

**LINCOLNSHIRE AND
SOUTH HUMBERSIDE
ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT**



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Compiled by K. Atkin.

Introduction.

This report has been produced with the co-operation of the majority of ornithologists in the County, with the aim of giving a more comprehensive and up to date account of the year's occurrences.

Detailed daily census logs are maintained at both Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook and many interesting comparisons can be made between the two localities, especially for the commoner migrants.

Records of rarities are subject to acceptance by British Birds Rarities Committee, and descriptions of those in 1977 are all still being considered by them, so any necessary corrections will be made in next year's report. Other scarce migrants have been assessed by myself and S. Lorand, with the help of R. Lambert for those at Gibraltar Point.

The sequence and scientific nomenclature follows that of Voos, K.H. (1977), 'List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species.'

Records should be sent to K. Atkin, 5, Hazel Grove, Louth, by 31st January to ensure early publication. Those concerning Gibraltar Point should preferably be given, or sent, to the Chief Warden at the time. Contributors :- (with apologies for any omissions) D. Alchin,

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Red-throated Diver Gavia stellata

Winter records were most numerous at Gibraltar Point, with up to three occasionally from January to March and peaks of 11 north on 8th and nine south on 9th January. Two were seen at Donna Nook on 3rd January and one at North Coates on 15th. In February, there were singles at Terrington on 6th and Saltfleetby on 12th, with two at Tetney on 9th and one on 12th.

Spring records were few, with singles at the Witham Mouth on 11th April and Donna Nook on 13th May. A sick bird on Covenham Reservoir from 29th April looked unlikely to survive, but gradually recovered and was last seen on 16th June.

In autumn, there were one or two at Donna Nook fairly regularly from mid-September to December with seven on 6th November. Singles were recorded at Gibraltar Point on 13th and 16th September and 23rd October. Others were at Chapel Point on 2nd October, Barrow Haven on 12th October and Benington on 1st October and 29th December.

Black-throated Diver Gavia arctica

One at Saltfleetby on 16th January was the only record until a small influx in November. Donna Nook had one on 5th, with two on 17th and another on 24th, and there were singles at Goxhill on 16th and Gibraltar Point on 20th.

Great Northern Diver Gavia immer

In January, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 9th and on Covenham Reservoir on 15th, and one was seen at Saltfleetby on 12th February. In autumn, most records were at Donna Nook with singles on 10th September and 3rd October; in November, after one on 13th, two flew north on 16th and four on 17th. Single birds were also at Saltfleetby on 17th September and Benington on 14th November.

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis

Wintering birds included five at the Welland Mouth on 9th January and eight at Barton-on-Humber on 6th February.

After a good breeding season at Gibraltar Point, where present from March to December, 23 were counted on 27th August.

Passage birds at Donna Nook included one in March and up to four regularly from the end of September.

Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus

One or two wintering birds were recorded occasionally on the coast in January and February at Tetney, Gibraltar Point, Butterwick and Terrington, with up to four at the Witham Mouth.

In the breeding season, pairs were seen with young by 24th April at Deeping and Burton gravel pits, and 12 pairs nested on South Humberside coastal pits.

Peak autumn numbers included eight at Covenham Reservoir on 27th September and six north at Gibraltar Point on 16th September. At Benington, there were seven on 27th August, six on 1st October and nine on 14th November. Several were present at the Witham Mouth from August to December, with five on 18th September.

Red-necked Grebe Podiceps grisegena

Single birds were on Covenham Reservoir from the beginning of the year to mid-February, and on 10th March, and at Gibraltar Point

from 14th to 16th January. One flew south at Donna Nook on 2nd October and one was later seen at Saltfleet Haven on 15th. Another was again present at Covenham from 29th November to the end of the year.

Slavonian Grebe Podiceps auritus

The only records were at Covenham Reservoir, where one in summer plumage was present on 5th and 6th May. Two early autumn birds were seen on 6th August. What was probably the same bird occurred on several dates between 23rd September and 23rd October.

Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis

One flew north at Donna Nook on 13th August. A single bird made a lengthy stay at Covenham Reservoir from 4th September to 10th November and one was seen on 15th December.

Fulmar Fulmarus glacialis

In winter, one was found dead at Tetney on 12th February. Spring passage began in late April, with the first at Gibraltar Point on 22nd and at the Witham Mouth on 23rd. Numbers in spring and summer were small, with a maximum of 11 on 10th June at Donna Nook. Two were seen inland at Trent Falls on 14th June.

In autumn, eight in the Wash at Benington on 27th August were unusual, but the main passage occurred in mid-September, when a strong northerly movement was observed all along the coast. At Donna Nook, there were counts of 206 on 17th, 500 on 18th (including two blue-phase), 100 on 19th and 52 on 20th. At Saltfleetby, there were 100 on 17th and 200 on 18th. Gibraltar Point had 50 on 16th, 288 on 17th and 45 on 18th. In the Humber, one was at Goxhill on 17th and on the same day, five were seen in the Wash at the Witham Mouth. One was found dead at Wisbech sewage farm on 23rd. The last of the autumn were seen in late November at Donna Nook, though one was found dead at Gibraltar Point on 30th December.

Great Shearwater Puffinus gravis

One flew north at Donna Nook on 17th September (SL).

Sooty Shearwater Puffinus griseus

At least 20 flew north at Saltfleetby on 27th August (PNC, MM), but the main passage occurred in mid-September when birds were seen moving north all along the coast. After one on 13th at Gibraltar Point, there were six on 16th and 11 on 17th (RNH, JPS et al). Ten were at Chapel Point on 17th, with one on 18th and nine on 19th (KA, ACS, PNC et al). At Saltfleetby, there were five on 17th and six on 18th (HB, PE, GPC et al). Donna Nook had the peak number with 29 on 17th, four on 18th and one on 20th (RL, SL, CM et al). In a later movement, four were seen in the Wash at Benington on 1st October (MLC).

Manx Shearwater Puffinus puffinus

In summer, one flew north at Donna Nook on 17th June. Autumn passage began in August with one flying down the Humber at Barrow Haven on 5th and two at Huttoft on 7th. A strong movement occurred on 27th, with 2 at Gibraltar Point, 20 north at Chapel Point, at least 45 north at Saltfleetby and 13 south at Donna Nook. One was inland at Trent Falls on 31st. A few on the coast in early September included one at North Coates on 9th, but the main movement occurred

in mid-month. At Donna Nook, 24 flew north on 17th and ten on 18th. At Saltfleetby, there were seven on 17th and two on 18th. Five flew north at Chapel Point on 17th and 19 on 19th. Gibraltar Point had the largest numbers, all moving north, with six on 16th, 40 on 17th and 54 on 18th. One was seen at the Witham Mouth on 18th. In a later movement, one was at Benington on 1st October, with three south at Donna Nook on 2nd, where a very late bird flew south on 15th November.

Storm Petrel Hydrobates pelagicus

One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 16th September (RNH, JPS) and one flew north along the tide edge at Donna Nook on 17th (SL). Another was seen flying north at Benington on 1st October (MLC).

Leach's Petrel Oceanodroma leucorhoa

One flew north, close inshore, at Donna Nook on 18th September (KA, PE).

Gannet Sula bassana

In spring, up to five occurred at Donna Nook from late May. Autumn movements began on the coast in August, with a very heavy passage in mid-September. After 77 flew south on 13th at Gibraltar Point, northerly movements began with 124 on 16th, 278 on 17th and 65 on 18th. This northerly passage was noted elsewhere on the coast in mid-September. At Chapel Point, there were 60 on 17th and 94 on 19th, and at Saltfleetby, 100 on 17th and 50 on 18th. Donna Nook had 206 on 17th and 200 on 18th. Large numbers occurred in the Wash, with 150 at the Witham Mouth on 17th and 50 on the 18th. Single birds were also in the Humber on 17th at Goxhill and Barrow Haven, with three at the latter place on 24th. In October, there were 14 at Benington on 1st, and next day ten at the Witham Mouth and 40 at Chapel Point, with 101 south at Donna Nook. On 15th, an immature flew west inland at Trent Falls. A few were seen on the coast up to mid-November, when there were two at Goxhill on 16th. One was found dead at Gibraltar Point on 30th December.

Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo

In January, inland birds included singles at Raithby from 2nd to 11th, Baston Fen on 8th and up to 20 at Covenham Reservoir. In the Wash, there were up to 30 at the Witham Mouth from January to April.

Inland, there were up to four irregularly from March to August at Trent Falls and singles at Burton gravel pits on 16th April and 29th August. Up to ten occurred in summer in the Wash and Humber areas.

Autumn passage began in mid-September, with four north and 19 south on 17th at Donna Nook. There were 13 at Gibraltar Point on 18th and 20 at Cleethorpes on 29th. October numbers included 16 at Benington on 1st, 11 at Covenham Reservoir on the same date, 26 at Chapel Point on 2nd and 28 at Grimsby Docks on 19th. Peak numbers were in November at Donna Nook, with 53 on 26th. Up to 30 were at Barton-on-Humber and Barrow Haven in November and December and up to 60 at the Witham Mouth in December.

Shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis

In the early part of the year, dead birds were found at Tetney on 18th January and 8th April, and three at Friskney on 30th January.

In November, singles were seen at Saltfleet Haven on 16th, flying north at Donna Nook on 24th and at Cleethorpes on 26th. One flew south at Donna Nook on 3rd December.

Bittern Botaurus stellaris

One was present at a site on South Humberside all year and two were seen in late summer, occasionally carrying food in July. There were no other records in the county.

Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus

A male was seen at Barton-on-Humber on 23rd June (GPC).
Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

One was seen on coastal pools at Skidbrooke North End on 29th May (JL).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

Nest counts resulted in a total of 301 pairs in the county, distributed as follows: Deeping 82, Troy Wood 78, Muckton 37, Doddington 26, Willoughby 20, Laughton Forest 16, Newball 16, Thornton Curtis 9, Howsham 9, Evedon 6, Rand 2.

Coastal birds included up to five at Donna Nook most of the year and up to five at Gibraltar Point in autumn. At the Witham Mouth, there were up to five all year except in March and April.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea

An early bird was at Saltfleetby for most of 17th April and flew east out to sea at dusk (RS,KA,DW,PC,JRW). Another was seen at Tattershall from 19th to 22nd May (JGP,RRS).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia

An influx in spring produced a fine series of records in May. An immature was seen at Saltfleet Haven on 6th and 9th (SH,AS), and one at Gibraltar Point on 7th and 8th may have been the same bird (JKM,RLa). One flew south-west at Pinchbeck on 17th (RH). On 29th, an adult and two immatures drifted south over Donna Nook (SL,VL). One flew east at Trent Falls on 31st (AG).

There was one autumn record, on a pond at Cleethorpes on 27th September (RKN).

Mute Swan Cygnus olor

At Gibraltar Point, small numbers were regularly present from January to July with ten on 6th February and up to 15 from May to early June. Up to seven were recorded from late September to December.

Bewick's Swan Cygnus columbianus

In the early part of the year, records were mainly in January. One was at Saltfleetby on 2nd, four at Goxhill on 4th, three at Trent Falls on 5th and one at Gibraltar Point on 6th. On 9th, there were five at Terrington, with two at Barrow Haven on 15th and six at Baston Fen on 16th. In February, 11 flew north at Donna Nook on 24th.

In autumn, up to six were seen at Donna Nook on several dates from 17th October, with one or two in November and seven flew south on 22nd December. Most records were in November, with four at Grainthorpe on 1st. There were three at Trent Falls from 1st to 7th,

and two on 28th and 29th. Two were at Immingham on 14th, with singles at Goxhill on 20th and Barrow Haven on 21st. Two were at Huttoft Pit on 27th and there were up to four at Gibraltar Point from 2nd to 13th. A herd of 17 on the beach at Saltfleetby on 16th eventually flew north. There were up to 20 at Tetney in late November and December, and what were probably the same 20 at Marshchapel on 28th December. Others in December included three at Scunthorpe on 1st, nine at Baston Fen on 11th and three at Barrow Haven on 23rd.

Whooper Swan Cygnus cygnus

In January, there were five at Friskney on 9th, and at Gibraltar Point one flew south-west on 8th and ten south on 11th. Four were seen there on 24th March.

Two early autumn birds flew south at Saltfleetby on 29th September and one was present on 20th October. Three flew west at Trent Falls on 23rd October, and two were on Covenham Reservoir on 25th. There were two at Huttoft Pit on 22nd October, with four on 6th November. Two were present at Gibraltar Point from 4th to 10th October, with four on 27th November. Three were at the Witham Mouth on 13th November. In December, there were seven at Stickney on 3rd, with two at Friskney on 12th and six on 27th.

Pink-footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus

At Trent Falls, 400 were seen on 3rd January and recorded in the area to 3rd March. Up to 50 were seen at Gibraltar Point in January and 25 flew north-east at Louth on 11th February. At Holbeach, 1,540 were counted on 9th January and 500 were seen at Boston on 6th February. Four at the Witham Mouth on 13th March were the last of the spring.

First of the autumn were at Trent Falls from 1st October to the end of December, with a maximum of 640 on 28th November. Passage was recorded at Donna Nook from 2nd October, with a maximum of 107 south on 17th November. Also in November, there were 71 at Barrow Haven on 8th and 54 at Goxhill on 10th. At Gibraltar Point, 140 flew south on 8th, with 100 on 9th and up to 70 in December. At Saltfleetby, there were 41 on 11th December, and on 26th there were 1,100 in the usual winter quarters at Holbeach.

White-fronted Goose Anser albifrons

In the early part of the year, there were two at Trent Falls on 2nd January and one at Tetney on 8th. Three were at Huttoft Pit on 21st January, with one on 26th February. One was at Gibraltar Point from 15th to 19th March.

A small flock arrived in December, with up to 13 at North Coates on 3rd and 4th. Six were at Covenham Reservoir from 9th to 11th, and what were probably the same six at Saltfleetby on 22nd.

Grey Lag Goose Anser anser

At Deeping, one of the main centres of feral populations in the county, there were up to 80 in January and February and at least six pairs bred.

Away from breeding areas, there were singles at Trent Falls on 23rd January and 4th February, with eight on 21st October. Two were at Huttoft Pit from 19th to 26th February and one at Barrow Haven in March. Five flew west at Grainthorpe on 25th April. At Tetney, there were one or two in April and May, with up to three from late July to the end of August. One was at Anderby on 27th August. At Gibraltar Point, singles were recorded from 3rd to 13th January and occasionally in April and early May. On 15th May 13 flew south and

there were up to 11 in June. On 18th September 17 were seen. In October, there were seven at the Witham Mouth on 2nd and 19 at Burton gravel pits on 24th. One was seen at Covenham Reservoir on 10th December.

Canada Goose Branta canadensis

At Gibraltar Point, some southerly movements were noted, with six on 29th April, five on 30th, and 11 on 27th June. Also in June, eight flew north-west at Donna Nook on 21st and Trent Falls had up to 11. There was a flock of 100 at Burton gravel pits on 26th November.

Barnacle Goose Branta leucopsis

The only records were singles at Gibraltar Point on 12th May and at Donna Nook on 2nd October.

Brent Goose Branta bernicla

On the north-east coast, there were 400 at North Coates on 22nd January and up to 400 at Saltfleetby in January and February. Donna Nook had up to 300 in January and February and there was a maximum of 500 at Saltfleet on 5th February. Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington resulted in 3,500 on 9th January and 4,850 on 6th February. Peak concentrations were at the Witham Mouth, with 2,000 on 29th January. The last spring record was at Gibraltar Point on 15th May.

An early autumn flock of 50 was at the Witham Mouth on 18th September and numbers built up there to 750 at the end of December. In the north-east, there were up to 400 at Donna Nook in November and December. A flock of 150 at North Coates on 3rd December contained a bird of the pale-bellied race B.b.hrota, and one was at Holbeach on 11th. Also on 11th, there were 1,600 at Friskney in a total of 5,000 between Gibraltar Point and Terrington.

Egyptian Goose Alopochen aegyptiacus

In February, there were two or three at Tetney from 9th to 12th and one at Saltfleetby on 12th. One was at Wisbech sewage farm on 30th May and another at North Somercoates on 23rd October.

Shelduck Tadorna tadorna

In the early part of the year, counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington resulted in 7,800 on 9th January and 8,400 on 6th February. Most of these were on the south side. In the north-east of the county, there were 950 at Tetney on 22nd January. Inland at Trent Falls, there were peaks of 90 on 30th January and 27th May.

First return movements from moult migration were noted at Donna Nook with up to 100 north in mid-September, and there was a maximum of 450 on 22nd November. In October, there were 129 at Gibraltar Point on 12th and 300 at Grimsby Docks on 30th. On 11th December, there were 1,000 at Holbeach and 2,740 at Terrington.

Wigeon Anas penelope

In the early part of the year, peak numbers were mainly in January, with 350 at Trent Falls on 7th and 217 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd. There were 220 at Holbeach on 9th, with up to 250 at Frampton in January and February. Inland in January, there were 150 at Whisby gravel pits on 18th and 150 at Baston Fen on 31st. Tetney had 116

on 3rd February.

In summer, singles were seen at Gibraltar Point on 2nd June and Barton-on-Humber on 10th July.

An early autumn return saw birds at Trent Falls from 29th July and Gibraltar Point from 30th, with an influx of 400 there on 27th August. Donna Nook had up to 100 in autumn with 120 on 28th November. In October, there were 50 at Covenham Reservoir on 19th and 82 at Burton gravel pits on 29th. There were 130 at the Witham Mouth on 13th November and the same number at Baston Fen on 27th December. On 11th December, there were 780 at the Witham Mouth and 740 at Terrington.

Gadwall Anas strepera

Small wintering flocks were at Burton gravel pits, with up to six in January and February, and at Covenham Reservoir where there were up to four from January to mid-April. Three were seen at Huttoft on 26th January and one was at Barrow Haven from 18th March to 19th April. Up to four were at Tetney on 27th and 28th May.

Two early autumn birds were at Wisbech sewage farm on 29th July. One was at Goxhill from 1st August to mid-September. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to 12 from 2nd to 29th August and one on 24th and 25th October. Up to ten were at Huttoft Pit from mid-August to December. At Covenham Reservoir, there were one or two from mid-October to early November, with probably the same birds at Fulstow from mid-November to mid-December. Singles were at Cleethorpes on 21st September and Trent Falls on 5th November. There were two at Barrow Haven on 13th October and 22nd December and at Killingholme on 8th December. Four were seen at South Ferriby on 27th October and there were up to six occasionally at Burton gravel pits from mid-September to December.

Teal Anas crecca

Wintering flocks included 120 at Gibraltar Point in early January and 275 at Baston Fen on 16th.

Autumn passage began in August, with up to 110 at Trent Falls and 130 at Gibraltar Point. There were also 80 at Killingholme. Peak numbers occurred at Trent Falls with 310 on 20th October and 360 on 2nd November. At Donna Nook, there was a maximum of 88 on 17th September. In December, Baston Fen had 200 on 11th and there were 145 at Holbeach on the same day.

Mallard Anas platyrhynchos

In January, there were up to 250 at Trent Falls with 120 at Gibraltar Point and 100 at Baston Fen.

Largest numbers occurred in autumn, with 1,000 at Trent Falls on 31st August and at least 300 for the rest of the year. There were up to 340 at Gibraltar Point in late August and early September and 600 at Covenham Reservoir on 19th November. Baston Fen had 160 on 11th December and there were 420 at Holbeach on the same day.

Pintail Anas acuta

In the early part of the year, 24 flew north-west at Gibraltar Point on 6th January and up to six were seen occasionally to early February. There were 17 at Terrington on 9th January, and singles at Trent Falls in January and February. Up to four were seen at Tetney in February and early March. One was at Barrow Haven on 16th March and there were four at Wisbech sewage farm on 1st May.

In autumn, early records were three at Huttoft Pit on 23rd July, with up to four irregularly to December. One or two were at Killingholme in mid-August and two at Goxhill on 18th November. Singles were at Tetney on 21st August and Wisbech sewage farm on 4th September. Up to four were at Covenham Reservoir from late September to December. There were 74 at Terrington on 11th December.

At Donna Nook, northerly movements of up to nine occurred irregularly from September to November. At Barrow Haven, there were four on 14th September and in October 20 on 10th and six on 12th. At Gibraltar Point, several were recorded from late August to November, with 24 on 7th September. Trent Falls had records from August to December, with 45 on 30th September and 38 west on 12th October.

Garganey Anas querquedula

In spring, pairs were seen at Covenham Reservoir on 25th March and Anderby on 26th. A male was at Huttoft Pit on 23rd April. Gibraltar Point had one or two in early April and one on 8th May. At Goxhill, there was a female on 30th April and a pair from 7th May to 23rd August. One was at Barrow Haven on 13th August and there was a male at Trent Falls on 13th June. Wisbech sewage farm had one or two throughout August.

Shoveler Anas clypeata

In winter, there were one or two at Gibraltar Point from January to March and up to 10 at Baston Fen in February.

Spring passage included two at Donna Nook in April, up to three at Trent Falls in May and up to seven at Gibraltar Point in April and May. At Baston Fen, three pairs summered and possibly bred.

Maximum numbers in autumn were 30 at Goxhill in August, 50 at Bardney on 5th September and 40 at Whisby gravel pits on 31st October. There were 24 at Burton gravel pits on 17th December.

Red-crested Pochard Netta rufina

A female was seen at Burton gravel pits on 5th February (JRC, ACS).

Pochard Aythya ferina

The maximum count in winter was 101 at Immingham on 6th February. On the coast, there were ten at Donna Nook in mid-March and birds were present at Gibraltar Point from January to early April, with 18 on 27th February.

In the breeding season, three broods were seen at Barton-on-Humber and one at Burton gravel pits.

In autumn passage, birds occurred at Trent Falls with one on 2nd August, 12 on 8th October and three on 19th November. Scattered records at Donna Nook from August to November included seven north on 18th September. At Gibraltar Point, birds were recorded from late August to the end of the year, with up to 11 in December.

Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula

In January, there were 74 at Burton gravel pits on 20th. Spring passage birds included up to three at Trent Falls in mid-May, up to four at Gibraltar Point from March to May and two at Donna Nook in early June.

In the breeding season, among the nesting pairs reported were five at Baston Fen, three at Tetney, two at Wisbech sewage farm and others at Barton-on-Humber and Burton gravel pits, where up to ten.

In autumn, there were 55 at Bardney on 13th September, and in December, 55 at Barton-on-Humber on 23rd. At Trent Falls, passage birds occurred on several dates from July to November, with 30 west on 15th August. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to six from July to December.

Scaup Aythya marila

In February, there were singles at Barrow Haven and up to two at Tetney. One was at Killingholme from 5th to 10th April and one at Huttoft Pit on 8th May.

In summer, there were males at Killingholme on 9th June and at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd and 21st July.

In autumn, there were singles at Donna Nook on 18th and 20th September with two on 17th November. One was at Covenham Reservoir from 14th to 20th October. At Chapel Pit, there were singles in early September and October. One was at Barton-on-Humber from 24th October to 7th November, with two in the second half of December. Five were seen at Barrow Haven on 22nd December, and there was one on the Welland at Deeping on 29th.

Eider Somateria mollissima

Up to five were seen at Tetney in January and February. At Gibraltar Point, there were a few in early January, with 23 on 30th and two on 16th April. One was at Terrington on 9th January. At the Witham Mouth, there were at least 100 on 9th January, with up to 30 in February and smaller numbers to the end of April.

In summer, five were at Gibraltar Point on 21st June and there was also one at the Witham Mouth on 4th.

In autumn, three flew north at Gibraltar Point on 14th August. In October, there were 25 on 10th, with one on 15th and on 27th November. Three were seen at North Coates on 26th November. Birds were fairly regular at Donna Nook from early October to the end of November, with 46 on 28th November. Also in November, there were seven at Goxhill on 20th and one at Trusthorpe on 14th. At Saltfleetby, there were two on 27th November, with five on 17th December. Two were seen at Benington on 1st October. At the Witham Mouth, there were up to 37 from October to December. One was at Grimsby Docks on 11th and 12th December.

Long-tailed Duck Clangula hyemalis

Three were at Covenham Reservoir from January to mid-April. One was at Benington on 9th January and two flew north at Donna Nook on 12th February.

In autumn, one was at Covenham Reservoir from 31st October to 13th November. Also in November, there were one or two on several dates at Donna Nook, two at Benington on 14th, one at Gibraltar Point on 15th and 16th and two at Goxhill on 17th.

Common Scoter Melanitta nigra

In the early part of the year, peak numbers included 150 at Saltfleetby on 3rd January and 200 south at Donna Nook on 6th February. In May, there were inland birds at Covenham Reservoir on 22nd, with ten on 27th. Birds were present all summer at Gibraltar Point with 50 in June. Peak autumn numbers occurred in mid-September, with 200 north at Gibraltar Point on 17th. At Chapel Point, there were 100 on 17th, with 160 north on 19th. Donna Nook had 220 north on 17th and 100 north on 18th. There were also 30 at the Witham Mouth on 18th. At Trusthorpe, 100 flew south on 14th November.

Velvet Scoter Melanitta fusca

In January, there were up to six at Theddlethorpe, with singles at Gibraltar Point on 8th and 22nd and one or two from 2nd to 4th April and on 9th May. Up to nine were at Tetney during February.

In autumn, there were two at Gibraltar Point on 29th August and 10th November. At Barrow Haven, there was one on 17th September and

two on 15th November. Singles were at Chapel Point and the Witham Mouth on 18th September. At Saltfleetby, there was one on 18th September, with two on 22nd and singles on 2nd October and 18th November. Donna Nook had singles on 18th September and 2nd October. In November, there were five on 13th and one from 20th to 23rd. Also in November, there were singles at Benington on 14th and at Goxhill on the same date with three on 16th.

Goldeneye Bucephala clangula

In the early part of the year, there were up to 25 at Covenham Reservoir from January to early May. There were up to 20 at Barrow Haven, with the last on 17th May. Gibraltar Point had up to 15 from January to April. Singles were also at Tetney, Benington and Holbeach in January and there were five at Donna Nook on 17th. Largest numbers were at the Witham Mouth, with 150 in January and 90 in February. Inland, one was at Raithby from January to late February and Burton gravel pits had singles in February and April. Up to four were at Trent Falls in January, with singles in February and March. A late spring bird was seen at Winterton on 28th May.

In summer, there were three at Donna Nook on 10th June and a pair stayed at Gibraltar Point from 8th to 16th July.

An early autumn bird was at Bardney on 14th August. Gibraltar Point had one on 28th August and 4th September, with up to nine from October to December and a maximum of 21 on 31st December. At Donna Nook, there were four on 3rd October and up to 13 from 11th to 26th November. Birds were present at Covenham Reservoir from October to December, building up rapidly in the second half of November to at least 100 on 20th. In the Humber, there were up to ten at Trent Falls in mid-November and numbers built up to 72 on 17th at Goxhill. There were up to ten at Benington in November and December.

Smew Mergus albellus

Two males made a brief stay at Covenham Reservoir on 10th March. In December, a female was at Barton-on-Humber from 12th to 30th.

Red-breasted Merganser Mergus serrator

In the early part of the year, there were up to three occasionally from January to April at North Coates, Huttoft, Gibraltar Point, Benington, Witham Mouth and Terrington. Six were seen at Tetney on 6th February. Late spring birds were at Barrow Haven on 14th May with a pair on 30th.

Birds returned to Gibraltar Point from 30th June, with one or two occasionally to December, apart from 14 south on 30th August and seven north on 18th September. Donna Nook had one on 9th July, with up to four from September to November. At Tetney, there were two on 30th July, with singles on 26th November and 3rd December. Singles were seen at Trusthorpe on 14th November and Cleethorpes on 14th December. At Saltfleetby, seven flew north on 16th November and three were seen on 18th. In the Humber, there were up to three at Goxhill and Barrow Haven from 14th to 17th November. At Benington, there were 13 on 14th November, with four on 1st October and three on 29th December. Three were seen at the Witham Mouth on 18th September and two on 2nd November. Five flew west inland at Trent Falls on 3rd October and there were eight on the Welland at Deeping on 29th December.

Goosander Mergus merganser

In winter, there were four at Trent Falls on 30th January and three on 26th March. One flew south at Donna Nook on 3rd January and there

were two at Barrow Haven on the same date with one on 5th. One was at Burton gravel pits on 26th February and there were four at Deeping gravel pits on 6th March.

An early autumn bird was at Trent Falls on 27th July. At Barrow Haven, there were two on 16th September, one on 17th October and three on 8th December. Singles were at Killingholme on 11th October and 8th December and Goxhill on 16th and 17th November. One was at Covenham Reservoir from 17th to 22nd November and singles at Gibraltar Point on 18th November and 11th December. One flew west at Saltfleetby on 22nd December.

Red Kite Milvus milvus

One was seen at Swinn Wood, near Alford, on 9th June (PNC).

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus

Spring passage was well marked, with the first birds in late April. At Trent Falls, the nesting pair from nearby Blacktoft Sands and a few migrants were occasionally present from 26th April. At Donna Nook singles, flew west on 27th April, south-west on 6th May and north-west on 28th, with one south on 8th June. One was at Grainthorpe on 29th April, with five on 31st May, two on 2nd June and one on 8th. Singles were seen at Barrow Haven on 30th April and 3rd and 14th May. Also in May, there were singles at Tetney on 11th, Gibraltar Point on 14th, 15th and 19th and Huttoft Pit on 29th. One was at Friskney on 6th June.

Summering birds or early migrants were at Burton gravel pits on 26th June, and Grainthorpe on 29th, with singles there on 21st and 30th July, 6th to 8th and 12th August. Also in August, singles flew south at Saltfleetby on 23rd and 29th and one was at Wisbech sewage farm on 27th and 29th. At Gibraltar Point, one flew south on 11th and two were seen on 30th, with one on 31st and again on 26th September. A few migrants, the adults and two young from Blacktoft Sands were occasionally seen over Trent Falls to 1st October. Two other sites also had a few regular birds in autumn. Three were in their usual fields at Nocton Fen from 25th August to 13th September and up to three were at Holbeach from mid-August to early September. One flew south at Donna Nook on 20th August and one was seen at Huttoft Pit on 1st October.

Wintering birds were seen in December at Baston Fen on 9th and occasionally at Trent Falls between 23rd November and the end of the year, with one at Terrington on 11th.

Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus

On the north-east coast, birds were present from January to mid-April, with up to two at Tetney, four at Grainthorpe, two at Donna Nook and five at Saltfleetby. At Trent Falls, there were occasional records from January to early March, involving four birds from Blacktoft Sands. Gibraltar Point had at least two birds from January to April and one was occasionally seen at Friskney. In January, there was one in the Wash at Dawsmere on 9th. Inland records were at Fulstow on 30th January, Covenham Reservoir on 23rd February and Crowle Waste on 13th March.

Early autumn records in August were a female at Gibraltar Point on 20th and a male at the Witham Mouth on 21st. On the north-east coast, there were up to three from mid-September at North Coates, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby, becoming more frequent in December. At Gibraltar Point and Friskney, there were one or two from late October to December. In December, there were singles at Barton-on-Humber on 19th, Frampton Marsh from 26th to 29th, and two at Trent Falls in the second half of the month, with two at Holbeach on 11th.

Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus

One at Saltfleetby on 29th January was the only winter record. Spring passage was well marked, with one or two fairly regularly at Gibraltar Point from April to mid-May. In April, there were singles at Kirkby Moor on 11th, Tetney and Holton le Clay on 16th, Donna Nook on 17th with two on 27th, Saltfleetby on 21st and Grainthorpe on 27th. In May, there were singles at Weelsby Wood on 5th and Barrow Haven on 11th.

Returning birds in autumn were early, with up to two fairly regularly at Gibraltar Point from mid-July to December. One was at Burton gravel pits on 13th August. In September, there were singles at North Coates on 20th, Grainthorpe on 23rd and Theddlethorpe on 25th. One flew south at Trent Falls on 1st October and there were singles at Saltfleet on 12th and 15th, New Waltham on 29th and Saltfleetby from 15th to 1st November.

Buzzard Buteo buteo

In spring, one was at Gibraltar Point on 9th April and one flew south-west at Pinchbeck on 18th May.

In autumn, singles were at Gibraltar Point on 20th August and 26th September and Barrow Haven on 9th September.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

An early bird was at Gibraltar Point on 24th March (RLa, GHE et al). One flew east at Trent Falls on 23rd May (AG), and one stayed in the South Ormsby district from 24th May to 11th June (RC, REMP). What was perhaps the same bird was fishing in Toft Newton Reservoir on 19th and 20th June (DPW).

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Gibraltar Point had one or two from January to June and the spring maximum at Donna Nook was six on 6th May.

Autumn passage was not very heavy with a maximum of 13 at Gibraltar Point on 25th July and 6th August. Donna Nook had ten on 5th August and there were 11 at East Halton in September.

Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus

A female flew south at Donna Nook on 12th June (SL, CM) and a male was seen on a telegraph pole at the same locality on 2nd August (SL, VL).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee

Merlin Falco columbarius

On the north-east coast, there were one or two at Tetney, Marshchapel, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby from January to April. Singles were also recorded occasionally from January to April at Trent Falls and Gibraltar Point. One was at Friskney Decoy on 7th February and Wisbech sewage farm on 12th March.

In autumn occasional, singles were at Trent Falls from 25th September to December. Singles were at Goxhill on 19th October and in late November, with one at East Halton in December. There were also singles at Gibraltar Point on 15th October and 26th November, Donna Nook on 5th and 15th November, Grainthorpe on 7th November, Saltfleetby on 3rd November and 8th December, Friskney on 5th November and 27th December, Fishtoft on 4th December and at the Witham Mouth on 26th and 27th December, with one at Butterwick on 11th.

Hobby Falco subbuteo

In May, singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 28th (HB) and at Gibraltar Point on 29th (PL). One was at Swinn Wood, near Alford, on 7th June (PNC).

In August, two were seen circling together over the Wolds at Hallington on 4th (KA) and one flew west at Trent Falls on 13th (AG).

Peregrine Falco peregrinus

One was seen feeding on a bird in a tree at Castle Carlton on 28th May (HR). At Trent Falls, one flew west on 13th August (AG). On 11th December, one was seen to make a successful stoop at a Woodpigeon at Butterwick (AH).

Red-legged Partridge Alectoris rufa

At Gibraltar Point, birds were present all the year, with up to 30 in mid-September. At Donna Nook, there were up to 24 in spring.

Grey Partridge Perdix perdix

At Gibraltar Point, birds were present from March to December, with up to ten in late October. Donna Nook had a maximum of 39 on 8th November.

Quail Coturnix coturnix

Single birds were heard in the Limber to Caistor area during May (GPC) and at Fulstow on 2nd July (MM).

Pheasant Phasianus colchicus

At Gibraltar Point, there were up to ten all the year, increasing to 30 at the end of November. Donna Nook had one or two in spring and from October to December.

Water Rail Rallus aquaticus

On the coast, one or two were seen occasionally at Tetney in January and February and irregularly at Gibraltar Point from January to May.

In autumn, there were one or two at Donna Nook from October to early December, and at Saltfleetby in November. Up to three were seen at Gibraltar Point from October to November, with singles in December.

Spotted Crake Porzana porzana

One was flushed by a dog at Donna Nook on 6th March (SL) and one was at Wisbech sewage farm from late August to mid-September (JAWM).

Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

At Gibraltar Point, there were up to four in January and February, then mainly up to ten for the rest of the year, with 15 on 25th October.

Coot Fulica atra

At Baston Fen, there were 85 on 30th January and 88 on 19th February. On the coast, one was at Gibraltar Point on 1st January and one was found dead on the shore on 7th. Birds were present from early April, with up to eight, increasing to 15 from June to September. There were 20 on 24th and 25th October, then only six for the rest of the year. One was at Donna Nook on 25th and 30th June.

Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus

Early in the year, counts on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington gave totals of 9,750 on 9th January and 13,000 on 6th February. Maximum numbers were at Gibraltar Point, with 10,000 on 6th February and 6th March. In the Humber, there were 5,500 at Tetney on 8th February.

Inland passage at Trent Falls occurred from mid-February to June, with seven on 1st May. One was at Burton gravel pits on 14th April.

In summer, 20 pairs bred at Tetney.

At Trent Falls, autumn passage was heavier than usual with a total of 182 west from mid-July to early September and a maximum of 48 on 1st August. At Covenham Reservoir, there were seven on 30th July and three on 20th August.

Peaks at Gibraltar Point were 12,000 on 31st August, 13,000 on 14th September, 8,000 on 14th October, 5,000 on 13th November and 5,750 on 13th December. At the Humber Mouth, there were 1,000 at Grainthorpe on 16th August and 500 at Donna Nook on 29th September.

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta

In winter, one was seen at North Coates on 1st January (RLo). There were an encouraging number of records at Tetney, with up to three fairly regularly from 20th May to 18th July (CG, MM). Four were present at Killingholme from 30th July to 3rd August, one remaining to 22nd (GPC, DAR et al). Two flew north at Benington on 27th August (MLC, AGP) and one was at Donna Nook on 18th October (SL).

Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola

One flew east at Trent Falls on 11th June (AG).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

A pair was present at Metheringham quarry on 11th April. Few breeding records were reported, though pairs were at their usual sites at Bardney, Spalding and Whisby gravel pits.

In spring, passage birds were at Raithby on 19th April, with two at Killingholme on 23rd, and one on 29th May. Also in May, there were singles at Covenham Reservoir on 7th and 27th and Donna Nook on 24th.

In autumn, there were occasional singles at Trent Falls from late June to mid-August, with three on 20th July. In July, there were singles at Barrow Haven on 16th and 23rd and at Killingholme on 20th.

During August, there were singles at Goxhill, at Tetney on 4th and two at Wisbech sewage farm on 27th. There were one or two occasionally at Covenham Reservoir from late June to early August. Gibraltar Point had one on 30th June, up to two in August and a late bird on 1st and 2nd October.

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula

In winter, there were 84 at Tetney on 3rd February.

Some spring passage was noted at Donna Nook with 18 on 28th May, and 14 at Trent Falls on 24th. Sixty-nine pairs bred at Tetney, with others at two sites at Killingholme and inland at Bardney among the less usual places.

Peak autumn passage occurred in August, with up to 50 at the Witham Mouth, 40 at Killingholme on 18th, 95 at Grainthorpe on 16th, and 110 at Gibraltar Point on 29th, with 100 there on 2nd October.

Three birds showing characters of the arctic race, C.h.tundrae, were at Donna Nook on 28th and 29th May, with up to 17 at Saltfleetby in late August.

Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus

A female was seen at Killingholme on 29th and 30th May (GPC,JH).

Dotterel Eudromias morinellus

At Donna Nook, a trip of up to 16 was present from 6th to 15th May; seven were still present on 16th, gradually reducing until the last two were seen on 27th (RL,SL et al). In the same period, three were on the Wolds at Bluestone Heath on 20th and 21st (AES).

An immature at Donna Nook, from 9th to 12th September, was in the same fields as the spring birds (CM,SL).

These records recall former times, when trips were regular at traditional sites on the Wolds and north-east coast.

Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria

In the early part of the year, there were 400 at North Coates in mid-January and 1,000 at East Halton during April.

In summer, one was at Donna Nook on 24th June.

Returning autumn birds were seen in early July with records at Trent Falls from 3rd, Burton gravel pits on 9th and Donna Nook from 11th. Passage at Gibraltar Point occurred from mid-August to November with up to 25. Donna Nook had a maximum of 260 on 9th August and Trent Falls 180 next day. There were 1,000 at Grainthorpe on 2nd September and 536 were counted between Thornton Abbey and East Halton on 27th November. There were 460 at Wainfleet on 11th December.

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola

In winter, counts on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington gave totals of 1,400 on 9th January and 6th February.

At Gibraltar Point, where some birds were present all year, there was a spring peak of 100 on 5th April.

In autumn, there were 800 at Grainthorpe on 31st August and 200 at Donna Nook on 12th and 29th September. Gibraltar Point had peaks of 460 on 18th September and 800 on 28th October. There were 250 at Benington on 2nd September and up to 100 at the Witham Mouth in October.

Singles were inland at Covenham Reservoir on 1st January, 30th July and 17th August, and Bardney on 13th September. At Trent Falls, there were singles on 20th April, 8th and 9th August, with up to three in the second half of September and six on 8th October.

Lapwing Vanellus vanellus

At Trent Falls, there was an influx of 1,000 on 25th February and easterly movements at Tetney at this time included 135 on 21st and 117 on 22nd. In late February and March, small numbers were moving east at Donna Nook and south at Gibraltar Point.

Return movements began in late May at Trent Falls, with westerly passage in June reaching a peak of 500 on 27th. At Donna Nook, 224 flew north-west on 25th and there were up to 80 south at Gibraltar Point in late June and early July. In later movements at Donna Nook in October and November, mainly to north-west, there were peaks of 213 on 26th October and 600 on 19th November. Gibraltar Point had fairly regular passage, mainly south, from August to November, with 200 on 9th October and 180 on 2nd November.

Knot Calidris canutus

Winter counts on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington gave totals of 6,000 on 9th January and 21,500 on 6th February. Maximum at Gibraltar Point was 13,000 on 6th March. In the Humber, there were

10,000 at Tetney on 8th and 21st February.

Inland, there were singles at Messingham on 11th July, Covenham Reservoir on 20th August and 16th October, Trent Falls on 15th October and two at Wisbech sewage farm on 27th August.

Autumn passage began on the coast in late July, with peaks at Gibraltar Point of 10,000 on 31st August and 12,500 on 14th September. At Cleethorpes, there were 3,000 on 10th November and Donna Nook had a maximum of 9,000 on 17th December. There were 7,300 at Friskney and 3,640 at Terrington on 11th December.

Sanderling Calidris alba

In the early part of the year, there were 320 at Tetney on 4th March.

A late spring passage was noted at Gibraltar Point in early June, with 109 on 4th and 100 on 8th. A few were present in summer at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point.

Return passage began on the coast in mid-July, with up to 750 at Gibraltar Point at the end of the month and in early August, decreasing to 250 in September. Maximum at Donna Nook was 200 on 18th September.

Inland, there was one at Trent Falls on 15th May, with five on 18th. Five were at Covenham Reservoir on 19th August.

Little Stint Calidris minuta

In winter, there were three at Terrington on 9th January. Spring passage was well marked, with early singles in April at Wisbech sewage farm from 2nd to 10th, at Killingholme from 22nd to 26th, and at Tetney on 22nd, where one was also seen on 1st June. In May, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 15th and Covenham Reservoir on 5th, with three on 19th and one on 27th. Donna Nook had up to five from 20th May to 4th June.

Autumn passage, though widespread, was lighter than usual. At Covenham Reservoir, there were up to five from 26th July to 30th September. There were up to four at Killingholme from late July to 18th October. Bardney had one or two in late August and September, with ten on 1st October. There were up to five at Grainthorpe in September and up to three at Donna Nook in September and early October. Singles were at Saltfleetby on 27th August, Messingham on 29th September and Frampton on 2nd October. Gibraltar Point had one or two occasionally from late July to 27th October.

Temminck's Stint Calidris temminckii

In May, there were singles at Wisbech sewage farm on 6th (JAWM), Goxhill on 16th (GPC), and Donna Nook on 20th, 21st and 25th (RL, SL).

Singles in autumn were recorded at Wisbech sewage farm on 20th August (JAWM), and Bardney on 17th and 24th September (ACS).

Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos

There were singles at Wisbech sewage farm on 9th July and from 2nd to 10th September (JAWM, MM). Also in September, there were singles at Gibraltar Point from 13th to 15th (JPS et al) and South Killingholme from 16th to 21st (GPC, KA et al).

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea

In spring, there were singles at Killingholme on 18th May and 7th June.

In autumn, up to four were at Tetney from mid-July to August.

Five were seen at Seacroft on 31st July. Birds were recorded at Killingholme from 29th July to 26th September with 20 in mid-August. One was at Covenham Reservoir on 29th and 30th July and one or two from 20th to 23rd September. At Donna Nook, there were one or two from 21st September to 1st October. Bardney had up to eight in late July and throughout August, with one on 1st October. Up to four were recorded at Gibraltar Point between late July and 25th October. At Butterwick, one was seen on 30th August, with two on 5th September. There were also two at Chapel Point on 19th September. There were records at Wisbech sewage farm from mid-August to mid-September, with 13 on 27th August.

Purple Sandpiper Calidris maritima

In the early part of the year, one at Killingholme from 8th April to 18th May was the only record.

Early autumn singles in August were at Gibraltar Point on 15th, Huttoft on 25th, and Donna Nook on 20th, where there were later records on 21st September and 2nd October. In September, there was one at Barrow Haven on 1st and Saltfleetby on 8th, and also the Witham Mouth on 18th, with other records on 2nd and 15th October. In November, one was at a favoured spot at Trusthorpe from 5th to 14th and one at Barton-on-Humber on 12th December.

Dunlin Calidris alpina

In winter, counts on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington totalled 20,000 on 9th January and 6th February. Largest concentrations were in the south with 4,900 at Terrington on 9th January. In the Humber, there were 2,500 at Tetney on 8th February.

Inland at Trent Falls, there was a spring peak of 800 on 10th May. In autumn, maxima at Gibraltar Point were 2,000 on 31st July and 3rd and 27th August. There were 2,000 at Grainthorpe on 31st August. In October, there were 1,000 at Killingholme on 13th and 1,200 at Donna Nook on 28th. November counts included 3,000 at Cleethorpes on 10th and 3,500 at Grimsby Docks on 14th. On 11th December, there were 10,000 between Gibraltar Point and Terrington, with 4,340 at Terrington and 3,500 at Benington.

Ruff Philomachus pugnax

Ten wintering birds were at Killingholme in January and February and one was seen near Grimsby on 6th February.

Spring passage was well marked with some males displaying at one site. Gibraltar Point had one on 17th March and up to six from 17th to 25th April. At Killingholme, there were up to 16 from mid-April to early May. Six were seen at the Witham Mouth on 9th April and there were up to five at Wisbech sewage farm in spring. In May, there were singles at Trent Falls on 6th and 15th, at Donna Nook from 28th to 30th with two at Tetney on 28th.

A few early autumn birds were at Bardney and Killingholme from late June. Peak numbers were 70 at Wisbech sewage farm on 27th August, 40 at Killingholme in the first half of August and on 15th September, 20 at Covenham Reservoir from 20th to 22nd August, 12 at Bardney on 26th August, nine at Messingham on 15th August and seven at Gibraltar Point on 11th September. Other places with one or two during August to October included Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Donna Nook, Huttoft, Tetney, Spalding and Benington. Most sites had their last birds in mid-October, but there was a late influx in November with one at Huttoft on 27th and up to 35 at Marshchapel from 22nd to 24th.

The latter may have been arriving winter visitors as there were still some in December, with seven on 9th and two on 30th. One was also at Wainfleet on 28th.

Jack Snipe Lymnocryptes minimus

In the early part of the year, records included singles at Gibraltar Point and Huttoft in January, three at Saltfleetby in February and one at Chapel Six Marshes in March. Donna Nook had one or two regularly from January, with the last of the spring on 5th May.

First of the autumn were at Donna Nook, with up to three from 13th September to December. There were three at Goxhill in November, and singles were recorded in the period September to December at Trent Falls, Barton-on-Humber, Cleethorpes, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point and Wisbech sewage farm.

Snipe Gallinago Gallinago

In winter, the largest number recorded was 40 at Gibraltar Point on 1st February.

Spring passage was very prominent in mid-March, with 150 in the Huttoft area on 12th, 100 at Baston Fen on the same date and 40 at Gibraltar Point next day. Coastal passage ended in late May.

Among the breeding records were 11 pairs at Baston Fen.

Returning autumn birds were at Gibraltar Point from mid-July, with 21 on 31st August and 20 on 27th November. In October, 14 arrived off the sea at Donna Nook on 2nd and there were 116 at Goxhill on 8th.

Wintering flocks in December included 50 at Covenham Reservoir on 14th and 50 on flood water at Louth on 22nd.

Woodcock Scolopax rusticola

Coastal records in winter included singles at Tetney and Donna Nook in January with up to seven at Gibraltar Point, and one or two in February and March.

In spring, there were two at Tetney on 26th April and singles at Gibraltar Point from April to 25th May.

In autumn, there were singles at Donna Nook in October and November, with three on 21st October. Gibraltar Point had singles from 24th September to late November. At Cleethorpes one arrived from the north-east on 28th November.

Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa

In spring, there were singles at the Witham Mouth on 19th March and at Gibraltar Point from 3rd to 18th April. Up to six were recorded at Killingholme from mid-April to mid-May. Trent Falls had birds between 17th April and 23rd May with 31 west on 25th April. Singles were at Tetney on 13th May and Saltfleetby on 5th June.

In autumn, there were three at Tetney on 20th June, with two on 24th and 25th August. In July, there was one at Saltfleetby on 10th, with six at Wisbech sewage farm on 16th. Up to 12 were at the Witham Mouth in early August and three at Killingholme on 12th September. Four were seen at Donna Nook on 30th October. At Gibraltar Point, there were one or two from mid-August to November, with six on 17th November. Trent Falls had singles on 7th July and 2nd August, with four on 20th.

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica

A count in winter on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington gave 5,350 on 6th February. Of these, 2,000 were at Gibraltar Point, 1,100 at Dawsmere and 1,000 at Wrangle. There were up to 440 at Tetney in late January and early February.

Birds were present in spring at Gibraltar Point to 30th May, though

some returned again in late June, increasing in July to 600 on 26th. Up to 1,000 were recorded in August, with 2,000 in the first half of September and 1,500 on 28th October.

Inland, there were up to five at Trent Falls in late May and an unusually heavy autumn passage totalling 94 west between 30th June and 14th August, of which 51 were on 5th July. Two were also seen at Wisbech sewage farm on 20th August.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

In spring, an early bird flew west at Trent Falls on 26th March, but the main passage was from mid-April. Peaks included ten at Donna Nook on 16th April and 7th May. Also in May, there were ten at the Witham Mouth on 4th, and 11 at Gibraltar Point on 15th, with passage there lasting to 11th June.

Returning autumn birds were seen from early July and 14 flew south at Gibraltar Point on 16th. In August, maximum numbers included 15 at Donna Nook on 9th and ten west at Trent Falls on 20th. Also on 20th, there were 50 at the Witham Mouth.

Last of the autumn were at Gibraltar Point on 27th October.

Curlew Numenius arquata

In the early part of the year, there were 560 at Dawsmere on 9th January and a Wash count between Gibraltar Point and Terrington on 6th February totalled 1,400.

In autumn, 758 flew west at Trent Falls between mid-June and the end of August, with 310 of these on 3rd July. Maximum numbers on the coast were later, with 45 at Donna Nook on 11th September and 100 at Gibraltar Point on 16th. There were 600 at Grimsby Docks on 29th October.

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus

In winter, one was seen at North Coates on 20th January. What was probably the same bird was at Grainthorpe at the end of the month and in early February, then later at Donna Nook on 21st. One was also at Killingholme on 1st February.

Spring passage began in mid-April, with one at Killingholme from 12th, increasing to four on 30th and one again on 26th May. One was at Tetney on 21st April. Trent Falls had two on 1st May and one on 12th June and there were singles in May at Donna Nook, from 18th to 22nd, and Gibraltar Point on 27th and 28th.

In autumn, there were one or two at Killingholme from late June to mid-September and at Wisbech sewage farm during August. Gibraltar Point had up to four from early August to mid-September. Singles were seen at Tetney on 13th July, Covenham Reservoir on 23rd August and Frampton Marsh on 29th, Trent Falls on 15th August and 15th October and Barrow Haven on 20th August and 8th and 13th September. There were also occasional singles at Grainthorpe from early July to early October and Donna Nook from late August to 25th October.

Redshank Tringa totanus

In winter, a count on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and Terrington gave 1,200 on 6th February. Of these 250 were at Kirton Marsh and 300 at Terrington.

In summer, about 48 pairs bred at Tetney and among the inland sites there were three pairs at Baston Fen.

Autumn numbers were largest in September, with 170 at Benington on 2nd, 250 at Cleethorpes on 29th and 200 at Gibraltar Point on 27th and in early October.

Greenshank Tringa nebularia

Spring passage began on 17th April at Gibraltar Point and Killingholme, with small numbers at several sites until the end of May or early June. Gibraltar Point had up to four in May and there were 11 at Donna Nook on 5th.

In summer, there were singles at Gibraltar Point in June.

Autumn passage began at Donna Nook in late June and in early July at Trent Falls. Maximum numbers were seven at Donna Nook on 2nd August, 20 at the Witham Mouth on 4th, 13 at Trent Falls on 8th, eight at Gibraltar Point on 10th, 14 at Wisbech sewage farm on 13th, nine at Goxhill on 16th and 14 at Grainthorpe on 31st. In September, there were ten at Killingholme on 10th. A late bird was at Gibraltar Point on 19th November.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus

In winter, one was seen at Burton gravel pits on 29th January and 13th February.

A few occurred in spring in April, with singles at Winterton Road, Scunthorpe on 7th, Burton gravel pits on 17th and Gibraltar Point on 22nd; three were seen at Wainfleet on 11th and singles at Donna Nook on 16th and also 15th May.

Autumn passage began in mid-June at Killingholme, Trent Falls & Donna Nook and though lasting to about mid-November only small numbers were recorded. There were five at Bardney on 24th July and in August five at Messingham on 1st, five at Bradley Woods and seven at Gibraltar Point on 20th, and ten at Wisbech sewage farm on 27th. Late birds in November included two at Goxhill on 12th and singles at Gibraltar Point to 20th.

A wintering bird was at Covenham Reservoir on 27th December.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

In spring, there were singles at Donna Nook on 29th April and in May on 4th, 21st to 23rd and 28th. Other singles in May were at Saltfleetby on 8th, Skidbrooke North End from 20th to 22nd, Goxhill on 27th and Covenham Reservoir on 28th.

During August, there were singles at Covenham Reservoir and up to four at Gibraltar Point. Other singles were at Frampton Marsh on 2nd, Kirkby-on-Bain gravel pits on 9th, Tetney on 14th, Messingham on 22nd and Barton-on-Humber on 25th. Bardney had up to five from mid-August to early September and there were one or two at Killingholme in August and September. One was at Bradley Woods from 16th August to 2nd September. There was a good influx at Wisbech sewage farm in August, with up to 25 from 20th to 27th, then singles to mid-September. Also in September, there was one at Grainthorpe on 1st, two at Donna Nook on 3rd and the last of the autumn at Trent Falls on 23rd.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

First of the spring was at Messingham on 17th April. Peak numbers were in May with six at Gibraltar Point on 22nd and ten at Covenham Reservoir on 27th. At Donna Nook passage lasted to 4th June.

Returning autumn birds were seen from late June at Gibraltar Point, Scunthorpe and Trent Falls. Maximum numbers were mainly in August, with ten at Trent Falls on 13th, ten at the Witham Mouth on 13th and 29th, 13 at Killingholme on 17th, 13 at Gibraltar Point on 19th, 16 at Bradley Woods and 20 at Donna Nook on 20th, 15 at Burton gravel pits and 50 at Covenham Reservoir on 22nd, and 20 at Bardney on 25th. In September, there were 14 at Grainthorpe on 18th. Last of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 25th October.

Turnstone Arenaria interpres

In the early part of the year, there were 700 at Tetney on 5th February and 4th March.

Inland, there was one at Wisbech sewage farm on 29th April, one or two at Covenham Reservoir in May, with one at Bardney on 29th and five at Trent Falls on 31st. In autumn, there were up to four occasionally at Trent Falls from late July to early September. One was seen at Bardney on 23rd August and several were at Covenham Reservoir in August and September, with 11 on 5th September. One was present on 9th November.

On the coast, Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 50 on 3rd August. In the Humber, there were up to 30 at Killingholme in late July and early August. At the Witham Mouth, there were up to 100 in August with 160 on 13th November.

Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus

The only records were in September at Covenham Reservoir, with one on 3rd (HB) and a different bird on 9th (KA, PH, MM, ACS).

Grey Phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius

An early bird was seen on Covenham Reservoir on 17th September (MET). Two were at the tide-edge at Gibraltar Point on 27th October (AG). In November, one flew north at Donna Nook on 22nd (RLo) and one was seen on the Humber at North Coates on 26th (MM).

Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus

One was seen at Saltfleetby on 27th August (MM). In September, there was one at Trusthorpe on 10th (KA, PE, PH), two at Chapel Point on 17th (KA, PE, PH) with one at Barrow Haven on the same date (GPC), and one at the Witham Mouth on 18th (FB, RH, KH). One flew south at Donna Nook on 2nd October (RLo, SL).

Arctic Skua Stercorarius parasiticus

In summer, there were unusual records of singles at Gibraltar Point on 20th and 26th June.

Autumn passage began in early July, with records at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby from 10th and Gibraltar Point from 11th. Peak numbers were in August, with 40 north at Gibraltar Point on 6th; on 27th, 105 flew south at Donna Nook, with 70 recorded at Saltfleetby and 40 at Chapel Point. In September, 47 flew north at Chapel Point on 19th. In the Humber, there were 11 at Killingholme on 16th August with five at Trent Falls on 18th. At Barrow Haven, three were seen on 17th August, with four on 16th September and one on 17th. In the Wash, there were ten at Benington on 27th August and seven on 1st October. Up to five were seen occasionally at the Witham Mouth from late July to early October.

Late singles were seen in November at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby on 13th and Trusthorpe on 14th.

Long-tailed Skua Stercorarius longicaudus

An immature flew south along the dunes at Saltfleetby on 21st August (GPC, DAR). A rare dark phase adult was seen at the Witham Mouth on 18th September (FB, RH, KH).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Great Skua Stercorarius skua

Autumn passage began early at Gibraltar Point with one on 30th July. Birds were seen regularly in September with eight on 16th and 17 on 17th.

In November, there were singles on 5th and 6th and 13th. Donna Nook had occasional records from late August to early October, with six on 18th September and 15 south on 2nd October. In November, there were one or two daily from 13th to 21st. At Saltfleetby, there were up to five occasionally from late August to mid-November. Singles were seen at Huttoft on 7th and 21st August and there were four at Chapel Point on 2nd October. In the Humber, one was at Barrow Haven on 17th August. In the Wash, there were three at Benington on 1st October and 14th November and one at Kirton Marsh on 1st October. Two were seen at the Witham Mouth on 17th September, with three on 18th and one on 15th October.

A late bird was seen on the shore at North Coates on 3rd December.

Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus

A first winter bird was seen with other gulls on ploughed fields at Donna Nook on 30th September (RLo).

Little Gull Larus minutus

In spring, there were two immatures at North Somercoates on 21st May, with one at Trent Falls on 28th. In early June, there was one at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd and six immatures at Killingholme on 3rd.

In autumn, single immatures were seen at Barrow Haven on 18th and 23rd July and Killingholme on 5th August, with a juvenile on 22nd. One or two birds were present at Covenham Reservoir from 2nd to 24th August. In September, there was one at Saltfleetby on 4th with two on 17th and Gibraltar Point had two on 14th, with singles on 15th and 18th. A late bird was seen at Donna Nook on 17th November.

Sabine's Gull Larus sabini

In an exceptional autumn for the species, four immatures flew north with a flock of Kittiwakes at the Witham Mouth on 17th September, and another immature was present on 2nd October (FB, RH, KH). At Donna Nook an adult flew north on 17th September (SL), and an immature was seen at close range on the beach on 13th November and eventually flew off to the south (CM).

Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus

Gibraltar Point had 1,000 on 17th March and up to 1,000 from late August to December, with a maximum of 2,000 on 6th September. There were large numbers at Trent Falls in August with 10,000 on 1st and 15,000 on 28th. In October, Donna Nook had a maximum of 1,000 on 1st and there were 4,000 at Grainthorpe on 14th.

Common Gull Larus canus

Although present all year, there was a maximum of 1,000 at Gibraltar Point in mid-July and 600 at Donna Nook on 23rd November. Many thousands roosted at Covenham Reservoir in autumn and winter, though no counts were made.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus

On the coast, spring passage was from late March to the end of May, with only small numbers noted. Maximum at Gibraltar Point was 13 on 28th May.

Large numbers were recorded in autumn, with up to 500 at Trent Falls. Coastal passage lasted from mid-June to late November, with 12 at Donna Nook on 3rd July, 30 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd October and 40 on 20th November.

Herring Gull Larus argentatus

In the early part of the year, there was a fairly regular northerly movement at Donna Nook from January to April, with a maximum of 350 on 16th January. There were up to 560 at Tetney in mid-February.

In autumn, there was an increase at Gibraltar Point from late July, reaching a peak on 26th August, when 1,000 were recorded. At Donna Nook, the maximum was on 13th November, when 250 flew south.

Glaucous Gull Larus hyperboreus

Early in the year, there was an adult at Saltfleetby on 23rd January and an immature on 20th March (GPC). Other immatures were seen at the Witham Mouth on 29th January (RAF, DVH, AGM), at Killingholme rubbish tip from 5th February to 8th April (GPC et al), at Tetney on 5th March, and Barrow Haven on 7th April (GPC). Singles were recorded at Gibraltar Point on 28th March and 5th April (CB, RLa).

In summer, one was at Donna Nook on 27th June (SL) and an adult was seen at Seacroft on 3rd July (MM).

In autumn, one was at Saltfleetby on 8th September (CLO) and then there was a marked influx in November and December. At Killingholme rubbish tip, there was an adult from 28th November to 1st December and again on 22nd; different immatures were present on 13th and 15th December (GPC). In November, one was at Gibraltar Point on 5th (MAP, CMJ) and different immatures flew north at Donna Nook on 21st, 26th and 27th (KA, PH, SL); an immature was seen at Grimsby Docks on 26th (GPC). In December, single immatures were at Barton-on-Humber and Tetney on 22nd (GPC, KA) and one was seen at Cleethorpes on 31st (LW).

Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus

In winter, up to 2,000 were seen at Tetney in February. At Gibraltar Point, numbers increased in autumn with up to 200 in July and a peak of 300 on 30th August.

Inland records included 37 at Baston Fen on 16th January and up to 500 at Trent Falls in late autumn.

Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla

There were occasional records of up to eight birds on the coast from January to April. From May, records became more regular, with 15 at Gibraltar Point on 30th May and 24 at Donna Nook on 10th June the spring maxima.

Unusual numbers occurred inland at Trent Falls, with singles on 19th and 20th March, six on 13th April and three on 25th. On 1st May, there were 34 adults, and in June, 19 on 2nd and 25 on 13th. Singles were also seen on 4th July and 21st August. One was at Covenham Reservoir on 19th August.

Early autumn movements included 91 at Huttoft on 7th August and 100 north at Donna Nook on 13th. On 17th September, 100 flew north at the Witham Mouth and there were 46 north at Gibraltar Point. A very heavy southerly passage took place in mid-November. At Donna Nook, counts were 1,850 on 13th, 179 on 15th, 334 on 17th and 730 on 21st. There were 1,300 at Saltfleetby on 13th. Gibraltar Point had 250 on 13th and 1,000 on 18th. In the Wash, there were 132 at the Witham Mouth on 13th. Records in the Humber at this time included 107 at Goxhill on 17th.

Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis

First record was at Gibraltar Point on 22nd April, and there were up to six there in spring.

Numbers in autumn increased from mid-July and there was a maximum of 500 at Donna Nook on 23rd. There were 1,800 at Tetney on 1st August, when 300 were seen at Grainthorpe. Later in the month, there were 1,000 at Gibraltar Point on 13th and 800 at Seacroft on 15th.

Inland, there were singles at Trent Falls on 31st May and 30th June. In August, there were two on 20th, five on 21st and one on 24th and 25th. Four were present on 4th September.

Last of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 14th October.

Roseate Tern Sterna dougallii

One was seen at Tetney on 14th May (GS) and there were five there on 31st July (CG).

Common Tern Sterna hirundo

Two at the Witham Mouth on 17th April were the first of the spring. In the Humber, there were 62 at Barrow Haven on 27th May.

Inland breeding records included a pair at Bardney. There were good numbers in the Humber in August and September, with a maximum at Killingholme of 101 on 8th August. An early peak of 800 'Commics' at Gibraltar Point on 2nd August seem likely to have been this species. Last of the autumn was at Donna Nook on 10th October.

Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea

In spring, the main passage was in May, with the first on 5th, when 26 were at Covenham Reservoir. Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook had one or two occasionally in May and another peak day was 27th, with four at Covenham Reservoir and Trent Falls and 13 at Scunthorpe.

In autumn, there were up to five at Trent Falls from July to early September and up to seven at Covenham Reservoir in early August, with singles to mid-September. Only small numbers were identified on the coast, with 16 at Saltfleetby on 2nd October. Last was at Donna Nook on 3rd October.

Little Tern Sterna albifrons

Numbers of breeding pairs were the highest for many years, with 120 at Tetney, 35 at Skidbrooke North End, six at Saltfleet, 22 at Saltfleetby, three at Skegness, 15 at Gibraltar Point and two on the Witham bank near Boston. The latter was the first breeding record from that area. From a total of about 200 pairs, less than 50 young flew, due mainly to flooding.

The first records were at Saltfleetby on 20th April and there were occasional inland records at Covenham Reservoir from May to August with 16 on 1st August. Up to three were seen in the Humber in July and August, with the last at Killingholme and Gibraltar Point on 18th August.

Black Tern Chlidonias niger

There was a good spring passage in May, with singles at the Witham Mouth on 4th and Messingham on 25th. Several were at Covenham Reservoir from 17th to 27th, with 22 on 26th. Donna Nook had one north on 25th and eight south-east on 26th. Four were seen at Trent Falls on 27th and one on 29th. Also in the Humber, there were three at Barrow Haven on 26th with nine on 27th. Eight were present at Hartsholme gravel pits on 27th.

The autumn was even better, starting with up to five at Covenham Reservoir from 4th to 9th July. Several were present fairly regularly from August to early October, with up to 15 in late August and early September. Birds were seen fairly regularly at Trent Falls from 21st August to 23rd September, with 15 on 26th August. In the Humber, there were up to seven at Barrow Haven in August, with singles there and at Goxhill to October. At the Witham Mouth, there were 14 on 13th August,

with up to three to the end of the month and one on 2nd October. One or two were seen at Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point from August to early October. Last record was at Barrow Haven on 12th October.

White-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucopterus

Immatures were present at Trent Falls on 25th and 26th August (AG) and at Covenham Reservoir from 30th August to 11th September (BMC,JRC et al).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Guillemot Uria aalge

In winter, dead birds were found at Donna Nook on 30th January and two at Anderby on 26th February.

Gibraltar Point had singles on 11th April and 30th May. In September, there was one on 16th with two on 17th and 18th, then one on 13th November and two on 20th. Also in September, there were singles at Huttoft on 1st and Cleethorpes on 22nd. One was seen in the Humber at Barrow Haven on 15th November.

Razorbill Alca torda

Singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 24th August and 20th September. One was in the Humber at Barrow Haven on 16th September.

Black Guillemot Cepphus grylle

One was present at the Witham Mouth from 29th to 31st December (KH,AGP).

Little Auk Alle alle

One was found dying in a stubble field at Donna Nook on 8th January (KA,HB,PH,DW), and one flew north there on 17th November (RLo). Also in November, there was an influx in the Humber, with one at Goxhill on 14th, five on 16th and three on 17th. Nine were seen at Barrow Haven on 16th (GPC).

Puffin Fratercula arctica

Two were seen at Saltfleetby on 3rd July and on 20th, one was at Gibraltar Point, with three on 12th September and one on 16th. Also in September, one flew south at Chapel Point on 19th.

Stock Dove Columba oenas

Wintering flocks on the coast included up to 42 at Gibraltar Point in early January, 25 at Donna Nook on 6th February and 18 at Tetney in early March.

Donna Nook had up to 20 from late November, increasing to 33 on 31st December.

Woodpigeon Columba palumbus

In spring, there was a fairly regular passage at Donna Nook from mid-March to May, with 430 south on 17th March and 400 north on 24th April. At Gibraltar Point, 150 flew south on 22nd and 23rd April.

Main autumn movements were in November, with up to 2,000 at Gibraltar Point from 6th to 13th and a maximum of 10,000 south on 12th. Birds were moving north at Donna Nook from 15th to 25th, with 600 on 20th, and at Barrow Haven, 700 flew west on 23rd. At Grimsby Docks, 5,000 flew north-west on 11th December.

Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

At Donna Nook, where none bred, there were one or two from mid-April to mid-May and eight on 21st June, with singles from July to October. Gibraltar Point had one or two in the early part of the year, and up to three from mid-April, with 12 on 29th May. Up to six were present from June to August, with 11 on 17th August and up to five for the rest of the year.

Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur

In spring, the first was on 24th April at Gibraltar Point, where there were up to 50 from mid-May, increasing to 100 at the end of the month and reaching a peak of 150 on 11th June. Donna Nook had a heavy passage, with peaks in May of 75 south on 14th, 35 south on 15th and 50 north on 25th. In June, there were 35 north on 9th and 30 south on 12th. At Barrow Haven, 172 flew west on 14th May. Trent Falls also recorded good movements, with a total of 692 west between late April and early July, and a maximum of 45 west on 12th June.

Autumn passage was not very well marked, with 25 east at Trent Falls on 29th July the largest movement recorded. The last was at Grainthorpe on 13th October.

Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

First records were at Donna Nook and Marshchapel on 25th April, with one next day at Gibraltar Point, where there were up to six in summer. Donna Nook had up to three in spring and summer, with an autumn maximum of seven on 21st August. The last was at Theddlethorpe on 25th September.

Barn Owl Tyto alba

Coastal records were at Donna Nook, with singles on 9th, 10th and 30th April, and at Gibraltar Point with irregular singles in April, June to October and December.

Scops Owl Otus scops

One was found dead at Saltfleetby on 7th April (CMA).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Little Owl Athene noctua

On the coast, there were singles at Donna Nook on 30th March, 30th May, 7th October and 26th to 28th November. One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 20th August.

Tawny Owl Strix aluco

Coastal records were at Donna Nook on 10th to 15th and 30th January, 19th February and 25th June. One was at Saltfleetby on 27th April. Gibraltar Point had irregular records of singles from January to early May and late July to December.

Long-eared Owl Asio otus

Wintering birds included three at Baston Fen on 16th January and up to five on the River Brant, near Lincoln, from January to early March. The Hobhole Bank near the Witham Mouth had up to six from January to mid-March and three in late December.

The only coastal record was at Donna Nook on 20th August.

Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus

At Tetney, there were one or two in January, increasing to four at the end of February and seven on 4th March. Donna Nook had singles from 1st to 10th May and one or two fairly regularly from 20th August to 19th December. One came in off the sea on 21st November. Gibraltar Point had up to five in January and February, then up to three to mid-May. One or two were present from mid-June to August with up to four in September and October, then one or two until six on 28th December. Other coastal records were mainly in the Wash and Humber.

Inland, there were up to three at Baston Fen from January to March and one or two from October to December. Occasional records at Trent Falls included two on 5th April and three on 5th November. One was at Deeping on 6th March and one at Burton gravel pits on 4th May.

Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus

Among the usual breeding season records were reports of three males at Stapleford, a pair at Norton Disney and one at Twigmoor.

A migrant was seen in Theddlethorpe village on 24th September.

Swift Apus apus

First records were at Killingholme and Saltfleetby on 27th April. In spring, there were many hundreds at Burton gravel pits on 19th May. Movements in June included 100 west at Trent Falls on 11th, 220 south at Donna Nook on 25th, 3,700 south at Gibraltar Point on the same day and 5,000 south there on 30th.

In July, there was a southerly passage at Gibraltar Point from 16th to 25th, with 5,000 on 17th and 3,000 on 18th. At Donna Nook, 500 flew north on 17th and there were 300 at Trent Falls on 24th. Last of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 9th October.

Pallid Swift Apus pallidus

One was seen at close range with several Swifts at Goxhill Haven on 27th June (GPC).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Kingfisher Alcedo atthis

Breeding records included three pairs on South Humberside, and pairs at Burton gravel pits and South Thoresby.

On the coast, there were singles at Donna Nook from 15th to 19th January, on 25th July and regularly from late August to December. At Gibraltar Point, there were occasional records of singles from January to March and more regularly from late August to November. At Tetney, there were singles in February and one or two in July and August. One was at Cleethorpes from 9th November to the end of December. Others were at Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Grimsby Docks and Frampton Marsh in October and November.

Hoopoe Upupa epops

In spring, one was seen in Weelsby Woods on 30th April (WJM). Two were at North Somercoates Warren on 3rd and 4th May and one remained to 7th (PW, KA, PE et al). Also in May, there were singles at Saltfleet on 3rd (SH) and Gibraltar Point on 7th (JKM).

In autumn, one was seen at Saltfleetby on 24th and 25th August (PNC, MM).

Wryneck Jynx torquilla

An influx in the second half of August was noted at many localities and at least 26 birds were involved.

Singles were seen at Anderby on 14th and 21st (PNC,HB,AGP). Donna Nook had one or two from 18th to 30th, with an exceptional total of 12 on 20th. Six of these were caught and there were six birds present on 21st (RLo,SL,CM,PW et al). Two were seen at Saltfleet on 19th (GPC) and there were one or two at Saltfleetby from 20th to 24th (KA,GPC,PE,MM,DW). On 21st, two were caught at Theddlethorpe (BRG,RMJ), and one at Seacroft (DF). One was at North Somercoates Warren on 25th (DW). Gibraltar Point had at least four, all caught, from 20th to 27th (RLa et al). Inland, one was in a Pinchbeck garden from 28th to 31st (per RH).

Green Woodpecker Picus viridis

The only coastal record was at Gibraltar Point on 3rd September.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major

Birds were seen on the coast at Gibraltar Point on 20th July and at Donna Nook on 28th November.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos minor

Singles were seen at Raithby on 1st February and Burton gravel Pits on 5th February and 26th March.

Woodlark Lullula arborea

An over-wintering bird was at Donna Nook from 1st to 8th January (SL).

In autumn, there were singles at Donna Nook on 20th and 30th September and five on 23rd October, one remaining to 28th (RLo,SL). Singles were seen at Grainthorpe on 9th October (MM), and Marshchapel on 4th November (SL), with three at Gibraltar Point on 17th (PPRL,CFW,WP).

Skylark Alauda arvensis

In the early part of the year, there were up to 400 at Donna Nook in January and up to 300 at Tetney and Gibraltar Point in January and February.

First autumn movements began at Donna Nook on 25th September, when 120 flew north. In October, 120 flew south on 6th and 40 on 19th. Up to 400 were present for the rest of the year. There were up to 200 at Gibraltar Point in October, increasing to 500 on 26th November, then 200 for the rest of the year.

Shore Lark Eremophila alpestris

In January, there was one at Donna Nook on 1st, and up to five at Saltfleetby from 1st to 30th, where two flew north on 28th April.

In autumn, two were seen at Saltfleetby from 3rd to 11th November. Gibraltar Point had birds from 15th October to 15th December, with nine on 26th November. A regular flock of up to 15 was present at Donna Nook from 8th October to 4th December.

Sand Martin Riparia riparia

Early birds in March included one at Barrow Haven on 12th, two at Saltfleetby on 16th and singles at Covenham Reservoir on 25th and Burton gravel pits on 26th. Main spring passage was in May, with up to 50 at Gibraltar Point on several days, 100 at Raithby Lake on 2nd and 100 north at Donna Nook on 7th.

In autumn, there was an early southerly passage at Gibraltar Point from mid-July to early August, with 100 on 20th July. In August there were 1,100 at Trent Falls on 2nd and a few thousand roosting at Barrow Haven at the end of the month. The main coastal passage

was in September, with 1,500 south on 11th at Gibraltar Point and 300 on 14th. The last birds were at Donna Nook and North Somercoates on 6th November.

Swallow Hirundo rustica

The first was at Gibraltar Point on 9th April. There were 500 at Trent Falls on 30th April and the peak coastal passage was on 15th May, with 250 north at Donna Nook and 185 south at Gibraltar Point.

In autumn, there were up to 1,000 at Trent Falls, and passage began at Donna Nook in mid-July, reaching a peak in late August, with 2,000 south on 26th, 5,000 north on 29th and 1,000 north on 11th September.

Thousands were roosting at Barrow Haven in late August. At Gibraltar Point, there was a strong southerly passage from late August, with 800 on 30th, and in September, 3,000 on 3rd and 5th and 12,500 on 11th. There were up to 200 south to the end of October. Late birds were on South Humberside and at Fulstow on 11th and at Gibraltar Point on 13th November.

Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica

One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 29th October (RT).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

House Martin Delichon urbica

First of the spring were two at Burton gravel pits on 17th April. Main coastal passage was in late May, with 40 north at Donna Nook on 26th and 35 north on 27th. At Gibraltar Point, eight flew south on 26th and 15 on 27th.

Autumn passage began in late August, with 35 south at Donna Nook on 26th and 40 south on 1st September. At Gibraltar Point, the main southerly movements were in September, with 200 on 3rd, 100 on 14th and late passage in October reaching a maximum of 75 on 25th. There were still 20 at Saltfleet on 12th November and the last was seen at Gibraltar Point on 20th.

Richard's Pipit Anthus novaeseelandiae

One or two were at Grainthorpe from 22nd September to 16th October, involving at least three different birds (SL, KA, PE, MM, GPC et al). At Donna Nook, there was one on 4th October and up to four from 22nd October to 6th November (RLo, SL, CM, PH, AGP, HB, DW et al).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

At Donna Nook, up to three were seen on most days from 23rd April to 13th May, mainly moving north. Singles flew west at Trent Falls on 30th April and 1st May and one was seen at Barrow Haven on 6th May.

In autumn, one was at Donna Nook on 21st August. At Gibraltar Point, there were singles on 23rd August and 10th September, with four south on 12th and one on 15th. Others in September were at Saltfleetby on 8th, Grainthorpe on 24th and Barrow Haven on 30th.

Meadow Pipit Anthus pratensis

At Donna Nook, spring movements occurred from late February to April, with up to 20 north or south in March and April. Gibraltar Point had a peak of 50 on 22nd April.

Increases in autumn at Donna Nook began in late August, with regular movements to south or south-west to late October. Peaks were 200 on 14th and 29th September, with 150 on 30th and 100 on 1st October. At Gibraltar Point, there was a sharp increase from mid-September, with 500 south on 12th and 400 south on 14th. Up to 120 were recorded during the rest of September and there was a maximum in October of 175 on 22nd.

Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus

One was seen at Grainthorpe on 21st and 22nd September (SL).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Rock Pipit Anthus spinoletta

In the period January to April, there were up to 12 at Tetney and three at Donna Nook, while inland there were up to four at Covenham Reservoir and three at Trent Falls. A very late spring bird was at Gibraltar Point on 5th June.

Returning birds were at Gibraltar Point from 17th September, with up to five from late October. Donna Nook had a maximum of 12 on 8th October, and there were up to nine at Cleethorpes in December. In the Humber, there were 39 at East Halton Skitter on 29th October and there were one or two at Trent Falls from late October to December. At Covenham Reservoir, there were ten on 5th October with one or two for the rest of the year.

A bird showing characters of the Scandanavian race, A.s.littoralis, was seen at Covenham Reservoir on 10th March.

Birds showing characters of Water Pipits, A.s.spinoletta, were unusually frequent. At Grimsby Docks, there were singles on 9th January, 13th February and 17th and 29th October. Singles were at Killingholme on 20th March, Gibraltar Point on 10th April, Donna Nook on 7th December and Covenham Reservoir on 27th December. At East Halton Skitter, one was seen on 22nd October, with two on 29th.

Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

First of the spring was at Trent Falls on 15th April, with several at Gibraltar Point and Huttoft next day. There were good numbers on the coast in April, with 30 at Huttoft Pit on 23rd, 55 at Gibraltar Point on 27th and 20 north at Donna Nook on 30th. In May, there were 12 at Donna Nook on 4th, 15 at Covenham Reservoir on 5th, 17 at Scunthorpe on 7th and 18 at Gibraltar Point on 8th.

In autumn, numbers on the coast were small, with nine at Donna Nook on 28th August, eight at Gibraltar Point on 14th September and ten at the Witham Mouth on 17th. Last record was at Gibraltar Point on 25th October.

Birds showing characters of Blue-headed Wagtails, M.f.flava, were at Huttoft Pit on 23rd April, Barton-on-Humber on 26th April, two at Covenham Reservoir from 30th April to 24th May, Donna Nook from 21st to 26th May, Burton gravel pits on 22nd May and the Witham Mouth on 4th June.

More unusual were two birds showing characters of Grey-headed Wagtails, M.f.thunbergi, at Gibraltar Point on 23rd and 24th May and Goxhill on 27th.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea

In the period January to March, there were singles at Lincoln, Binbrook, Raithby, Louth and Grimsby.

At Gibraltar Point, one was seen on 8th May and there were summer records from 25th to 26th June, with three on 3rd July.

First of the autumn was at Covenham Reservoir on 16th August and there was one there on 31st December. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to four in September, with singles on 9th October and 27th November. Donna Nook had singles on 25th September and 2nd and 19th October. At New Waltham, there were up to four from 24th September to 31st December. There were up to three at Barrow Haven from late

September to December. Two were seen at Grimsby on 26th September, with one on 19th October. Singles were recorded at Grainthorpe, Cleethorpes, Barton-on-Humber and Trent Falls in late September, at Benington and Goxhill in October, Lincoln in October and November, New Holland in November, and Fulstow and Laceby in December.

Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba

In spring, there were 100 at Covenham Reservoir on 7th March. In autumn, small numbers flew south at Donna Nook from mid-September to mid-November and there were up to 15 at Gibraltar Point in July and August. At Trent Falls, 120 flew to roost on 17th October.

Birds showing characters of White Wagtails, M.a.alba, were widespread in April. Singles were at Anderby from 9th to 11th, Huttoft and Trent Falls on 16th, Barrow Haven from 18th to 20th, and Raithby, Grainthorpe and Donna Nook on 26th. There were two at the Witham Mouth on 16th, with one on 23rd.

Waxwing Bombycilla garrulus

One was seen at Pinchbeck on 29th and 30th November (RH, KH, JH, FB).

Dipper Cinclus cinclus

One was present at Saltfleetby on 28th April (CLO).

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes

Numbers on the coast increased in autumn with a maximum of 25 at Donna Nook on 8th October. Gibraltar Point had 20 on 7th October, with 30 on 22nd and up to 24 in the first half of November.

Dunnock Prunella modularis

Numbers at Donna Nook increased in autumn, with up to 80 from late September to mid-October. A maximum of 100 were present on 19th October and another 24 flew south. At Gibraltar Point, peaks were 120 on 8th September and 100 on 27th October.

Robin Erithacus rubecula

There were up to 14 at Gibraltar Point in early January, but coastal passage in spring was very light, with up to three at Donna Nook and up to four at Gibraltar Point in April and May.

Autumn passage was from September to November, with a maximum of eight at Donna Nook in mid-October. At Theddlethorpe, 23 were caught on 25th September. Gibraltar Point had up to 15 in September, a peak of 30 on 23rd October and up to 20 in November.

Thrush Nightingale Luscinia luscinia

In spring, one was caught at North Somercoates Warren on 22nd May (PW, CM, KA, PE, PH, AGP).

Another was caught at Theddlethorpe on 3rd September and again on 6th and 9th (BRG, RMJ).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos

On the coast, there were singles at Gibraltar Point from 1st to 15th May and 6th June, and North Somercoates on 8th May. On South Humberside,

there were singles at Barrow Haven on 28th April, Barton-on-Humber on 9th and 10th May and Goxhill in mid-May.

More usual records were two at Twigmoor on 9th May and four at Austacre Wood, in Bardney Forest, on 13th June.

In autumn, one was caught at Theddlethorpe on 21st August and one was seen at Grimsby Docks on 24th September.

Siberian Rubythroat Luscinia calliope

One was seen at Donna Nook on 14th October (RLo). Good views were obtained over a period of several hours.

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Bluethroat Luscinia svecica

In spring, males of the Red-spotted race, L.s.svecica, were seen in May, with two at Saltfleetby on 19th (PC, AS, KA, PE, MM), another on 22nd (DA) and one at Grainthorpe on 30th (SL).

In autumn, there were singles at Saltfleetby on 21st August (HB) and Gibraltar Point on 24th October (DRH).

Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros

In spring, there were one or two at Gibraltar Point from 21st March to 5th April, with one on 5th May. Other singles in March were Theddlethorpe from 21st to 28th and Anderby on 27th, with two at Donna Nook on 25th. Singles were seen occasionally at Grainthorpe from 25th March to 21st April. Others in April were at Barrow Haven on 14th and Saltfleetby on 18th.

In October, there were up to five at Gibraltar Point from 14th to 23rd, up to three at Donna Nook from 7th to 21st and Grainthorpe from 4th to 26th, with singles at Barrow Haven on 7th and 8th and Saltfleetby on 8th.

Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus

In April, there were singles at Grainthorpe on 18th, Saltfleetby on 23rd and Barrow Haven on 28th. Singles were seen fairly regularly at Donna Nook from 24th April to 24th May and there were one or two at Gibraltar Point from 24th April to 6th June.

In summer, a pair was seen with three fledged young at Well Vale on 3rd July.

In September, there were peaks of 12 at Donna Nook on 24th, 25 at Gibraltar Point on 25th and 15 at Saltfleetby on 26th. A late bird was seen at Louth on 10th November.

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra

First was at Barrow Haven on 27th April. There were up to three at Gibraltar Point from 30th April to mid-June and up to six at Donna Nook from 30th April to late May.

In autumn, coastal passage began in mid-August, with a peak on 20th when there were 25 at Saltfleet, 20 at Donna Nook and ten at Gibraltar Point. There were five at Trent Falls on 28th August, and 11 at Gibraltar Point on 14th September, where the last was seen on 23rd October.

Stonechat Saxicola torquata

In the period January to March, there were up to five at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point, with three at Tetney and Mablethorpe. One or two were recorded at Baston Fen, Gosberton Clough, Chapel Point,

Anderby, Huttoft, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Fulstow, Grimsby, Immingham, Barrow Haven, Barton-on-Humber and Trent Falls.

One was at North Coates on 16th April and late birds were at Huttoft on 15th May and Grainthorpe from 30th May to 1st June.

One was at Saltfleet on 23rd September and in the period October to December, there were up to six at Gibraltar Point, four at Huttoft, and three at Goxhill and Barton-on-Humber. One or two were seen at Trent Falls, Anderby, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Donna Nook, Grainthorpe, New Waltham, Covenham Reservoir, Fulstow, Hobhole, Holbeach, and Barrow Haven.

Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe

Early birds in mid-March were at Donna Nook on 13th, Alford on 14th, Gibraltar Point on 15th, in the Wash at the Witham Mouth on 19th and Saltfleetby and Barton-on-Humber on 20th. Spring passage lasted to mid-June, with peaks of 20 at Covenham Reservoir and 30 at Donna Nook on 30th April, 25 at Surfleet Seas End on 1st May, with 11 at Gibraltar Point on 8th.

In autumn, passage began in mid-July, with a peak on 20th August of 100 at Donna Nook and 15 at the Witham Mouth. There were 50 at Gibraltar Point on 21st. Last was at Frampton Marsh on 28th October.

Birds showing characters of Greenland Wheatears, O.o.leucorrhoa, were seen in May at Donna Nook on 8th and Gibraltar Point on 10th and 11th. One was seen at Saltfleetby on 11th September.

Ring Ouzel Turdus torquatus

In spring, there was an early bird at Lincoln on 11th March. At Donna Nook, there were up to three from 1st April to 10th May and one or two at Saltfleetby, Grainthorpe and Marshchapel during April. Also in April, there were singles at Winterton Mines on 4th, Gibraltar Point on 5th, North Coates and Theddlethorpe on 16th, Raithby on 17th, Scremby on 18th, Barrow Haven and Grimsby on 19th and North Somercoates on 23rd. One was at Goxhill on 7th May.

In the period mid-September to late October, there were up to seven at Donna Nook, six at Saltfleetby, four at Gibraltar Point, three at Grainthorpe and one or two at Anderby, Saltfleet and North Coates. Last was at Grainthorpe on 26th October.

Blackbird Turdus merula

Spring passage was not very well marked, with a maximum of 30 at Gibraltar Point on 6th March.

At Donna Nook, 40 on 24th September was the first sign of an autumn increase. There were peaks in October of 220 on 7th and 150 on 15th. Birds seen arriving off the sea included 60 on 26th October and 68 on 16th November. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 100 on 27th October and from 16th to 20th November.

Fieldfare Turdus pilaris

In the early part of the year, there were up to 1,200 at Gibraltar Point in the first half of January and 100 at Tetney in the same period. On 28th March, 600 were seen at Burton gravel pits. Late spring birds were five at Saltfleetby on 4th June.

There was an early return in August, with several at Donna Nook from 16th, Gibraltar Point from 18th and Grimsby on 21st. Numbers in autumn were smaller than usual, with up to 500 at Gibraltar Point in the second half of November and 320 at Donna Nook in late November and early December. Also in November, there were 400 at Goxhill on 17th, 500 west at Barrow Haven on 19th and 100 west at Trent Falls on 28th.

Song Thrush Turdus philomelos

On the coast, there were up to 15 at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point in early January. Spring passage was very light, with a maximum of 12 on 16th April at Donna Nook.

Autumn passage was more noticeable from late September to November. In October, there were 130 at Donna Nook on 8th and 120 on 9th, with 60 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 40 on 8th. There were 75 there on 20th November.

Redwing Turdus iliacus

In January, there were up to 50 at Tetney and 70 at Donna Nook. Gibraltar Point had 550 on 3rd, 150 south on 4th and 250 south on 17th. One was seen carrying food several times at North Somercoates Warren on 22nd May, but there was no further evidence of breeding. One or two were seen at Donna Nook from 11th to 13th June.

First of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 13th September. In October, 3,300 flew south-west at Donna Nook on 7th and 400 were present on 8th. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to 150 in early October, with 500 on 22nd and 27th and 350 on 20th November.

Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus

At Donna Nook, where none bred, birds were present from late June to late August and occasionally to October, with a maximum of nine on 6th August. Gibraltar Point had up to three from January to May, seven in June and July, and an increase in autumn to a maximum of 14 in August, then up to five from October to December.

Grasshopper Warbler Locustella naevia

First of the spring was at Gibraltar Point on 23rd April and there were singles there to 13th May. Birds were present at Donna Nook from 30th April to 17th May, with four on 2nd. Others on the coast in spring were at Saltfleetby on 28th April and Anderby on 5th May.

There were five at Killingholme on 22nd July and the last of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 6th September.

Savi's Warbler Locustella luscinioides

One was seen at Saltfleetby on 25th September (MM).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

First records were at Gibraltar Point and Burton gravel pits on 24th April. Gibraltar Point had 32 by 30th April, increasing to a peak of 75 on 15th May, with 50 during June.

Last of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 15th September.

Reed Warbler Acrocephalus scirpaceus

First was at Gibraltar Point on 24th April, with a few there in summer and a maximum in autumn of ten on 28th August. The last was at Barrow Haven on 18th October.

Icterine Warbler Hippolais icterina

One caught on Seacroft golf course on 28th May (RP, AGB) was only the second spring record in the County.

There was a good autumn influx on the coast in the second half of August, with about 20 birds located. Donna Nook had one on 16th, two on 20th, six on 21st, three on 22nd and one on 23rd and 28th (SL, RLo, CM, PW, KA, PH, AGP et al). Three of these were caught. At Gibraltar Point, there were singles on 20th and 21st, with four on 23rd (BW et al). Two were caught on Seacroft golf course on 20th and two were seen on 23rd (AGB). One was seen at Anderby on 20th (PNC, MEF), and singles at Saltfleetby from 20th to 23rd, with two on 28th (GPC, JRW, MLC, MM, PE, DW et al). One was caught at Saltfleet on 20th and a different bird seen on 21st (HB). Two were caught at Theddlethorpe on 21st (BRG, RMJ). One of these was caught again on 4th and 9th September, when it weighed over 24gm compared with 13.3gm when first caught.

Barred Warbler Sylvia nisoria

At Donna Nook, one was seen on 18th August with three on 19th and singles to 28th (SL, RLo, KA, HB). Also in August, one caught at Gibraltar Point on 21st was seen on 22nd and another was caught on 28th (RLa, SD et al). Singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 20th August and 26th September (AGP, KA, PE) and Grainthorpe on 3rd September (SL).

Lesser Whitethroat Sylvia curruca

First records were at Gibraltar Point and Saltfleetby on 30th April. Only small numbers were seen on the coast, with three at Donna Nook on 1st May and a late migrant at the Witham Mouth on 4th June.

Autumn passage began at Donna Nook on 31st July, with up to three from mid-August. There were three at Barton-on-Humber on 26th September and the last at Donna Nook on 28th.

Whitethroat Sylvia communis

First was at Gibraltar Point on 19th April and there were up to 40 there in May and June.

At Donna Nook, there was an autumn influx in mid-August, with a maximum of 40 on 20th. Last was at Gibraltar Point on 15th October.

Garden Warbler Sylvia borin

First was at Gibraltar Point on 30th April and only small numbers were seen on the coast in spring.

At Donna Nook, there was an influx in mid-August, with 40 on 20th and 30 on 21st. The last was seen there on 8th October.

Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla

In January, there were up to three at Gibraltar Point from 1st to 17th. One caught at Boston on 3rd was found dead there on 20th. A male was seen in Louth on 4th January and a female from 5th to 22nd February.

In spring, one was at Louth on 2nd April and there were up to five at Gibraltar Point in the same month.

In autumn, there was a peak on 25th September, with 13 at Gibraltar Point and ten at Donna Nook.

In December, one was seen at Gibraltar Point on 11th and singles were caught at Boston on 12th, 16th and 26th.

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides

In August, one was seen at Saltfleetby on 21st and 22nd (GPC, DAR, DW, KA, PE, RHH) and one caught on Seacroft golf course on 23rd was still

present on 24th (AGB,RLa,PK).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.
 Yellow-browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus

A good autumn in which four birds were found. One was caught on Seacroft golf course on 20th September (AGB,RLa). In October, singles were seen at Theddlethorpe on 2nd (JRW,PC), Grainthorpe on 9th (SL) and Gibraltar Point on 15th (MG).

Wood Warbler Phylloscopus sibilatrix

In spring, singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 28th April (CLO,RHH) and Tetney on 30th (CG). In May, one was singing at Burton gravel pits on 1st and 2nd (JRC,MW) and another was seen at Donna Nook on 3rd (SL).

In August, singles were caught at Boston on 14th and Seacroft on 15th (AGB). One was seen at Anderby on 20th (PNC) and also at Donna Nook on the same day, with two on 21st and two caught on 28th (SL,RLo, PW). At Gibraltar Point, one was caught and another seen on 23rd with another seen on 14th September (SD, JPS).

Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita

Early birds in March were at Burton gravel pits on 6th, Louth and Donna Nook on 13th, and Barton-on-Humber, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point on 19th. Up to four were present in spring to 4th June at Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook had singles to early May.

In autumn, there were one or two at Gibraltar Point in September, with occasional singles at Donna Nook from September to November.

One was recorded at Gibraltar Point on 31st December.

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus

First was at Gibraltar Point on 9th April. Main spring passage was on 30th April, when an influx was noted at Baston Fen and there were 25 at Donna Nook and 12 at Gibraltar Point.

In autumn, passage began in early August, with a peak on 20th of 100 at Donna Nook and 25 at Gibraltar Point. There were up to 27 at Gibraltar Point in early September and the last was recorded there on 8th October.

Goldcrest Regulus regulus

A few were on the coast in winter, with up to 12 at Gibraltar Point in January and early February.

Spring passage occurred during March and April, with peaks of 15 at Gibraltar Point on 20th March and 20 at Donna Nook on 26th.

In autumn, birds were on the coast at Gibraltar Point from 20th August. In October, Donna Nook had a maximum of 20 on 16th, but the only large numbers were at Gibraltar Point with 200 on 8th, 100 on 9th and 300 on 27th. A few were still present on the coast in December.

Firecrest Regulus ignicapillus

In spring, one was seen at Saltfleet on 29th March (DW), and in April, there were singles at Friskney Decoy on 2nd (AGP), Donna Nook on 3rd (SL) and one was caught at Gibraltar Point on 23rd (KP,MJN).

In autumn, one was seen at Saltfleet on 21st October (GPC), with singles at Donna Nook on 27th and also on 9th November (SL,RLo).

Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata

The first was at Gibraltar Point on 28th April. Small numbers

were recorded at Donna Nook in late May, with a few at Gibraltar Point in spring and summer.

There was a good breeding season in Weelsby Woods, where it was described as abundant.

In autumn, there were five at Barton-on-Humber on 30th August, five at Twigmoor on 8th September, one or two at Donna Nook from mid-August to October, and up to six at Gibraltar Point, with the last there on 24th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher Ficedula parva

There were three records of first year birds, all caught at Theddlethorpe, on 18th and 22nd September and 15th October (PC, JRW).

Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca

First of the spring were at Burton gravel pits on 24th April and Saltfleetby on 28th. In May, there were one or two at Gibraltar Point from 3rd to 16th, and singles at Anderby from 7th to 8th and Tetney Blow Wells on 22nd.

Autumn passage began on the coast on 13th August and there was one inland at Louth on 17th. Peak numbers were 25 at Donna Nook, 40 at Saltfleet and 50 at Gibraltar Point on 20th, with 30 at Saltfleetby on 21st. In September there was one on the Wash at the Witham Mouth on 17th and another peak at Gibraltar Point, with 34 on 24th. The last were at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby on 14th October.

Bearded Tit Panurus biarmicus

In spring, there were singles at Huttoft Pit on 27th March and Chapel Pit on 17th April.

Birds were present all year at several sites on South Humberside and about 20 pairs bred.

In autumn, erupting birds from Blacktoft Sands flew south from Trent Falls in parties of up to 20 from mid-September to early November. Gibraltar Point had up to eight on 8th and 9th October, with up to three from 23rd October to 8th November. There were four at Donna Nook on 25th October, with singles to 28th November. Four were seen at Huttoft Pit on 16th October and two on 6th November, with two at Chapel Pit on 31st October. Also in October, in a more unusual locality, there were two at Wrangle on 25th and one at Saltfleetby on 29th. In November, there was a pair at Burton gravel pits on 13th and two at South Ferriby on 28th.

Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus

At Gibraltar Point, there were up to six in January, with five on 3rd March and two on 25th April. Two were at Donna Nook on 13th March.

In autumn, Gibraltar Point had one on 30th July, with up to 17 irregularly from mid-August to December. Eight were at Donna Nook on 18th October.

Marsh Tit Parus palustris

One was seen at Saltfleetby on 15th September.

Willow Tit Parus montanus

In spring, there were singles at Donna Nook on 20th April and Gibraltar Point on 19th April and 8th May.

In autumn, there were one or two at Donna Nook from late July to December, with six on 6th October. Gibraltar Point had singles from August to mid-September.

Coal Tit Parus ater

In spring, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 26th and 28th March and 5th April.

In autumn, birds were recorded occasionally at Gibraltar Point from late August to December, with four in mid-September and five in late October. Also in October, there was one at Donna Nook on 8th with two on 20th, and one at Theddlethorpe on 23rd. At Barrow Haven, there was one on 15th September and up to seven from 11th to 26th October. One or two were occasionally seen at Goxhill from early October to mid-December.

Blue Tit Parus caeruleus

There were 33 at Gibraltar Point in early January and a spring maximum of 21 in early April.

In autumn, there were up to 24 at Gibraltar Point in September and an increase noted on the coast on 23rd, with 21 at Cleethorpes boating lake and 14 at Donna Nook, where a maximum of 22 were recorded on 7th October.

Great Tit Parus major

At Donna Nook, where none bred, there were one or two from January to early May and birds were present from mid-July to October, with a maximum of nine on 5th October. Gibraltar Point had a spring maximum of ten in April and in autumn, up to 11 from August to October.

Nuthatch Sitta europaea

There were no records outside the usual area in the south-west of the County.

Treecreeper Certhia familiaris

Singles were seen at Gibraltar Point on 13th and 23rd August and 20th November.

Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus

In May, males were seen at Butterwick on 7th (AGB) and Barton-on-Humber on 9th (GPC).

Red-backed Shrike Lanius collurio

An excellent year, in which the highlight was the first proof of breeding for over 30 years.

In spring, a female caught at Gibraltar Point on 25th May was seen again on 26th. Donna Nook had a female on 24th May and a male on 2nd June. Males were also present at Saltfleetby from 20th to 25th May and Tetney on 31st May and 1st June.

At a site on the edge of the Wolds, a pair were nest-building on 8th June and another male was present. Later in the summer, a second female was also seen. Four young had fledged on 16th July, with one dead in the nest. Next day, the four young were seen again, and another two were being fed some distance away, indicating a second successful pair. The birds were last seen on 21st July.

There were several other records in this period, suggesting that others may have summered. A male was at Gibraltar Point on 11th June and a female at Saltfleetby on 18th, with other females at Anderby on 18th and 19th and Donna Nook on 11th June and 19th July. One was present at Tetney Blow Wells on 20th July.

The autumn passage was also much heavier than usual, with about 40 different birds recorded. The first were at Gibraltar Point on 4th and 14th August, with up to four from 20th to 30th. Two of these were caught, and one caught on 8th September was seen again on 9th, with another present on 24th. Donna Nook had several from 15th August, with nine on 20th and 21st, decreasing to two on 3rd September, then singles on 10th, 11th and 24th. Three of these were caught. At Saltfleetby, there were three on 14th August and three or four different birds from 20th, with records to 15th September. At Grainthorpe, one was seen on 12th August, with four on 16th and one on 3rd September. In August, singles were at Huttoft Pit on 14th and 15th and 20th to 24th, and Anderby on 14th, 20th and 21st. Three different birds were at Tetney from 16th to 28th, and one was caught and two others seen at Saltfleet on 20th, with one caught on Seacroft golf course on the same day. Finally one was seen at Theddlethorpe on 25th and 26th September.

Great Grey Shrike Lanius excubitor

One was seen at Baston Fen on 16th January, and in March, there were singles at North Thoresby on 12th, Crowle Waste on 13th, Well Vale on 18th and Skellingthorpe Airfield on 26th. One was seen in Snipe Dales on 11th April.

In autumn, the only coastal records were in October, at Donna Nook on 7th and 10th and Gibraltar Point from 15th to 17th. Inland, one was seen at Burton gravel pits on 12th November.

Woodchat Shrike Lanius senator

An immature was present at Saltfleetby on 21st and 22nd August (GPC, DAR, PE et al). Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Jay Garrulus glandarius

Two at Goxhill on 8th November were the only records outside the normal range.

Magpie Pica pica

At Donna Nook, there were up to ten for most of the year, apart from 18 on 29th September. Gibraltar Point had up to 14 in January, then no more than 12 until November, when up to 20 were present. An exceptional total of 50 were roosting together at Saltfleetby on 26th October.

Jackdaw Corvus monedula

At Donna Nook, a few on passage in spring in March and early April included 11 south-east on 25th March and four south-east on 26th. In autumn, there were up to seven from mid-September to late October. Gibraltar Point had small numbers occasionally from January to April and July to October, with 15 on 20th November.

Rook Corvus frugilegus

At Donna Nook, there were up to 200 in January and February, with up to 60 in April and up to 68 in September and October. Gibraltar Point had only small numbers from January to early May and from September to December.

Carrion Crow Corvus corone

In spring, passage birds at Donna Nook from mid-March to April included 20 on 17th April. Southerly movements were noted at Gibraltar

Point in April with 14 on 21st, 10 on 23rd and 46 on 24th.

In autumn, there were up to 18 at Donna Nook from October to December and movements at Gibraltar Point in November included ten south on 12th, 75 south on 13th and 30 west on 20th.

In the period January to May, Hooded Crows, C.c.cornix, were more widespread than usual. There were up to ten at Tetney, four at Louth, three at Gibraltar Point, nine at Donna Nook, four at Grainthorpe, three at Coningsby, two at Ulceby, two at the Witham Mouth, six at Trent Falls, two at Terrington, two at Kirkby-on-Bain and singles at Covenham Reservoir, Dawsmere, Risby Warren, Twigmoor, Killingholme and Barrow Haven.

In June, there were singles at Grainthorpe on 5th and 9th. The autumn was notable for an almost complete absence of Hooded Crows and the only records were one or two at Gibraltar Point from October to December.

Starling Sturnus vulgaris

Passage birds in spring included 2,400 south at Donna Nook on 30th March and in June 2,500 flew north on 25th.

On the coast, peak autumn numbers were in October, with 5,500 south at Donna Nook on 15th and 5,000 present at Gibraltar Point on 23rd. At Goxhill, 10,000 flew west from 15th to 17th November.

House Sparrow Passer domesticus

At Gibraltar Point, there were up to 150 in January, then smaller numbers until autumn. Maximum numbers were in November, with 300 on 11th and 12th and up to 100 were present in December. At Donna Nook, 130 flew south on 19th October and there was a peak of 500 from 18th to 21st December.

Tree Sparrow Passer montanus

In January, there were 500 at Donna Nook on 2nd and 100 at Gibraltar Point on 30th.

In spring, 50 flew north at Donna Nook on 16th April and there were up to 80 at Gibraltar Point in May.

In autumn, there were up to 250 at Donna Nook from October to December, and southerly passage in late December included 65 on 30th and 40 on 31st. On this latter date, numbers at Gibraltar Point reached a maximum of 100.

Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs

In the early part of the year, there were some movements both north and south at Donna Nook from late February to early May, with a maximum of 45 on 27th February. At Gibraltar Point, there was a spring peak of 30 on 14th April.

In autumn, regular southerly passage at Donna Nook from 30th September reached a peak of 120 on 15th October. At Gibraltar Point, numbers increased from late September, with 100 from 16th October and a peak of 300 on 22nd, then up to 100 for the rest of the year, apart from 250 on 19th November.

Brambling Fringilla montifringilla

In the early part of the year, there were 20 at Boultham Park, Lincoln, on 5th February and 25 at Hubbard's Hills, Louth, on 13th March. Last of the spring was at Gibraltar Point on 3rd May.

In autumn birds were recorded at Gibraltar Point from 13th September and 25 flew south at Donna Nook on 7th October.

In winter, there were 50 at Burton gravel pits on 17th December.

Greenfinch Carduelis chloris

In January, there were up to 130 at Donna Nook, 300 at Tetney and 350 at Gibraltar Point.

Small numbers were recorded on spring passage at Donna Nook, with up to 15 north or south from mid-April to late May and up to 30 in April at Gibraltar Point.

In autumn, up to 140 occurred on southerly passage at Donna Nook from mid-September to mid-November. Up to 100 were at Gibraltar Point in October. In November, 100 flew south on 11th, with 150 present in the second half of the month, and up to 250 at the end of December.

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis

In January, there were up to 12 at Gibraltar Point and 27 at Tetney. Spring passage began in mid-April, with 120 south at Gibraltar Point on 27th and 60 south on 28th. Up to 100 were present in May and 50 flew south on 15th. At Donna Nook, passage was from mid-April to 30th June, with peaks in May of 65 north on 4th, 120 north on 7th, 165 north on 10th, and 55 south on 11th. Up to 21 flew west at Trent Falls daily from 9th to 12th May.

In autumn, passage began at Donna Nook in mid-August, with movements of up to 50 north or south on several days and a peak of 200 on 24th September. On 1st October, 75 flew north, and 60 flew south on 5th November. At Gibraltar Point, there were 200 on 4th September, with 100 for the rest of the month, and usually 200 for most of October and November, with 50 in December. Peaks were 400 on 16th October and 200 south on 11th November.

Siskin Carduelis spinus

Singles were seen at Cleethorpes on 1st January and Gibraltar Point on 30th April.

In autumn, there were a few at Donna Nook on several dates from 24th September to 27th November, with five on 25th September. At Gibraltar Point, there was one on 1st October and two on 25th December, with singles at Saltfleetby on 9th October and Fulstow on 10th November. Five flew west at Trent Falls on 9th November.

Wintering birds were at Boultham Park, Lincoln, from late November with up to 40 in December, and eight were seen at Hartsholme Park, Lincoln, on 25th December.

Linnet Carduelis cannabina

In January, there were up to 200 at Gibraltar Point. In spring, mainly northerly movements occurred at Donna Nook from April to mid-May, with 200 on several days and peaks of 340 on 21st April and 300 on 30th, and 450 on 9th May. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to 200 in the first half of April, with strong southerly movements in the second half of the month. Maximum numbers were 500 on 21st, 750 on 22nd and 650 on 24th. Up to 300 were present in early May. At Trent Falls, a total of 425 flew west from 7th April to 1st May.

In autumn, passage in September and October at Donna Nook reached a peak of 600 on 27th September. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to 150 from late August, with a peak of 350 on 20th November.

Twite Carduelis flavirostris

In the early part of the year, Wash counts between Gibraltar Point and Terrington totalled 850 on 9th January and 900 on 6th February. There were up to 235 at Gibraltar Point and 300 at Tetney in January, and 400 at Dawsmere in February.

In spring, up to 28 were at Trent Falls from 30th March to 16th

April , with the last at Gibraltar Point on 4th May.

In autumn, the first were at Gibraltar Point on 11th September, building up to 500 in mid-October with a peak of 1,000 on 19th November. Donna Nook had a maximum of 130 on 24th October. Friskney had 900 on 11th December. Also in the Wash, there were 400 at the Witham Mouth on 29th December and 150 at Benington on the same day.

Redpoll Carduelis flammea

In spring, coastal passage was from mid-April, with peaks in May of 125 on 15th at Gibraltar Point and up to 50 north at Donna Nook in the first half of the month.

In autumn, maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 300 on 8th September and 200 on 2nd October, with 40 at Saltfleetby on 18th September.

Birds showing characters of Mealy Redpolls, A.f.flammea, were seen at Tetney on 28th February, with several at Saltfleetby on 18th September and two at Donna Nook on 3rd December.

Crossbill Loxia curvirostra

In April, a pair was at North Somercoates on 10th and a female at Friskney Decoy on 16th, with a pair there on 21st May.

Three were seen at Donna Nook on 26th June and one on 7th July. In the same period, there were five at Grainthorpe on 29th June, with seven on 2nd July, then one at Gibraltar Point on 17th.

Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula

At Donna Nook, where none bred, there was one on 25th March and up to three from 8th October to 27th November. At Gibraltar Point, there were up to seven in early January, then up to three, apart from ten on 5th March, until July. Up to six were present from August to late October, then up to 12 to the end of the year.

Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes

On the coast, one flew north at Donna Nook on 6th May. At South Thoresby, an adult with three fledged young were seen on 16th August.

Lapland Bunting Calcarius lapponicus

There were no records in the early part of the year, but exceptional numbers were present in autumn.

The first was at Donna Nook on 16th September, with up to 30 in October and November and seven in December. At Saltfleetby, birds were present from October to December, with maximum numbers in the first half of November and a record total of 125 on 6th. Up to 25 were seen at Tetney from October to December. There were up to four from late September to December at Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Saltfleet. There were five at Grainthorpe on 16th October, with two at Gibraltar Point on 29th and three on 8th November. Two were seen at Huttoft on 6th November and three at the Witham Mouth on 27th December. In the Humber, there were up to 16 between Goxhill and East Halton Skitter from late October to December. At Trent Falls, there were singles on 14th, 16th and 27th November, with two on 29th.

Snow Bunting Plectrophenax nivalis

In January, there were singles inland at Covenham Reservoir on 1st and Trent Falls on 3rd. There were 30 at Saltfleetby on 6th, 50

at Tetney on 20th and 90 flew west at Barrow Haven on 31st. Also in the Humber, there were four at Goxhill on 4th. In the Wash, six were at Terrington on 9th January, with three on 6th February. At Donna Nook, there were up to 15 in late January and seven on 21st February. Seven were seen at Huttoft on 16th January. Gibraltar Point had large numbers in January, with 120 on 13th and up to 60 in February and early March, with the last on 13th.

In autumn, the first were seen at Saltfleet on 18th September. At Donna Nook, there were small numbers from late September, increasing to 100 by 29th October and reaching a maximum of 300 on 20th November, then up to 60 in December. Gibraltar Point had small numbers from late September, increasing to 80 in late November and 150 in mid-December. In the Humber, there were eight at Cleethorpes on 10th November, with one at Goxhill from 1st to 3rd. One was seen at Trent Falls on 19th December.

Yellowhammer Emberiza citrinella

In January, there were 20 at Donna Nook on 3rd and 15 flew south on 12th, and up to 15 were present at Gibraltar Point and 30 at Tetney.

Numbers built up at Gibraltar Point in late autumn, with 20 on 30th November and 15 in December. At Donna Nook, there were 50 on 17th and 20th December.

Cirl Bunting Emberiza cirlus

A female or immature was seen at Donna Nook on 28th October (RLo).

Ortolan Bunting Emberiza hortulana

An immature was seen at Donna Nook on 20th August (SL, CM).

Yellow-breasted Bunting Emberiza aureola

A male was present for most of the day at Gibraltar Point on 15th May (SEC, RLa, RBW et al).

Under consideration by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Reed Bunting Emberiza schoeniclus

At Gibraltar Point, there were up to 75 in January and a spring peak of 100 on 11th April.

In autumn, passage occurred at Donna Nook from late September to November, with peaks of 120 from 18th to 20th October and on 5th November. Gibraltar Point had 100 on 22nd October and 26th November.

At Trent Falls, large numbers flying to roost at Blacktoft Sands included 500 in January and from October to December.

Corn Bunting Miliaria calandra

In the early part of the year, there were up to 25 at Trent Falls, 28 at Gibraltar Point in January, 60 at Tetney in January and early February and 100 at Donna Nook on 3rd January.

Some passage occurred at Donna Nook in autumn, with up to 21 present from 23rd to 26th September and nine south on 19th October. Up to five were at Gibraltar Point in November and December.

