

# BIRDS of LINCOLNSHIRE and SOUTH HUMBERSIDE 1978



Miles Heyner

*compiled by Keith Atkin*







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## SYSTEMATIC BIRD LIST

compiled by Keith Atkin  
(County Bird Recorder)



Skuas mobbing a Tern by Miles Hopper

Editor

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## INTRODUCTION

The privately-produced 1977 report was well received and most observers have responded to the request for early submission of records. Those for 1979 should be sent as soon as possible after the end of the year, preferably not later than 31st January 1980 to ensure inclusion in the report for 1979.

A few of the 1978 rarities are still being assessed by British Birds Rarities Committee, but have been included in this list. Other scarce migrants have been assessed by myself, S. Lorand and R. Lambert. The following additions and corrections should be made to the 1977 report:

(\* indicates a new county record)

### 1977 rarities accepted by British Birds

- Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). Barton-on-Humber, 23rd June.  
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*). Skidbrooke, 29th May.  
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*). Saltfleetby, 17th April.  
Tattershall, 19th to 22nd May.  
Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*). Donna Nook, 12th June;  
2nd August.  
Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). Trent Falls, 11th June.  
Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). Saltfleetby, 21st August.  
White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). Trent Falls, 25th to  
26th August. Covenham Reservoir, 30th August to 11th September.  
\*Scops Owl (*Otus scops*). Saltfleetby, dead, 7th April.  
\*Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*). Gibraltar Point, 29th October.  
Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). Grainthorpe, up to three, 22nd  
September to 16th October. Donna Nook, 4th October; up to four, 22nd  
October to 6th November.  
\*Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*). Grainthorpe, 21st to 22nd September.  
\*Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*). North Somercoates, trapped, 22nd  
May. Theddlethorpe, trapped, 3rd to 10th September.  
\*Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*). Donna Nook, 14th October.  
Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*). Saltfleetby, 21st to 22nd  
August. Seacroft, trapped, 23rd to 24th August.  
Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*). Saltfleetby, 21st to 22nd August.  
\*Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*). Gibraltar Point, 15th May.

### 1977 rarities rejected by British Birds

- Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). Witham Mouth, 18th September.  
Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). Saltfleetby, 25th September.

### Additional 1977 records

- Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*). One ringed as a nestling on 6th July  
1973 at Orarna, Sweden, 65.43N, 22.14E, was found dead at Ulceby, near  
Alford, in September.  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). One ringed as a nestling on 15th July 1975 at  
Ljustorp, Sweden, 62.47N, 17.12E, was trapped at Belleau, near Alford,  
on 17th May.



\*Citrine Wagtail (*Actacilla citreola*). Gibraltar Point, 22nd May (PL).  
Accepted by British Birds.

\*Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*). Barrow Haven, 6th March (GRMP).

Additional 1976 rarities accepted by British Birds

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). Gibraltar Point, 1st June (PAH).

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). Birchwood, Lincoln, a juvenile 26th August, found dead on 27th (RA, TK).

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Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

A total of 21 flew north at Saltfleetby on 1st January and singles were seen there and at Donna Nook on 2nd; also in January one was at the Witham Mouth on 1st and 28th. There were oiled birds in the Humber in late February, with one at Barrow Haven on 23rd and another at East Halton on 25th. One at Covenham Reservoir from 24th was found dead early in March. Gibraltar Point had five on 4th and one on 24th March and the last of the spring was at Freiston Shore on 10th May.

In autumn there were singles at Donna Nook on 2nd July, 25th August, 7th October and 26th November, with three on 22nd December. One was seen at Saltfleetby on 21st August and 17th September and in October on 1st, with two on 22nd. Four were present at Theddlethorpe on 17th December. Singles were seen at Huttoft on 2nd July, 31st August and 21st September, and at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 26th November and 30th December. In September one was at Barrow Haven on 5th and one was seen inland on 24th near Langrick on the Witham.

Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*)

Three flew north at Saltfleetby on 1st January and one was found dead at Tetney on 12th March. In autumn there were singles at Saltfleetby on 30th September and 8th and 22nd October. Others were seen in November at Huttoft on 12th and Donna Nook on 28th, and at Theddlethorpe on 17th December.

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)

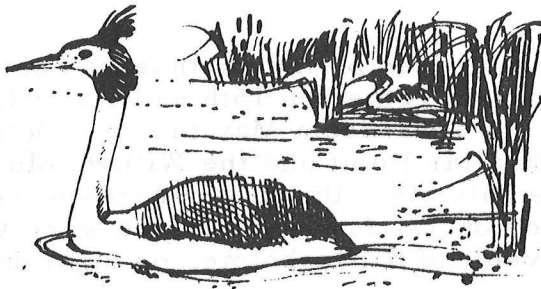
One flew up the Humber at Barrow Haven on 12th January and the only other record was one north at Donna Nook on 2nd September.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

The largest winter group was 15 at Barrow Haven in mid-February. Gibraltar Point had one occasionally in January and February; after an influx in March, up to ten were seen and several pairs remained to breed. Other passage birds included one or two at Donna Nook from March to May and three at Covenham Reservoir on 27th February.

Autumn concentrations included 11 at Burton Pits on 15th August and 16 at Immingham on 29th October. Passage birds were again present at Donna Nook, with up to four from late August to November, and up to five were occasionally seen at Covenham Reservoir from September to

December. Numbers at Gibraltar Point gradually increased to 22 at the end of October and early November, though only four remained in December. Up to nine were present at Skegness in December.



Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

In the Wash there were up to five at the Witham Mouth from January to April, with one or two at Benington and Dawsmere during this period. Covenham Reservoir had eight on 24th February.

Among the usual breeding records, of 13 pairs with territory in April on the South Humberside pits, six pairs reared 14 young, and three pairs nested at Burton Pits. Less regular sites with single pairs included Burton Stather and Chapel Pit.

Autumn concentrations included 14 at Toft Newton Reservoir on 31st July and 15 at Immingham on 19th August. Passage birds were seen at Trent Falls on 25th July, with up to six at Bardney in late July and early August. On the coast, Donna Nook had up to three from late August to early October. Up to five were present at Saltfleetby in the second half of September and one was seen at Trusthorpe on 11th. Singles were occasionally seen at Tetney and Huttoft in July and August and Gibraltar Point had one or two from August to October. In the Wash there were 15 at Benington on 2nd September and up to ten at the Witham Mouth from August to December.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

The only records were at Covenham Reservoir, with one present throughout January and February and another on 3rd and 4th December.

Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

Single birds were present at Covenham Reservoir on 15th April and 28th December and at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on 2nd May.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

In February one was seen at Covenham Reservoir on 5th and another at the Witham Mouth on 26th. In autumn there were two at Covenham Reservoir on 22nd August, with singles on 14th and 15th October and 18th November. One was seen at Huttoft Pit on 9th September and another was present at Wisbech sewage farm from 17th to 24th September.

Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

In the early part of the year there was one at the Witham Mouth on 3rd January and two on 12th March. In February one was seen at Donna Nook on 11th and two at Terrington on 26th. In April there were occasional singles at Gibraltar Point, and an exceptional passage on 30th at Huttoft when 272 flew south.

In May a few were found dead on the north-east coast, including two at North Coates on 11th, one at Tetney on 15th and six at Grainthorpe on 28th. Birds were frequent on the coast from May to early October at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth, though the maximum recorded was only six. Unusual records were two flying north-east over Weelsby Woods on 1st June and singles were seen well up the Humber, at Barrow Haven and Killingholme, on eight days between June and September.

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*)

In August two flew north at Huttoft and Saltfleetby on 26th, and two south at Donna Nook on 27th. Another flew north at Huttoft on 18th September. The main movement occurred on 1st October, all north, with two at Donna Nook, three at Saltfleet and 11 at Saltfleetby. (WPB, JRW, SL, CLO, CRM, MM)

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)

Unusual numbers occurred in early July, with 33 north at Donna Nook on 1st, then 18 north and 13 south on 2nd and 14 south on 3rd. At Huttoft eight flew north on 1st and 33 south on 2nd. During the rest of the autumn birds were seen fairly frequently all along the coast from late July to early October. Main movements at Donna Nook were ten south on 30th September and 11 north and one south on 1st October, with 20 north and one south on the latter date at Saltfleet. Twelve flew north at Gibraltar Point on 30th August and there were nine north and nine south at Saltfleetby on 17th September. In September a few birds were well up the Humber, with one west at Goxhill on 18th, and at Barrow Haven one east on 18th, three west on 19th and one west on 20th. One was seen at Trent Falls on 20th and 21st. In the Wash there were four at the Witham Mouth on 16th and 17th September and one on 30th.

Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

One flew north-east at the Witham Mouth on 1st October. (FB, SK)

Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

At Donna Nook, one flew south on 30th September and three north on 1st October. (SL, CRM)

Gannet (*Sula bassana*)

After four at Huttoft on 19th February, a few birds appeared on the coast in the spring, with the first at Gibraltar Point on 15th April and adults well up the Humber at East Halton on 27th and Barrow Haven on 28th. A small wreck of adults occurred in late April and early May, with several dead on the coast and exhausted birds found inland at Boston, Addlethorpe and Brackenborough.



Autumn passage began in July and lasted to the end of the year, with several large scale movements noted. The maximum at Gibraltar Point was 47 north on 1st September and at Saltfleetby 121 flew south on 17th, then 127 next day. On 30th large southerly movements included 140 at Donna Nook and 155 at Saltfleetby. Even larger numbers returned north on 1st October, with 80 at the Witham Mouth, 219 at Saltfleetby, 181 at Saltfleet and 216 at Donna Nook. Birds in the Humber included one or two occasionally from September to November at Barrow Haven, one at Trent Falls on 7th October and one at Killingholme on 29th December.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Birds were present most of the year especially in the Humber and Wash, though only small numbers in summer. In the first half of the year, peak numbers in January included 26 at the Witham Mouth on 1st, 11 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd, ten at Donna Nook on 14th and 15 at Frampton on 28th. In February there were 13 at Terrington on 26th and 19 between Cleethorpes and Donna Nook on 28th. In the Humber in March there were 25 at Barton on 12th and 35 at Barrow Haven on 24th. Inland there were two at Tattershall on 25th January, up to 11 at Covenham Reservoir and four at Trent Falls from January to June. Two white-headed birds, showing characters of the continental race *P.c.sinensis*, were seen at Grimsby Docks in mid-March and one was at Covenham Reservoir in April and early May.

In the second half of the year there were 22 between Killingholme and Cleethorpes on 16th September and 22 at Terrington on 17th. There were October peaks of 17 at Donna Nook on 1st and ten at Gibraltar Point on 21st. Numbers at the Witham Mouth rose to 45 on 9th December. Inland there were up to seven at Trent Falls, only one to three at Covenham Reservoir, one at Cadney Reservoir on 10th November and one at Bardney from 5th to 25th November.

Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

One was at Saltfleetby on 2nd January and there was an early autumn bird there on 9th July, then another on 26th August. A few appeared in September, with two at Chapel Point on 2nd, one at Covenham Reservoir on 16th and 17th and one at Cleethorpes on 28th. In December there were singles at North Coates on 13th and Donna Nook and Covenham Reservoir on 17th.

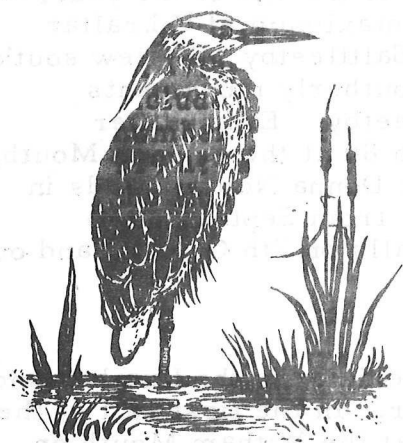
Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

At the South Humber Bank pits a pair was seen in April and May at one site and one bird was seen for most of the spring at another site, with booming heard at both places. One was present at Huttoft Pit on 9th December.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

A male stayed at East Halton Pit from 19th to 29th April, affording good views to many observers. Accepted by British Birds.

(KA, DB, GPC, PE et al)



### Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Nest counts resulted in a total of 299 in the county, distributed as follows:

Troy Wood 75, Deeping 69, Muckton 33, Doddington 26, Willoughby 21, Newball 16, Thornton Curtis 15, Dixon Wood (near Belton in the Isle of Axholme) 15, Laughton Forest 14, Howsham 8 and Evedon 7.

On the coast there were up to five at Donna Nook for most of the year, with 11 in late June and early July, Gibraltar Point had up to seven in autumn, and 15 were at Trent Falls on 27th October.

### Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

One was seen at Killingholme on 18th May, with two on 30th. In June one was at Sandilands Pit on 2nd and two were again at Killingholme on 3rd and 4th, with three from 8th to 12th and on 16th, then a splendid group of six from 19th to 26th. Also on 26th, three others at Grainthorpe eventually flew off north. Singles were seen at Killingholme on 14th July and Seacroft on 19th August. (GPC, BGE, SL, RPe et al)

### Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

On the coast, birds were present fairly regularly at Donna Nook, with up to four recorded throughout the year. Gibraltar Point had up to five occasionally throughout the year. In the Humber, birds were occasionally seen at Trent Falls from February to October, with ten on 25th October. There were 20 at South Ferriby on 10th July and 20 at Killingholme from October to December. A resident herd, present all year at Immingham, totalled 31 on 8th January, with up to 46 from late October to the end of December.

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

A herd of 18 at North Coates and Tetney from 1st to 18th January included one ringed at Slimbridge in the previous winter. Five remained to 9th February. In early January there were up to eight at Covenham Reservoir and three at Scunthorpe, then eight on the Trent at Gate Burton on 28th. There were up to eight at Gibraltar Point and Friskney in January and February. Also in February there were five at Burton Pits on 4th and eight flew east at Trent Falls on 11th, then 15 on 15th. Birds in March were six at Baston Fen on 4th and four at Barrow Haven on 17th. A very late bird stayed at Huttoft Pit from 16th April to 11th May.

First of the autumn were in late October, with eight west at the Witham Mouth on 27th, seven at Immingham on 29th and four at Barrow Haven and Goxhill from 31st to 8th November. Another influx occurred in December, with six south at Donna Nook on 1st, up to five at Huttoft and Anderby on 2nd and 3rd, four at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 5th, 14 at Bardney on 6th, seven at Wisbech sewage farm on 10th, two at Trent Falls from 9th to 16th, singles at Covenham on 17th and 26th and nine at Baston Fen on 30th.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

In the early part of the year five flew north at Saltfleetby on 14th January and one was seen at Baston Fen on 22nd. Four were present at North Hykeham on 1st March.

First of the autumn flew north west at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd October and 24 flew east at Grimsby on 28th. Also on 28th, one flew east at Trent Falls and there were seven there on 29th November, with two west on 7th December. One was present at Immingham from 29th October to 12th November. Gibraltar Point had one on 28th October, with 14 south on 2nd November and seven south-west on 5th. Four were seen at Barrow Haven on 29th November, and in December there were four at Harmston on 6th and three near Covenham on 17th.

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*)

Three were seen at Trent Falls on 30th December. (AG)

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

In the early part of the year largest numbers occurred in January. On 1st there were 800 at Holbeach, 265 north at Kirton Marsh and 77 at Covenham Reservoir. Seventy were seen at Barton-on-Humber on 2nd when there were 83 at Benington, and there were 340 at Trent Falls on 6th, with 300 at Terrington on 28th. Gibraltar Point had up to 45 in January and the last of the spring was at Huttoft on 10th May.

In September early arrivals were 13 south at Donna Nook on 17th and 80 at Trent Falls on 22nd, where there were 650 on 28th October. At Whitton up to 350 were recorded from October to December. In November there were 120 at Donna Nook on 11th, with 91 west on 12th and 47 south at Huttoft on 19th. Only small numbers were seen at Gibraltar Point, but at Holbeach numbers increased from 300 on 3rd December to 1,662 on 17th and there were 150 at Terrington on the same day.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

Fifteen flew south-east at Covenham Reservoir on 21st January and one was seen at Saltfleetby on 18th February. One at Burton Pits from 4th to 18th April was possibly an escaped bird. In December one was at Holbeach on 17th and three flew east at Barrow Haven on 30th.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

In the Humber there was one at Barrow Haven on 18th February, then nine at Goxhill on 24th, with three in March and April. Two flew east at Trent Falls on 13th October. On the coast there were nine at Tetney in mid-June and five at Grainthorpe on 29th May. Singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 5th February and 29th April and there were two at Huttoft on 1st April, with six on 10th May. Gibraltar Point had singles on 21st April and 17th June. Feral breeding birds included a pair at West Ashby Pit and 40 were present at Baston Common Pits on 13th July.



Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)

A bird at Messingham on 23rd August seems likely to have been an escape. The only other record was one flying west at Trent Falls on 3rd November. (JF,AG)

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Breeding pairs away from the main parkland colonies included one at Messingham, three at Burton Pits and four at Barton-on-Humber. There were up to 69 at Messingham from September to December and 114 at Burton Pits on 3rd September. Passage birds included two at Donna Nook on 1st May, with one on 14th and 14 at Huttoft Pit on 21st April, reducing to six by 10th May. Four flew east at Trent Falls on 5th June. Gibraltar Point had up to six occasionally from April to November.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

In the early part of the year there were singles at Cleethorpes on 23rd February, Grainthorpe on 30th March and North Coates on 8th April. One at Burton Pits from 4th April to 1st May was possibly an escape.

In autumn, two flew west at Trent Falls on 26th September. Thirteen over North Somercotes on 12th November were seen later at Donna Nook. Singles were at Anderby from 25th November to early December and at Baston Fen on 30th December.

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*)

On the north-east coast there were 100 at Tetney on 1st January and up to 190 at Donna Nook in January and February. Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border produced 4,400 on 28th January and 5,700 on 26th February. Largest concentrations in February were 2,400 at Friskney on 5th, and 1,000 at the Welland Mouth on 26th. There were still 400 at Benington on 29th May.

Early autumn birds at Gibraltar Point were two on 3rd August, with 180 at the end of the month and up to 150 during the rest of the year. Larger numbers than usual wintered on the north-east coast, with a maximum of 1,200 at Saltfleet on 16th December and at Donna Nook next day. In the Wash there were 1,700 at the Witham Mouth on 3rd December and, on 17th, 822 at Wainfleet, 630 at Holbeach and 536 at Terrington.

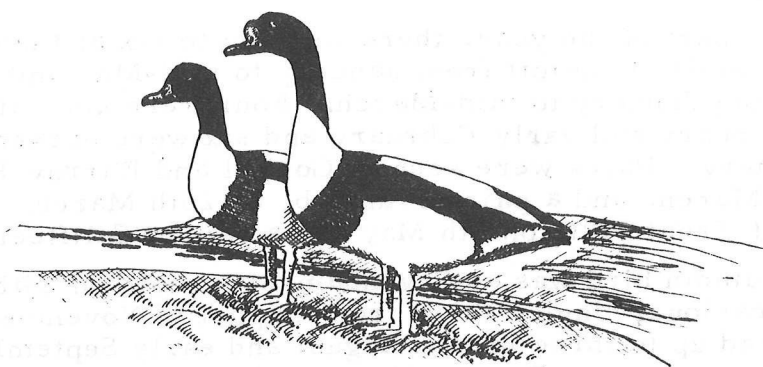
Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)

An adult was present at Covenham Reservoir on 1st October. The first county record. (BMC)

Accepted by British Birds.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)

One was at Wisbech sewage farm on 12th August and four were seen at Ingoldmells on 6th December.



Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border totalled 5,000 on 28th January, with 1,800 at Holbeach and 1,845 at Terrington. A similar count on 26th February produced a total of 4,200. On 17th December there were 3,260 at Holbeach and 2,800 at Terrington.

Inland there was a pair at Baston Fen on 14th May and 21 at Twigmoor on 29th. Birds were fairly frequent at Covenham Reservoir from 30th March to 7th July, with 16 present on 29th April. Pairs with young were seen at Messingham on 3rd July and Cadney on 30th. Birds were present all year at Trent Falls and a creche of 60 young were seen on 15th July. Strong westerly movements included 370 on 17th September, 123 on 1st October, 50 on 26th November and 62 on 6th December. At Grimsby Docks 447 were counted on 15th October.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

Males were seen at Gibraltar Point on 4th March, Wooton on 21st April and Trusthorpe on 12th November.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

In January there were 150 at Trent Falls on 13th and 150 at Baston Fen on 30th. Gibraltar Point had 85 on 1st April and late spring birds included a pair at Immingham on 26th May and singles at Covenham Reservoir and Donna Nook at the end of the month. Singles were at Immingham on 11th July and Gibraltar Point on 15th.

Returning autumn birds were at Trent Falls from 8th August and there were 160 at Gibraltar Point on 29th with up to 120 for the rest of the year. In December there were 450 at Holbeach on 3rd, when there were 170 at the Witham Mouth and 425 on Frampton Marsh. Holbeach had 420 on 17th and there were 320 at Terrington on the same day. An influx occurred on 30th with 600 at Donna Nook, 300 at Theddlethorpe and 100 at Baston Fen.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

In the early part of the year, there were up to six at Covenham Reservoir and eight at Huttoft from January to mid-May and up to six at Burton Pits from January to mid-March. Four were seen at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits in January and early February and six were present at Fulstow in early February. Pairs were seen at Goxhill and Barrow Haven in February and March, and a pair at Anderby on 25th March. Late birds included one at Trent Falls on 5th May and a pair at Saltfleetby on 21st.

An early autumn bird was at Covenham Reservoir on 24th July and there were occasional singles there from August to November. Killingholme had up to three in late August and early September and there were two or three at Barrow Haven and Goxhill from October to December. Singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 25th August and Immingham from 21st October to 24th November. Gibraltar Point had 12 on 23rd September, with four next day. There were up to five at Huttoft in mid-November and two at Burton Pits on 18th. Two were present at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on 26th November and 26th December.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

In January there were up to 130 at Trent Falls and 150 at Baston Fen, with 114 at Terrington on 28th. Gibraltar Point had a peak of 150 on 5th February and there were 60 at Raithby on 9th. Autumn passage began in August with 100 at the Witham Mouth on 19th and 77 at Messingham on 21st. Numbers at Trent Falls built up from 250 in August to a peak of 750 on 4th October, then up to 600 for the rest of the year. There were 435 at Winteringham on 16th September and 140 at Covenham Reservoir on 27th October. December peaks included 336 at Barrow Haven on 4th, 350 at Wisbech sewage farm on 10th, 130 at Terrington on 17th and up to 120 at Baston Fen in the second half of the month.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Up to 1,000 were present at Covenham Reservoir in January. Early autumn increases included 330 at Gibraltar Point on 26th August, with 300 there on 18th November. At Trent Falls a maximum of 1,400 on 19th August reduced to 1,200 in September and 800 in October, with up to 500 for the rest of the year. There was a peak of 680 at Covenham Reservoir on 27th October and 1,000 were present at Nocton Fen on 5th November.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

In the first half of the year there were 107 at Terrington on 28th January and 32 on 26th February, with numbers elsewhere never exceeding 15. Small numbers were recorded from January to April at Donna Nook, Trent Falls, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Covenham Reservoir, the Witham Mouth, Dawsmere and Holbeach. One or two were present in June and July at Killingholme.

From August to December largest numbers were 36 at Gibraltar Point on 23rd September, a westerly passage at Trent Falls of 66 on 17th September, 34 on 1st October, with 41 on 27th, and 20 at Goxhill on 14th September, with 19 at Barrow Haven on 20th. In December there were 42 at the Witham Mouth on 3rd and 194 at Terrington on 17th. Smaller numbers were recorded at Donna Nook, Killingholme, Saltfleetby, Humberston, Covenham Reservoir, Immingham, Whitton, Bardney, Huttoft, Chapel Pit, Chapel Point and Wisbech sewage farm.



Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

First of the spring was a male at East Halton on 26th April. In May there was a pair at Baston Fen on 14th and males at Huttoft Pit on 27th and 28th and Trent Falls on 31st. Gibraltar Point had a pair on 12th May and singles on 7th and 28th June. Also in June, a pair was present at Goxhill on 27th. Six were seen at Wisbech sewage farm on 28th July and there were 11 there on 30th August. Other records in August were two at Tetney Haven and one at Donna Nook on 4th, two at Covenham Reservoir on 20th and singles at Trent Falls on 22nd and Torksey on 31st.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)

One or two were present at Wisbech sewage farm from 11th September to 8th October. Under consideration by British Birds.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

(KA, PH, ACS, AGP, JAWM)

In January and February there were a few birds at Covenham Reservoir, Baston Fen, Kirton Marsh and Holbeach. On the coast, Donna Nook had one or two in spring and up to 11 occasionally from July to October. Gibraltar Point recorded up to five occasionally from May to December.

Early autumn concentrations included 22 at Goxhill on 8th July, 90 at Wisbech sewage farm on 25th August and 19 at Killingholme on 31st. There were 16 at Trent Falls on 3rd September, but large numbers also occurred in October, with 48 at Immingham on 15th and 35 at Bardney on 25th.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

A female was present at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd December.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

(KA, PH, ACS)

In the early part of the year peak numbers were 100 at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on 2nd January and 170 at South Ferriby on 9th. On 18th February there were 180 at Barrow Haven and 220 at Barton-on-Humber. Numbers at Immingham reached a maximum of 103 on 5th March.

Breeding pairs included five at the South Humber Bank Pits, four at Messingham and singles at Scunthorpe and Burton Pits. The only large numbers in autumn were 118 at Bardney on 5th November.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

At Covenham Reservoir a flock of 175 on 21st January rose to a peak of 300 on 21st February. There were 250 at Fulstow Pit on 4th February.

Among the widespread breeding pairs were ten at Burton Pits, six at Messingham and South Humber Bank Pits and others at Fulstow, Covenham Reservoir, Bardney, South Ferriby, Scunthorpe, Twigmoor and Laughton Forest. In autumn there were up to 150 at Bardney from late September to early November and a maximum of 250 at Covenham Reservoir on 23rd October.

Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

In March there were singles at Trent Falls on 4th, Killingholme on 8th, Barrow Haven from 9th to 17th and Grainthorpe Haven on 18th. One was seen at Barton-on-Humber on 3rd April and there were singles at Barrow Haven on 2nd May and from 15th to 26th June.

Birds were more widespread in autumn, with the first at the Witham Mouth on 5th August and another there on 9th December. Singles were seen at Saltfleetby from 20th to 24th September and at Barrow Haven on 18th October and 9th December. Donna Nook had two on 1st October and one on 16th and 17th December. Several birds were present at Covenham Reservoir throughout October and November, with 22 on 22nd November. Gibraltar Point had two on 4th November and 20 flew north on 31st December. One or two were present at Huttoft and Anderby in November and December and one was seen at Holbeach on 17th December. One was at Wisbech sewage farm on 30th August.

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

In January up to 50 were present at the Witham Mouth. On 1st, four flew north at Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook and five were seen at Saltfleetby. On 12th, one was at Barrow Haven. Two were seen at Donna Nook on 11th February and 15th May and there were singles at Grainthorpe Haven on 18th and 24th March and Cleethorpes on 24th April. Larger numbers were in the Wash, with 30 at Benington on 24th March, 48 at Freiston on 10th May and 30 there on 5th July. There were two at North Coates on 10th July and one at Tetney on 13th August. There were occasional records of up to eight from September to December at Humberston, Grainthorpe Haven, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Chapel Point, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth. Up to 37 were present at Grimsby Docks in the second half of December. Birds were well up the Humber in December, with one at Killingholme on 2nd and eight at Trent Falls on 7th.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Singles were seen at the Witham Mouth on 12th January and 2nd December, and at Benington on 3rd. One was present at Covenham Reservoir from 26th to 29th October and one or two were seen in Grainthorpe Haven from mid-November to the end of December. In the Humber there were singles at Goxhill on 27th November and another at Barrow Haven on 4th December.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Covenham Reservoir provided several records during the year, with five on 15th January, three in the second half of April, one on 29th July, four on 10th August and singles on 17th and on 13th September. Others inland were at Cadney Reservoir on 3rd July, 80 west at Trent Falls on 8th August and one at Wisbech sewage farm on 14th October. Birds were seen fairly regularly in the Humber, between Barton-on-Humber and Killingholme, in March and April and from July to early November. Westerly movements included 255 at Barrow Haven on 8th August and 50 at Goxhill on 1st October.

In autumn up to 200 were present at Huttoft from July to September, building up to a maximum of 400 on 18th November. Other large flocks included 100 at North Coates on 10th July, 200 at Gibraltar Point on 1st September, and in October, 161 north at Donna Nook on 1st and 150 at the Witham Mouth on 28th.

Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

Three were seen at Saltfleetby on 1st January, with one on 5th February and two on 27th October. One at Gibraltar Point on 21st July was the first of the autumn, closely followed by two at Huttoft on 27th, with one there on 31st August, two on 7th September, 11 on 29th October, 12 on 12th November and three on 19th. Singles were seen at Barrow Haven on 20th September, 4th November and 18th December. Five were at Chapel Point on 2nd September and one on 3rd December. Also in December there were three at Donna Nook on 9th, five at Terrington and two at Theddlethorpe on 17th, then three at Covenham Reservoir on 31st.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

In the early part of the year, birds were present from January to May, with peaks of 28 at Gibraltar Point on 3rd and 70 at the Witham Mouth on 15th January, 60 at Covenham Reservoir on 5th February and 40 Barton-on-Humber on 16th. Smaller numbers were recorded at Trent Falls, Winterton, South Ferriby, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Skidbrooke, Burton Pits, Benington and Holbeach.

Early autumn birds were two at Covenham Reservoir from 12th August and up to 36 were present from September to December. At Trent Falls there were westerly movements of 11 on 22nd October and 35 on 27th, with nine on 25th November. Fifteen flew north at Donna Nook on 26th November and there were 44 at Holbeach on 17th December. Others were recorded at South Ferriby, Messingham, Cadney Reservoir, Burton Stather, Huttoft, Anderby, Gibraltar Point, the Witham Mouth and Kirton Marsh.

Snew (*Mergus albellus*)

In the early part of the year, there were singles at Immingham from 6th January to 3rd March, at Barrow Haven on 18th January and from 16th to 19th February and at Covenham Reservoir from 30th January to 25th February. One was present at Anderby from 25th to 27th November. All were females or immatures.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

Small numbers were recorded in the period January to May at Barrow Haven, North Coates, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Gibraltar Point, Wainfleet, Benington, Deeping High Bank and Deeping Pits, with a maximum of ten at the Witham Mouth in January.

Birds returned early in autumn with the first two at Huttoft on 1st July and, in the period to the end of the year, small numbers were seen at Alkborough, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, North Coates, Tetney, Donna Nook, Grainthorpe, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Cleethorpes, Sutton-on-Sea and Terrington. Maximum numbers were 15 at Gibraltar Point on 30th August and ten at Humberston on 27th October. One was well inland at Lea Marsh on 10th December.



Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

In the early part of the year four were seen at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on 29th January, with two on 5th February and then there were two at Barton-on-Humber on 23rd. Singles were present at the Witham Mouth on 13th January, Killingholme on 31st March and Donna Nook on 8th April, with two at Trent Falls on 15th February and one on 17th April.

In autumn, there were five at Huttoft on 20th September, with one on 18th November. One was at Gibraltar Point on 10th October. Two were seen at Covenham Reservoir on 16th November and in December, there were singles at Cadney Reservoir from 4th to 7th, Chapel Pit on 6th, Barrow Haven on 8th, Lea Marsh on 10th, at Grimsby Docks from 20th to 23rd and six at Donna Nook on 30th. Trent Falls had one on 4th October with 15 west on 27th, then two on 30th December.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

One flew south at Gibraltar Point on 25th January. (RLa,AWP)

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

A wintering bird at Trent Falls was present until 4th January and there were one or two there between 25th April and 20th September. An influx in May produced singles at Tetney on 6th, Donna Nook on 7th and 13th, Barton-on-Humber on 8th, Barrow Haven on 9th and Benington on 13th. Gibraltar Point had one on 3rd, two on 11th and singles on 12th, 13th, 20th, 25th and also on 5th June. At Saltfleetby there were singles on 12th, 13th and 25th May and 3rd June.

In August singles were present at Barrow Haven on 11th and Baston Fen on 17th, with two at Gibraltar Point on 20th and one on 22nd. One was seen at Nocton Fen on 4th September and another at Holbeach on 17th.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Between January and mid-May there were up to five at Trent Falls, two at Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Benington and Holbeach, and singles at Tetney, North Coates, Marshchapel, Kirkby Moor, Chapel Pit, Baston Fen, the Witham Mouth, Frampton, Dawsmere and Gedney.

Early autumn birds were seen in August at Gibraltar Point on 5th and 6th, Bardney on 6th, the Witham Mouth on 19th and Kirton Marsh on 1st September. From October to December there were up to four at Trent Falls and Gibraltar Point, two at Saltfleetby and Frampton, and singles at Crowle Waste, Goxhill, North Coates, Marshchapel, Donna Nook, North Somercotes, Fulstow, Kirkby Moor, Burton Pits, Freiston, the Witham Mouth, Terrington and Wisbech sewage farm.

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

In May one was present at Trent Falls on 17th and 18th and one flew east at Barrow Haven on 18th. Another was seen at Saltfleetby on 2nd August. (AG,GPC,TPM,KA)

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

In the early part of the year there were singles at Trent Falls on 4th January and Burwell Wood on 22nd, with one or two at Kirkby Moor in January and February. Singles were seen at Hallington on 9th February and Dawsmere on 26th, and in March at Goxhill on 6th, with two at Marshchapel on 7th. One was at Leverton on 1st April and Saltfleetby on 9th. Singles in May were at Gibraltar Point on 7th, Seacroft and Barrow Haven on 8th and Twigmoor on 13th.

Early autumn birds were at Huttoft on 3rd August and Saltfleetby on 23rd, with others there in October on 2nd, 7th and 19th. Singles were seen at Donna Nook on 14th, 18th and 20th October, with one on 18th November, and at Gibraltar Point on 13th September, 21st and 28th October, 18th November and 30th December. Others occurred at Seacroft on 7th October and Killingholme on 16th, with two at Lincoln on 18th, singles at Burwell Wood on 26th November, Humberston on 16th December and Thornton Abbey on 23rd, with two at Kirkby Moor on 26th.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

The only records were one at Lincoln on 23rd August, one west at Trent Falls on 22nd October and another at Donna Nook on 3rd November.

Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*)

One flew south at Boston on 18th February. (RPe)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

In May one at Trent Falls on 7th flew off south-west. One fishing at Barrow Haven on 13th eventually flew north-east, and singles were seen at Spalding on 15th and fishing in Harlaxton Lake on 16th. One was seen near Caistor on 8th June and one west at Barton-on-Humber on 3rd July was seen later at South Ferriby. In autumn one flew south at Saltfleetby on 10th September. (AG, BPC, RH, KH, MC, RC, JH, MM)

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

On the coast there were up to six at Gibraltar Point and three at Donna Nook from January to May. An interesting breeding record was a pair on the central tower of Lincoln Cathedral.

Autumn passage was not very well marked, with a maximum of eight at Donna Nook on 8th August and seven south on 16th September, 11 at Saltfleetby on 9th August and up to five at Gibraltar Point from July to October.

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*)

A male was seen at Killingholme on 9th May. (TPM)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

In the period January to early May, there were singles at Trent Falls, North Coates, Donna Nook, North Somercotes, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Anderby, Benington, Frampton and Holbeach.

In autumn Trent Falls had one or two from September to December and occasional singles were seen at Donna Nook from October onwards. Others were at Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Gibraltar Point, Covenham Reservoir, Bardney, Crowle Waste, Hobhole, the Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh and Moulton Seas End.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

In May singles were seen at Wrangle on 4th and Gibraltar Point on 25th. One was present at Burton Pits on 27th June, another at Messingham Pit on 16th July, with two at Marston on 22nd. There were three records in August, near Covenham on 3rd, at Donna Nook on 8th and Saltfleetby on 21st. (RPe, SD, RAW, PH, ACS, JH, PJW, NG, RB, BMC, JRC, RL)

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

At Donna Nook, where about six pairs bred, there was a maximum of 47 on 15th January. Gibraltar Point recorded 35 on 4th February and up to 20 for the rest of the year.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

At Donna Nook, where four pairs bred, there was a maximum of 27 on 11th October. Gibraltar Point recorded up to ten throughout the year.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

At Donna Nook, where none bred, there were singles in the first half of the year and up to nine from October to December. Birds were present all year at Gibraltar Point, with peaks of 70 on 31st March and 60 on 28th October.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

In the early part of the year, wintering birds included one or two at Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook and four at Trent Falls from January to May. In hard weather two were feeding on a dead Mute Swan at Burton Pits on 12th February. One or two were present at Saltfleetby in summer and probably bred. Up to three were present at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point from August to December.

Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*)

Singles were present at Wisbech sewage farm on 15th August and 20th September. One was seen at Donna Nook on 11th November, and another was heard at Seacroft on 16th December. (JAWM, SL, RPe)

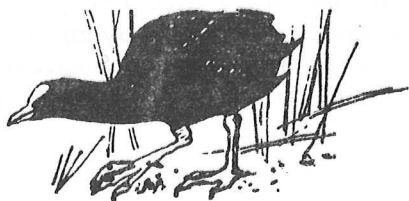
Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

One was heard near Kirkby Moor on 22nd and 23rd April. Single birds were flushed at Saltfleetby on 7th September and 15th October. (MC, KA, AS)

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

At Donna Nook, where three pairs bred, birds were present from March onwards, with up to 12 in July and August and one occasionally in November and December. Gibraltar Point recorded birds throughout the year, with up to 13 in late August and September. Numbers at Killingholme reached a maximum of 45 on 28th October.

Coot (*Fulica atra*)



A pair bred at Donna Nook for only the second time, and birds were present from mid-April to late August, and occasionally in October and December. Gibraltar Point had up to four in January and February, then up to 14 until September, with occasional singles in October and November. Up to 40

were present at Baston Fen from January to March. Peak counts included 260 at Covenham Reservoir in late October, 280 at Immingham in mid-November and 170 at Barrow Haven on 1st December.

Crane (*Grus grus*)

An immature wintered in the Messingham, Scotter and Susworth area from November well into 1979. (JH,MM et al)  
Under consideration by British Birds.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Peaks in January included 5,000 at Gibraltar Point on 11th, with 3,000 at Wrangle and 2,000 at Dawsmere on 28th. Counts on 26th February produced 2,000 at Friskney, 4,000 at Wrangle and 2,000 at Dawsmere.

Autumn increases began in August, with 10,000 at Gibraltar Point from 19th to 23rd and up to 7,000 in September. There were 5,000 at Friskney on 3rd December. Maximum numbers on the north-east coast were 3,100 between Cleethorpes and Grainthorpe on 16th September and 1,500 at Donna Nook on 17th. At Trent Falls there was one on 15th January and up to four from March to June. Regular westerly passage occurred in autumn, with a total of 194 between mid-July and mid-September. Inland records included three at Covenham Reservoir on 17th July, with two on 1st August and four at Bardney on 14th October.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

Two at Killingholme on 5th April were seen at Barrow Haven on 6th, then at Killingholme again from 7th to 10th, with one there from 4th to 6th May, and one at Gibraltar Point on 14th.

In autumn, one was present at Wisbech sewage farm on 20th August, another was seen at Donna Nook on 18th September and six flew north there on 31st October. (GPC,JAWM,SL,RLo et al)

Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus*)

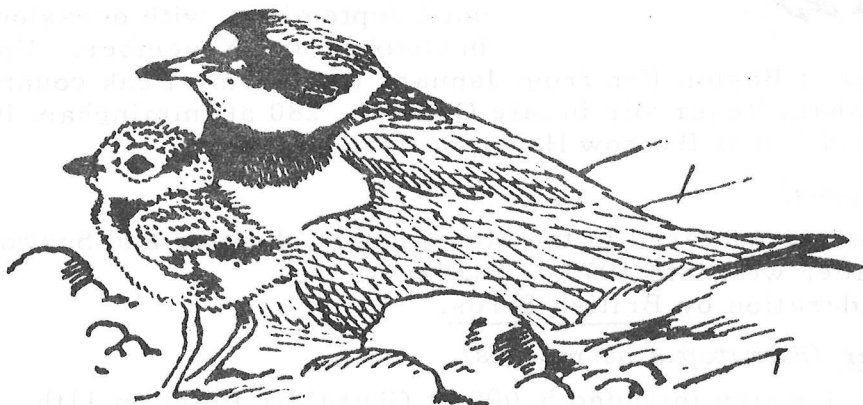
One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 25th November. (AC,MC,RT)

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

First record was at Scunthorpe on 31st March and birds were present in spring and summer at Crowle, Santon, Messingham, Winterton, Kirton Lindsey, Brigg, Bardney, Spalding, Whisby and Baston Common Pits.



Passage birds included one at Barrow Haven on 19th June, with two on 10th July and up to three at Killingholme from the end of May to mid-September. There were singles at Trent Falls on 6th July and 19th August, at Tetney from mid-July to mid-August and at Saltfleetby on 15th and 16th July. Donna Nook had up to three from 21st July to 8th September. At Gibraltar Point there was one on 18th May and up to three from early July until the last of the autumn on 1st October.



Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

In January there were 80 between Cleethorpes and Donna Nook on 15th and 40 were at Gedney on 26th February. Spring passage was well marked in May, with 17 on 9th and 35 on 17th at Trent Falls, 40 at Saltfleetby on 20th and 120 at Tetney on 23rd. Up to 30 at Donna Nook in the first half of May showed characters of the arctic race, *C. h. tundrae*.

Breeding records included 26 pairs at Gibraltar Point and a pair inland at Bardney. Autumn passage began in July, with peaks of 160 at Tetney on 6th July, 233 at Killingholme on 24th August, 170 at Cleethorpes on 15th October and up to 150 at Gibraltar Point in the second half of August. In the Wash there were 100 at the Witham Mouth on 19th August, and on 17th September 90 at Holbeach, 62 at Gedney and 73 at Terrington.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

In May a male was present at Bardney on 16th, and a female was seen at Gibraltar Point on 21st. (PH, ACS, SD, RLa et al)

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

In January there were 400 at the Witham Mouth on 1st and 320 at Benington on 2nd. Other large numbers included 800 at Goxhill on 6th March and 350 in Nocton Fen in April. Last of the spring was at Donna Nook on 10th June, though returning autumn birds were present from the end of the month. Maximum numbers were 370 at Donna Nook on 8th August, 1,000 at Grainthorpe on 23rd September and 560 at Wainfleet on 17th December.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

In the early part of the year there were 688 at Holbeach on 26th February and 1,500 at Gibraltar Point on 12th March. In May there were 250 at Benington and Grimsby Docks on 13th and 150 at Tetney on 23rd. In autumn a count between Cleethorpes and Donna Nook on 20th August produced 387. Peaks in September included 385 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 400 at Holbeach on 17th. In December there were 300 at Friskney on 3rd and 250 at Terrington on 17th.

Singles were recorded at Trent Falls in January, May and from August to November. Others inland were singles at Fulstow on 21st August and Covenham Reservoir occasionally from August to October, with five at Wisbech sewage farm on 24th September.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

A heavy movement occurred in late February, especially on 24th, with 1,000 south at Donna Nook, 2,000 west at Barrow Haven and 1,500 south at Trent Falls. Smaller numbers were seen on 25th, though there were 550 south at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point. There was little sign of spring emigration to the continent, though 90 flew east at Saltfleetby on 10th March.

There was an early increase in June, with 130 at Huttoft on 2nd and 212 at Donna Nook on 18th. Passage in August included 600 at Donna Nook on 8th, 372 west at Barrow Haven on 19th and 600 south at Gibraltar Point on 20th. At Goxhill 400 flew west on 22nd September and regular immigration from the south-east occurred at Donna Nook from October onwards, with peaks of 559 on 2nd October and 379 on 29th November.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border produced 14,000 on 28th January and 26th February. There were 3,000 at Cleethorpes on 6th and 5,500 at Donna Nook on 15th January, with 6,000 at Gibraltar Point on 8th March. Larger numbers occurred in autumn, with 25,000 at Friskney on 25th August, up to 12,000 at Gibraltar Point in early September and 8,000 during the rest of the year. There were 3,000 at Cleethorpes on 5th November and in December, 2,200 at Donna Nook on 16th, with 3,600 at Terrington and 10,000 at Holbeach on 17th.

Inland there were two at Covenham Reservoir on 20th August, with seven on 23rd and two on 6th September. At Trent Falls there were westerly movements of two on 6th September. At Trent Falls there were westerly movements of two on 26th May, 16 on 24th July, with three on 31st, 14 on 1st August and seven on 13th September. Up to seven were present at Wisbech sewage farm in late August and early September.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

In the early part of the year Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 75 on 24th March and Donna Nook 95 on 15th April and 80 on 13th May. However, these figures were eclipsed by an exceptional total of 1,200 roosting at Tetney on 23rd May.

An early autumn build up saw 400 at Gibraltar Point on 23rd July, with 300 on 18th August and up to 400 in September. Between 500 and 600 were at Cleethorpes from August to October and there were 350 at Tetney on 19th August. Peaks at Donna Nook were 166 on 5th August and 120 on 25th November.

Inland there were up to five at Covenham Reservoir in the first half of May and up to four in late August and early September. One was seen at Trent Falls on 9th May and there were singles at Messingham on 31st July and 7th December, at Cadney Reservoir on 31st July and 3rd August and at Wisbech sewage farm on 21st May and 25th August.

#### Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

Spring records were all in May, with singles at Killingholme on 5th, found dead at Tetney on 16th and present at Bardney on 18th. There was a strong autumn passage after the first at Tetney on 27th July, with birds fairly widespread, though concentrated at some localities, and scarce at others. Maximum numbers were in September, with 15 at Trent Falls on 10th, 16 at Killingholme on 8th and 14th, 40 at Covenham Reservoir on 9th, 40 at Saltfleetby on 16th, 46 at Terrington on 17th and 130 at Wisbech sewage farm on 11th. Smaller numbers were seen at Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Seacroft, Gibraltar Point, Cadney Reservoir, Messingham, Bardney and Spalding, with the last at Trent Falls on 5th November.

#### Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

In May, there were singles at Covenham Reservoir on 13th and from 26th to 27th, and at Donna Nook on 20th. In autumn, there were singles at Covenham Reservoir on 13th September and at Wisbech sewage farm from 17th October to 5th November. (KA, HB, PE, PH, MM, SL, WJM, JDWO, JAWM, KH)

#### Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

One was present at Goxhill on 12th and 13th September. (GPC)

#### Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

The only spring records were at Killingholme on 5th May and 19th June. There was a good autumn passage, with widespread records from late July. Maximum numbers were 25 at Trent Falls on 6th September, 13 at Killingholme in late July and up to 24 in September, 35 at Saltfleetby on 16th September, 16 at Covenham Reservoir on 29th September, 18 at Gibraltar Point in late August, 14 at Spalding in mid-September and 65 at Wisbech sewage farm in late August, increasing to 150 on 9th September. Smaller numbers were seen at Messingham, Barrow Haven, Bardney, Donna Nook, Grimsby, Humberston, Tetney, Seacroft, the Witham Mouth and Terrington. A late bird was present at Kirton Marsh on 3rd December.

#### Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

One was seen at Donna Nook on 5th March and another stayed at Killingholme from 2nd April to 20th May. Birds were more widespread than usual in autumn, with an early record at Gibraltar Point on 10th July, then one or two occasionally there in August, with singles on 28th and 29th October and 2nd November. Singles were seen at Killingholme on 31st August and 2nd November, Grimsby on 1st November and 23rd to

24th December, Humberston on 23rd October, Grainthorpe Haven on 16th November, Donna Nook on 26th August and 24th September, Saltfleetby on 29th October, Huttoft on 26th October and at the Witham Mouth on 20th and 30th August. The regular site at Trusthorpe held two or three from mid-November to the end of the year. Inland there were singles at Covenham Reservoir on 13th and 14th September and from 16th to 18th November, with one at Cadney Reservoir from 21st to 25th September.

#### Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Counts in the Wash from Gibraltar Point to the Norfolk border totalled 16,500 on 28th January and 15,000 on 26th February. Of these, 3,600 were at Holbeach on both dates. Donna Nook had 1,000 on 2nd January and there was a spring peak of 1,000 at Trent Falls on 9th May.

In autumn, Gibraltar Point had 2,000 in mid-August and early September, with 3,000 on 14th October. Other large numbers in the Wash included 2,000 at the Witham Mouth on 3rd December, 2,650 at Gedney on 17th September, 2,700 at Holbeach on the same day, with 3,350 there on 17th December, when there were 2,000 at Terrington. On the north-east coast there were 1,000 at Donna Nook on 18th October and 1,100 on 26th November. Tetney had 1,100 on 19th August and there were 3,500 at Grimsby Docks on 16th November, with 1,200 at Cleethorpes on 7th October and 2,600 there on 5th November.

#### Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

A wintering flock of up to 18 were present at Baston Fen from January to early March, and three were seen at Tetney on 2nd January and two at Goxhill on 10th March. There were two at Killingholme on 21st January and eight on 3rd March. A flock of 18 arrived on 1st April and were present for most of the month, increasing to 31 on 15th, with some display noted. In May, there were three at Messingham on 4th, 18 at Barrow Haven on 18th, one at Whitton on 21st and one at Covenham Reservoir from 28th to 30th.

Returning autumn birds were seen from mid-June and were present in some localities until the end of the year. Maximum numbers were 200 at Wisbech sewage farm in mid August, 52 at Trent Falls on 19th September, 86 at Killingholme on 12th September and 29 at Huttoft on 31st August. Smaller numbers were seen at Messingham, Cadney Reservoir, Whitton, Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Bardney, Seacroft, Spalding, the Witham Mouth, and Holbeach. In December, there were up to 11 at Grimsby, five at North Coates on 3rd, one at Messingham on 7th, three at Trent Falls on 6th and one on 30th, with one at Donna Nook on 16th.

#### Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

Wintering birds included one or two at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby in January and February and a few on the coast in April and May, with the last at Gibraltar Point on 7th May. First of the autumn was



at Killingholme on 16th September and there were one or two in November and December at Trent Falls, Goxhill, Huttoft and Hobhole. There were up to five at Saltfleetby in mid-October and nine at Wisbech sewage farm on 20th. Birds were regular from late September to December at Donna Nook, with up to three recorded, and one or two at Gibraltar Point in the same period.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

In January there were 15 at Saltfleetby on 1st and 15 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd, with 25 at Susworth on 30th. Maximum numbers in spring were 180 at Baston Fen on 12th March and 32 at Saltfleetby on 8th April, where several displaying birds were present in summer.

Maximum numbers in August were 60 at Trent Falls on 23rd, 44 at Donna Nook on 12th, 30 at Alkborough on 21st and 40 south at Gibraltar Point on 22nd. In September, there were 75 at Trent Falls on 12th, 60 at Goxhill on 19th and up to 600 at Wisbech sewage farm from 2nd to 9th. Fifty-five were seen at Bradley sewage farm on 18th November, but larger numbers occurred in December, with 150 at Baston Fen on 30th and 200 at Brigg on 31st.

Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*)

One seen at Saltfleetby on 8th October was present until 15th. It was caught and ringed on 13th, for the first time in Britain, and was subsequently seen by many observers. (PC, JRW et al)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

One or two wintering birds were seen in January and February at Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Burton Pits and Friskney Decoy, though there were ten at Kirkby Moor on 11th February and nine at Saltfleetby on 14th. Gibraltar Point had up to three from January to mid-April.

Immigrants were seen on the coast from October onwards, with one or two at Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Theddlethorpe and Huttoft. Maximum numbers at Saltfleetby were in November, with 11 on 30th and there were seven at Gibraltar Point on 26th, then an influx in late December of 12 on 30th and 16 on 31st.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

In spring there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 30th March and 1st and 22nd May and at Huttoft on 25th March and from 6th to 13th May. Three were seen at Kirton Marsh on 9th April, one at East Halton on 28th and two at Goxhill on the same day. In May one was seen at Barrow Haven on 3rd, six at Killingholme on 4th and one at Trent Falls on 7th.

First of the autumn was at Saltfleetby on 15th July, with two there on 17th September. Singles were at Trent Falls on 20th and 30th August, with two on 20th September. One or two were present at Tetney on 2nd and 3rd August and Donna Nook had singles on 10th August and 17th October. In September there were singles at Seacroft from 4th to 7th, at South Ferriby on 14th, at Messingham on 16th and Terrington on 17th. Four were seen at Skidbrooke on 25th and at Gibraltar Point seven flew south on 4th and singles were present on 6th and 8th.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

In the early part of the year there were 500 at Dawsmere on 28th January and 1,000 at Gibraltar Point on 8th March, with small numbers present there in summer. Larger numbers were recorded at Gibraltar Point in autumn, with 3,000 on 23rd and 25th August, 5,000 on 17th September and up to 1,000 occasionally in November and December.

At Trent Falls there were two on 15th May and one on 27th. A total of 104 flew west between 4th July and 3rd September, with peaks in July of 24 on 17th and 22 on 24th. Others inland were at Covenham Reservoir on 20th March and Bardney on 21st May.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

First of the spring was at Donna Nook on 24th March and there were up to nine there in April and May. Maximum numbers in spring were 15 at East Halton on 20th April and ten at the Witham Mouth on 29th. Northerly movements at Gibraltar Point in May included 22 on 9th, 27 on 11th, 16 on 13th and 13 on 14th. Smaller numbers were seen at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Grimsby, Saltfleetby, Anderby, Saltfleet, Tetney and Benington.

Autumn passage began in mid-June and maximum numbers included 22 south-west at Donna Nook on 13th August, 50 at the Witham Mouth on 5th, 25 at Tetney on 6th and 13 at Chapel Point on 21st. At Gibraltar Point peak southerly movements were 25 on 22nd August and 20 on 23rd, with 26 on 2nd September. Smaller numbers were recorded at Trent Falls, Barton-on-Humber, Killingholme, Barrow Haven, Grimsby, Grainthorpe, Cleethorpes, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Huttoft and Terrington, with the last at Gibraltar Point on 21st October.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

In January there were 600 at Grimsby Docks on 6th, with 220 at Holbeach and 300 at Dawsmere on 28th. A Wash count on 26th February produced 479 at Holbeach, 350 at Dawsmere, 200 at Gedney and 360 at Terrington.

In autumn, Gibraltar Point had 200 on 15th July, 181 on 31st August, 450 on 2nd September and 200 on 3rd November. At Trent Falls peak westerly movements occurred in July, with a maximum of 238 on 6th. There were 119 at Saltfleetby on 21st August and 1,100 at Grimsby Docks on 16th October. In the Wash there were 106 at Gedney and 148 at Terrington on 17th September, with 220 there on 17th December. Also in December there were 180 at Holbeach on 3rd.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

In spring there were up to four at Killingholme from 29th March to early May and three at Gibraltar Point on 26th April. One was seen at Trent Falls on 4th May and there were two at Donna Nook on 23rd April, with one on 7th May.

Early autumn birds were present at Gibraltar Point and Killingholme from mid-June and maximum numbers were 24 at Gibraltar Point on 3rd September and 90 at Terrington on 17th.

Smaller numbers were recorded at Trent Falls, Alkborough, Whitton, Barrow Haven, Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Huttoft, Chapel Point, Bardney, Spalding, the Witham Mouth and Wisbech sewage farm, with the last at Killingholme on 10th November.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

In the early part of the year there were 276 at Terrington on 28th January and 411 on 26th February, and on the latter date 276 at Wainfleet, 160 at Frampton and 334 at Holbeach. Gibraltar Point had 235 on 3rd January and 200 on 26th March, and there were 100 at Killingholme in late April, with 110 at Tetney on 23rd May and 110 on 6th June.

Maximum numbers in autumn were 270 at Tetney on 6th August, 400 at Cleethorpes in August and September and a peak of 600 on 15th October. There were 163 at Trent Falls on 30th October and 200 at Gibraltar Point on 23rd August, with 500 on 19th September and 300 on 2nd November. In the Wash, Terrington had 360 on 17th September and 400 on 17th December, with 355 at Gedney on 17th September and 210 at Holbeach on 3rd December.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

First of the spring was at Killingholme on 8th April, with up to four recorded there and at Trent Falls, Messingham, Barton-on-Humber, Goxhill, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Tetney, Gibraltar Point and Burton Pits, passage lasting until early June.

Returning autumn birds were seen from late June and maximum numbers were 18 at Tetney on 6th August, 19 at Wisbech sewage farm on 16th August, and 19 at Terrington on 17th September. Smaller numbers were seen at Trent Falls, Messingham, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Killingholme, Cleethorpes, Whitton, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Skidbrooke, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Cadney Reservoir, Bardney, Burton Pits, Seacroft, Gibraltar Point, the Witham Mouth, Gedney and Holbeach. The last was seen at Trent Falls on 27th October.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

One was seen at Humberston on 24th September. (SJM,WRM,WJM)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

A wintering bird was present at Trent Falls on 13th January and a few birds appeared in spring with singles in April at Barrow Haven on 22nd, Saltfleet on 23rd, and at Donna Nook from 25th to 30th, with four on 28th. One was seen at Tetney on 1st May, then one at Gibraltar Point on 6th with another on 6th June.

Returning autumn birds were present from mid-June with a maximum of 12 at Bardney on 8th August. Smaller numbers were recorded at Trent Falls, Winterton, Messingham, Scunthorpe, Kirton Lindsey, Cadney Reservoir, Covenham Reservoir, Goxhill, Killingholme, Barrow Haven, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, New Walthm, Raithby, Tetney, Chapel Pit, Spalding, Gibraltar Point and Wisbech sewage farm. Most had departed by early November, but one was seen at Nettleham on 31st December.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

The only spring records were at Goxhill on 29th May and Donna Nook on 31st. Singles were present at Killingholme on 19th June, 27th July and 13th August, and Bardney on 29th July, 3rd August and also 8th and 9th. Other records in August were at Huttoft on 3rd, with two on 26th, Wisbech sewage farm, with up to 12 in mid-month, Alkborough on 20th, Trent Falls on 24th and Seacroft on 28th. Two were present at Covenham Reservoir from 9th to 21st and there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 1st, 13th, 25th to 28th and on 11th September. Three were present at Saltfleetby on 13th August and one on 20th, with singles in September on 23rd and the last of the autumn on 30th.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

After the first at Barrow Haven on 20th April, birds were seen on spring passage to early June, with no more than ten recorded at Trent Falls, Scunthorpe, Winterton, Winteringham, Messingham, Barton-on-Humber, East Halton, Killingholme, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Bardney, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point and Benington.

Maximum numbers on autumn passage from mid-June were 17 at Barton-on-Humber on 15th August, 12 at Donna Nook on 31st July, 30 at Covenham Reservoir on 7th August, 35 at Bardney on 4th August, 27 at Tetney on 6th August and 37 at Wisbech sewage farm on 13th August. There were smaller numbers at many other localities and the last was seen at Gibraltar Point on 29th October.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

In the early part of the year there were 105 at the Witham Mouth on 1st January and 128 at Terrington on 26th February. Maximum numbers in autumn were in November, with 200 at Gibraltar Point on 4th and 206 at Cleethorpes on 5th. Inland birds were fairly frequent at Trent Falls, with up to four in early May and one or two from July to September. Covenham Reservoir had up to nine from late April to the end of May and up to three in August and September. Two were at Messingham on 31st July and one at Bardney on 6th August, and ten were present at Alkborough on 20th August.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

One was present at Wisbech sewage farm from 27th August to 1st September, and singles were seen on 1st October at Bardney and at Denton Reservoir. (JAWM, JRC, ACS, ADT, DAL, JO, RJ)

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

One flew north at Donna Nook on 28th November. (RLo)

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

An early autumn bird was at Saltfleetby on 9th July, and there were singles on 9th August and more frequently in September on 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 19th, with three on 23rd and one on 1st October. Also in September there were singles on 7th, 14th and 18th at Huttoft, then one at Chapel Point on 1st October. Donna Nook had two on 18th September and singles in October on 1st and 22nd. In the Humber one was seen at Barrow Haven on 23rd September and at Whitton on 1st October.

(HB, ACS, PH, RHH, CLO, MM, SL, GPC, DA)



Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

In winter two were seen at the Witham Mouth on 26th February and there was one spring record at Gibraltar Point on 23rd April. Autumn passage began on 1st July at Donna Nook, and the main movements there were 83 south on 30th September and 30 north on 1st October. Forty were seen at Saltfleetby on 27th August and 68 flew south on 17th September. Also in September, 80 flew south at Huttoft on 5th, 40 flew south at Trusthorpe on 11th and 30 were seen on 16th, when 30 flew south at Chapel Point. Northerly movements at Gibraltar Point included 50 on 30th August and 60 on 1st September.

Inland there were two at Covenham Reservoir on 6th October, two at Trent Falls on 25th September and one at Whitton on 1st October. Others in the Humber included singles at Killingholme and Goxhill and up to five at Barrow Haven in August and early September. Birds were seen fairly frequently in the Wash and there were 12 at the Witham Mouth on 1st October. Late birds were two at Donna Nook on 16th December.

Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Immature birds flew west at Killingholme on 18th September and south at Donna Nook on 1st October. (GPC,SL)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*)

Early autumn birds were three at Saltfleetby on 16th July and there were frequent records there to October. Maximum numbers occurred in September, with 59 south on 17th, 18 south on 18th, 14 on 30th and 22 on 1st October. Donna Nook had records from late July to November and main movements were 21 south on 30th September and 14 north on 1st October. Gibraltar Point had up to six from August to October. There were three at Saltfleet on 18th August and at Trusthorpe, one on 11th and three on 16th September. Three were at Huttoft on 20th September, with one on 26th and two on 27th November. Two were seen at Chapel Point on 2nd September, with three on 16th and also on 1st October. Singles were in the Humber at Goxhill on 22nd September and in the Wash at the Witham Mouth on 1st October. Last of the autumn was at Donna Nook on 28th November. With over 50 records at Donna Nook and more than 150 at Saltfleetby, 1978 was one of the best years ever for this species in the county.

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)

Second year birds were seen at Donna Nook on 11th June and 5th August and a first year bird on 31st December. An adult was present at Huttoft on 18th September, and first year birds were seen at Barrow Haven on 23rd September and Grimsby Docks on 23rd December. (SL,RLO,CLO,GPC,MM)

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

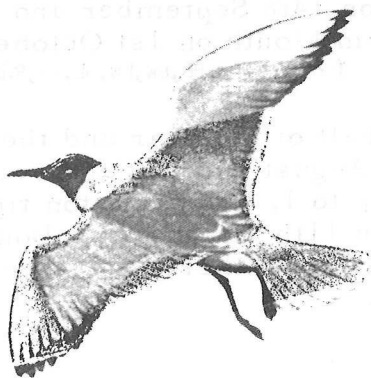
In spring there were singles at Killingholme on 26th April and 19th May, with one or two from 5th to 17th June. Frequent records at Barrow Haven in May involved at least five different birds and one flew east on 14th June. At Trent Falls four flew east on 9th May and one was seen at Barton-on-Humber on 25th. Singles were present at Huttoft Pit on 6th and 7th May, Wisbech sewage farm on 26th and Donna Nook on 29th May and 18th June. Covenham Reservoir had singles on 15th and 28th May and 2nd,

18th, 19th and 25th June. One was present at Gibraltar Point on 3rd, 4th and 23rd May and 3rd and 4th June, with two on 17th, and one was seen at Immingham on 12th June.

Covenham Reservoir had three different birds in the first week of July, then two were present on 28th, with one or two from 22nd to 26th August and one on 4th September. Gibraltar Point had one on 4th July, then a marked passage in late August, with 12 north on 20th, one on 22nd, six on 23rd and three south on 27th. At Saltfleetby one was seen on 29th and 30th July, three flew south on 28th August and two on 17th September, and one was seen on 1st October. Three were present at Alkborough on 20th August and one was at Trent Falls on 22nd. In September one was at Barrow Haven on 4th, with three west on 7th and one on 14th and there were two at Wisbech sewage farm on 13th. Donna Nook had two on 17th September and one on 23rd, and in December one was found dead on 8th and three flew south on 31st. One was seen at Grimsby Docks on 15th August and two on 24th December. On 1st October three were seen at the Witham Mouth and also at Chapel Point and two flew south at the latter place on 24th December. In all there were over 80 records of which about 25% were adults.

#### Sabine's Gull (*Larus sabini*)

An adult was seen at Gibraltar Point on 24th and 26th August. At Donna Nook an immature flew south on 17th September and an adult north on 1st October.



#### Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

In spring 2,000 were feeding on insects at Covenham Reservoir on 25th April. Largest numbers were recorded in the second half of the year and there were 15,000 at Grimsby Docks in late November, with 20,000 on 20th December. Donna Nook had an autumn peak of 2,000 on 19th September and 5,000 flew south on 31st December.

Gibraltar Point had 1,000 in early August and a peak of 3,000 on 29th September, and 1,000 were present at Barrow Haven on 21st December. (AHC, JPS, WH, SL)

#### Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

In January there were 1,000 at Trent Falls and up to 500 at Gibraltar Point. In autumn Gibraltar Point had 1,800 on 31st August and an influx of 3,000 on 30th and 31st December. This coincided with southerly movements at Donna Nook of 2,000 on 30th and 4,000 on 31st December.

#### Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Largest numbers occurred in autumn, and in July there were 187 at Killingholme on 6th and several hundred at Messingham on 26th. Gibraltar Point had up to 50 in September and October and there were still 100 at Killingholme on 4th November.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

In the early part of the year largest numbers were at Killingholme rubbish tip, with up to 5,000 in January and February. In autumn there were 1,100 at Terrington and 2,200 at Gedney on 17th September. A large-scale southerly movement was noted at Donna Nook in late December, with 2,000 on 30th and 4,000 on 31st.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

Immatures were seen at Barton-on-Humber on 6th April and at Grimsby Docks on 4th March and 28th and 29th April. An adult was present at Skegness on 2nd and 10th August and one flew north at Huttoft on 17th. An immature was seen at Anderby on 24th September and one flew south at Huttoft on 27th November. An unusual number of records. (GPC, MH, WFB, MF, EJM, RHH, CLO)

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Two immatures were present at Barton-on-Humber on 19th January and a different bird on 6th April. Singles were seen at Killingholme on 5th and 20th to 22nd January, with two on 23rd February, involving four different immatures. At Grimsby Docks there was an adult on 18th February and two immatures on 8th April. In December three different immatures were seen on 2nd, 8th and 24th. Singles were seen at Cleethorpes on 1st January and 2nd February and an immature at Tetney on 27th March.

Two different immatures flew south at Donna Nook on 30th and 31st December and singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 29th July and 17th December. Immatures were seen at Huttoft on 14th September and 3rd October and an adult was present at the Witham Mouth on 1st October.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

(GPC, MM, DAR, HB, BW, LW, SL, PH, RHH, CLO, FB)

Largest numbers occurred in the second half of the year and there was a maximum of 400 at Gibraltar Point on 24th August and 250 at Covenham Reservoir on 23rd September. There were up to 1,000 at Boston tip in autumn and 1,800 flew south at Cleethorpes on 11th November. Donna Nook had a maximum of 600 on 1st October apart from southerly movements in December of 1,000 on 30th and 2,000 on 31st.

Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Seven were seen at Goxhill and 50 at the Witham Mouth on 12th January, and one was at Trent Falls on 13th. Only small numbers were seen in spring, though there were unusual numbers at Trent Falls in May, with 18 on 17th, 75 on 18th, 27 on 30th and 16 on 31st. One was found dead at Covenham Reservoir on 21st. In June, 300 were resting on the beach at Saltfleetby on 1st and 42 flew west at Barrow Haven on 12th.

Peak numbers in early autumn included 150 at Saltfleetby on 30th July and 80 at Gibraltar Point on 4th August. At Donna Nook peaks were 122 north on 1st October, 364 south on 26th November and 50 south on 31st December. At Huttoft maximum southerly movements were 300 on 27th November and 40 on 28th December.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

One was seen at Trusthorpe on 3rd September. (JRW)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 15th April and Trent Falls had two on 16th, with singles on 15th May, 4th June and 31st July. There was one other inland record at Bardney on 17th May.

Donna Nook had a maximum of 180 on 16th July and 25th August and there were 200 at Huttoft on 14th September, with 250 south at Saltfleetby on 16th. There were up to 800 at Gibraltar Point in August and a maximum of 2,000 on 2nd September, with the last of the autumn there on 2nd November.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)

Two flew north at Donna Nook on 24th May and one was seen at Killingholme in early June. In autumn two flew north at Huttoft on 17th August. (SL, DAR, RHH, CLO)

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

First was seen at Trent Falls on 21st April. No large numbers were recorded and inland breeding included two pairs at Bardney, where the last of the autumn was seen on 11th October.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

First of the spring was at Trent Falls on 26th April, where north-easterly movements in early May totalled 154, with a peak of 70 on 7th. Also in this period there were up to ten at Killingholme and Barrow Haven and on 6th, 11 at Theddlethorpe, 18 at Huttoft Pit and 19 at Gibraltar Point. Only small numbers were recorded in autumn, with the last at Trent Falls and Saltfleetby on 8th October.

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 20th April. Breeding pairs were 80 at Tetney, 30 at Skidbrooke, six at Saltfleet, one at Saltfleetby, 12 at Gibraltar Point and three at the Witham Mouth, though few young were reared. One or two were in the Humber at Killingholme and Barrow Haven in June and July and there were 50 at Saltfleetby on 15th July, with the last at Humberston on 9th September.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

After the first at Huttoft on 28th April, spring passage lasted until mid-June. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of ten on 4th June and there were smaller numbers at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, East Halton, Messingham, Covenham Reservoir, Saltfleetby and Anderby.

Birds occurred in autumn from mid-July to October and there were 14 at Grimsby on 20th August. Peak numbers were in September, with 12 at Wisbech sewage farm on 6th, 31 west at Barrow Haven on 7th and 65 at Terrington on 17th. Smaller numbers were seen at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Tetney, Covenham Reservoir, Trusthorpe, Gibraltar Point, Benington, the Witham Mouth and Bardney, where the last was seen on 11th October.



Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)

Two were found dead at Donna Nook on 25th February and singles were seen on 29th July, 12th and 30th September and 22nd October. There were more records than usual at Saltfleetby, with five south on 18th June, 12 on 15th July, then one or two occasionally in late July and September. Two were found dead at Anderby on 26th February and two were seen at Chapel Point on 2nd September. Singles were recorded at Huttoft on 25th November, North Coates on 30th December, the Witham Mouth on 12th January and 19th July and Gibraltar Point on 2nd January, with one dead on 1st April and one present on 20th September. One was in the Humber at Goxhill on 22nd September and one inland at Covenham Reservoir on 30th December.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

Donna Nook had two on 2nd and four on 29th July, with two on 12th August. At Saltfleetby there were two on 9th and one on 16th July, with singles on 21st August, 2nd and 17th September and 22nd October. One was in the Humber at Killingholme on 29th September and one was found dead at Gibraltar Point on 31st December.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*)

One first seen at the Witham Mouth at the end of 1977 was present until 3rd January. (FB,MLC)

Little Auk (*Alle alle*)

In January four flew north at Donna Nook on 1st and one was found dead at Grainthorpe on 13th. Another was found dead at Grainthorpe on 26th February and one found stranded inland at Hagworthingham on 16th December died later. (SL,KW,SEC)

Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

The only records were at Saltfleetby, where a flock of ten flew south on 18th June and one north on 23rd July.

Stock Dove (*Columbia oenas*)

At Donna Nook, where four pairs bred, maximum numbers were up to 39 from January to May and 26 on 10th December. Trent Falls had a maximum of 20 on 11th December and there were small numbers at Gibraltar Point for most of the year apart from 30 on 31st December.

Woodpigeon (*Columbia palumbus*)

A flock of 3,000 at Hallington on 9th February were the only large numbers reported in the early part of the year. Maximum numbers at Donna Nook were 800 from 23rd to 25th June and at Gibraltar Point there were 700 on 3rd November.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

At Donna Nook there were one or two occasionally in May and June, July, and September to November. Gibraltar Point had one or two in January, up to five from April to September, then one or two in October and November.

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

First record was at Gibraltar Point on 22nd April, and in May 25 flew west at Barrow Haven on 12th and there were 40 at Saltfleetby on 29th. A spring peak occurred in early June, with 60 at Anderby on 2nd, 65 at Donna Nook and 150 at Theddlethorpe on 3rd, 100 at Gibraltar Point on 4th, then 24 west at Barrow Haven on 6th and 32 west at Trent Falls on 8th.

There were 22 at Covenham Reservoir on 22nd July and 80 at Cadney Reservoir on 15th August, but only small numbers on the coast in autumn, with the last at North Somercotes Warren on 3rd October.

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

There was an early bird at Sleaford on 8th April, and on the coast in spring, there were one or two at Donna Nook, five at Saltfleetby and four at Gibraltar Point. Gibraltar Point had up to six in early August and there were more than usual in autumn at Donna Nook, with a maximum of ten on 9th August. The last was seen at Messingham on 20th September.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

One was found dead at Welton-le-Marsh on 30th October and is the first county record of this North American species. (RPr)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

On the coast there were singles at Donna Nook on 19th April and 16th December, and at Gibraltar Point in late August and occasionally from September to November.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

The only coastal records were at Donna Nook where one or two were occasionally seen in January, April, June to August and October to December.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

The only coastal records were at Gibraltar Point where one or two were seen fairly regularly from January to March, in May and June and from August to December.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

Up to five were present at the Hobhole roost at the Witham Mouth in January. In spring there were migrants at Saltfleetby on 6th April, and in May at Gibraltar Point on 6th, North Somercotes on 8th and East Halton on 18th.

Migrants in autumn were seen at Saltfleetby on 1st September and 13th October. Singles were seen at Theddlethorpe on 22nd October, Humberston on 11th November, and in December one came in off the sea at Donna Nook on 3rd and one was present at North Coates on 6th. Up to seven were recorded at the Hobhole roost in November and December.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Birds were widespread in the first half of the year and there were five at Tetney on 15th January. An increase occurred in March, with four at Gibraltar Point on 8th, seven plus one dead at Tetney on 12th, four at Trent Falls on 17th and six at Baston Fen on 24th.

Birds were again widespread from October to December, though no unusual numbers were seen. Singles arrived off the sea at Saltfleetby on 26th October and Anderby on 25th November.

Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

The only birds reported were from usual breeding areas at Stapleford and Twigmoor.

Swift (*Apus apus*)

The first was seen at Barrow Haven on 28th April and there were 1,000 there on 23rd June, with 1,500 south at Donna Nook on the same day. Also at this time Gibraltar Point recorded southerly movements of 1,800 on 21st, 3,000 on 23rd and 2,000 on 24th. Large numbers in July included 2,000 at Covenham Reservoir on 1st, 5,000 north at Donna Nook on 15th and southerly movements at Gibraltar Point of 1,500 on 17th and 2,500 on 23rd, with 800 on 8th August. Very late birds were seen in November, at Burton Pits on 4th and Rippingale Fen on 9th.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Breeding pairs included two or three at the South Humberside Pits and singles at Cleethorpes and Burton Pits. On the coast there were two at Donna Nook from 7th to 15th October and one on 1st December. One was at Theddlethorpe on 14th September, and Gibraltar Point had one on 18th May and one or two fairly regularly from August to December.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

In May singles were seen at Anderby on 2nd and 3rd and at Tetney on 3rd. One was present at Donna Nook on 6th June. (GWP, BW, LW, RLo)

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

One was seen at Saltfleetby on 29th April and several birds were present most days in early May, with three on 2nd and four on 11th. Also in May there was one at Tetney on 6th and one or two at Gibraltar Point from 6th to 9th and on 14th. The only autumn records were at Gibraltar Point on 4th September and at Pinchbeck on 12th October.

(BMC, JRC, GPC, KA, H  
SPF, WOS, RLa, BTO, RPe)

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Away from breeding areas there were singles at Barton-on-Humber on 24th April and at Gibraltar Point on 12th August.



Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

Away from breeding areas one flew west at Barrow Haven on 19th August and one was seen at Saltfleetby on 18th October.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)

Birds were seen at Burton Pits from January to May and a pair attempted to breed, though they were foiled by Tree Sparrows taking over the nest hole. The only others reported were from Grimsthorpe Park in March and June.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

In the early part of the year there were 500 at Donna Nook on 2nd and 3rd January and up to 240 at Gibraltar Point in January and early February. Autumn movements in October included 100 west at Trent Falls on 8th and 100 west at Barrow Haven on 28th. Numbers at Gibraltar Point built up in November to 500 on 5th and 100 flew west on 26th, with 300 west on 18th December. At Trent Falls 450 flew south on 30th December.

Shore Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)

In the early part of the year the only records were three at Saltfleetby on 26th January. At Gibraltar Point there were singles in November on 4th and 16th, with 12 on 26th, then two on 9th December. Donna Nook had up to four from 9th to 12th November and three on 2nd and 19th December.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

An early bird was seen at Gibraltar Point on 13th March and only small numbers were recorded in spring. In August 1,000 were roosting at Barrow Haven on 19th, 2,500 were seen at Trent Falls on 20th and 1,200 at Whitton on 29th. Southerly movements on the coast included 80 at Gibraltar Point on 3rd August, with 100 on 14th September and 50 at Donna Nook on 16th. The last were seen at Gibraltar Point on 7th November.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 18th April, where southerly movements in spring included 100 on 12th and 17th May and 250 on 2nd June. In May there were 100 at Saltfleetby on 4th and 100 west at Barrow Haven on 11th, with 130 west on 12th.

Early autumn increases included 500 at the Witham Mouth on 19th July and 285 west at Barrow Haven on 19th August. Peak numbers occurred in September and regular southerly movements at Gibraltar Point reached a maximum of 1,000 on 14th, with 750 on 15th and 16th. At Donna Nook 8,000 flew south on 16th and there were 1,500 west at Goxhill on 22nd, with 740 roosting at Barrow Haven on 23rd. Late birds were fairly widespread in November, with the last at Gibraltar Point on 26th.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 20th April, where there were 50 on 13th May and 100 south on 5th June. In May there were 60 at Burton Pits on 10th, 50 at Barrow Haven on 11th and 30 at Covenham Reservoir on 15th.



There were 100 at the Witham Mouth on 19th July and regular southerly movements at Gibraltar Point in September included 100 on 14th, 400 on 17th and 500 on 30th. Also in September there were 70 at Covenham Reservoir on 5th and westerly movements at Barrow Haven of 130 on 7th, 113 on 16th and 136 on 26th, with 69 on 9th October. The last was seen at Gibraltar Point on 26th November.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

In October one was seen at Saltfleetby on 1st and two at Donna Nook on 10th. (MM,SL,CRM,KA)

Accepted by British Birds.



Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)

First was seen at Barton-on-Humber on 17th April and other passage birds in April included singles at Barrow Haven on 19th, 28th and 29th and at East Halton on 25th. One or two were recorded at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point in late April and May. Trent Falls had one on 28th April and two on 15th May, and also in May there were two at Saltfleetby on 7th and one on 14th.

There were up to nine at Gibraltar Point in late August and early September and occasional singles from August to October at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby, with the last there on 16th October.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

Maximum coastal numbers in spring were 40 at Gibraltar Point on 29th March and 100 at Donna Nook on 28th April. Maximum numbers in autumn occurred in September, with 68 west at Barrow Haven on 16th, and on 21st 100 were present at Killingholme and 150 at Covenham Reservoir. Donna Nook had peaks of 170 on 16th September and 8th October. At Gibraltar Point 100 flew south on 16th September and numbers reached a maximum of 200 on 18th.

Rock Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

In the early part of the year there were up to three at Donna Nook from January to April and one or two at Gibraltar Point, where the last of the spring was seen on 23rd April. Inland there were up to six at Covenham Reservoir from January to March and one or two at Trent Falls in January and February.

First of the autumn was at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd October and there were ten on 28th, with birds present to mid-November. Trent Falls had up to three from October to December. Peak numbers in October included ten between East Halton and Goxhill, five at Killingholme and Barrow Haven, and 13 at Donna Nook on 18th.

Birds showing characters of the Scandinavian race *A.s.littoralis* were seen in spring, with three at Covenham Reservoir in early March and three at Donna Nook in April. Birds showing characters of Water Pipits, *A.s.spinoletta*, were seen at Grimsby Docks on 11th February and 3rd and 19th March, and at Barrow Haven from 2nd November to the end of December. (WPB,GPC)

### Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

An early bird was seen at Benington on 27th March and there were 11 at East Halton on 25th April. Peak numbers in autumn included 11 west at Barrow Haven on 19th August and ten at the Witham Mouth on 20th. In September there were 50 at Covenham Reservoir on 4th, ten at Gibraltar Point on 5th and 14 at Tetney on 16th. The last was seen at Donna Nook on 22nd October.

Birds showing characters of Blue-headed Wagtails, *M.f. flava*, were more numerous than usual. At Donna Nook a pair reared three young and one or two others were seen in spring. In early June a male paired with a female Yellow were feeding young at Goxhill and a pair was present at Grainthorpe. At Covenham Reservoir there were up to three from 22nd April to early June and one in early September. Gibraltar Point had singles on 28th April and from 29th May to 6th June and others were at North Coates on 31st May, Marshchapel on 5th June and Bardney on 6th August.

Males showing characters of Grey-headed Wagtails, *M.f. thunbergi*, were present in May at Covenham Reservoir on 18th and 19th, at Donna Nook from 20th to 22nd and at Gibraltar Point on 23rd. (HB, BMC, RLo, SL, CRM, GJ, TWJ)

### Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Wintering birds were present at Fulstow in January and at New Waltham from January to early May. Others were seen at Barrow Haven on 21st January and 1st April and Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on 29th January. In February there were singles at Hallington on 9th and at Lincoln from 6th to 17th. Two were at Covenham Reservoir on 19th April and one at Gibraltar Point on 10th May. Two or three were present in Louth from mid-March, including a pair with territory up to 16th May. One was seen at Tetney on 25th June.

Gibraltar Point had singles on 24th, 27th and 29th August, with seven south on 2nd and two on 5th September. Singles were seen at Trent Falls on 4th, 17th and 29th September and on 10th October. There were up to three at New Waltham from 24th September to the end of December. One was at Barrow Haven from 3rd to 5th September, with two on 13th and one on 7th October, and one was present at Covenham Reservoir on 6th September. Singles were seen in October at Theddlethorpe on 2nd and Louth on 3rd, and at Lincoln on 10th November and 6th December, with one at Burton Pits on 23rd December.

### Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

At Grimsby there was a roost of up to 100 in January. Gibraltar Point had seven on 17th April, and peak numbers in autumn were eight south on 30th August, then 12 on 2nd November.

Birds showing characters of White Wagtails, *M.a. alba*, were seen at Goxhill on 24th February and from 17th to 28th April. Three were present at Covenham Reservoir on 28th April, with one or two on 14th and 15th May and one on 20th September. There were singles at Gibraltar Point on 20th April and from 1st to 11th May. Others in May were at Barrow Haven on 1st and 2nd, Saltfleetby on 11th and Donna Nook on 20th, with one there on 22nd October. Singles were seen at Tetney on 1st July and 16th August.

Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

The only record was at Freiston on 3rd December. (AH)

Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

Singles were seen at Marshchapel on 9th February and at Spalding on 18th October. (MH, RH, KH)

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

At Gibraltar Point there were up to 30 in early January, with a spring peak of 25 on 1st May and up to 30 in late August. The maximum in autumn at Donna Nook was 20 on 15th October.

Dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*)

At Gibraltar Point there were up to 150 in early January and 100 in early February. Maximum numbers in autumn were 80 in late August and early September. There were up to 100 at Donna Nook in October, with some eruptive movements to the south, and 40 flew west at Barrow Haven on 11th October.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

At Donna Nook, where none bred, a few occurred on spring passage from 25th March to 11th May, with eight on 4th April. Small numbers on the coast in autumn peaked on 2nd October, with 11 at Donna Nook and 30 at Gibraltar Point. Fifty arrived at Burton Stather during the night of 4th/5th November.

Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

The only coastal record was at Donna Nook on 1st May. Singing males in May and June included five at Austacre Wood, three at Twigmoor, and others at Killingholme, Broughton, Louth, Skellingthorpe and Stapleford.

Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

One was seen at Donna Nook on 10th October. (SL)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

One was seen at Terrington on 26th February. In spring an influx occurred on the coast in early April. There were singles at Humberston on 1st, North Coates on 2nd, Huttoft on 3rd, Grainthorpe on 6th and Cleethorpes on 7th and 24th. There were up to five at Saltfleet from 2nd to 9th, three at Donna Nook on 4th and three at Saltfleetby on 8th. Gibraltar Point had two or three different birds in April and early May and a singing male was at Boston on 3rd May.

In October there were up to three at Donna Nook from 11th to 14th and two at Saltfleetby on 15th. One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 1st November and another was present at Brigg from mid-November to the end of December.

An adult male at Saltfleetby from 15th to 17th October showed characters of the eastern races with orange underparts, apparently intermediate between *P.o. ochruros* and *P.o. phoenicuroides*. (GPC, MM, KA, SL et al.)  
Under consideration by British Birds.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 28th April and there were up to five there to 20th May, with up to four at Donna Nook from 29th April to 23rd May. Other migrants in May were at Grainthorpe on 3rd, North Coates and Huttoft on 6th, Saltfleetby on 9th and Bardney on 31st. A pair was present at Grimsthorpe Park in late May and another pair bred near Scunthorpe.

Coastal passage occurred from late August, though the peak was later than usual on 2nd October, with 24 at Donna Nook and eight at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point, where the last was seen on 17th October.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 23rd April and there were up to four there to mid-May. Donna Nook had six on 6th May and several until early June. Other migrants in May were seen at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Cleethorpes, Tetney, Grainthorpe, Saltfleetby, Anderby and Covenham Reservoir.

An early autumn migrant was at Gibraltar Point on 9th July, though birds were scarcer than usual on the coast, with peaks of eight at Tetney on 27th August and ten at Donna Nook on 7th September, where the last was seen on 12th October.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

In the early part of the year one or two were recorded between January and April at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Grimsby Docks, Marshchapel, Donna Nook, Fulstow, Anderby, Huttoft, Chapel Point, Gibraltar Point, Lincoln, Gosberton, Holbeach and Terrington. Birds were more numerous in autumn, with up to four from September to December at Trent Falls, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Grimsby, Grainthorpe, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Sutton-on-Sea, Huttoft, Chapel Point, Trusthorpe sewage farm, Gibraltar Point, Anderby, the Witham Mouth and Wisbech sewage farm.

At Donna Nook, there were two records of Siberian Stonechats showing characters of either *S.t.maura* or *S.t.stejnegeri*. An adult male was seen on 23rd May and an immature was present on 7th and 8th October.

Both accepted by British Birds.

(SL, RLo, KA, PH et al.)

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 17th March and there was a spring maximum there of 27 on 2nd May. Also in May there were 25 at Killingholme on 5th, with ten at Saltfleetby and 13 at Donna Nook on 7th. Pairs held territory until mid-June and may have attempted to breed at Saltfleetby and Donna Nook, and there were singles in the same period at Tetney, Scunthorpe and Gibraltar Point.

Birds occurred in autumn from July onwards, with a maximum at Gibraltar Point of 15 on 24th August. Late records in November were at Risby Warren on 2nd, Covenham Reservoir from 4th to 8th and at Gibraltar Point on 18th.



Greenland Wheatears, showing characters of *O.o.leucorrhoea*, were recorded at Saltfleetby on 30th April and 4th May, at Saltfleet on 7th May and one or two at Gibraltar Point from 28th to 30th April.

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)

In spring there were singles at Gibraltar Point from 9th April to 14th May and one or two at Donna Nook from 18th April to 7th May. Up to three were seen at Saltfleetby from 21st April to 14th May. Singles were at Seacroft on 16th April and Anderby from 29th to 6th May, and there were one or two at Theddlethorpe from 30th April to 1st May. Also in May there were two at Risby Warren on 2nd and one on 8th, with singles at Saltfleet on 1st, Killingholme on 5th and North Coates on 13th. Up to three were seen in October at Gibraltar Point, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Anderby, with the last at the latter two localities on 29th.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

In spring there was a maximum at Gibraltar Point of 50 on 28th March. In October numbers at Gibraltar Point increased to 100 on 15th and 200 on 26th. Westerly movements included 200 at Donna Nook on 14th, 40 at Barrow Haven on 11th and 20th and 100 at Saltfleetby on 26th. In November 500 flew west at Donna Nook on 25th and many arrived off the sea at Gibraltar Point, where 1,500 were counted on the same day and 1,000 were present on 26th.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

In February there was an influx of several hundred at Saltfleetby on 11th and 200 flew west at Barrow Haven on 27th, with 185 west on 28th. Spring passage on the coast reached a peak in early May, with 200 at Donna Nook and 100 at Saltfleetby on 6th and 190 at Gibraltar Point on 7th. Late birds in June were seen at Saltfleetby, with one on 3rd and 4th, four on 18th and one to 24th.

Two were seen at Covenham Reservoir on 17th August, but main arrivals were from late October, with 600 at Gibraltar Point and 300 west at Saltfleetby on 26th, and westerly movements at Barrow Haven of 224 on 27th and 367 on 28th. There were 200 at New Waltham on 28th and 29th, and 120 flew west at Trent Falls on 21st. Peak numbers occurred in November, with 500 west at Barton-on-Humber on 20th and 500 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd. Many arrived off the sea on 25th, when there were 1,000 at Gibraltar Point, 700 at Donna Nook and 230 west at Barrow Haven, with 750 present at Saltfleetby on 26th.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

At Gibraltar Point there were 30 in early January, then only small numbers until autumn. Maximum numbers occurred in October, with 75 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd, 200 west at Donna Nook on 14th and 60 west at Saltfleetby on 26th.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

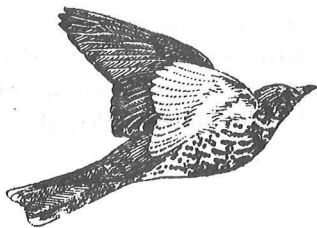
In the early part of the year there were 300 at Donna Nook and several hundred at Saltfleetby on 11th February. Gibraltar Point had 250 on 21st

January and 180 on 28th March. Late birds were seen at Gibraltar Point in early June and at Donna Nook on 9th. One was present at Gibraltar Point in the first half of July and there was one at Marshchapel on 12th.

In autumn one was at Gibraltar Point in early September, but birds were only regular from October, with a maximum of 1,000 on 15th. Donna Nook had 1,200 on 14th and 550 on 15th, and there were 1,000 at New Waltham on 29th. Five hundred were present at Burton Stather on 5th November. Southerly movements at the end of December included 350 at Trent Falls on 30th and 300 at Gibraltar Point on 31st.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

On the coast Donna Nook had one or two in April, June and November, with up to five in July and August. At Saltfleetby there were up to ten in June and July. Gibraltar Point had up to five from January to July, with up to 18 in August and September, then small numbers to the end of the year, apart from 23 west on 23rd October. Unusual concentrations were seen at Risby Warren in July, with 34 on 27th.



Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)

First was at East Halton on 20th April; on the coast there was one at Donna Nook on 23rd, and several pairs stayed to breed at Saltfleetby. Late birds in October were two at Killingholme on 5th.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

First was at Barrow Haven on 18th April and there were 15 at Killingholme on 5th May, with up to 20 at Gibraltar Point from May to July. The last was seen at Saltfleetby on 8th October.

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*)

A singing male was seen at Donna Nook on 28th May. (SL)

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

First was seen at Burton Pits on 21st April and only small numbers were recorded on the coast in spring. Peak numbers in autumn were on 2nd September, with 30 at Huttoft and eight at Gibraltar Point. The last was seen at Barrow Haven on 28th October.

Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*)

One was seen at Donna Nook on 23rd August, and singles were seen at Gibraltar Point on 1st September and trapped on 6th. (BMC,ES,AM,JS,BTO)

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*)

Singles were trapped at Saltfleetby on 19th August and Gibraltar Point on 8th September, and one was seen at Donna Nook on 5th November. (PC,JRW,BW,BTO,SL)

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 29th April and small numbers occurred on the coast in spring, with up to three at Donna Nook and four at Gibraltar Point in May. Maximum numbers in autumn were 16 at Gibraltar Point on 24th August and the last was seen there on 7th October.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 26th April, and there was an autumn maximum there of 25 on 17th August, with 25 at Saltfleetby on 24th. The last was seen at Saltfleetby on 11th October.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

First was at Gibraltar Point on 29th April and one or two were recorded there and at Donna Nook in spring. In autumn smaller numbers than usual were seen on the coast, with up to three from August onwards at Cleethorpes, Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point, where the last was present on 7th October.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Wintering birds were seen at Cleethorpes from 13th to 15th February and on 6th and 23rd March, with one at Louth from 20th to 23rd March. Small numbers occurred on the coast in spring, with up to six at Gibraltar Point. In autumn maximum numbers were in October, with ten at Gibraltar Point on 14th and eight at Donna Nook on 15th. Late birds were present in December, with two at Gibraltar Point on 9th and singles at Grimby and Seacroft on 26th.

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

One was seen at Humberston on 10th October. (GPC)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

In spring one was seen at Anderby on 28th April and there were several singing males in May, with two at Burton Pits on 6th and singles at North Somercotes on 16th and Weelsby Woods on 22nd. One or two were singing at Twigmoor from 29th May to 25th June.

In autumn there were two at Tetney on 10th August and one at Saltfleetby from 19th to 21st. Gibraltar Point had singles trapped on 12th and 17th August, with others seen on 27th and on 2nd September, then three on 20th. (MF,PH,MW,SL,RKN,JH,GPC,MM,BMC,JRC,WH,MG,RLa)

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

A wintering bird was at Saltfleetby on 5th February and an early singing male was present at Pinchbeck on 11th March. Main spring arrivals were from late March and there were a few on the coast in spring at Donna Nook, North Somercotes, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point. In autumn there were up to three at Gibraltar Point from late August, with one or two at Cleethorpes and Donna Nook, where the last was recorded on 9th November.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

First was at Burton Stather on 1st April and passage on the coast in May included up to 12 at Gibraltar Point, with ten at Saltfleetby on 3rd and 16 at Donna Nook on 4th. Maximum numbers in autumn were 43 at Gibraltar Point on 19th August and 21 at Donna Nook on 7th September. A late bird was still singing at Gibraltar Point on 3rd November.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

A few birds were present on the coast in the early part of the year and there was only a slight spring passage, with a maximum of ten at Donna Nook on 4th April. In autumn birds were seen on the coast from mid-August and there was an influx on 2nd October, with 33 at Donna Nook, 40 at Gibraltar Point and 150 at Saltfleetby. Most soon moved on, but there were 50 at Gibraltar Point on 4th November.

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

In spring there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 30th March, Donna Nook on 2nd April and Goxhill on 17th. Also three were trapped at Saltfleetby on 31st March, 1st and 21st April. The only autumn record was one at Gibraltar Point on 11th October. (BW, PW, SL, GPC, PC, JRW, RLa)

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

First was at Saltfleetby on 6th May and there was a maximum of five at Gibraltar Point on 30th, with one or two at Donna Nook in late May and early June. Autumn migrants appeared on the coast from late August, with up to three at Saltfleetby, four at Gibraltar Point in mid-September and the last there and at Donna Nook on 2nd October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)

In October singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 1st and Donna Nook on 2nd. (SL)

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

In spring birds were more widespread than usual, with the first at Saltfleet on 29th April and singles there on 1st and 6th May. Other records were in May, with up to four at Gibraltar Point from 1st to 11th. There were one or two at Saltfleetby from 3rd to 14th, two at Seacroft on 8th and two at North Somercotes on 13th, with one on 20th. Singles were present at Donna Nook between 4th and 23rd and others were at Friskney Decoy on 7th and Louth on 10th.

Birds were scarcer than usual in autumn and occurred from 9th August at Gibraltar Point, with a maximum of nine there on 7th September and 12 at Donna Nook and ten at Saltfleetby on the same day. Smaller numbers were recorded at Cleethorpes, Theddlethorpe and Seacroft, with the last at Donna Nook on 12th October.

Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)

Two were seen at Killingholme on 20th January and two at Whitton on 12th March, and there were singles at Anderby and Chapel Pit in April and early May. About 15 pairs bred at the South Humber Bank Pits.



In autumn erupting flocks of up to 15 from Blacktoft Sands were occasionally seen at Trent Falls from mid-September to early November. One was at Anderby on 23rd September and there were two at Chapel Pit on 25th November. Up to ten were recorded at Huttoft in October and November. In October, 11 flew south at Donna Nook on 7th and two were seen on 30th, and there were two at Wisbech sewage farm on 8th, with three on 14th. Two or three were present at Saltfleetby on 4th November.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

In the early part of the year there were nine at Gibraltar Point on 13th January and up to six from late February to the end of March. In autumn birds were present on the coast from late August to December, with maximum numbers in October. There were ten at Cleethorpes and 17 at Gibraltar Point on 11th, 15 west at Barrow Haven on 18th, 11 at Theddlethorpe on 22nd, 22 at Donna Nook on 27th and 20 at Saltfleetby on 29th.

Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*)

Birds were reported from Ingoldsby and Temple Woods in the south-west of the county, where the species seems to be found most frequently in Lincolnshire.

Willow Tit (*Parus montanus*)

On the coast Donna Nook had two on 4th April and singles on 8th and 10th October. One or two were recorded at Gibraltar Point from July to September.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)

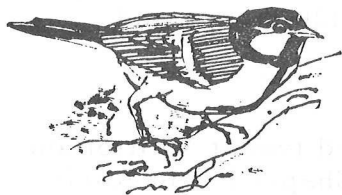
One was at Saltfleetby on 25th February, but unusual number occurred on the coast in autumn from September onwards. One or two were at Cleethorpes from September to December, with four on 30th October. Donna Nook had several records from late September to early November, with five on 11th October. Two were present at Saltfleetby on 9th September, with eight on 19th. Up to three were recorded fairly frequently at Gibraltar Point from September to December. There were several westerly movements at Barrow Haven from late September to early November, with a maximum of six on 11th October.

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)

On the coast maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 30 on 29th March and 40 on 2nd September. A party of 16 were trapped at Saltfleetby on 16th July and numbers at Donna Nook reached a peak of 20 in early October.

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Birds were present all year at Gibraltar Point, with a maximum of 20 on 20th August. At Donna Nook there were one or two in April and May and from late August to October.



Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)

The only birds reported were from Grimsthorpe Park, which is perhaps the stronghold for the species in the county.

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

On the coast singles were seen fairly regularly at Gibraltar Point from July to December and one was trapped at Saltfleetby on 22nd September.

Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

In May males were seen at Wrangle on 4th and Gibraltar Point from 6th to 8th, and one was singing there on 27th June. (RPe,DTP,SD,RLa et al)

Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*)

One trapped at Donna Nook on 28th October stayed until 30th and was seen by many observers. It showed characters of the race

*L.i.phoenicuroides*, which breeds in Russia and Iran east of the Caspian Sea. (CRM,RLo,SL et al). The first county record.

Accepted by British Birds.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*)

In May there was a male at Saltfleetby from 21st to 23rd, a male at Donna Nook from 21st to 22nd, with two females on 25th and singles at Saltfleet on 28th, Grainthorpe on 30th and at Risby Warren on 2nd June. A pair was present at a site near Grimsby from 20th May to the end of July, nesting successfully and rearing five young. None returned to the 1977 breeding site on the Wolds. In autumn birds were very scarce, with singles at Saltfleetby on 9th and 18th August and at Donna Nook from 2nd to 10th October. (KA,BMC,SL,HB,JH,WJM,BW,JRW)

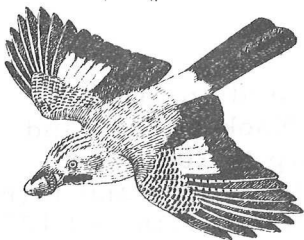
Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)

In spring there were singles in April at Saltfleetby from 3rd to 9th and on 30th, at Cleethorpes from 6th to 8th, at Gibraltar Point from 10th to 16th and at Donna Nook from 3rd to 7th, with one or two on 8th and 9th May. Also in May there was one at Seacroft on 13th. Birds were very scarce in autumn, with singles in October at Gibraltar Point on 1st and Donna Nook on 1st and 2nd.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

An immature was seen at Donna Nook on 6th August. (SL)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)



The only record away from breeding areas was at Barrow Haven on 18th April.

Magpie (*Pica pica*)

At Donna Nook small numbers were present all year, with a maximum of 14 on 11th November. Maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 15 on 4th February, 14 on 24th August and 19 on 25th November.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

At Donna Nook, where one pair bred, up to six were recorded. Gibraltar Point had two on 21st March and up to three occasionally in May and early June and up to four in October and December.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

At Donna Nook there were up to 60 in March and 50 in April. In autumn birds were present most of October, with 120 on 27th and 100 on 5th November. Gibraltar Point had occasional records of up to three in the first half of the year, singles in August, 13 on 2nd October and a few south in November.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)

In the early part of the year there were up to 12 at Donna Nook in January and 12 on 30th May, and Gibraltar Point had up to nine in March. In autumn numbers on the coast reached a peak in late October, with 60 at Saltfleetby on 19th, 15 at Donna Nook on 21st, 30 to 40 at Gibraltar Point from 21st to 29th and ten at the Witham Mouth on 27th.

Hooded Crows showing characters of *C. c. cornix* were much scarcer than usual. In January there were singles at Kirkby Moor on 29th and Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on 2nd, with two on 5th February. One was seen at Covenham on 4th February and there were singles in March at North Coates, at Barrow Haven on 15th, Fulstow on 17th and Donna Nook on 27th. Gibraltar Point had singles on 22nd January, 5th February, 9th and 11th March and 2nd May. Even fewer were seen in autumn, and the only records were in November at Donna Nook on 3rd and Gibraltar Point on 4th.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

In the early part of the year there were 500 at Gibraltar Point in January and an increase at the end of March to 1,000 on 29th. A spectacular movement occurred in June, with 15,000 north at Saltfleetby on 19th, then westerly movements at Barrow Haven of 3,500 on 20th and 3,250 on 21st. In autumn there were 2,000 at Barrow Haven on 22nd August, and in October 3,000 on 18th, with 2,500 north at Donna Nook on 28th. In November there were 5,000 at Gibraltar Point on 4th and about 10,000 flew south at Cleethorpes on 12th.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

At Gibraltar Point there were 250 on 2nd January and up to 100 in November and December. There were 100 at Donna Nook in June and September and a maximum of 400 on 20th October. Up to 200 were present in the first half of November and 50 flew south on 10th and 11th. At Barrow Haven there were westerly movements of 94 on 11th and 123 on 28th October.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

In January 2,000 were present at Scunthorpe, and 300 at Donna Nook, where 75 pairs bred and up to 100 were present in autumn. On 19th August 71 flew west at Barrow Haven. Gibraltar Point had up to 50 for most of the year and a peak of 110 on 14th May.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

In the early part of the year up to 85 were wintering at Donna Nook and 60 at Gibraltar Point, where southerly movements of up to 35 were occasionally seen in March and April. In autumn increases were noted in October and 58 flew west at Barrow Haven on 28th. Donna Nook had regular southerly movements, with 40 on 12th and 15th October and on 11th November. Up to 120 were present in late December. At Gibraltar Point 50 flew west on 7th October, then 100 were present on 27th and on 5th and 6th November, with smaller numbers for the rest of the year.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

In January there were up to 350 at Burton Pits, 60 at Doddington and 50 at Scunthorpe. Small numbers were seen until spring at Barrow Haven, East Halton, Donna Nook, Barton-on-Humber, Gibraltar Point, Spalding, Hartsholme Park and Weelsby, with the last at Saltfleetby on 8th May.

First of the autumn was at Saltfleetby on 30th September. The main influx occurred in October and 56 flew west at Barrow Haven on 27th. Small numbers moved south regularly at Donna Nook, with 41 on 11th and 30 on 12th October, and there were 25 at Gibraltar Point on 28th, then 50 on 18th November. Also in November ten flew west at Trent Falls on 5th and 12 on 9th.



Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

Up to 180 were present at Donna Nook in early January and there were 350 at Gibraltar Point in January and early February. In October regular movements at Donna Nook reached a peak of 90 south on 11th and up to 50 flew west at Goxhill in mid-month. Numbers at Gibraltar Point reached a maximum of 80 on 3rd November and there were 100 at Trent Falls on 30th December.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Small numbers were present at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point in the early part of the year, but the main spring passage occurred in May. There was a peak of 70 at Gibraltar Point on 10th, westerly movements at Barrow Haven of 170 on 11th and 222 on 12th, and 60 north at Donna Nook on 23rd. The only large numbers in autumn were at Gibraltar Point, with up to 100 from late August to early November and a maximum of 150 on 16th September.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

In January there were up to 30 at Boultham Park, Lincoln and eight were seen at Hartsholme Park on 13th February. Two were present at Boston on 27th February. In May ten were seen at Burton Pits on 1st, and singles occurred at North Somercotes on 9th and Barrow Haven on 12th. Gibraltar Point had two on 4th and three on 12th January, and in May three on 6th and 7th, with singles on 9th and 14th.

Birds were scarce in autumn, with singles at Barrow Haven on 26th September and Gibraltar Point on 21st October. Donna Nook had one or two from 8th to 15th October and singles on 6th and 17th November.

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

Up to 170 were present at Gibraltar Point in early January, then smaller numbers until spring when up to 300 occurred from mid-April, with southerly movements of 150 on 18th and 21st. Also in April there were 150 at Saltfleetby on 28th and on the same day 140 flew north at Donna Nook, with 150 south there on 4th May. At Barrow Haven 79 flew west on 12th May.

In autumn there were westerly movements at Barrow Haven of 48 on 27th and 62 on 30th September, with 42 on 28th October. On the coast passage was not very well marked apart from 450 south at Donna Nook on 8th October.

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

In the early part of the year there were 160 at Benington, 150 at Frampton and 160 at Terrington on 28th January, then 150 at Gibraltar Point on 4th February. There was a strong passage at Trent Falls from 4th March to 19th April, with a maximum of 110 on 24th March; presumably these were birds returning to breed on the Pennines. Last of the spring was at Covenham Reservoir on 22nd April.

First of the autumn were at Saltfleetby on 23rd September, with a maximum there of 100 on 2nd October and 100 at Donna Nook on 8th. Maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 200 on 4th November and 150 on 9th December. Up to 500 were present at the Witham Mouth from October to December. On 3rd December there were 400 at Benington, 730 at Frampton and 250 at Kirton, with 420 at Terrington on 17th. The only records in the Humber were five at Goxhill on 27th September and one at Trent Falls on 20th December.

Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*)

Main spring passage occurred in May, with up to 50 at Gibraltar Point and 20 at Donna Nook, and 51 west at Barrow Haven on 12th. In autumn 200 flew north at Saltfleetby on 27th August, with 100 present on 2nd October, and there was a peak of 150 on 7th September at Gibraltar Point.

Birds showing characters of Mealy Redpolls, *C.f. flammea*, were seen at Saltfleetby on 3rd January and Donna Nook on 11th February.



Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

The only records were in June, with two at Donna Nook on 11th and about 20 at Stapleford Woods, including several juveniles, on the same day; a juvenile was trapped at Gibraltar Point on 19th. (SL, RB, RLa)

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Birds were present all year at Gibraltar Point, with up to nine in January and up to six from September to December. Donna Nook had up to three occasionally from late October to early December. Birds showing characters of the northern race *P.p.pyrrhula* were seen in October, with two males at Killingholme on 7th, and a male at Barrow Haven on 7th, then two males and a female there on 25th.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

One was seen at Waddingham on 20th March and a male was trapped at Seacroft on 21st May. A juvenile was present at South Thoresby on 29th July.

Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

In January there were up to six at Tetney in the first half of the month and one at North Coates on 14th. One was seen at Donna Nook on 8th January, with two on 12th February, and there were seven at Goxhill on 19th January. In the Wash there were up to four at the Witham Mouth in January and February and ten at Kirton on 16th February.

In autumn birds were present at Donna Nook from 2nd October to 12th November, with eight on 18th October. Up to four were seen at Saltfleetby from mid-October to mid-November and one flew north at Grimsby on 21st October. Birds were recorded in the Humber in October, with one at East Halton on 12th, two west at Goxhill on 17th and one west at Trent Falls on 28th. Also six flew west at Barrow Haven on 6th December. The only records in the Wash were singles at the Witham Mouth on 15th October and 9th December, with three on 5th November, and one at Terrington on 17th December.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

In the early part of the year maximum numbers were 95 at Gibraltar Point on 4th January, with up to 60 to March, and there were 32 at Seacroft on 22nd January. There were 20 at Tetney on 3rd January and 24 at Kirton on 16th February. Two flew east at Trent Falls on 15th February and there were nine inland at Utterby on 19th, with the last of the spring at Covenham Reservoir on 26th March.

First of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 2nd October and maximum numbers were 30 there on 25th November and 33 at Donna Nook on the same date. The only inland record was one west at Trent Falls on 21st October.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

In the early part of the year there was a maximum of 31 at Gibraltar Point on 4th February and 40 were present at Covenham Reservoir on 5th. Up to 30 were present at Donna Nook in early October, with a few moving south. At Goxhill 28 flew west on 1st November and numbers built up at Gibraltar Point to 25 on 30th December.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*)

A male was present at Gibraltar Point on 6th May. (DTP, JW et al)

Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*)

An immature was trapped at Gibraltar Point on 1st October. (RLa, KA, PE et al)  
Accepted by British Birds.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

In the early part of the year there were 150 at Gibraltar Point on 15th January and 80 at Donna Nook on 11th February. In autumn 28 flew west at Barrow Haven on 25th September and 50 were present at East Halton on 12th October. Maximum number at Donna Nook were 120 in the second half of October and up to 100 were present at Trent Falls in November.



Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*)

At Donna Nook there were up to five all year and maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 22 on 1st January, 25 in March and 30 on 31st December.



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