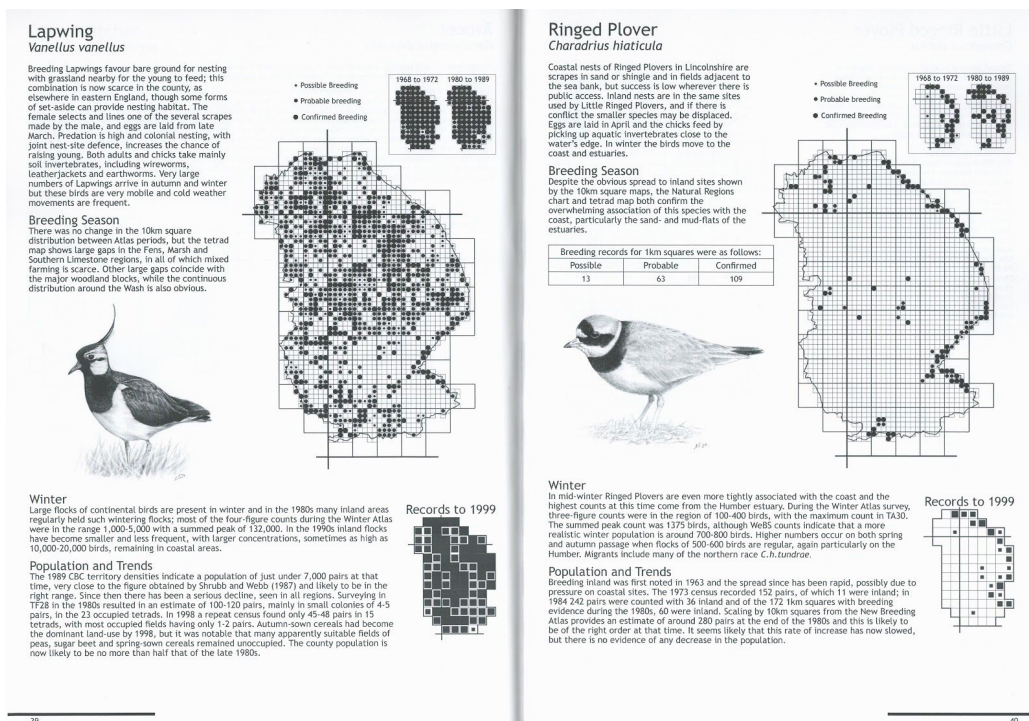


Forty years in the making and the The Atlas is now published.

The Lincolnshire Bird Atlas 1980 - 1999 An Historical Perspective shows the results of a tetrad based survey of the breeding birds of Lincolnshire carried out 30 to 40 years ago.

It features one full page for each regular breeding species with a tetrad distribution map and notes on the status of each species in Lincolnshire up to 1999.

Lincolnshire Bird Club members resurrected, organised and delivered the Atlas 13 years after the original project crashed.



How can you get your hands on a copy? There are a number of ways as follows:

1. Purchase a hardback copy
2. Receive a free hardback copy (if nominated by the committee)
3. Receive a free softback copy (one per member not receiving a hardback copy, ordered as below by 31st August) available during October
4. Download a free low resolution pdf from the LBC website (from end of September)
5. Borrow it from your local library.

Purchasing a hardback copy

You can buy a copy on the lulu.com bookstore website from the following link at £30, though it may be possible to get a discount of 10 to 15% if special offer periods are being promoted. A charge for post and packaging will also be made.

<https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/-lincolnshire-bird-club/lincolnshire-bird-atlas-1980-to-1999-an-historical-perspective/hardcover/product-rrnwrg.html>

Free hardback copy

If you have been identified as connected to the project you should receive an email advising you and a hardback copy will be hand delivered to your LBC membership address in the coming days by our informal distribution network.

Soft back copy

You can request a soft back special members only edition that will be available for free. We had originally hoped this would be exclusively available for collection at our delayed September AGM which has again had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. That option is therefore closed

So if you make an order you must specify you will collect it at one of the following six distribution points and state how you will identify yourself to the committee member who will attend on the specified date. He will have a list of names; books will only be given to that person. If you wish to nominate another person to collect the book for you please specify their name when ordering.

One copy per member and all orders must be made by 31st August to join a bulk order that will be made at that time. Order from wbsterling@hotmail.com

Far Ings Visitor Centre car park, Barton on Humber,

Whisby Visitor Centre car park Lincoln

Stonebridge car park Donna Nook

Gibraltar Point Visitor Centre car park Skegness

Frampton Marsh Visitor Centre car park Boston

Deeping Lakes car park Deeping St James

The dates and names of committee members who will attend each location will be published in the October newsletter. If you are unable to attend the book will be kept for you if possible but unless you make an effort to collect it from that committee member, we cannot guarantee when or if you will get it.

Download a pdf copy

This facility will be completely free to all members and will require minimum effort. A button will appear on the members part of the website in late September/early October. We will not promote it heavily because too many simultaneous downloads will crash the website!

Library Copies

Thirty two copies are being donated to Lincolnshire Libraries as follows: Lincolnshire (20), North Lincolnshire (6) and North East Lincolnshire (6). How soon they reach the shelves is outside our control.

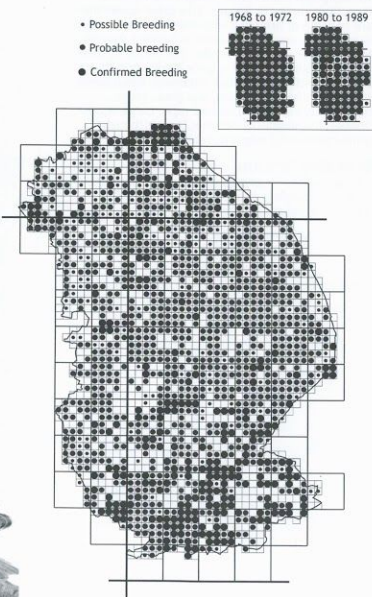
Thank you to everyone concerned in this massive undertaking over the last 40 years. We can now look forward to new projects.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Typical Turtle Dove breeding habitat is open woodland, patches of scrub or tall hedges in farmland, parkland and large gardens. The nest is a flimsy structure of small twigs, placed at around 2m in scrub or hedges and the first clutch is laid in mid to late May. Two broods are normally attempted, with young still in the nest in July, but the birds are very sensitive to disturbance and will readily desert. The adults take mainly weed seeds, particularly common fumitory, and feed their young on 'pigeon milk'. Small feeding flocks, possibly groups of families, begin to gather in late summer.

Breeding Season

There was no change in 10km square distribution between Atlas periods, and both the tetrad map and Natural Region chart show the species widely distributed in the 1980s, reflecting the availability of scrub habitat in most areas. Since the distinctive song makes territorial birds easy to locate, the map is likely to reflect the mid-1980s distribution.



Winter

One bird wintered with Collared Doves at Cleethorpes in 1966-67.

Population and Trends

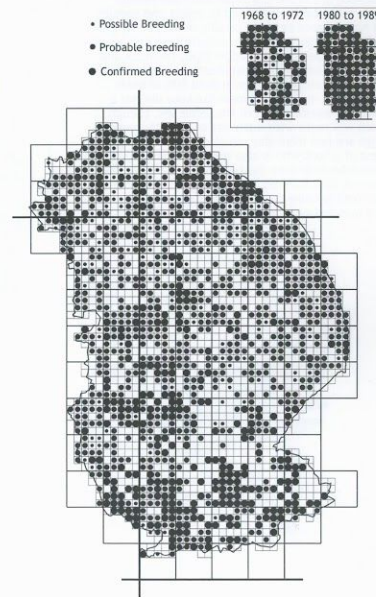
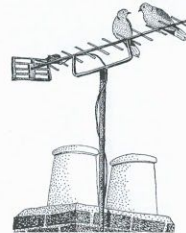
Scaling from the New Breeding Atlas estimate would indicate a population of around 7,300 pairs, although using the 1989 CBC territory densities would give only 3,200 pairs. A figure towards the lower end of this range is considered probable at that time. The Trends Guide shows a steady decline nationally through the 1980s, and this is borne out by spring passage concentrations in Lincolnshire that were regularly in the range 100-500 in the early 1980s but rarely reached 100 by the late 1980s and early 1990s. This decline has continued since that time and a small sample survey in the late 1990s indicated that the population might now be only 20-40% of its 1980s level, with a much sparser distribution.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Collared Doves are closely tied to human habitation, so are common in villages, towns and suburbs but scarce in open country away from farm buildings. The nest is a stick platform, usually built about 4m from the ground in tall bushes or hedges, with trees and buildings occasionally used. Eggs are laid from mid February to October, with two broods common and five broods possible in a season. The adults feed mainly on grain but will also take weed seeds, invertebrates, soft fruit and berries, and regularly visit bird tables. The young are given 'pigeon milk'. In winter Collared Doves often form sizeable flocks at prime feeding sites and roosts.

Breeding Season

Following the first breeding record in the 1950s, and the steady expansion from then until the 1968-72 Atlas, the 10km maps show that infill has continued. The tetrad map shows that distribution was still patchy on the Wolds, Coast and Fens at the end of the 1980s.



Winter

Winter distribution is generally similar to summer.

Winter Atlas counts show the highest numbers in the Marsh, eastern Fen-edge/Southern Limestone and in the north-west. Three-figure counts were all in the range 100-600 birds and were usually feeding flocks or roost counts.

Population and Trends

Scaling from the New Breeding Atlas would give a population estimate of around 7,500 pairs at this time, but this greatly underestimates the high densities in built-up areas. An intensive census of TF38 in 1997 revealed 676 pairs/territories, with a single tetrad in Louth (65% built-up) having 264 pairs. Extrapolating these figures to the whole county, by relating the number of pairs to the area of built-up habitat for each tetrad that had breeding evidence in the 1980s, gives a 1997 population estimate for these tetrads of 30,000 pairs. In addition, all tetrads with no 1980s breeding evidence in ten 10km squares in east Lincolnshire were checked for spread in 1997. This revealed expansion into around 10% more tetrads with breeding evidence in 15% more tetrads than in the 1980s. However, since most of these were marginal tetrads with minimum built-up area, the 'extra' 1997 population would be less than 3,000 pairs, making a total 1997 population estimate of 33,000 pairs.

The Trends Guide shows steep rises through the 1970s with population levelling off in the 1980s. The WGBS shows that 60% of gardens were visited in the mid 1980s, rising to 90% by the end of the decade and 98-99% ten years later. A similar flattening is visible in other measures, and it is likely that the overall increase since 1989 has been of the order of 5-10%, with the population at that time therefore around 27,500-30,000 pairs.

Records to 1999



A new Birds of Lincolnshire

Colin Casey who resurrected the Atlas when it had become a distant memory for most of us, has kick started a new project that many have dreamt of over the years. An updated Bird of Lincolnshire.

Unfortunately due to a resurgence of health issues Colin is still on full lockdown. He wants to use his enforced time at home to good effect so utilising his data management skills he is pulling data together to make the book. Phil Espin and Phil Hyde are writing the text and John Clarkson and Andrew Chick are assembling the photos.

What Colin needs right now is to be deluged with high res quality photos of Lincolnshire birds rare and common, taken in Lincolnshire and marked with species of bird and photographer. Rares must be labelled with date of capture and location. Stunning landscape photos of Lincolnshire and its habitats and main nature reserves would be welcome too. All pictures will receive full credit. Please email your best shots by we transfer to lincsbirdclub@gmail.com.

Phil Espin
Chair
Lincs Bird Club



Lincolnshire Bird Club
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<http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk>

The Lincolnshire Bird Club, supporting the recording & conservation of wildlife in Lincolnshire

