

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1980



**Including the
Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report**

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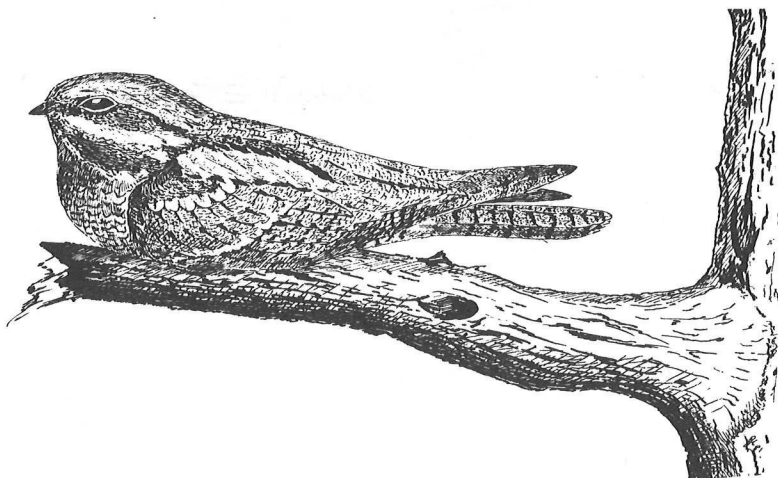
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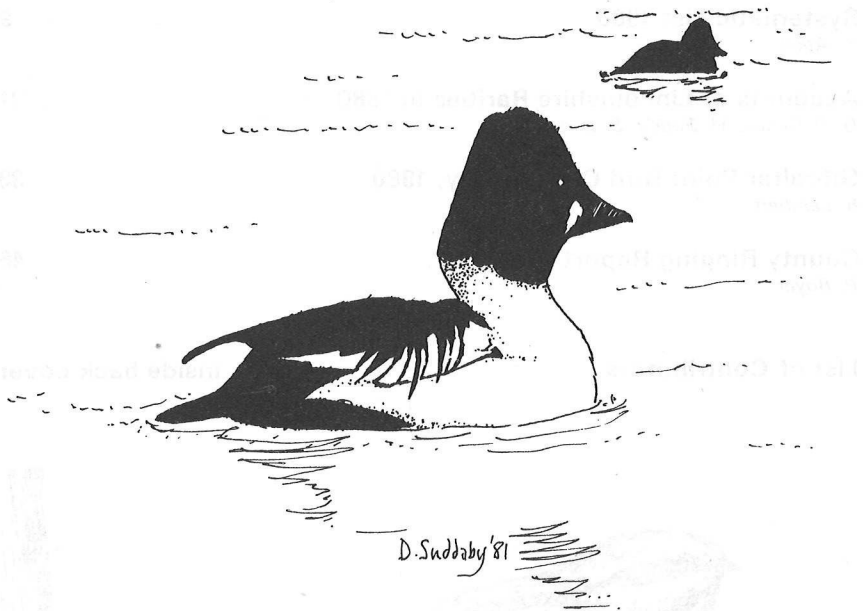
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Editorial

1980 was the Lincolnshire Bird Club's first full year, and in all respects it proved a very satisfactory one. Membership increased steadily, helped by very healthy sales of the 1979 Bird Report both inside and outside the county. The winter feeding survey, completed by 77 people in winter 79/80, began again in October 1980 and more than 150 survey forms were returned for the October/December period; interim results have appeared in the newsletter. The Barn Owl survey continued, and results of this will also be reported in the newsletter. A number of owl nest boxes have already been erected, and sites for more have been volunteered.

During the year the Club took part in several projects for other organisations. Among these were two B.T.O. censuses, of Rooks and of Nightingales, which are reported on here.

The major fieldwork event, however, was the start of the Lincolnshire Breeding Bird Atlas survey. It is planned to map all the county's breeding species on a 1 km square scale, and the work involved will obviously be enormous. Pilot work in 1980 showed though that it *can* be done, and that the necessary observer network is being built up.

A most important part of the Club's activities is the regular recording of bird populations and movement, culminating each year in the publication of the Systematic List. At the end of 1980 two important changes were made in the arrangements for this. Firstly, in line with the increasing standard of Lincolnshire ornithology, a county Records Committee has been appointed. The Records Committee will be issuing a list of species for which descriptions are required, and will be examining all descriptions submitted. In future, records of species on this list will not be published *without* a description so if in doubt about whether a particular species requires it, take one down just in case! This ruling will apply equally to everyone, from the most experienced to the newest beginner and should not be considered a slight; it is in fact an essential to maintain the high quality of our published records.

Secondly, having shouldered the burden of the Recordership single-handed since 1968, Keith Atkin has signified that he would like a rest; this will give him more time to devote to the Atlas project, for which he remains County Organiser, and he will also continue to serve on the Records Committee. Accordingly, and on his recommendation, the Club's Committee have asked Graham Catley to take over the post. All records and descriptions from now on should go to him. Whilst on this topic, two related requests. Please submit descriptions as soon as possible after the sighting, rather than waiting until the end of the year. This allows essential details to be queried if necessary while the event is still fresh, and also spreads the load on the Records Committee. Also, please submit Rarity records via the County Recorder (who can supply the correct forms) rather than direct to the Rarities Committee; they will be returned to the County Recorder anyway, but possibly too late to go into the Report.

Nightingales in Lincolnshire and South Humberside in 1980

Introduction

The Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* is one of the most widely known of British birds, because of its song and unusual singing habits. So quite surprisingly the only full census of its status in England and Wales was one organised by the British Trust for Ornithology in 1976. Lincolnshire Nightingales were also censused in 1970 by the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.

In Lincolnshire, the Nightingale is near to its northern boundary in Britain, the 1976 census showing that more than 85% were to be found south-east of a line from the Wash to Dorset. Lincolnshire is important in that it held about 20% of those found to the north-west of this line.

The habitat reported as being favourable to Nightingales seems to be very variable, although scrub is the one factor common to all descriptions. The plant species composing the scrub seems to be of relatively little importance, as long as they provide thick cover.

Method

The aim of the B.T.O. national survey was to count all singing males in England and Wales. This report covers those observed in the old county of Lincolnshire (which now includes South Humberside). Observers were asked to visit possible sites between 10.00 p.m. and 10.00 a.m. any time between April and July, although the month of May was considered likely to be most productive. Sites were to be visited at least once, more if possible and the number of males singing at each visit was to be recorded, with the basic habitat in which they were found. After their last visit observers were asked to estimate the percentage of possible sites covered in each 10 km square, and the total number of singing males at each site. This was to take account of (a) the fact that all birds may not be singing at each visit, and (b) passage birds which had been recorded singing and had then moved on.

Results

Table 1 shows the total number of singing males per 10km square, with the numbers found in 1976 for comparison.

From these totals Nightingales seem to have increased between 1976 and 1980, and that is without a possibly significant number in square TF25. This contains Troy and St. Helen's Woods, which in 1976 held 22 singing males.

Discussion

In 1976 a total of 33 sites was visited with a mean of nearly 3 visits per site. In 1980 a total of 80 sites was visited, with a mean of just over 3 visits

per site. This increased coverage could partly explain the difference between the two years, although four 10km squares covered in 1980 and not in 1976 produced only an extra 6 singing males, and yet there were 24 recorded in 1976 in areas not covered in 1980. Overall, the increase between 1970 (when 57 pairs were found) and 1976 seems to be smaller than the apparent increase between 1976 and 1980.

These figures are, of course, minima for the total number of singing males actually in the county, and therefore only provide a guide to population trends. Observers were asked to estimate the actual cover achieved in each square. This was done for 15 of the squares visited and produced a mean value of about 69% cover. Assuming this mean to be not too inaccurate for all of the squares covered, the value for the total number of singing males could be as high as 150.

Nightingale Habitats

Habitat data was available for all the birds recorded. The five major habitats in which birds were found can give a broad indication of the Nightingale's habitat preferences within the county.

Habitat	number of birds	% in habitat
Broad-leaved wood (not coppice)	22	21.4
Coppice	4	3.9
Even-aged conifer plantation	12	11.6
Mixed broad-leaved/ conifer wood	55	53.4
Pioneer scrub	10	9.7
	<hr/> 103	<hr/> 100

This shows that in Lincolnshire the favoured habitat is mixed broad-leaved/conifer wood (more than 53%) with broad-leaved wood adding another 21.4% to this total. Coppice, pioneer scrub and even-aged conifer plantations totalled only 25% of the habitat in which Nightingales were recorded.

Summary

A census of singing male Nightingales was undertaken during the period April to July 1980. A total of 103 singing males was recorded, although estimates of cover in the areas censused suggest that this may be as much as 30% low. Comparison with the 1970 and the 1976 data suggests an increase in the Lincolnshire population during these years, contrary to the national trend reported in 1976.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the many observers who nobly gave up their sleep to complete the census in their areas.

J. D. W. OWEN, B.Sc.

Table 1

10km grid square	1980 singing males	1976 singing males
SE90	6	6
SE91	1	*
SK85	1	*
SK86	1	*
SK91	0	0
SK92	2	0
SK93	1	0
SK94	0	0
SK96	3	*
SK97	2	2
TA02	1	*
TA10	6	2
TA11	1	0
TF01	2	1
TF02	25	1
TF04	*	2
TF06	0	0
TF07	2	2
TF08	0	*
TF17	29	13
TF18	1	2
TF25	**	22
TF26	19	25
TF47	0	2
TOTALS	103	80

* 10 km squares examined in one census and not the other.

** 10 km square known to possess a large wood with Nightingales, to which access could not be obtained in 1980.

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Rooks and Rookeries — 1980

Object and Method

DURING the spring months of 1980 Club members participated in a survey of rookeries in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology's sample survey. The object of the B.T.O. survey was to obtain a random sample of rookeries throughout Britain in order to monitor breeding success in recent years, and to establish in which species of trees nests were being built. The survey would also provide basic data so that in future years the effects of Dutch Elm Disease on Rook population could be assessed.

Although counts could have been undertaken from late March to mid-May, or until increasing leaf cover made counting impracticable, most counts were carried out in late April/early May to obtain optimum results. In addition to the nineteen sample 10km squares selected by the B.T.O., a further eight squares were also surveyed. Of the B.T.O. sample squares one was not surveyed, and another was allocated to Notts. and consequently data obtained from these squares in earlier surveys could not be used to obtain comparisons. Records were asked to note location and grid reference of rookeries, and the numbers of nests in relation to tree species.

Results

Table 1 compares the number of occupied tetrads in 1969 and 1980, together with the number of rookeries and nests in 1975 and 1980. It is of interest to note that although there was a marginal decline of 9% in the number of rookeries from 1975 to 1980, the total number of nests increased by 54%.

As the 1980 survey was the first national attempt to relate rookeries to Dutch Elm Disease the figures obtained cannot be compared with tree data from previous surveys. However, the figures do show that since 1975 D.E.D. has not, apparently, been detrimental to breeding success. Table 2 shows the relationship between nests and tree species in 1980. Only 4307 nests were used in the preparation of this table due to incomplete recording of tree species on some survey cards.

It will be seen that elm and sycamore were virtually equally acceptable as "host" trees. It will be interesting to see if deposited rookeries, due to D.E.D., move into ash in preference to sycamore, or if the use of sycamore will increase. A preference for the latter species could well improve its rating in conservation terms. The dominance of ash as the preferred "host" tree may indicate one reason why extensive felling of diseased elms had not caused a decline in the Rook population.

In order to compare the size of rookeries in 1980 with those in earlier surveys the categories used by White (1947), and Wilson and Needham (1976) have been extended, and details are given in Table 3.

Increase in Population

Wilson and Needham (1976) reporting a decline in Rook numbers from 1947 to 1975 related this change to the diminishing acreage of grassland (62260 hectares/153847 acres lost between 1945 and 1973), and to the use of poisonous grain dressings. Since 1973 it has not been possible to obtain comparable figures for the area covered by the pre-1974 county of Lincolnshire, as data for North and South Humberside are combined. In the post-1974 Lincolnshire permanent grassland decreased from 109325 to 82491 hectares between 1975 and 1980. On the other hand the production of cereals for the same period increased from 262114 to 286373 hectares, and it is suggested that the increase in the Rook population is a direct reflection of the increase in production of cereals, aided by a reduction in the use of the poisonous dressings which were so extensively used during the period of the previous survey. Certainly Lomas (1968) found in Derbyshire, that where there had been a slight increase in cereals acreage between 1962 and 1964 there had been a corresponding decline in the rook population, possibly as a result of harmful dressings.

Murton (1971) stated that the Rook has now become associated with arable farmland in preference to its traditional grassland feeding habitat. However, the birds do need to obtain considerable amounts of animal matter, such as earthworms, when feeding young, and Holyoak (1972) has shown that May—July is the period of maximum activity for getting animal food.

Hopefully a follow-up survey will be undertaken to establish if Rooks are still using grassland as a preferred feeding habitat from May to July, or if the adult birds have adapted to another food source during this grainless period.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr. Raymond O'Connor, Director of the British Trust for Ornithology for providing data from the Trust's 1975 survey; to Mr. W. P. G. Cox of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Lincoln for providing agricultural statistics and helpful comments; and to the members of the Club who took part in the survey.

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E. J. REDSHAW

Table 1

10 Km Squares	1969 occupied tetrads	1980 occupied tetrads	1975 No. of rookeries	1975 No. of nests	1980 No. of rookeries	1980 No. of nests
TF/01	6	3	8	188	4	101
*TF/11	4	7	12	275	10	347
*TF/21	5	3	2	68	3	77
TF/31	4	2	3	16	3	44
SK/92	1	5	17	138	5	49
*TF/22	10	3	7	39	5	56
*TF/32	6	4	4	27	5	38
*TF/42	0	2	1	15	3	16
*TF/23	11	7	12	119	9	104
TF/04	6	15	13	348	19	881
TF/24	4	4	3	45	6	46
TF/34	4	2	9	57	4	23
SK/85	previous data not used as square surveyed by Notts. in 1980					
TF/15	5	1	6	62	1	56
TF/45	1	2	3	35	2	24
SK/86	previous data not used as not surveyed in 1980					
TF/16	5	4	4	96	6	254
*SK/97	6	8	27	423	10	285
TF/37	2	4	5	47	5	77
TF/47	4	15	19	277	22	666
SK/98	9	5	6	78	8	89
TF/28	12	7	9	327	14	380
TF/49	1	3	6	133	6	290
*SE/90	9	5	not counted 1975		8	321
TA/10	1	5	11	292	5	344
TA/20	6	6	2	42	9	229
SE/92	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	123	122	189	3147	172	4838

Squares additional to the B.T.O. survey are indicated with an asterisk.

The 1975 survey shows rookeries in SE/92 but as these were all north of the Humber they have been omitted from the details presented above.

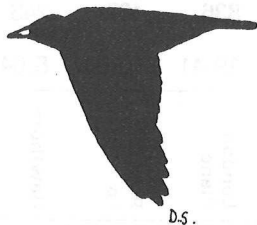
Table 2

Tree species	Ash	Elm	Sycamore	Beech	Oak	Horse Chestnut	Crack Willow	Lime
No. of nests	1457	871	836	467	243	240	99	64
%	33.83	20.22	19.41	10.84	5.64	5.57	2.30	1.49

Tree species	Alder	Scots Pine	London Plane	Poplar sp.	Hawthorn	Larch
No. of nests	13	7	4	4	1	1
%	0.30	0.16	0.10	0.10	0.02	0.02

Table 3

Year	1943	1970	1975
Total No. of rookeries for Lincs./South Humberside	977	731	588
No. of nests	45110	17614	12513
Average nest/rookery	46	24	21
Year	1975	1980	
Total No. of rookeries in LBC/BTO surveys	189	172	
No. of nests	3147	4838	
Average nest/rookery	17	28	
No. of nests/rookery	All Lincs. 1975	Table 1 squares	
		1975	1980
2–25	432	153	113
26–75	126	30	45
76–200	30	6	13
200+	0	0	1
Totals	588	189	172



Systematic List 1980

Compiled by K. Atkin

Introduction

1980 PROVED to be somewhat unusual, with many interesting records throughout the year. Several species stood out, such as the hundreds of divers (mainly *Red-throated*) in January and record yearly totals of *Little Gulls* and *Firecrests*. Some breeding species suffered from frequent spells of wet weather, but there were successful attempts by several local and irregular nesters. These included *Garganey* and *Stonechat*, with two pairs of *Black Redstarts* and *Grey Wagtails*. A pair of *Montagu's Harriers* with flying young almost certainly bred in the county and *Hobbies* may have done so in two areas.

Although some of the regular migrants were scarce, rarities were scattered throughout the year. Early in the year, a Russian-ringed *Night Heron* was found shot and there were records of *Bean Geese*, *Ferruginous* and *Ring-necked Ducks* and an unexpected *Raven*. A few migrants overshooting the continental coast in spring included *Purple Heron*, *Tawny Pipit*, *Marsh* and *Great Reed Warblers* and *Ortolan Bunting*. Good numbers of *Dotterels* also occurred, plus a few *Kentish Plovers*, although, unfortunately, the latter did not stay to breed. Several *Ospreys* were seen in summer and there were singles of *Pectoral Sandpiper*, *Golden Oriole* and *Black-headed Bunting*. Autumn highlights included two *Leach's Petrels*, five *Honey Buzzards*, a *Sabine's Gull* and two *Black Guillemots*. From the east came several *Richard's Pipits* and two gems in the form of an *Olive-backed Pipit* and a *Booted Warbler*, with *Dusky*, *Yellow-browed* and *Pallas's Warblers* adding sparkle to an otherwise undistinguished autumn passage. Three *Black-bellied Dippers* appeared late in the autumn and wintering birds included a *Water Pipit* and a *Rough-legged Buzzard*.

Wintering records of what are, in the main, summer visitors are fairly regular for species such as *Green Sandpiper*, *Blackcap* and *Chiffchaff*. However, there has been a recent tendency for a wider variety and 1980 was exceptional, with winter records of *Avocet*, *Little Stint*, *Black-tailed Godwit*, *Spotted Redshank*, *Greenshank*, *Common Sandpiper*, *Arctic* and *Great Skuas*, *Black Redstart*, *Ring Ouzel* and *Firecrest*.

Diver sp.

Exceptional numbers of divers were present on the North Sea early in the year, usually too far out to be identified, but when close enough were seen to be predominantly Red-throated. Regular northerly movements at Donna Nook from January to mid-February often involved about 100 birds, with peaks in January of 487 on 5th, 535 on 6th and 260 on 22nd. There were also 450 N at Trusthorpe on 6th and 170 at Saltfleetby were mainly moving S on 26th. In the same period, there were up to 30 at Gibraltar Point, then 29 at Saltfleetby on 9th March and small numbers on the coast until early May. The only significant number in autumn was 30 N at Donna Nook on 30th November.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Regular northerly movements of up to 20 were recorded at Donna Nook from January to mid-February, but 214 were identified on 5th January, and at Huttoft on 6th, 521 flew S and 257 N. Small numbers were seen on the coast until late May, other localities being Saltfleetby, Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe, Chapel Pit, Gibraltar Point, the Witham Mouth and Frampton Marsh. Singles were inland at Covenham Reservoir from 19th January to 9th February and 26th-27th April and at Ashbyville Lake, Scunthorpe, in late March. Also in March, singles were found dead at Holbeach on 22nd and Huttoft Pit on 29th. Returning birds were seen on the coast from mid-August, with up to nine occasionally to the end of the year at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe, Gibraltar Point and Butterwick. The only inland record in this period was one at Covenham Reservoir on 14th September.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

At Donna Nook, there were 13 on 5th January, then seven singles to mid-February. Gibraltar Point had two on 13th January and one on 23rd, with three on 9th February. One was seen at Saltfleetby on 16th February, with one at Butterwick on 17th. In autumn, there were singles in September at Saltfleetby on 20th, Gibraltar Point on 28th and 29th, then one there on 14th October and another at Donna Nook on 25th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

In the early part of the year, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 4th January and 9th February, with two at Donna Nook on 2nd January and 11th February. An early autumn bird was at Saltfleetby on 20th August, then singles at Gibraltar Point on 20th October and the Witham Mouth on 8th and 12th November, with two at Donna Nook on 3rd December. One was present at Covenham Reservoir on 9th November.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

No large numbers were recorded in the early part of the year, but there were five at Grainthorpe on 1st January and eight at Gibraltar Point in late March. Breeding pairs were reported from many of the usual sites including Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point. Peak numbers in September included 58 at Immingham on 14th and 13 at Gibraltar Point late in the month. In November, there was a maximum of seven at Donna Nook on 24th and six at Northcotes Point on 30th. Up to six were present at the Hobhole/Witham junction in December, with five at Saltfleetby on 18th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Up to 21 were present at Covenham Reservoir in January, with 18 at Gibraltar Point on 13th, then ten at Saltfleetby on 9th March. Among the many breeding pairs were several on the South Forty Foot drain. Thirteen pairs on the South Humber Bank pits reared 12 young and the same number were reared at Denton Reservoir. Autumn concentrations included 15 at Immingham on 9th July, 13 at Barrow Haven on 14th August and 20 at Baston Common pits on 31st. Up to 12 were present at the Witham Mouth from mid-August to mid-October and numbers at Covenham Reservoir reached a peak of 16 in mid-October.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One was seen at Covenham Reservoir on 1st January and an oiled bird was present at Gedney Drove End on 20th. In autumn, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 25th October and Holbeach Marsh on 30th-31st, then Donna Nook on 9th November and the Witham Mouth on 12th. Another was at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd December, with one at Immingham on 26th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

In January, one was at Covenham Reservoir from 1st-5th, with two at Goxhill on 16th. The only other record was one at Covenham Reservoir from 25th-27th September.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Three were seen at Messingham on 14th April and one in summer plumage was at Covenham Reservoir on 9th May. Single birds were present at Covenham Reservoir fairly regularly from 7th August to 20th September, involving at least two individuals. In November, one was seen at the Witham Mouth on 12th and another flew S at Trent Falls on 29th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

In the early part of the year, one was found dead at Gibraltar Point on 30th January, another was at the Witham Mouth on 17th February and three flew N at Donna Nook on 3rd March. Small numbers occurred fairly regularly on the coast between Donna Nook and the Witham Mouth from mid-April to early November. These included ten at the Witham Mouth on 19th April and 11-N and four S at Donna Nook on 2nd May. The main movement of the autumn of 49 N at Gibraltar Point on 21st August included one blue-phase bird. A few birds went well up the Humber, with two at Goxhill on 2nd May, two at Trent Falls on 6th June and one at Killingholme on 12th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

One flew S at Gibraltar Point on 30th August (PAH) and the only other record was a late bird N at Donna Nook on 3rd December (RLo).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

In May, five flew N at Donna Nook on 2nd and one was found dead at Saltfleetby on 11th. Birds were scarcer than usual in autumn, with small numbers on the coast between Donna Nook and the Witham Mouth from mid-July to the last at Mablethorpe and Huttoft on 17th October. The maximum number was 11 N at Gibraltar Point on 21st August.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

The 28th September proved an exciting day, with one netted and ringed at Leverton Marsh (PNW) and another seen at very close range at Horseshoe Point, Grainthorpe (RNG).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

In the early part of the year, three were seen at Donna Nook on 22nd January, with one at Gibraltar Point on 10th February and two there on 20th March. Birds were seen regularly on the coast between Donna Nook and the Witham Mouth from April to November. Peak autumn movements included 102 S at Donna Nook and 122 S at Saltfleetby on 20th September. In October, 131 flew S at Donna Nook on 4th, with 262 N there on 11th, when there were also 51 at the Witham Mouth. Two were seen well inland on the Welland at Surfleet Seas End on 13th October. In the Humber, one was at Barrow Haven on 10th September, with late birds there and at Gibraltar Point on 3rd December.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Large numbers in the period January to April included 37 at Butterwick on 20th January, up to 30 at the Witham Mouth and 60 at Covenham Reservoir. Small numbers were present at some localities in summer and in the period August to December, there were up to 57 at Covenham Reservoir, 22 at Cleethorpes, 36 at Grainthorpe, 23 at Gibraltar Point, 53 at Butterwick, 32 at Freiston Shore, 40 at the Witham Mouth and 51 at the Nene Mouth. Other inland sites with occasional records of small numbers during the year were Trent Falls, Messingham, Cadney Reservoir, Toft Newton Reservoir, Baston Fen, Baston Common pits, Spalding and Denton

Reservoir. A bird showing characters of the continental race, *P.c.sinensis*, was seen at Covenham Reservoir on 22nd March.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

One was seen at Donna Nook on 4th January, with dead birds found there on 10th and on 7th February. Singles were seen at Trusthorpe on 26th January, at the Witham Mouth on 2nd February and Saltfleetby on 16th. In autumn, three were present at Cadney Reservoir from 21st-22nd August and one was found exhausted at Burton Coggles on 21st October, but recovered and was released later. Other singles were at Cleethorpes on 27th October, Trusthorpe on 30th November and Covenham Reservoir on 6th December.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

One was found dead on the Welland bank near Deeping St. James in early February and another dead bird was found at Deeping Lake on 24th. One was present at one site all year on the South Humber bank, booming occasionally in summer. The only other records were singles at Burton gravel pits on 19th January, Killingholme on 28th August and North Somercotes Warren on 9th November.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

The immature present at Skegness at the end of 1979 was seen on 1st January, but was found shot on 4th (RLa et al). It had been ringed as a nestling near Belyayevka, in the Black Sea region of the USSR, on 8th June 1979.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Nest counts totalled 316 in the county, distributed as follows: Deeping 62, Troy Wood 77, Muckton 41, Doddington 33, Willoughby 18, Thornton Abbey 27, Newball 16, Laughton Forest 18, Howsham 13, Evedon 10 and Nocton Wood 1. There was a maximum of 12 at Baston Fen on 24th May and 16 at Cadney Reservoir on 31st July. Some birds were present all year on the coast, with peak numbers on 20th September, when there were nine at Donna Nook, eight at Saltfleetby and 20 at Gibraltar Point.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

An immature was seen at Chapel Pit on 12th April (KA,PE,PH).

Accepted by *British Birds*.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Maximum numbers in January included up to 65 at Killingholme and 181 on the Welland between Spalding and Deeping on 13th. Thirteen flew S at Saltfleetby on 4th March and there were up to 25 at Donna Nook and 27 at Cleethorpes in spring. Eleven flew S at Trent Falls on 22nd June, and on 31st August, there were 40 at Baston Common pits and 120 at West Deeping. High numbers were again present on the Welland, with up to 248 from mid-October to mid-November. In November and December, there were 80 at Killingholme, 20 at Cleethorpes, 22 at Tetney and nine at Gibraltar Point.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

In January, 20 flew E at South Cockerington on 14th, 16 W at Terrington on 20th and 12 were present at Baston Fen on 26th, with up to nine there in February. Up to 15 were at Tetney from January to early March, and in February, 15 flew S at Donna Nook on 5th, with 23 E at Trent Falls on 24th, when 20 were seen at Gibraltar Point. Smaller numbers were recorded at Benington and Gedney, with the last six of the winter at Lea Marshes on 22nd March. First of the autumn were recorded at several localities on 31st October, including 18 S at Donna Nook, with 33 N there on 10th November. Up to 11 were present at Gibraltar Point in November and there was a maximum of 17 W at Trent Falls on 11th. In December, there were 11 at Huttoft on 5th, 25 at Humberston on 30th and up to 29 at Tetney throughout the month. Smaller numbers were seen at Goxhill and Frieston Shore in November.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Apart from six E and 15 W at Messingham on 13th January, only small numbers were seen in the early part of the year at Gibraltar Point, Baston Fen and Lea Marshes, with one at Killingholme from January to 14th April. First of the autumn were four NW at Donna Nook on 26th October, with small numbers occasionally to the end of the year at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Killingholme, Covenham Reservoir, Theddlethorpe, Aslackby Fen, Freiston Shore, Leverton, Kirtton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh and Gibraltar Point, where there was a maximum of 11 on 19th November.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Several small parties early in the year appear to have been the same birds at different localities. In January, three were present at Donna Nook from 13th-20th, with four NW there on 30th (SL,CRM,PC) and four at Huttoft on 20th (GPC). In February, there were six at North Cotes on 2nd and four on 9th (GPC,KA,PH), with four at Covenham Reservoir on 7th (KA,JRC).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Maximum numbers in January were 2,000 at Holbeach and 700 at Whitton, with 1,700 at Trent Falls on 3rd February. Several movements were noted, including 128 W at Donington on 17th January, 143 SE at Tetney on 1st February and 200 N at Donna Nook on 16th. Small numbers were also recorded at Messingham, North Cotes, Sandilands, Huttoft, Gibraltar Point,

Stickney, Scrane End, Nenemouth and the Witham Mouth, with the last of the spring at Chapel Pit on 12th April. An early autumn bird was at the Witham Mouth on 29th August and there were 350 at Trent Falls by early October. Peak numbers occurred on 23rd November, when there were southerly movements of 65 at Covenham Reservoir, 75 at Grimsby, 160 at Saltfleetby and 205 at Gibraltar Point, with 250 present at Kirton Marsh and 2,300 at Holbeach. In December, 110 flew SE at Messingham on 1st, with 100 present at Gosberton on 16th and 180 S at Donna Nook on the same day. Small numbers were also recorded at Read's Island, Grainthorpe, Frampton and the Welland Mouth.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

In January, seven were present at Moulton Marsh on 11th and Donna Nook had one on 15th and three S on 20th, with eight S at Saltfleetby on the same day. Thirteen were feeding near Saltfleetby on 22nd March and one was seen at Gibraltar Point on 17th April.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Maximum counts of feral flocks were 120 at Baston Common pits on 31st August, 61 at Kirkby-on-Bain pits on 28th November and 25 at Tattershall pits on 20th December. Seventy flew S at Louth on 19th September. Apart from these, there were reports of small numbers throughout the year at Trent Falls, Messingham (one pair bred), Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Humberston, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Gibraltar Point and Denton Reservoir.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Two adults (one white and one blue phase) flew S at Saltfleetby on 14th May (KA, JRC), but seem most likely to have been escapes from captivity.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Largest numbers were 244 at Messingham in September, 210 at Baston Common pits, 220 at Denton Reservoir and 300 at West Deeping pits in October, with 230 at Burton pits in December. Movements in June included 36 W at Saltfleetby and six W at Trent Falls on 1st, 40 NE at Brigg on 7th and 50 S at Scunthorpe on 17th. Up to 40 were present at Barton-on-Humber all year, with an additional 50 juveniles from Clumber Park released in June. Donna Nook had two in late February and early March, with three NW on 22nd July. One was present at Gibraltar Point on 5th January and there were up to 25 there in mid-August.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Mainly single birds were recorded at widely scattered localities throughout the year, with few having much claim to be wild. Singles were seen at Burton pits on 2nd February, Bishop's Bridge on 19th April and Messingham occasionally from late May to October. Five flew W at Trent Falls on 6th June. Singles were seen in October at Barrow Haven on 10th, Killingholme from 13th-15th and Denton Reservoir from 19th-26th. One was seen occasionally at Burton pits from October to December, with one at Chapel Pit on 22nd November and Holbeach on 23rd, then one at Toft Newton Reservoir from 11th-18th December.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Counts in the Wash from Gibraltar Point to the Norfolk border on 20th January totalled 8,500. Large concentrations included 2,500 at Gibraltar Point on 1st January, 4,500 at Butterwick on 3rd February, with 3,500 at the Witham Mouth on 8th April and 3,000 at the Welland Mouth on 19th. There were still flocks of 1,000 at Holbeach and the Witham Mouth on 4th May. On the north-east coast, there were up to 400 at Grainthorpe and 1,500 at Donna Nook in January, with 1,000 at Saltfleet on 2nd February. Up to 73 were feeding in coastal fields at Huttoft in January and February. A few remained in summer, with six at Holbeach on 1st June and 17 at Gibraltar Point on 23rd, then two at Butterwick on 2nd July. An early autumn bird flew N at Saltfleetby on 3rd August and later in the month there were three at Freiston Shore on 30th, with 12 at Gibraltar Point on the same day and 140 there on 31st. Two were well up the Humber at Barrow Haven on 5th November, with up to 400 at Grainthorpe in mid-month and a maximum of 2,500 at Donna Nook on 2nd December. Up to 2,500 were present at the Witham Mouth from October to December and there were 1,500 at Gibraltar Point on 3rd December. A leucistic adult was seen at the Witham Mouth on 23rd November and four birds of the pale-bellied race, *B. b. hrota*, were present at Donna Nook on 8th January.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

In the early part of the year, there were three at Ingoldmells on 23rd January and one at Tetney Lock on 10th February. Two were seen at Grimsthorpe Park on 18th May and two flew S at Donna Nook on 8th November, with one at North Somercotes Lido on 20th.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Counts in the Wash from Gibraltar Point to the Norfolk border on 20th January totalled 12,500. Most of these were in the south of the Wash. In the Humber, there were 275 at Grainthorpe on 1st January, with up to 100 at Great Coates and 150 at Winteringham in February, then 150 at Trent Falls in March. Largest inland numbers were at Messingham, with 40 at the end of January rising to a maximum of 63 in early March. Breeding was recorded there and at Cadney and Covenham Reservoirs. In autumn, westerly movements were fairly regular at Trent Falls, with peaks of 152 on 26th August and 323 on 21st September. Maximum counts included 860 at Grimsby Docks on 14th October, with up to 800 at Grainthorpe and 270 at Donna Nook in

mid-December. In the Wash, there were 1,500 at Terrington and 2,000 at Holbeach on 23rd November. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 455 on 31st December.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

In the early part of the year, peak numbers were in January, with up to 750 at Trent Falls, 125 at Wainfleet, 400 at the Witham Mouth, 420 at Frampton, 360 at Terrington and 250 at Baston Fen. A few birds remained in June, with singles at Trent Falls on 1st and 17th, Covenham Reservoir on 2nd and two at Gibraltar Point on 6th. Birds were more widespread again from mid-August, with up to 100 at Whitton from late August to November, 150 at Trent Falls in November and December and 750 near Read's Island on 30th October. In the north-east, there was a maximum of 230 at Donna Nook on 12th October and 250 flew NW at Theddlethorpe on 31st. In November, up to 150 were present at Tetney and 400 at Grainthorpe. In the Wash, maximum numbers were 400 at Gibraltar Point on 8th October, 222 at Wainfleet on 22nd November, up to 400 at the Witham Mouth from September to November and 1,750 at Holbeach on 23rd November.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Small numbers were present from January to early June (two at Messingham on 3rd) and August to December. Maximum numbers were 16 at Kirkby-on-Bain pits on 23rd February and 25 on 20th December, with 18 at West Deeping pits on 9th February and 26 on 8th October. Other records were at Barrow Haven, Killingholme, East Halton, Scunthorpe, Toft Newton Reservoir, Nettleton pits, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Biscathorpe, Burton pits, Whisby pits, Gibraltar Point, Sleaford, Baston Fen, Denton Reservoir, Cowbit and Kirton Marsh.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Maximum numbers in the early part of the year were 200 at Baston Fen on 9th February and 240 at Lea Marshes on 22nd March. Pairs bred at Twigmoor and Kirkby Moor. Peak autumn numbers included 110 N at Saltfleetby on 20th September, with 225 at Donna Nook on the same day. In October, there were 1,750 at Trent Falls on 5th, 156 at Bagmoor on 11th, 190 at Messingham on 27th and 120 at Twigmoor on 31st. Killingholme had 105 on 27th November, and in December there were 150 at Gibraltar Point on 3rd and 100 at the Witham Mouth on 13th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

In January, there were up to 480 at Gibraltar Point and 500 at Covenham Reservoir, with 300 at Baston Fen in early February. Larger numbers occurred in autumn, with 1,000 at Trent Falls on 31st August increasing to 1,500 by 30th November. Over 500 were present at Covenham Reservoir from October to December, with 800 on 25th December. Other large flocks were 650 at Gibraltar Point on 26th September and 500 at Read's Island on 3rd November.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Birds were present from January to mid-May and late July to December. Maximum numbers were 310 at Terrington on 20th January and 20 at the Welland Mouth on 5th February. In autumn, there were westerly movements at Trent Falls of 75 on 17th September and 61 on 28th, with 67 present on 4th October. Gibraltar Point had 32 on 16th October and there were 300 at Holbeach on 23rd November. Smaller numbers were recorded at Whitton, Messingham, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, East Halton, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Huttoft, Wrangle, Butterwick, the Witham Mouth, Frampton, Gedney and Baston Fen.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Single males were seen at Lea Marshes on 5th April, Saltfleetby on 16th and Donna Nook on 3rd May, with 1-2 at Killingholme on 29th-30th. Single males or a pair were seen at Trent Falls in the second half of April, with two males on 9th June. A pair was present at Messingham from 19th April to 12th May. Two pairs were present at Baston Fen on 18th April, one pair remaining to breed, producing three young by 9th August. The only autumn records were singles at Killingholme from 8th-26th August, Trent Falls on 5th and 15th and Gibraltar Point on 9th September.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Small numbers were present in the early part of the year, with up to ten at Messingham from January to March, a maximum of 18 at Baston Fen on 26th March and 14 at Trent Falls in late May and early June. Nests were found at Messingham and Loughton. In autumn, there were 30 at Killingholme on 11th August and 25 at Messingham on 4th September.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female was present at Messingham from 3rd November to 18th December (GT,JH,DS).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Flocks in mid-February included 50 at Barrow Haven and Huttoft, 100 at Kirkby-on-Bain pits and 120 at Messingham, with 67 at Immingham in mid-March. Breeding sites included Barrow Haven, Messingham and Brotherhouse Bar, Cowbit. Autumn peaks included 250 at Baston Common pits on 31st August, 71 W at Trent Falls on 28th September, 165 at Crowle pits on 9th November and 112 at Kirkby-on-Bain pits on 28th. Numbers at Barrow Haven reached 120

on 30th December.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A male was seen at Nettleton pits on 17th February (RM,DAR) and at Messingham on 23rd February and from 10th-24th April (KA,JRC,PH,JH,ACS,DS). No doubt only one bird was involved and was the individual first recorded in 1979.

Accepted by *British Birds*.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A male was present at Chapel Pit from 24th-30th January (KA,JRC,KH,PH,MF,ACS).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

In the early part of the year, there were 200 at Covenham Reservoir on 1st January and 385 on the Welland between Spalding and Crowland on 19th, with up to 100 at Kirkby-on-Bain pits in February. Breeding sites included South Humber bank pits, Winterton mines, Scunthorpe, Messingham, Biscathorpe Lake, Saltfleetby and Baston Fen. Few large concentrations were reported later in the year, but there were 300 at Tattershall pits on 20th December.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Up to 12 were present at Grimsby Docks in January and February, with occasional records of small numbers in the same period at Messingham, Goxhill, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook and Huttoft, then 1-2 to mid-April at Cowbit, the Witham Mouth and Barrow Haven. Birds were again present from mid-September, with peaks of 29 at the Witham Mouth on 26th October, 20 at Gibraltar Point on 1st November and small numbers to the end of the year at Immingham, Barrow Haven, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Trusthorpe, Huttoft, Chapel Pit and Freiston Shore.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Birds were present in all months of the year, especially in the Wash, with up to 50 at Freiston Shore and the Witham Mouth, where birds were seen regularly. Records were fairly frequent at Donna Nook, with a maximum of 60 on 1st December, Trusthorpe and Gibraltar Point. Other sites were Cleethorpes, North Cotes, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Butterwick and Frampton. A female was inland at Covenham Reservoir on 9th November.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

In the early part of the year, records were mainly in January, with one at Huttoft and two at Trusthorpe on 6th, one at Donna Nook on 7th, then six at the Witham Mouth and one at Benington on 20th. A late bird was seen at Freiston Shore on 3rd May. There were occasional records of 1-3 birds from mid-October to the end of the year at Barrow Haven, Donna Nook, North Somercotes, Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe, Chapel Point, Gibraltar Point, Freiston Shore and the Witham Mouth. One was inland at Covenham Reservoir from 23rd-29th October.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Birds were present in all months of the year, with peaks of 185 N at Huttoft on 6th January, 100 at Theddlethorpe on 6th July, 200 at the Witham Mouth on 9th August, 120 at Trusthorpe on 1st November and 150 at Mablethorpe on 23rd. In the Humber, there were 20 at Barrow Haven on 23rd July, with occasional records of up to four to early November. Westerly movements at Trent Falls included 43 on 25th July and 37 on 27th, 50 on 13th August and 150 on 21st September. At Covenham Reservoir, there were seven on 7th July and one on 21st October.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

One at Saltfleetby on 16th February was the only record in the first part of the year. Birds returned early in autumn, with six at Gibraltar Point on 22nd June, four on 10th July and one 15th October. Singles were seen at Killingholme on 9th August, Donna Nook on 4th October and Holbeach on 30th. Three were present at Trusthorpe from mid-October to the end of November. The only inland record was a male at Covenham Reservoir from 13th-23rd November.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Birds were present to 2nd June at Barrow Haven and from 12th October at North Cotes, with widespread records on the coast and inland. Maximum numbers were 55 at Barrow Haven on 27th February, 63 at Covenham Reservoir on 27th February and 76 on 14th December, 42 at Gibraltar Point on 16th October, 22 at Butterwick on 20th January and 23 on 23rd November, 34 at the Witham Mouth on 23rd October, 55 at Holbeach on 20th January and 22 at West Deeping pits on 9th February.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

One was present at Huttoft Pit from 12th-20th January, then at Sutton brick pit from 20th-26th. Three at Grainthorpe on 9th February included an adult male. One flew W at Trent Falls on 26th November and another stayed at Toft Newton Reservoir from 1st-18th December. Also in December, there was an adult male at Barrow Haven from 13th-29th. All those unspecified were females or immatures.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Birds were recorded in all months of the year, with a few in summer, including singles at Gibraltar Point on 9th and 27th June and four at Trent Falls on 23rd. Maximum numbers were

up to 11 at the Witham Mouth from January to April and 17 on 18th October, with ten at East Halton on 28th October. Small numbers were recorded at Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Trusthorpe, Huttoft, Chapel Point, Freiston Shore and Holbeach. One was inland at Covenham Reservoir from 27th April to 1st May.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Birds were generally recorded from January to mid-April and October to December. However, a male first seen on a canal at Keadby on 3rd April was still present on 29th May and 26th June. Maximum numbers were 28 at Cowbit on 17th February and 36 at Baston Common pits on 30th December. Small numbers were recorded at Trent Falls, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Immingham, Toft Newton Reservoir, Cadney Reservoir, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, North Somercotes, Saltfleetby, Sutton brick pit, Sandilands, Huttoft, Anderby, Chapel Pit, Chapel Point, Kirkby-on-Bain pits, Burton pits, Baston Fen, Deeping St. James, West Deeping and Crowland.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

An immature was present at East Halton from 19th-21st November.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One was present at Gibraltar Point for most of 20th September (AKH,DT), part of a small influx, with one in off the sea at Saltfleetby (MM) and a different bird SW there later on the same day (KA,KH,PH). Other birds were seen at Gibraltar Point on 30th September (JPS) and 3rd October (RLa,NJ,JK,KD,MM,DA).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

The only winter record was one at the Welland Mouth on 20th January. There was a good spring passage from April to early June, with about 15 different birds at Trent Falls, seven at Donna Nook, six at Saltfleetby, five at Gibraltar Point, two at Skidbrooke and singles at Barton-on-Humber, Tetney, Anderby, Surfleet, Gosberton and Baston Fen. Birds were seen regularly in summer at a few sites, with up to three at Trent Falls and in the fens near Bardney and singles at Gibraltar Point. There were occasional records of singles at Grainthorpe, Fulstow, North Cotes, Stickney and Sutton Bridge. Birds were more widespread again in autumn, with up to three from mid-August to late September at Trent Falls, Read's Island, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Bardney, Gibraltar Point, Sempringham Fen, Baston Common, Deeping St. Nicholas, Freiston Shore, Hobhole, the Witham Mouth, Frampton and Kirton Marshes.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

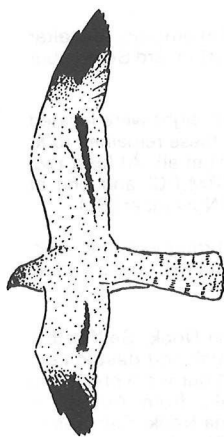
Birds were present from January to early May, with regular records of up to six at Saltfleetby, five at Trent Falls and Donna Nook and four at Gibraltar Point. One or two were seen occasionally at Grainthorpe, North Cotes, Tetney, South Somercotes, Thoresby Bridge, Kelstern, Welton-le-Wold, Mablethorpe, Kirkby Moor, Frithville, Stickney, Sausthorpe, Cowbit, Guthram, Freiston Shore, the Witham Mouth, Hobhole, the Welland Mouth, Holbeach, Gedney and Terrington. Two early autumn males were seen at Gibraltar Point on 13th July, with one at Trent Falls on 6th August. Birds were again widespread from mid-September to the end of the year, with up to five at Trent Falls and Saltfleetby and 1-2 at Linwood Warren, Risby Warren, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Theddlethorpe, Saltfleet, Gibraltar Point, Freiston Shore, Hobhole, the Witham Mouth, Kirton and Frampton Marshes, Gosberton and Baston Fen.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (illustrated)

Single males were present at Trent Falls from 28th May to 16th June (AG) and flew S at Saltfleetby on 5th June (MJT) and Donna Nook on 21st (PC,EJM). A juvenile was seen at Saltfleetby on 7th September (BMC,DAR) and another at Gibraltar Point on 19th October (KW). A pair with three flying young, first reported on 10th August, remained at one site for at least two weeks. It seems almost certain that they had bred there since the young were still being fed by the adults when first seen.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

In the period January to May, there were occasional records of single birds at Trent Falls, Risby Warren, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Kirkby Moor, Hoplands Wood, Saltfleet, Stickney, Bourne, Temple and Bulby Woods. Single birds were seen occasionally in summer at Trent Falls, Laughton Forest, Wrawby Moor, Tetney Blow Wells, Twigmoor, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point. Widespread records from August to December included three SW at Donna Nook on 15th October, 1-2 at Trent Falls and Gibraltar Point, with singles at Twigmoor, Messingham, Brumby Common, Whitton, Risby Warren, Kirkby Moor, Walesby, Tealby, Otby, Saltfleetby, Anderby, South Cockerington, Bootby Graffoe and Temple Wood.



Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 2nd April. In autumn, there were singles at Donna Nook on 18th August and Saltfleetby on 24th. One was present at Scampton Airfield for most of September, with others at Gibraltar Point on 8th, Louth Park on 13th and Tetney on 21st, then Freiston on 21st October and Crowle Waste on 1st November.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One was present at Nettleton from 28th December to the end of the year (GPC et al).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One fishing in pits near Caistor in mid-April (SC) was the only spring record. However, a few occurred in summer, at Well Vale on 15th June (MB,SB) and Fulstow on 18th (MM), with one S at Trent Falls on 1st July (AG). Birds were seen again at Fulstow on 13th August (MM) and Trent Falls on 31st (AG), with others in September at Gibraltar Point on 14th (SWNRG) and Bourne on 25th (KKH).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Coastal passage was fairly light, with a maximum of nine at Gibraltar Point on 18th August and up to six in autumn at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Fishtoft and Freiston Shore.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Birds were present from January to mid-May, with 1-2 fairly regularly at Trent Falls, Tetney, Donna Nook, Skidbrooke, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Glenham, Gibraltar Point, Freiston Shore, the Witham Mouth, Frampton and Kirton Marshes, the Welland Mouth, Cowbit and Gosberton. Birds were again widespread from September to December, with 1-2 at Trent Falls, Goxhill, Killingholme, Thornton Abbey, Cadney Reservoir, Cleethorpes, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Louth, Gibraltar Point, Wrangle, the Witham Mouth, Freiston Shore, Gosberton, Baston Fen and Bourne South Fen.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

The only spring record was one N at Donna Nook on 12th May, with one there on 16th June (SLo,RLo) and another at Messingham on 30th (JH). Singles were seen in July at Gibraltar Point on 12th (PRB), Sleaford on 16th (SLi), flying SW at Donna Nook on 22nd, with another S there on 25th (SLo,RLo). Birds were fairly widespread in autumn, with singles at Gibraltar Point on 5th August (DJG), Goxhill on 7th (GPC), Wyberton on 13th (PRB) and East Halton on 21st (GPC), with another there on 21st September (DAR). One flew S at Trent Falls on 5th September (AG) and one was seen at Boothby Graffoe on 8th (SLi). Small parties were reported at two sites in mid-August and it is possible that breeding occurred at both. An adult and three juveniles were seen in a group of trees containing a Crow's nest on 23rd August. Two adults and two juveniles were present at another site from 20th August to early September, with an adult seen feeding a young bird on one occasion.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Singles were seen at Gibraltar Point on 13th May and on 10th and 12th September and 1st November (RLa, DRB et al). The only other records were at Trent Falls on 21st September (AG) and one W at Donna Nook on 8th November (RLo).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Ten pairs bred at Donna Nook, with up to 20 present in spring and autumn. Maximum numbers counted at Gibraltar Point were 17 in January, 23 in September and 17 in December.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Two pairs bred at Donna Nook, with up to 16 present in January and 19 in autumn. Gibraltar Point recorded up to five occasionally from January to May, then peaks of 31 on 3rd September and 27 on 13th, with up to 20 occasionally to November.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One was heard at Withcall on 9th June (KA) and on the same day at least eight were located along a mile of the Bluestone Heath road near Gayton-le-Wold. Some of these remained to at least the end of the month and may have bred (KA,AGP,ACS,PH,KH,DH et al). At least two were calling at Donna Nook from 20th June to 11th July (SL,RLo,CRM,PC) and one at Dunston on 23rd July (PH). A late bird was flushed at Donna Nook on 3rd November (SL).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Three pairs bred at Donna Nook and up to ten birds were present throughout the year. Maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 35 in January, 40 in October and November and 50 in December.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

In the period January to April, 1-2 were recorded occasionally at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Louth, Huttoft, Anderby, Gibraltar Point, the Witham Mouth, Kirton Marsh and Baston Fen. At least three were calling in summer at Saltfleetby and probably bred. Four were present at Brumby Common on 20th October, with small numbers occasionally from August to December at Scunthorpe, Messingham, Killingholme, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Donington-on-Bain, Kirkby-on-Bain pits, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The largest concentrations reported were 52 at Messingham on 4th February and up to 40 at Killingholme in October. Donna Nook had a maximum of 13 on 8th January and five pairs bred. Gibraltar Point had up to ten in the first half of the year increasing to a maximum of 19 in late September.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Peak numbers in January included 180 at Barrow Haven on 2nd, 450 at Tattershall pits on 13th, 180 at Messingham on 26th and 250 at Killingholme on 29th. Four pairs bred at Donna Nook and were present from late February to late September. Birds were present for most of the year at Gibraltar Point, with up to 13 recorded. Messingham had 360 on 27th October. In November, there were 150 at Huttoft pit on 13th and 130 at Killingholme on 29th, but large numbers in December included 280 at Toft Newton Reservoir on 12th, 310 at Barton-on-Humber on 14th, 300 at Tattershall pits on 20th and 300 at Barrow Haven on 29th.

Crane sp.

One flew SE at Gibraltar Point on 5th July (EB).

Under consideration by *British Birds*.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on 20th January totalled 8,300, of which 5,000 were at Friskney. Butterwick had 1,650 on 3rd February. Breeding pairs included one at Killingholme, five at Donna Nook and 12 at Frampton. Singles were inland in June at Covenham Reservoir on 2nd and Bardney on 6th. There were fairly regular westerly movements at Trent Falls, mainly from May to September, with a peak of 120 on 31st August. Maximum numbers in autumn were at Gibraltar Point, with 10,000 on 27th August and 8,000 in late September and late October. Up to 1,000 were recorded at the Witham Mouth in August and September. Up to 1,600 were at Grainthorpe from August to December, with a peak of 3,100 on 28th September. Saltfleetby had 3,000 on 5th November.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Three were present at Grimsby Docks from 29th January to 3rd February (AW,KA,PH,JRC, GPC et al) — a similar winter record to 1979 in an area threatened with reclamation. In May, one was present at Killingholme on 5th-6th (STH,TE,GPC) and two arrived from the E at Trent Falls on 13th (AG). Two at Killingholme from 10th-13th June displayed occasionally (GPC et al). One was seen at the Witham Mouth on 27th July (PRB).

Pratincole sp.

One flew E at Barrow Haven on 11th August (GPC).

Accepted by *British Birds*.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

An early bird was at Scunthorpe on 29th March and seven were seen at Langtoft on 11th April and Bardney on 19th June, with small numbers in spring and summer at South Ferriby, Messingham, New Holland, Barrow Haven, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Dunston, Baston Fen and Baston Common pits. Breeding was reported from Killingholme, Elsham and Spalding. Small numbers were seen in autumn from July at Scunthorpe, Messingham, Brigg, Cadney Reservoir, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Grimsby Docks, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Bardney and Gibraltar Point, where the last was seen on 19th September.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

In the early part of the year, up to 50 were present at Gibraltar Point in February and March and 100 in April. Spring passage was at a peak in May, with 200 at Saltfleetby on 14th, 50 at Trent Falls on 29th, 100 at Cleethorpes on 30th and Gibraltar Point on 31st, with a maximum of 115 there on 6th June. Birds were fairly widespread inland in small numbers in spring and autumn and one pair bred at Bardney. Coastal flocks were generally larger in autumn, with 160 at Killingholme on 14th August, 400 at Grainthorpe on 16th, 100 at Saltfleetby on 26th and 200 at Tetney on 31st, then 500 at Gibraltar Point on 10th September and 200 at Cleethorpes in mid-month. The only large winter number reported was 200 at Cleethorpes on 12th December.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A pair was present at Gibraltar Point on 17th May, with only the male seen next day (RBW,RW), and a female was seen at Saltfleetby on 15th June (GPC,BMC).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

A flock of 24 was seen at Bourne South Fen on 10th May, reducing to 16 by 12th and nine remaining to 16th (AF,PNW,RK,DCW et al). Others present in May were three at Donna Nook on 11th-12th (BMC,CRM et al), one at Waddington Airfield on 16th (CS,DLB) and one W at Grainthorpe on 19th (MM).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

In the early part of the year, there were 525 at East Halton on 22nd January and 450 at Tetney on 26th February. Concentrations in March included 1,500 at Killingholme on 1st, 1,200 at Goxhill on 2nd and 400 at Lea Marshes on 22nd. Up to 1,500 were present at Huttoft in the first

half of April, with 500 at Welton on 26th. Numbers were generally smaller during the rest of the year, with 345 at Donna Nook on 4th September, 300 at Whitton on 26th October and up to 500 at Frieston Shore and the Witham Mouth in late December.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on 20th January totalled 850, and there were 300 at Butterwick on 3rd February, with 270 at the Witham Mouth on 17th. Numbers at Gibraltar Point reached a spring peak of 580 on 15th April. A few birds were recorded fairly often at Trent Falls, especially in spring and autumn, with westerly movements of 13 on 21st September and 13 on 25th October. Others inland were 1-2 at Messingham on 12th-13th May and one on 15th August. Larger numbers occurred in autumn, with 700 at Gibraltar Point on 27th August and 800 at the Witham Mouth on 28th. In September, there were 300 at Freiston Shore on 10th and 480 at Grainthorpe on 28th. Large numbers on 23rd November included 900 at Gibraltar Point, 300 at Wrangle, 640 at Holbeach and 250 at Terrington.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Southerly movements in February included 460 at Gibraltar Point on 10th and 450 at Trent Falls on 11th, with 1,500 present there on 23rd. Large flocks in March included 5,000 at East Halton on 15th and 1,000 at Lea Marshes on 22nd. Peak numbers in autumn included 2,000 W at Theddlethorpe on 31st October and 1,000 S at Gibraltar Point on 1st November, with 2,500 present at Trent Falls on 26th. Up to 1,000 were present at North Thoresby and Trent Falls in December.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Up to 2,000 were present at Cleethorpes in January, with 6,500 at Donna Nook on 20th and 10,000 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on the same day. In February, there were 2,000 at Butterwick on 3rd, 3,000 at Friskney on 17th and 3,000 at Humberston on 28th. Gibraltar Point had 2,000 in early March. A few occurred occasionally at Trent Falls, with some westerly passage in autumn reaching a peak of 32 on 15th August. Large numbers occurred in autumn, with 6,000 at Gibraltar Point on 31st August, 7,500 on 26th September and 15,000 on 25th-26th October. Counts in the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on 23rd November totalled 43,000. Up to 5,000 were present at Cleethorpes from mid-November to mid-December and there was a maximum of 4,000 at Donna Nook on 7th December and 3,150 at Grainthorpe on 14th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Spring peaks included 360 at Cleethorpes on 21st April, with 120 at Donna Nook on 9th May and 400 at Gibraltar Point on 14th. Inland records were up to three occasionally from late April to mid-June at Covenham Reservoir, Trent Falls and Messingham, with two there on 9th August. Numbers in autumn included 180 at Donna Nook on 30th July and 400 at Cleethorpes from mid-August, increasing to 500 by mid-October. Gibraltar Point had 450 on 28th August and up to 320 in the first half of September.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A wintering bird was present at Trent Falls in January and February. A few occurred in spring, with one at Trent Falls on 6th April and up to three there from 11th May to 10th June. One was at Messingham and two at Killingholme on 13th May, one at South Ferriby on 15th and two at Donna Nook on 24th, then one at Covenham Reservoir from 5th-8th June. Only small numbers occurred in autumn, from late July to October, at Messingham, Killingholme, Cadney Reservoir, Great Coates, Cleethorpes, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Seacroft, Gibraltar Point, Bardney, Boston, the Witham Mouth, Kirton Marsh, Wisbech sewage farm and Trent Falls, where there was a maximum of ten on 2nd September and the last on 22nd October.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Singles were seen in May at Cadney Reservoir on 12th (JH,DS,DPA), Trent Falls from 15th-17th (AG) and Donna Nook on 24th (RLo,BMC). The only autumn record was one at Trent Falls on 26th-27th September (AG).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

An interesting record was one at Killingholme on 12th June (GPC) and another was seen at Saltfleetby on 28th September (BMC,MM).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Up to three were present at Trent Falls from 12th May to 24th June, with one at Killingholme on 10th-11th June and three at Bardney on 17th. Birds were present in autumn from late July to October. An influx of adults included 34 at Trent Falls on 31st July and 37 at Killingholme on 1st August, but relatively few juveniles occurred. Other sites were Whitton, Great Coates, Cleethorpes, Grainthorpe, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Gibraltar Point, Bardney, Freiston Shore, the Witham Mouth and Wisbech sewage farm. The last was seen at Trent Falls on 12th October.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The only record in the early part of the year was one at the Witham Mouth on 20th January. Early autumn birds were at Donna Nook and Grimsby Docks on 16th August and Benington on 28th. Other singles were seen at Gibraltar Point on 13th September and Saltfleetby on 27th, Covenham Reservoir on 4th October, Huttoft on 15th and Ingoldmells on 16th, then North Cotes on 1st November and Cleethorpes on 12th. There were further records at Donna Nook on 12th September and 5th and 12th November, with 1-2 at Grimsby Docks from late November to late December. One or two were recorded occasionally at Trusthorpe from September to December.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Up to 1,500 were present at Donna Nook in January and counts in the Wash on 20th, between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border, totalled 19,000. There were 1,500 at Butterwick on 3rd February, 1,000 at the Witham Mouth on 7th March and 2,000 at Gibraltar Point on 15th-16th April. Peaks in autumn included 3,000 at Gibraltar Point in late August, with 3,500 there and 3,000 at Grainthorpe in late September. Up to 5,000 were at Cleethorpes in mid-October, with 5,000 at Gibraltar Point later in the month. Holbeach had 5,200 on 23rd November and up to 2,000 were present at Grainthorpe in December. Trent Falls had a maximum of 1,200 on 25th September, but only very small numbers were noted at inland sites.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Wintering birds in the period January to March included up to 24 at Killingholme and small numbers at Trent Falls, Messingham, Great Coates, Huttoft and Baston Fen. There was a widespread spring passage from late March to early June, with up to eight at Trent Falls, Alkborough, Killingholme, South Ferriby, Messingham, Cadney Reservoir, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Kirton Marsh and Spalding. Birds were very common in autumn, with maximum numbers including 40 at Kirton Marsh on 28th August, and in September up to 220 at Trent Falls, 40 at Killingholme, 30 at Covenham Reservoir, 40 at Bardney, 30 at Tetney and 25 at Donna Nook and Wisbech sewage farm. There were 120 at Grainthorpe on 12th October. A few wintering birds appeared in December, with up to 11 at Great Coates, Trent Falls, Barrow Haven and Saltfleetby.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

In the early part of the year, there were occasional records of 1-3 at Barton-on-Humber, Goxhill, Messingham, Donna Nook, Anderby, Gibraltar Point, Butterwick, Cowbit and Baston Fen, with the last at Trent Falls and Saltfleetby on 1st May. After two at Saltfleetby on 26th September, there were records of up to six to the end of the year at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Messingham, Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Tetney, Kirkby-on-Bain pits and Gibraltar Point.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Maximum numbers in the early part of the year included 100 at Huttoft pit on 24th January, 80 at Killingholme on 21st February, 57 at Trent Falls on 13th March, 60 at Lea Marshes on 22nd, 57 at Donna Nook on 26th and 50 at Gibraltar Point on 29th, then 120 at Baston Fen on 6th April. Peak autumn numbers occurred in November, with 144 at Killingholme on 21st, 100 at Messingham on 24th and 80 at Trent Falls on 27th. Gibraltar Point had up to 30 in December.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Wintering birds on the coast from January to April included up to ten at Gibraltar Point and smaller numbers at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby. Roding birds were reported from Bourne Wood and Elsham, with newly fledged young seen at Laughton Forest. Early autumn migrants were seen occasionally at Gibraltar Point from mid-August, with up to four there in November and December. Up to five were seen at Theddlethorpe and four at Friskney Decoy, with others at Saltfleetby, Donna Nook, Grainthorpe and New Waltham.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

One was seen at Grimsby Docks on 3rd February. In spring, there were up to seven at Trent Falls from mid-April to early June, with small numbers occasionally at Alkborough, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Saltfleetby, Messingham, Cleethorpes and the Witham Mouth. One displayed at North Cotes in mid-May. In autumn, there were 20 at Kirton Marsh on 27th August and 18 at Grainthorpe on 28th September, with smaller numbers at Trent Falls, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth, where one remained to the end of the year.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The only concentration in the early part of the year was at Wrangle, with 2,200 on 20th January. One was inland at Messingham from 12th-15th May, with one at Trent Falls on 5th June and fairly regular westerly movements from late June to October, including 27 on 15th August. In autumn, there were 3,000 at Gibraltar Point on 26th August, 5,000 on 29th September and 11th October, then 4,000 at Friskney on 23rd November.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

First was at Gibraltar Point on 7th April, with a spring peak there of 16 on 26th. Smaller numbers occurred elsewhere, mainly on the coast, to late May. Birds were fairly widespread in autumn,

on the coast and inland, from late June. Maximum numbers in late July included 50 at Gibraltar Point on 20th, 42 E at Cleethorpes on 26th, 20 at Donna Nook on 27th and 94 at the Witham Mouth on 31st. There were 23 at Tetney on 1st September and the last was at Trent Falls on 31st October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

In the early part of the year, there were 370 at Terrington on 20th January, with 300 at Gibraltar Point on 13th February and 800 at Grimsby Docks on 28th. In autumn, there were regular westerly movements at Trent Falls from June to September, with peaks of 116 on 22nd June and 109 on 2nd July. In the period mid-June to mid-July, there were smaller movements to W at Barrow Haven and NW at Donna Nook, with a peak there of 50 on 3rd July. Large concentrations included 400 at Gibraltar Point on 15th July, 700 at Holbeach on 23rd November and 700 at Grimsby Docks on 9th December.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A wintering bird was present at Cleethorpes from January to late April, with others in January at Killingholme on 7th and North Cotes from 18th-25th. Up to three occurred in spring from late March to early June at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Messingham, Gibraltar Point and Friskney. Birds were present in autumn from mid-June, with a maximum of 16 at Killingholme on 26th August and smaller numbers at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Messingham, Cadney Reservoir, Covenham Reservoir, Cleethorpes, Humberston, Grainthorpe, Great Coates, Tetney, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Bardney, Lincoln, Spalding, Gibraltar Point, Freiston Shore, the Witham Mouth, Kirton Marsh and Wisbech sewage farm. One was present all December at Cleethorpes, with others at Kirton Marsh on 7th and Holbeach on 10th.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Maximum numbers in the early part of the year included 500 at Terrington on 20th January and 300 at Cleethorpes on 21st April. Inland records included 20 at Cowbit and 32 at Baston Fen on 9th February, with 18 at Covenham Reservoir on 27th April. Peak numbers in autumn were 1,000 at Gibraltar Point on 24th August and 500 at the Witham Mouth on 28th. There were 450 at Great Coates on 10th September, 360 at Grainthorpe on 28th and 460 at Cleethorpes on 29th. Gibraltar Point had 1,000 again on 22nd October.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A wintering bird was at Gedney Drove End on 25th January. Up to six were recorded in spring from mid-April to early June at Trent Falls, Alkborough, Killingholme, Messingham, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Seacroft and Gibraltar Point. Birds were more widespread in autumn from late June, with peaks of 27 at Tetney on 14th July, 24 at Trent Falls on 15th August and 14 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd, then 13 at Grainthorpe on 21st September. Most birds had departed by mid-November, but there were still two at Freiston Shore on 13th December.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Wintering single birds were seen occasionally from January to early March at Trent Falls, North Cockerington, Burton pits, Kirkby-on-Bain pits, Louth, Baston Fen and Bourne South Fen. Singles were also recorded in spring from mid-April to late May at Trent Falls, East Halton, Scunthorpe, Cadney Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Bardney, Moulton Marsh and Langtoft. Birds were widespread in autumn from mid-June, with a maximum of 11 at Trent Falls in mid-August. A late bird was seen at Baston Fen on 13th December.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Up to three occurred in spring from 12th May to early June at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby. Small numbers were more widespread from July onwards, with a maximum of eight at Killingholme on 30th July and others at Trent Falls, Scunthorpe, Messingham, Cadney Reservoir, Brigg, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Bardney, Spalding, Frampton, Kirton and Gibraltar Point, where the last was seen on 27th September.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

A wintering bird was seen at Kirton Marsh on 23rd February. Small numbers were widespread in spring from mid-April to late May. One was displaying on 30th April at the Scunthorpe site where breeding occurred in 1979. Larger numbers were recorded in autumn from mid-June, with peaks of 17 at Donna Nook on 30th July and 15 at the Witham Mouth on 31st, 70 at Covenham Reservoir and 18 at Huttoft on 3rd August, with 22 at Killingholme and 15 at Spalding on 8th. Most had departed by mid-October, but a wintering bird was present at Barrow Haven throughout December.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

In the early part of the year, there were 282 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on 20th January, 150 at Humberston on 28th February, 200 at the Witham Mouth on 2nd March, then 113 at Grainthorpe on 7th June. Inland, there were singles in May at Trent Falls, Toft Newton Reservoir and Covenham Reservoir. Up to six occurred occasionally in autumn at

Trent Falls, Cadney Reservoir, Bardney and Covenham Reservoir. Maximum numbers on the coast were 320 at Cleethorpes on 20th November and 250 at Holbeach on 23rd.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One was present at Gibraltar Point from 27th-29th August (AL,RLa et al).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One was present at Holbeach Marsh on 30th-31st October (RH,KH,SK,RG).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Singles were recorded at Gibraltar Point on 22nd August and 21st October (DS,ACB), Theddlethorpe on 22nd August and 13th September (KA,JRC) and Donna Nook on 13th August, 4th and 11th October and 8th November (RLo,SL).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

In the early part of the year, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 4th-5th January and in spring on 24th March and 21st April. Also in spring, four flew S at Trusthorpe on 20th April and one was inland at Messingham on 30th May. Coastal passage began in late June, with generally smaller numbers than most years. Peaks were 32 at Gibraltar Point on 16th August, 40 at Saltfleetby on 24th and 20 at the Witham Mouth on 26th. Thirty-three flew S at Donna Nook on 13th September and 32 S at Mablethorpe on 17th October. One was inland at Covenham Reservoir on 30th August, with two there on 31st and two on 14th September. In the Humber, one flew W at Barrow Haven on 13th August. Three late birds flew S at Donna Nook on 3rd December.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult was seen at Gibraltar Point on 17th August (DS) and another flew S at Donna Nook on 31st (SL). An immature flew S at Saltfleetby on 16th October (MM) and another flew S at Trusthorpe on 29th (KA,JRC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A wintering bird was seen at Donna Nook on 6th January. Birds were seen fairly regularly in autumn from late June, with peaks of 11 S at Huttoft on 22nd September, 58 N and 14 S at Donna Nook on 11th October and 15 S at Mablethorpe on 17th. In the Humber, one flew E at Barrow Haven on 16th October. Other records were at Cleethorpes, Grainthorpe, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Trusthorpe, Anderby, Chapel Point, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth. The last were three S at Donna Nook on 3rd December.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

In February, there was a second winter bird at Killingholme on 14th (GPC) and an adult at Grimsby Docks on 23rd-24th (HB,MM,DW). In autumn, Grimsby Docks had a second year bird on 10th July (WPB), an adult from 24th July to 2nd August (DS,IGS,WPB et al) and another adult on 25th October (WPB). There was also a second year bird at Cleethorpes on 29th July (RKN) and an adult at Covenham Reservoir on 27th August (GPC). A first year bird was seen at Trusthorpe on 20th September (KA,PH,KH) and a second year at Anderby on 28th (HB).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

There was an unusual winter record at Huttoft, with 17 adults and one immature N on 6th January. After one at the Witham Mouth on 20th March, there was a widespread influx beginning in May, with some summering at several sites. These were mainly immatures and included up to 11 at Gibraltar Point, six at Killingholme and Immingham and smaller numbers occasionally at Trent Falls, Messingham, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Grimsby Docks, Donna Nook, Covenham Reservoir, Freiston Shore, the Witham Mouth, Frampton and Kirton Marshes, Baston Fen and West Deeping pits. Early autumn passage was masked to some extent by summering birds, but included singles at Bardney on 2nd September, Covenham Reservoir on 6th and seven S at Gibraltar Point on 9th. Larger numbers occurred in October, with peaks of 14 N at Donna Nook on 12th, eight at the Witham Mouth and nine at Saltfleetby on 16th, then five at East Halton on 28th. In November, Donna Nook recorded 15 S on 5th and seven S on 8th. Altogether, there were over 150 records, an exceptional year.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

One present at Grimsby Docks on 19th-20th July (MM,WPB,HB) was also seen at Cleethorpes on 20th (AGP).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Inland breeding sites included Messingham, with 66 nests in June and there were at least 60 well grown young at Loughton on 30th. Large numbers in September included 8,000 at Freiston Shore on 8th, 20,000 at Trent Falls on 11th and 30,000 in the Humber, near Read's Island, on 17th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Donna Nook had a maximum of 2,000 on 2nd February and there were 2,000 at Trent Falls on 5th May. Largest number reported in autumn was 2,500 near Read's Island on 17th September.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Only small numbers were recorded in the first half of the year. Peak numbers in autumn included up to 150 at Trent Falls in September, with 110 near Read's Island on 17th and 200 at Gibraltar Point on 13th. There were up to 45 at Messingham in October and 60 at Terrington on 23rd November.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Peak numbers in the early part of the year included 1,200 at Donna Nook on 17th January and 560 W at Barrow Haven on 23rd. Gibraltar Point had 1,500 on 23rd March. Up to 1,000 occurred at Trent Falls in autumn and there were 3,000 at Killingholme rubbish tip in early December. Singles of one or other of the yellow-legged races were seen at Donna Nook on 27th January and Killingholme on 23rd July.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

An adult was present at Donna Nook on 27th-28th January (SL) and an immature flew S there on 29th November (SL).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

In the period January to April, birds were fairly widespread, with singles at Louth and Theddlethorpe, two at Grimsby Docks, Saltfleetby and Covenham Reservoir and at least three different birds at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Donna Nook and Messingham, where birds were seen regularly to 10th April. All other records were in November, with singles at Saltfleetby on 2nd, Chapel Point on 16th, Barrow Haven on 18th, Killingholme on 27th-29th and two at Trusthorpe and Donna Nook on 30th. Altogether, there were about 28 records of which five were adults.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

In January, 300 flew S at Donna Nook on 2nd and there were 400 at Louth rubbish tip on 5th, then 300 at Grimsby Docks on 2nd February. Gibraltar Point had 200 on 1st June, but larger numbers occurred in autumn, with 300 there on 18th October and 700 at Frampton on 23rd November. In December, there were 1,000 at Killingholme rubbish tip on 5th and 500 at Saltfleetby on 14th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Unusual numbers were present on the coast in the early part of the year, with peaks of 25 S at Saltfleetby on 1st January and 141 S at Gibraltar Point on 2nd. Smaller numbers were recorded until spring, when there were unusual numbers in the Humber. There were 25 adults at Barrow Haven on 21st May and several small flocks at Trent Falls, including 22 on 4th June and 30 W on 12th. There were 50 adults at the Witham Mouth on 1st June and four inland at Bardney on 12th. Early autumn movements included 250 N at Theddlethorpe on 22nd August and one was inland at Covenham Reservoir from 30th to 8th September. Peak movements in October included 640 N at Donna Nook on 11th, 1,400 S at Anderby and 2,110 S at Gibraltar Point on 16th. At Barrow Haven, 141 flew W on 29th November. In December, 1,525 flew S at Donna Nook on 3rd and 500 on 6th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

First were at the Witham Mouth and Donna Nook on 13th April, with a spring peak of 25 at Gibraltar Point on 28th May. One was inland on the Trent at Burringham on 17th May and Trent Falls had two W on 18th, two E on 12th June, two W on 28th July and one W on 2nd August. Others in the Humber included singles at Barrow Haven on 15th May, Barton-on-Humber on 5th June and Goxhill on 3rd August. Peak autumn numbers occurred in August, with 550 at Gibraltar Point on 3rd, 550 at Donna Nook on 6th and 600 at Saltfleetby on 10th. The last were two E at Barrow Haven on 27th October.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

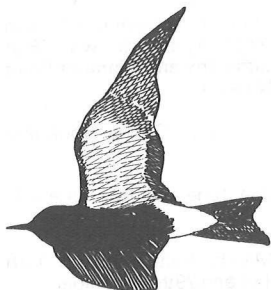
First was at the Witham Mouth on 13th April and small numbers were recorded in spring and summer. Peak autumn numbers were in August, with 75 at Saltfleetby on 3rd and 100 S at Gibraltar Point on 12th. The last was at Donna Nook on 11th October.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

First were nine at Barrow Haven on 25th April, with 29 E there on 28th. Smaller numbers were recorded at several sites in the Humber in May and early June, when 13 flew E at Killingholme on 5th. Up to 25 were present at Covenham Reservoir in late April, with up to 16 in the first half of May. A pair bred at the Witham Mouth (AGB). Adults were seen regularly carrying food towards one part of the marsh and later two newly fledged young were seen with an adult on the Witham bank. Peak numbers in autumn included 40 at Gibraltar Point on 6th August and 41 W inland at Donna Nook on 14th September, where the last was seen on 11th October.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

First was at Gibraltar Point on 14th April. Breeding pairs were 66 at Tetney, 21+ six at Donna Nook, seven at Saltfleet, six at Seacroft, 33 at Gibraltar Point and one at the Witham Mouth. In the Humber, there was one at Trent Falls on 4th June and two on 8th and Barrow Haven had singles on 16th May and 17th June, with 11 on 9th August. Peak numbers in autumn included 70 at Gibraltar Point on 27th July, with up to 60 at the Witham Mouth from mid-July to mid-August. The last were three late birds at Gibraltar Point on 4th October.



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (illustrated)

There were early singles in April at Sutton brick pit on 12th, Huttoft, Donna Nook and Grainthorpe on 13th. Birds were widespread in spring to early June, with peaks of 12 at Messingham on 12th May and 12 at Covenham Reservoir on 13th, and in autumn from late June to early October, with 12 at Killingholme on 30th July, 16 S at Gibraltar Point on 17th August, when there were also 86 at the Witham Mouth. Small numbers were recorded in spring at Barton-on-Humber, Killingholme, North Cotes, Fulstow and Baston Fen, in spring and autumn at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Saltfleetby, Covenham Reservoir, Bardney, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point and in autumn only at Cadney Reservoir, Tetney, Kirton Marsh, Baston Common pits and Mablethorpe,

where the last was seen on 2nd October.

Auk sp.

At Donna Nook, auks were seen from January to June, with up to 30 N regularly in January. Birds were more numerous from August to December, with peaks of 165 S on 4th October and 120 N on 11th, then 90 S on 5th November.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Birds were present from January to May, with up to 26 at Donna Nook during January and small numbers occasionally at Huttoft, Chapel Point, Gibraltar Point, Kirton Marsh and Gedney Drove End. Birds were seen again from July to December, with peaks at Donna Nook of 19 N on 11th October, 30 S on 5th November and 54 N on 9th. Smaller numbers were recorded occasionally at Tetney, Theddlethorpe, Trusthorpe, Chapel Point, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth. One flew E at Trent Falls on 25th December.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Singles were recorded in January at Gibraltar Point on 12th, Donna Nook on 19th and Anderby on 26th, with one found dead inland at Tetney Blow Wells on 20th. Another was at Gibraltar Point on 13th May. In autumn, there were occasional records of 1-3 from mid-July to early November at Donna Nook, Trusthorpe, Huttoft, Anderby and Gibraltar Point.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One flew S at Donna Nook on 5th November (RLo) and another was found dead at North Cotes on 23rd (RNG).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

One flew N at Donna Nook on 23rd January (SL) and one was found dead at Cleethorpes on 9th April (KJ). The only autumn record was one S at Chapel Point on 16th October (MM).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

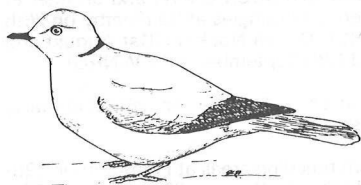
In the early part of the year, there were singles at Donna Nook on 24th January and Gibraltar Point on 19th March, then five S at Donna Nook on 2nd May. In autumn, Donna Nook had singles on 6th August, 19th September and 2nd October, with four N on 11th. One was seen at Saltfleetby on 14th September and one well up the Humber at Barrow Haven on 14th October. There was a small influx on 1st November, with one at Donna Nook, three at Trusthorpe and two at Gibraltar Point.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

At Donna Nook, where two pairs bred, there were up to ten present in spring and 13 in autumn. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 14 on 1st January and up to 11 during the rest of the year.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

In the early part of the year, Barrow Haven had 1,400 on 18th January and there were 350 at Gibraltar Point on 27th May. Apart from 1,000 at Gibraltar Point on 24th October, coastal movements were small in autumn, with 300 NW at Donna Nook on 11th November and 500 present at Gibraltar Point on 12th. A roost at Bulby Wood contained 2,000 on 29th December.



Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (illustrated)

Concentrations in the early part of the year included 70 at Louth on 2nd January and 40 at Gibraltar Point on 1st February. There was some evidence of a light coastal movement, with seven S at Chapel pit on 9th February and five S at Donna Nook on 2nd April. Concentrations in November included 42 at Barrow Haven on 10th, 15 at Mablethorpe on 18th and 37 in a Cleethorpes garden on 27th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

First were at Little Scrubs, Bardney Forest on 23rd April. Spring passage was lighter than usual, with peaks of 100 at Gibraltar Point on 27th May

and 55 at Donna Nook on 31st, then 46 at Barrow Haven on 2nd June. Maximum numbers in autumn were 15 at Cadney Reservoir on 7th August and 30 at Trent Falls on 13th, with 18 at Messingham on 9th September. Odd birds were still present at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point in late October and a very late bird flew N at Donna Nook on 26th November.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

First was at Donington on 17th April. Up to six were seen at Twigmoor, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point, where the last was recorded on 28th September.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Donna Nook had singles occasionally from January to March and in June and July. One was seen at Gibraltar Point on 2nd February.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

On the coast, there were singles at Donna Nook on 25th March, Saltfleetby on 11th September and Gibraltar Point on 2nd-3rd February, 26th September and 29th November.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

On the coast, there were singles at Donna Nook on 9th May and 12th October and Anderby on 5th November. Gibraltar Point had up to three throughout the year, but most regularly from March to May.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

The Hobhole roost held up to 15 from January to early April and up to four were at Bourne Wood in the same period. On the coast, there were 1-2 at Gibraltar Point from January to mid-May and singles occasionally at Killingholme and Donna Nook in April and May. Breeding was recorded at Laughton Forest, Blackwalk Nook and Bourne Wood. In October, there were singles at Saltfleetby on 12th, Donna Nook on 19th and 24th, with two at North Cotes on 15th. Singles were seen at Humberston on 5th November, Gibraltar Point on 23rd and 6th December and Navenby Low Fields on 28th December. Up to 11 were seen at the Hobhole in November and December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

There were widespread records in the first half of the year, with up to three at Trent Falls, Gibraltar Point and Baston Fen. Birds more numerous in the second half of the year, with up to three at Trent Falls from September to December, eight at Freiston Shore in October and November, then five at Nettleton on 7th December and five at Baston Fen in mid-month. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Birds were recorded in the breeding season at Crowle Waste, Nettleton and Stapleford Woods.

Swift *Apus apus*

First was at Barrow Haven on 28th April and there was a maximum at Covenham Reservoir of 1,000 on 31st May. Barrow Haven had 700 on 23rd June and 550 flew S at Donna Nook on 17th July. Gibraltar Point recorded regular southerly movements from mid-June to mid-August, with peaks of 8,000 on 15th June, 5,000 on 20th June, 5,000 on 30th July and 2,000 on 17th August. Also on 30th July, 2,000 passed Freiston Shore in two hours and 530 flew W at the Witham Mouth on 17th August. The last was at Gibraltar Point on 6th October.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

There were widespread reports of small numbers throughout the year, with breeding recorded at the South Humber bank pits, Burton gravel pits and Low Toynton. There were occasional records of 1-2 on the coast in the second half of the year at Cleethorpes, Tetney, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Frampton and Holbeach.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Singles were recorded in May at Saltfleetby on 10th-16th (BMC, GPC, SDT), Gosberton on 14th (MH), Melton Ross on 22nd (RKN) and Donna Nook on 23rd (RLo). Two were present at Saltfleetby on 1st-2nd June (PC, BW, JRC et al). There was only one autumn record, at Gibraltar Point on 16th August (RPS).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

In spring, one was present at Saltfleetby on 1st-3rd May (KA, JRC, PC, BW) and another at North Somercotes Warren on 9th (DW). In autumn, there were singles at Saltfleetby on 26th and 31st August and 4th September (JRW, ACS, KA, JRC), Donna Nook on 31st August and 13th September (HB, RLo) and Gibraltar Point on 8th and 17th September (PP, SWNRG).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Away from breeding areas, there were singles at Barton-on-Humber on 28th February, Gibraltar Point on 8th June and Trent Falls on 2nd August.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

In the early part of the year, there were singles away from breeding areas at Frampton on 13th January, Theddlethorpe St. Helen on 19th February and Gibraltar Point on 22nd April and 31st May. There was a small influx in autumn, with singles at Goxhill on 13th October and 7th November, Saltfleetby on 30th October, Barrow Haven and East Halton on 1st November,



Red-throated Diver at Mablethorpe (K. Atkin)

Dotterel at R.A.F. Waddington (Bird Control Unit)





Barn Owls (B. Lillycrapp)



*Black-bellied Dipper
at Riseholme (G. P. Catley)*



Coal Tit (G. Lillycrapp)



Dusky Warbler at Donna Nook (K. Atkin)

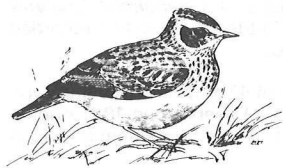
Booted Warbler at Theddlethorpe (M. Boddy)



Donna Nook on 3rd and 4th and another during the month at Wyberton.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

There were occasional records throughout the year of 1-2 at Burton gravel pits and Bourne Wood, with singles at Temple Wood, Bulby Wood, Wyberton Park, Denton, Haverholme, Aswardby Park, Riseholme and Bardney Forest.



Woodlark *Lullula arborea* (illustrated)

One was present at Saltfleetby from 15th-18th November (KA, PH et al).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Up to 200 were present at Donna Nook in January and 750 flew W at Trent Falls on 2nd February, with 170 present at Gibraltar Point on 9th. Maximum numbers in October included 200 at Gibraltar Point on 6th and 160 S on 14th, with 100 W at the Witham Mouth on 12th and 26th. In November, 320 arrived off the sea at Saltfleetby on 5th, and in December, there were 100 W at Trent Falls on 7th, with 300 present

at Gibraltar Point on 20th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Four flew S at Donna Nook on 6th January. In autumn, up to six were present at Donna Nook from 13th October to 11th November, with 20 at Theddlethorpe on 28th October and two at Saltfleetby on 29th, then two at Trusthorpe on 23rd November. Gibraltar Point had birds from 14th November to the end of the year, with up to six in November and 12 in late December.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

First were at Burton Stather on 3rd April and there were 120 at Barrow Haven on 17th. About 400 pairs bred at a colony at Biscathorpe. Peak numbers in autumn included 2,000 at Trent Falls on 28th July, 3,000 at Goxhill and 5,000 at Barrow Haven on 13th August, then 3,000 at Trent Falls on 5th September. Southerly movements at Gibraltar Point peaked at 120 on 31st July and 100 on 21st August. Five hundred were present at Wisbech sewage farm on 6th September and the last was at Barton-on-Humber on 20th November.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

First was at Trent Falls on 26th March. Peak spring passage in May included 250 S at Gibraltar Point on 11th and 455 N at Donna Nook on 12th. In autumn, southerly movements at Gibraltar Point peaked at 6,000 on 30th August, 10,000 on 8th September, with 5,000 on 9th. Also in September, there were roosts of 75,000 at Trent Falls on 9th and 35,000 at Barrow Haven on 29th. The last was one N at Donna Nook on 26th November.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The first were seen at Trent Falls and Louth on 13th April. Peak spring passage was in May, with 44 N at Donna Nook on 12th, then 130 S at Gibraltar Point on 27th and 60 S on 29th. In autumn, there were 300 at Goxhill on 13th August and 300 at Alkborough on 18th September. Coastal passage reached a peak in September, with 153 W at Barrow Haven on 2nd and 120 W on 3rd, 1,000 S at Gibraltar Point on 9th and 140 S at Donna Nook on 18th. The last was one S at Donna Nook on 20th November.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Singles were recorded in October at Gibraltar Point on 19th (MIE), East Halton Skitter on 27th-28th (GPC, KA, JRC, ACS) and Tetney on 30th (RLo).

Under consideration by *British Birds*.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One was seen at Donna Nook on 10th May (RLo, SL, CRM, KA, JRC).

Accepted by *British Birds*.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

One was seen at Saltfleetby on 19th October (GPC).

Under consideration by *British Birds*.

The first county record.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

First were at Anderby and Bourne Wood on 13th April. Small numbers were recorded on the coast in April and May, with up to four at Gibraltar Point and 1-2 at Barrow Haven, Tetney, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby. In autumn, birds were seen on the coast from mid-August, with up to four at Gibraltar Point and seven at Donna Nook. Last was at Humberston on 9th November.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Coastal passage was fairly light in spring, with a maximum of 94 at Donna Nook on 25th March. Peak autumn passage was in September, with southerly movements at Gibraltar Point of 300 on 13th, 200 on 24th and 400 on 26th. A hundred flew W at the Witham Mouth on 14th and Donna Nook recorded up to 250 during the month, with 180 S on 18th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Small numbers were recorded in the early part of the year until the last at Donna Nook on 7th April. First of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on 13th September, with a maximum of eight there on 1st November and ten at Holbeach on 23rd. Inland, there were up to seven at Covenham Reservoir throughout October and one at Bardney on 21st.

Birds showing characters of the Scandinavian race, *A.s.littoralis*, were seen in March at Goxhill on 7th, with two at Saltfleet and Saltfleetby on 20th.

There were two records of birds showing characters of Water Pipits, *A.s.spinoletta*. One was seen at Huttoft on 31st March (WPB) and another, wintering at Saltfleetby, was first recorded on 25th October (GS, GPC) and again on 20th November (KA, JRC).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

First was at Donna Nook on 6th April and there was a spring peak of 42 at Covenham Reservoir on 7th May. Maximum numbers in autumn included 12 at Cadney Reservoir on 18th August and 15 at the Witham Mouth on 28th-29th, with up to 30 at Trent Falls in September and 22 at Gibraltar Point on 10th, where the last was seen on 25th October.

Birds showing characters of the Blue-headed race, *M.f.flava*, were fairly widespread. Covenham Reservoir had 1-2 regularly from late April to mid-June. In May, there were singles at Barrow Haven on 5th, Saltfleetby on 8th and Baston Fen on 24th, with one at Killingholme on 2nd June. Donna Nook had 1-2 occasionally from mid-April to late August and one was at Gibraltar Point on 25th August.

Single males showing characters of the Grey-headed race, *M.f.thunbergi*, were seen at Covenham Reservoir on 5th May (STH, TE) and Saltfleetby on 14th (KA, JRC).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

In the early part of the year, there were occasional records of 1-2 at Donna Nook, Louth, Saltfleetby, Riseholme, Lincoln and Bourne. A pair bred at Louth, rearing at least two young (BMC, KA, JRC et al) and another pair at Stamford produced three young (CP, PB, TM). Also in summer, there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 22nd June and 22nd-24th July. Birds were more widespread from late August to the end of the year, with a maximum of six at Gibraltar Point on 13th September and 1-2 occasionally at Trent Falls, Normanby Park, Brumby Common, Messingham, Scunthorpe, Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Great Coates, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, New Waltham, Louth, Lincoln, Burton gravel pits, Sleaford, the Witham Mouth and Denton.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Thirty were present at Risby Warren on 14th February and there were 50 at Covenham Reservoir on 3rd October, with 20 at Gibraltar Point on 6th.

Birds showing characters of White Wagtails, *M.a.alba*, were fairly widespread. Trent Falls had up to four from 30th March to mid-May and in the same period there were occasional singles at Barrow Haven, East Halton, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Tallington and the Witham Mouth. In autumn, there were occasional records of 1-2 from late August to mid-October at Gibraltar Point and Bagmoor.

**Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus* (illustrated)**

In February, there were up to six at Keelby from 12th-16th (DH) and one at Barton-on-Humber on 12th-13th (GPC).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

In autumn, there was a small influx of birds showing characters of the Black-bellied race, *C.c.cinclus*. The first was at Donna Nook from 21st-25th November (SL, CRM) and one was present at Riseholme from 27th November to the end of the year (RW, SM, PH et al). Another was seen at Louth on 8th December (JRC, BMC).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

At Donna Nook, where none bred, there were 1-2 from January to mid-May and birds were present again from late July, with up to seven in October. Gibraltar Point recorded less than ten for most of the year, with a slight increase in autumn, when there were up to 15 in mid-October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

In the early part of the year, up to 50 were recorded at Gibraltar Point in February and May and Saltfleetby in March. In autumn, 46 were ringed at Theddlethorpe on 28th-29th August and 51 on 20th-21st September. Donna Nook had a maximum of 80 on 25th September and Gibraltar Point 60 on 26th. There were 80 again at Donna Nook on 14th October.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Only small numbers were recorded on the coast in the first half of the year. Peak numbers in autumn were in October, with 100 at Gibraltar Point on 12th and up to 20 at Donna Nook late in the month. At Theddlethorpe, 29 were ringed between 25th-31st October and 25 were present

at Twigmoor on 31st.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

On the coast, there were singles at North Cotes on 13th April and Saltfleetby on 8th May. A census located at least 100 singing males in the county.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The first was at Donna Nook from 23rd-26th March, with singles there on 6th and 13th April and others at Tetney on 2nd, Anderby on 6th and Moulton Chapel on 8th. Gibraltar Point had about four different singles in April and early May and there was one at Saltfleetby on 9th April with 1-2 from 1st-5th May. Single pairs bred successfully at Killingholme oil refinery (DB) and Grimsby Docks (DH). In autumn, there were occasional records of 1-3 from mid-September to early November at Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Huttoft, Grainthorpe, Gibraltar Point, Freiston and Bourne. A wintering bird was seen at Trusthorpe on 26th-27th December.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

First were at Gibraltar Point and Burton gravel pits on 13th April, with 1-2 in spring at New Holland, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Sleaford and Temple Wood. Up to three were recorded in autumn at Trent Falls, Brumby Common, Barrow Haven, Cleethorpes, Humberston, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Chapel Point and Gibraltar Point, where the last was seen on 25th October.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Up to four occurred in spring, with the first at Donna Nook on 13th April and others at Trent Falls, Tetney, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Gibraltar Point, Kirton Skeldyke and Temple Wood. Birds were more widespread in autumn, with peaks of 20 at Gibraltar Point on 31st August, ten at Donna Nook on 6th and 24th September and ten at Trent Falls on 7th. The last was at Tetney on 9th November.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Very few were recorded in the early part of the year, with singles in January and February at Saltfleetby and Baston Fen, from January to March at Donna Nook and on 6th April at Gibraltar Point. A pair bred at Saltfleet, being present from late April and regularly seen carrying food to the nest site in mid-June (HB, DW et al). Birds were again scarce in autumn, with 1-2 occasionally from late September to the end of the year at Trent Falls, Killingholme, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Tetney, Gibraltar Point and Baston Fen.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

First was at Saltfleetby on 23rd March, with a spring peak of eight at Donna Nook on 10th May. In summer, there were occasional records of singles in June at Saltfleetby, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point, with a male at Winterton Beck on 1st July. An early autumn juvenile was at Saltfleetby on 2nd July, with peaks of 11 at Risby Warren on 26th August, ten at the Witham Mouth on 28th and 21 at Gibraltar Point on 29th, then 20 there on 20th September. A late bird was seen at Donna Nook on 9th November.

A few birds showing characters of Greenland Wheatears, *O.o.leucorrhoa*, were seen in May, with 1-2 at Donna Nook from 6th-21st and one at Saltfleetby on 14th. In September, there were two at Gibraltar Point on 11th and 13th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

First was at Broughton Woods on 14th March, with up to seven to late-May at Barrow Haven, Burton Stather, Grimsby Docks, Tetney Blow Wells, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point and Burton gravel pits. In autumn, there were 1-2 from late September at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Mablethorpe, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth. A wintering bird was present to the end of the year at Rippingale.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

In spring, up to 40 were present at Donna Nook from March to early May, with a maximum of 50 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd March. Peak autumn passage was in October, with 700 on 15th and 500 on 25th at Gibraltar Point, 350 at Humberston and 500 SW at Donna Nook on 26th, then 1,000 at Theddlethorpe on 31st.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

In the early part of the year, there were up to 300 at Donna Nook in January and early February, with up to 1,000 at Gibraltar Point in mid-January. In March, there were 300 at Thornton Curtis on 15th and 280 at Pinchbeck on 26th. Most had departed by mid-May, but one was seen at Gibraltar Point on 7th June. Early autumn birds were seen at Donna Nook on 29th August and Gibraltar Point on 30th. Peak numbers were in November, with 2,000 at Theddlethorpe on 9th, 630 W at Barrow Haven and 5,000 at Donna Nook on 10th, then 2,200 at Gibraltar Point on 16th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

In the early part of the year, up to 50 were present at Donna Nook in January, with 20 at Gibraltar Point in January and early February. Maximum numbers in autumn were in October, with 100 at Gibraltar Point on 11th, 25 at North Cotes on 17th and 100 at Donna Nook on 26th. A total of 52 were ringed at Theddlethorpe from 25th-31st.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

In January, 200 flew W at Barrow Haven on 2nd, with up to 200 present at Gibraltar Point and 320 at Donna Nook. Last of the spring was at Donna Nook on 30th May and there was an early autumn bird at Theddlethorpe on 29th August. Maximum numbers were in October, with 750 at Gibraltar Point on 15th, 300 at North Cotes on 17th, 250 at Brigg on 22nd and 500 SW at Donna Nook on 26th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

On the coast, Donna Nook had 1-2 occasionally in March and May and from August to October. Saltfleetby had up to seven in June and five in August. Birds were present for most of the year at Gibraltar Point, with 11 on 7th September. The maximum number reported was 16 at Risby Warren on 18th July.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

First was at Barrow Haven on 12th April and there were five at Bourne Wood on 19th, four at Gibraltar Point on 27th, five at Little Scrubs, Bardney Forest on 29th, with up to six at Donna Nook in May. One pair bred there and the last was recorded on 13th August.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

First were at Gibraltar Point, Huttoft and Chapel pits on 13th April, with a spring peak at Gibraltar Point of 20 on 10th May. In autumn, there were 12 at Messingham on 15th August, but only small numbers on the coast, with the last at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point on 19th September.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One was seen at Theddlethorpe on 17th May (MM).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

First was at Barrow Haven on 15th April, with only small numbers on the coast in spring. In autumn, there were 50 at Barrow Haven on 25th August, with six at Gibraltar Point on 31st. Some late passage occurred in September, with five at Cleethorpes on 26th and at least 12 at Theddlethorpe during the period 20th-27th. The last was at Gibraltar Point on 14th October.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A singing male was present at North Cotes on 20th May (HB et al).

Accepted by *British Birds*.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

One was trapped at Theddlethorpe on 12th October (MB, BW).

Under consideration by *British Birds*. The first county record.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

In September, there were two at Gibraltar Point on 1st and one on 7th (RLa, BTO, AV et al), with one at Saltfleetby on 20th (JRW).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

The only records were singles at Saltfleetby on 27th August (JRC, BMC) and 11th September (GPC).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

First was at Donna Nook on 2nd May, with up to four there in spring and small numbers elsewhere on the coast. In autumn, there was a maximum of 40 at Gibraltar Point on 27th August, with the last of the autumn there on 12th November.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

First was at Donna Nook on 12th April, with a spring peak there of 25 in early May and 15 at Gibraltar Point on 17th. There were 30 at Gibraltar Point on 26th July and 35 at Donna Nook on 26th August, with 28 ringed at Theddlethorpe from 28th-29th. The last was seen at Gibraltar Point on 29th September.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

First was at Gibraltar Point on 16th April, with only small numbers on the coast in spring. In autumn, there was a peak of 14 at Gibraltar Point on 31st August and up to six at Donna Nook from early September, with the last there on 12th October.

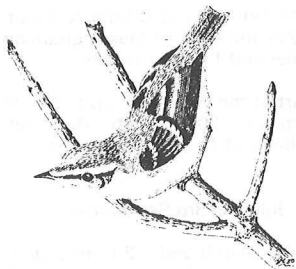
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering birds were seen occasionally in January and February, with up to four at Gibraltar Point, two at Donna Nook and singles at Scunthorpe, Grimsby, Saltfleetby and Bourne. Migrants in spring arrived from late March, with peaks at Gibraltar Point of eight on 9th May and 21st June. Maximum numbers in autumn included 25 at Gibraltar Point on 31st August, with up to 20 there from 24th-27th September and 12 ringed at Theddlethorpe from 26th-27th. In October, there were ten at Donna Nook on 14th, 14 at Theddlethorpe on 12th and 16 ringed there from 25th-31st. There were occasional records in December, with up to three at Gibraltar Point and singles at Donna Nook and Bourne.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Singles were trapped at Donna Nook on 20th October (RLa, SL) and Theddlethorpe on 31st (BB&TRG).

Accepted by *British Birds*.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
(illustrated)

In October, singles were seen at Saltfleetby on 11th, 12th and 13th (GPC,GB) — at least two birds — and at Donna Nook on 13th (RLo).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

One present at Donna Nook from 3rd-9th November was trapped on 4th (SL,CRM et al). The second county record.

Accepted by *British Birds*.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

One was present at Bourne Wood on 23rd April (RS), with singles in May at Burton gravel pits and Weelsby Woods on 10th (PH,WM) and Gibraltar Point on 31st

(MIE). The only autumn records were singles at Gibraltar Point on 14th August (MW) and 28th September (RLa,JPS,AC).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

In January, there were singles at Twigmoor, Donna Nook on 2nd, Saltfleetby on 4th and Sleaford on 30th. First of the spring migrants was at Gibraltar Point on 21st March and there were nine in Bourne Woods on 30th. Maximum numbers in autumn were ten at Gibraltar Point on 19th September and 12 at North Cotes on 17th October. In December, there were three at Gibraltar Point on 7th and one on 20th, with singles at Saltfleetby on 14th and 20th.

In autumn, there were a few birds showing characters of the Siberian race, *P. c. tristis*. There were different singles at Saltfleetby on 11th-12th October (one with a Yellow-browed) and 1-2 at North Somercotes Warren in the first half of November.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

First was at Burton Stather on 5th April and there were 20 at Twigmoor on 16th. Peak coastal passage was in May, with 14 at Gibraltar Point on 9th and 15 at Donna Nook on 10th. Maximum numbers in autumn were in August, with 35 at Donna Nook and 60 at Gibraltar Point on 16th and 20 at Barrow Haven on 18th. In September, there were 30 at Gibraltar Point on 19th and the last was recorded there on 15th October.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Only small numbers occurred on the coast in spring, with up to ten at Gibraltar Point in the first half of April. Autumn passage began in late August and there were 200 at Gibraltar Point on 27th September. Maximum numbers occurred in October, with 30 at North Cotes, 48 ringed at Theddlethorpe, 25 at Saltfleet and 100 at Saltfleetby on 12th. Donna Nook had 150 on 12th and 14th and there was a peak of 300 at Gibraltar Point on 14th. Later in the month, there were 40 inland at Brumby Common on 20th and 50 at Twigmoor on 31st.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

After one at Boston on 26th March, there were occasional records of 1-3 to the end of May at North Cotes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Anderby, Seacroft, Gibraltar Point and Bourne Wood, with a singing male there from mid-April to mid-May. In autumn, birds were recorded from early September, with most occurring in November. There were up to three at Donna Nook involving about ten different birds. Elsewhere, there were occasional records of 1-2 at North Cotes, Grainthorpe, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Skidbrooke, Anderby, Gibraltar Point, North Somercotes Warren and Fishtoft. Wintering birds were seen in December, with two at Gibraltar Point on 10th and one on 20th and singles at North Somercotes Warren on 11th, Saltfleetby on 20th-21st and Donna Nook on 27th-31st. Altogether, there were at least 50 records.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

First was at Barrow Haven on 31st May and small numbers occurred on the coast in spring to early June. In autumn, maximum number was 20 at Gibraltar Point on 20th September and the last was recorded there on 2nd October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

In October, there were singles on 12th at Donna Nook (RLo,CRM), Saltfleetby (GPC,BMC) and Gibraltar Point (KD,WMP).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

In spring, there were singles at Burton gravel pits on 13th April, Saltfleetby on 15th May, with 1-2 at Donna Nook on 23rd-24th and singles at Gibraltar Point on 17th May and 2nd June. Only small numbers occurred in autumn from mid-August, with one inland at Gosberton on 24th and up to five at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point and six at Donna Nook. The last was seen at North Cotes on 15th October.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

About ten pairs bred at the South Humber Bank pits. An influx occurred in October, with nine

at Killingholme on 2nd, two at Gibraltar Point on 4th and 13th-14th, ten at Donna Nook on 10th, three at South Ferriby on 11th, eight at North Cotes on 12th and eight at Messingham on 15th. Singles were also recorded at Saltfleetby on 16th November and 13th December.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Only small numbers were recorded on the coast in the early part of the year, with up to five at Gibraltar Point in January and February and five at Cleethorpes on 20th March. Maximum numbers in autumn included 40 at Gibraltar Point on 6th October and 19 at Theddlethorpe on 22nd.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

The only coastal records were singles at Gibraltar Point on 13th July and 3rd September.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

On the coast, there were singles at Donna Nook from January to March and 1-2 from July to November. Birds were recorded for most of the year at Saltfleetby and at least one pair bred. Four were ringed at Theddlethorpe in late August. Gibraltar Point had two on 9th May and up to three occasionally from July to October.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

A few occurred on the coast in autumn, including occasional singles in September and October at Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Cleethorpes, Humberston and Donna Nook. Gibraltar Point had up to four from September to December.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

An unusually large flock of 50 was seen near Woodhall Spa on 15th March. Maximum numbers in autumn were in September, with 100 at Gibraltar Point on 8th-9th and 40 at Donna Nook on 19th. In October, 21 flew S at Cleethorpes on 21st and 30 were ringed at Theddlethorpe between 25th and 31st. There were 20 at Saltfleet on 8th November.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Donna Nook had up to three for most of the year, with five on 14th October. Up to ten were recorded at Gibraltar Point throughout the year.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

All records were from the SW of the county, at Bulby Wood, Temple Wood, Bourne Wood and Irnham, where there were ten on 31st December.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

The only coastal records were singles at Gibraltar Point on 3rd August, 27th September and 1st-2nd October.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A singing male was present at Tetney Blow Wells on 29th June (HB).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

In spring, there was a male at Donna Nook on 23rd-24th May and another on 31st and 1st June, when it was joined by a female. Other males were seen at Saltfleetby on 30th May and North Cotes on 1st June. Birds were scarce in autumn, with singles at Donna Nook on 30th July and 23rd-24th August and Gibraltar Point on 12th October.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

The only record in the early part of the year was at Donna Nook on 9th May. In autumn, there were occasional singles at Saltfleetby from 14th October to late December, probably involving two or three different birds. Others were recorded at Temple Wood on 19th October, North Cotes on 26th October and 8th December, Baston Fen on 19th December and Haverholme on 21st.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Records away from breeding areas included singles at Goxhill on 16th January and 28th October, Spalding in March and October and Gibraltar Point on 15th March and 6th April. Largest concentrations were 14 at Temple Wood on 24th August and ten at Brumby Common on 1st October.

Magpie *Pica pica*

At Donna Nook, where three pairs bred, there were up to 12 in the early part of the year and 18 in autumn. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 30 on 2nd March and up to 21 in October and December. A flock of 18 was seen at Goxhill in mid-November.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Some spring passage was noted on the coast in late March and April, including eight at Gibraltar Point on 22nd March, a peak of 38 NW at Donna Nook on 2nd April and five E at Cleethorpes on 13th. Small numbers in autumn included a maximum of 15 at Donna Nook on 2nd September and up to six at Gibraltar Point from September to November.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

In the early part of the year, there were up to 3,000 near Saltfleetby in January and February. Donna Nook had 170 on 27th January, then smaller numbers until 120 in early June and up to 70 in late August and September. Very few were recorded at Gibraltar Point, with up to five occasionally from February to April and September to November.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Some spring passage occurred at Donna Nook in April and early May, with 32 on 25th April. Maximum numbers in autumn were 22 at Gibraltar Point on 15th September and 32 at Donna Nook on 30th October. At Barrow Haven, ten flew W on 30th September and 13 W on 20th October.

Only small numbers of Hooded Crows *C.c.cornix*, were recorded. There were occasional records of 1-2 from January to May at Messingham, Killingholme, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Hogsthorpe, Gibraltar Point, Grainthorpe, Kirkby-on-Bain and Donna Nook, where the last was seen on 9th May. First of the autumn was at Nettleham on 18th October, with 1-2 occasionally to the end of the year at Messingham, Scunthorpe, Tetney, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Freiston Shore and Kirkby Moor.

Raven *Corvus corax*

One was present at Donna Nook from 11th-26th February (SL), a somewhat unexpected record and the first for many years.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Large numbers in the early part of the year included 8,000 at Burton gravel pits on 7th January and 13,000 N at Saltfleetby on 20th, with 10,000 roosting at Croxton in January and February. There were southerly movements of 3,750 at Gibraltar Point on 10th February and 1,100 at Donna Nook on 28th March. In June, there were up to 1,900 at Donna Nook and 800 at Gibraltar Point. Peak autumn passage was 3,000 NW at Donna Nook and 1,000 N at Saltfleetby on 12th October, with 1,000 at Gibraltar Point on 16th November. A roost at Trent Falls reached a peak of 20,000 on 8th September.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

In the early part of the year, Gibraltar Point had up to 100 in January and February. In October, 100 flew W at Barrow Haven on 10th and there were 200 at Donna Nook in mid-month, with 100 S on 28th. Up to 200 were present at Gibraltar Point from October, with 300 S on 23rd November and 300 present in December.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

In the early part of the year, there were 100 at Goxhill on 7th March. In autumn, maximum numbers were in October, with 300 S at Gibraltar Point on 8th and 200 S on 24th, 200 at Donna Nook on 13th and 110 at Messingham on 14th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

In January, up to 110 were present at Donna Nook and there were northerly movements at Saltfleetby of 400 on 1st, 325 on 5th and 1,000 on 26th. In spring, 150 flew S at Gibraltar Point on 31st March and peak number there in autumn was 100 S on 23rd November. There were 500 at Temple Wood on 25th December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

There were 200 at Barrow-on-Humber on 4th January, with 60 at Donna Nook on 2nd February and 120 at Gibraltar Point on 10th. In March, there were 50 at North Somercotes Warren on 12th and 100 at Saltfleetby on 27th. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere, with the last at Weelsby Woods on 10th May. First of the autumn was at Donna Nook on 25th September and there were widespread reports of mainly small numbers to the end of the year. Largest flock was 500 at Edenham in November, with 200 at Hartsholme Park on 21st December, 50 at Branston on 30th and 45 at Gibraltar Point on 31st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Up to 150 were present at Donna Nook in January and February and there were 400 at Gibraltar Point on 27th January. In February, there were 200 at Trent Falls on 2nd and 500 at Sutton Ings on 14th. Wisbech sewage farm had 225 on 10th April and there were 110 at Baston Fen on 13th. Smaller numbers were recorded later in the year, with 100 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd November and 120 on 5th December.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

In early January, up to 60 were present at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point, with 100 at Saltfleetby on 4th. Gibraltar Point had a spring peak of 70 on 9th May. In autumn, there were 200 at Freiston Shore on 6th September and 150 at Trent Falls on 8th. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 200 on 11th October, with 150 S on 24th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

In the early part of the year, there were up to 50 at Boultham Park, Lincoln, from January to March and smaller numbers at Cleethorpes, Goxhill, Kirkby Moor, Hartsholme Park, Bourne Wood, Holbeach and Gibraltar Point, where the last of the spring was recorded on 27th April. An early autumn bird was at Gibraltar Point on 12th July and birds were fairly regular there from September to December, with peaks of 35 on 11th September and 52 S on 29th. There were 17 N at Saltfleetby on 12th October and smaller numbers occasionally to the end of the year at Trent Falls, Brumby Common, Twigmoor, Barton-on-Humber, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Theddlethorpe, Mablethorpe, the Hobhole, Bourne Wood and Boultham Park. Up to 20 were present at Hartsholme Park in December.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Up to 200 were present at Trent Falls in January and February, with 120 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd January and 150 at Saltfleet on 5th. There were spring peaks of 250 at Donna Nook in mid-April, with 310 at Wisbech sewage farm on 10th and 110 W at Goxhill on 19th. Gibraltar Point had 180 on 4th May. Maximum numbers in autumn were in October, with up to 400 at Theddlethorpe in the first half of the month, 370 at Donna Nook on 3rd and 275 at Gibraltar Point on 5th. There were 400 at Holbeach on 23rd November.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

In the early part of the year, there were 1,000 at Kirton Marsh on 13th January, with 3,000 on the Wash between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on 20th. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere and the last of the spring were five W at Trent Falls on 5th April. First of the autumn were at Gibraltar Point on 20th September, with up to 320 there to the end of the year. Maximum numbers in the Wash were 500 at the Witham Mouth on 25th October, with 800 at Frampton and 500 at Holbeach on 23rd November. On the north-east coast, there were up to 100 at Grainthorpe from October to December, with 250 at Donna Nook on 1st November, 100 at Cleethorpes on 13th and 150 at Tetney on 15th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Only small numbers were recorded on the coast in spring, with up to 30 at Donna Nook and 40 at Gibraltar Point in early May. In autumn, there were 250 at Brumby Common on 6th September and 150 at Gibraltar Point on 19th, then 400 at Theddlethorpe on 4th-5th October. The only records of birds showing characters of Mealy Redpolls, *C.f. flammea*, were one at Gibraltar Point on 15th March and three at Barrow Haven from 13th-17th October.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

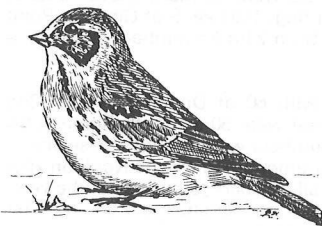
A few were recorded in March, with two immatures at Willingham Forest on 3rd (MJT,SDT), two at Gibraltar Point on 22nd (PRB,AWP) and a male at Bourne Wood on 23rd (KKH). In autumn, one flew S at Gibraltar Point on 14th August, with two on 2nd September and one on 4th, then another on 4th October (RLa,MW,BTO,PRB).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Donna Nook had three on 10th May and up to five in autumn from mid-August to late November. Birds were present all year at Gibraltar Point, with a maximum of 12 on 21st September.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

The only record was one at Gibraltar Point on 6th May (WPB).

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus* (illustrated)

In the early part of the year, there were 21 at Goxhill on 16th January and up to 20 at Huttoft in January and February, with smaller numbers at Cleethorpes, Tetney, North Cotes and Donna Nook. Last of the spring was at Wolla Bank, Anderby on 13th April. First of the autumn were at Donna Nook on 20th September, with up to four present to the end of the year and small numbers occasionally at Trent Falls, East Halton, Cleethorpes, Humberston and Saltfleetby.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

In the early part of the year, there were up to 150 at Gibraltar Point in January and February, with 33 at Huttoft and 32 at Saltfleetby on 3rd February and smaller numbers at Trent Falls, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Cleethorpes, Humberston, North Cotes, Trusthorpe, Anderby, Donna Nook, Benington, Gedney Drove End and Terrington. Singles were inland at Cadney Reservoir on 5th February, Covenham Reservoir on 1st January, 9th February and 6th March, with one at Toft Newton Reservoir on 24th March. Last of the spring was at Donna Nook on 12th April. First of the autumn was at Tetney on 14th October and there were 55 there on 9th November. Donna Nook had a maximum of 140 on 8th November and up to 250 were present at Gibraltar Point from late November to the end of the year, with up to 50 at Saltfleetby in December. Smaller numbers were recorded at Trent Falls, North Cotes, Cleethorpes, Theddlethorpe, Trusthorpe, Freiston Shore and Frampton. One was inland at Thoresway on 29th October.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

In the early part of the year, up to 100 were present at Donna Nook in January, with 50 at North Cotes on 12th and 300 at Baston Fen on 26th, then 85 at Killingholme and 100 at Tetney on 2nd February and 100 at Gibraltar Point on 10th. There were still 70 at Gibraltar Point on 21st March. Maximum numbers in autumn were 50 at Messingham in early September, 60 at Killingholme on 1st November and 60 at Messingham on 24th, with 70 at New Waltham in mid-December.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A male was seen at Donna Nook on 12th May (SL).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Up to 80 were present at Donna Nook in January and there were 40 at Gibraltar Point in early June. Maximum numbers in autumn were 170 at Donna Nook on 2nd October, with 50 at Grainthorpe on 12th and up to 60 at Gibraltar Point in mid-November.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

A male was present at Donna Nook from 16th-25th June (SL,RLo,CRM).

Accepted by *British Birds*.

The second county record.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Concentrations in the early part of the year included 50 at Sutton Ings on 23rd February, 100 at Gibraltar Point on 22nd March and 35 at Saltfleetby on 4th April. Later in the year, maximum number recorded was 27 at Gibraltar Point on 29th December.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1978 RECORDS

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The male at Saltfleetby from 15th-17th October was accepted as showing characters of one or other of the intergrading southern/eastern populations, *P.o.ochruros/semirufus/phoenicuroides*.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1979 RECORDS

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Accepted: Immature at Skegness on 30th-31st December (see 1980).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Rejected: one at Trent Falls on 22nd September.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Additional record: ten on the Nene, near Wisbech sewage farm, on 6th January.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Additional record: two at Wrangle on 6th March, with one still present on 11th (DP).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Additional record: a male at Saltfleetby on 24th June (GPC,MM), accepted by *British Birds*.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Additional record: one at Kirkby Moor on 3rd June (BR).

Crane *Grus grus*

Accepted: one at Gibraltar Point on 13th-14th September; an immature at Kirton on 24th November.

Accepted only as Crane sp: one at Gibraltar Point on 12th May.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Accepted: two at Wisbech sewage farm on 29th August.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Accepted: two immatures at Saltfleetby on 21st October; an adult at Donna Nook on 30th September and another on 13th October; a juvenile at Anderby on 4th October; an adult at Gibraltar Point on 28th October.

Rejected: singles at Gibraltar Point on 6th and 13th September.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

Accepted: a first winter bird at Huttoft on 6th October.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Correction: 58 S at Donna Nook on 13th October, *not* 585.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Rejected: one at Messingham on 16th June.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Additional record: 70 at Wisbech sewage farm on 20th April included three Blue-headed, *M.f.flava*.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Additional record: a pair bred successfully at Wyberton.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Accepted: one at Saltfleetby on 29th October.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Accepted: singles at Trusthorpe on 22nd October and Saltfleetby on 27th-28th.

Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

UNDER this heading it is planned to include each year full details of all species occurring in the county for the first time in twenty years or more. This year there are three such reports, two of them of county 'firsts'.

Olive backed Pipit at Saltfleetby, 19th October 1980

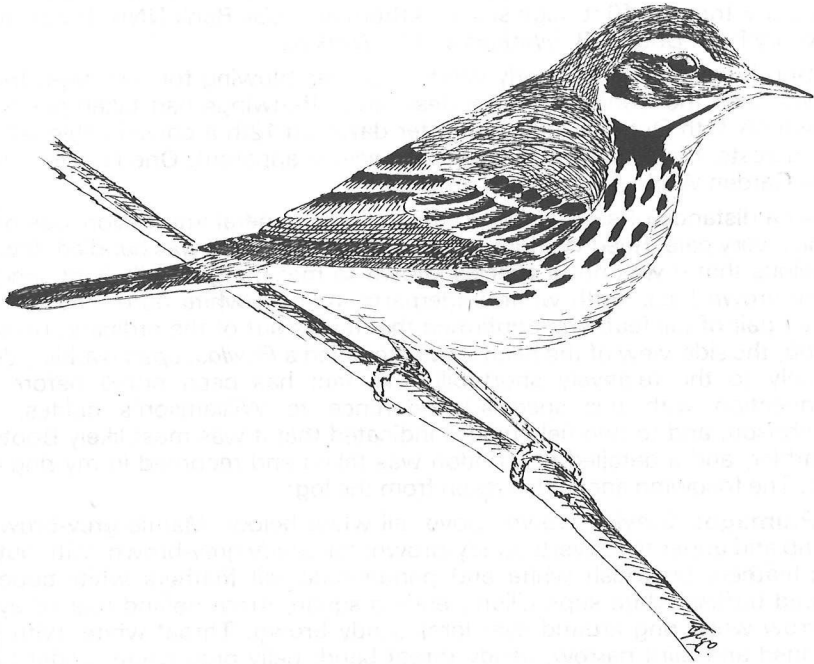
Following a week of moderate to strong easterly winds, with high pressure stretching from Asia, and amid reports of Little Bunting and three Pallas's Warblers from Spurn, I set off round Saltfleetby NR on October 19th with high hopes. However, after four and a half hours of solid slog which produced ten Goldcrests and a Blackcap, thoroughly dejected I set off back towards Churchill Road car park at 15.30 hrs.

As a final effort I skirted the willows near the R.A.F. base and was rewarded with a Chiffchaff, a good reward for a day's slog! On walking away from the willows down the side of a harvested bean field however, I flushed a small Pipit from the long grass on the edge of the field. It flew up weakly in the fresh north-east wind and called 'psee' as it flew into a single small willow tree. Being familiar with the calls of Tree and Red throated Pipit I was aware that this was not the normal call of either species, and I tried desperately to get a look at the pipit, skulking in the foliage of the willow. A brief head-on view showed a white breast with lines of large black splotches extending onto the flanks, and then it promptly 'walked' down the branches of the tree and disappeared into the dyke. When it failed to reappear in five minutes I made a cautious approach but nothing appeared. Walking up and down the dyke soon flushed it again from near the original spot, and it flew to the same tree. Crossing the dyke I obtained good views in bright sunlight before it again disappeared. I took the following notes:

Pipit size of Tree Pipit but noticeably 'pot-bellied', with medium length tail, constantly wagged up and down while perched.

Bill flesh pink with a dark brown ridge to the upper mandible; lores pale buffish cream; eye dark with a narrow pale eye ring; a narrow dark blackish line through the eye underlining a striking supercilium, narrow and pale buff in front of the eye widening over and behind the eye brilliant white/cream. Supercilium quite short and ended abruptly at the rear like Moustached Warbler; a narrow black line above the supercilium enclosing the white with black.

Crown dark olive, with faint darker streaks fading out on nape also dark-olive; ear coverts dusky-brown with prominent black spot on rear lower edge; a creamy buff sub-moustachial line under ear coverts; prominent black moustachial streak extending into a large black smudge on the side of the neck and then leading into rows of heavy black spots and streaks forming a gorget round the throat and upper breast and reaching down onto the flanks at the sides. Throat, breast and belly creamy white and very striking with a faint buff wash on the flanks; mantle dark-olive with only faint dark streaks; tail dark olive-brown with white outer feathers. Median wing coverts black with narrow pale buff/white edges and tips, greater coverts blackish-brown with similar pale olive-buff edges; tertials dark



brownish-olive with brighter olive edges and tips; primaries and secondaries all edged with bright olive, all together forming a very noticeable wing pattern. Legs and feet bright flesh pink.

Call, given regularly in flight and sometimes when perched, a monosyllabic 'psee' short and clipped and only given once at a time; similar to Red throated but shorter and weaker and more abrupt.

I subsequently had superb views of the Pipit, both on the ground and in more open willows, where it habitually perched when disturbed during the next 45 minutes. It was rather inconspicuous as it fed in the long tangled vegetation on the field side and could have been easily missed. When perched in the trees it wagged its tail slowly up and down continually and walked about in the branches with great alacrity and speed, stretching its neck up and down to peer out through the canopy.

Apart from the striking plumage, which makes Olive-backed one of the easier West Palearctic Pipits to identify, the call was also very distinctive as were the unusual habits. I watched the bird until 16.25 hrs. when it was still in the same small area but it could not be found the next day. This is the first record of this species for the county.

GRAHAM P. CATLEY

Booted Warbler at Theddlethorpe dunes, 12th October 1980

The bird was captured at approximately 11.00 a.m. in a mist-net sited in a firebreak through 10 ft. high sea buckthorn at Crook Bank NNR. It was also seen by P. R. Boddy, B. Watkins and K. Watkins.

South-easterly and easterly winds had been blowing for two days, from 'lows' over the Continent. A modest fall of Redwings had taken place at dawn on 11th October and soon after dawn on 12th a considerable fall of Goldcrests, Blackcaps and Blackbirds became apparent. One Firecrest and one Garden Warbler were also captured.

At a distance of several feet in the net, the general impression was of a small, very pale 'Reed Warbler' type bird. Once the bird was handled, it was obvious that it was not a species known to me; the generally light sandy-grey brown back, with white underparts, and off-white outer half of the outer pair of tail feathers, confirmed that it was out of the ordinary. (In the hand, the side-view of the head only resembled a *Phylloscopus* warbler, due mainly to the relatively short bill; this fact has been noted before in connection with this species.) Reference to Williamson's guides, to Svensson, and to two field guides indicated that it was most likely Booted Warbler, and a detailed description was taken and recorded in my ringing log. The following account is taken from the log:

Plumage: Greyish-brown above, all white below. Mantle grey-brown; rump and upper tail coverts sandy-brown; tail sandy grey-brown, with outer tail-feathers brownish white and penultimate tail feathers white-tipped. Broad buffish-white supercilium, ending square 4mm behind rear of eye; narrow white ring around eye; lores sandy brown. Throat white, with ill-defined and faint narrow, sandy throat band; belly pure white; under tail-coverts buff-white. Primaries grey-brown; all coverts tipped sandy-buff brown; sandy tertials with broad buff tips.

Tail with obvious fault-barring; bird generally abraded, particularly the tail feathers. No moult could be found.

Soft parts: Bill: dark grey-brown above, pink at base of lower mandible, then grey (3mm) and yellow tip (1mm). Legs: bluey/pinky grey; soles olive-yellow. Mouth: bright orange-yellow. Iris: deep brown.

Measurements: Wing: 63mm. Tail: 50mm, almost square, 3rd pair of feathers 2½ mm longer than 1st (outer) pair. Bill to skull: 13.5mm. Bill to feathering: 9.5mm. Tarsus: 22mm. Weight: 8.5g at 1100 hours.

Wing-formula: Emarginated primaries: 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th — just visible. Wing-point: 3rd primary; 4th ¾ mm shorter; 5th 2mm; 6th, 4mm; 7th, 7mm; 8th, 10mm; 10th, 12mm.

Second primary: 5mm shorter than wing-point, fell between 6th and 7th, ½ mm shorter than 6th. First primary: 5mm shorter than primary coverts.

Conclusion: The bird can only have been a first-winter Booted Warbler, *Hippolais caligata*. The wing formula conformed to the *annectens* sub-species data given by Williamson, for 1st winter birds from the Tien Shan range. This is the first county record for this species.

M. BODDY

Raven at Donna Nook, 11th-26th February 1980

On 11th February 1980, I discovered a Raven near the low-water mark at Donna Nook. I was able to watch the bird for about five minutes at ranges down to about eighty yards before it flew away to the south. Its large size was immediately apparent since several Carrion Crows were also feeding on the shore, although none were associating with it. The combination of the deep, stout bill, the large head and typically loose feathers of the throat gave the bird a powerful, thick-set appearance as it walked strongly, or sometimes hopped amongst the tide-wrack and shingle.

When I tried to approach closer, the bird took to the air on easy, powerful wing-beats and flew leisurely along the tide-edge. In flight, it was longer-looking than a crow, less compact and with longer, narrower and more pointed wings. The long tail was clearly graduated, the neck longer than in any other corvid, while the heavy bill was again a distinctive feature.

On various dates to 26th February I found the Raven on the shore or on an area of newly-formed saltmarsh close to the dunes. I heard it call on only one occasion — on 16th February — the familiar deep, croaking 'cork-cork' delivered when the bird was in flight. Invariably the bird was on its own, although once I saw it being mobbed by two crows. On this occasion, it was seen to be considerably larger than the crows with a quite different flight silhouette and slower, deeper wing-beats. It was unperturbed by the diving attacks of the crows and easily evaded them by rolling with wings almost closed alternated with strong direct flight and long glides.

Until late in the eighteenth century, the Raven was widespread in lowland Britain, but there are few references to its early status in Lincolnshire. A pair is known to have bred on Louth church in 1693 and the species is said to have been common in the county prior to 1750. One pair was alleged to have been nesting near Scunthorpe until the end of the eighteenth century. Records of two seen near Caistor in 1887 and another near Brigg in 1901 cannot be substantiated. Nowadays, it is fairly common in much of northern and western Britain. It is a largely sedentary species although there have been recent sight records in Norfolk and Kent.

S. LORAND

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report 1980

Compiled by R. Lambert

THERE CAN have been few years in the Observatory's history when so few noteworthy events have occurred as in 1980. Both spring and autumn migrations were remarkable for the low numbers of most species and for the total absence of others. Despite this the 193 species that were recorded



in the year did include one addition to the Observatory list, a *Red-rumped Swallow** in May, and there were several records of infrequently seen species. These include: *Red-necked Grebe* — 9th and 10th records; *Honey Buzzard* — 5th to 7th; *Crane* sp. — 5th; *Red-necked*

Phalarope — 4th; *Hoopoe* — 8th and *Richard's Pipit* — 2nd.

Two major features of the year were the remarkable series of earliest and latest dates for migrants in both spring and autumn and the unusual number of records from the mid-summer period of species not normally present at this time.

* Records of rare species are subject to acceptance by *British Birds*.

Earliest and latest dates for migrants

	Early			Late	
	Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn
Hen Harrier	—	13 July	Spotted Redshank	18 June	—
Woodcock	—	17 Aug	Little Gull	30 June	—
Common Sandpiper	14 April	—	Little Tern	—	4 Oct
Great Skua	—	20 July	Turtle Dove	—	25 Oct
Little Gull	—	15 July	Lesser Whitethroat	—	12 Nov
Sedge Warbler	13 April	—	Willow Warbler	—	15 Oct
Reed Warbler	18 April	—	Firecrest	—	20 Dec
Firecrest	—	7 Sept	Pied Flycatcher	2 June	—

Summer records: Shoveler, Pochard, Velvet Scoter, Marsh Harrier and Sparrowhawk.

A normal year might be expected to produce a small number of these records but the sixteen extreme dates shown above lead to speculation that migration may have been extended generally over a longer time span this year. Certainly smaller numbers of birds seemed to be present over peak passage periods with correspondingly higher numbers at the beginning and end of each migration. Two factors affect this very subjective assessment, the poor weather in mid-June which upset the breeding cycles of many species, and the lack of consistent recording. Both are beyond the Observatory's control though the latter could be improved with relatively more ease than the former.

The adverse conditions in June and their effect on certain species are further detailed in the summary below but very little reference has been made to the results of the on-going Common Bird Census. Few changes are apparent; *Woodpigeons* show a marked increase as a result of greater efforts to locate nests; *Robins* have increased; the effect of the 1979 winter on *Wrens* is very marked; and *Whitethroats* continue to steadily increase each year. The area of the census is the broad sector from east to west between the two main paths, South Marsh Road and Mill Pond Road, and it is important to note that all references to breeding figures in the following report apply to this area only.

Common Bird Census results 1978-1980

	1978	1979	1980		1978	1979	1980
Little Grebe	2	2	2	Grasshopper Warbler	—	3	1
Shelduck	2	4	4	Sedge Warbler	11	15	11
Mallard	1	3	7	Reed Warbler	—	1	1
Red-legged Partridge	6	6	5	Lesser Whitethroat	—	5	3
Pheasant	3	4	7	Whitethroat	17	23	28
Moorhen	1	5	6	Garden Warbler	—	1	—
Coot	3	3	4	Blackcap	—	3	4
Ringed Plover	3	—	2	Chiffchaff	—	4	2
Lapwing	1	—	—	Willow Warbler	5	6	7
Redshank	2	3	3	Spotted Flycatcher	1	2	—
Stock Dove	1	7	5	Blue Tit	3	11	15
Woodpigeon	7	7	24	Great Tit	3	1	3
Collared Dove	—	1	—	Maggie	2	4	3
Turtle Dove	18	8	13	Carrion Crow	1	1	2
Cuckoo	1	3	4	Starling	4	2	5
Tawny Owl	—	1	1	House Sparrow	5	20	14
Skylark	50	57	55	Tree Sparrow	16	23	13
Swallow	4	4	6	Chaffinch	10	6	9
Meadow Pipit	15	15	14	Greenfinch	1	—	1
Wren	26	3	14	Goldfinch	9	8	8
Dunnock	23	27	33	Linnet	35	47	31
Robin	1	4	9	Redpoll	10	9	18
Blackbird	13	13	17	Bullfinch	1	2	1
Song Thrush	5	4	7	Yellowhammer	7	10	10
Mistle Thrush	1	1	1	Reed Bunting	25	33	24

SEASONAL SUMMARY OF 1980 RECORDS

January — March

With the exception of 1979 recent winters have been rather mild and this period in 1980 followed suit. Spells of cold weather were short-lived and most of the winter was dominated by cyclonic conditions, at times rather wet and, in mid-March especially, very windy. This weather pattern, as might be anticipated, produced few movements of birds either due to cold weather in January/February or the expected late March influx of the first spring migrants. It did result in rather higher numbers of some species being present through the early weeks. Thrushes, for example, remained until food supplies dwindled, with an exceptionally long-lasting crop of Sea Buckthorn berries maintaining a flock of *Fieldfares*, numbering over 1000 birds on Jan. 13th, until the last week of the month. Finches were also abundant, particularly *Greenfinches*, feeding mainly on the mature salt-marsh from mid-January until early February.

The milder conditions also produced a slight improvement in the number of over-wintering birds of less hardy species. After very low numbers following the 1979 winter *Wrens* were more common and showed a surprisingly rapid recovery in numbers holding territory in the months to come. *Goldcrests* remained at a very low ebb after a poor autumn migration but *Blackcaps* took advantage of the situation and at least six individuals were handled during ringing operations in January. The only unusual record in this month was of an *Arctic Skua* on the 4th and 5th, this being the first mid-winter record of this species since the early 1960's.

February produced equally little excitement with numbers declining throughout the month. A *Little Owl*, caught at a thrush roost on the 2nd, was the first to be ringed since 1954, but other owls were notable for their absence, especially *Short-eared* with a maximum of only two birds in the whole winter. *Lapwings* were seen to be moving east then south over three days from the 8th, though the reason for this is obscure in the light of local conditions which were quite pleasant for February. One absentee was *Shorelark*, apart from two birds at Skegness earlier in the winter. This is the first time for many years that this attractive species has not frequented its normal wintering area around Greenshank Creek

March followed a similar pattern of both weather and birds, and was again rather uneventful. Two days were more productive than most however. On the 15th reasonable numbers of *Blackbirds* and *Bramblings* were evidently moving through with *Mealy Redpoll* and *Jay* recorded on the same day. This movement may have continued had easterly gales not blown for a week, and it was therefore the 22nd before further encouraging signs were evident. Many species were clearly moving out to the north or east with *Lapwings*, *Oystercatchers*, *Fieldfares* and *Redwings* in the vanguard. The first *Chiffchaffs* were seen though possibly they had over-wintered and both male and female *Crossbills* were recorded. Unfortunately the promise of better things to come was not fulfilled and the last week of the month passed with few further indications that it really was spring. Despite more favourable winds which gave rise to a small passage of *Chaffinches* southwards the only real signs of the season were the nest-building activities of *Coot*, *Magpies* and a *Mistle Thrush*.

April — June

Spring 1980 was undoubtedly one of the latest ever for migrants, and hopefully will remain so. The first arrivals took place when winds veered to north-easterly on April 5th and consisted of 2 *Wheatears*, 3 *Chiffchaffs* and a *Firecrest*. A trickle of birds continued over the next fortnight, increasing in volume as the winds finally swung to south-easterly on the 12th and continued from the east until the 16th. By this time most of the expected species had been seen including *Black Redstart*, *Whimbrel*, *Swallow*, *Sand Martin*, *Willow Warbler*, *Redstart* and *Yellow Wagtail*. A very early *Sedge Warbler* on the 13th signalled the only marked influx of the spring and a series of very early arrivals for other species; *Common Sandpiper* on the 14th, *Garden Warbler* on the 16th and *Reed Warbler* on the 18th. The first *Marsh Harrier* and small numbers of *Tree Pipits* and *Ring Ouzels* also moved through. Winds then backed to a more northerly direction until the end of the month giving no further arrivals and few off-passage migrants were present. On the 26th departing winter visitors were again more common with small flocks of *Fieldfares* and *Bramblings* frequenting the dune scrub.

Early May was also plagued with strong north-easterly winds, though, surprisingly, migrants continued to arrive in fair numbers, with *Ruff*, *Common Terns*, *Turtle Doves*, *Swifts*, a *Cuckoo* and *Lesser Whitethroats* managing the struggle northwards on the 4th and 5th. A brief respite with south-easterly winds on May 9th and 10th produced small movements of hirundines, warblers and finches, but the winds quickly returned to the north-east and remained fairly fresh until the 19th. By this date the first *Pied Flycatcher* had put in an appearance, a rare bird this spring with only one other record on June 2nd. The period did provide some rewards for persistence; the latest ever *Merlin* flew through rather rapidly on the 17th, a day which also produced a new Reserve record, if accepted, as a *Red-rumped Swallow* fed briefly with other hirundines over the Mere before continuing northwards; *Kentish Plovers* were again present with a pair, again on the 17th, and a male on the following day.

The end of the month was blessed with uninspiring weather conditions, though it did manage to feel a little warmer, and the 25th saw the first of an unprecedented series of records of *Little Gulls* which ended on June 30th, the latest spring record ever, and included a maximum count on 3rd June of 11 birds. May 26th included the last *Redwing* record for the spring, this being a species which has regularly stayed much later in recent years, and, with returning south-easterly winds and continuous rain on 31st, *Great Spotted Woodpecker* and *Wood Warbler* were added to the species list for the year.

June looked promising at first with light variable winds and very warm conditions, and it was hoped that the likelihood of a successful breeding season for the resident species, especially the *Little Terns*, was quite good. Unfortunately, on June 10th, only two days after the first tern chicks hatched and right in the middle of the main nesting period for warblers, the wind backed to the north-east, freshened and brought heavy rain. Though the wind direction varied over the next 12 days it remained fresh to almost gale-force and rain fell on all but two of those days. This effectively reduced the number of *Little Tern* chicks by 50% and must have dealt equally severely with species such as warblers and even some of the more hardy ones. Ringing totals later in the year were to reflect the paucity of young *Redpolls* and *Goldfinches* as well as *Whitethroats* and *Sedge Warblers*, and renewed territorial behaviour after this spell indicated the attempts of many species to recoup their losses. It may even be possible that mortality among adults was quite high as a number of unattached males of several species were evident at the end of the month. One reflection of the adverse conditions was provided by the sudden increase in hirundine movement in mid-June with more than 8000 *Swifts* on the 15th, and unusual numbers of *Swallows*, *Sand Martins* and *House Martins* also heading south.

The last few days of June produced some unusual records with a late *Wheatear* and a single *Kingfisher* on the 29th. Such records can often indicate possible breeding in the vicinity, an acceptable proposition for *Kingfisher* though rather unlikely for *Wheatear*, a fact made the more puzzling by the appearance of a 'spotty' juvenile on July 6th.

July — September

These 'early' records continued to be a feature of the autumn, and July naturally brought quite a few, including the earliest ever of *Hen Harrier*, with two males on the 13th, *Little Gull* on the 15th and a *Great Skua* on the 20th, and an early *Little Stint* on the 28th. In addition two sightings of a *Hobby* on July 12th and August 5th are the first in mid-summer and early autumn and may well stem from an extension of breeding range. July is not normally a month in which observers would expect to see many 'rarities' so a *Crane* on the 5th was a bonus even if it proved to be the only such record in the month. Movements of any quantity are similarly the exception for most species apart from those inveterate travellers, *Swifts*. The southerly passage from mid-month was swollen this year by failed breeding birds and over 5000 birds were passing through on some days by the end of July. The relatively small numbers in August add further evidence to this being so. Low numbers of some species were certainly a talking point with visitors during the whole of the autumn, for example *Sedge Warblers* were only seen on seven days in August with a maximum daily count of 3 birds! Other warblers, while not reaching such low levels, were also affected and it soon became evident that, with migration seeming to start earlier, birds were moving through in small numbers for most of the period and large numbers were the exception. The weather helped to strengthen this effect as south-westerly conditions prevailed. Small influxes of off-passage willow/chiffs took place on the 6th and 16th August, the latter in a period when some less common migrants were also seen. These included *Wood Warbler* and *Crossbill* on the 14th, only the second autumn record of *Hoopoe* on the 16th and an adult *Long-tailed Skua* and an early *Woodcock* on the 17th. The next and once again small arrival occurred as winds veered to the east on the 25th and a female *Blue-headed Wagtail* on the Mere heralded a few days of better bird-watching; the first *Little Stint* and *Pied Flycatcher* arrived on the 26th and on the following day, in addition to markedly more warblers and the first autumn *Redstart*, a *Red-necked Phalarope* was reported by a knowledgeable visitor and finally located feeding on the saltings along the shore where it stayed for another two days.

The last few days of August, despite the wind returning to the west, continued to provide some interesting records with a steady trickle of chats and warblers, an influx of *Goldcrests* on the 31st and the first *Fieldfare*.

As September approached so did anticyclonic conditions and, for the first week, a high pressure area centred over Belgium maintained south-westerly winds over southern Britain. With ideal conditions for the departure of grounded migrants, clear skies and light winds, the numbers gradually dwindled again and by the 6th the area was very quiet. Despite this the week had produced two *Icterine Warblers* on the 1st, two *Crossbills* on the 2nd and a third on the 4th. A slight improvement was noted on the 7th, a few more birds were to be seen and another *Icterine Warbler* was present together with the Reserve's earliest ever *Firecrest*. The next day brought the first of only two *Wrynecks* this autumn and the peak passage of *Swallows*, some 10,000 south during the day being a conservative estimate! They were accompanied by 500 *House Martins*, a figure which was doubled on the 9th though *Swallows* dropped to a mere 5,000! The trickle of migrants did swell occasionally though it never reached a flood, and some of the conditions in which migration occurred were at least unusual. A rising number of birds on the 11th, mainly *Meadow Pipits*, with a *Black Redstart* and a few *Siskins*, continued over the next three days despite very high winds. The daily log entry for the 13th reads: "passerines were well represented with 300 *Meadow Pipits*, a *Rock Pipit*, 10 *Whinchats*, 2 *Chiffchaffs*, 30 willow/chiffs and 5 *Pied Flycatchers* — all on gale force westerly winds!"

An *Osprey* heading out towards Norfolk on the 14th and an influx of 10 *Fieldfares* and 50 *Song Thrushes* on the 19th were virtually the only notable records before the winds became more encouraging again on the 20th, though 21 *Ruffs* on the 17th were the highest daily total in an autumn which saw a good series of records for this species. East-south-easterly winds on the 20th brought the first of three *Honey Buzzards* and a selection of grounded migrants that included 10 *Whinchats*, 20 *Wheatears*, 15 *Fieldfares*, 20 *Spotted Flycatchers* and 5 *Pied Flycatchers*. The winds continued to co-operate for the next three days but observers were absent unfortunately as records on the 24th indicate that a large number of birds had arrived over this period. The most common species were *Goldcrests*, *Song Thrushes* and *Blackcaps* and by the 27th their numbers had increased further with at least 200 *Goldcrests* feeding in the dune-scrub. Unfortunately, this did not last long and, apart from a large flock of *Siskins* on the 29th, the last few days of September returned to the now familiar pattern.



October — December

The speculation that migration has been occurring over a much longer period with relatively small numbers involved each day is further supported by a series of late records in the last three months of the year. 3 *Little Terns* on October 4th, a *Willow Warbler* on the 15th, a *Turtle Dove* on the 25th, a *Lesser Whitethroat* on November 12th and a *Firecrest* on December 20th are all the latest ever for the Reserve. The last two species deserve special note as they were respectively some three weeks and four weeks later than the previous latest records, and it seems likely that at least one *Firecrest* may have attempted to overwinter.

Once again large numbers of birds were missing, the most noticeable being thrushes. *Fieldfare* numbers reached over 2,000 in mid-November, a figure well below normal, and *Blackbirds*, with a maximum count of 700 on 15th October and *Song Thrushes*, only 100 on 11th October, were present in extremely low numbers. Obviously any passage which occurred this autumn either missed south Lincolnshire or took place at a high level with few grounded birds to show that it was happening. Good numbers of thrushes were certainly present in the Midlands from mid-October.

October produced the one occasion in the autumn when it could be claimed that a fall had happened though this was only a rather small affair. On the 11th an arrival of *Blackbirds*, *Song Thrushes* and *Redwings* took place on east-north-easterly winds which backed to north-north-west on the 12th and brought more thrushes, good numbers of *Robins* and *Goldcrests* and the only autumn record of *Red-backed Shrike* and a *Red-breasted Flycatcher* which fed in the sycamore patch in the West Dunes for most of the day. Unfortunately the weather, as might have been predicted, very quickly repented of this extravagance and produced a rather nasty spell with heavy rain and strong northerly winds which held back any further movement. Some of the recent arrivals were forced to stay in the area until, on the 19th, a period of clear conditions between two frontal systems moved south. As it did so birds could be seen leaving the dune-scrub, gaining height rapidly and moving away to the south, most of these being *Fieldfares* and *Redwings*. The same day also brought reports of a *Montagu's Harrier* and a *Richard's Pipit*.

The remainder of the month brought little further change and was instrumental in finally convincing regular observers that this was to be one of the poorest autumn seasons for many years. The first *Snow Buntings* arrived on 24th October accompanied by a single *Shorelark*, a species which was to show an increase in numbers over recent years, a flock of up to 12 birds settling in December to stay for the whole winter.

November produced the usual records of *Snow Buntings*, reaching 200 on the 20th, *Fieldfares*, and *Lapwings*, with in excess of 1000 south on the 1st. Finches and buntings moved south throughout the month with the best figures on the 23rd, and *Pinkfooted Geese* put in their customary brief appearances as 205 flew south on the same day. *Whooper Swans* are normally seen in only small numbers each year so it was surprising when a flock of nine were present in the Mere from the 21st to the 24th. Interestingly one of the birds was wearing a numbered plastic neck-collar and enquiries proved it to be one of 45 birds marked in Iceland in the summer. This bird was also reported later, on the 26th, at the Ouse Washes.

Apart from *Brent Geese*, the flock south of the river increasing to 1,500 on the 3rd, most species declined rapidly in December. Despite reduced observations it was apparent that the Reserve was very quiet throughout the month, though *Snow Buntings*, *Twite* and *Shorelarks* continued to attract a few observers to the area. Three *Blackcaps* were present early in the month and obviously intended overwintering yet again, along with up to three *Chiffchaffs*.

It was a rather disappointing end to a none-too-exciting year and thankfully bird-watchers tend to take such lean years much for granted. A new season holds much promise and no doubt everyone will be back with the birds in the spring hoping for better things from 1981. All contributors to the records of the Observatory must be thanked for their efforts and new contributors are to be encouraged so that some of the gaps in the information can be filled. Good birding in 1981.

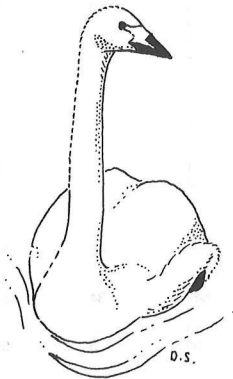
OBSERVATORY RINGING REPORT

THE fact that the year produced a higher total of birds ringed than ever before, topping the 7,000 mark, indicates that the efforts of visiting ringers have been maintained, and this despite the unusual features of the spring and autumn migrations. Three new species were added to the ringing list; *Golden Plover*, *Razorbill* and *Swift*. The last two arrived in cardboard boxes having been found exhausted and were released later when rested and recovered. Very few unusually high numbers of birds were ringed though there are a number of changes in the following totals from 1979 which are significant. Three species show a rapid recovery from last year's very low numbers, these being *Wren* (from 38 to 103), *Goldcrest* (30—451) and *Long-tailed Tit* (0—41), and both *Blue Tits* and *Great Tits* show increases as a result of an excellent breeding season. As noted in the Seasonal Summary warblers and finches suffered from inclement summer weather and both groups of species showed decreases, e.g. *Sedge Warbler* (113—42), *Whitethroat* (346—187) and *Redpoll* (185—105).

A feature of the totals list this year is the inclusion of a summary of all recoveries since 1949. While this only gives a limited indication of trends it does provide a base line against which future years can be compared, and it may be possible to analyse some of the data in more detail for future reports. It was noticeable, for example, that 1980 recoveries of *Blackbirds* from northern Europe were in Finland and West Germany with none from the traditional breeding areas in Norway and Sweden. 1980 also brought news of two recoveries in Africa, a *Snipe* to Morocco and a *Swallow* to Ghana, the 5th and 6th for the Observatory to this continent. Less distant but equally interesting was a series of records of birds ringed at Gibraltar Point and controlled (caught and released) at Dungeness in Kent and Beachy Head in Sussex. These involved a *Goldcrest*, a *Whitethroat*, a *Reed Warbler* and three *Chiffchaffs*, the last two species all in a two week period from September 23rd. (N.B. There were only two Chiffchaff recoveries prior to 1980.)

The most remarkable recovery of the year, however, was of the immature *Night Heron* which had been seen at Skegness in the last few days of 1979. On January 4th it was found to have been shot, and on the 6th a ring bearing a Russian inscription was handed in at the Visitor Centre. Confirmation that this had indeed been from the Night Heron eventually came along with the information that the bird had been ringed as a nestling near Odessa, on the coast of the Black Sea, and that this was the first recovery of any heron species in Britain from the USSR.

Further details of a selection of recoveries from the Observatory have been included in the County Ringing Report.



GIBRALTAR POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

RINGING TOTALS 1980

	RINGED			Grand total	RECOVERED	
	FG	Pull	1980 total		1980	Grand total
Little Grebe.....	—	—	—	2	—	1
Gannet.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shag.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grey Heron.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shelduck.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Wigeon.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Teal.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
* Montagu's Harrier.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Sparrowhawk.....	—	—	—	30	—	5
Kestrel.....	1	—	1	24	1	3
Merlin.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Red-legged Partridge.....	5	—	5	37	—	1
Grey Partridge.....	—	—	—	24	—	3
Pheasant.....	3	—	3	17	—	2
Water Rail.....	—	—	—	13	—	—
Corncrake.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Moorhen.....	—	—	—	7	—	—
Coot.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Oystercatcher.....	—	—	—	596	1	8
Little Ringed Plover.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Ringed Plover.....	8	87	95	333	2	3
Golden Plover.....	1	—	1	1	—	—
Grey Plover.....	—	—	—	12	—	1
Lapwing.....	—	—	—	18	—	—
Knot.....	—	—	—	104	—	1
Sanderling.....	17	—	17	141	—	3
Little Stint.....	5	—	5	20	—	—
Curlew Sandpiper.....	1	—	1	23	—	1
Dunlin.....	33	—	33	487	1	8
Ruff.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Jack Snipe.....	1	—	1	10	—	—
Snipe.....	1	—	1	25	1	1
Woodcock.....	9	—	9	31	—	2
Bar-tailed Godwit.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whimbrel.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Curlew.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Spotted Redshank.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Redshank.....	2	—	2	57	—	1
Greenshank.....	—	—	—	3	—	—
Green Sandpiper.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Wood Sandpiper.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Common Sandpiper.....	—	—	—	20	—	1
Turnstone.....	—	—	—	4	—	1
Black-headed Gull.....	—	—	—	40	—	1
Common Gull.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Little Tern.....	—	35	35	76	2	3
Razorbill.....	1	—	1	1	—	—
Puffin.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Stock Dove.....	—	—	—	51	—	2
Woodpigeon.....	4	10	14	128	1	7
Collared Dove.....	3	—	3	13	—	1
Turtle Dove.....	1	2	3	64	—	1
Cuckoo.....	9	—	9	177	—	9
Barn Owl.....	—	—	—	9	—	3
Little Owl.....	1	—	1	9	—	1
Tawny Owl.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Long-eared Owl.....	1	—	1	13	—	1
Short-eared Owl.....	—	—	—	8	—	2
Nightjar.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Swift.....	1	—	1	1	—	—
Kingfisher.....	4	—	4	23	—	—
Wryneck.....	1	—	1	48	—	—
Green Woodpecker.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Great Spotted Woodpecker.....	1	—	1	19	—	1
Skylark.....	50	45	95	680	1	6
Shorelark.....	—	—	—	11	—	—
Sand Martin.....	11	—	11	26	—	—
Swallow.....	549	34	583	2633	5	20
House Martin.....	2	—	2	25	—	—
Tree Pipit.....	3	—	3	61	—	—
Meadow Pipit.....	50	9	59	784	—	9
Rock Pipit.....	—	—	—	10	—	—
Yellow Wagtail.....	—	—	—	27	—	—
Pied Wagtail.....	—	—	—	41	—	1
Waxwing.....	—	—	—	2	—	—

RINGING TOTALS 1980 — continued

	RINGED				RECOVERED	
	FG	Pull	1980 total	Grand total	1980	Grand total
Wren.....	100	3	103	1527	1	13
Dunnock.....	404	3	407	7388	4	53
*Rufous Bush Robin.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Robin.....	175	—	175	1995	4	24
Nightingale.....	—	—	—	9	—	—
Bluethroat.....	—	—	—	10	—	—
Black Redstart.....	—	—	—	20	—	—
Redstart.....	11	—	11	1274	—	10
Whinchat.....	9	—	9	256	—	—
Stonechat.....	—	—	—	27	—	—
Wheatear.....	8	—	8	217	—	2
Ring Ouzel.....	2	—	2	56	—	3
Blackbird.....	789	7	796	8691	14	192
Fieldfare.....	75	—	75	615	2	19
Song Thrush.....	259	—	259	3086	2	53
Redwing.....	146	—	146	961	—	13
Mistle Thrush.....	13	—	13	144	—	4
Grasshopper Warbler.....	—	—	—	14	—	—
Sedge Warbler.....	42	—	42	744	—	3
Reed Warbler.....	43	—	43	622	1	10
Icterine Warbler.....	1	—	1	20	—	—
Sardinian Warbler.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Barred Warbler.....	—	—	—	39	—	—
Lesser Whitethroat.....	92	—	92	804	—	3
Whitethroat.....	174	13	187	4804	3	22
Garden Warbler.....	61	—	61	967	—	1
Blackcap.....	209	—	209	1306	2	6
Greenish Warbler.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pallas's Warbler.....	—	—	—	5	—	—
Yellow-browed Warbler.....	—	—	—	30	—	—
Wood Warbler.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chiffchaff.....	50	—	50	422	3	5
Willow Warbler.....	394	—	394	6871	—	14
Goldcrest.....	451	—	451	1991	4	10
Firecrest.....	7	—	7	27	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher.....	26	—	26	337	—	2
Red-breasted Flycatcher.....	1	—	1	8	—	—
Pied Flycatcher.....	8	—	8	1239	—	13
Bearded Tit.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Long-tailed Tit.....	41	—	41	485	—	4
Marsh Tit.....	4	—	—	5	—	—
Willow Tit.....	—	—	4	89	1	2
Coal Tit.....	5	—	5	73	—	—
Blue Tit.....	323	43	366	2486	10	50
Great Tit.....	63	7	70	650	2	10
Treecreeper.....	4	—	4	17	—	—
Red-backed Shrike.....	—	—	—	8	—	—
Great Grey Shrike.....	—	—	—	6	—	—
Jay.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Magpie.....	5	—	5	64	1	7
Jackdaw.....	—	—	—	12	—	—
Hooded Crow.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Starling.....	293	3	296	2009	7	63
*Rose-coloured Starling.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
House Sparrow.....	388	30	418	6948	2	78
Tree Sparrow.....	175	78	253	3365	1	16
Chaffinch.....	104	—	104	1224	—	10
Brambling.....	37	—	37	297	—	1
Greenfinch.....	355	—	355	2016	7	28
Goldfinch.....	102	—	102	1691	2	18
Siskin.....	6	—	6	38	—	1
Linnnet.....	126	7	133	2049	1	10
Twite.....	12	—	12	70	—	3
Redpoll.....	105	—	105	1960	1	30
Crossbill.....	—	—	—	12	—	1
Bullfinch.....	35	—	35	468	—	11
Hawfinch.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Snow Bunting.....	—	—	—	161	—	2
Yellowhammer.....	78	—	78	516	—	6
Rustic Bunting.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Reed Bunting.....	96	10	106	2545	—	11
Corn Bunting.....	5	—	5	36	—	—
	6694	423	7117	82910	88	951
Species :			79	147	28	79

* Species ringed at sites away from the Reserve.

County Ringing Report

Compiled by P. Boyer

IN THIS the second report of the Lincolnshire Bird Club the ringing report is based on returns submitted by 28 individuals or groups of ringers operating throughout the Club's area.

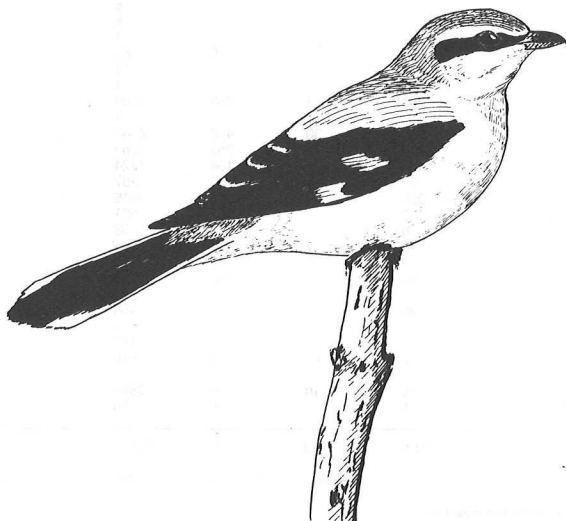
Five per cent fewer birds were ringed in 1980 than in 1979, giving a total of 30,327 birds of 132 species. When comparing numbers of particular species ringed it must be remembered that several factors influence how many birds are caught. A list of these factors must include individual interests, financial limitations and of course the weather. This can affect both the breeding success of the birds and the ringers' ability to catch since most birds are now caught in mist nets.

Individual interests can greatly affect the numbers of particular species and a good example of this is Swallow, which showed an increase of 68%, mainly due to ringers operating at two large roost sites in September and October. This has brought an associated increase in both Sand Martin and House Martin. Examples of the opposite effect are Black-headed gull and Starling. Black-headed gulls in 1979 were mainly ringed as pulli and this project was not continued in 1980. Starling with a decrease of 65% was influenced by both a milder winter bringing fewer birds into gardens to feed and a definite choice by several ringers to reduce expenditure on this species.

The majority of passerines, however, are not affected by specific interests in such a dramatic way and therefore a more realistic comparison is possible. Several species which were badly affected by the winter of 1978/79 have shown good increases in numbers ringed. Goldcrest at +331%, Treecreeper +120%, Long-tailed Tit +86%, Coal Tit +84% and Willow Tit +81% all show that these species are well on the road to recovery.

On the other hand the warbler species show a decrease in numbers ringed in 1980, varying from -40% in Whitethroat to -17% in Blackcaps, with only three species showing an increase. Two of these, Sedge Warbler and Reed Warbler (+27% and +33%) would also have shown a decrease but for increased interest in these species shown by one particular ringer. The only warbler to show an actual increase was Chiffchaff, with an inexplicable increase of 20%. Other associated migrants showing a reduction of numbers were Redstarts, -56%, and Pied Flycatcher, -58%, although here we are dealing with much smaller totals.

The list of recoveries stands without explanation but I would like to draw attention to one or two of particular note. The Night Heron 'found dead' at Skegness brick pits is the first ever British recovery of a foreign ringed bird of this species, whilst the two Starlings recovered in Italy are only the fourth and fifth ever in that country under the BTO scheme. Also worthy of note was the 19 year old Oystercatcher caught and released alive at Leverton and the 3 African recoveries — Snipe and Chiffchaff in Morocco and Swallow in Ghana.



Little Grebe	1	Swallow	3066
Great Crested Grebe	1	House Martin	92
Leach's Petrel	1	Tree Pipit	9
Mute Swan	1	Meadow Pipit	75
Shelduck	2	Rock Pipit	1
Wigeon	26	Yellow Wagtail	2
Gadwall	9	Pied Wagtail	49
Teal	6	Wren	437
Mallard	392	Duncock	1273
Shoveler	2	Robin	685
Pochard	10	Nightingale	7
Tufted Duck	104	Redstart	26
Scaup	1	Whinchat	11
Kestrel	12	Wheatear	10
Red-legged Partridge	7	Ring Ouzel	3
Pheasant	3	Blackbird	2945
Water Rail	2	Fieldfare	176
Moorhen	36	Song Thrush	1015
Coot	93	Redwing	372
Oystercatcher	237	Mistle Thrush	23
Little Ringed Plover	7	Grasshopper Warbler	18
Ringed Plover	106	Sedge Warbler	420
Golden Plover	2	Reed Warbler	601
Grey Plover	139	Icterine Warbler	1
Lapwing	8	Booted Warbler	1
Knot	33	Lesser Whitethroat	227
Sanderling	17	Whitethroat	465
Little Stint	7	Garden Warbler	144
Curlew Sandpiper	1	Blackcap	551
Purple Sandpiper	1	Pallas's Warbler	1
Dunlin	1622	Chiffchaff	160
Ruff	18	Willow Warbler	1100
Jack Snipe	1	Goldcrest	959
Snipe	16	Firecrest	14
Woodcock	11	Spotted Flycatcher	75
Bar-tailed Godwit	66	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1
Whimbrel	1	Pied Flycatcher	21
Curlew	5	Bearded Tit	15
Redshank	94	Long-tailed Tit	320
Greenshank	1	Marsh Tit	11
Wood Sandpiper	1	Willow Tit	134
Common Sandpiper	9	Coal Tit	92
Turnstone	24	Blue Tit	1783
Black-headed Gull	256	Great Tit	468
Common Gull	2	Treecreeper	53
Sandwich Tern	17	Great Grey Shrike	1
Common Tern	123	Jay	10
Little Tern	37	Magpie	7
Razorbill	2	Jackdaw	3
Puffin	1	Rook	1
Stock Dove	40	Starling	1727
Woodpigeon	40	House Sparrow	562
Collared Dove	57	Tree Sparrow	522
Turtle Dove	22	Chaffinch	420
Cuckoo	14	Brambling	45
Barn Owl	8	Greenfinch	1549
Little Owl	6	Goldfinch	251
Tawny Owl	8	Siskin	7
Long-eared Owl	5	Linnet	607
Swift	12	Twite	13
Kingfisher	19	Redpoll	1200
Wryneck	1	Bullfinch	416
Green Woodpecker	1	Yellowhammer	314
Great Spotted Woodpecker	8	Reed Bunting	441
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	Corn Bunting	10
Skylark	145	Swallow X House Martin	1
Sand Martin	347		

Key to symbols and terms used in the recovery lists

- Arrangement of entry: recoveries are arranged by species; ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second.
- Age when ringed: this is given according to the EURING code; the figures do *not* represent years. Interpretation is as follows:
- 1 pullus (= nestling or chick)
 - 2 fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown
 - 3 hatched during calendar year of ringing
 - 4 hatched before calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown
 - 5 hatched during previous calendar year
 - 6 hatched before previous calendar year, but exact year unknown
- Sex: M = male
F = female
- Manner of recovery: v caught or trapped, released with ring
vv ring number read in the field, or sight record of identifiable colour ring(s)
+ shot or killed by man
x found dead or dying
() caught or trapped alive and not released, or released without ring
/?/ manner of recovery unknown
- Distance: distances, given in kilometers, and directions are approximate.

Night Heron	1	8. 6.79	Belyayevka, Black Sea, USSR.	
	+	4. 1.80	Skegness Brick Pits	2263 km WNW
Whooper Swan		6.80	Iceland (breeding area)	
	vv	21.10.80	Gibraltar Point	
		to 24.10.80		
	vv	26.10.80	Ouse Washes	
Teal	5M	4. 3.78	Wainfleet	
	+	80	Ohoved, Tved, Denmark.	700 km ENE
Oystercatcher	Ad	12. 8.60	Holbeach	
	v	7.12.79	Leverton Marsh	15 km N
	1	6. 7.68	Dersingham, Norfolk.	
	v	19. 1.80	Leverton Marsh	30 km NW
Ringed Plover	1	18. 7.78	Gibraltar Point	
	x	22. 8.80	St. Anne's-on-Sea, Lancs.	236 km WNW
Knot	6	27. 2.71	Snettisham, Norfolk.	
	x	16. 2.80	Leverton Marsh	26 km NW
Dunlin	3	28. 8.78	Wesseby, Finmark, Norway.	
	v	28. 9.80	Kirton Marsh.	2423 km SW
	3	10. 8.80	Revtangen, Rogaland, Norway.	
	v	2. 9.80	Gibraltar Point	705 km SSW
	5	26. 7.77	Turku-Pori, Finland.	
	v	4. 4.80	Wrangle Marsh	1580 km SW
	?	29. 7.78	Ottenby, Sweden.	
	v	19. 1.80	Leverton Marsh	700 km SSW
Snipe	3	5. 9.78	Gibraltar Point	
	+	24. 2.80	Morhane, Kenitra, Morocco.	2146 km SSW
Curlew	1	24. 5.68	Kristianopel, Sweden.	
	v	16. 2.80	Leverton Marsh	1083 km WSW
	4	28. 2.79	Freiston	
	+	25. 4.80	Vesilahti, Finland.	1691 km ENE
Redshank	5	29. 1.79	Southampton Docks, Hants.	
	v	3. 4.80	Kirton Marsh	243 km NNE

Black-headed Gull	1	22. 6.80	Turku-Pori, Finland.	
	v	22.10.80	Aswarby	1564 km WSW
	6	31.10.76	Boston	
	x	16. 6.80	Miedzyzdrage, Szezean, Poland.	970 km E
	6	16. 5.76	Boston	
	vv	6. 4.80	Copenhagen, Denmark.	860 km ENE
	?	24.10.79	Leverton	
	x	31. 5.80	Fyn, Denmark.	700 km ENE
	1	1. 6.69	Wisbech S.F.	
	x	30. 4.79	Warton, Preston, Lancs.	230 km NW
Sandwich Tern	1	24. 6.75	Newburgh, Grampian, Scotland.	
	v	28. 8.80	Leverton.	498 km SSE
Swallow	4	11. 9.80	Gibraltar Point	
	()	20.10.80	Akosombo, Ghana.	5201 km S
	3	7. 9.79	Gibraltar Point	
	x	9. 6.80	Berwick-on-Tweed, Northumberland.	325 km NNW
	4F	29. 8.79	Errol, Tayside	
Dunnock	v	11.10.80	Barton-on-Humber.	348 km SSE
	4	18. 4.80	Low Hauxley, Northumberland.	
	v	9. 5.80	Gibraltar Point	275 km SSE
Blackbird	Ringed in Lincs. — Rec/ Controlled Abroad			Ringed Elsewhere— Controlled Lincs.
England outside Lincs.		4		3
Scotland		2		
N. Ireland		2		
Netherlands		2		
W. Germany		4		
Finland		2		
Spain		1		
Fieldfare	4F	28.10.78	Gibraltar Point	
	x	21. 5.80	Hamar, Hedmark, Norway.	1074 km NE
	6F	6. 1.79	Gibraltar Point	
	x	20. 8.80	Nord-Trondelag, Norway.	1370 km NNE
Song Thrush	3	2.10.79	Theddlethorpe.	
	+	25.11.79	Landres, France.	1070 km S
	2	21.10.78	Casewick, Stamford.	
	+	23. 2.80	Landres, France.	1040 km S
	3	31.12.79	Temple Wood, Bourne.	
	x	14. 1.80	Finisterre, France.	600 km SSW
	3	26. 8.78	Essenplaat, Netherlands.	
	v	11.10.78	Gibraltar Point	325 km WNW
	v	20. 1.80	Gibraltar Point	
Redwing	4	8.10.77	North Ronaldsay, Orkney.	
	v	15.10.80	Gibraltar Point	717 km SSE
	3	24.10.79	Gibraltar Point	
	+	1.12.79	St. Laurent de Gosse, France	1069 km S
Reed Warbler	3	15. 9.80	Gibraltar Point	
	v	23. 9.80	Dungeness, Kent.	247 km S
		27. 8.78	Beachy Head, Eastbourne.	
	v	10. 5.80	Ancaster.	256 km N
	4	16. 8.79	Tring, Herts.	
Whitethroat	v	10. 8.80	Ancaster	128 km N
	3	27. 7.77	Gibraltar Point	
	v	4. 5.80	Mimizan, France.	995 km S
	1	9. 6.80	Gibraltar Point	
	v	17. 8.80	Beachy Head, Sussex.	263 km S
	3	12. 8.79	Temple Wood, Bourne.	
	v	26. 5.80	Stockbridge, Hants.	202 km SSW

Blackcap	3F	20. 8.79	Schleswig Holstein, W. Germany.	
	v	1.10.79	Rimac, Saltfleet.	672 km W
	4F	8. 5.80	Seacroft, Skegness	
	v	10. 5.80	Temple Wood, Bourne.	61 km S
Chiffchaff	3	6. 9.80	Ancaster	
	x	21.11.80	Essaovira, Morocco.	2499 km SSW
	2	18. 9.80	Gibraltar Point	
	v	27. 9.80	Dungeness, Kent.	247 km S
	3	24. 9.80	Gibraltar Point	
	v	2.10.80	Dungeness, Kent.	247 km S
	3	2.10.80	Gibraltar Point	
	v	9.10.80	Beachy Head, Sussex.	263 km S
Willow Warbler	3	18. 7.80	Redcar, Cleveland.	
	v	21. 8.80	Gibraltar Point	188 km SSE
Goldcrest	3M	12.10.80	Gibraltar Point	
	v	22.10.80	Dungeness, Kent.	247 km S
Blue Tit	1	27. 5.75	Melton Wood, Doncaster.	
	v	5. 1.80	Mablethorpe.	101 km E
Starling	Ringed in Lincs. — Rec/Controlled Abroad			Ringed Elsewhere— Controlled Lincs.
England outside Lincs.		6		3
Netherlands				2
Denmark		1		
Norway		1		
Sweden		2		
USSR		2		
Italy		2		
Brambling	5M	20. 1.80	Shobdon, Hereford & Worcs.	
	v	30. 3.80	Gibraltar Point	237 km ENE
Greenfinch	6M	29. 3.78	Cleethorpes	
	v	22. 3.80	Potters Bar, Herts.	208 km S
Goldfinch	3	9. 8.80	Wrangle	
	+	15.10.80	Cadiz, Spain.	1876 km SSW
	6M	6. 6.79	Wyberton, Boston	
	x	3. 4.80	Zaragoza, Spain	1263 km S
	3	4. 9.79	Gibraltar Point	
	x	16. 1.80	Criel-sur-Mer, France.	349 km SSE
Twite	3M	13.11.79	Nr. Boston	
	x	20. 6.80	Huddersfield, Yorks.	95 km NW
Redpoll	4F	17. 9.80	Boothby Pagnell, Grantham.	
	/?/	3.12.80	Nieve, France.	734 km SSE
	3	14. 9.80	Boothby Pagnell, Grantham.	
	v	24. 9.80	Dungeness, Kent.	241 km SSE
	4M	23. 8.80	Boston	
	v	4.10.80	Fairseat, Kent.	185 km S



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